NMAA

Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
NMAA
9:00 AM

New Mexico Activities Association Commission

Updated September 2026

Small Area A – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2028
TBD

Small Area B – *Term Expires Dec. 31, 2027*
Mr. Kevin Lackey
Logan High School
301 2nd Street Logan
Logan, NM 88426
575-487-2252; Fax: 575-487-9479
email: klackey@Loganschool.net

Small Area C – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2028
Mr. Jory Mirabal
Magdalena High School
P.O. Box 629
Magdalena, NM 87825
575-854-2241, Fax: 575-854-2531
email: jmirabal@magdalena.k12.nm.us

Small Area D – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026
Ms. Robbie Robinson
Eunice High School
P.O. Box 129
Eunice, NM 88231
575-390-8648, Fax: 575-394-3140
email: rrobinson@eunice.org

Non-Public Schools – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2029
Ms. Rainy Crisp
Navajo Preparatory School
1220 W Apache St
Farmington, NM 87401
505-326-6571, Fax: 505-564-8099
email: rcrisp@navajoprep.com

Large Area A – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026
Mr. Ben Tensay
Bloomfield School District
520 N First Street
Bloomfield, NM 87413
505-634-3408, Fax: 505-634-3414
email: btensay@bsin.k12.nm.us

Large Area B – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2027
Mr. Britt Cooper
Roswell Independent School District
300 North Kentucky
Roswell, NM 88201
575-627-2515, Fax: 575-627-2612
email: bcooper@risd.k12.nm.us

Large Area C – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2028
Mr. Alan Edmonson
Alamogordo High School
103 Cuba Ave.
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-812-5565, Fax: 575-812-6503
email: alan.edmonson@alamogordoschools.org

Large Area D – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2027
Mr. Adrian Ortega
Albuquerque Public Schools
P.O. Box 25704
Albuquerque, NM 87125
505-878-6164, Fax: 505-830-3383
email: ortega_ad@aps.edu

New Mexico School Boards Association
Toby Velasquez
Pojoaque Board of Education
1574 State Road 502 West
Santa Fe, NM 87506
email: tvelasquez@pvs.k12.nm.us

New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association
Mr. Isaac Gamboa
Farmington Municipal Schools
3401 E. 30th Street
Farmington, NM 87402
505-324-9840, Fax: 505-599-8806
email: igamboa@fms.k12.nm.us

New Mexico Officials Association
Mr. David Briseno
Clovis, NM
505-238-6812
email: sixbrisenos@mac.com

New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals
Mr. Scott Affentranger
Cleveland High School
4800 Laban Rd. NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144
505-938-0325
email: scott.affentranger@rrps.net

New Mexico High School Coaches Association
Mr. Angel Castillo
NMHSCA Executive Director
505-205-6322
email: angel@nmhsca.com

Activities Council
Ms. Mary Hahn
Albuquerque, NM
505-259-0484
email: HahnNMASC@aol.com

Jr. High / Middle School Committee
Mr. Adrian Pete
Rehoboth Christian Middle School
7 Tse Yaaniichii Ln
Rehoboth, NM 87322
505-728-8038
email: adrianpete@rcsnm.org

Note: The terms of the elected representatives to the NMAA Commission shall be three years. The initial term lengths are staggered to provide continuity on the Commission. Subsequent terms are for three years for the elected position.

NEW MEXICO ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
COMMISSION MEETING

NMAA - Hall of Pride and Honor
November 18, 2026, 9:00 AM

AGENDA

A= Action Item **D/I= Discussion/ Information Item**

I.	**Call *Meeting to Order and Welcome***	
	Roll Call – Ascertain Quorum	*Alissa Wesbrook, Asst. to Exec. Dir.*
	(A) Approval of Agenda	*Scott Affentranger, Chair*
	(A) Approval of Minutes (September 9, 2026)	*Scott Affentranger, Chair*
II.	***NMAA Director's Report***	*Scott Owen, Deputy Director*
III.	***NMAA Financial Report***	*Annette Castillo, Business Manager*
IV.	***NMAA Foundation Report***	*Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director*
V.	***NMAA Activities Report***	*Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director*
VI.	***New Mexico Officials Association Report***	*Carl Vigil, Mgr. of Officials Operations*
VII.	***Discussion/Informational Items***	
	(D/I) Girls Flag Football	*Kurt Nilson, Community Member*
	(D/I) Standard Based State Qualification	*Zac Stevenson, Jackie Martinez*
	(D/I) NMHSCA Wrestling Dual Championships	*Angel Castillo, NMHSCA Exec. Dir.*
	(D/I) Wrestling Co-Ops	*Scott Owen, Deputy Director*
	(D/I) Individual Sport Competition Limits	*Scott Owen, Deputy Director*
	(D/I) Eligibility Update	*Scott Owen, Deputy Director*
	(D/I) Foreign Student Eligibility	*Scott Owen, Deputy Director*
	(D/I) Bylaw 6.1: General Participation Guidelines	*Dusty Young, Executive Director*
	(D/I) Seeding/Selection	*Dusty Young, Executive Director*
	(D/I) JV/Varsity Double Header Competition Limits	*Dusty Young, Executive Director*
	(D/I) Scrimmages/Alumni Games	*Dusty Young, Executive Director*
	(D/I) Fall Athletic Directors Meeting	*Dusty Young, Executive Director*
VIII.	***Action Items***	
	(A) Ejection Appeal Fees	*Dusty Young, Executive Director*
	(A) Tennis: Coaching Policy	*Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director*
	(A) Tennis: District and State Matches	*Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director*
	(A) Spirit: State Qualifying Competition Requirements	*Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director*
	(A) Spirit: Dance Classification Adjustment for A-4A Schools	*Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director*
IX.	***Consider Adjournment***	

Next Commission Meeting – February 3, 2027 (NMAA)

NMAA Commission Meeting
September 9, 2026
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. Britt Cooper (Large Area B)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small Area C)
Mr. Alan Edmonson (Large Area C)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D) - entered after roll call
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. Rainy Crisp (Non-Public Schools) - *Via Teleconference*
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association) - entered after roll call
Mr. Toby Velasquez (New Mexico School Boards Association)
Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:
Mr. Kevin Lackey (Small Area B)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Junior High/Middle School Committee)

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. Mr. Ortega seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Approval of Minutes:
Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026, Commission Meeting. Mr. Gamboa made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Briseno entered the meeting

NMAA Directors' Report:
Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed seven (7) items in his report: 1) provided an update on the new transfer/eligibility bylaws; 2) stated that the Bylaws Committee will meet September 30th to discuss the new eligibility bylaws and classification and alignment; 3) stated the Strategic Planning Committee will meet September 22nd to discuss and plan for future Association goals and initiatives; 4) stated that the NFHS Section 6 meeting will take place in Austin, TX next week providing an opportunity for NMAA staff to network and share ideas about what associations are facing within their respective states; 5) stated that the NMAA will be sending representatives to the NFHS Sport Summit on October 6-7th where the current state of

interscholastic sports will be discussed; 6) stated that School Board Association meetings will be taking place throughout the month of September/October and that the NMAA will be present to provide updates focusing on eligibility and sportsmanship; and lastly 7) reported on new NMAA additions welcoming Mr. Leonard Longhorn, Manager of Officiating Affairs, to the NMAA Staff, Ms. Rainy Crisp to the Commission as the new Non-Public School representative; and congratulated Ms. Debra Sena Holton who was elected to NMAA Board of Directors.

