

NMAA

Commission Meeting



Thursday, November 20, 2025

NMAA

9:00 AM



New Mexico Activities Association Commission

Updated September 2025



Small Area A – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2028
Ms. Debra Sena-Holton
Pecos Independent Schools
North Hwy 63, P.O. Box 368
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email: dsena@pecos.k12.nm.us

Small Area B – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2027
Mr. Kevin Lackey
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Logan, NM 88426
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Small Area C – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2025
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Small Area D – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026
Ms. Robbie Robinson
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Non-Public Schools – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026
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New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association
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New Mexico Officials Association
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New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals
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Large Area A – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2026
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Bloomfield School District
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Large Area B – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2027
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Large Area C – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2025
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Large Area D – Term Expires Dec. 31, 2027
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New Mexico School Boards Association
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New Mexico High School Coaches Association
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NMHSCA Executive Director
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Activities Council
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Jr. High / Middle School Committee
Mr. Adrian Pete
Rehoboth Christian Middle School
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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 20, 2025, 9:00 AM*

AGENDA

A= Action Item

D/I= Discussion/ Information Item

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. Call Meeting to Order and Welcome
<i>Roll Call – Ascertain Quorum</i>
(A) Approval of Agenda
(A) Approval of Minutes (September 3, 2025) | <i>Alissa Wesbrook, Asst. to Exec. Dir.</i>
<i>Scott Affentranger, Chair</i>
<i>Scott Affentranger, Chair</i> |
| II. NMAA Director's Report | <i>Scott Owen, Associate Director</i> |
| III. NMAA Financial Report | <i>Shari Kessler Schwaner, Business Mgr.</i> |
| IV. NMAA Foundation Report | <i>Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director</i> |
| V. NMAA Activities Report | <i>Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director</i> |
| VI. New Mexico Officials Association Report | <i>Zac Stevenson, Dir. of Officials Ser.</i> |
| VII. Discussion/Informational Items
(D/I) School Input Seeding Criteria
(D/I) Bylaw/Handbook Review Update
(D/I) Eligibility/One-Free Transfer
(D/I) Classification/Alignment Update | <i>Dusty Young, Executive Director</i>
<i>Dusty Young, Executive Director</i>
<i>Dusty Young, Executive Director</i>
<i>Dusty Young, Executive Director</i> |
| VIII. Action Items
(A) NM MESA as a Sanctioned Activity
(A) Academic Competition as a Sanctioned Activity
(A) NMOA: Officials' Fees
(A) NMOA: Scrimmage Fees/Protocol
(A) Football: 6-8-Man Calendar
(A) Section 13: Window to Hear Appeals | <i>Ling Faith-Heuertz & Anita Gonzales</i>
<i>Vance Lee, Supt. Capitan Schools</i>
<i>Zac Stevenson, Dir. of Officials Ser.</i>
<i>Zac Stevenson, Dir. of Officials Ser.</i>
<i>Tyler Dunkel, Assistant Director</i>
<i>Dusty Young, Executive Director</i> |
| IX. Consider Adjournment | |

Next Commission Meeting – February 4, 2026 (NMAA)

NMAA Commission Meeting

September 3, 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 Mrs. 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)
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)
Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee) – *Via Teleconference*
Mr. David Briseno (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Angel Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Mr. Earl James Martinez (New Mexico School Boards Association)

13 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Ms. Taryn Bachis (Non-Public Schools)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Nougues seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Election of Commission Chair:

Mr. Affentranger asked for nominations for Commission Chair: Mr. Castillo nominated Mr. Scott Affentranger for the Commission Chair. Mr. Gamboa seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Election of Commission Vice-Chair:

Mr. Affentranger asked for nominations for Commission Vice Chair. Mr. Ortega nominated Mr. Isaac Gamboa as the Commission Vice-Chair. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Hahn entered the meeting

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) stated the 2025 New Mexico High School Sports Conference took place in July and was successful; 2) stated the Bylaws committee met recently to discuss classification and alignment, and that the committee will continue to also review eligibility and sports regulations throughout the school year; 3) provided information regarding the NMAA Directors Cup, including updated policies; 4) stated the NMAA staff would be attending the NFHS Section 6 meeting in Oklahoma City the following week; and 5) welcomed new members to the Commission: Mr. Kevin Lackey, Athletic Director/Principal at Logan High School, representing Small Schools Area B, and Ms. Deborah Sena-Holton, Superintendent of Pecos Schools, representing Small Schools Area A. He thanked Ms. Mandy Montoya and Mr. Billy Burns for their service on the Commission.

Financial Reports:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) presented the 2024-2025 financial reports; 2) presented tickets sales for the 2024-2025 school year; and 3) stated the NMAA has a new auditor in place for this year.

