

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Lawrence Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Ms. Alissa McCarthy, Administrative Assistant called roll and the following commissioners were present: Mr. Manuel Romero (Small Area A), Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D), Mr. Gary Schuster (Large Area A), Mr. Brian Stacy (Large Area B), Mr. Lawrence Johnson (Large Area C), Mr. Tom Manning (Large Area D), Mr. Larry Waters (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association), Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals), Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association), Mr. Bobby Romero (New Mexico Officials Association) and Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council), and Mr. Pete MacFarlane (Non-Public School Representative.) Absent were Mr. Gary Salazar (Small Area B), Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association) and Mr. Louie Baisa (Small Area C). A quorum was declared and business before the Commission could be conducted.

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

Mr. Gary Schuster made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented and Mr. Larry Waters seconded.

The minutes from the September 17, 2008 meeting were presented (see pgs. 4-8 of **Attachments**). A motion was made by Mr. Brian Stacy to approve the minutes. Mr. Mr. Gary Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Directors' Report – Mr. Gary Tripp welcomed the commissioners and thanked them for attending the meeting. He stated that more athletes and coaches are taking part in the PVWH presentations. He stated that the NMAA staff are traveling to several communities throughout the state and providing schools with this presentation.

Mr. Gary Tripp stated that the Foundation is having several fundraisers this year. He stated that they are holding the annual golf tournament. In addition there will be a Bowl-A Thon held in January with compensation for the winner. He asked that the members of the Commission pass the word on regarding the Bowl-A-Thon to help in getting teams signed up.

Mr. Tripp stated at the Annual Meeting a guest speaker spoke on Life of an Athlete. He stated that he is working with the Department of Transportation to build awareness to athletes regarding underage drinking and steroid and drug use. He stated that this program would cost around \$300,000 over three years. He stated that the Department of

Transportation would provide most of that money; however he will be meeting with the Legislature to get additional funding for this program.

Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA has received great feedback regarding teleconferences the NMAA is holding every Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. He stated that this is an opportunity for schools to call in and ask any questions they may have for the NMAA. In addition Mr. Tripp added that the NMAA will have their 2nd webinar on Nutrition on Tuesday, November 25 at 12:00 pm.

Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA had the Basketball Summit. This summit allowed basketball coaches and officials to meet and discuss how to improve the communication between them. He stated that the NMAA hopes to do several summits in January starting at 7:00 p.m. on January 7 in Gallup, January 12 in Roswell, January 14 in Santa Fe, January 21 in Las Cruces and January 26 in Albuquerque.

Lastly Mr. Tripp commended Mr. Robert Zayas, Mr. Rudy Aragon, Mr. Mario Martinez, Ms. Sally Marquez and Ms. Dana Sanchez for their hard work and dedication to the Fall State Championships.

Ms. Sally Marquez stated that she has been traveling throughout the state, speaking to schools regarding Title IX. She stated that on December 6 she will be talking to the Board of Education informing them about Title IX and compliance. She stated that the Board of Education will be talking with schools regarding their compliance with Title IX.

Ms. Marquez stated that one issue that is repeatedly occurring is pay for play. She stated that kids are making teams at high schools and then forced to pay \$300 to be on the team. She stated that boosters are forcing kids to pay too much money to be on teams and this is an issue that is getting worse and worse.

Ms. Marquez congratulated Dana Sanchez for the increasing number of central region officials. She stated that there were 160 new officials for basketball recruited and that is a tremendous increase from previous years.

Lastly, Ms. Marquez stated that starting up again on December 2 @ 8:00 a.m., school administrators are able to call in and ask any questions they may have regarding the rules of the NMAA.

Mr. Mario Martinez stated that the Football playoffs are starting. Sixteen games will be played across the state this week. He stated that he was fortunate enough to get to go to Hondo High School and watch them take the state title for 6-man football. He stated that this was the first time Hondo had won a championship in any sport to which they offered. He stated that this was an incredible experience and the NMAA was fortunate enough to have the championship videostreamed.

II. General Action Items- Consider revising district regular season championships vs. tournament champions in seeding/selection process.

Ms. Marquez referred the Commission to page 11. She stated that currently in the bylaws it states that the district champion hosts the first round. However now that the rule has changed where the district regular season champion and the district tournament champion both have an automatic birth to the first round of the state championships, she stated that *the regular season district champion will host the first round game* needs to be added to the bylaws. She stated that very rarely do two teams get matched up in the first round from the

same district. She stated the reasoning is that the regular season record holds more water than the district tournament winner.

Mr. Martinez added that this would only be for classifications 3A-5A.

