

SECTION VII SPORTS REGULATIONS

7.0 MASTER TABLE OF ATHLETIC EVENTS AS APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SPORT	CLASSES	WEEK # PRACTICE BEGINS GRADES 9-12	WEEK # PRACTICE BEGINS GRADES 6-8	CONTEST LIMITATIONS			DAYS OF REQUIRED PRACTICE BEFORE COMPETITION	WEEK # STATE EVENTS GRADES 9-12 ONLY
				VARSITY	SUB- VARSITY	GRADES 6-8		
Baseball	4	32	32	26	23	18	5	45-46
Basketball	6	19	*16 19	26	23	18	5	37
Cross Country	4	7	7	8	8	7	5	19
Football	6-Man	7	7 th & 8 th only Week 7	9	8	7 th & 8 th only 7 games	10	18
	8-Man, A	7		10	9		10	21
	2A	7		10	9		10	22
	3A, 4A, 5A	7		10	9		10	23
Golf	3	Year round	Year round	10	10	8	N/A	46
Soccer	3	7	7	20	17	14	5	19
Softball	4	32	32	26	23	18	5	46
Spirit/Cheer	6	Year round	Year round	5 Competitions	N/A	N/A	10	39
Spirit/Dance Drill	4	Year round	Year round	5 Competitions	N/A	N/A	10	39
Swimming & Diving	1	Year round	Year round	10	10	8	5	34
Tennis	3	Year round	Year round	12	12	8	5	Team: 45 Individual: 46
Track & Field	5	32	32	10	7	7	5	1A/2A – 45 3A/5A – 46
Volleyball	6	7	7	20	17	14	5	20
Wrestling	3	19	16	14	12	12	5	34

Classes: 4 = A & AA Combined 3 = A, AA & AAA Combined * denotes split season

7.1 CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES

7.1.1 Within New Mexico

High school and junior high/middle school state-level competitions within New Mexico, both athletic and non-athletic, must be sanctioned by and conducted in accordance with the rules, regulations, procedures, and guidelines of the Association.

7.1.2 Out of State

“Extended Trips” are defined per sport as out-of-state travel to any site over 300 land miles from the nearest border of New Mexico. Each school is limited to one extended trip per varsity team, per academic year for athletics. All such trips shall have 90-day prior approval and comply with all applicable National Federation sanctioning procedures. The local school board has discretion on approval of extended trips for activities.

7.1.3 Competition Against Suspended School

Member schools shall not participate in activities/athletic events with a school suspended by the Association.

7.1.4 Participation with NFHS Member Schools Only

Member schools may only participate in athletic events with a school who is currently a member of an NFHS Association.

QI: *If an NMAA member soccer team wishes to scrimmage a local club team and utilize the game as their one allowable scrimmage, are they allowed to?*

AI: *No, NMAA member schools may participate (scrimmage or game) against NFHS or NMAA member schools only.*

7.2 DEFINITION OF A SEASON

A sport season is defined as the time when the sport is played from the first day of practice to the end of the state tournament, or when a team/individual does not qualify for or is eliminated from post-season competition (playoffs, district, and/or state tournaments). During District Tournament week, or once seeding and selection for state tournament play has taken place, no regular season games/matches/events can be scheduled/played. At the sub-varsity level, the season concludes at the end of regular season competition. (See 7.6.8)

QI: *A basketball team has played 25 of their allowable 26 games prior to the District Tournament. Even though the tournament begins on Tuesday evening, as the regular season district champion, they don't play in the tournament until the Saturday evening championship game. Can they schedule and play a 26th game on Monday of District Tournament week?*

AI: *No regular season games may be played during District Tournament Week.*

7.3 MULTI-ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom. The NMAA encourages Students to take part in as many activities as possible and school personnel are expected to encourage multi-activity participation as well. Specific parameters are established in this section for season lengths and number of contests per season. Participation on non-school teams is not regulated by the NMAA.

7.3.1 Dual Participation

Participating on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season is discouraged. If a Student is allowed by the local school district to participate in this manner, the school's sub-varsity/varsity event limit may not be exceeded cumulatively.

QI: *If a student participates on a high school soccer team and a club soccer team during the NMAA soccer season, do both count against the maximum limit of 20 allowable games?*

AI: *Yes they do. From the first day of the soccer season through the end of the regular season, a soccer athlete is allowed to play in a maximum of 20 games and 1 scrimmage.*

7.4 OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

There shall be no out-of-season coaching during the school year of current or potential athletes, including feeder-school students beginning at the 7th grade (8th grade in schools that do not allow 8th grade participation at the high school level), with the exception of an athletic class or one hour a day, Monday through Friday, for those sports programs that do not have an athletic class. This provision applies to all school coaches, paid and volunteer. This rule prohibits coaching these individuals on any team (school or non-school sponsored) out-of-season during the school year.

