

**NMAA Appeals Review Committee Eligibility Hearing**

**West Mesa High School Student**

**November 24, 2025**

**11:00 a.m.- Virtual**

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Paul Benoit, NMAA Appeals Review Committee Chairman, at 11:03 a.m., Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Paul Benoit

Mr. Brian Stacy

Mr. Mike Chmabers

Mr. Keith Durham

Not Present:

Mr. Bill Green

Mr. Gerry Washburn

Mrs. Freda Daugherty

Mr. Vance Lee

4 members were present representing a committee quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Chambers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Stacy seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (4-0).

**Closed Session** (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)

Mr. Benoit asked the appealing party if they wish for the appeal to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in open session.

Mr. Benoit- the meeting will be open as per the request.

Mr. Benoit reviewed the agenda

Also in attendance were Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director; Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director; Jayson Martinez, student; Mrs. Crystal Martinez, mother of Jayson; Mr. Ramon Soto, legal counsel for the Martinez family; and Mr. Shonn Schoer, Athletic Director, West Mesa High School; Jason Burnette, General Counsel, NMAA.

**Background and Ruling**

Mr. Dusty Young stated Jayson is a senior transfer student at West Mesa High School. Jayson originally open-enrolled as a freshman at West Mesa High School. As a sophomore he then transferred to St. Pius High School and under appeal was ruled ineligible for varsity participation in the sports of football, basketball, and track and field. For his junior year, Jayson transferred to Highland High School and per the form C from West Mesa, resided with his father, although the whereabouts of that particular residence are unknown as the form C lists only one address for both his previous and current residence as 5908 Mesa Sombra Place within the West Mesa attendance zone. While at Highland Jayson played sub-varsity

basketball and Highland confirmed that the address of enrollment was also 5908 Mesa Sombra Place, in the West Mesa attendance zone. On January 28, 2025, Jayson left Highland and enrolled again at West Mesa High School and West Mesa petitioned him claiming a move from father to mother. It cannot be confirmed whether Jayson's father had a separate residence but in either case, Jayson's transfer from Highland to West Mesa does not meet NMAA standards for immediate varsity eligibility. NMAA rules do not permit parent-to-parent transfers within the same school district, and they also do not permit students to transfer to their home zone-school after enrolling in and participating at a school outside their attendance zone. As a result, Jayson has been deemed a transfer student to West Mesa High School and ruled ineligible for all levels of basketball for one-calendar year from the date of his enrollment, but eligible immediately for varsity participation in all other sports under the "did not participate" provision.

Statement from Highland High School- he was disciplined for a locker room speech he made and inappropriate towards his fellow teammates he was told that his season was over and that he was not removed from 7<sup>th</sup> period basketball and was expected to rejoin his basketball workouts once the season had finished. He was never removed from the program but was disciplined for the remainder of the season. He spoke negatively to his teammates, his coaches and the program. He did apologize for his behavior two days after the incident and was informed by the head coach at that time he was not going to play any more games for the remainder of the season. His mom requested a meeting, and they explained the issue, she even agreed his body language was not good and that they had been talking about that. One of the coaches ate lunch with him several times a week and even transported him home several times, so having the opportunity to discuss and provide encouragement for appropriate behavior was always reinforced.

### **Aggrieved Party Statement**

Mr. Soto- As stated in the letter, Jayson asked for an appeal several months ago, one was not filed by the sending school. He is asking for the committee to look at the bona fide residence exception. Jayson does live in the West Mesa school district. The alternative would be to look at a hardship waiver based on the evidence presented in the letters and within the appeal. Testimony shows regarding the hardship is Mr. Martinez was abused by his coaches at his previous high school which caused severe emotional stress. They have also submitted a utility bill showing they had that was disconnected, which is a hardship on the student. He is asking that Mr. Martinez be allowed to play basketball this year.

Mrs. Martinez- the main reason for the hardship Jayson did go to Highland and was called by adult coaches "Pius boy" consistently every day. These comments were made regarding her son going to St Pius, stating this isn't Pius, and were made daily at practice. She had to address it with the coach and led to the blow up with three men screaming at him to take off your jersey and transfer. One of the coaches was coaching without a coaching license. Reason he went to Highland, she lost her job and couldn't afford St Pius anymore. She enrolled Jayson at Highland because his father was threatening to take custody of her three kids, and his father does live in the Highland district, so it was the closest school for him to walk if she lost custody of the kids. That did not happen, she did get a job and tried to get a job as close as possible to Highland, but she has since been transferred across town which made it difficult to get him to school at Highland. She does live in the West Mesa School district. She struggled with paying some utilities and a couple were shut off. She was able to get those turned back on and now has full custody of all three of her kids. It was unsafe at Highland and the hazing from the coaches was heavy, and there was a witness that also felt it was unsafe. She didn't want to go into debt keeping him at St. Pius, and did explain to them why he was transferring. They did have a face-to-face meeting, and they refused to address it and lied. It was not a safe environment., and was bad for his mental health. He is a senior this year, there is a bus there for him to get to school. He does like West Mesa and is doing well there.

