

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 19, 2007
9:00 AM, NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Monday, November 19, 2007 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Lawrence Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Becky Mullins, NMAA Assistant Director called roll and the following Commissioners were present: Mr. Amadeo Soto (Small Area A); Ms. Cris Dimitroff (Small Area B); Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D); Mr. Steve Medeiros (Non-Public School Representative); Mr. Ernie Viramontes (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association Representative); Mr. Oscar Payen (New Mexico Officials Association Representative); Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals Representative); 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. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association); Mr. Frank Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association Representative); Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council Member). A quorum was declared and business before the Commission could be conducted.

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

Mr. Affentranger made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, and Mr. Medeiros seconded the motion. Discussion was had regarding adding co-oping in sports to the bottom of Item IV, General Discussion/Information Items, and take care of all action items at the beginning of the agenda. Motion amended and seconded to include this revision. Motion unanimously passed.

The minutes from the September 19, 2007 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Affentranger to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Dimitroff seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

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

Mr. Mario Martinez informed the Commission there were currently many pressing issues that will need to be decided in the near future, many of which were contained in the discussion items dealing with current grey areas in the rules. Mr. Martinez stated the

more definition provided in the NMAA bylaws, the better. Mr. Martinez stated there were no negative reports regarding the sport of volleyball this year – it was a great tournament, as well as cross country. Soccer experienced some troubles, and football again dealt with many gamesmanship issues.

III. Sport-Specific and Other Action Items

Softball: Mr. Gene Pino addressed the Commission stating that softball wanted to be treated similarly to the sport of baseball. Baseball practice now starts on week 32, and softball feels it should be afforded the same start date. Discussion was had. Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Tennis: Ms. Sally Marquez stated the sport of tennis still has some issues regarding gamesmanship. The tennis lineup is supposed to be submitted from strongest to weakest players. Coaches will give up a match to win another match. The Tennis Sports Specific Committee recommended that all tennis coaches submit their rosters in order from strongest to weakest players by April 20th, week 43. That roster would be what was used in district, unless there was a verified injury. Discussion was had. Ms. Dimitroff made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. Additional discussion was had. Motion passed unanimously.

Wrestling: Mr. Rusty Davidson of the Wrestling Sports Specific Committee addressed the Commission regarding wrestling's request to have practice year round similar to golf, tennis and swimming, the other individual sports. There is significant out of season competition, but the expertise in these areas is limited. Allowing year round practice in the sport of wrestling would give kids access to limited coaching expertise outside of the regular wrestling season. Mr. Davidson stated the US is the only country that competes in the winter. Allowing year round practice would expose the wrestling athletes to different wrestling styles, American Collegiate, Olympic, etc, exposing athletes to these styles at the developmental level. Discussion was had. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Castillo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Amadeo Soto – against
Gary Frazier – against
Ernie Viramontes – against
Scott Affentranger – for
Bruce Carver – against
Tom Manning – against
Frank Castillo – for

Cris Dimitroff – against
Steve Medeiros – against
Oscar Payen – against
Gary Schuster – against
Lawrence Johnson – against
Terry Martin – against
Don Gerheart – against

Motion Fails 2 – 12

Approval of NMHSCA All-Star Games: Mr. Bobby Gibbs presented the NMHSCA Annual Report (attached herein for reference), and indicated the NMHSCA was seeking

approval of the All-Star Games, Events and Coaches Clinic for 2009. Mr. Manning made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Lawrence Johnson called for a break in the meeting at 10:00 a.m. to reconvene at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was called back to order at 10:15 a.m.

IV. General Discussion/Information Items

Mr. Scott Evans, NMAA Assistant Director, directed the Commission to pages 4 – 7 of their packet. The sport of wrestling is looking for options to bring back to the Alignment and Classification Committee for consideration for the next two year block as there were some very real concerns regarding the current alignment. Mr. Evans indicated he was looking for input from the Commission as to their suggestions in this matter.