Mr. Waters made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Consider revising Rule 7.14.3 B concerning the number of state qualifiers. Mr. Rudy Aragon stated that when this rule was put in place, the issue arose that when more than three runners from the top three teams finish in the top ten. He stated that there are instances where the fourth and fifth individual runners from non qualifying teams are part of the top ten. Therefore the addition to Rule 7.14.3 B *all runners finishing in the top ten in their district meet qualify for the state championships regardless of the circumstance.*

Mr. Schuster made a motion to accept the proposal presented on page 11 of the Commission packet, Mr. Stacy seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

General Discussion/Information Items- NMOA Mileage report from the Adhoc Committee to be presented to the Board of Directors. Ms. Dana Sanchez passed out information regarding mileage for officials. She stated that the NMOA is asking for an increase from \$.405 to \$.46 roundtrip. She stated the last increase in officials pay occurred back in 2002. She stated that another change being asked is officials being paid from their hometown. She stated that the exception would be when an official decides to be a part of a group that is outside of their hometown, there would be no mileage paid out from the hometown. Thirdly, she added the only one driver would be paid mileage. She stated that the official who travels the furthest would be paid and it is up to the officials to contact the school if the money needs to be split between officials. She stated that this would come into effect for the 2009-2010 school year.

General Discussion/Information Items- Wrestling: Revising the qualifying system based on current participation numbers for the 08-09 season. Mr. Evans referred the Commission to page 13 of the packet. He pointed out that the number of qualifiers listed were approved by the board in June. He stated that the number of qualifiers allotted were 16 per classification. He stated that the issue this year in Class 4A, Chaparral postponed their participation till the following year, making only 3 within that district. Therefore, adding a wild card to this classification would keep the bracket at 16 teams. The same goes for Class 5A with Cleveland High School, creating a wild card within the 5A Classification, therefore keeping the bracket at 16. In Class 3A three schools dropped wrestling from their school, therefore making only 13 qualifiers within the bracket.

General Discussion/Information Items- Basketball: minimum gymnasium specifications for hosting district and state tournament contests. Mr. Tripp stated his concerns regarding gym size with schools and hosting district and regional games. He stated that venues used for playoffs are the issue and a need to accommodate the spectators for large crowds. Home court advantage in many sports could be a major advantage.

General Discussion/Information Items- Baseball/Softball minimum specifications for hosting state tournament contest. Mr. Tripp stated that several small school districts struggle to maintain these fields and safety issues do arise especially when on hosts a playoff game.

General Discussion/Information Items- Football: reducing 2A playoff teams to 8 versus the current 12. Mr. Martinez stated that this will go to the sports specific committee. He stated that in previous years the first round consisted of sixteen and several of the games were not very competitive. He stated that if it were brought down to 8 teams, there would be four at large bids available, and this could help to alleviate financial burdens on schools as well.

The Commission took a 10 minute recess and re-convened at 10:40 AM

General Discussion/Information Items- Adding one more week to the six man football season. Mr. Martinez stated that schools involved in 6 man football met after the season concluded and wanted another week added to the 6-man football season. He stated that there are other events within small towns such as horse shows etc. that take time out of the season. He stressed this was not a recommendation to add another week for another contest.

General Discussion/Information Item- Alignment and Classification: Questions, answers and recommendations- Mr. Martinez referred the commission to page 19 of the packet. He stated that the questions were sent to the Board. He stated that one issue is new schools start and they start mainly in Class 4A, the NMAA recommends looking at grade 8-11 numbers rather than grade 9-12, additionally counting all alternative school numbers. He stated that an issue is whether these alternative programs are instated in school or are separate. The NMAA feels alternative kids should be accounted for in the total number of students for the high school within their geographical region. He asked the Commission for recommendations to this matter and would need these before the next Board meeting.

General Discussion/Information Item- Feedback on the elimination of 8th grade participation in all classes except A- Mr. Martinez stated that Class A is exempt due to small schools having a hard time fielding teams. He stated that the issue with eighth grade participation is displacement of 9th and 10th graders in order for this 8th grader to play. He stated that most state associations across the nation do not allow 8th graders to participate in high school athletics.

General Discussion/Information Item- Current appeals process and recommendations via APS. Mr. Kenny Barreras stated that athletic directors, principles and Mr. Brooks provided feedback on the current process. He stated that the current process includes an appeal fee of \$250 and the superintendent's signature to ensure the intentions of the process are there. He stated that the process was in place to prevent frivolous appeals and prevent schools to appeal every NMAA decision. He stated that many athletic directors do not appeal because they do not have the funds to do so or many are unsure of the justification there is to use the funds for an appeal fee, which in turn does disservice to the student athlete. He recommended that if the appeal gets sent to the Board and they overturn it should the appeal fee be waived.