Jayson- basketball is his outlet for everything. It's been a constant in his life. He considers West Mesa his family. Don't feel like he was being treated fairly at Highland, always saw others getting treated better than he did and would get punished more than anyone else did.

Schroer- back when the petition was declined, he spoke to Ms. Martinez about the denial and appeal window and told her the options, but he didn't hear back by the time the window to appeal had closed. He heard back a month or two later. Jayson played football for them and is a great kid and teachers like him; he has not had any disciplinary problems.

### **Committee Questions**

Chambers- the address on Sombra Place is the address they are living at now. Ms. Martinez stated yes and it has been their address for 7 years. Dad lives in the Highland district, off Crest Ave.

Chambers- did anyone ever mention there is a difference between the hardship committee and the appeals committee. There are two different committees and two different processes.

Ms. Martinez- no sir.

Soto- he is asking the committee to take into consideration that Jayson spent time with father in Highland district, Bylaw 6.7.4 C, allows Jayson to live in that matter.

Stacy- when did the parents divorce.

Ms. Martinez- it's been 4 years.

Stacy-Did Jayson lived with dad after the divorce.

Ms. Martinez- she has always had primary custody, and agreement says kids see him every other weekend. Jayson and his father have a strained relationship. When the threat was there, she didn't want to lose her kids due to her job situation, her ex-husband wasn't going to have the choice. She did what she could but she didn't want to disrupt Jayson's academics. He has always used sports as a therapy outlet, so she got him into a school as close to dad's house as possible if she did lose custody, he could ride a bike to Highland if he had to.

Stacy- clarifying that she lost her job summer before the previous school year.

Ms. Martinez- the summer before his junior year. She was struggling to find another and her ex-husband was threatening he will take her kids from her. She stated his freshman year at West Mesa and then Pius, she couldn't make that happen financially due to losing her job. The administration at Pius said she could make payments once she was able to pay but she didn't want to incur that debt, so she transferred him to Highland.

Stacy- asked why not transfer back to West Mesa. She felt if her kids were sent to live with their dad, he wouldn't drive him over the West Mesa. Highland was the closest to where his father lives. She was able to find a job and get life back on track. Jayson was already enrolled at Highland, so she didn't want to change things again. He never ended up going to live with his father, they were just in the process.

Stacy-how old is Jayson's brother and sister.

Ms. Martinez- 15 and 12. Isabella goes to Albuquerque HS, his brother attends John Adams down he rode and he will go to West Mesa.

Stacy- was Jayson offered any scholarship money at St. Pius. They offered him partial scholarship, it wasn't the full amount, they offered to push back the payment but 15k wasn't in the cards. There was not anyway she could keep up with it and didn't want it to jeopardize his college either.

Stacy- there was not anything listed for West Mesa for his second semester. His junior year. Jayson stated he ended up with a 3.8.

Stacy- the dates listed on Form C were Highland High School August 2024- January 2024, but shouldn't that be 2025, 12<sup>th</sup> grade January 2025.

Soto- the problem was she was about to lose her home or shut off compounded the problem. Issue with Highland on January 18<sup>th</sup>, the West Mesa enrollment was January 28th, and the utility shut off was January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Martinez- the January date was the disconnect notice, the summer one was a shut off was gas. These were all notices, trying to get assistance. She was able to get the gas back on. When she was asked for proof of address, she pulled up the most current one she had. It was disconnected at that point and just had a disconnect notice on it.

Stacy- statements made he was not allowed to participate in summer league with West Mesa- no he was told he was not allowed to play. He was told he was ineligible so wasn't able to participate in any part of the West Mesa basketball team. He could play football because he didn't play football last year.

Stacy- highland statement does not jive with what happened in paperwork. Jayson was removed from the team but didn't know why.

Martinez never gave any notice or attempted to contact her. He came running out of the locker room and was crying, the next practice he said he was notified he was kicked off the team. Went to school and let Principal know there was no notification whatsoever, was told they met and made a decision, said his attitude was bad.

Stacy- were all the locker room talks recorded, who recorded this one.

Ms. Martinez- one coach that wasn't part of the hazing, felt situation was unsafe and reported the incident because of how bad the hazing was getting with the coaches, especially JoJo Woody and Chacoin. Incidence were getting worse and comments being made, that coach felt he was unsafe and needed to have evidence of it.

