

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 11, 2006
9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Monday, September 11, 2006 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Bruce Carver called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Ms. Linda Cde Baca, Executive Administrative Assistant called roll and the following commissioners were: Mr. Amadeo Soto (Small Area A), Ms. Cris Dimitroff (Small Area B), Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D), Mr. Gary Schuster (Large Area A), Mr. Bruce Carver (Large Area B), Mr. Tom Manning (Large Area D), Mr. Steve Medeiros (Non-Public Schools), Chris Pash (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association), Mr. Oscar Payen (New Mexico Officials Association), Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals), Mr. Charles A. "Tony" Sayre (State School Boards Association), Mr. Frank Castillo (New Mexico High School Coaches Association), and Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council). Mr. Louie Baisa (Small Area C), and Mr. Lawrence Johnson (Large Area C) were 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Schuster and seconded by Mr. Sayre to move the addendum item immediately following the Sports Specific Actions items and to approve the agenda (see pgs. 1-3 of Attachments). A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The minutes for the May 24, 2006 meeting were presented (see pgs. 5-11 of Attachments). A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- II. *Director's Report* – Mr. Tripp welcomed the Commissioners and introduced the new members, Mr. Chris Pash, Mr. Amadeo Soto, Mr. Gary Frazier, and Mr. Oscar Payen. Mr. Tripp stated that the 180-day rule and alternative school participation were both issues with the Public Education Department. He continued that the NMAA is looking at defining "hardship" because the PED has overturned several appeals because there is no firm definition. Mr. Martinez stated the 8-Man games are going very well. He reminded everyone to get with their District Chairperson to make sure the selection/seeding forms were submitted. Ms. Marquez stated that Title 9 and booster clubs are going to be big issues this year. She continued that volleyball will be held at one venue this year. She stated Tingley Coliseum will bring in a sport court so that there can be up to five games being play simultaneously. She then discussed state basketball and informed the group that after having met with the people from Rio Rancho, the games will be held at Rio Rancho area and the Pit. The schedule is posted online. She stated that only one game, the Class A quarterfinals, will be played at Rio Rancho High School.

III. *General Action Items – Elimination of Petitions to the NMAA office for students at the sub-varsity level* – Mr. Marquez informed the Commission that the Bylaws Committee met on September 7th and wanted this process to be taken care of in the Athletic Director’s office (see pg. 15 of Attachments). Ms. Dimitroff made a motion to approve this. It was seconded by Mr. Soto, and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

General Action Items – Altering seeding criteria to include one district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another who came out of district as a lower seed with regular season taking precedent over tournament play (as per Advisory Referenda) – Mr. Martinez reported that the advisory referenda (see pgs. 12-14 of Attachments) for this item passed by a vote of 59 to 26 and that as such, seeding from the regular season would take precedence over tournament games. Mr. Schuster made the motion to alter seeding criteria (as above) and Mr. Frazier seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion carried 12 votes for and one vote against.

General Action Items – Bylaws recommendations as per the Bylaws Committee meeting on September 7, 2006 – Ms. Marquez stated that the Bylaws Committee had met and was recommending that the elimination of “at the former member school” and “student must have been attending an NFHS member school” from the rule regarding the did not participate rule in an effort to help students from private, parochial, and home school to get these kids back into public education (see pg. 15 of Attachments). Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that editorial changes were made to order to clarify rules better as follows: In rule 6.3.2, the word “chooses to” was eliminated. In rule 6.2, State Statute requires at least a 6-week grading period, so that schools with four and a half week grading period will now have to comply. Lastly, Rule 6.3.2 B.e.2) the words “or abandoned” would be added to the end of that sentence. Ms. Dimitroff made the motion to accept these recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Medeiros and a vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Restructuring A and AA Regional Tournaments in volleyball and basketball to become first round of State with single games held at District Champion home sites (as per Advisory Referenda) – Mr. Martinez reported that an Advisory Referendum was sent out to Class A and AA member schools (see pgs 16-20). The referendum carried by a vote of 65% for the change and 35% against. Mr. Martinez reiterated that this change would be a cost savings to the schools. Mr. Frazier made the motion to approve. Ms. Dimitroff seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Items – Mid-School Committee – Changing the wrestling start date for junior high/middle school to allow more participation in both wrestling and basketball due to facility conflicts – Mr. Gene Pino, Assistant Director from the NMAA presented a recommendation made by the Junior High Committee to allow a flexible start date for schools that want to start wrestling early so that more students would be able to participate in other sports (see pg. 21 of Attachments). A motion was made by Ms. Dimitroff, and seconded by Mr. Pash. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Items – Officials (NMOA Recommendation) – Consider the abolishment of the exclusion system for basketball and football in order to maintain consistency with the other seven NMOA-sanctioned sports and to be in line with the tenets of “Pursuing Victory With Honor,” which inherently prohibits the practice of excluding officials (effective beginning in 2008-2009) – Mr. Tripp stated that the NMOA has been working hard at recruiting new officials, as well as getting them trained in “Pursuing Victory With Honor.” Trips were made by Mrs. Dana Sanchez and Mr. Dustin Young to both Eastern and