General Discussion/Information Item- Tie-breaking procedures being part of the NMAA handbook in all sports to create consistency throughout the state. Mr. Martinez stated that in previous years it is the districts responsibility to turn in a current handbook annually. He stated that the issue is that districts have different procedures for different sports and current/updated handbooks are not being submitted. He stated that if there were a universal tiebreaking procedure for all sports (one for volleyball all districts, basketball...) regardless of the district there would be more consistency. Mr. Tripp added the need for a tie breaking procedure for team sports and one for individual sports. A recommendation was for the procedure to go through the sports specific committees.

General Discussion/Information Item- Seeding and Selection issues and recommendations for improvement. Mr. Martinez stated the issues with seeding and selection is many representatives do not know the rules of the NMAA and the sports in question. He stated that another issue is the representative of a particular district does not know the ranks/finish of their district which causes problems within the seeding and selection process. He stated that it is up to the districts to choose their district representatives for the seeding committee. Some recommendations were to look at strength of schedule due to small schools getting games dropped from schedules.

General Discussion/Information Item- Home School, Charter school, Alternative school participation numbers. Ms. Marquez referred the committee to page 23. She stated that this document is for information only. She stated that Mr. Tripp and she met with Dr. Garcia and discussed home school student. She stated that within this discussion Dr. Garcia mentioned only 5 home school students are involved in high school sports, therefore only 5 are requesting high school funding. Ms. Marquez sent out a survey to find out how many home school students there were. In 08-09 fall sports there were 94 home school students that participated in athletics.

General Discussion/Information Item- Referenda Results- Mr. Martinez stated both referenda's passed overwhelmingly regarding the revision of the language in athletic purposes and requiring a scholastic eligibility form for all activities and those students involved.

General Discussion/Information Item- Board of Directors and Commission Nominees- Mr. Johnson stated that the forms to nominate are within the packet. The due date for these is Friday, December 12 by 4:00 p.m.

General Discussion/Information Item-Ejection Policies and report from Fall Sports- Ms. Dana Sanchez passed out a form regarding an overview of ejections as 11-19-2008. She stated that during the fall, fourteen coaches were ejected and 153 athletes were ejected. She stated that 166 essays out of 167 were approved. She stated that within the 14 coaches that were ejected 10 of them were sub-varsity coaches and 4 were varsity. She did state that there are more positive reports being reported this year than previous years.

General Discussion/Information Item- NMAA Films.tv- Mr. Tripp mentioned that nmaafilms.tv is the website where all of the NMAA state championships are being streamed live.

General Discussion/Information Item- NMAA Foundation- Mr. Tripp added that the foundation is doing what is called Chili's in New Mexico where 16 programs throughout the state are assigned a Chili's location and on a particular night all proceeds brought in through those with a flyer, 5% goes to the Foundation and 5% goes to the school's program. He stated that this past week \$500 for the foundation was raised.

General Discussion/Information Item-Fall Sports Update- Mr. Tripp stated that the fall sport state championships were tremendous. He stated that part of the state championships were the Kukulski brothers and their quarter of a million dollar contract with the NMAA in providing merchandise for the state championships. He stated that the NMAA is in the process of contacting Zia Graphics and their solicitation of state championship merchandise to high schools. He stated the importance of the Kukulski brother and would hope that schools and boosters would use them for their merchandise for their sports. Ms. Marquez added that Volley for the Cure went incredible. The schools, communities and athletes

raised over \$70,000 for the cure. She stated that also through the passing of the regular season champion and district tournament champion rule it became very beneficial in that the champion of class 5A was a third place team coming out of their district.

Kristin Derr added that there are two interns for activities from UNM that are writing about the activities that occur throughout the state. She congratulated Capital and Bosque for winning One Act Play. She referred the committee to the display behind them thanking Kim Jew and Sign and Image for their efforts in this display which will be taken to the School Board session as a way to display the activities that occur throughout the state. She stated that she will be conducting PVWH presentations geared towards spirit. She stated she recently conducted a presentation at Manzano High School where 150 student athletes attended. Lastly she added that for the past weeks she required all dance and spirit coaches to take a test regarding the NMAA rules as well as rules pertaining to the sport. She stated that several questions were missed and she hopes to conduct a webinar to review the answers to the most commonly missed questions.

- IV. Mr. Johnson informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m.
- V. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Frazier. It was seconded by Mr. Gerheart and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.