Stacy- went from West Mesa and then went to highland and was there short period of time. How did he get back to Highland.

Ms. Martinez- While at Highland, she was driving him across town. She was able to get a job down the street as close to Highland as possible but ended up getting transferred to the west side. For games and practices, he caught a ride with Coach Wilson. When is was just Coach Wilson and Jayson they were always good when it was just the two of them, but he participated in the hazing when around other coaches.

Durham- how did he get to St Pius.

Martinez- It's across the street, he walked.

Durham-How far to West Mesa, bus that picks hi up rides the bus. A couple of miles down the road.

Durham- if he played on varsity where would he be as far as the team goes. Mr. Schroer stated he would be in the mix, he doesn't coach anymore, so not sure exactly, but in the rotation.

Chambers- who are the coaches at Highland.

Martinez- Head coach is Justin Woody, the JV coach is his son JoJo and Wilson and Chacoin is on the bench with the varsity. Justin Woody was aware of what was going on.

Chambers- who was Jayson's coach

Jayson- Coach Wilson

Chambers- who is she referring to in regard to the coach without a license.

Ms. Martinez- JoJo woody didn't have a license last year, the son of the head coach.

Stacy- in regard to the audio, after that game Jayson was upset with playing time and questioning authority. Correct or incorrect.

Jayson- the argument started because he was sitting down during the after-game talk, he put his head down, the coach started attacking him and yelling at him. He felt he was being targeted, he untied one of his shoes and he was yelled at, while others had their shoes untied.

Benoit- who made the audio.

Martinez- One of the C- team coaches.

Benoit- at the beginning it was indicated there was a delay in the appeal, because the sending school did not appeal.

Soto- his mistake, it was the transferring school.

Benoit- so it wasn't done within the time frame.

Schroer-Correct.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy and seconded by Mr. Durham to go into Executive Session at 11:46 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Paul Benoit
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Mr. Keith Durham
X		Mr. Mike Chambers

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into open session. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy and seconded by Mr. Durham to reconvene into open session at 11:58 a.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Paul Benoit
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Mr. Keith Durham
X		Mr. Mike Chambers

### **Action Items**

**Vote On Student Eligibility:** Mr. Benoit asked if there was any need for further discussion, if not he asked for a motion regarding this appeal. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy to uphold the New Mexico Activities Association Decision regarding the West Mesa High School appeal. Mr. Durham seconded. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed (4-0).

**Motion to Recess:** Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to recess until 12:02 p.m. Mr. Stacy made the motion to recess. Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (4-0).

Meeting called from recess back into order by Mr. Paul Benoit, NMAA Appeals Review Committee Chairman, at 12:02 p.m., Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Paul Benoit  
Mr. Brian Stacy  
Mr. Mike Chambers  
Mr. Keith Durham

Not Present:

Mr. Bill Green  
Mr. Gerry Washburn  
Mrs. Freda Daugherty  
Mr. Vance Lee

4 members were present representing a committee quorum.

### **Closed Session** (unless family requests hearing to be in open session)

Mr. Benoit asked the appealing party if they wish for the appeal hearing to be in open session or closed session. The appealing party requested the hearing be conducted in closed session.

Mr. Benoit- the appeal hearing will be closed as per the request.

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to enter into Closed Session. Mr. Stacy made a motion to go into closed session Mr. Durham seconded. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (4-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Paul Benoit
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Mr. Keith Durham
X		Mr. Mike Chambers

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussion purposes only. A motion was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Durham to go into Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Paul Benoit
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Mr. Keith Durham
X		Mr. Mike Chambers

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into closed session. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy and seconded by Mr. Chambers to go back into closed session at 12:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (4-0). Mr. Benoit stated there was no action taken during Executive Session.

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Paul Benoit
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Mr. Keith Durham
X		Mr. Mike Chambers

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to go back into open session. A motion was made by Mr. Durham and seconded by Mr. Chambers to reconvene into open session at 12:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Appeal Review Committee Member Name
X		Mr. Paul Benoit
X		Mr. Brian Stacy
X		Mr. Keith Durham
X		Mr. Mike Chambers

### Action Items

Vote On Student Eligibility: Mr. Benoit asked if there was any need for further discussion, if not he asked for a motion to uphold, amend or overturn the original decision. A motion was made by Mr. Stacy to uphold the New Mexico Activities Association Decision regarding the Mesilla Valley Christian School appeal. Mr. Durham seconded. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed with a vote of 4-0.

### Adjournment

Mr. Benoit asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Durham and seconded by Mr. Stacy. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.