NMAA Foundation Report:

Ms. Julie Sanchez, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) stated the NMAA Foundation held their annual Board Meeting in August where they continue to work distributing more grants and scholarships to schools and student-athletes; 2) discussed additional Foundation initiatives for the school year; and 3) stated the Foundation would continue to hold its two annual fundraising events, the NMAA Golf Classic and NMAA Bowl-A-Thon.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Sanchez presented the NMAA Activities report. She discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) stated that the Activities Council met on September 2nd where Ms. Mary Hahn was re-elected as chairperson; 2) stated most state events for activities will take place next semester, with the exception of Marching Band held in October; and 3) thanked Ms. Hahn for her service as the Activities Council Chair and Representative on the Commission.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Carl Vigil, Commissioner of Officials, presented the NMOA Report. He discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) stated that fall sports have begun and are off to a great start; 2) reported on the 2025 New Mexico High School Sports Conference that took place in July which had over 300 officials in attendance with several recognized and honored for their service and leadership; 3) stated Mr. Tom Litchfield and Mr. Vic Romero were inducted into the NMOA Hall of Fame; 4) provided information on RefReps training which works to maintain recruitment of officials and remains an essential training tool statewide for officials; and 5) reported that current numbers are slightly down but hoping to see an increase for winter sports. Mr. Affentranger inquired if compensation and/or assignments outside metropolitan areas had an effect on recruitment/retention and Mr. Vigil stated that the effect was minimal at this time. Mr. Ortega asked for clarification on scrimmage compensation and Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, stated it would be clarified through a proposal at the next regular Commission meeting.

General Discussion/Information Items:**NM MESA as a Sanctioned Activity:**

Ms. Anita Gonzales and Ling Faith-Heuertz presented information on the inclusion of NM MESA as an NMAA sanctioned activity, emphasizing the value NMAA sanctioning would bring to their program. NM MESA is an academic STEM enrichment program offering students academic skills, community service, critical thinking skills, and leadership workshops. The program includes a state competition both at the local level and national level. Feedback included additional costs for schools, and timing of events throughout the year.

NMOA: Game Cancellation/Suspension of Play Policy: Mr. Vigil discussed a standardized game cancellation policy to help establish a consistent and fair compensation policy across the state for handling game cancellations or postponements. Clarifying questions included the management of hotel costs and travel ring compensation.

NMOA: Single Official Policy: Mr. Vigil discussed a policy to establish a standardized and fair compensation policy for game contests where only one official, referee, or umpire is available/assigned due to shortages, emergencies, or unavoidable circumstances. This usually occurs in lower classifications as well as at the sub-varsity and middle school levels.

Classification/Alignment Update: Mr. Young provided an update on Classification and Alignment for the next two-year block. He stated that the Bylaws Committee is the preliminary stages of review and is currently evaluating potential district alignments.

Co-Ops: Mr. Young discussed the possibility of co-ops in individual sports as well as expanding beyond the A and 2A classifications. Feedback included hesitation with allowing large schools/districts to co-op due to the possibility of creating power houses; but expanding to individual sports could give more opportunities for students to participate if implemented at the lower classification levels.

One Free Transfer: Mr. Young discussed the changing landscape of high school eligibility and the concept of one free transfer for each student. Mr. Young clarified that the NMAA would still have standards and regulations in place to maintain a level of playing field. Feedback included management of second-time transfers, and possible increased recruitment and displacement of students.

8th Grade Open Enrollment: Mr. Young discussed the current 8th grade enrollment policy and current issues surrounding the policy. Discussion included the pros and cons of removing the residency requirement and replacing it with a feeder school enrollment requirement. Additional discussion included counting 8th graders toward a school's total enrollment.

Following a Coach: Mr. Owen discussed applying the Following a Coach rule only after a student has made a high school open enrolment choice. It was discussed that the current policy can make it difficult to find sub-varsity coaches who are not already associated with a student from club participation at the 6th and 7th grade level. The possibility of removing the indefinite link timeline was also discussed.

School Personnel Transfer Waivers: Mr. Young discussed transfer eligibility waivers for students of school personnel. Requests are beginning to be made for students of administrators in addition to head coaches. Feedback included waiving students of school administrators and head coaches only.

Members Private/Charter School Attendance Zone: Mr. Young discussed private schools having a designated attendance zone. Feedback included difficulty in determining boundary lines as well as additional benefits to private schools.

Action Items

Powerlifting: Head Judge Requirements: Mr. Scott Owen presented a proposal to require the assignment of an independent head judge to meets desiring state qualification consideration and to disallow head coaches from certifying these meets in the future:

Bylaw 7.25.2 – Officials shall read as follows:

- A. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must register through the Association. Schools are required to use a registered NMAA/NMOA official for regular season sanctioned events.*
- B. The use of a non-registered official for meets subjects the violating school to a fine. Fines/fees are determined by the Board annually.*
- C. For a meet to be considered for state qualification, a Head Judge must be assigned and present. This individual will certify/verify the results and serve in all roles as outlined by the NMAA Powerlifting Rulebook.*

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tensay made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Martinez 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).



