

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, January 10, 2007
9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Lawrence Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 Frazier (Small Area D), 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. Ernie Viramontes (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association), Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals), Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association), Mr. Frank Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association), Mr. Oscar Payan (New Mexico Officials Association) and Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council). A quorum was declared and business before the Commission could be conducted.

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

Mr. Payan made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented and Ms. Dimitroff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the May 23, 2007 meeting were presented (see pages 5-9 of the Commission packet). A motion was made by Mr. Gerheart to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Viramontes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- II. *Directors' Report* – Mr. Tripp welcomed the Commission and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that the NMAA Alignment and Classification committee had had a great meeting and will be sending two recommendations to the Board of Directors at their October 3rd meeting. The first recommendation states that the current Alignment and Classification stay the same with the exception of 21 noted adjustments. The second recommendation states that the current Alignment and Classification stay the same with no exceptions.

Mr. Tripp asked the Commission members to send any recommendations for items to be included on the Annual Meeting agenda to the NMAA.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that the NMAA staff has recently attended meetings on both the national and regional levels. At the national level, New Mexico has proven to be a very progressive state. The National Federation is encouraging states to require that all coaches complete a coaches education program; a requirement that is already in place in

New Mexico. There is also a push on the national level to place the educational system first and to consider activities and athletics a byproduct of education. Again, New Mexico already strives toward this understanding. Lastly, the National Federation is working on developing a national sportsmanship curriculum, another step that New Mexico has already taken.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that Robert Zayas and Rudy Aragon, both Assistant Directors at the NMAA, are currently serving on the committee overseeing the new nationally distributed publication, "High School Today." This monthly publication will include articles recognizing high schools and students throughout the country and will be distributed to all member schools. The publication is in need of articles and photographs, and the committee asks that member schools consider commissioning articles to submit for publication. Questions regarding this publication can be directed to Robert Zayas at (505) 923-3274 or rzayas@nmact.org.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that October 14-20, 2007 is National Activities Week. The NMAA will host events in the Hall of Pride and Honor throughout the week. These events will include a recognition social for New Mexico Officials and a recognition banquet for Mr. Bobby Gibbs.

Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA is trying to reach their three year goal of completing Pursuing Victory With Honor workshops at every member school by the end of the 2007-2008 school year. If your school has not yet hosted a workshop, please contact the NMAA.

Ms. Sally Marquez addressed the Commission and continued speaking about Pursuing Victory With Honor. She stated that many small schools have partnered with other small schools in their area to host a larger workshop. If you are interested in this option, please mention that when you call to arrange your workshop.

Ms. Marquez reminded the Commission that only Varsity petitions need to come through the NMAA office. Petitions from JV level and below should stay at the school. Already this year, 200 petitions have been reviewed and ruled on by the NMAA.

Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that La Cueva High School and Rio Rancho High School had recently partnered up to host the first annual Volley for the Cure. The schools raised \$11,000 for Breast Cancer research during this one day event. The NMAA is in support of this event and would like to see it supported state wide in the future.

Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that the 2nd Annual T-Mobile Invitational will be held at the Pit on December 28th and 29th. This nationally televised basketball tournament will feature 8 exemplary high school teams, and New Mexico will be represented by the La Cueva boys basketball team and the Gallup girls basketball team. Tickets will be available through the NMAA beginning on November 5th.

Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that Mr. Bill Cleland has been invited to join the NMAA staff as an Assistant Director and will begin on October 24, 2007. Bill's primary responsibilities will relate to technology as the NMAA is working towards being complete self-sufficient in this area. Bill will also be part of the team of Directors who will be running the state Swimming and Diving Championships. Welcome Bill!

Mr. Mario Martinez informed the Commission that Bobby Gibbs, Executive Secretary of the New Mexico High School Coaches Association, is retiring and applications for this position are being handled through the NMAA office.

Mr. Martinez informed the Commission the 8-man Football is alive and well in its second year in New Mexico. The 2nd Annual 8-man Football Showcase will be held at Menaul High School on September 29, 2007.

Mr. Martinez reminded the Commission that seeding and selection representative forms need to be submitted to the NMAA office.

Mr. Martinez closed by stating that the NMAA is glad to see that a decision is nearing in regards to Alignment and Classification.

III. *General Action/Discussion Items – Consider options concerning the out-of-season coaching regulations.*

Mr. Scott Evans addressed the Commission and directed their attention to pages 10-11 of the Commission packet. Page 10 is a synopsis of discussion that has taken place at 2 town meetings held to address this issue. Page 11 is a summary of the possible courses of action. Mr. Evans informed the Commission that this is a goof faith effort from the NMAA staff to ensure that regulations come directly from the NMAA member schools, and not from the NMAA office. The NMAA does not want to come across as mandating regulations that are not supported by the member schools.

