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## State Championship Information and Points of Emphasis

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### ***Important Dates***

Monday, November 3, 2008 (Week 19) - First official practice date  
Saturday, November 8, 2008 (Week 19) - Regular season competition may begin  
Monday, December 15, 2008 – Roster for varsity eligibility due on-line  
Monday, February 23, 2009 (Week 35) - District Tournaments begin for all classes  
Sunday, March 1, 2009 (Week 36) – Seeding for Classes 3A-5A  
Friday, March 6, 2009 (Week 36) – 1<sup>st</sup> Round of State for Girls in all Classes  
Saturday, March 7, 2009 (Week 36) – 1<sup>st</sup> Round of State for Boys in all Classes  
Sunday, March 8, 2009 (Week 37) – Seeding for Classes A and AA  
Tuesday-Saturday, March 10-14, 2009 (Week 37) – State Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals

### ***Eligibility of Student-Athletes***

If an ineligible student-athlete is accidentally or intentionally permitted to participate in an interscholastic contest, forfeit of the contest and other sanctions will be automatic and mandatory after reported to the NMAA Executive Director.

### ***Undue Influence***

All member schools agree to conduct their interscholastic/performance and athletic activities according to the rules and regulations of the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) and the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA). It is the duty of the administration to address the particular situation where there is a question of undue influence. (See NMAA Handbook 6.17.1)

The use of any of the following inducements constitutes undue influence:

- Participant living with coach, principal, teacher, or school official without legal guardianship
- Any inducement to get parents or students to change residence for athletic/non-athletic purposes
- Offer or acceptance of money
- Reduction or remission of regular tuition (other than need-based financial aid available to all applicants)
- Offer or acceptance of board, room, or clothing
- Offer or acceptance of money for work in excess of amount regularly paid
- Transportation to school by any school official
- Offer or acceptance of school privileges not normally granted to other students
- Free or reduced rent for parents
- Offer for payment of moving expenses for parents
- \*Any communication with student athletes or their parents by school personnel that might be construed as inducement for them to attend a particular school.**

#### **7.7.2 Participant and Coach Ejection/Disqualification**

- A. Participant Ejection** - When a participant is ejected/disqualified from any contest/game for unsportsmanlike conduct the minimum penalty shall be as follows:

1. FIRST OFFENSE

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game at the same level and may not participate at any level until the one-game suspension has been served.
- **The ejected participant must complete the NMAA's online Pursuing Victory with Honor course.**
- **Verification of program completion must be submitted to the NMAA prior to returning to competition.**

2. SECOND or SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game minimally and depending upon the individual case, a more restrictive penalty may be imposed as determined by the Director, including a meeting with the Director or his designee and the coach and school administrator.
- The involved school and official are required to notify the Association, in writing, of each offense or be subject to additional sanctions.

**Note: Participant ejections are concurrent throughout the year and not per sports season.**

Example: If a student-athlete is ejected from a football game, and this same student-athlete is then ejected from a basketball game, this would be considered his second offense.

Participant Ejection Clarification:

- Student athletes may not dress out in uniform, participate in warm-up, or be directly involved with the contest in any way.
- Student athletes may attend the contest, sit on the bench, or stand on the sideline if approved by the local school administration.
- Student athletes may travel with the team for out of town contests if approved by the local school administration.
- Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed necessary by the Executive Director.

**B**

**B. School Personnel Ejection**

A coach/school employee who is ejected from an athletic contest/game, regardless of sport, is required to meet the following criteria:

1. FIRST OFFENSE

- Sit out the next contest/game minimally, at all levels. This penalty is the responsibility of the local school district to impose. This sanction is subject to final approval by the NMAA after such violation is reported within a reasonable time frame but prior to the next contest.
- **Complete the NMAA's online Pursuing Victory with Honor course.**

- **Verification of program completion must be submitted to the NMAA prior to returning to participation.**
- **The member school will be required to pay a \$100.00 sanction to the NMAA.**

**2. SECOND or SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES**

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game minimally and depending upon the individual case, a more restrictive penalty may be imposed as determined by the Director, including a meeting with the Director or his designee.
- **Mandatory completion of the National Federation of High Schools' Fundamentals of Coaching Course.**
- **The member school will be required to pay a \$250.00 sanction to the NMAA. The fine will be doubled for subsequent offenses.**

**Note: Coaching/School Personnel ejections are concurrent throughout the school year and not per sports season.**

**Example: If a football coach is ejected from a football games in the fall, and the same coach, who now coaches baseball, is ejected from a baseball game in the spring, this would be considered his second offense.**

**Failure to comply or repeated offenses may result in up to a one year suspension, a monetary fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or suspension of the school from the Association for the activity in which the coach was involved. The coach/school representative may be required to meet with the Director or his designee in Albuquerque at the NMAA Office**

**Coach Ejection Clarification:**

- Coaches must leave the premises of the scheduled contest 30 minutes prior to the start of the event. The coach may have absolutely no further communication with any team personnel (coaches, team members, managers, trainers, etc.) until the contest is concluded.
- Coaches may travel with the team for out of town contests in the capacity of a chaperone, but must adhere to the rule stated above prior to and during the contest.
- Coaches may attend contests of other teams during the sit out period providing the other game(s) is being played at a site other than that of the coach's team.
- Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed necessary by the Executive Director.