7.4.1 Violations for Out-of-Season Coaching During the School Year

Violation of this rule will result in the following sanctions:

First Offense: The member school will be fined \$2,500.00, which must be paid by the member school prior to its participation in any further contests in that particular sport. The coach, who is in violation, will be instructed to adhere to this rule.

Second Offense: The member school will be fined \$5,000.00, which must be paid by the member school prior to its participation in any further contests in that particular sport. The NMAA will also contact the Public Education Department Licensing Division and inform them of the offending coach's "unethical practices" in connection with his or her coaching license.

Q1: Can a coach of a high school program coach a club team during the school year?

A1: Yes, as long as the club team is made up of students who are not current or potential/feeder school athletes as identified above. For example, a boy's basketball coach may coach a girls' basketball club team, or a boys' basketball club team with students who are not current or potential/feeder athletes.

Q2 If a district does not allow 8th graders to participate at the high school level, who are considered the potential/feeder school students?

A2: Students in the 8th grade and above are considered the potential/feeder school students.

Q3: If a district allows 8th graders to participate at the high school level, who are considered the potential/feeder school students?

A3: Students in the 7th grade and above are considered the potential/feeder school students.

Q4: A coach's daughter plays on his high school team. Can he coach her in club?

A4: Yes. However, no other current/potential/feeder school students may be on that club team.

Q5: *Can a volunteer, non-paid individual help with stats for a particular school and then coach a club team out-of-season during the school year which includes current/potential/feeder school students of that same school?*

A5: *Yes, as long as he/she is not assisting at any practices or working in any other coaching capacity on the bench or sideline during a regular or post-season game.*

Q6: *Can a coach (paid or volunteer) travel to events with a club team which includes current/potential/feeder school students as long as he/she is not serving as their coach?*

A6: *No, because he/she still has contact with those current/potential/feeder school students in the club environment.*

Q7: *If a coach resigns after his/her season is over and coaches a club team with current/potential/feeder athletes, then re-signs a contract with that same school for the next season, is this acceptable?*

A7: *No. The school will be subject to the \$2500 fine.*

Q8: *Can a middle-school or junior high school coach serve as the coach of the feeder high school team in that same sport, with the same gender athletes, during the off- season?*

A8: *Any coach of an NMAA member mid-school or junior high school is considered a member of the coaching staff of that specific sport at the high school that his/her school feeds students into and therefore, during the off-season, is not eligible to coach athletes/potential athletes from that school and of the gender that he/she coaches in that sport during the regular season.*

7.4.2 Coaching Student Athletes Outside of School / Player Following Coach

If a student participates on a non-school team (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club settings, summer program, etc.) that is affiliated with or coached by a coach from a school other than the one the Student attends or has attended, and then transfers to that school, regardless of change in bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the Student has been recruited to attend that school or transferred to that school for athletic reasons and the student will be ineligible for all high school athletic participation for 180 school / calendar days. If the Student transfers to a school that his/her coach has relocated to within the past year, regardless of change in the Student's bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the Student transferred to that school for athletic reasons and he/she will be ineligible there for all high school athletic participation for 180 school / 365 calendar days.

Q1: *If during the summer months, an athlete from one school participates on a team from another school which is coached by a member of that school's coaching staff, and then transfers to that school, would this be considered a violation of NMAA guidelines?*

A1: *Yes, the NMAA would rule that the athlete was in violation of the "Player Following the Coach" policy thus making that athlete ineligible for participation for 180 school days/365 calendar days.*

7.4.3 Athletic Classes

- A. During the school year, but outside a particular sport season (out-of-season), a member school may allow participation in that particular sport during an athletic period. The participation may not last longer than the allotted class time. For schools not having an athletic period/class, a block of one (1) hour time may be used each school day for sports participation. Interschool competition/scrimmages are prohibited during the off-season.
- B. If a student-athlete is not currently participating in a sport, but is involved in an athletic class whose sport is not in season, the student-athlete may then participate for one hour a day on school days in his/her second sport. (See Q2 and A2 below)
- C. Out-of-season and during the school year, schools with athletic classes cannot have team or individual meetings or film sessions before school, at lunch time, after school, evenings, or on weekends with student athletes enrolled in the athletic class. Contact with the student athlete enrolled in the athletic class is limited to only the in-school length of that athletic class.

Q1: Can the one hour block of time be used in different increments to total 5 hours during the school week? For example, can I practice 2 hours on Monday and 3 hours on Tuesday?

A1: No. Rule 7.4.1 states one (1) hour each school day. These hours may not be used cumulatively.

Q2: Can a football player who is enrolled in a football athletic class during the off-season participate for one hour a day with the baseball coach after school?