Financial Reports:
Ms. Annette Castillo, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented the 2025-2026 box reports stating spring sports showed an overall increase; and 2) presented tickets sales for all 2025-2026 state championships showing an increase overall from last year.

NMAA Foundation Report:
Ms. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) The NMAA Foundation held its annual Board of Directors meeting in August; 2) The Foundation will continue its work to support students and schools by distributing funds this year through the Foundation's school grant and scholarship programs; and lastly, 3) The Annual Bowl-A-Thon will take place in February and consideration is being given to moving the Golf Classic from June to September.

NMAA Activities Report:
Ms. Sanchez presented the NMAA Activities report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) the annual Activities Council Meeting was held on September 8th with Council members providing summaries of the previous school year's activities and giving updates on state events for this year; 2) state events for the fall will include the State Marching Band competition taking place on Saturday, October 24 at Rio Rancho High School and the State One-Act Play competition taking place in November at Volcano Vista High School. All other state events for activities will be taking place in the spring. Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, also stated that although individual activities typically have their own bylaws and constitutions for adjudicating violations and disputes, the NMAA will be evaluating its role in that process.

NMAA Officials Report:
Mr. Carl Vigil, Manager of Officials Operations, presented the NMOA report. He discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) welcomed Mr. Leonard Longhorn to the NMAA as the Manager of Officiating Affairs; 2) thanked Mr. Zac Stevenson and Mr. Gary Allison for their leadership and guidance; 3) stated the 2026 NMOA Summer Conference was held in July and welcomed close to 300 officials in all sports. The conference provided officials from across the state with sport-specific education, professional development, and an opportunity to prepare for the 2026–2027 school year; 4) congratulated Mr. David Briseno, Mr. Danny Lujan, and Mr. Jess Martinez for their induction into the NMOA Hall of Fame. Cliff Jenkins was also once again honored with the Paul LaPorte Award, and Nate Acosta received the NMOA Distinguished Service Award; and lastly 5) current fall official numbers remain steady.

General Discussion/Information Items:
Student Leadership Advisory Council:
Mr. Gary Allison, NMAA Associate Director, provided an update on the Student Leadership Advisory Council. There are three more regional meetings scheduled, one in Albuquerque, and one in Farmington, with the final meeting taking place in Las Cruces. The council meetings have been successful with discussion focusing on mental health. The council is currently looking to fill

several student positions. The council is made up of 18 members and are seeking two students from each region to ensure representation across the state.

Robbie Robinson entered the meeting

Basketball Start Date:
Mr. Zac Stevenson discussed returning to two weeks of preseason practice prior to the first regular season game. This mirrors the same preseason timeline as football and allows for appropriate time for try-outs, team-parent meetings, scrimmages, etc. prior to the first game. Mr. Roy Sanchez, Athletic Director, Eldorado High School added they used to have three weeks and this request is only for two weeks.

Girls Flag Football:
Mr. Young discussed girls' flag football and some of the recent community advocacy for it to become a sanctioned NMAA sport. Mr. Young emphasized that the NMAA is a membership led organization and it is the purview of the membership to determine what activities/sports become sanctioned.

New Eligibility Bylaws:
Mr. Young reported an increase in transfer petitions compared to last year and stated there have been a few unique situations that will need evaluation specifically concerning the timing of transfers and situations involving multiple transfers without students participating in a sport or program. Concerns have also occurred regarding home-school and charter-school student transfers. He also stated that the NMAA is working to move the petition process to an online platform to help with tracking transfers.

Foreign Students:
Mr. Young stated there have been concerns regarding foreign student transfers who enter NMAA schools without their parents. Currently, these students are ineligible for varsity competition for 365 calendar days, but after the one-year sit out, are eligible for varsity participation in all sports for the remainder of their enrollment. Discussion included ensuring these students are not recruited/influenced to transfer and possibly evaluating the varsity ineligibility duration.

Charter School Scholastic Eligibility:
Mr. Young discussed scholastic eligibility standards for charter school students who also participate in sports at their local public high school. While schools with a higher standard typically supersede schools with a lower standard, concerns have been raised when the charter school has a higher standard as this creates an undue burden on the local public high school to ensure the student is meeting a standard different from the remainder of their general enrollment.

Non-Traditional School Eligibility:
Mr. Young stated bylaws and eligibility requirements for charter and home-school students is under the purview of state statute. Under state statute, charter and home-school students must participate at the public school within their home attendance zone.

Ejection Appeal Fees:
Mr. Young stated currently there is a fee for eligibility appeals and discussed the possibility of adding a fee for appeals regarding ejections of students and coaches.

Commission/Board Officer Terms:
Mr. Young stated that Board Officers are elected to a two-year term, with elections currently held in June of odd-numbered years while Commission Officers are elected to two-year terms, with elections currently held in September of odd-numbered years. Additionally, non-officers are elected to three-year terms with terms running on a January–December cycle. Mr. Young discussed the need for more consistency and the possibility of an action item later this school year.

Action Items:
Basketball: Mercy Rule: Mr. Zac Stevenson presented a proposal to modify the mercy rule score to have a 10-point spread from running clock to return to regulation timing. Bylaw 7.13.1.G. would read as follows with stricken language removed and underlined language added:

> 7.13.1.G. Mercy Rule – When a team is ahead ~~at half-time~~ by ~~35~~ 30 or more points ~~or becomes 35 or more points ahead~~ in the second half, the clock will stop only for time-outs. If the point differential becomes less than ~~35~~ 20 points, regular timing resumes. A mercy rule "substitution time out" may be utilized where any remaining time-outs may stop the clock without teams coming to the bench. The clock would not start again until the ball becomes live.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Briseno made a motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (13-1).