Mr. Bruce Carver made a motion to “Take no action, thus endorsing the current regulation and ending review.” Mr. Scott Affentranger seconded this motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. *Sport Specific Action Items – Football: Reword the coin flip procedures under A and B (Section 7) to include that, with the approval of the two schools involved in the flip, the NMAA director of football will conduct the flip as soon as possible.*

Mr. Martinez addressed the Commission and directed their attention to page 12 of the Commission packet. He informed the Commission that although procedures have been put in place for coin flips, sometimes there are valid reasons for an immediate flip. For this reason, the addition to these procedures has been proposed.

Mr. Gary Frazier made a motion to accept this proposal with the addition of the NMAA Executive Director as one qualified to conduct the flip. Mr. Tom Manning seconded the motion and a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously with the wording of the proposal being adjusted as follows.

*“Reword the coin flip procedures under A and B (Section 7) to include that, with the approval of the two schools involved in the flip, the NMAA director of football, **or the Executive Director**, will conduct the flip as soon as possible.”*

Sport Specific Action Items – Football: Consider mandating that AA football schools play 75% of their schedules against other schools in their classification according to a master schedule to be prepared by the NMAA in conjunction with all AA schools

Mr. Martinez presented pages 13 & 14 of the Commission packet which includes the proposal as well as a letter from Santa Rosa schools regarding this issue. This proposal is a result of AA schools having a difficulty scheduling a complete football schedule. In the

AA Classification traveling is inevitable, but this change would alleviate some travel time and costs. It would also relieve Athletic Directors of making phone calls to fill their schedule.

Ms. Cris Dimitroff asked if this is an issue that should be sent to referendum. Mr. Martinez stated that this issue would be under the purview of the member schools by referendum.

Mr. Louie Baisa stated that this change could result in 2 more games requiring over 400 miles of travel for Lordsburg High School

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Cris Dimitroff moved that this item be sent to referendum with the following amendments:

*“Send to referendum a consideration to mandate that AA football schools play 60% of their schedules against other schools in their classification according to a master schedule to be prepared by the NMAA in conjunction with all AA **football** schools.”*

Mr. Terry Martin seconded and a roll call vote was taken.

Scott Affentranger..... for	Tom Manning..... for
Louie Baisa..... against	Steve Medeiros..... for
Bruce Carver..... for	Ernie Viramontes..... for
Frank Castillo..... for	Oscar Payen..... for
Cris Dimitroff..... for	Gary Frazier..... for
Gary Schuster..... for	Don Gerheart..... for
Amadeo Soto..... for	Lawrence Johnson..... for
Terry Martin..... for	Motion passes 14-1

Sports Specific Action Items – Basketball: Adopting a program for seeding and selection for the 2008-2009 season as per the sports specific committee.

Ms. Marquez presented pages 15-17 of the Commission packet to the Commission and explained that the NMAA would like to try a new method of selecting members for the Basketball seeding and selection committee. Each classification would have a committee made up of 5 impartial members; 1 member per region. Each committee member would receive a stipend to watch 20 regular season games in that classification.

Mr. Terry Martin made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Don Gerheart seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Items – Softball: Adopting changes as recommended by softball specific from their meeting on September 7, 2007.

Mr. Gene Victor, a member of the Softball Sports Specific Committee, addressed the Commission and presented page 18 of the Commission packet. The proposal is to change the current softball tournament format to a 16 team, double elimination tournament format. The only increase in expenses would be in the area of umpires, and the Sports Specific committee feels that this is a manageable increase.

Ms. Cris Dimitroff asked if there are the same pitching restrictions on softball pitchers that there are on baseball pitchers? Mr. Victor replied that no, softball pitching does not create the same repetitive motion that is a concern in baseball.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Terry Martin made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Oscar Payen seconded that motion and a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Sports-Specific Action Items – Golf: mandating that all head golf coaches attend the golf workshop and the NMAA rules clinic on January 25-26, 2008.

Mr. Martinez presented page 19 of the Commission packet stating that golf coaches sometime have a difficult time understanding the rules of the game, and this often has a negative affect on their student athletes. The cost of the clinic is approximately \$80. Excused absences would be accepted through the NMAA office, and the possibility of an alternate clinic can be considered.

Ms. Cris Dimitroff made a motion to accept the proposal as presented and Tom Manning seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Addendum Agenda (This item was moved forward in the agenda to allow for non-commission members in attendance to see the item come to the table before leaving the meeting.)

