

To: Athletic Directors
Athletic Trainers

Fr: Gary Tripp

Re: Payment Schedule Caps for District and Playoff Games

Date: November 5, 2009

My office has received three complaints from individual school athletic directors and two concerns from athletic trainers regarding our new Board of Director policy concerning payment of workers at district and playoff games. I would like to address once again the reason for these changes.

First, let me address Athletic Trainers. Athletic Trainers sign a contract with a particular school to be that school's athletic trainer. I do not believe that the contract reads "Athletic Trainer for regular season games," assuming that playoff games will be paid by the NMAA. The NMAA has an outstanding agreement with the New Mexico Athletic Trainers Association to pay athletic trainers at state events \$25 per hour when they are serving all schools of New Mexico involved in the championship event not a matchup between two schools. Our auditor and our Board believe that an athletic trainer should always serve their school first and when they have a visiting school on campus for a matchup that does not have a trainer, hopefully they are being upmost professional and a good host. In the past, only parts of the Albuquerque area and one school outside of Albuquerque have paid their trainer. Most of the state was and is following our current guidelines in district tournament events established this past June.

Second, two District Athletic Directors and one Athletic Coordinator in the state have complained about not getting paid to work District tournament games and state playoff games at their home site. Let me say that all schools in Class 1A and 2A have never paid themselves. I believe Class 1A and 2A understand that this is "double dipping." Again, our office would like to take to our Board of Directors copies of Athletic Director contracts that state you are getting paid to oversee events on your fields or in your gyms for **regular season games only**. On our pay schedules, paid positions are usually associated with people that do not receive a school contract to be associated with that sport (coaches) or that program (Athletic Director or Athletic Trainer). Paid position at District and Playoff Games are mainly the same workers that you pay during the regular season (announcer, ticket seller and taker, clock and book keeper, security personnel, police, etc).

Lastly, a couple of comments have come into this office that I would like to address:

1. "At our private school or at my school my Head Master/Superintendent states I have their permission to do it this way." This would be an accurate statement if your school was in another Association. We have all agreed and signed to be under the NMAA member contract and adhere to the policy and procedures set forth by our bylaws or Board of Director procedures.

2. "I think the NMAA is not going to break the bank if they allow me to do this." This comment I find unprofessional. Everyone and I mean everyone, from custodian, to coach, to school administrator to Superintendent cares about their school. Athletic Trainers, Athletic Directors and Coaches do a wonderful job for their school; however we are all the NMAA. The bank belongs to everyone, but mainly all the money in the bank belongs to all kids in New Mexico and not one person. Allowing 5A to pay an Athletic Trainer when 1A does not have an Athletic Trainer does not seem fair to me. Paying an Athletic Director for a District Tournament game and not paying the coach or the school administrator does not seem fair to me. What does seem fair is that the Coach, Athletic Director and School Administrator has the reward of working/coaching/monitoring an extra game and that hopefully will be reflected in an positive evaluation and compensation in future contracts.

Thank you for what you all do for the students of New Mexico. If this continues to be an issue with any Athletic Director or the NMATA, I hope we can sit down with the NMADA or the NMATA at the conclusion of the fall sports season and discuss this matter.

Good luck to all your teams in the next few weeks.