2024-2025 School Year Data

Student and Teacher Profile

Student Count: 4128

GENDER

Male: 46%

Female: 49%

Other: 5%

ETHNICITY

Anglo/White: 11%

Asian: 2%

Black/African American: 1%

Hispanic: 54%

Native American: 17%

Identified as Two or More Ethnic Backgrounds: 10%

Chose not to respond: 4%

STUDENT PROFILE

55% returning students, 45% new students

90% Free Reduced Lunch

78% of parents have never attended college

Average ACT Score: 23 (2024 national average 19.4) (*self-reported by students, less than ¼ of students reported these scores*)

Average SAT Score: 1040 (2024 national average 1024) (*state-mandated test allows for all students to report data*)

\$71,750 funded 98 NM MESA 2024 seniors. **\$11,858** was allocated to students attending out-of-state institutions, while \$60,165 was allocated to students attending New Mexico

institutions. (This is the first year since 2020 that NM MESA has shown a significant increase of 69% in activity awards by dollar amount.)

In 106 schools in 29 school districts *(SVA and Monte Del Sol have MS and HS programs and span 6-12 like Escalante Mid-High)

Advisor (teacher) Data

Number of Advisors: 138

GENDER

Male: 43%

Female: 57%

ETHNICITY

Anglo/White: 28%

Asian: 10%

Black/African American: 1%

Hispanic: 30%

Native American: 2%

Identified as Two or More Ethnic Backgrounds: 15%

Chose not to respond: 14%

14 years of average teaching experience

Returning MESA Teachers: 79%



New Mexico Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA)

Expanding Opportunities for New Mexico Students

Request for NMAA Recognition

NM MESA Mission

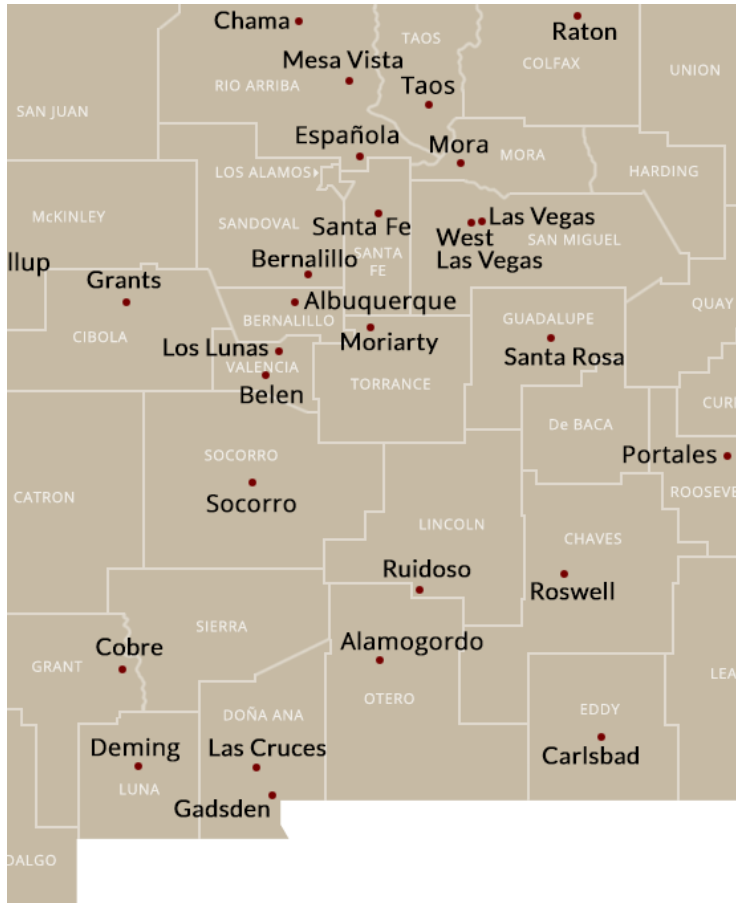
To empower New Mexico's culturally diverse students with science, technology, engineering, and math enrichment.

Our Vision is diverse, well-educated professionals who reach their full potential as leaders through Math, Engineering, Science and technology.

Our path to this vision is by empowering our youth in leadership, teamwork, and innovation through the use of problem-based curriculum and fun and engaging activities such as regional, state, and national STEM competitions.



Program Overview



Founded in 1982, NM MESA works with public ed and higher ed to support STEM, a pre-college academic program for grades 6-12..

