

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, January 16, 2006
9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Lawrence Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Ms. Kristin Derr, Administrative Assistant called roll and the following commissioners were present: Mr. Amadeo Soto (Small Area A), Ms. Cris Dimitroff (Small Area B), Mr. Louie Baisa (Small Area C), Mr. Gary Schuster (Large Area A), Mr. Bruce Carver (Large Area B), Mr. Lawrence Johnson (Large Area C), Mr. Tom Manning (Large Area D), Mr. Steve Medeiros (Non-Public Schools), Mr. Ernest Viramontes (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association), Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals), Mr. Oscar Payen (New Mexico Officials Association), Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association), Mr. Frank Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association), and Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council). Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D) was absent. A quorum was declared and business before the Commission could be conducted.

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

The minutes from the November 19, 2007 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Ms. Dimitroff to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- II. *Directors' Report* – Mr. Tripp had nothing to report.

Ms. Sally Marquez addressed the Commission and drew their attention to pages 30 and 31 of the Commission packet. She stated that the primary request from the Tennis Sports Specific committee was an examination of the current alignment and classification. A proposed adjustment (presented on pages 30 & 31) will be submitted to the Alignment/Classification committee for consideration.

Ms. Marquez also informed the Commission that a proposal is pending in regards to the number of tennis players required to compete. The proposal would permit a team to be made of both genders.

Ms. Marquez stated that there has been some recent concern regarding basketball players being required to practice one hour per day with their fall and/or spring sport team. The opinion of the NMAA is that a student athlete should be encouraged and allowed to focus on the sport that is currently in season.

Mr. Mario Martinez addressed the Commission and congratulated Mr. Soto, Mr. Baisa, Mr. Manning and Mr. Johnson on their re-appointment to the Commission.

Mr. Martinez also informed the Commission that Mr. Thomas “Buster” Mabry has been selected as the new Executive Director (position formerly known as Executive Secretary) of the New Mexico High School Coaches Association.

Mr. Martinez informed the Commission that the sport of wrestling will remain in three classifications for the next 2-year block. This decision was made at the last Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Martinez stated that the Track and Field coaches clinic went well. January 28, 2008 is the deadline for submitting qualifying meet forms to the NMAA. Also, UNM has officially been secured as the venue for the 2008 State Track and Field Meet.

Mr. Martinez informed the Commission that 8-man football will host multiple showcases in the fall of 2008.

Mr. Martinez stated that the 2008 Golf Clinic will be held on January 25-26. Attendance is mandatory for all golf coaches from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on the 26th.

Mr. Martinez stated that there continues to be conflicts between graduations and Spring Sport Championships. Although the NMAA cannot reschedule any Spring Championships, we are committed to being as flexible as possible.

Mr. Martinez informed the Commission that Gallup will remain in the 5A classification for the next 2-year block. Miyamura will participate in the 3A classification (with the exception of football). At the end of the 2-year block, both schools plan to move into the 4A classification.

Lastly, Mr. Martinez drew the attention of the Commission to pages 48-49 of the Commission packet which contains the application information for the NMAA Foundation Sportsmanship Scholarships. He asked the Commission to be advocates of these scholarships and to encourage their districts to submit nominations by the February 15th deadline.

III. *General Action Items – Recommendations as per the Bylaws committee – Scholastic Eligibility* – Ms. Marquez drew the Commission’s attention to pages 9-10 of the Commission packet. She stated that the Bylaws committee had met in December and put together these proposals. Both items 1 and 2 are in regards to determining eligibility using GPA as opposed to semester credits. Mr. Gerheart made a motion to accept both proposals as presented. Mr. Carver seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion failed with 3 voted for and 11 votes against.

Ms. Marquez presented item 6 to the Commission. This proposal is meant to clarify the definition of a “full-time student.” Mr. Tripp asked the Commission to consider whether this is an area that needs further consideration due to its relevance in education today. Mr. Schuster made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Payen seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion failed unanimously.

Ms. Marquez presented item 3 to the Commission. This proposal is in regards to summer session credits being counted towards eligibility for the fall. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Marquez presented item 4 to the Commission. This item states that “If a student is enrolled in on campus courses for less than 51% of the school day..., eligibility for the student athlete will be determined by semester grades only. Mr. Affentranger stated that the definition of “on-campus” is open to interpretation. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with 7 votes for and 5 votes against.