A2: Yes. As long as the baseball program does not have an athletic class and the student is not involved in a winter sport.

Q3: If a baseball player is not enrolled in an athletic class taught by a member of the school's baseball staff, is that player eligible to work with a member of the staff for one-hour per day during the off season and outside of the school day?

A3: Yes, all athletes are afforded the opportunity to work with a member of a specific sport's coaching staff for one hour per day during the off season.

Q4: If a student is enrolled in an athletic class for an out of season sport, does that student still have the one-hour per school day practice option with the coaching staff of that particular sport?

A4: No, participation in a sport specific athletic class during the off season takes the place of the allowable one hour per school day out of season practice.

Q5: If a student's school is on an A/B block schedule where classes do not meet daily (ex. Mon., Wed., Fri.) and one of the student's classes is a sports specific athletic course, is that student afforded the opportunity to participate in a one-hour per school day out of season practice with the coaching staff on the days that the class does not meet?

A5: Yes, a student is allowed to practice with the coaching staff for one hour per school day during the off-season. If enrolled in a sport specific athletic class that does not meet daily, the student may practice with the coaching staff for a maximum of one hour per school day on the days that the class does not meet.

Q6: *If school is not in session on a particular day (snow day, teacher conference, spring break, etc.), is a student still afforded the one hour per school day out of season practice option with the coaching staff?*

A6: *No, school must be, or have been in session on a particular day for the one hour out of season practice with the coaching staff to be allowed.*

Q7: *If a school is on a 4 x 4 block schedule where classes meet for 90 minute periods, does participation in a sports specific athletic class during the off season violate the Out of Season Coaching Bylaw?*

A7: *No, if the sports specific athletic class exceeds one hour in length, practice with the coaching staff for the entire timeframe of the class is allowed.*

7.4.4 Open Gymnasium or Facility

During the School year, out-of-season coaching in a particular sport by a coach of that sport is prohibited, with the exception of one-hour per day or one sport specific athletic class, but not both, each school day (see exception 7.4.3B above). For purposes of this rule, an “open gym” does not count toward the one-hour period. An “open gym” means any school gymnasium or other facility which is expressly made available to the general student population without any coaching, training or instruction other than in the safe use of the facilities, and no person is restricted from observing the activity.

Q1: *An athlete is enrolled in an athletic class during the school day. Can he/she participate in an after-school sports specific program for that sport?*

A1: *No, during the off-season (with the exception of summer) each athlete is allowed one hour of instruction time with coaches of a particular sport, either during or outside of the school day.*

Q2: *If an athlete is enrolled in an athletic class, may he/she participate in a weightlifting/conditioning program after school?*

A2: *Yes, as long as there is no instruction by an adult, the weightlifting/condition program is open to the general student population, and attendance is not required for school team membership.*

Q3: *If a student is enrolled in a sports specific athletic class, can they also participate in open gym for that sport?*

A3: *Yes they may as long as there is **NO INSTRUCTION** other than safe facility use during the open gym.*

7.5 SUMMER CAMPS/SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS

Summer activities are under the guidance of the local school/school district. Summer camps, recreation programs, and other programs which are outside the conventional school year are restricted to the period between the end of the second (spring) semester and the beginning of the first (fall) semester of the following school year, or until the official practice season for that sport begins (as stated in the NMAA handbook for each sport), whichever comes first.

7.5.1 Summer Activities

Summer programs are under the direction of the local school/school district. The NMAA does not govern coaching activities during the summer, other than undue influence and guidelines established in 7.5.3 below.

7.5.2 Two-Week Moratorium

Pursuant to the March 7, 2007 ruling of the Board of Directors, it is encouraged that each member school shall observe a two-week moratorium, or two (2) seven-day “no-contact” periods in the summer during which time no coaching, written lesson plans or workout schedules, training, open gyms, in-state or out-of-state travel can occur.

7.5.3 Rule Requirements and Philosophical Basis

Each individual school/district is required to establish and enforce regulations which are driven educationally by the NMAA interscholastic objective. The following requirements, as well as local policy, intend to assure adherence to those rules/procedures, consistent with that objective.

- A. Educational value: Educational goals that are encompassed by the NMAA objective must be incorporated.
- B. Students must be given the opportunity to participate in multiple activities (sports, family, recreational, etc.). It is the responsibility of the local school district to provide time for students to participate in family activities.
- C. Promote physical fitness.
- D. Participation must not be restricted by financial status of the student.
- E. Participation in a camp or recreation program outside the conventional school year and/or during the summer cannot be a requirement for participation in the regular sports season.
- F. Equipment such as, but not confined to football helmets, pads, etc. in any sport is prohibited in the out-of-season, summer camps, or summer recreation programs. See each individual sport for specific requirements.
- G. In football, schools may use dummies, blocking sleds, and hand shields for conditioning and instructional purposes during the off-season.

