

**NMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2007**  
**11:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A**



I. *Call Meeting to Order and Welcome*

The NMAA Board of Directors met on Thursday, December 6, 2007 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Mike Phipps, Board President, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

*Roll Call – Ascertain Quorum*

Ms. Kristin Derr, Administrative Assistant, called roll and the following Board members were present: Mr. Rick Ferguson (Small, Area D), Ms. Janel Ryan (Large, Area A), Mr. Mike Phipps (Large, Area B), Mr. Dick Pool (Large, Area C), Dr. Beth Everitt (Large School District I), Mr. Stan Rounds (Large School District II), Mr. Dane Kennon (At-Large Member), and Mr. Dion Sandoval (NM School Board Association Representative). The following Board members arrived after roll was called: Dr. R.L. Richards (Small, Area B), Mr. Bill Green (Small, Area C), Dr. Pete Campos (Large, Area D), and Mr. Lawrence Johnson (NMAA Commission Representative). Ms. Zita Lopez (Small, Area A) was not present. Mr. Phipps stated that a quorum was present and business before the Board could be conducted.

Present from the NMAA were Gary Tripp, Executive Director, Mr. Mario Martinez, Associate Director, and Ms. Sally Marquez, Associate Director.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson and seconded by Mr. Rounds to approve the agenda. Mr. Rounds requested that “5A Football Playoffs” be addressed as a General Discussion and Information Item. Mr. Phipps stated that this issue could be part of the State Championship rules and procedures item. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the October 3, 2007 and October 12, 2007 Board meetings were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Rounds to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sandoval seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

II. *Executive Session*

Ms. Ryan made a motion to move into Executive Session. Mr. Kennon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Board entered Executive Session at 11:13 a.m.

### III. *Directors' Report*

Ms. Ryan made a motion to resume regular session. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Board exited Executive Session and Regular Session resumed at 11:20 a.m.

Mr. Tripp welcomed the Board and thanked them all for attending. He also welcomed Ms. Linda Sink, interim Superintendent of APS

Mr. Tripp informed the board that there were a few issues throughout the fall championship season, but overall the championships went well.

Soccer: The NMAA is examining the issues with the World Cup format and the three way ties that resulted during the championship.

Cross Country: Went well

Volleyball: The championships were held at Johnson Gym on the UNM campus, and aside from some difficulty with parking, everything went well.

Football: So far the championships have been very successful, and they will finish up this weekend.

Mr. Tripp reminded the Board that NMAA.TV has been streaming the championships live on the internet. This has proven to be a great way to offer family, fans, colleges, and even our armed forces a way to watch these events. NMAA.TV is also working to upload events for on-demand viewing and would like to ask for submissions from people throughout the state. The NMAA and NMAA.TV is willing to conduct workshops throughout the state on filming strategies and techniques. If anyone is interested in hosting a filming workshop, please contact the NMAA office.

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that the NMAA Foundation awarded grant monies to the following schools to help them begin the programs listed.

Melrose High School Baseball

West Las Vegas Soccer

Dora High School 8-Man Football

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that Bobby Gibbs, Executive Secretary of the New Mexico High School Coaches Association (NMHSCA) will be retiring in February. During national Activities Week, the NMAA hosted a roast for Bobby in the Hall of Pride and Honor. The Hall of Pride and Honor was packed and the event was very successful. On Wednesday, December 12, the Executive Board of the NMHSCA will interview Mr. Thomas "Buster" Mabry and Mr. Gene Pino as the final candidates for this position.

Mr. Tripp reported that the National Association of High School Sports has developed a great coaching curriculum. After it is approved by the NMPED, the NMAA will adopt it as its required curriculum.

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that the NMAA and NMOA had recently hosted the First Annual Basketball Officials/Coaches Summit. Approximately 75 officials and coaches were in attendance, and some great communication between the two groups took place. Many misconceptions were revealed at the summit. Both groups feel that there is a need for more communication opportunities like this. One immediate result of the summit was the Pursuing Victory With Honor Code of Conduct for Coaches. At this time, approximately 30 basketball coaches have signed this voluntary code of conduct.

Mr. Tripp reminded the Board that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual T-Mobile Invitational is being held at the UNM "Pit" on December 28-29, 2007. Board members may get passes to the tournament by speaking with Sally Marquez, NMAA Associate Director.

