

*Summary of*  
**Softball Sports Specific Meeting**  
**Thursday January 29, 2009**  
11:00 a.m., Conference Room C

A regular meeting of the Softball Sports Specific Meeting was held on January 29, 2009, located in the NMAA Conference Room C. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gene Pino, NMAA Assistant Director. The following committee members were present: Cheryl Johnson; Central A.D.'s, Brandi Thomas; Class 5A SE, Kevin Werth; Class 4A NW, Gilbert Munoz; Class 3A SE, and John Baca; Officials NE. NMAA Administrative Assistant, Alissa McCarthy was present to take minutes for the meeting.

Gene opened up the meeting by presenting to the committee the NMAA's proposal for the new alignment and classification. He mentioned that the NMAA is still accepting changes recommended by the schools. This proposal is for the next four year block and there will be more input at the Board meeting held at the Pit during the State Basketball championships in March. At the previous Board meeting, several A/AA Baseball coaches came to talk about the issues of combined baseball classifications and how such issues and resolutions could affect softball as well.

Two positions are open on the committee, the first, is the representation of an Athletic Director North or South region. The second is a representative from Class 1A/2A. A suggestion was to ask Danny Vigil with the McCurdy area to represent this area at the previous meeting, however he currently is no longer coaching. Another representative mentioned was Michelle Ponce, however she is swamped with work. A suggestion was a gentleman coaching at Navajo Prep by the name of Benny that would represent the A/Aa schools.

Mr. Gene Pino told the committee that a proposal to the Board regarding a uniform tie breaking procedure for each sport were tabled at the Board meeting. He said that there are issues such as Hobbs tied with Clovis and needing to play a playoff game at a neutral site, however the closest neutral site would be a lot of traveling for one game. In the sport of softball there is usually not any time to have a playoff game between district play and state. Therefore there is a need for a tiebreaker procedure for all districts to fall in their sport. He presented the following tiebreaker procedure that would be for softball: head to head between the teams, least runs given up, +- 10 and the last resort is a coin flip. The concern that was stated was giving up the autonomy, Mr. Pino assured the committee this proposal would not go into affect until the 09-10 school year.

Mr. Gene Pino informed the committee that the online rules clinic for softball starts February 1 and ends on February 28. There was a discussion regarding whether the online clinic should be mandatory and in person for coaches to ask questions if they should have any. The committee agreed that the online clinic is very convenient; however they recommended that coaches and officials get together once a year particularly around the district playoffs to get all questions answered if there should be any. Mr. Pino did

comment on the issue of budget cuts that are occurring that could be affected if they go back to having mandatory rules clinics in attendance.

Mr. Pino reviewed the online clinic. There is a Powerpoint of information regarding the NFHS rules and regulations, included is the handbook and rule changes of the NMAA as well as important dates, hotels and deadlines pertaining to the sport of softball.

The committee reviewed the ejections rules if a coach or player were to be ejected from a game. There is a \$100 fine as well as a PVWH essay that must be submitted by the person ejected before they can be cleared to play/coach. He mentioned the appeal process that is being proposed which allows for a school/coach to appeal the ejection decision if needed. The committee stated their concern for the fine, feeling that \$100 was too high.

Mr. Gene Pino reviewed the schedule for the 2009 State Softball Championships. He informed the committee that the tournament is being held on May 14-16. The previous year 3A was in the morning, followed by 5A, 4A and concluding with A/AA play. This year the schedule is 4A playing in the morning, 3A playing at noon followed by 5A in the afternoon and ending with A/AA play. This schedule allows for equal amounts of rest for the teams and allows for equality from year to year. The softball seeding/selection meeting will be held on Mother's day in the morning. He asked that the representatives for each district come to the meeting prepared, knowing the standings of each team/district. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year and a master schedule of games in case of rain was given to the committee. The tournament will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Mr. Pino stated that this year there is a larger pool to choose from in the area of official within the Las Cruces and Alamogordo area. The fields the tournament will be played at are Field of Dreams and Maag field. The championship games will be filmed live on nmaafilms.tv. He is still hoping to receive help with filming these games due to state baseball and track and field taking place during the same time. Mr. Pino mentioned that due to the economy, he is unsure that the hamburger fry will occur this year. Therefore the coaches need to ensure they are fitting an extra meal for their team into their budget, as last year the hamburger fry fed the athletes the first night before the tournament. The night before the tournament starts there will be an umpires meeting held at 6:00 PM followed by a coaches meeting at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Pino informed the committee on many issues. One being that the 3 man clinic proposed to the Board had failed. The committee disagreed with making the double base mandatory on fields. The official start date for softball/baseball is week 32. The NMAA is taking bids for the state tournament for the next two years. The WAC Championships will be held in Las Cruces, NM in 2010.

Mr. John Baca stated that the Officials Executive Board. Among their discussion was the time limit for sub-varsity softball games. Currently there is no limit and the Board wants to make that limit 1 hour and 45 minutes. The committee stated they would be ok with a 2 hour time limit as well but do agree that a time limit needs to be in place for sub-varsity games.

Mr. Kevin Worth stated his concern for the rule regarding the courtesy runner. The current rule states a player has a 26 game limit for a season, once you step on the field it counts as a game even if the player is only a courtesy runner. This limits the player to not being able to play sub-varsity and be a courtesy runner for varsity games because that would count as two games for that player. Mr. Worth and the rest of the committee agree that having a game counted against the player if they are only a courtesy runner is unfair. The committee would like to see this issue go to the Commission again.

Mr. Worth also mentioned that Mr. Buster Mabrey of the New Mexico Coaches Association has scheduled two sessions for softball coaches to attend the annual coaches' clinic. He asked the committee for recommendations for speakers and clinicians. He stressed the importance of having good attendance to keep this opportunity going annually.

Mr. Pino will contact all members of the next meeting date. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.