6 regional offices located around the state support schools' needs in over 100 classrooms, reaching over 4,000 students.

MESA offers teachers STEM professional development, holds programs to quality indicators to support student success: programs must support:

Family nights

Service learning and Community Service

Leadership development

Participate in an outside STEM competition

Participate in a NM MESA competition

Student Impact



Students develop:

- Leadership and teamwork skills
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Technical and academic excellence

"I joined MESA because my friend wanted to. My friend dropped out, but I stayed. I liked the competitions, and they made my classes make sense. I learned how to work on a team and lead a team to do bigger projects for MESA Day. ." – Espanola HS participant

Why NMAA Recognition Matters

- Recognition validates the hard work and dedication of our students
- Places academic and extracurricular achievement on the same level as athletics
- Builds pride in schools and strengthens student engagement
- Enhances college and scholarship applications with official recognition – MESA students list on scholarship applications that they were lead engineer, project manager, programmer, as well as the awards they have won.





Alignment with NMAA



Our program supports the goals of the NMAA by:



Promoting student engagement and involvement through workshops, community service, field trips and competitions.



Building pride and school spirit through student led activities across their school campus.



Encouraging balanced growth in academics and activities: NM MESA encourages well-rounded students



Expanding equitable opportunities across the state: rural schools



Structure and Rigor

Organized regional, state, and national competitions (MESA Day and MESA USA)

Clear criteria for participation and recognition (NM MESA Loyalty Award)

Student commitment comparable to athletics in time and effort, competition prep begins in the fall, and students must also complete community service work in addition to competition prep

Standards of conduct and academic eligibility requirements – regular attendance, minimum GPA of 2.1 to compete and attend field trips,



Partnerships Across the state

Like our Educational and Industry Partners, a partnership with NMAA will enhance the achievements and success of New Mexico's students.

Together, we can elevate opportunities for New Mexico students.

Closing



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Thank you for your time and consideration.
"Today's students are tomorrow's leaders."

Academic Competition
Manual
2026-27

Academic Competitions Manual

2026-27

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GENERAL INFORMATION

What is an Academic Competition?

A game of academic questions between students in Middle School and High School

Purpose

- To boost student confidence and self-esteem
- To inspire students to excel academically
- To promote good citizenship
- To stimulate our youth's competitive spirit
- To recognize student scholastic aptitude

Fall Competitions / Spring Competitions Timeline

- Distribute Academic Competition Manuals to NMAA Member Schools
- Schools/systems set up teams
- State Competition will be during the spring semester and is for Varsity participants only.
- The school's ticket to the state championship is based on the cumulative points from the tournament and the championship rounds of the two state qualifying tournaments.
- Dates and Times will be determined by the Academic Advisory Board.

Regional Competitions

Regional Competitions will be held within REC regions around the state. There will be two in-person qualifying competitions prior to the state competition in the spring.

State Championship

The top 2 Varsity teams from each designated REC region will compete for the title of NMAA STATE ACADEMIC COMPETITION CHAMPION.

Awards & Recognition

Award will be earned at each level of competition throughout the season as well as a State Championship Award for Varsity Level Participants.

Inclement Weather Policy

The Competition will be postponed if bad weather forces the cancellation of classes at the participating school location or if a majority of participating schools have classes canceled the day before the event. The Competition will be rescheduled. Every effort will be made to notify all participating coaches via email or telephone if a postponement is necessary, and in all instances, notification will be emailed or phone calls made.

Spectators / Participants / Coaches

(Coaches: Please share this page with your parents.)

The Academic Competition was established to promote academic excellence. We appreciate your support in achieving this goal. We solicit your understanding and patience regarding the procedures as we collectively make the competition a rewarding experience for students.

Please keep the following rules for watching the competition in mind while enjoying the Academic Competition activities:

1. NO TALKING – this could lead to disqualification of your team.
2. Live Streaming will take place when available.
3. The official representative of the team is the coach.
4. Remember that it is the coach's job to manage the team.
5. It is always nice to know the answer, but please keep it to yourself.
6. Remember that this is a serious competition for your children. Just as you want to be proud of them, they want to be proud of you.
7. Please do not videotape or photograph the teams while the games are in progress.
8. Please turn off electronic devices, including cell phones. If your device causes a disturbance, you will be asked to leave the competition room.
9. Only one buzzer should be used per team.
10. Each team is to select a team captain chair. Any student rotating into that chair will be the team captain.

COMPETITION RULES

Overview

The competition consists of the following:

- 4 -Flash Rounds-10 questions each Flash Round.
- 2- Tournament Rounds-15 Questions each Tournament Round
- 1-Champion Round-20 Questions for the Championship Round

The Process-the winner of each flash round is automatically placed in the tournament rounds. The winner of each flash round will not participate in the remaining flash rounds. The winners from the tournament rounds are placed in the championship round. If less than 4 teams are participating, the process will be modified and the number of flash and tournament rounds may vary.