**Public Criticism of Officials:** No coach or other school employee may publicly criticize or berate an official prior to, during or following a contest. Professional ethics require that coaches and other school employees use proper channels to report their complaints about officials rather than airing them publicly.

### **Filming, Videotaping, Photographing Contests**

A visiting school may film, videotape or photograph its team or contestants' performance in a contest. Videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator. No representative of a school that is not participating in a contest may film, videotape or photograph all or any part of the contest unless permission to do so is granted by the principal of each school that is participating in the contest.

### **Protests**

Any school filing a protest or complaint may be required to submit in writing a full statement of the facts to the NMAA Executive Director. The protest or complaint shall be signed or co-signed by the school's administrative head. The Director shall send a copy to the administrative head of the school against which the protest or complaint has been made if applicable. The NMAA Executive Director shall have the authority to investigate and take action.

### **Incident Reporting**

If a player, coach or fan is ejected from a contest or if misbehavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct occurs by any of these individuals, the contest official witnessing the incident is responsible for reporting it to the NMAA office.

If an official acts in an inappropriate manner or if his/her performance is adversely affecting the participants of a contest, the coach or administrator from any of the participating schools may report the incident to the NMAA office.

Incident reports must include the date and site of the contest, the level of competition and whether the contest was boys' or girls' (where applicable), as well as a detailed narrative of the events leading up to the ejection or other incident. Incident reports of any nature must be sent to the NMAA office within 24 hours of the occurrence by fax (505-923-3114), email ([dsanchez@nmact.org](mailto:dsanchez@nmact.org)) or mail (6600 Palomas Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109).

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## **Coaches' Box**

The coaches' box was approved several years in New Mexico by state adoption through the National Federation. In recent years, it seems as though there has been confusion on the part of coaches and officials as to acceptable behavior of coaches' while they are in the coaches' box. Note that there have been some changes made to the original interpretation of this rule. Please read the following rules from the National Federation Basketball Rulebook:

### **National Federation Rules Regarding the Coaches' Box**

**Rule 1-13-2:** "The coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line 28 feet from the end line, the sideline, a line no more than 14 feet from the 28-foot line toward the end line, and the team bench. These lines shall be located off the court, be 2 inches wide."

**Rule 1-13-2 Note:** “State associations may alter the length and placement of the 14-foot (maximum) coaching box.”

**\*\*\* A 14-foot coaches’ box has been approved by the NMAA.\*\*\***  
**\*\*\*This is a change from the previously used 6-foot box.\*\*\***

**Rule 10-5-1:** “By state association adoption, the head coach may be off the bench in front of his/her seat within the confines of the designated coaching box, as in 1-13-2, to give instructions to his/her players and/or substitutes.”

**Penalty:** “The first technical foul charged directly or indirectly to head coach results in loss of the coaching box privileges and the head coach must remain seated for the remainder of the game, except as in 10-4-4c and d, 10-5-2 and 10-5-3.”

#### *Application of the Rule*

**Requirement of Coaches’ Box:** All schools must have a coaching box in their gym. If one is not painted on the gym floor, the coaching box must be marked off with tape. If a school does not have a coaching box on the floor, the coach is restricted to sitting on the bench for the duration of the game.

**Assistant Coaches:** Assistant coaches must be seated during play. Kneeling or squatting by an assistant coach is not acceptable. Under no circumstances should an assistant coach be standing during live-ball play. They may stand during timeouts.

Also, assistant coaches should not have dialogue with the officials during a game. Any violation of this rule will result in an indirect technical foul to the head coach and a loss of coaching box privileges.

**Head Coaches:** Head coaches may be standing within the confines of the coaches’ box during a game. They may stand in order to coach a player or to address an official. They may only address an official in a professional manner and cannot exit the box in any situation. Any violation of this rule will result in a direct technical foul to the coach and a loss of coaching box privileges.

A head coach may not designate anyone else to stand in the coaching box. All other bench personnel, other than the head coach, must remain seated.

A head coach may kneel or squat within the confines of the coaching box during the game.

If a player receives a technical foul for dunking prior to a contest, the head coach is charged with an indirect technical foul and loses the coaching box privilege. The player is also assessed a technical foul.

