

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



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 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 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. Chris Pash (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors 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), 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. Schuster made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented and Mr. Sayre seconded. Mr. Martinez asked that the Football Sports Specific item referring to playoff game dates be removed from the agenda. Mr. Schuster and Mr. Sayre amended their motion to include this adjustment. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the November 15, 2006 meeting were presented (see pages 3-6 of the Commission packet). Mr. Johnson asked that Title IV be changed to Title IX on page 4. A motion was made by Mr. Gerheart to approve the minutes with said adjustment. Ms. Dimitroff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Tripp asked the Commission to consider arranging Pursuing Victory With Honor workshops for their schools. He also made an open invitation to any schools interested in scheduling a workshop and asked them to contact the NMAA office for further details.

Mr. Tripp announced the upcoming, 2nd Annual Principal's Summit which will take place on January 22, at 9:00 AM at the Wyndham Albuquerque Airport. He informed the Commission that Mr. Bill Bond, Executive Director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, will be the guest speaker at this event. Mr. Bond was the principal at Poduka High School, the site of the first High School shooting. He will be presenting crisis management tactics, including media relations during times of crisis.

New Mexico is the only state in the nation that Mr. Bond has not yet visited, so we are very honored to have him speaking at this event. In the afternoon, NMAA staff will be speaking to summit attendees.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that he and Ms. Dana Sanchez, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, met with members of the United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA) regarding recruiting Softball and Baseball officials. After this meeting, the NMAA/NMOA is considering offering more competitive pay rates to NMOA officials.

Mr. Tripp stated that the out of season coaching rule (NMAA Handbook Rule 7.4) will continue to be implemented. The results of the Member School survey taken at the Annual Meeting supports this decision.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission that the NMAA is continually looking at ways to best adjust the current sports seasons to avoid overlap. One possible schedule is presented below. These changes would benefit multi-sport athletes. Mr. Tripp asked that Commission members consider these changes and discuss them and any suggestions with the NMAA.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Calendar Weeks</u>	<u>Length of Season</u>
Fall	7-19	12 weeks
Winter	20-37*	17 weeks
Spring	33-48**	15 weeks

* We are locked into week 37 due to the schedule/contract with the UNM Pit

** Week 48 would be used primarily by Baseball and Softball

Ms. Sally Marquez addressed the Commission and offered to visit any schools/communities interested in discussing Title IX issues.

Ms. Marquez updated the Commission on feedback regarding the 2006 State Volleyball Tournament. Approximately 90% of the comments the NMAA has received have been in favor of the new format and venue (Tingley Coliseum), but the Tournament's expenses were notably higher. The NMAA will continue to consider this as a venue for next year is decided on.

Mr. Mario Martinez congratulated Mr. Bruce Carver and Ms. Cris Dimitroff on their re-election to the Commission.

Mr. Martinez thanked Ms. Sanchez for her work in creating and facilitating an Ad Hoc committee regarding the exclusion system in Basketball. The system will remain, but a written reason is now required from any school that would like to exclude an official. This also holds true for officials requesting that a school(s) be excluded from their schedule.

Mr. Martinez informed the Commission that both Golf and Football Sports Specific Committees have had very productive meetings this season. Statistically, as shown through the research of an NMAA intern, the seeding committees have been very successful.

Mr. Martinez reminded the Commission of the venues for the 2007 State Golf Championships.

- 1-3A New Mexico Tech Golf Course (Socorro, NM)
- 4A New Mexico State Golf Course (Las Cruces, NM)
- 5A University of New Mexico Golf Courses (Albuquerque, NM)

General Action Items – Definition of participation (Tryouts versus practice versus games).
– Ms. Marquez presented the Commission with a situation that arose this year which calls for a concrete definition of participation.

Four freshman were cut after tryouts for a team and attempted to transfer to another school to participate on that team. These students were ruled ineligible per the 5 day practice rule. The argument from the aggrieved was regarding the definition of participation, stating that the students were not members of the team during tryouts, nor were they participating or practicing with the team.

As a result of the above situation, the Board of Directors asked for a definition of participation. The rule was edited to avoid future loopholes (see page 7 of the Commission packet). The primary changes to this rule are stated below.

- Freshmen/1st year students who have never participated in a program will not be considered participants during the try-out period.
- Students who have previously participated are considered participants beginning on the first day of tryouts.

Mr. Carver asked if this rule would affect Jr. Highs and Middle Schools. Mr. Tripp answered that because Jr. Highs and Middle Schools are given more leniency in regards to open enrollment, this rule will not be enforced at that level.

Mr. Sayre made a motion to show support of this change and Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Financial responsibility for appeals initiated by member schools –
Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that the NMAA has been financially affected by the number of appeals being brought to the office. Each appeal heard by the appeals committee carries financial costs due to one or more of the following; conference call expenses, investigation fees, time of NMAA employees, transcribing time and costs, processing fees, and legal fees. Under the current procedure, schools have nothing to lose when appealing, so often no consideration is taken before beginning the appeal process. This proposal would make schools financially responsible for a portion of the appeal costs. The fee would be determined by a rubric which takes appeal costs and appeal time into consideration.

Ms. Dimitroff asked if this fee would be assessed to the school or the parents. Ms. Marquez answered that according to NMAA Bylaws, the NMAA cannot assess a fee to an individual or family. The school/district would be assessed the fee. She also stated that the Superintendent's signature would be required to begin the appeal process.