General Action/Discussion Items – Consider allowing Class A schools to coop on team sports at the Middle School level.

Mr. Mario Martinez explained to the Commission that an Executive decision was made in this regards in one instance last year, and the NMAA would like to see it be an accepted policy.

Mr. Terry Martin made a motion to accept the proposal as accepted. Mr. Oscar Payen seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

V. *General Discussion/Information Items – 2007 Annual meeting dates and information*

No discussion

General Discussion/Information Items – 2007-2008 Calendar issues and problems

Mr. Tripp drew the Commission's attention to pages 25-30 of the Commission packet, the graduation dates of all member schools. This continues to be an issue, but the NMAA is diligently trying to work around as many graduations as possible.

General Discussion/Information Items –Commission member elections/openings

Mr. Mario Martinez informed the Commission that the following member's terms expire in December. Commission members are encouraged to seek reelection. Ballots will be distributed at the Annual meeting and elections will be completed before the January meeting.

Amadeo Soto – Small, Area A
Louie Baisa – Small, Area C

Lawrence Johnson – Large, Area C
Tom Manning – Large, Area D

General Discussion/Information Items – Seeding/Selection representatives

No discussion

General Discussion/Information Items – Alignment/Classification update

No Discussion

VI. *Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Soccer:*

Mr. Robert Zayas addressed the Commission in regards to the State Soccer Tournament. New Mexico is the only state in the nation who is using the World Cup format for their state tournament.

World Cup play begins on November 1 with 4 groups of 3 teams in each classification. The winner of each pool will advance to the Semi-finals on November 8th. The State finals will take place on November 9th. We are hoping for better attendance due to the fact that each qualifying team is guaranteed to play 2 games.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Volleyball:

Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that the NMAA is in the process of trying to find the best facility for the tournament. 3 courts have been secured at Johnson center. The pool play format has changed from 2 pools of 6 to 3 pools of 4. This means that seeding into pools will have to resume, as 3 pools does not allow for an even yearly rotation.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Cross Country:

The 2007 Cross Country Championships will be hosted by Rio Rancho High School on November 10, 2007. Rio Rancho Mid High staff will help to work the meet again this year. Proposals for hosting the next two year's championships will begin in late 2007.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Football:

Football is going well and is running very consistently. Lake Arthur High school, who has built a new field, experienced "Friday Night Lights" for the first time on August 31st! This was an exciting night for the entire community of Lake Arthur.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Wrestling:

The 2008 State Wrestling Championships will be held February 22-23, 2008 at the Santa Ana Star Center.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Swimming and Diving:

The NMAA is expecting a great tournament!

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Basketball:

This year's tournament will be the same format and schedule as last year's tournament.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Track & Field:

The NMAA is hoping to secure the use of the new UNM indoor/outdoor facility for the state Track and Field Championships.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Golf:

This year's State Championships will be as follows:

- 5A – Socorro
- A-3A – NMSU
- 4A – UNM

The NMAA hopes to sign another 3 year rotation contract with these three courses. The past years have gone very smoothly and the NMAA would like to see that continue.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Tennis:

The Tennis Tournament will be run the same as last year. By the 2008-2009 school year, Becky Mullins will be the Assistant Director in charge of Tennis.

Sue Johnston at Desert Ridge Middle School has built an incredible tennis program that has received national recognition. Congratulations Sue and thank you for your hard work!

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Softball:

The 2008 State Softball Tournament will be held in Farmington May 15-17, 2008. An RFP for next year's site will go out to bid after the October 3rd meeting of the NMAA Board of Directors.

Sports Specific Discussion/Information Items – Baseball:

Scheduling issues due to conflicts with graduations and the preset schedules of the Isotopes and UNM baseball team are still being addressed. The tournament may have to be rescheduled to take place during the week to allow for the final games to be played at Isotopes Park.

VII. *Addendum Agenda Discussion Item – Definition of what NMAA issues are under the purview of the Board of Directors and which fall under the referendum process.*

Mr. Scott Evans addressed the Commission and drew their attention to page 21-24 of the Commission packet. These adjustments were made to clarify the roles of the member schools and the Board of Directors.

Addendum Agenda Discussion Item – Consider changing the date of the next meeting to Monday, November 19, 2007, due to conflicts with the fall sports Championship schedule.

The Commission meeting is currently scheduled on the day of Volleyball pool play.

VIII. As per this discussion, Mr. Johnson informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA.

II. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Oscar Payen. It was seconded by Mr. Gerheart and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.