

August 6, 2010

Dear Coaches, Officials, and Athletic Administrators:

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. We are looking forward to working with all of you throughout the year in making this school year a wonderful experience for our student-athletes.

This summer I was able to listen to Athletic Directors, Officials, and Coaches concerning their particular issues with high school sports. It was clear to me that Athletic Directors are very worried about budget cuts, Title IX legislation, and meeting the demands as Spirit becomes a sport. Officials were working hard this summer attending hands-on clinics, seminars and becoming better communicators with coaches. They asked the question "How do we get coaches to gain a more in-depth understanding of the rules?" And, during a recent breakfast with coaches they brought up the following concerns:

- Data driven process in Seeding and Selection.
- Allowing small schools to co-op in all sports to help all our students enjoy all sports even ones that are not offered in their schools.
- Coaches want "limits" created in all sports during the summer months.
- Coaches want the best officials coming to state every year. "The best officials cannot be on a rotational system."

I sincerely hope that I captured the concerns/issues of the majority of athletic directors, officials, and coaches throughout our state. If I have not done this, please send an email to me at gtripp@nmact.org addressing the major problems in your area. I will then collect your responses to determine whether your issues are concerns of the majority, and if so work towards a solution.

As we move forward and begin the 2010-2011 school year, I will try and address these concerns in all areas throughout the state. I can tell you that Seeding and Selection is set for the next two years; however we can begin working on what a majority see is a quality data driven process in the event that the NMAA staff does not meet the school expectations. The staff at the NMAA will also work with a ad-hoc committee that I will personally form (one member from each sport specific committee, an NMOA representative and a couple of Athletic Directors) to work through and address problems that arise at the school level regarding summer activities.

I know this message is lengthy; however, I would like to share a couple more thoughts with all of you. I believe a majority of you have been positive role models for our students. Remember true character is exhibited when no one is watching. It is imperative that all us give our students good role modeling, from the language we use, in body and words, to how we treat each other, and truly respect our opponents and one another. Lastly "We are High School," this means that we are all educators. Demand good grades, quality work ethic, teamwork, and all the great values we instill in our student athletes. This is what matters most, and for this all students will be grateful when they graduate from high school and pursue their dreams.

Good luck to all of you this school year!

Sincerely,

Gary Tripp
NMAA Executive Director