#### IV. *Sports Specific Action Items*

*Softball – Consider allowing softball to start practice on the Monday of Week 32.*

Mr. Gene Victor, a member of the Softball Sports Specific committee addressed the Board in regards to this issue. He stated that this change would be at no cost to the NMAA. He also stated that it would improve pitcher preparedness and the sport's compliance with Title IX.

Mr. Pool made a motion to accept this proposal as presented. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

*Tennis – Member schools will declare their line-up from strongest to weakest by the Sunday of Week 43 to alleviate stacking.*

Sally Marquez, NMAA Associate Director, informed the Board that stacking is currently being used as a form of gamesmanship in Tennis. This policy change would eliminate the possibility of unfair stacking.

Dr. Campos made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

*Wrestling – Consider the recommendation from the Alignment/Classification Committee on Solution I or II for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.*

Mr. Scott Evans, NMAA Assistant Director, presented two possible solutions to the current Alignment/Classification issue in regards to wrestling. Solution I proposes keeping the current alignment with 3 classes. Solution II proposes combining into 2 classifications with 5 schools in each district. The Alignment/Classification Committee recommends Solution I.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Alignment/Classification and select Solution I. Dr. Campos seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

#### V. *General Action/Discussion Items*

*RFPs for State Cross Country, Wrestling and Softball Championships*

Dusty Young, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the RFP packet to the Board. The packets are scheduled to be distributed on December 7<sup>th</sup>, pending approval, and they will be due on March 3, 2008.

Mr. Kennon made a motion to allow the NMAA to send out RFPs for the above mentioned Championships. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

*Consider revision of Bylaw 2.2.1.B: Role and Purpose of the Board, to read as attached.*

Scott Evans addressed the Board again and presented them with a proposed change to Bylaw 2.2.1.B of the NMAA handbook. This proposal is a result of six months of examination and discussion. The NMAA recommendation is to adopt this proposal in an effort to clarify the current verbiage.

Mr. Green made a motion to accept the NMAA's recommendation to adopt this proposal as presented. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval of the All-Star games as presented by the NMHSCA*

Mr. Bobby Gibbs, Executive Secretary of the NMHSCA, presented the dates of the All-Star games to the Board for approval. He also thanked the Board and the NMAA for their long-standing and positive relationship with the NMHSCA and he hopes that this relationship continues after his retirement.

Mr. Kennon made a motion to accept the dates of the All-Star games as presented. Dr. Campos seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

*Make-up of Alignment/Classification Committee recommendation/inquiry by Bill Green, Superintendent of Quemado Independent Schools.*

Bill Green, Superintendent of Quemado Independent Schools and a member of the Board, addressed the Board. He stated that he intended for this item to be discussion only, but feels that the make-up of the Alignment/Classification Committee needs to be examined. He feels that there should be regional input throughout the Alignment/Classification process, and also that the Board needs to be more involved.

Ms. Ryan stated that she has some concerns about the proposed changes. She feels that Athletic Directors need to maintain their level of involvement. She also stated that the written proposal would require monthly meetings of the Board. Although she understands that this proposal is not up for approval, she feels that these are issues to keep in mind when writing a new proposal.

Mr. Tripp stated that he is in favor of bringing Alignment/Classification to the Board early in the process to allow for more input from the district level. Mr. Kennon stated that he feels it is important not to eliminate the NMAA staff from this process.

Mr. Phipps thanked Mr. Green for his time and effort in putting this proposal together. He asked the members of the Board to submit their input regarding this issue to the NMAA office. He then asked that the NMAA compile this information and bring a proposal to the Board in the near future.

## VI. *General Discussion/Information Items*

### *District financial accountability procedures and audits.*

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that a school in the NW quadrant of the state has recently uncovered New Mexico's first case of embezzlement within a high school athletic department. At this time, approximately \$50,000 has been discovered as missing. The NMAA ensured that the student athletes from this school were able to participate in the fall championships. As the case progresses, the NMAA expects procedural changes in regards to financial reporting. The NMAA is examining the current procedures and looking for ways to add more checks and balances to this system.

### *Alignment/Classification committee report*

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that the Alignment/Classification committee had a meeting on December 5, 2007 and concluded the meeting with three tasks for the future.