Basketball: District Tie Breaker Game: Mr. Zac Stevenson presented a proposal to remove the mandatory district championship tie-breaker game and to instead utilize the remaining established procedures listed within 7.13.3.E. to break any ties. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Baseball: Double First Base: Mr. Tyler Dunkel presented a proposal to adopt a state-wide bylaw that all high school baseball contests must use the double first base.

> Bylaw 7.12.1.H.8. – Double First Base – All high school baseball contests must use the double first base at all levels.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the proposal. No second was made, motions dies.

Publication of Coaches Input Forms: Mr. Dusty young presented a proposal to publicize member school input (Coaches Input Forms) as part of the NMAA's Seeding and Selection process. Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gamboa made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Appeals Review Committee Representatives: Mr. Dusty Young presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 13.1.2. to remove the limitation on maximum number of Appeal Review Committee members. Bylaw 13.1.2. would read as follows with stricken language removed and underlined language added:

13.1.2. Appeals Review Committee – The Appeals Review Committee ("Appeals Review Committee" or "Review Committee") shall be composed of ~~up to ten (10) members who are~~ current and / or retired superintendents or headmasters of NMAA member schools. Three members of the Appeals Review Committee shall constitute a quorum for an appeal hearing. The Director shall appoint the members of the Appeals Review Committee.

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Velasquez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. Mr. Gamboa seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 18, 2026

EJECTION / DISQUALIFICATON APPEAL FEES

_x_ Action Item
___ Discussion Item

_x_ Referenda Item
___ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter: Dusty Young, Executive Director

Proposal: Amend Bylaw 7.7.2.F to include a $250 fee for ejection/disqualification appeals that are not overturned or modified.

7.7.2.F. Process of Appeals for Coach or Participant Ejections/Disqualifications

4. If, after the NMAA completes the investigation, it is found that a rule is misapplied, the Ejection/disqualification will be overturned. The final decision to overturn an ejection/disqualification rests with the NMAA Executive Director. Appeals that are not overturned or modified shall result in a $250 fee to the school.

Rationale: A fee may help encourage schools to submit thorough and well-supported appeals while helping to manage the growing volume of appeals that the NMAA has received.

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 18, 2026

TENNIS: COACHING POLICY

_x_ Action Item
___ Discussion Item
_x_ Referenda Item
___ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:
Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director

Proposal: Permanently adopt the pilot implemented during the 2026 season expanding coaching opportunities during team and individual play throughout the regular season, including state championships. Amend state championship bylaws 7.21.3.C.7 and 7.21.3.E.3 and add the same provisions to the regular-season rules.

**Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is added.*

> **Coaching:** Coaching during play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players between points and during change of sides through the fence only. Coaching shall not disrupt the normal flow of play and shall only occur at the fence during changeovers (except for the changeover after the first game of each set, where play is continuous). In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player. Coaching may occur off-court during this time.
>
> Note: Pilot regulations implemented during the 2026 season including the state championships are underlined to identify the provisions being proposed for permanent adoption.

Rationale: Coaches will be provided with additional instructional opportunities without interrupting the flow of competition.

Coaches Survey: Beginning of Year Survey - 2026 (also attached)

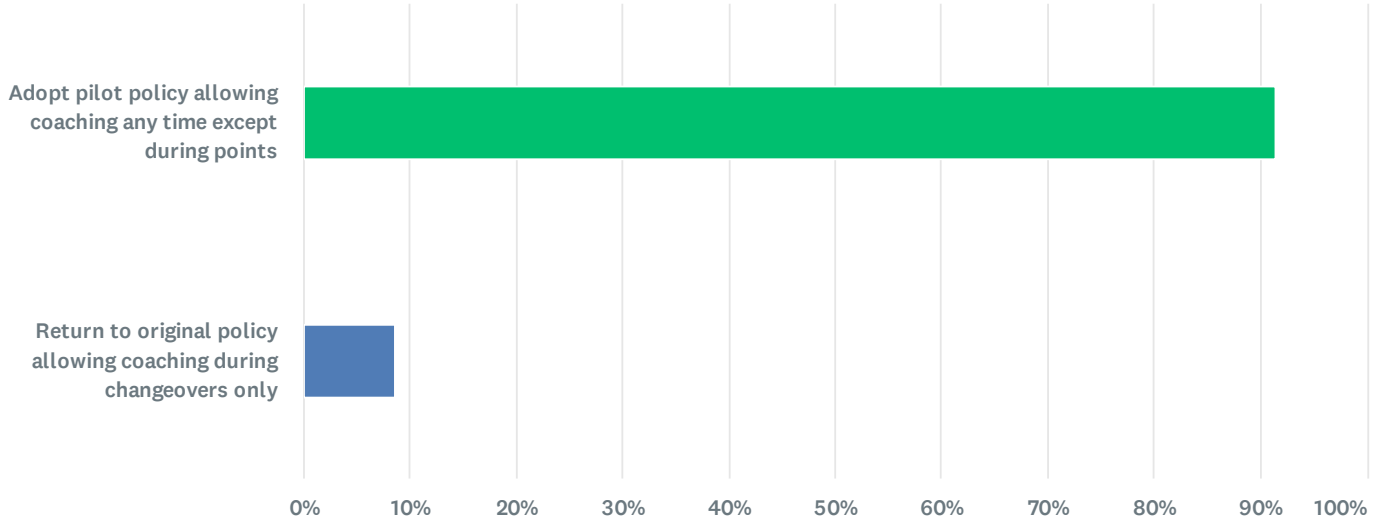
- 58 total respondents out of approximately 80 coaches
- Of the 58 that responded, 91.4% (53) are in favor of adopting the pilot as policy
- Of the 58 that responded, 8.6% (5) prefer the original policy

Sport Specific Committee Recommendation: Approve

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

Q4 58 responses

The following pilot policy for coaching during play went into effect Mid-March of the 2026 season through the state tournament: "Coaching during play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players between points and during change of sides through the fence only. Coaching shall not disrupt the normal flow of play and shall only occur at the fence during changeovers (except for the changeover after the first game of each set, where play is continuous). In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player. Coaching may occur off court during this time."Question: Which coaching policy would you prefer?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Adopt pilot policy allowing coaching any time except during points	91.38%	53
Return to original policy allowing coaching during changeovers only	8.62%	5
Total		**58**