Q1: May coaches require students to attend summer workouts, leagues, conditioning programs, etc.?

AI: No.

Q2: *May a coach use a student athlete's performance during an optional summer workout, league, conditioning program, etc., to determine position on the upcoming school team?*

A2: *No, because summer workouts, leagues, and conditioning programs are optional.*

Q3: *May a coach conduct a sports camp during the summer for past and potential team members?*

A3: *Yes, as long as attendance at camp is not a pre-requisite to school team membership.*

Q4: *A high school basketball team is going to attend a tournament in Phoenix, AZ during the summer months. Who can be a member of the team?*

A4: *Any student athlete that is enrolled through the registrar of the participating school.*

Q5: *Can football players attend individual (without their team) full contact camps during the summer?*

A5: *Yes. As long as the local school district approves it, and equipment necessary for the safety of the student is certified.*

7.6 GENERAL

7.6.1 Co-Ed Participation

If a school maintains separate teams in comparable sports for girls and boys, girls may not participate on boys' teams and boys may not participate on girls' teams. If a school does not sponsor separate teams in comparable sports, boys and girls may participate on the same team, but must participate in the boys' division. Co-ed teams shall be defined as any team having one or more members of the opposite gender and all co-ed teams must participate in the boys' games, tournaments, meets, etc.

Note: In Spirit, a team with only one male participant may opt to remain an all-girl squad. Any squad having two or more male participants must compete in the Co-ed classification.

Q1: *Why is it against NMAA regulations for a boy to play on a girl's volleyball team?*

A1: *NFHS regulations on net height for boys' and girls' volleyball are different. Therefore, if a team were to have a male athlete on it, the net height for games played would need to be adjusted to meet NFHS standards for male volleyball, thus creating an inequitable game situation for all-female teams.*

7.6.2 Concurrent Participation on Junior High/Middle School and Senior High Teams for Class A

In Class A schools, 8th and 9th grade students may participate on the junior high/middle school team and senior high team concurrently until the junior high/middle school game limitations are reached. The student must then be moved to the senior high team permanently for the remainder of that season in that sport. Games or tournaments played at either level count toward the limits at both levels. Ninth graders may move up and down regardless of whether they are housed in the senior high school or junior high/middle school until the junior high/middle school game limitation is reached. When playing concurrently, games played at the junior high/middle school level count toward the senior high limit as well as the junior high/middle school limit. Also, games played at the senior high level count toward the junior high/middle school limit as well as the senior high limit.

NOTE: Seventh grade students are ineligible to participate on senior high teams.

7.6.3 Participants Moving From Junior High/Middle School to Senior High Teams AA/AAA/AAAA/AAAAA Classifications

In classes AA thru AAAAA, 8th grade students participating at the high school level in a particular sport must continue to play at the high school level in that sport for the remainder of the season. Games played at the junior high/middle school level count toward the senior high limit. Ninth graders may move up and down regardless of whether they are housed in the senior high or junior high/middle school. This also applies to eighth grade teams moving up to ninth grade competition within the same high school feeder system. *Students in classes B and A are exempt from this regulation.*

7.6.4 Scrimmage Limit

A team or individual is allowed one (1) scrimmage day per sport, which must be held prior to the school's first game/match/contest in that sport. The pre-season scrimmage must be against NMAA or NFHS member schools only and does not count toward game limitations. Admission to all scrimmages must be free of charge to the general public.

Q1: If a team wishes to play an alumni game as a fundraiser, does this game count as their one (1) allowable scrimmage?

A1: Choosing to play an alumni game is a decision of the Local Educational Agency. A team is allowed one scrimmage per season and yes, an alumni game would count as a scrimmage. Admission to the alumni game can not be charged, but donations may be accepted

Q2: If a basketball team wishes to play an alumni game as a fundraiser and chooses to play the game on the same day that they have designated as their scrimmage day, may they do so without penalty?

A2: A team is allowed one scrimmage day per sports season, so yes, a team is allowed to play as many games as they choose to on that day, including an alumni game.

7.6.5 Minimum Contests for Post-Season Competition Eligibility (Individual)

Students participating in two sports concurrently at the interscholastic level must participate in a minimum of one quarter (1/4) of the varsity contests scheduled, but in no event less than two (2) varsity contests to be eligible for post-season competition. A player who sustains an injury that precludes participation in a minimum of two (2) contests during the regular season may participate in post-season competition provided the student has been on the team roster throughout the season. In addition, the injury must be certified in writing by a licensed medical physician and submitted to the Director as well as kept on file by the school principal. For this exception to apply, the injured player cannot have participated in any other sport (inside or outside of the school) during the regular sports season.