Western New Mexico universities. He then turned it over to Mrs. Sanchez, who stated that the recommendation was to eliminate blackballing since most of the coaches don't use the 5% exclusion rights. She stated that the NMOA would like coaches that have a problem with an official to meet with their district assignor to work out a possible solution (see pg. 22 of Attachments). Mr. Tripp recommended a sub-committee be formed to discuss this topic at further length. A motion was made by Ms. Dimitroff to table this item and form a subcommittee to come up with solutions to improve this problem. Mr. Payen seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Items – Officials (NMOA Recommendation) – Consider revision of the selection process for football officials (effective beginning in 2008-2009) – Mrs. Sanchez stated that the NMOA Executive Board recommended that these changes occur so that more officials could participate in post-season play (see pg. 22 of Attachments). The first motion, *Allow officials to call a maximum of two post-season games for the same school*, was made by Mr. Payen and seconded by Mr. Gerheart. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve this carried by a vote of eight for and five against. The next motion, *Officials may not work for the same school in consecutive weeks*, was made by Mr. Schuster and seconded by Mr. Sayre. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve failed with a vote of three for and ten against. The next motion, *Officials may only officiate one post-season game in the same week*, was made by Mr. Payen and seconded by Mr. Manning. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve failed by a vote of one for and 12 against. The next motion, *Officials may only officiate one state championship in the same season*, was made by Mr. Soto and seconded by Mr. Payen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approved failed by a vote of three for and ten against. The last motion, *Allow schools to continue to make requests for post-season assignments by selecting one crew (Referee and Umpire) from each region per game*, was made by Mr. Sayre and seconded by Mr. Pash. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve failed unanimously.

- IV. *Sports-Specific Action Items – Soccer – Increasing the number of players that a soccer team can have on their roster for the state tournament from 22 to 24 –* Mr. Larry Waters, Athletic Director from La Cueva High School and Soccer Committee member, asked that the roster be increased to 24 players for safety reasons (see pgs. 23 and 23a of Attachments). He stated that soccer players run an average of five to eight miles a game, and that with the 12-team format, some of the athletics could potentially play four games in one day during playoffs. A motion was made by Mr. Schuster to approve. It was seconded by Mr. Frazier and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Soccer – Adopting a World Cup format for the state soccer tournament starting with the 2008-2009 school year – Mr. Waters discussed the interest created in soccer by the World Cup. After meeting with the Sports Specific Committee, it was their recommendation that this format be used for the State Soccer Tournament (see pgs. 24-25 of Attachments). Mr. Waters pointed out that by using this format, all teams would play two games a piece, and that each Class would be able to release soccer athletes for winter sports. He also stated that it would increase revenue and interest at the event. Mr. Carver was concerned about additional costs to the schools and academic time away from school. Mr. Waters reiterated that there would only be four teams each from Class 5A, Class 4A, and Class 1A-3A participating in the Soccer Cup, and that playing over two weekends wouldn't extend the season. Mr. Schuster made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Castillo. A vote was taken and the motion carried 12 votes for and one against.

Cross Country – Allowing Cross Country coaches to coach at national/regional meets during the off-season – Rob and Kathy Hipwood, cross country coaches and members of

the Sports Specific Committee presented a proposal to allow the cross country coaches to coach at several different meets after their season had officially ended (see pg. 26 f Attachments). Mr. Hipwood stated that they polled the cross country coaches (see pgs. 43-49 of Attachments) and it was overwhelmingly in support of this change. He asked that the uniqueness of this sport be considered. He continued that their season was very short, and by allowing their coaches to coach at national meets, it was basically be like extending their season by four weeks, and these meets were great opportunities for the stellar athletes to get scholarships and learn through new life experiences. Mrs. Hipwood stated that cross country coaches aren't using undue influence, and that doing this wouldn't infringe on participation in other sports. She asked that the Commission look at what is best for the kids. Mr. Soto Mr. Hipwood stated that the sports seasons are not equitable. Mr. Tripp recommended that the cross country coaches should meet with the High School Coaches Association and the NMAA about making these meets part of the All-Star games. He continued that this isn't about the length of the season. Mr. Schuster made the motion to approve this, and it was seconded by Mr. Soto. A vote was taken and the motion failed by a vote of four for and nine against.

