

NMAA Commission Meeting
November 17, 2021
9:00 AM
Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:01 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Jacquelyne Martinez, NMAA Assistant Director, and the following members were present:

Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large, Area B) – Via teleconference
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large, Area C) *Chair
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (Large, Area D)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)
Mr. Larry Chavez (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Mr. Dale Lindley (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Frank Cordova (New Mexico State School Boards Association)

15 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Kamau Turner (Small, Area A)

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Chavez made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2021, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed four (4) items on his report: 1) provided a recap/update of Fall Championships (Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Football) and the move to Digital Ticketing for all state events; 2) gave information about the NMAA Foundation's Scholarship Program and upcoming Bowl-A-Thon and Golf Classic fundraisers; 3) reported on the recent Board of Directors' (Mr. Matt Moyer was re-elected for Small Area B) and Commission (Mr. Dickie Roybal and Mr. Cooper Henderson were re-elected for Small Area B & Large Area B and Ms. Ann Stewart was elected to take over for Ms. LeeAnn Moores for Large Area D) election results; and 4) introduced and welcomed the NMAA's newest staff member, Mr. Dillon Metzgar who is serving as the Assistant to the Commissioner of Officials / Events Coordinator.

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) provided information regarding the 2021-2022 financial reports for Fall State Championships; 2) reported that the second PPP loan for the NMAA has been forgiven; and (3) provided an update on digital ticketing for state events using GoFan.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) stated that the annual Activities Council Meeting was recently held; 2) provided information regarding the NMAA's partnership with Western New Mexico University to provide scholarships to students participating in activities; and 3) reported that the state events for all NMAA activities will take place in the spring – most in person but some may be virtual depending on the climate of the pandemic at the time.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed six (6) items on his report: 1) provided an update on the officials assigned to the Fall Championships; 2) thanked the regional assignors and athletic directors for their hard work to ensure games were covered throughout the fall during a difficult shortage of officials; 3) reported on the launch of the NMOA's Officiating Recruitment program which provided free registrations to coaches and an additional two individuals per school; 4) stated that the NMOA Task Force Committee will be holding its second meeting soon to discuss recruitment/retention, creative scheduling, and grants to cover start-up equipment; 4) announced a partnership between the NFHS, state associations, and the NFL to discuss their Grassroots Officiating Pipeline Development Initiative; and 5) provided an update on officials numbers which have shown a slight increase from 2020-2021, but a fairly significant decline from 2019-2020 (pre-pandemic). Mr. Roybal asked that the NMAA look at assignments for the State Football Playoffs and the mileage incurred for certain games around the state.

Discussion/Informational Items:

Test to Stay / Test to Play Information - Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed the "Test to Stay" program implemented by the Public Education Department to keep kids in school and how the "Test to Play" portion of this will help to also keep them involved in extracurricular activities/athletics. She has also been in communication with the PED and Department of Health to try and expand student testing so that it could be used to eliminate indoor mask mandates for competing athletes and so that overnight travel restrictions could be adjusted so that multiple unvaccinated students could stay in a hotel room.

Classification & Alignment Update - Ms. Marquez provided an update on the 2022-2024 Classification & Alignment block, stating they are currently waiting on certified 40-day numbers from the Public Education Department so that three-year enrollment averages can be calculated. She asked for schools to hold off on any scheduling for next year because there is still a lot of work to be done between now and the Board Meeting on December 2nd. She also mentioned that concerns have been raised for the sport of football and possible three-team districts due to movement up and down between certain classes. The Commission provided feedback that these small districts should be avoided due to the problems it creates when scheduling.

Scheduling / Regional Assignors - Ms. Marquez discussed the role of regional assignors and how much work they put in each year in comparison to the small stipends they receive for compensation. The group discussed possible pay increases along with the possible creation of additional assigning positions to help with this workload. The NMAA will continue to review this issue with member schools and the NMOA.

Out-of-Season Coaching - Ms. Marquez discussed out-of-season coaching regulations and asked the group if it was time to look at potential changes. She also presented participation data showing how many single sport athletes there are in New Mexico compared to multi-sport athletes. The Commission provided feedback that was both in favor of the current rules and in favor of possible changes that would help ensure out of season athletes are working with educators. The NMAA will continue to review this topic and present possible changes at a later date.

Basketball: Shot Clock - Ms. Marquez stated the NFHS, by state association adoption, approved the use of a shot clock in basketball beginning with the 22-23 schools year. The group felt that this was not needed in New Mexico at this time and could put a financial burden on schools to install and operate. Feedback also

included the challenges it may bring for officials and the shot clock operator. If a shot clock is implemented at some point in New Mexico, schools will be given significant time to prepare.

Bowling: Activity vs Sport - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of sanctioning Bowling as a sport instead of as an activity. It was stated that the NMAA currently has 30 co-ed teams that compete in Bowling. The group felt that a change was not needed at this time but that the possibility should continue to be evaluated moving forward.

Spirit: Activity vs Sport - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of moving Spirit back to an activity instead of sanctioning it as a sport. She stated that the NMAA would continue to host a state competition for spirit even if it was classified as an activity, but there would no longer be regular season competition requirements in order to participate in state. Feedback included pros and cons of making this adjustment. The NMAA will survey its member schools on this issue and will continue to evaluate Spirit based on this feedback and future discussions with the Commission and Board of Directors.

COVID Handbook Addendum #8: Missed Games - Ms. Marquez discussed updating the COVID Handbook as it pertains to cancelled games. She stated that with the new Test to Stay/Play policies, schools should be able to participate in most contests and that forfeits would be issued in situations where a school has enough players to compete but decides not to. This will be taken to the Board of Directors for possible approval at their December 2nd meeting.

Action Items:

Tennis: Universal Tennis Rating - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to require the use of Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) by NMAA-member tennis schools during the 2021-2022 school year to study possible seeding/selection application in the future. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Chavez made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:57. am. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).