Q1: *A track team has eight meets scheduled prior to district, and they have dual participation athletes' running track and playing baseball. How many track meets must the athlete participate in to be eligible for post season?*

A1: *Two track meets. Note – if the school schedules 9 or 10 meets, then the athlete would have to participate in three meets to be eligible for post season.*

Q2: *An athlete has been declared academically ineligible during the 1st nine-weeks period, but the school has allowed him to practice. The football team has one regular season game remaining prior to the post- season. Is the athlete eligible for the playoffs if he has retained his academic eligibility in time to play in only one regular season game?*

A2: *Yes he is eligible! He has not played another sport and is therefore eligible.*

Q3: *If after the State Soccer Playoffs have been completed, can a member of the school's soccer team join the football team to participate in the State Football Playoffs?*

A3: *Unless the soccer player has participated in a minimum of ¼ of the football team's regular season games, he/she is ineligible to participate.*

7.6.6 Maximum/Minimum Number of Games/Contests Permitted (Schools/Teams)

A. Game Limitation (Maximum) - Schools/teams may not schedule more than the maximum number of games/contests allowed for each sport relative to each level of competition. For example, a 26-game limitation means that a school can schedule only 26 games at the varsity level. Refer to specific sports in this section for the number of games/contests permitted.

B. Schedule/Competition Requirement (Minimum) – Schools must compete within the assigned district (as determined by the NMAA) and are to play/participate/or perform against each district member a minimum of one contest/game per season. Districts may exceed this requirement. Exceptions must be approved by the Director. Schools must play each school in the assigned district a minimum of one time to qualify for post-season play. District play must be completed prior to state tournament seeding and selection.

- C. **Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets** - Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets count towards game limitations. A player cannot play in two tournaments (regular season or district) simultaneously. (See NMAA Bylaws 7.6.14)

Q1: If during the Christmas holidays, both a school's junior varsity and varsity basketball teams are participating in tournaments where at least one date conflicts, can an athlete participate in both?

A1: No, an athlete cannot represent his/her school in two tournaments simultaneously even though he/she is within the allowable game limitations.

7.6.7 Master Schedule of Practice and Competition Dates

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Earliest Practice</u>	<u>Earliest Competition</u>
Cross Country	Monday, Week #7	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Football	Monday, Week #7	On the 11th day after 10 days of practice
Soccer	Monday, Week #7	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Volleyball	Monday, Week #7	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Golf	Year round	Monday, Week #10
<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Earliest Practice</u>	<u>Earliest Competition</u>
Basketball	Monday, Week #19	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Spirit	Year Round	Monday, Week # 19
Swimming	Year round	Monday, Week #19
Wrestling	Monday, Week #19	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
<u>Spring Sports</u>	<u>Earliest Practice</u>	<u>Earliest Competition</u>
Golf	Year round	Monday, Week #33
Tennis	Year round	Monday, Week #33
Softball	Monday, Week #32	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Baseball	Monday, Week #32	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Track & Field	Monday, Week #32	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice

7.6.8 Season Ends

A season ends when a team/individual does not qualify for or is eliminated from post-season competition (playoffs, district, and/or state tournaments).

Once district tournament play has begun or state tournament seeding and selection has taken place, no regular season games/matches/events can be scheduled/played. At the sub-varsity level, the season concludes at the end of regular season competition.

7.6.9 Replacing a Champion or Runner-up That Cannot Continue Participation in an NMAA-Sanctioned Post-Season Event

In the absence of a district rule, if a third-place game was not played and the champion or runner-up cannot advance to the next level of the play-offs/tournament, the other two semifinalists may conduct a play-off game to determine which team advances to the runner-up position. If the replaced team is the champion, the runner-up ascends to that position, while the play-off (time permitting) or flip of a coin would determine the succeeding runner-up. If there is not time for a play-off game, or the schools involved agree, a coin toss determines which team participates at the next level.

7.6.10 Tournament Roster

A school's roster for a post-season tournament cannot be changed after it is placed in the scorebook for that school's first game/contest.

- A.** A substitution may be made for an ill or injured player based upon a physician's written verification to the NMAA.
 - 1.** The replaced player is not permitted to compete later in the tournament.
 - 2.** This regulation applies to all tournaments in all sports.
- B.** In team sports, a school qualifies as a team, not as individuals.

Q1: *Can a roster be changed after the 1st round of state, generally held the weekend prior to the start of the quarterfinals?*

AI: *No. Once the tournament begins, starting with the first round or quarterfinals in the absence of the first round, the roster cannot be changed. (Please see 7.6.10 A above)*

7.6.11 Ties in District Standings

See tie-breaking procedures for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball, listed in this section under each sport's specific guidelines.