Swimming & Diving – Mandating district swimming and diving meets starting with the next two-year block (2008-2009) – Mr. Mark Koski, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed how currently there is only one district holding a district meet. He stated the Sports Specific Committee would like to see all schools host district meets to give more students the opportunity of being recognized and receiving medals (see pgs. 27-28 of Attachments). A motion was made by Ms. Dimitroff to approve this request. Mr. Sayre seconded the motion; a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Track & Field – Setting qualifying marks for two-year blocks starting with the current year – Mr. Koski stated he had sent out a survey to track and field coaches. The results were split. He continued that by doing this, it was cut back a tremendous amount of work every other year (see pg. 29 of Attachments). Mr. Schuster made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Payen. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Track & Field – Adhering to the NFHS track event limitation rule as opposed to the current NMAA rule – Mr. Koski reported that New Mexico is one of six states that are not following NFHS rules by allowing students to compete in five events (see pgs. 30-31 of Attachments). NFHS rules state a competitor shall not compete in more than four events, including relays. This rule was based in information provides by the National Sports Medicine group and therefore adopted by the NFHS. He continued that under the current NFHS rule, if any athlete sets a record in New Mexico, it won't qualify because we're not following the rules. He stated coaches won't like this. Mr. Martinez added that he is attending a Section VI meeting later this week and he and Mr. Koski were going to meet with Texas and Arkansas representatives (they also don't follow the rule), along with Mr. Bob Kanaby of the NFHS to continue working on this issue and to establish if liability could be an issue. He recommended tabling the issue until after the Section VI meeting and brings back to the Commission at their November meeting. Mr. Koski advised the Commission that Track and Field is the only sport in New Mexico not following NFHS rules. It was suggested that a survey go out to coaches, but Mr. Tripp stated that he would like to wait until after the Section VI meeting. Mr. Frazier made the motion to table this item until the next meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Soto. A vote was taken and the motion was tabled.

Track & Field – Finishing the state Track & Field meets by 6:00 p.m. on both weekends (as per the Advisory Referenda) – Mr. Koski stated that per the Advisory Referenda (see pgs. 12-14 of Attachments), the time should be changed to allow the State meet to

conclude by 6:00 p.m. (see pg. 32 of Attachments). Mr. Tripp stated this came about because superintendents from around the state don't want their teams driving home after midnight. He suggested that maybe the Sports Specific Committee might want to look at a North-South format. Mr. Medeiros made the motion to approve this change. It was seconded by Ms. Dimitroff and a vote was taken. The motion carried by a vote of 12 for and one against.

Tennis – Allowing the state tennis tournament to start on Thursday evening during the team state tournament – Ms. Marquez stated that last year the Tournament concluded after midnight, and that Jerry Cline is adding lighting for 18 tennis courts. She proposed that the tournament start on Thursday evening, sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. (see pg. 33 of Attachments). Mr. Pash made the motion to accept this change. It was seconded by Mr. Manning, and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Golf – Changing 7.16.3 #3 of the Bylaws to read as follows: Do not round off course ratings: Round the total to the nearest whole number in normal fashion after scores have been shot – Mr. Martinez stated that no one knew how this rule actually came about, but for some unknown reason, scores have been rounded down (see pg. 34 of Attachments). Mr. Gerheart made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Sayre. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Basketball – Increasing team rosters for post-season play from 12 to 15 – Ms. Marquez state that because most teams carry more than 12 players on their rosters during the season, it would be beneficial to change it to 15 players (see pg. 35 of Attachments). Mr. Carver stated he always carried 14 players, and just made them team managers if they made it to the tournament. Ms. Marquez stated that basketball is the biggest revenue generating sport and is made good business sense to do this. She continued that if this proposal passes, she would make sure there would be a limit of team managers. Mr. Castillo made the motion to accept and it was seconded by Mr. Payen. A vote was taken and the motion carried by a vote of 12 in favor and one opposed.