Mr. Tripp asked the Commission to please note that if the ruling being appealed is overturned, no fee would be assessed.

Discussion ensued.

*Call for question.

Ms. Dimitroff made a motion to accept the proposal presented on page 8 of the Commission packet, with the addition of a minimum fee of \$250. Mr. Schuster seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Policies for disqualified coaches and players placed in the NMAA Handbook for permanent reference point– Mr. Martinez presented pages 9 & 10 of the

Commission packet which are the proposed written policies for disqualified coaches and players.

Mr. Carver made a motion to accept these policies. Mr. Sayre seconded and a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Examination of current hardship petition process and the potential future of this issue– Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that there will be a meeting on January 16, 2007 to further examine this issue. No vote required.

General Action Items – Clarification of out-of-season coaching versus one hour of a day for athletes not involved in a current sport – Sally presented page 11 of the Commission packet to the Commission and explained that this issue most often affects athletes who participate in a Fall sport and then a Spring sport. For example; a football player who does not participate in a winter sport and is trying to condition for baseball.

Mr. Castillo made a motion to approve the exception as presented and Mr. Payen seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission took a 10 minute recess and re-convened at 10:45 AM.

- II. *Sports-Specific Action Items – Football – Adopt procedures for coin flips when two teams must flip to determine game site. (For 2007 season)*– Mr. Martinez presented page 12 of the Commission packet and a handout (see appendix A). This handout was presented to a approved by the Sports Specific Committee on January 9, 2007. These procedures have been deemed necessary following conflicts during the 2006 Football post season.

Mr. Gerheart made a motion to accept the proposed policies as presented. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sports-Specific Action Items – Soccer – In the sport of soccer, if a team exceeds the game limitation set by the NMAA, that team would be automatically eliminated from post season play. – Mr. Robert Zayas, NMAA Assistant Director, presented this proposal, see page 13 of the Commission packet, on behalf of the Soccer Sports Specific Committee. Mr. Pash made a motion to approve the proposal as stated and Mr. Castillo seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion died due to a lack of votes.

Sports-Specific Action Items – Soccer – Implementation of procedures whereas when a team (coaches and player) collectively receive a set number of yellow/red cards that team would be prohibited from post season play. (for 2007 season) – Ms. Sanchez presented pages 14-17 of the Commission packet to the Commission. Page 17 is a breakdown of the yellow and red cards given out during the 2006 soccer season.

Under the proposed policy, eight soccer teams would have been required to attend a meeting with Mr. Tripp during the 2006 season. Four teams would have been prohibited from post-season play, two of which did participate in the 2006 State Tournament.

Mr. Schuster made a motion that the policy be accepted as presented. Mr. Sayre seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Sports-Specific Action Items – Soccer – Implementation of the World Cup Soccer format for 2007 versus 2008. – Mr. Zayas presented this proposal, see pages 18-23, on behalf of

the Soccer Sports Specific Committee. He reminded the Commission that the World Cup format had been approved for implementation beginning in the 2008 season.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Carver made a motion to accept this proposal and Mr. Payen seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sports-Specific Action Items – Track and Field – Member schools have seven calendar days to post qualifying marks established at qualifying meets. This is to be done through the NMAA via www.directathletics.com. – Mr. Mark Koski, NMAA Assistant Director, presented page 24 of the Commission packet to the Commission. He stated that Swimming and Diving coaches were notified at the beginning of the season that this proposal may be passed and they have been doing a great job at posting marks within the stated time limit.

Ms. Dimitroff made a motion to accept this proposal, and Mr. Baisa seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- III. *General Discussion/Information Items – 90 day versus 180 day ineligibility period* – Ms. Marquez asked the Commission to take note of the adjusted policy presented on page 25 of the Commission packet.

General Discussion/Information Items – Alignment and Classification for the next two-year block – Mr. Martinez presented the schedule of the Alignment and Classification process to be complete in September of 2007. He also presented one Alignment and Classification proposal, and asked that schools consider submitting a proposal if they have concerns. He asked that schools do thorough research before submitting a proposal.

General Discussion/Information Items – State Basketball Tournament – Ms. Marquez spoke with Commission regarding the 2007 State Basketball Tournament. She informed the Commission that the Santa Ana Star Arena, one of the venues for this year's tournament, is proving to be more costly than expected.

General information regarding the 2007 First Community Bank State Basketball Tournament:

- State Tournament – March 6-10 (UNM Pit, Santa Ana Star Arena, and Rio Rancho High School)
- Superintendent passes can be secured by contacting Kristin at the NMAA office at (505) 923-3265
- Please check email filters to assure that NMAA email is not being restricted
- Note: a box has been added to the online scheduling feature for “regular season tournament”
- Post season play – 12 uniformed players
- Post season play – 20 total members on the bench, including coaches, managers, trainers, etc.

General Discussion/Information Items – State Wrestling tournament format and other wrestling issues – Mr. Scott Evans, NMAA Assistant Director, informed the Commission about some important issues in regards to the 2007 State Wrestling Tournament.

- State Tournament – February 16-17 (Santa Ana Star Arena)
- Weight management program is going well

- Santa Ana Star Arena – very remote location so a ½ day pass and a day pass will be sold
- Wrestling is losing numbers (11 teams in class 1-3A and 8 is the minimum in order to be a legitimate classification for post-season participation)

- IV. Mr. Johnson informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA.
- V. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dimitroff. It was seconded by Mr. Gerheart and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.