Please keep in mind that the third technical foul (indirect or direct) or the second direct technical foul charged to the head coach results in ejection from the game to the team’s locker room or outside the building. After a head coach is ejected, the coaching box is not afforded to the assistant who resumes the coaching duties for the remainder of the game.

**Officials Jurisdiction:** The contest officials have the jurisdiction and discretion to determine whether a coach is violating the rules of the coaches’ box. Please note that the

officials may, in some cases, choose to issue an initial warning to the head coach for any violation of the coaching box by the head or assistant coach. Reasons for the issuance of technical fouls relative to coaches' conduct may be any of the following:

The head coach is consistently outside of the confines of the coaches' box.

The assistant coach(es) or other bench personnel continuously stand, squat or kneel in the box.

The head coach or assistant coaches chronically question officials' judgment and/or calls.

The head coach or assistant coaches make negative, demeaning or profane comments about or toward the officials.

Any member of the coaching staff engages in any activity which incites negative behavior by the crowd.

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## **7.11 SELECTION AND SEEDING PROCESS FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS**

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### **7.11.1 Selection /Seeding Committees**

Committees in basketball will be formed as follows:

- A.** Each district will select a person to represent that district. The person can be anyone such as, but not limited to, an athletic director, administrator, former coach, or a community member. It cannot be a current basketball coach.
- B.** The NMAA will appoint an at-large person to serve on each Committee who has a good overall knowledge of basketball in New Mexico and can be totally unbiased to this particular position.
- C.** An NMAA staff member will chair each particular Committee. The NMAA staff member will not vote unless there is a tie, and will serve as the Committee facilitator.
- D.** Districts will be required to select their representative to serve on the seeding/selection Committee by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **7.11.2 Selection Process for 16-Team format for Classes 3A, 4A and 5A Basketball**

- A. District Champions will automatically advance to the playoffs. In the sport of basketball which has a district tournament, if the regular season district champion and district tournament champion are different, they will both automatically advance to the playoffs.**
- B.** The remainder of the teams will be selected by the Selection Committee using the following criteria. There is neither order nor priority in the criteria listed below:

1. Finish in district play and/or district tournaments.
2. Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts.
3. Input from Committee members.
4. Overall records.
5. Elimination – what teams from that particular class do not fit the 12 or 16-team format due to their lack of success during the current year.

\*\*Note: One district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another who came out of district as a lower seed with regular season taking precedence over tournament play. In the event of a tie in the regular season district standings, the Seeding/Selection Committee may use district tournament results or any other head to head competition to determine the selection/seeding order between the two teams that are tied.

### **7.11.3 Seeding Process/Criteria for all Classes in Basketball**

- A. In classes A/AA, teams will be seeded 1-8. (See brackets – 7.11.4)
- B. In classes 3A, 4A and 5A, teams will be seeded 1-16. (See brackets – 7.11.4.)
- C. **Host sites for first round games will be determined by the Regular Season District Champion/higher seed.**
- D. There is neither order nor priority in the seeding criteria listed below:
  1. Finish in district play and/or district tournaments.
  2. Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts.
  3. Input from Committee members.
  4. Overall records.
  5. Teams from the same district will be guaranteed not to play each other in the first round. The Seeding Committee must take this into consideration when seeding teams.

\*\*Note: One district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another who came out of district as a lower seed with regular season taking precedence over tournament play. In the event of a tie in the regular season district standings, the Seeding/Selection Committee may use district tournament results or any other head to head competition to determine the selection/seeding order between the two teams that are tied.

***Sites for the 1st Round of 16***

**The regular season district champions and/or higher seeds will host first round games. All girls first round games will be played on Friday after 3:00 p.m., while the boys will play anytime on Saturday. The host school will determine the time of the game.**

**If two regular season district champions are matched up in the first round, the higher seed of the two will host the 1<sup>st</sup> round game.**

**If a regular season district champion is seeded lower than a non-regular season district champion, the regular season district champion will host the 1<sup>st</sup> round game.**

***Passes/Complimentary List***

Complimentary Passes for Basketball: Superintendents will be provided passes for the following employees and will distribute those passes:

Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent  
High School Principal  
High School Assistant Principal (Limit Two)  
Head Boys Basketball Coach  
Head Girls Basketball Coach  
Athletic Director  
Activities Director

Up to six additional passes to be distributed at the superintendent's discretion.

The Superintendents will receive two complimentary all-tournament reserved chairback tickets. No complimentary pass requests will be taken after December 19, 2008.

Names on the Complimentary List will receive either a Yellow Pass or Green Pass. The Yellow Pass allows admission to the state basketball tournament and the hospitality room. A Green Pass allows admission to the state basketball tournament only.