Ms. Marquez presented item 5 to the Commission. This item is a clarification of the role of off-campus courses in determining eligibility. Ms. Schuster made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion failed with 2 votes for and 12 votes against.

General Action Items – Recommendation as per the Bylaws committee – Practice during time of ineligibility – Ms. Marquez presented page 11 of the packet to the Commission. This proposal would allow an ineligible student to *practice* with the team providing he/she demonstrated academic progress toward eligibility. This statement would be added to Section 6.2.1C of the NMAA Handbook. Mr. Gerheart made a motion to approve this proposal as presented. Ms. Dimitroff seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Recommendation as per the Bylaws committee – revising the current appeal process in certain situations – Ms. Marquez presented page 12 of the packet to the Commission. This proposal states that “Any decision or determination made by the Director in respect to any matter set forth in this Handbook, which a **student** is aggrieved, may be appealed to the Appeals Review Committee.” The rule currently states that the aggrieved party may be a student, employee or school. This change would be made to Sections 2.6.1 and 13.1.1 of the NMAA Handbook. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the proposed change as presented. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

General Action Items – Change to Bylaws 6.1.2 and 7.4.2 – Ms. Marquez presented page 13 to the Commission. The change presented would mandate that student athletes falling under these circumstances would be ineligible for all athletic participation as opposed to just varsity athletic participation. Mr. Martin made a motion to accept this proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider requiring that all officials used for regular season invitational tournaments, in all sports, be approved by the NMAA office and/or the Varsity Regional Assignor prior to their assignment to said tournament. To be added to Section 7.8 (Invitational Tournaments) of the NMAA handbook. – Ms. Dana Sanchez presented this item to the Commission and no discussion was necessary. Mr. Martine made a motion to approve this proposal as presented. Mr. Medeiros seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider a proposal to sanction coaches and other school personnel who make inappropriate comments to media outlets relative to the performance of NMOA officials. – Ms. Sanchez presented page 15 of the packet to the Commission. Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal with the addition of the word “minimally” prior to the sanction of a first offense. The sanction would now read “Minimally one game suspension and placement of the offending coach on probationary status.” Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion as stated and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider changing the mercy rule in middle school football to be the same as that used at the high school level. (35 point running clock, versus ending the game at half time.) – Mr. Gene Pino addressed the Commission and presented page 16 of the packet. No discussion being necessary, Ms. Dimitroff made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider changing game limitations in middle school volleyball from 14 (present number) to 16. – Mr. Pino presented the second proposal on page 16 to the Commission. No discussion being necessary, Mr. Soto made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Medeiros seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with 8 votes for and 4 votes against.

General Action Item – Placing the 10 day transfer rule in section 9 (currently only in section 6) to state that the middle school transfer students adhere to the same policies as high school students – Mr. Pino continued addressing the Commission with the last of three items on page 16 of the Commission packet. Again, with no discussion necessary, Mr. Schuster made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider adopting language to the NMAA credential request form to confine on-air remarks to the actual description of a game and the action connected with the game; refraining from making comments in regards to the judgment of the game officials or coaches during a broadcast. – Mr. Robert Zayas addressed the Commission and presented page 17 of the packet, an adjusted version of the NMAA Application for Media Credentials form. Mr. Dennis Lata, a member of the audience and a veteran of the media industry, suggested that the NMAA seek legal council prior to making this change. He also suggested working closely with the New Mexico Broadcasters Association. Mr. Carver made a motion to approve this proposal as presented. Mr. Castillo seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

- IV. *Sports-Specific Action Items – Football – Revising the tie-breaker procedure procedures to clarify the current rule 7.15.5 D, such that item #3 will be restated after what is currently #4 (as per sports specific committee)* – See page 18 of the Commission packet for a visual representation of this change. Mr. Martin made a motion to approve this proposal as presented. Mr. Baisa seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Sports-Specific Action Item – Soccer – Revising the soccer pool play format as per the sports specific committee. 1. Assignment to pools, 2. Pool play schedule – Mr. Robert Zayas presented proposals 1 and 2, found on page 19 of the Commission packet. The 1st proposal required no discussion and Mr. Affentranger made a motion to approve. Mr. Castillo seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tripp and Mr. Zayas informed the Commission that the NMAA's recommendation is to not approve the second proposal as it could potentially require student athletes to miss more class time. As no motion was made, the proposal died.