General Rules

- All decisions of the Competition Coordinator are final.
- Each competition room will have a Reader, Moderator, and Score Keeper.
- The Reader will read the questions, determine the correctness of answers, award points and enforce the rules of competition.
- The Moderator will go over the directions, keep the competition progressing, go over rules and inform the reader of the team that buzzes in first.
- The Score Keeper will enforce time limits and keep the official score.
- Other officials may be provided to assist the Reader with his/her duties, including recognizing players and supervising the clock and buzzer system. The Reader may consult with other officials at any time to assist in determining the correctness of an answer.
- All competitions are to begin promptly. Any team that arrives later than 10 minutes will run the risk of forfeiting any rounds missed (at the discretion of the coordinator).
- Paper and pencils are allowed to be used during all competitions.
- No reference materials, calculators, etc., are to be used during competition.

Teams

A competition-day team consists of one to 10 players in the following:

- -6th -8th grades for the Middle School Competitions
- -9th-12th grade for the High School Competitions
 - Varsity
 - Junior Varsity Teams

Multiple teams per school are allowed for practice competitions. This must be narrowed down to one team by the state qualifier tournaments for Varsity. The school's ticket to the state championship is based on the cumulative points from the tournament and the championship rounds of the two state qualifying tournaments.

Students in grade 8 and above may play at their level and move up to the Varsity team if needed. Students on the Varsity team cannot play down onto the lower-level teams. Students on a team must be from the same district. Teams may play short, with a minimum of one player.

If the coach wants to add another player to the state team, they must have participated in at least one of the qualifying competitions.

Four students may actively participate at one time for each team.

A team member sitting as an alternate may not participate in answering questions; this is considered cheating. A 5-point penalty will be assessed for the first penalty. If the individual(s) are found to be cheating for a second time, those who cheated will be ejected from games for the rest of the day, including any individuals in the audience who participated in the cheating.

The substitution of players is allowed after a completed question, but before the next question begins.

The coach is the official representative of the team. There will be one coach present for each game.

Team Competition Information

Multiple teams per school are allowed for practice competitions. This must be narrowed down to one team by the state qualifier tournaments for Varsity. The school's ticket to the state championship is based on the cumulative points from the tournament and the championship rounds of the two state qualifying tournaments.

- Middle School, High School Varsity, and High School Junior Varsity.
- The State Coordinator for Academic Competition reserves the right to reassign teams to a different region, if deemed necessary.
- Team members should be prepared to introduce themselves and/ or fellow team

- members clearly and audibly.
- Any player to buzz in must be recognized by a competition official/moderator before beginning to answer.

EXAMPLE- Moderator will say; “Player from Ruidoso has buzzed in first...do you have an answer?”

- Recognition must be verbal. The recognized team must begin to answer immediately (within 5 seconds of recognition).
- A question will be read in its entirety only once.
- A player may interrupt (by buzzing in) the reading of a question and the moderator will stop the reading of the question. If the question is answered correctly the team will receive points. If the question is answered incorrectly the team will be deducted points and the questions will be asked again for the opposing team. The first team that buzzes in will be the team that gets to answer the question.
- Contestants will have a maximum of 10 seconds to press the buzzer after the question is read. 20 seconds will be given for math calculation questions. After being recognized by the moderator, a contestant has 5 seconds to begin answering the question. Once a question has been attempted to be answered, the answer will be given and the next question will be given.
- If the Moderator makes a mistake, the question will be thrown out and an alternate question will be given. If a question is thrown out, no points will be given or taken away from any team for that question.
- If a team gets the question correct, they will get 10 points. There is a -5 points penalty for answering incorrectly.
- Between questions, an "accidental buzzer" will result in no foul; once the moderator has begun a question, the team must respond or accept the penalty.
- Repeated infractions between questions will result in an "unsportsmanlike conduct" penalty. (-5 points)

Protests

The official coach (or a team captain) may verbally address the Reader/Moderator about a question or procedure, but must do so before the Reader moves on to the next question. In the event it is believed that a mistake has been made, the team shall immediately ask the Moderator for a time-out. A student may challenge a question or answer only by calling for a time- out and conferring with the team's captain. The team captain will state, “Time out, we would like to challenge the question.” The team captain will resolve the issue with the coaches and the Moderator. The team captain, coaches, and the Moderator shall confer, aside from all contestants and the audience, and resolve the issue. If needed, the moderator hosting the meet shall be the final judge to resolve the issue. Once resolved, the contest shall continue with results to be final. Each team will be allowed a maximum of three (3) time-outs per match.