7.6.12 Protests of Playing Rules

Protests concerning application of the playing rules shall not be accepted.

7.6.13 School Representation Limited to One Team

A school will be represented during the season and in the play-offs/tournament (district or state) by only one (1) varsity team. Non-varsity teams are ineligible for post-season competition, and are ineligible to participate if the member school does not field a varsity team.

7.6.14 Player Representation Limited to One Team

A player cannot participate in both a district sub-varsity level tournament and the varsity district tournament in a given sports season.

Q1: *If a district chooses to conduct a sub-varsity district tournament (within their allowable number of games) to coordinate with their varsity district tournament in a given sport, can an athlete be included on both rosters?*

AI: *No, an athlete can not represent his school in a sub-varsity level district tournament and a varsity district tournament simultaneously.*

7.6.15 Team/Individual Failure to Complete District Tournament(s) Schedule

If a team or individual fails to complete its district tournament schedule, it shall not share in the gate receipts (if applicable), trophies, or be allowed to enter or advance to the next applicable tournament. The next place team or individual is eligible to enter the succeeding tournament, when applicable.

NOTE: Also, refer to 7.6.5 for minimum number of contests required to be eligible for post-season participation.

7.6.16 State Events Jurisdiction

State tournaments/meets are under the jurisdiction of the Director or his/her designee.

7.6.17 Team/Individual Failure to Complete State Tournament/Meet Schedule

If a team/individual fails to complete its state tournament/meet schedule, the team/individual may be placed on probation and not allowed to participate the following year in post-season competition. Reinstatement must be petitioned through the Director.

7.6.18 Officials Fees

Please refer to Section V (5.2) of the NMAA Handbook for all current Officials/Assignors Fees.

7.6.19 Pre-Competition Practice Requirement

- A. Fall sports** - Each individual must have a minimum of five (5) days of practice prior to competition with the exception of football which requires a minimum of ten (10) days of practice.
- B. Winter and spring sports** - Each individual must have a minimum of five (5) days of practice prior to competition.
- C. Waiver of Practice Days** (part or all) - Up to five (5) days of the requirement may be waived by the Director based upon participation in an athletics or physical education class (winter and spring sports only). **Exception:** Individuals participating in a sport during the most immediate previous season are exempt from this requirement (winter and spring sports only).

7.6.20 Unconscious Participant and/or Student Athletes with Concussions

As per 2010 New Mexico State Legislation, a coach shall not allow a student athlete to participate in a school athletic activity on the same day that the student athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a brain injury or has been diagnosed with a brain injury. The student athlete may not return to athletic participation for a minimum of one week (7 days) after he/she received a brain injury. Only when the student athlete no longer exhibits any sign, symptom or behavior consistent with a brain injury and has received medical clearance from a licensed health care professional may he/she return to athletic participation.

7.6.21 All-Star Games

- A.** All-star games must be sanctioned/approved by the NMAA Commission to comply with NCAA regulations regarding scope and number, when applicable.
- B.** Each contest must be sponsored or co-sponsored by the New Mexico High School Coaches Association.
- C.** Only graduating seniors are eligible to participate.

- D. Games must be held after the academic completion of the respective school year.
- E. Rules/policies of games shall be submitted to the NMAA for prior approval. All rules/regulations of the NMAA must be in effect to achieve sanctioning.
- F. Net proceeds from the game should be used for a charitable purpose.

7.6.22 Unacceptable Material

Member schools and organizations shall ensure that materials used by students participating in interscholastic activities exemplifies good manners, taste, and are in concert with the objective of interscholastic activities.

The NMAA is not intended to be a substitute for the school’s enforcement of regulations which preserve the educational nature of interscholastic activities. It is the duty of the NMAA to reinforce this, but the primary responsibility of protecting the integrity of school activities lies with the administration and advisors/coaches of local schools.

7.6.23 Protest and Complaints (Concerns)

Any school/individual filing a protest/complaint must submit in writing a full statement of the facts to the Association. The protest/complaint must be signed or co-signed by a local school administrator. The Association shall send a copy to the administrative head of the school against which the protest or complaint has been made, if applicable.

7.6.24 Post-Season and Playoff Scheduling

- A. Except for golf and A/AA baseball, district tournaments must include Saturday or other non-school day as one of the days, unless approved in advance by the Executive and/or Associate Directors.
- B. With the exception of Golf and Tennis, day before or pre-state tournament practices at the site of the state tournament are not permitted in any sport, unless specified by NMAA officials.

7.6.25 School Co-op Participation

Two Class A schools with a combined enrollment of 125 students or less can petition the Director to co-op in the sports of volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball. At least one school must show proof that they do not have enough willing participants to field their own team.