1. A sub-committee was appointed to write a Seeding/Selection survey that will be distributed to all member schools. The members of this sub-committee are as follows: Mario Martinez, NMAA Associate Director; Kenny Barreras, APS Director of Athletics; and Kelly McEachran, Headmaster – Hope Christian High School.
2. Open forums will be scheduled with athletic directors, superintendents and headmasters to discuss issues that have arisen in regards to private and public school distinction.
3. The current 40 day counts were distributed and each committee member is examining alignment in regards to these numbers.

### *State Championship rules and procedures. NMAA administrative roles vs. the rules and procedures in the NMAA Bylaws.*

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that during the Soccer championships, some decisions were made “on the spot” to decide on tie breaking procedures. This situation has initiated a discussion about what should be written in the NMAA Bylaws and what should be the jurisdiction of the NMAA staff.

Mr. Rounds stated that this needs to be closely examined, and whatever is written in the Handbook needs to be abided by. He suggested that the sports specific committees, with their understanding of each individual sport, be asked to write these policies. Once the policies are defined, they should be followed, and any discussions regarding changes to the policies should take place after competition. He also stated that Las Cruces Public Schools had not been reimbursed in full for the expenses incurred when these changes took place during the soccer championships.

Mr. Tripp stated that at the next meeting of each sports specific committee, these policies will be reviewed thoroughly. The committees will be asked to make recommendations of changes. Mr. Tripp also stated that the NMAA would review the financial reports and expenses from LCPS and compensate any remaining differences immediately.

*Potentially establishing an on-line "Pursuing Victory With Honor" program that coaches, players and/or fans who are disqualified/ejected from contest must complete prior to participating/attending another contest. This program would include financial sanctions to the coach/fan as well.*

Mr. Tripp informed the Board that the suggestion of this program was made to the Commission at their last meeting, and that they are in full support of it. He asked the Board for their input in regards to starting such a program.

Mr. Pool suggested that administrators be added to the group of people who could be sanctioned by this program. He also suggested that a method of accountability be established. One example of this would be superintendents signing a form of verification once the program has been completed.

The Board showed support for the program and asked the NMAA to proceed with its development.

*Private school representation on the Board of Directors*

Mr. Phipps informed the Board that the possibility of adding a position for a private school representative on the Board is being discussed. Although they are eligible for nomination, only one private school representative has sat on the Board since it was formed.

*Shiprock High School's petition to participate in 3A football*

Mr. Charles Hayes, Superintendent of Central Consolidates Schools, and Mr. Mike Walker, Athletic Director at Shiprock High School, addressed the Board in regards to this issue. Due to the large number of injuries to Shiprock High School football players during the beginning of the 2007-2008 football season, the remainder of their season was cancelled. Shiprock High School has experienced this issue for multiple seasons, and it is for that reason that they are asking to change classifications in football.

Mr. Phipps stated that this information will be passed onto the Alignment/Classification committee and the NMAA staff for further consideration.

*East Mountain High School's petition concerning the sport of Soccer*

Mr. David Naylor, Athletic Director at East Mountain High School, addressed the Board in regards to this issue. East Mountain currently participates in District 5 1-3A, but due to their inability to compete at the level of play found in this district, they are requesting to move to District 3 1-3A. East Mountain parents have stated that they will consider pulling their children from this sport if this move is not allowed.

Mr. Phipps stated that this information will be passed onto the Alignment/Classification committee and the NMAA staff for further consideration.

*Dexter High School's concerns regarding Alignment/Classification and Seeding/Selection*

Ms. Sally Knight, Head Volleyball Coach at Dexter High School, addressed the board in regards to this issue. Ms. Knight presented handouts to the Board that illustrated Dexter's current alignment, and why she feels they should be moved to another classification. The data she collected is based on the number of students at Dexter High School and at the schools they compete against.

Mr. Phipps stated that this information will be passed onto the Alignment/Classification committee and the NMAA staff for further consideration.

VII. *Addendum Agenda – IF NEEDED*

No addendum agenda presented.

VIII. *Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA.*

IX. *Consider Adjournment*

Mr. Phipps presented the following board members with plaques of appreciation:

Dr. Pete Campos

Mr. Dick Pool

Dr. Elizabeth Everitt

Mr. Phipps thanked them for their service to the Board and their dedication to the NMAA.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ferguson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ryan and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.