- The Reader (and/or Scorekeeper and Moderator) will decide what action, if any, is required. The Moderator's decision is final.
- Please remember that any interruptions detract from and slow down the game.

Disqualifications

- Unsportsmanlike conduct: If your team, coach, or a spectator demonstrates inappropriate behavior during the competition, the Reader or Moderator will send notice to the scoring table. If your team receives two notices during a competition, the team will be disqualified.
- Cheating: If it is determined that a student or team is/was cheating, the team will be disqualified from that tournament and their points will not count towards the state competition.
- Excessive interruptions will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct, and the Reader reserves the right to eject the offender, regardless if it is a player or the coach.
- Reader/Moderator may ask anyone to leave the competition

Questions

Academic Competition questions will cover school curriculum objectives in the following areas:

- English/Literature Math
- Science
- Social Science
- Potpourri- Miscellaneous questions

Types of Questions:

- Multiple Choice
- Open Ended
- Fill-In the Blank
- Calculations

Competition Games will consist of **Triple Q Questions**. Practice questions will be provided to all participating schools.

In the Event of a Tie

In the event of a tie in a round, the round will go into bonus questions to determine a winner. Bonus questions are available for each round.

Competition Format

This is for state qualifiers and practice only; the format for the state competition may change.

4 Flash Rounds consisting of 10 questions with 3 bonus questions in the event of a tie. The winner of each Flash Round will then be placed in the Tournament Rounds and will not participate in the remaining flash rounds. If less than 4 teams are participating, the process will be modified and the number of flash and tournament rounds may vary.

2 Tournament Rounds consisting of 15 Questions – Tournament Round 1 will be Flash Round Winner 1 vs. Flash Round Winner 3 and Tournament Round 2 will be Flash Round Winner 2 vs. Flash Round Winner 4.

1 Championship Round will consist of 20 questions. Championship Round will be the Winner of Tournament Round 1 vs. the winner of Tournament Round 2

State Championship

The State Championship will be for VARSITY participants only and will consist of the top two teams from each Regional Cooperative.

- Teams for the state championship can have 1-10 participants.
- A separate manual for the state Championship will be released prior to state competition.
- The Championship will be held in Albuquerque Spring 2024 and will be an in-person two-day event.

Interscholastic Eligibility: Scholastic Requirements

Academic Eligibility

1. A Student shall have a 2.0 grade point average with no F's, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, for the semester grading period immediately preceding participation. For students' ineligible at the semester, the next six or nine week grading period can be used to regain eligibility. Grades earned during a summer session must be placed on a student's transcript by the school registrar prior to the first day of the Fall semester in order for the course to be utilized for eligibility purposes.
 - All class work counted for eligibility must be acceptable for graduation.
 - The GPA is based on a 4.0 scale with an allowance for consideration of honors points.
 - Cumulative provision
 - A student who is ineligible at the end of a semester may utilize the cumulative

provision.

- Only semester grades can be used, and all semester grades starting with the 9th grade year must be utilized. (As cumulative grades start with the 9th grade year, the cumulative provision cannot be used for middle school/junior high Students.)
 - The cumulative provision may not be applied if a Student has more than one “F” in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation.
 - A student must have passed a minimum of 51% of coursework taken by a full- time student in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation to take advantage of the cumulative provision option.
 - Stricter guidelines may be imposed by the school/district.
2. A Student must be enrolled in at least 51% of the member school’s regular class schedule in courses that will be counted towards his/her graduation and in regular attendance during the current as well as the previous semester.
 3. Pursuant to State Statute
 4. Interscholastic extracurricular activities; student participation
 - a. No student shall be absent from school for school-sponsored interscholastic extracurricular activities in excess of fifteen days per semester, and no class may be missed in excess of fifteen times per semester. Participation in state and national competitions is exempt.

TIPS FOR NEW COACHES

The following coaching tips are in response to those asking: “What important information would you share with a new Academic Competition Coach?”

- Keep score at practice using the +10 points for correct answers and -5 points for incorrect answers.
- Train a parent or high school student to time, read and score so that there are back-ups at competition if needed.
- Practice, practice, practice
- Make it STATUS to make the team.
- Practice as if it is a regular competition and practice more than once a week. Find someone experienced to help you with proper procedures.
- In addition to old questions, study lists (capitals, authors, etc.).
- It’s helpful to prepare using the practice questions or other online tools such as Kahoot, Blookit, Clickers, Quizziz, etc.
- Work out scheduling conflicts as far as six months in advance by talking with coaches, teachers, principal, etc.
- Communicate with and involve the parents.
- Become familiar with the Academic Competition Manual and the competition format. Realize the broad knowledge base needed.
- Assign an assistant coach.
- Work with students so they will be willing to answer questions aggressively. Have teammates practice against one another.
- In practice and in meets, keep stats on the performances of individuals to keep the strongest players active.
- Begin tryouts early in the school year. Communicate with the academic teachers. Try to practice during the school day so all team members can practice.
- Try to set up practice rounds with other teams (some middle schools practice against the high school team). The kids need exposure to other competitions.
- Choose members with varied strengths, and assign subjects accordingly. Be brave about cutting disruptive kids.
- Emphasize conduct.
- Don’t sweat the big stuff – have fun, and allow your students to see you model integrity and grace. Remember that this is for the kids.
- Whether you win or lose, win AND lose as a TEAM.