7.7 CONTEST PROCEDURES

7.7.1 Playing Rules

Member schools must conduct their interscholastic performances and athletic activities according to the rules/regulations of the New Mexico Activities Association as well as those codes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Since the National Federation does not publish a set of rules in either golf or tennis, the NMAA utilizes the following codes:

- United States Golf Association (USGA) - Golf
- United States Tennis Association (USTA) - Tennis

Policies and procedures as stated in the NMAA Handbook take precedence over the above-named national governing bodies when and where applicable.

7.7.2 Participant, Coach/ School Personnel Ejection

A. Participant Ejection

When a participant is ejected/disqualified from any contest/game for unsportsmanlike conduct, the minimum penalty shall be as follows:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE**

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game at the same level and may not participate at any level until the one-game suspension has been served.
- The ejected participant must complete the NMAA's online Pursuing Victory with Honor course.
- Verification of program completion must be submitted to the NMAA prior to returning to competition.

2. **SECOND or SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES**

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game minimally and depending upon the individual case, a more restrictive penalty may be imposed as determined by the Director, including a meeting with the Director or his designee and the coach and school administrator.
- The involved school and official are required to notify the Association, in writing, of each offense or be subject to additional sanctions.

Note: Participant ejections are cumulative throughout the year and not per sports season.

Example: If a student-athlete is ejected from a football game, and this same student-athlete is then ejected from a basketball game, this would be considered his second offense.

Participant Ejection Clarification:

- *Student athletes may not dress out in uniform, participate in warm-up, or be directly involved with the contest in any way.*
- *Student athletes may attend the contest, sit on the bench, or stand on the sideline if approved by the local school administration.*
- *Student athletes may travel with the team for out of town contests if approved by the local school administration.*
- *Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed necessary by the Director.*

B. School Personnel Ejection

A coach/school employee who is ejected from an athletic contest/game, regardless of sport, is required to meet the following criteria:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE**

- Sit out the next contest/game minimally, at all levels. This penalty is the responsibility of the local school district to impose. This sanction is subject to final approval by the NMAA after such violation is reported within a reasonable time frame but prior to the next contest.
- Complete the NMAA's Pursuing Victory with Honor course.
- Verification of program completion must be submitted to the NMAA prior to returning to participation.
- The member school will be required to pay a \$100.00 sanction to the NMAA.

2. SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game minimally and depending upon the individual case a more restrictive penalty may be imposed as determined by the Director, including a meeting with the Director or his designee.
- Mandatory completion of the National Federation of High Schools' (NFHS) Fundamentals of Coaching Course.
- The member school will be required to pay a \$250.00 sanction to the NMAA. The fine will be doubled for subsequent offenses.

NOTE: Coaching/School Personnel ejections are cumulative throughout the school year and not per sports season. Example: If a football coach is ejected from a football game in the fall, and the same coach, who now coaches baseball, is ejected from a baseball game in the spring, this would be considered his second offense.

Failure to comply or repeated offenses may result in up to a one year suspension, a monetary fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or suspension of the school from the Association for the activity in which the coach was involved. The coach/school representative may be required to meet with the Director or his designee in Albuquerque at the NMAA Office.

Coach Ejection Clarification:

- *Coaches must leave the playing facility of the scheduled contest 30 minutes prior to the start of the event. The coach may have absolutely no further communication with any team personnel (coaches, team members, managers, trainers, etc.) until the contest is concluded.*
- *Coaches may travel with the team for out of town contests in the capacity of a chaperone, but must adhere to the rule stated above prior to and during the contest.*
- *Coaches may attend contests of other teams during the sit out period providing the other game(s) is being played at a site other than that of the coach's team.*
- *Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed warranted by the Director.*

C. Coach/Player/Participant Ejection

A coach/player/participant using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs while participating in an athletic event will be ejected. Additional sanctions, appropriate to the violation, may be imposed by the Director. (See 2.2.2)

D. Process of Appeals for Coach or Participant Ejections

- 1) Only incidents wherein a misapplication of rules has occurred are subject to appeal. Ejections which are a result of an official's judgment are not subject to appeal.
- 2) The NMAA office must receive a **complete** game film and a letter which specifies the purpose for the appeal prior to the next contest. This information can be generated by the head coach but the request for appeal must be approved and signed off on by the school's Principal and Athletic Director. The letter must contain the following information:
 - a. Game location, time, date and level of play.
 - b. Time in game at which ejection occurred.
 - c. Incidents leading up to the ejection.
 - d. Rule that was misapplied, including NFHS rulebook citation.

Disclaimer: Please note that the appeals process will not be in place during regular season tournaments due to timing issues. For example, if a participant is ejected in a tournament game on Thursday and his/her team plays again on Friday, it would be extremely difficult for the investigative process to take place. However, if the ejection were to happen on the final day of a tournament (i.e., Saturday), it would be possible for a full review and investigation to take place.