NMHSCA – Annual report and approval of All Star Games for 2008 – Mr. Bobby Gibbs, NMHSCA Executive Secretary, presented their annual report to the Commission (see Handout), and thanked the NMAA for their support, cooperation and assistance to the Coaches Association. He then presented the All Star Game Schedule for 2008 (see pg. 36 of Attachments) and asked that the Commission approve the scheduled. Mr. Castillo made the motion to approve his motion and it was seconded by Mr. Manning. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- V. *General Discussion/Information Items – Recommendations by the Secretary of Education Dr. Veronica Garcia* – Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA now has a lobbyist, Mr. Bud Mulcock, and that they and Mr. Mike Phipps, NMAA Board President, met with Dr. Garcia last week. He stated she asked why alternative school students can't participate, but charter school kids can. She told them that she wanted to see these kids get involved. Mr. Tripp continued that the NMAA is creating language to present to the Board at their next meeting, with the hope it will pass and can be presented at the Annual Meeting. He also reported that with appeals that end up with a restraining order are usually overturned if the judges see that the student is a good kid. Another issue Dr. Garcia doesn't agree with is the 180-day rule. Mr. Tripp stated she very respectfully requested this be accomplished by November, so that it doesn't become a legislative issue. Mr. Tripp stated the NMAA is looking for the positives about having to change this rule. He stated business wise, it made good sense. He stated that with the 75 or so appeals probably cost the NMAA approximately \$100,000. He stated the NMAA is looking at changing it to 90 days or one-

half of the season. Mrs. Marquez added that the Bylaws will still keep the 180-day rule for recruiting and/or undue influence. Mr. Carver felt going to half of a season would be more equitable for all sports and might ease up the number of appeals. Mr. Tripp informed the group that once the hardship definition has been established, that too will help ease the number of petitions. He stated that there have been debates if the NMAA is about a level playing field or student participation. Mr. Tripp also stated that Dr. Garcia's office stated that if schools have documentation on file with a coach's school, licensure issues can be addressed directly to the PED.

General Discussion/Information Items – Results of the Alternative School Eligibility Referenda and the future of this issue – Mr. Tripp referred the Commission to the Advisory Referendum regarding Alternative School participation (see pgs. 37-39 of Attachments). He stated that this would continue to be an issue at the legislature this January.

General Discussion/Information Items – Results of 10- and 8-semester rule referenda and the changes to this rule – Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to the attached referendum (see pgs. 40-42 of Attachments) and stated that it had passed to change it to 8-semesters. Because of AYP, superintendents needed to retain some students, but did want to punish the kid. He stated that if a student doesn't play up in the eighth grade and is retain, the student's eligibility won't start until the ninth grade.

General Discussion/Information Items – Home School Eligibility Issues – Mr. Tripp stated he had asked Dr. Garcia and the PED for its support that home school students not be allowed to participate in athletics, but felt it could possibly be a legislative issue.

General Discussion/Information Items – Future of Spring State Tournaments – Mr. Tripp stated that baseball currently has the two-week dead period in the summer, and it was felt by the Baseball Sports Specific Committee that the season was too short. He continued that they wanted double elimination instead of single, and they would like to see the dead period during the fall.

General Discussion/Information Items – Rule that prohibits member schools from playing non-member schools – Mr. Martinez stated that playing non-member schools is a liability issue. He stated he wasn't sure if this rule was voted on or if it was just something mandated by the past administration, but felt this should go out as advisory referenda after the Section VI meeting next, depending on information gathered from the NFHS regarding liability.

General Discussion/Information Items – Progress with the new NMAA website – Mr. Robert Zayas, NMAA Assistant Director, stated that things were progressing well with the new website. It was supposed to have been complete by now, but stated there were still a few glitches to be worked out. He continued that the good news is we are still on track with the budget because the NMAA negotiated a one-time fee instead of an hourly fee. He informed the Commission that currently there were 2,700 MVP users and 14,000 students posted to date. He said the new website is very user friendly, and doesn't require much training. He stated that hosting the district clinics on-line had been very successful, and had saved the schools much time and expense by cutting out travel to attend them. Upon completion of the NMAA website, this same company will be designing a new website for the NMHSCA, and the two will be able to cross over, thus saving coaches time by using NMAA databases.

- VI. Mr. Martinez reminded everyone about the upcoming 8-Man Showcase this weekend at Menaul High School and invited everyone to come out and enjoy some 8-man football.

Mr. Carver informed the Commission that the next meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA. Mr. Tripp indicated that with the help of nmaanetwork.com, the Commission meetings, board meetings, and appeals will be taped.

- VII. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Payen. It was seconded by Mr. Frazier and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.