Academic Competition Budgetary Considerations

Developing a budget for an NMAA Sanctioned Academic Competition is three fold. Schools would have to budget according to local control with the following considerations:

Coach/Sponsor:	\$
Event Equipment	\$
Uniforms:	\$
Travel Costs	
Transportation	\$
Meals	\$
Accommodations	\$

At the State Championship Level, the expenses and revenues are considered under the following:

Judges (20-30)	\$0 (Volunteers)
Venue	\$500
Event Equipment	
Buzzer System (20)	\$8,000 (1 st year Only)
Questions	\$200 (1 st year Only)

Awards

Trophies	
Champion (2)	\$200
Runner-Up (2)	\$200
3 rd Place (2)	\$200
Banners (2)	\$80
<u>Medals (160)</u>	<u>\$640</u>

Total Year 1 Expenses \$10,020

Annual Expenses \$1,820 (following Year 1)

Revenue Needed

NMAA	\$1,000
Major Sponsor (1@\$5,000)	\$5,000
<u>Sponsors (5 @ \$1,000)</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total Year 1 Revenue	\$11,000

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 20, 2025



NMOA: OFFICIALS' FEES

☒ Action Item ☐ Referenda Item
☐ Discussion Item ☒ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:

Zac Stevenson, Director of Officials' Services

Proposal:

Effective for the 2026-2027 school year, add a \$15 first tier to the Travel Ring schedule and increase game fees by \$5 in all sports and all levels.

Travel Fee 1st Tier:

Miles to contest	Fee per Official
0-15	\$0
16-25	\$15
26-50	\$30
51-100	\$40
101-150	\$50
151-200	\$60
201-250	\$70
251-300	\$80
301-350	\$90
351-400	\$100
401-450	\$110
451-500	\$120
501-550	\$130

Rationale for Travel Fee \$15 First Tier:

The original travel fee program replaced mileage, rider fees, and meal fees and transitioned to paying independent contractors for their time in travel rather than reimbursing expenses to more closely align with independent contracting services. Adopting the proposed modification would provide consistency among schools and compensate officials approximately an average of \$15 for an hour of their time in transit. In metro areas 16-20 miles one way can routinely take at least an hour roundtrip. In more rural areas, 20-24 miles one way is often a "local" trip totaling an hour round trip.

Budgetary Impact:

Calculations that include a total projected increase for the year that encompasses all sports at all levels for several member schools from various Regions statewide show that less than 10% of the scheduled officials would fall into the \$15 Tier.

Game fee \$5 increase analysis - Current Fees State Comparison: (See attached)

Fee increases by state:

- AR – varies by sport and under review
- AZ – proposing 3% per year for next 3 years
- CO – 3-year plan – increased \$5 per year in 2023-2025, looking at renewing three-year cycle
- OK – \$10 every 3-4 years rolling rotation for different sports
- TX – 10 year plan - \$5 every three years – roughly 2-3% per year to mirror school employee increases

Rationale for \$5 game fee increase:

After our last increase approved in 2022 intended to close the gap with surrounding states, those states have also increased during this time. With comparison to surrounding states game fees, our numbers are again comparatively low. This proposal would bring our fees closer to our surrounding states while providing schools a timely plan for budget purposes.

Budgetary Impact:

Multiplying \$5 by the total number of Officials for a year will provide a specific increase for each school. Total for each school depends on the number of programs and number of levels. For example, a 5A school offering all levels of all programs had 507 contest Officials in 2024-25. This would have a total increase of \$2535 in 2026.