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Some coaches are doing it anyway and it is so hard not to Coach between points for all of us.	8/26/2026 7:37 PM
2	Worked out great last year. We are hired to coach so let us coach!	8/26/2026 6:24 PM
3	I loved this change. The most important benefit was that it allowed more mentoring during matches, particularly for our less experienced players. It also resembles what happens in college and in professional tennis. It just makes sense to make it official at the HS level too, where coaching makes an even larger difference.	8/26/2026 1:13 PM
4	I strongly believe able to give reminders or corrections after a point is great for the players	8/26/2026 12:52 PM

	because their students of the game and for us to correct them at the moment is fresh in their mind so they can adapt and learn during those moments. I also have a lot of beginners where I'm the one teaching them about the game and it just helps these players become better at the sport if we're allowed to coach them after the point.	
5	Made helping our athletes easier, especially beginners	8/26/2026 11:45 AM
6	There should still be discussion/rules with regard to equitableness and fairness to all athletes when there is a coaching disparity between schools that could arguably put an athlete at an unreasonable psychological, strategic and overall competitive disadvantage - during competition. Golf, a similar individual yet team sport, has regulations in place for only one coach per team that can provide advice, ensuring competitive fairness of all teams with regard to structural level of support. Consideration should be given to tennis before the spring season.	8/26/2026 10:00 AM
7	I believe this best represents education based athletics and allows coaches to teach the sport more effectively. It also allows coaches to grow the game.	8/26/2026 9:41 AM
8	I think some teams took advantage of this rule. Players would also coach up their teammates during this time along with the coaches. I think the original policy is better.	8/26/2026 9:02 AM
9	Coaches were very polite and professional when timing their coaching. It felt like everyone was on the same page.	8/26/2026 8:47 AM
10	I like this way more than the usual, I could have short time to coach players between points and during change of sides.	8/24/2026 2:26 PM
11	Immediate feedback, like teaching and parenting, is essential to learning.	8/24/2026 1:57 PM
12	Coaches should be allowed on the courts.	8/24/2026 11:04 AM
13	These are high school athletes and they need/deserve coaching during match play after points. Pros playing on tour might not need it but high school athletes do.	8/22/2026 12:00 AM
14	N/A	8/21/2026 10:59 AM
15	Avoid confusion and chaos by making it changeover coaching only. Let the kids play the match without adults becoming overinvolved.	8/20/2026 6:33 PM
16	Continuous coaching removed conflicts.	8/20/2026 11:37 AM
17	I think the original policy allows for the games not to be prolonged more than they need.	8/20/2026 11:32 AM
18	Some coaches did disrupt the normal flow of play by calling players over to the fence in between points. So I think this point needs to be emphasized that during point play coaching cannot disrupt the normal flow of play.	8/20/2026 10:09 AM
19	Please keep the coaching allowed. This removes the biggest conflicts I have had with other coaches. Can you imagine telling a basketball coach he can only coach during timeouts?	8/20/2026 9:56 AM
20	No comment	8/20/2026 9:15 AM
21	As long as it doesn't disrupt the game flow or takes more than a minute, I'm fine with it but coaches like to take more than a minute to coach.	8/20/2026 9:06 AM
22	This format works well. We are high school coaches and the point is for us to teach and the kids to learn. Many programs in the state exist without a vibrant tennis community and professional coaching resources available in the area for private lessons and development outside of the school program. Many athletes pick up tennis as a sport later than other traditional sports like football, baseball, track, etc. and need the support and coaching during play. They are still learning and our job is to teach and reinforce during competitive play.	8/20/2026 9:00 AM
23	I would eliminate the 10 minute break after split sets. I also encourage no lets and no adds and should align with ITA play rules.	8/20/2026 8:47 AM
24	Players benefit from correction during the match. The more opportunities coaches have to do this, the better.	8/20/2026 8:46 AM
25	I have a lot of young and new players so this pilot was really helpful for their growth in tennis.	8/20/2026 8:41 AM
26	Interrupts the flow of the game	8/20/2026 8:41 AM
27	They do this in Texas, it works just fine.	8/20/2026 8:40 AM

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 18, 2026

TENNIS: DISTRICT AND STATE MATCHES

_x_ Action Item
___ Discussion Item

_x_ Referenda Item
___ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:
Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director

Proposal: Adopt a match scoring format consisting of best 2-of-3 tiebreakers sets with ad scoring and a 7-point tiebreaker at 6 all in the first two sets and a third set 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of a full third set for all district and state competitions. This would be an amendment to bylaws 7.21.2.B.2, 7.21.2.C.1., 7.21.3.C.5. and 7.21.3.E.2.

Proposed Rule
All matches conducted during district and state competitions shall consist of a best 2-of-3 set format, as follows:

1. First Set: A standard tiebreaker set using ad scoring, with a 7-point tiebreaker played at 6-6.
2. Second Set: A standard tiebreaker set using ad scoring, with a 7-point tiebreaker played at 6-6.
3. Third Set (if necessary): A 10-point match tiebreaker played in lieu of a full third set.

This format shall apply to all the following competitions:

- District dual matches
- District individual tournaments
- State individual tournaments
- State team tournaments

Current Scoring Format: Current scoring format for all district and state tournament competition consists of the best two-of-three tie-breaker sets, with ad scoring and a 7-point tie breaker at 6-all in each set.

Rationale: The discussion began with a request for the sports specific committee to consider modifications to the state team tournament format due to the extended length of play on the first day of the tournament. Concerns centered on the impact of long-playing hours on student-athletes, limited rest and recovery between matches, scheduling feasibility, facility availability, daylight limitations, weather contingencies, and staffing demands.
The committee recognized that these challenges are not limited to the state team tournament but can also occur during district dual matches, district individual tournaments, and state individual tournaments. Expanding consideration of format modifications to include regular-season district competition and all post-season tournaments would provide an opportunity to address these concerns consistently throughout the tennis season.

Coaches Survey: Beginning of Year Survey - 2026 (also attached)

