

NMAA Commission Meeting

November 20, 2025

9:00 AM

Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scott Affentranger, Chairman of the Commission at 9:00 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Ms. Debra Sena-Holton (Small Area A)
Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)
Mr. Kevin Lackey (Small Area B)
Mr. Britt Cooper (Large Area B)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small Area C)
Ms. Karen Nougues (Large Area C)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)
Mr. Adrian Ortega (Large Area D)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals) - *Chairman*
Mr. Isaac Gamboa (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Ms. Taryn Bachis (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)

15 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Earl James Martinez (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 Commission Meeting as presented. Ms. Hahn stated she was present at the last Commission meeting. Mr. Lackey made a motion to approve the minutes with the added change. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) Fall championships have concluded with the exception of football and were very successful; 2) recognized and thanked Albuquerque Academy, Bernalillo High School, Cleveland High School, and Rio Rancho High School for assisting with hosting fall state championship events; 3) thanked the NMAA staff for their hard work and dedication; 4) stated that winter sports are off to a great start and powerlifting will be the final winter sport to begin and shall commence in January; 5) Elections took place for both the Commission and Board of Directors. On the Commission, Mr. Jory Mirabal was reelected for Small Area C; and Mr. Alan Edmonson was elected for Large Area C, taking over for Ms. Karen Nougues who will be entering retirement. Mr. Owen thanked Ms.

Nougues for her service and commitment to the NMAA having served on various committees throughout the years. For the Board of Directors, Mr. Anthony Casados was reelected for Small Area A; Mr. David Lackey was reelected for Small Area C; and Mr. William Hawkins from Silver Consolidated Schools was elected for Large Area C, taking over for Mr. Travis Dempsey who will be entering retirement.

Financial Reports:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. Although no ticket sale data to provide at this time due to pending settlements, overall fall championships have been successful and ticket sales are forecasted to be up from last year.

NMAA Foundation Report:

Mr. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation report. She discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) stated the NMAA Foundation wrapped up the first grant cycle for the 2025-26 school year. Twelve schools were awarded grants totaling over \$10,000; 2) stated the NMAA Foundation Scholarship application portal has opened and will remain open until January 15th; 3) stated that additional scholarships will be awarded this year; the Sally Marquez NMAA Scholarship; the Joe Bailey Memorial Scholarship; The Karen Trujillo Memorial Scholarship; and the Mike Phipps *Never Never Never Give Up* Scholarship; 4) stated the Annual Foundation Bowl A Thon will be held at Ten Pins and More in February; and lastly 5) stated that Mr. Sammy "C" Chioda, who served on the NMAA Foundation Board, passed away last week, and offered condolences from the NMAA.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Sanchez, presented the activities report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) stated the 2nd Annual NMAA State Marching Band took place in October with 28 schools competing this year; and 2) reported all remaining Activity State Competitions will take place in the spring semester.

NMAA Officials Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, Director of Officials Services, presented the Officials' report and discussed a number of items. 1) Stated it's the 5th year for the Behind the Flag training program and have seen great improvements in training and evaluation of officials through the program; 2) also stated that the sports of soccer and volleyball are also seeing improvements in the training and evaluation of officials 3) stated that there has been an increase in submission of film in the sport of football from several schools in an effort to help educate officials; 4) reported they are currently working through post-season official shortages in the sport of football due to games being scheduled on the same night; 5) welcomed Nate Acosta back on staff, who will help with official training; and 6) thanked those officials who assisted with creating NFHS Center for Officials Services (COS) training courses for officials in their respective sports.

General Discussion/Information Items:

Member School Input Seeding Criteria:

Mr. Dusty Young, Executive Director, discussed coaches input forms and the potential gamesmanship that can occur by coaches skewing votes for a particular aim. Feedback from the Commission included the importance of continuing to include coaches' input to ensure they have a voice in the process but making the submissions more transparent by requiring them to be publicly released.

Bylaw/Handbook Review Update:

Mr. Young provided an update on potential changes to the NMAA handbook. The focus is currently on eligibility bylaws within Section 6 of the handbook as well as classification and alignment. He stated the bylaws committee continues to meet regularly. Additionally, Sport Specific Committees are now in tact and will be meeting regularly.

Eligibility/One-Free Transfer:

Mr. Young discussed the ever changing landscape of high school eligibility and the prospect of a one-free transfer for each student-athlete during their high school career. He emphasized that such a policy would require stronger regulation and oversight of recruitment and undue influence but feels such a change is inevitable. He anticipates bringing a proposal to the Commission for possible action in February.

Classification/Alignment Update:

Mr. Young presented a draft of the next classification and alignment block for 2026-2028. He stated the biggest change is due to schools whose enrollment has dropped, causing them to drop a classification. He stated they are also looking at a large district model in football to assist with scheduling. Feedback included finding a way to ease scheduling burdens in football as well as evaluating the 1A/2A baseball format. Primary considerations focused on travel, budget, and student-athlete well-being. Additional feedback included evaluating enrollment thresholds for each classification.

Action Items:

NM Mesa as a Sanctioned Activity:

Ms. Ling Faith-Heuertz and Ms. Anita Gonzales presented a proposal to consider NM Mesa as an NMAA sanctioned activity. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Pete made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Bachis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Academic Competition as a Sanctioned Activity:

Mr. Vance Lee, Superintendent, Capitan Schools, presented a proposal to consider Academic Competition as an NMAA sanctioned activity. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Pete made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMOA: Officials Fees:

Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to add a \$15 first tier to the travel ring schedule and increase game fees by \$5 in all sports at all levels. This would go into effect for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Lackey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mirabal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMOA Scrimmage Fees/Protocol:

Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to allow schools to compensate officials for services provided in scrimmage style events not to exceed one-half of a regular game fee per similar time commitments or approximately \$20 per hour. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gamboa made the motion to table the proposal. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (14-1).

Football: 6-8 Man Calendar:

Mr. Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to move the 6-Man and 8-Man calendar back one week so that all classifications in football end on Week #18 of the NMAA calendar. This would also move the 6-Man and 8-Man Championship game back one week as well. The start of the season would remain on Week #8. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Nougues seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Section 13: Window to Hear Appeals:

Mr. Young presented a proposal to extend the window to hear appeals from five (5) business days to ten (10) business days to hear Appeal Review Committee (ARC) and/or Board of Directors (BOD) appeals.

*Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is added.

13.1.3.B Notice of Appeal and Notice of Hearing – (ARC)

The Appeals Review Committee shall meet by teleconference or Zoom or other virtual platform to hear the appeal within ~~five (5)~~ ten (10) business days of receipt of the Request for Appeal to Appeals Review Committee and shall issue notice of the hearing including the date, time, and place or means of the hearing as soon as a quorum can be arranged.

13.2.4 Scheduling the Appeal – (BOD)

Five members of the Board of Directors shall meet to consider the appeal no later than ~~five (5)~~ ten (10) business days after the applicable form is received by the Director.

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

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).