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

Attachments:

Surrounding States 2024-25 Officials Fees Comparison chart

2025-2026 NMAA Officials' Fee Schedule

Example Schools Cost Analysis sheet



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2022

	Baseball	Basketball	Football	Soccer	Softball	Swim	Track	Volleyball	Wrestling
NM	70	70	70	60	55	50	56	50	55
CO	64	64	65	63	62	65	93	52	63
AZ	73	80/65	85	70	68	50	50	60	63
OK	75	55	95	50	60			55	70
AR	80	75	110	75	65		75	60	80
TX	95	95	110	85	95	95		85	85

2025

	Baseball	Basketball	Football	Soccer	Softball	Swim	Track	Vball	Wrestling
NM	75	75	75	65	70	100/60	100/60	55	65/120+
AZ (vary)	76.75	84	89.25	73.50	71.50	52.50	52.50	63	66.25
AR (review)	90	80	120	80	75		100	70	85
OK (+10/3yr)	85	70*	110	70	75			65	105
CO (+30)	95	95	95	95/120(2)	95	95	95/+20hr	85	95/190/+20hr
TX (+5-10)	105	100	120+	95	100	100		90	90 dual / 340 trn



New Mexico Activities Association

OFFICIALS' FEES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



Officials are paid the following fees, plus applicable travel ring fees. **Effective July 1, 2024.**

	POST-SEASON	VARSITY	JV & 9th GRADE	JUNIOR HIGH (7 th /8 th)
Baseball (All Classes)	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$55.00	\$45.00
Basketball (All Classes)	\$100.00	\$75.00(District Tourney)	\$55.00	\$45.00
Football (All Classes)	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$55.00	\$45.00
Soccer (All Classes)	\$100.00	\$65.00	\$50.00	\$40.00
Softball (All Classes)	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$50.00	\$40.00
Volleyball (All Classes)	\$100.00	\$55.00	\$45.00	\$40.00
	\$50.00 LJ	\$27.00/pool play	\$22.00/pool play	\$19.00/pool play

Wrestling

\$65/official – Duals, Tris and Quads – \$65 for 1st dual, \$30/hour after 1st dual (max of 4 schools)
 \$120 Minimum (up to 4 hours) - Tournaments (5 schools or more) - \$30/hour for every hour over 4
 \$250/day – State Meet Referee(s)

Swimming & Diving (All Classes)

\$100 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Referee, \$25/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$200 max for the day)
 \$60 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Stroke & Turn, \$15/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$120 max for the day)
 \$250/day – State Meet Referee(s)
 \$150/day – State Meet Stroke & Turn Judges

Powerlifting

\$100 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Head Judge, \$25/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$200 max for the day)
 \$60 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Platform Judge, \$15/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$120 max for the day)
 \$250.00/day – State Meet Head Official
 \$150.00/day – State Meet Platform Judge

Track & Field (All Classes)

\$100 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Referee(s), \$25/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$200 max for the day)
 \$60 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Starter(s), \$15/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$120 max for the day)
 \$250.00/day – State Meet Referee(s)
 \$150.00/day – State Meet Starter(s)

Spirit (All Classes)

\$100 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Tech Judge(s), \$25/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$200 max for the day)
 \$80 Minimum (up to 4 hours) – Performance Judge(s), \$20/hour for every hour over 4, up to a max of 8 hours (\$160 max for the day)

TRAVEL RING FEES AND HOTEL PER DIEM

Officials' expenses for regular season and play-off games/matches in all sports:

- (1) Hotel Per diem (over 150 miles one way) is \$125 per day, per official, providing the official spends the night and communicates with the host.
- (2) Each Official working the contest will receive a set rate based on the number of miles, one-way, from the Official's home to the contest site, per the following schedule:

One-Way Miles to Contest Site	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251-300	301-350	351-400	401-450	451-500	501-550
Travel Fee Per Official	\$0	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100	\$110	\$120	\$130

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 20, 2025



NMOA: SCRIMMAGE FEES/PROTOCOL

☒ Action Item ☐ Referenda Item
☐ Discussion Item ☒ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:

Zac Stevenson, Director of Officials' Services

Proposal: 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.**

Rationale: Provide consistency among schools and fairly compensate officials for services provided. Officials may continue to volunteer. Schools can help offset travel costs if applicable and the policy minimizes price competition.

Budgetary Impact: Varies by school based on the number of events and sessions hosted.

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 20, 2025



FOOTBALL: 6-8 MAN CALENDAR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referenda Item
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:

Tyler Dunkel, Assistant Director

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 will remain on Week #8.

Rationale: Provides the member schools the ability to schedule games at the end of the season without running into an official shortage, due to playoff games, which forces games to be played later on seeding and selection day. Provides 6-Man football an extra bye week and give 8-Man football a bye week in their season.

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve

New Mexico Activities Association

Commission Meeting – November 20, 2025



SECTION 13: WINDOW TO HEAR APPEALS

☒ Action Item ☒ Referenda Item
☐ Discussion Item ☐ Non-Referenda Item

Presenter:

Dusty Young, Executive Director

Proposal: Extend the appeal window 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.

Rationale: Necessary to more adequately coordinate and prepare for the multitude of appeals that occur on a regular basis and allows the NMAA to conduct hearings in good faith with the Open Meetings Act.

NMAA Staff Recommendation: Approve