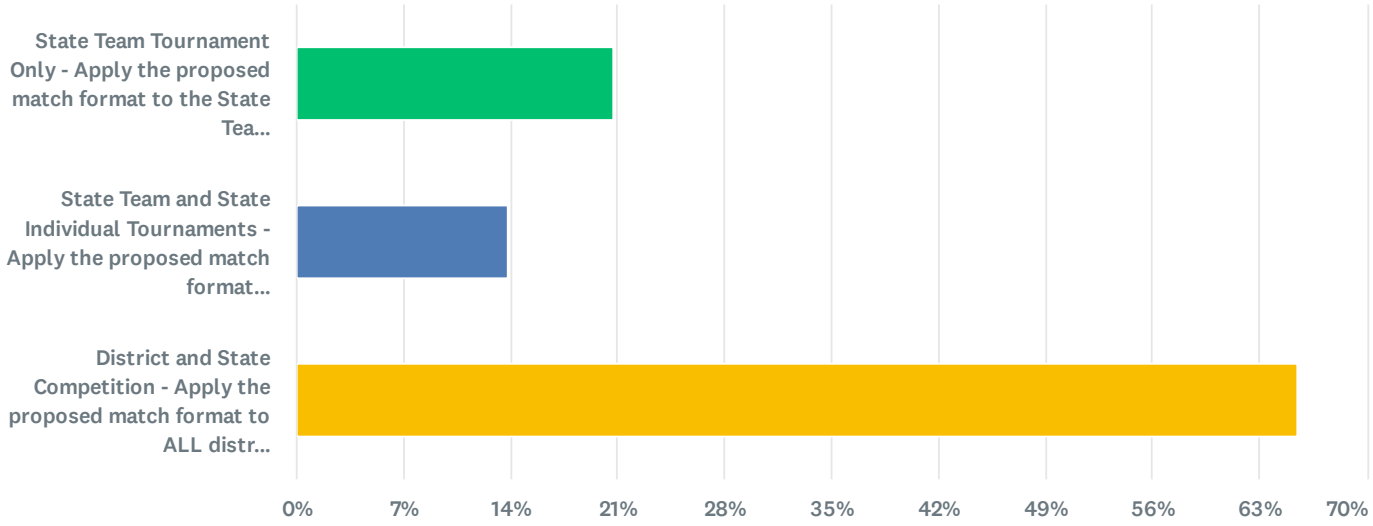
- 58 total respondents out of approximately 80 coaches
- Of the 58 that responded, 65.5% (38) are in favor of implementing for all district and state competition, including district dual matches, district individual tournaments, state individual tournaments, and state team tournaments.
- Of the 58 that responded, 13.8% (8) are in favor implementing for the state individual tournament and state team tournament only.
- Of the 58 that responded, 20.7% (12) are in favor of implementing for the state team tournament only.

Sport Specific Committee Recommendation: Approve

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

Q5 58 responses

The NMAA and Sports Specific Tennis Committee are reviewing potential modifications to the State Team Tennis Tournament format to improve scheduling, player rest, and overall tournament operations while maintaining competitive integrity.This review is based on several factors including: · The length of play on the first day of the team tournament· Providing equitable rest opportunities for participating teams· The ability to complete all rounds within the current two-day schedule· Facility and court availability· Weather contingencies· Staffing needs No decisions have been made. The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback from member schools on three potential tournament format options. Proposed Match Format: Matches consist of best 2-of-3 tiebreakers sets with ad scoring and a 7-point tiebreaker at 6 all in the first two sets and a third set 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of a full third set Question: Which of the following options would you prefer?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
State Team Tournament Only - Apply the proposed match format to the State Team Tournament only	20.69%	12
State Team and State Individual Tournaments - Apply the proposed match format to both the State Individual Tournament and the State Team Tournament.	13.79%	8

Total	**58**

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
District and State Competition - Apply the proposed match format to ALL district and state competitions, including: District dual matches, District individual tournaments, State individual tournaments, State team tournaments	65.52%	38
Total		**58**

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	None. Leave it as is.	8/26/2026 7:37 PM
2	If duals are completed in the first round before all 9 matches are done, teams should be able to pull players and not finish matches.	8/26/2026 3:57 PM
3	I would have preferred an "other" option. I would favor this change for EARLY ROUNDS ONLY. So, the semi-final, final, and 3rd-place matches in all tournaments (state team, state individual, district tournament) play out a full third set. This would maintain a fair, high level of competition for our state's strongest players. So, 10-point third sets for early rounds. Then move to full third sets in semis, finals, and the 3rd-place match. This is a popular format for USTA tournaments. It keeps early rounds moving while preserving the competitive nature of the later rounds, particularly for the strongest players. I would only support this change if it were done this way. I would NOT support this change if semis, finals, and 3rd-place matches finished in 10-point matches. 10-pointers can be too random, and would be a disservice to the final four players.	8/26/2026 1:13 PM
4	I believe we have had enough time to complete these in a timely manner. No change is needed although I had to select one.	8/26/2026 11:45 AM
5	Standardizing ensures proper conditioning going into district and state play, the mental preparation assuredness of same scoring format and true meritocracy with uniform playing formats ensuring everyone that qualifies for state has met those qualifications by the same scoring metrics.	8/26/2026 10:00 AM
6	If we do it at state we need to practice it in district as well.	8/26/2026 8:56 AM
7	The format is becoming a standard in many outside tournaments, so I think this is okay. It seems like, with this format, kids still get lots of playing time.	8/26/2026 8:47 AM
8	Keep consistent throughout, and also what UTSA does in adult leagues.	8/24/2026 1:57 PM
9	N/A	8/21/2026 10:59 AM
10	Preparation of athletes for this format should be consistent from district through state.	8/20/2026 3:24 PM
11	I don't believe there is an easy way to do this, but I do know the winner of our semifinal match between Albuquerque High and Centennial was at a HUGE disadvantage against La Cueva in the final. Our match was a 5-hour bloodbath while La Cueva was rested after an easy win against Farmington.	8/20/2026 1:45 PM
12	I selected the option that provided for the minimum change, but I feel like no change to the scoring should be made. Changing the scoring to incorporate a 10 point tie breaker in the third set changes the whole dynamic of the match play. I believe the full third set gives both players the opportunity to make changes and do the things necessary to win the match. A 10 point tie breaker obviously shortens the match and favors the player who may not have the physical and mental stamina to complete the third set. I think we should keep the scoring as is with no change. If completing matches on time is a problem, we should be allowed to start them earlier for district play. For state tournament play we could add an extra day to accommodate all of the matches.	8/20/2026 10:09 AM
13	Our matches run very long and many of us only have 4 courts. One long full three set match can have us go 5 to 6 hours. A 10 point breaker is the way to go.	8/20/2026 9:56 AM

14	It would make matches go by quicker & it would help our district since our opponents are far apart & we have to travel quite a bit.	8/20/2026 9:06 AM
15	I also feel the state could look into a modification similar to Texas, who has two seasons of tennis. One in the early fall and the other in the Spring. One season is team based and the other is individual based. I feel like some of the seeding problems of teams and individuals at the tournaments could be alleviated if we did two seasons instead of one. Plus a lot of tennis kids tend not to be multiple sport athletes.	8/20/2026 9:00 AM
16	I stated my concerns about the match format in the formal letter I submitted to the NMAA in May 2026.	8/20/2026 8:58 AM
17	Finals play out the third set	8/20/2026 8:47 AM
18	Please add no ADD scoring, Some matches are entirely too long. It doesn't impede performance and needlessly lengthens matches	8/20/2026 8:47 AM
19	Apply to all matches regardless of the format.	8/20/2026 8:46 AM
20	We use city courts, and many times playing a full 3rd set put us behind; making members of the public upset. Also in state we had back to back matches with minimal break time, so my athletes were exhausted playing a full 3rd set.	8/20/2026 8:41 AM
21	It is making me pick, but I would prefer none of these options. Play out the 3rd set. Huge mental difference playing out a 3rd set instead of a ten point tie-breaker. Physical conditioning comes more into play for the 3rd set. If we do this for tennis cut down football quarters to 5 minutes each quarter and claim it is for player safety.	8/20/2026 8:40 AM

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 18, 2026

SPIRIT: STATE QUALIFIYING COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

_x_ Action Item
___ Discussion Item
___ Referenda Item
_x_ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:
Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director

Proposal: Starting in 2027-2028, reduce the number of sanctioned competitions required to be eligible for the NMAA State Spirit Competition. This would be an amendment to bylaw 7.19.5.B.

**Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is added.*

> **State Championship Eligibility** - Teams must compete in at least ~~three (3)~~ two (2) sanctioned competitions prior to State to be eligible for State Competition.
>
> Note: Proposed number of sanctioned competitions required for State Competition are underlined.

Rationale: Reducing the minimum number of required competitions provides greater flexibility for schools, particularly smaller schools with multisport athletes participating in multiple in-season sports. It also helps schools of all sizes find nearby competitions while reducing travel demands and transportation costs. Importantly, lowering the minimum requirement does not change the maximum number of competitions a team may participate in during the regular season.

Coaches Survey: 2026 Fall Spirit Survey (also attached)

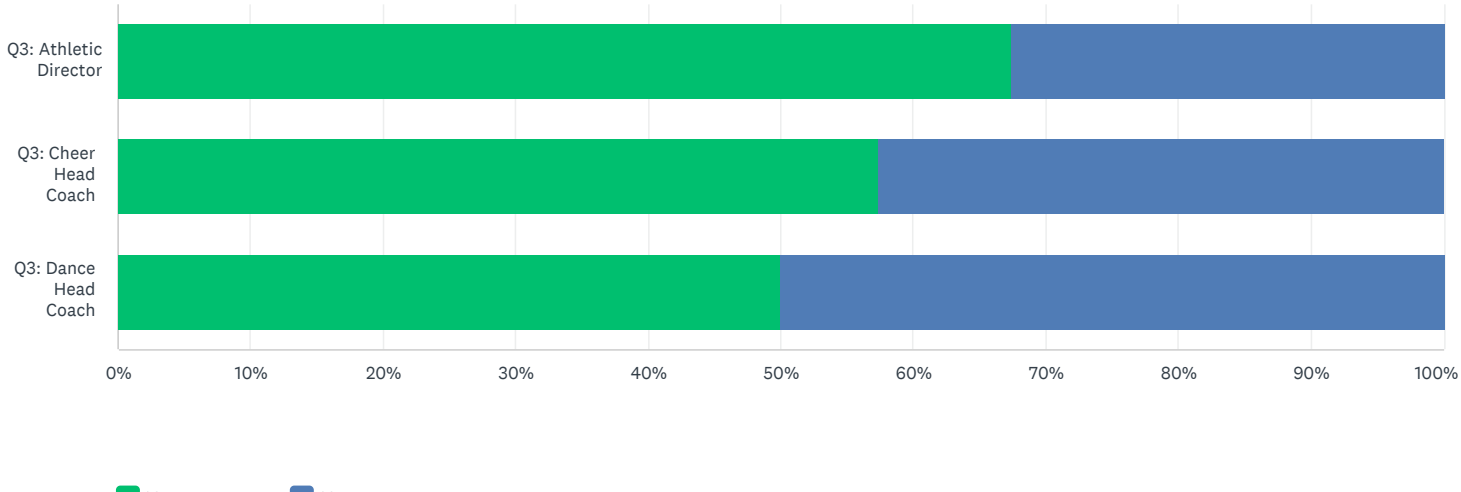
- 154 responded out of approximately 114 Cheer coaches, 41 Dance coaches and 117 athletic directors
- 146 respondents provided feedback on this specific topic, 75 were Cheer coaches, 28 were Dance coaches and 43 were athletic directors.
- Overall, 59% of respondents were in favor of the proposal. Responses by group were as follows:
  - Cheer coaches: 57% in favor
  - Dance coaches: 50% in favor
  - Athletic directors: 67% in favor

Sport Specific Committee Recommendation: Approve

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

Q6 Do you support reducing the number of state-qualifying sanctioned competitions from three (3) to two (2) for the 27-28 season?

Answered: 146 Skipped: 8



	YES	NO	TOTAL
Q3: Athletic Director	67.44% 29	32.56% 14	29.45% 43
Q3: Cheer Head Coach	57.33% 43	42.67% 32	51.37% 75
Q3: Dance Head Coach	50.00% 14	50.00% 14	19.18% 28
Total Respondents	86	60	146

	COMMENTS	TOTAL
Q3: Athletic Director	8	8
Q3: Cheer Head Coach	36	36
Q3: Dance Head Coach	11	11

#	Q3: ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DATE
1	I feel like it waters down the criteria to qualify if you only require 2 competitions.	10/22/2026 7:26 PM
2	Either way works for me really. We don't compete yet as our program is growing again.	10/22/2026 3:56 PM
3	IF IT'S NOT BROKEN--DON'T FIX IT---I would recommend an increase in number of competitions----kids work all year for ONLY 3--now 2 competitions	10/22/2026 3:52 PM
4	This is our first season, and so we are learning. Due to transportation issues, 2 competitions would definitely be easier than 3.	10/22/2026 3:21 PM
5	I actually fine with 2 0r 3 competitions.	10/20/2026 12:44 PM
6	It is hard to find competitions, especially in this corner of the state	10/19/2026 2:42 PM
7	If we as schools are going to have a Competitive Season, then the teams need to have competitions in order to prepare the athletes for a State Event.	10/19/2026 2:05 PM
8	Gives more flexibility and reduces the number of committments, especially when it comes to already attending so many athletic competitions supporting other teams.	10/19/2026 11:00 AM

#	Q3: CHEER HEAD COACH	DATE
1	Had to Answer the Question to move forward, does not apply	10/24/2026 12:10 PM
2	I believe some programs need extra time or have limited athletes because the school allows members to play multiple sports.	10/23/2026 9:41 PM
3	As a small school, we share athletes with basketball. It is hard to find competitions that do not overlap with basketball games.	10/23/2026 7:11 AM

