



NMAA OFFICIAL BALLOT
SENIOR HIGH REFERENDUM
September 24, 2026



Due Date: October 8, 2026

Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools **that participate in the sport of basketball** to vote on the issue below. Please read through the entire referendum before selecting your response. Thank you for your participation in the governance of your organization and for your support of interscholastic activities.

Adjusted Bylaw 7.13.3.E – Basketball District Tie-Breaking Procedures

This proposal would remove the mandatory district championship tie-breaker game and would instead utilize the remaining established procedures listed within [7.13.3.E](#).

Rationale: Less than 30% of survey respondents want to keep this game, and over the last two seasons, many of the schools that have been required to play this game have asked if they could be exempt from playing. This additional game is often the 3rd-4th time the same teams meet with the potential to meet again in the state tournament. Additionally minimizes the rest/preparation period for the teams required to play when all others have finished two to three days earlier prior to the first round of the state tournament.

☐

We Favor

☐

We Do Not Favor

This box must be completed by all member schools.

Print Name of Official Voter

Signature of Official Voter

Print Name of Superintendent/Head of School

Signature of Superintendent/Head of School

School

District/Classification

Due date is October 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

*This ballot, with both signatures affixed, must be received in the NMAA office by 4:00 p.m. Please fax completed referenda to Mindy loane at (505) 923-3114. **Please note that if either signature above is missing, the ballot will not be counted.** Contact Scott Owen (s.owen@nmact.org) if you have any questions regarding this referendum.*



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Adjusted Bylaw 7.13.1.G. – Basketball Mercy Rule

This proposal would modify the mercy rule score to have a 10-point spread from running clock to return to regulation timing. Sport specific committee recommended a 30-point separation for running clock and to remain running until under 20 points. The committee also recommended allowing a mercy rule “substitution time out” where any remaining time-outs may be utilized to stop the clock without teams coming to the bench (just long enough to stop the clock, bring in substitutes, etc.). The clock would not start again until the ball becomes live (i.e.: inbounds or on a live ball touch after a free throw attempt).

**Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is 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.

Rationale: This allows for easier administration for table help and officials. The substitution time out may be utilized to stop the clock for substitutions or during free-throws.

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Seeding and Selection: Publication of Coaches Input Forms

This proposal would publicize member school input (Coaches Input Forms) as part of the NMAA's Seeding and Selection process.

Rationale: Improves transparency and has the potential to reduce gamesmanship and better ensure coaches submit more thorough and thoughtful input forms.

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Adjusted Bylaw 13.1.2. – Appeals Review Committee Members

This proposal would remove the limitation on maximum number of Appeal Review Committee members.

**Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is 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.

Rationale: Provides more flexibility in the ability to schedule appeals and has the potential to broaden the scope and background of the overall committee.

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