

**NEW MEXICO
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**



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News Announcement
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**Class 5A Football Seeding and Brackets To Be
Delayed Due To Pending Lawsuit**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM- The New Mexico Activities Association regrettably announces that the Class 5A football bracket will be delayed from being officially adopted or released due to a lawsuit filed by 19 parents of Las Cruces High School football players.

The NMAA is not releasing, posting or officially adopting any preliminary or advisory seeding brackets for the 2006 Class 5A State Championships at this time. The NMAA strongly believes that the restraining order issued by a Las Cruces judge on Friday, November 3rd was improperly requested and granted. Nonetheless, in an abundance of caution, the NMAA will first ask a US District Court judge to throw out the restraining order before officially seeding the Class 5A football bracket.

The NMAA did not receive a copy of the actual restraining order until late today (Saturday) and had previously believed that they had transferred the case to US District Court before the Las Cruces judge's restraining order was entered. The NMAA filed papers transferring the case to US District Court at 4:01 PM on Friday, November 3rd and only learned today (Saturday) that the Las Cruces judge's order was entered at 2:50 PM on Friday, November 3rd. Because the attorneys representing the Las Cruces parents did not provide any notice to the NMAA or its attorneys before meeting with the Las Cruces judge, the NMAA and its attorneys were not immediately provided with a copy of the restraining order.

While ten of the twelve teams are assured a playoff position due to their finish in district play, the outcome of the lawsuit, which is pending in the US District Court, could possibly affect the win-loss record of the Las Cruces High School football team. This could result in Las Cruces High School's ability to be considered as one of the two "at-large" teams.

The NMAA is using all efforts to obtain a hearing with the US District Court at the earliest possible date, and is hoping to receive a hearing on Monday (Nov. 6th) or Tuesday (Nov. 7th).

The NMAA strongly believes that the enforcement of eligibility rules, which are voted upon and approved by their member schools, is crucial and essential to ensuring a level playing field for all student athletes.

For more information concerning this important issue, please contact Robert Zayas, NMAA Director of Communications, at (505) 977-5386.