4	I feel ... more the qualifications the more dedication teams will be engaged.	10/22/2026 8:54 PM
5	I do not have a strong preference either way. However, I believe it is important for athletes to have multiple opportunities to compete, gain experience, and receive feedback before the state competition. I would support reducing the requirement from three competitions to two, as long as teams still have adequate opportunities to prepare and compete.	10/22/2026 8:11 PM
6	Yes, but only for small schools that can’t travel often. I think it’s easier for it to be 2 required sanctioned events and additional competitions are at our own will.	10/22/2026 4:33 PM
7	This sport fought so hard to be considered a sport don't diminish it by making easy to make state. Its not easy for other sports.	10/22/2026 4:32 PM
8	My team is sideline, so this question doesn't necessarily apply to me... however, coming from a competition background of 17 years, I think offering more opportunities to prove themselves is great. It offers incentive to improve and perform better at the next comp in the event they don't bid.	10/22/2026 4:00 PM
9	i BELIEVE WE NEED THREE COMPETITIONS WHICH BETTER PREPARES TEAMS FOR THE STATE LEVEL OF COMPETITIONS	10/22/2026 3:36 PM
10	Three is a great number to attend any less you cant make appropriate changes with the feedback from only two comps	10/22/2026 3:23 PM
11	N/A this is our first year with. Cheer team in Penasco.	10/22/2026 3:17 PM
12	I think that with enough planning, everyone should have enough time to do three competitions, and it is good practice for the teams.	10/21/2026 4:39 PM
13	I support this decision. Many of the competition dates fall within other scheduled school events. Also, most of the events are in the northern part of the state. Those in the southern part of the state usually fall within other events such as FFA state and competitions. Our team always faces this situation during competition season.	10/21/2026 8:22 AM
14	Being apart of a smaller school/city it is hard to fundraise or apply for sponsorships	10/20/2026 12:43 PM
15	Most competitive teams will compete more than that and may go to regional or national competitions. Two would allow for more flexibility.	10/20/2026 11:21 AM
16	I understand that some of the smaller schools don't have many options!	10/20/2026 9:25 AM
17	Small schools share so many athletes that it would help the probability of being able to compete with a full squad with two competitions.	10/19/2026 7:42 PM
18	It is very difficult for small schools to make three.	10/19/2026 7:16 PM
19	Not a requirement in other states / most have qualifying regionals	10/19/2026 2:58 PM
20	I believe giving the student athletes more opportunities to compete is important for the amount of time they put in for their sport. While I do know in some of the more rural areas getting to three can be hard. Maybe can do only two for the smaller classifications	10/19/2026 12:54 PM
21	I feel like the three required is a great number and allows for schools to get their routines judged with enough space to fix and make adjustments.	10/19/2026 12:51 PM
22	I'm not sure because I've not competed.	10/19/2026 11:22 AM
23	It makes it more affordable	10/19/2026 10:52 AM
24	Conpetitve teams should be encouraged to give each team the opportunity to compete more not less.	10/19/2026 10:33 AM
25	I think they get more out of the competition, It gives us the opportunity to change and fix the routines before State.	10/19/2026 9:50 AM
26	I think more should be added or to qualify you need to score in the top 3 at a competition or get a minimum % to qualify.	10/19/2026 9:47 AM
27	I feel for smaller schools/ school districts, especially for school that have to travel, this is beneficial, however for larger schools, especially within the APS District, we have more of an opportunity to compete more. This helps us to get athletes qualified for state. We tend to compete more because the feedback is helpful for State. I feel that depending on distance from comp to comp should be the reason they should only do 2 competitions. For all others, 3 should be the minimum.	10/19/2026 9:31 AM
28	While we are competitive our priority is supporting our teams on the sidelines. Traveling to a competition and getting back for a game can be difficult. Also weather conditions can be an issue and cause last minute complications	10/19/2026 9:27 AM
29	I understand that it can be difficult for teams in small towns to fund three trips for competitions in addition to travel for State.	10/19/2026 9:25 AM
30	I think that 3 competitions help with cheerleaders and dancers confidence.	10/19/2026 9:22 AM
31	hard to get 3 in	10/19/2026 9:19 AM
32	I feel that you should have to place at three competitions to qualify to reduce the amount of teams at state.	10/19/2026 9:15 AM
33	I think having the 3 is a great number of competitions to get the feed back good and bad in time for State	10/19/2026 9:14 AM
34	I am ok with either one, I would just like to see more comps in the Southern part of the state.	10/19/2026 9:13 AM
35	We do not compete but if GHS did compete I think 3 sanctioned is good. It helps to prepare.	10/19/2026 9:12 AM

36	Locals are important! I think It aids in preparation and makes us feel more qualified when heading to state. The more exposure athletes get, the more feedback we have, the better our chances!	10/19/2026 9:12 AM

#	Q3: DANCE HEAD COACH	DATE
1	Not necessary- good to see competition since we have so few.	10/22/2026 5:18 PM
2	I feel teams that are serious about the competitive aspect of dance should meet the minimum requirements of three to prepare for the STATE competition. If number of state-qualifying competitions are reduced from 3 to 2, then the mandatory 2 should be actually "qualifying rounds".	10/20/2026 11:32 AM
3	I feel like three is perfect	10/19/2026 8:54 PM
4	I think all competitions should be like games or meets. We’re required to do competitions that are fundraisers for other teams and don’t have the opportunity to do the same in our district.	10/19/2026 3:27 PM
5	I support reducing the requirement to two competitions to lower travel costs, minimize missed instructional time, and ease scheduling conflicts while still providing teams adequate opportunities to qualify for State.	10/19/2026 2:59 PM
6	I think it is nice to have the option to do as many competitions as you would like, but I do think a minimum of two is enough	10/19/2026 2:01 PM
7	Having 3 is perfect and it allows my team to be better prepared and to expose the new girls to competition.	10/19/2026 11:45 AM
8	Provide teams with more opportunities to perform on the competition floor and receive constructive feedback from judges. This would allow teams to better understand their scoring, identify areas for improvement, and apply that feedback to strengthen their performances throughout the season.	10/19/2026 10:42 AM
9	I'm good with 2 or 3.	10/19/2026 9:59 AM
10	I think 3 is a good number, even a little low, I also live an area I can easily get to competitions though.	10/19/2026 9:36 AM
11	We usually compete in more than 3 anyway, but it is stressful to make all of them in case any issues arise and we are unable to make the 3.	10/19/2026 9:21 AM

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 18, 2026

SPIRIT: DANCE CLASSIFICATION ADJUSTMENT FOR A-4A SCHOOLS

__x__ Action Item
___ Discussion Item
___ Referenda Item
__x__ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:
Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director

Proposal: Starting in 2027-2028, separate the A-4A class into two classes for Dance: A-3A and 4A. This would be an amendment to bylaw 4.1.5 and 7.19.1.C.

**Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is added.*

> **Classes -** Teams must compete at the classification level that the school participates in for basketball.
>
> There are ~~two (2)~~ three (3) classes in Dance during the competition season: A-3A, 4A, and 5A.
>
> Note: Proposed changes to classes for Dance are underlined.

Rationale: Separating A-3A schools from 4A schools may increase participation among smaller schools by creating a more appropriate level of competition and providing greater opportunities for success. Some small schools have fewer resources than 4A schools, which can create challenges when competing at the same level.

Coaches Survey: 2026 Fall Spirit Survey (also attached)

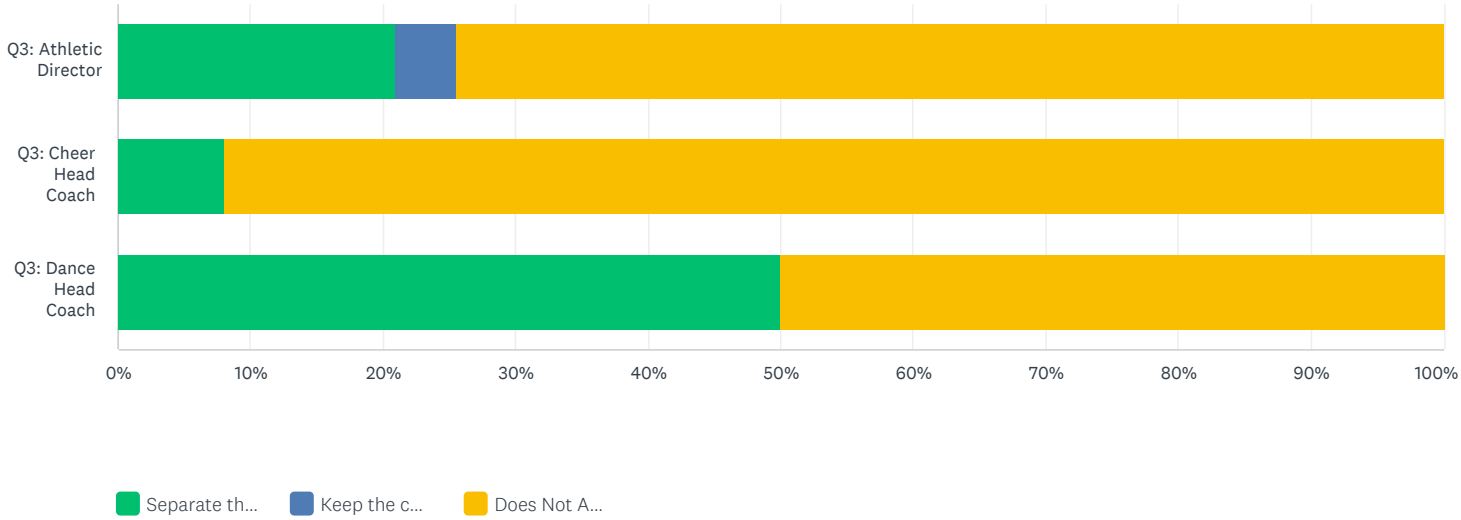
- The question was directed to respondents from A-4A Dance schools (approximately 20 schools).
- A total of 25 applicable responses were received from A-4A Dance school respondents, 14 were Dance coaches, and 11 were athletic directors (Cheer coach responses not included).
- Overall, 92% of A-4A Dance school respondents supported the proposal (Cheer coach responses not included).
- Among A-4A Dance school respondents to whom the question applied:
  - Dance coaches: 100% supported the proposal.
  - Athletic directors: 91% supported the proposal, 9% opposed.

Sport Specific Committee Recommendation: Approve

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

Q8 For A/4A Dance Schools Only - Which classification would you prefer for Dance for the 27-28 season?

Answered: 146 Skipped: 8



	SEPARATE THE A/4A DANCE CLASSIFICATION INTO TWO CLASSES: A/3A AND 4A	KEEP THE CURRENT A/4A DANCE CLASSIFICATION	DOES NOT APPLY	TOTAL
Q3: Athletic Director	20.93% 9	4.65% 2	74.42% 32	29.45% 43
Q3: Cheer Head Coach	8.00% 6	0.00% 0	92.00% 69	51.37% 75
Q3: Dance Head Coach	50.00% 14	0.00% 0	50.00% 14	19.18% 28
Total Respondents	29	2	115	146

	COMMENTS	TOTAL
Q3: Athletic Director	2	2
Q3: Cheer Head Coach	4	4
Q3: Dance Head Coach	7	7

#	Q3: ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DATE
1	NA	10/23/2026 6:09 AM
2	We do not have a dance team at this time	10/19/2026 2:42 PM
#	**Q3: CHEER HEAD COACH**	**DATE**
1	But I would highly suggest separating 1A and 2A cheer as many 1A schools have dropped in participation due to the combined classification.	10/19/2026 7:42 PM
2	I think all classes should always be divided.	10/19/2026 7:16 PM
3	n/a	10/19/2026 11:22 AM
4	NA	10/19/2026 9:22 AM
#	**Q3: DANCE HEAD COACH**	**DATE**
1	Currently, my team is the ONLY 2A dance team that competes at state. It is not fair for my dancers to compete against 4 A schools. 4 A schools have more students and resources to pull from.	10/23/2026 11:50 AM
2	We feel that separating them would benefit the smaller schools because competing against larger schools is unfair because they have a larger student body.	10/22/2026 6:53 PM
3	I advocate for the A/2A teams to have a more fair chance to place at State. With the divisions combined, it doesn't accomplish that. I would recommend grouping classifications as A/2A and 3A/4A.	10/21/2026 5:57 PM
4	I support separating the A/4A Dance classification into two classes; A/3A and 4A. Smaller divisions would create a more balanced competition and give programs a realistic opportunity to be competitive, potentially encouraging more teams to return to competing at State.	10/19/2026 2:59 PM

5	There are varying levels of difficulty, skill, and competitiveness across different classifications. Combining classifications can create an uneven playing field and overlook the hard work, dedication, and achievements of teams competing within smaller classifications. Each classification deserves a fair opportunity to compete against teams of similar size and resources, while having their efforts and accomplishments recognized and rewarded appropriately.	10/19/2026 10:42 AM
6	N/A	10/19/2026 9:36 AM
7	I would need more information based on my current understanding of the classification system (I'm pretty new to coaching).	10/19/2026 9:24 AM