



**NMAA OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
SENIOR HIGH REFERENDUM  
December 5, 2022



**Due Date: December 20, 2022**

Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools **that participate in the sport of baseball** 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.

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**Baseball Bylaw 7.12.1.H.6 – Time Limits**

This proposal would add a statewide time limit for sub-varsity baseball games

**Amend Bylaw 7.12.1.H.6 to read as follows:** \*new verbiage underlined

**7.12.1.H.6. Time Limits** – Only the below time limits are permitted in the sport of baseball.

- a. **District Time Limits** – A time limit can be implemented by a district if they choose to do so. Games that end due to a time limit will be considered regulation games regardless of how many innings are played. The score will remain as recorded when the game was called.
- b. **Invitational Tournament Time Limits** – Time limits can be implemented for invitational tournaments put on by schools/school districts. Games that end due to a time limit will be considered regulation games regardless of how many innings are played. The score will remain as recorded when the game was called.
- c. **Sub-Varsity Time Limits** – At the sub-varsity level, no inning may start after two hours of play. Schools can lower this time limit if mutually agreed upon in advance (i.e. 1 hour & 45 minutes).

**Rationale:** Baseball coaches, athletic directors, and umpires have raised some concerns with the length of contests at the sub-varsity level. This can be especially problematic for schools that play varsity and sub-varsity contests on the same day, many of these played on weekdays at facilities without lights.

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**We Favor**

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**We Do Not Favor**

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**This box must be completed by all member schools.**

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Print Name of Official Voter

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**Bylaw 7.6.5 – Minimum Contests for Postseason Competition Eligibility**

This proposal would exempt students who are unable to meet the one-quarter participation rule due to scholastic ineligibility.

**7.6.5 – Minimum Contests for Post-Season Competition Eligibility (Individual)** \*new verbiage underlined

Students must participate in a minimum of one quarter (1/4) of the varsity contests scheduled to be eligible for post-season competition.

- A. Injured Player** – A player who sustains an injury that precludes participation in one quarter of varsity contests scheduled during the regular season, may participate in post-season competition provided the student has been on the team roster throughout the season. In addition, the injury must be certified in writing by a licensed medical physician and submitted to the Director as well as kept on file by the school principal. For this exception to apply, the injured player cannot have participated in any other sport (inside or outside of the school) during the regular sports season.
- B. Scholastically Ineligible Student** – A student whose scholastic eligibility status precludes participation in one quarter of the varsity contests scheduled during the regular season may participate in post-season competition provided the student has regained scholastic eligibility. For this exception to apply, the student must have been actively participating in team practices throughout the duration of the season and the school must be able to verify that participation.

**Rationale:** The one-quarter rule is intended to ensure a student has been regularly participating with the team during the season. If a scholastically ineligible student has been practicing with the team throughout the duration of the season, they meet the intended standard and should be eligible to participate in the post-season once scholastic eligibility is regained.

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***We Favor***

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***We Do Not Favor***

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**Bylaw 6.1.3 – Undue Influence of a Student & Bylaw 6.8.2.A – Foreign Students**

This proposal would permit foreign exchange students wishing to participate in athletics to reside with school employees who are not coaches or athletic department staff members.

**6.1.3 Undue Influence of a Student** \*new verbiage underlined

F. Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests, unless legal guardianship appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has been obtained (See also 6.8.2 Foreign Students). (See 6.8.2.A for Foreign Exchange exceptions).

**6.8.2 Foreign Students** \*new verbiage underlined

A. **International Student Exchange Participant** - Eligible immediately if the student is participating in a formal program sanctioned through the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and is not directly placed by the CSIET program. Directly placed foreign exchange students will be eligible at the sub-varsity level only. Students who receive a foreign exchange waiver are eligible to participate in NMAA sanctioned athletic events for a period of one calendar school year. If they return for a second year to the host school or any other member school, they are ineligible to participate in NMAA sanctioned athletic events; this includes students who change their visa status. Foreign exchange students who receive a foreign exchange waiver may reside with school employees who are not athletic department staff members.

**Rationale:** Due to their brief enrollment, as well as the parameters in place to reduce their recruitment and ensure random placement, the undue influence rule wasn't specifically intended to prevent foreign exchange students from residing with school employees. However, due to the conflict of interest created by allowing a student-athlete to live with a coach or other member of the athletics department, foreign exchange students should not be permitted to live with athletic department staff members.

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**7.6.6 Maximum/Minimum Number of Games/Contests Permitted**

This proposal would count games missed due to an ejection/suspension toward a student's overall competition limit.

**7.6.6 Maximum/Minimum Number of Games/Contests Permitted** *\*new verbiage underlined*

- A. Game Limitation (Maximum) - Schools/teams may not schedule more than the maximum number of games/contests allowed for each sport relative to each level of competition. For example, a 26-game limitation means that a school can schedule only 26 games at the varsity level. Refer to 7.0 in this section for the number of games/contests permitted.
- B. Schedule/Competition Requirement (Minimum) – Schools must compete within the assigned district (as determined by the NMAA) and must complete their entire district schedule, as determined by the district, in order to qualify for the post season. Districts must minimally schedule to play each school in the assigned district one time. Exception: Golf, Spirit, Swimming and Diving, and Girls Wrestling. District play must be completed prior to state tournament seeding and selection.
- C. Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets - Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets count towards game limitations. A player cannot play in two tournaments (regular season or district) simultaneously. (See also 7.6.14, 7.8.5)
- D. Ejections/Suspensions - Games/contests missed by an individual due to an ejection or suspension shall count toward the student athlete's individual contest limitations.

**Rationale:** Students who are required to miss games due to an ejection or suspension should not be able to benefit from that discipline by replacing those games with participation in other scholastic or non-scholastic games.

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**6.13.3 Post-Secondary School Participation**

This proposal would clarify that student-athletes cannot participate at any time against collegiate teams/individuals while representing an NMAA member school.

*Current Language*

**6.13.3 Post-Secondary School Participation**

A Student who, while representing a member school during the season, competes against any intercollegiate individual or team, shall be subject to NMAA sanctions.

*New Language*

**6.13.3 Post-Secondary School Participation**

A Student who, while representing a member school, competes against any collegiate individual or team, shall be subject to NMAA sanctions.

**Rationale:** Current bylaws only reference participation during the season, but the intent of the rule is to prohibit students, while representing an NMAA member school, from competing against collegiate athletes/teams, regardless of the time of year. Clarification is needed, especially with recent changes to out-of-season coaching bylaws that now provide more opportunities for member school competitions outside of the traditional season.

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