Sports-Specific Action Item – Soccer – Revising pool play (formerly known as World Cup) tie-breaker procedures. (As per the sports specific committee). – Mr. Zayas presented the proposed tie-breaker procedure to the Commission (see page 20 of the Commission packet). Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Carver seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Sports-Specific Action Item – Baseball – Implementing a 12 team bracket in Class AA baseball for the 2008 state championships, thus eliminating regional play. – Mr. Tom Manning made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Bruce Carver seconded the motion. The Commission then asked for the NMAA’s recommendation in regards to this proposal. Mr. Dusty Young stated that the NMAA believes that combining classes A and AA beginning in the 2008-2009 season (an adjustment that has already been approved) will solve the existing problem. For this reason, the NMAA would like to see the proposal denied. Mr. Manning and Mr. Carver withdrew their motions and the item died.

- V. *General Discussion/Information Items – Sanctions for disqualified players and coaches whereas they would have to do an on-line Pursuing Victory With Honor program and pass a corresponding test. Individuals would also incur financial penalties. These sanctions would be **in addition** to the current mandatory one game sit out as well as sanctions potentially imposed by the local school districts.* – Mr. Tripp addressed the Commission and asked for feedback in regards to this program. He stated that the foundation of the program would be the six pillars of Character Counts.

General Discussion/Information Items – Establishing a central location for the 5A state football championships in either Albuquerque or Las Cruces – Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that this discussion will take place over the next year per a request from some members of the sports specific committee. Mr. Johnson stated that the honor of, and opportunity to host a state championship means a lot to a community, and this needs to be taken into consideration. Discussion ensued.

General Discussion/Information Items – Dual participation at the middle school level. More and more middle school basketball players are playing both on school teams and AAU or other outside teams. – Mr. Pino stated that the current rule allows the district to intervene if and when issues arrive. Discussion ensued.

General Discussion/Information Items – Creating co-op teams at the Class A level in all sports as opposed to only football. – Mr. Soto distributed hand-out regarding co-op programs in New Mexico. Mr. Tripp stated that this should only apply to team sports, as individual sports do not have a minimum number required to field a team.

General Discussion/Information Items – How virtual schools may impact the NMAA in future years – Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that the NCAA has hired a firm to investigate virtual schools throughout the country. The firm has been asked to investigate 500 schools, at least one in each state. This phenomenon is taking place even in New Mexico and needs to be considered. Discussion ensued.

General Discussion/Information Items – Meeting on January 29, 2008 with the Alignment and Classification committee and administrators from private and public schools to initiate discussion. – Mr. Martinez distributed a copy of an article about public and private school discord. Mr. Martinez stated that this meeting will attempt to define, discuss and address these issues in New Mexico.

General Discussion/Information Items – Information regarding upcoming state championships; wrestling, swimming & diving, basketball and all spring sports. – Basketball complimentary passes will be mailed out in February according to the lists that were submitted by Superintendents. Pink passes will allow entry into all games as well as the hospitality room. Blue passes will allow entry into games only.

General Discussion/Information Items – NMAA.tv – Mr. Jim Williams presented the features and fundraising opportunities of nmaa.tv. For more information about how your district/school can get involved, visit www.nmaa.tv.

General Discussion/Information Items – NMAA Foundation – The Foundation has been able to assist multiple programs during the 2007-2008 school year. The Board would like to see any requests for financial assistance submitted to the Foundation during the spring so that disbursement can be made in a timely manner. Grant applications can be found on the NMAA website at http://www.nmact.org/about_nmaa/foundation.

General Discussion/Information Items – State Legislature initiatives – NMOA Gross Receipts Tax issue is still being heard. \$100,000 for assistance with the State Basketball Tournament is also on the docket. Please contact your legislators to encourage them to support both of these important initiatives.

General Discussion/Information Items – State Basketball Tournament tickets – Additional coaches passes may be purchased for \$50 by contacting Mr. Dusty Young, Assistant Director, at dyoung@nmact.org. Commissioners may pick up their complimentary tournament passes in the NMAA office.

- VI. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 5, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA.
- VII. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin. The motion was seconded by Mr. Payen and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.