

Summary of
Softball Sports Specific Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2008
9:00 a.m., Conference Room A

A regular meeting of the Softball Sports Specific Meeting was held on September 23, 2008, located in the NMAA Conference Room A. 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, Mindy Ioane was present for the purpose of note taking. Gene Victor, former chairperson, was present to orientate new members of the committee.

Two positions are open on the committee, the first, is the representation of an Athletic Director North or South region, South region is preferable because the State Softball Championship will be held in Las Cruces. The second is a representative from Class 1A/2A. A suggestion was to ask Danny Vigil with the McCurdy area to represent this area. Mr. Pino will first check with Buster Mabrey (NMHSCA) to verify qualifications before he is asked to join the committee.

Term positions were verified and all information on the committee roster was reviewed for accuracy. All members agreed to have their information posted on the NMAA website. The agenda was also reviewed and approved with no changes.

The committee reviewed the State Championships softball financial report for the past four years. Last year there were 16 teams (four more teams than the previous year) and a half day rain out, with the net income showing a profit \$17,751.

The softball district summary will have an increase in participating schools next season with Cleveland being added to class 5A, Atrisco Heritage and Volcano Vista being added to 4A, Miyamura, to 3A and Mora, Pecos, Lake Arthur, and Tucumcari being added to class A/AA. The Board of Directors has put the schools into 5 districts to help with the rising cost of gas. The 12-16 team format selection and at-large teams will stay the same as it is for this two-year block.

The committee reviewed the 2009 NFHS Softball Rules Changes; there were no questions or comments about the changes. Mr. Pino mentioned that there are videos on line which will help umpires and will help with coaches education.

Mr. Gary Tripp, NMAA Executive Director and visited with the committee to discuss the issue of lightening delay and procedures to follow in the event of a delay. He asked that the committee review the policy pertaining to the sport of softball and to bring any recommendations to the Board of Directors if needed. Mr. Tripp then left the meeting. All committee members were in agreement that the procedure was adequate for the sport

of softball and that no changes are needed. The procedures are located on page 58 of the NMAA handbook 7.18.1 E.

The Softball Committee reviewed the Softball Rules Clinic Unit 1 letter that will be posted on the online rules clinic. There were some minor changes were made and it was approved. The letter will be posted on the NMAA website on February 1, 2009.

Next, the committee members each expressed their views on the double elimination format for the State Tournament. Each member was asked for their opinion and even those who were not in favor originally believe that over all, there was very few complaints, the officials were in support of it and it was best for the athletes, giving the kids a positive experience.

Coach Gene Victor (Cibola High School) joined the meeting to give a new member orientation. Mr. Victor discussed the process of requesting a double elimination to the Board of Directors and explained that after discussion it was approved. Mr. Victor also stressed to the committee to only take imperative items to the BOD. He also stated that the start of softball date was moved back one week to February 1, 2008.

Mr. Pino briefly defined the definition of the season, and out of season coaching and noted that sports camps held during the summer must be on a voluntary basis only.

The committee briefly discussed next Championship's schedule, with the possibility of moving Class 5A to play at noon, and rotating the other games. Discussion will continue in the January meeting including discussion on brackets referenda vote. He reminded the committee that schedules must be posted on the NMAA website.

Discussion at the coaches meeting, scheduled before the Championship games will cover the need to have every coach's phone number in case of whether delays. Coach's packets will be emailed by the NMAA.

Mr. Victor stresses the fact that the softball coaches want for form a community through the NMHSCA in order to be able communicate with each other.

The committee discussed the number of games for playoffs. A referendum will be sent out next month on this issue. A vote was taken that all Softball Championship officials must have attended the rules clinic in order to be qualified for the Championships.

Mr. Pino will contact all members of the next meeting date. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m...