Mr. Gary Tripp and Mr. Mario Martinez presented to the Commission the potential of not having any at large selections based upon the current process in volleyball, soccer and football in class 4A after the establishment of six districts in Class 4A. This situation would potentially allow weaker teams to make it into the playoffs rather than the best 12 teams. In 3 team districts, the district champ and runner up automatically advance, when the runner up could potentially not be as good as other teams. Discussion regarding the current seeding selection process and its merits and downfalls were also discussed among the Commission members.

Mr. Robert Zayas, NMAA Assistant Director discussed the current tie-breaking procedures, utilizing the soccer World Cup as an example. Discussion was had regarding the importance of very clearly defining tie-breaking procedures in all different scenarios. Mr. Tripp added that some sports identify the tie-breaking procedures within the bylaws in the sports specific section, while other sports do not have these procedures included in the bylaws. Discussion regarding tie-breaking procedures being developed by the administrative staff with good communication of those procedures versus the placement of all tie-breaking procedures in the bylaws was had.

Mr. Gary Tripp discussed the importance of educational based athletics and the possibility of developing an online Pursuing Victory with Honor program for coaches, players and fans that are ejected from contests. The intention would be that these coaches/players/fans must complete the online program prior to participating in or attending another contest. This matter would be brought before the Bylaws committee for their input.

Ms. Dana Sanchez, NMAA Assistant Director, reported the request for the repeal of the gross receipts tax for officials was going to be brought before the Governor and Lt. Governor for their assistance in this particular legislation. Ms. Sanchez additionally reported the hands on mechanics camps for officials were well received and provided officiating consistency in the sports of basketball and volleyball. Ms. Sanchez also reported officials shortages in the sports of soccer, softball and basketball.

Ms. Sally Marquez reported to that several items would be brought to the Bylaws Committee in the month of December, to then be brought before the Commission at their January meeting. Some of these issues deal with practicing while ineligible for other reasons than academics, the treatment of pass/fail classes in determining eligibility, the growing existence of alternative education such as cyber schools, etc.

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Assistant Director, directed to the Commission to page 8 of their packet, indicating the baseball state tournament would be held for classes A-2A on May 12 through the 14th, and classes 3A – 5A on May 21 through the 23rd. Efforts were made to avoid conflict with as many graduations as possible. The current dates for the track and softball championships, May 14 through the 17th also effected some graduation dates.

Mr. Gary Tripp reported that NMAA.TV efforts were forging ahead and attempts were made to stream all championships. There were approximately 3000 viewers of the Mayfield/Las Cruces football game. Mr. Tripp also reported the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was currently working on developing an alternative license for all athletic trainers. Doctors all over the state have committed and are willing to offer professional development presentations regarding sports medicine to NMAA member schools.

Mr. Lawrence Johnson called for a break in the meeting at 12 noon for lunch. The meeting was called back to order at 12:22 p.m.

Mr. Mario Martinez discussed the importance of inputting rosters online and posting scores, which continued to be a problem. Discussion regarding sanctions for the failure to report this information was had.

Mr. Mario Martinez additionally discussed possible sanctions for schools that exceed their game limitations during the regular season. Discussion was had.

Mr. Mario Martinez discussed the current status of district financial accountability and the lack of true accountability and audit procedures. Mr. Martinez stated there is a current district that believes \$15,000 to \$20,000 had been embezzled from a district account as there were no real checks and balances to these monies.

Mr. Dusty Young reported the NMAA had just signed a corporate sponsorship agreement with Dodge, a three year deal totaling \$150,000. Mr. Young further stated that each school that wins the Director's Cup will also receive \$1,000 from that sponsorship.

Mr. Amadeo Soto discussed the possibility of revisiting co-oping in sports programs. Programs in single A schools are dropping based upon dwindling enrollment and participation numbers. The opportunity to co-op in sports besides football would allow some of these programs to survive, thereby increasing student participation.

V. Addendum Agenda (covered above)

VI. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

VII. Consider Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Terry Martin. It was seconded by Mr. Affentranger. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.