- 3) Once the information is received from the school, the NMAA will conduct an investigation into the matter. The NMAA office will review the game film and letter from the school and will contact the officiating crew from the game to confer with them relative to the ejection.
- 4) If, after the NMAA completes the investigation, it is found that a rule is misapplied, the ejection will be overturned. The final decision to overturn an ejection rests with the NMAA Executive Director.

Schools reserve the right to submit game film to the NMAA office at any time for review by staff and by officiating evaluators. Officials are held accountable for their performance and the NMAA will review any film provided to the office and officials will be sanctioned accordingly, if found prudent through the investigative process.

7.7.3 Unethical or Unprofessional Behavior Engaged in by a Coach or Other School Personnel

Coaches/other school personnel who engage in unethical or unprofessional behavior shall be subject to sanctions by the Director, in accordance with the tenets of Pursuing Victory with Honor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, publicly disagreeing with the judgment of contest officials, entering officials' locker rooms before or after games, demeaning contest opponents, or otherwise publicly defaming or attacking the credibility of officials or opponents. An example of this behavior would be providing negative quotations in newspaper or other media outlets about officiating performance or about opponents. The sanctions for such violations would be as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: Minimally, a one game suspension and placement of the offending coach on probationary status for that year.

SECOND OFFENSE: Disqualification of the coach from post-season competition for that year.

7.7.4 Crowd Control

The basic responsibility for crowd control lies with the host administration who are required to be in attendance at the event. The visiting school shall have an administrator/faculty representative or coach to assist in control of the visiting school crowd. Events held at neutral sites require administrators/faculty representatives or coaches from each participating school to assist event management with crowd control.

7.7.5 Advertising

No liquor or tobacco advertising shall be included in any advertising related to an athletic/non-athletic event sponsored or sanctioned by the Association.

Note: While applicable to all school and non-school facilities, at times superseding regulations/policies at the host site of an NMAA event preclude the enforcement of this rule (regular season, playoff, tournament, or state event series).

7.7.6 Insurance Requirements

A. Participant Insurance

Participants must be covered by accident/injury insurance prior to participation. They may purchase school-offered insurance or provide the school with documentation that they are covered by a private insurance carrier.

QI: *If a school does not have updated physicals and accident/injury insurance for each athlete on file, what sanctions may be levied?*

AI: *All victories in which athletes who have no documented physicals or accident/injury insurance on file in the school participated, shall be forfeited and the school's athletic program shall be placed on probation.*

B. School/District Insurance

Member schools must be covered by catastrophic insurance.

7.7.7 Medical Service

The home school for each contest/game/event is responsible for seeing that emergency medical service is available, either at the event or on call.

7.7.8 Video Recording/Telecasts/Radio Broadcasting Consent Rule/Procedures

A. Practice Sessions/Scrimmages

Radio broadcasting, video recording, or telecasting a practice session or scrimmage by anyone not connected with the participating school(s) is prohibited without the consent of the school(s) involved.

B. Regular Season Contests

Radio broadcasting, video recording, or telecasting a regular season contest is prohibited without the consent of the host school. Exception: The visiting school may video record the contest as long as it is not for broadcast for public viewing. This does not prohibit use of film and tape for sports clips by media representatives.

NOTE: Video recording, photographing, or other electronic aids (excluding stat devices) cannot be used for study or coaching purposes until after the completion of the contest.

QI: *What sanctions will be imposed by the NMAA if school personnel (coaches, volunteers, teachers, administrators, etc.) are found guilty of video recording a game in which their school is not involved, without the proper written consent of both schools participating?*

AI: *Minimally, the violating school will forfeit all future regular season games and possibly post-season tournament games against the opponent(s) being video-taped. Other sanctions, as determined by the Director, may be imposed.*

C. District, State Playoffs/Tournaments

1. Media, Broadcast, and Telecast

Each member school grants to the New Mexico Activities Association the exclusive telecast or broadcast rights to all events at the playoff level. “Telecast and broadcast rights” include, but are not limited to, over the air television, cable television, radio, Internet, or web streaming. The “playoff level” includes any post season event identified as festival, district or state (inclusive of 1st round) by Board of Directors action. The NMAA reserves the right to grant or refuse any request for broadcast/telecast at the playoff level. The NMAA may contract with third parties for the telecast or broadcast of any event at the playoff level and established rights/fees for any such events.

Media representatives at NMAA sanctioned events are subject to applicable rules/procedures/policies as established by the Association. Authorization and credentials requests must be submitted to the NMAA Director of Communications. Credentials request forms can be downloaded from the NMAA website.

Any television broadcast must be approved by the NMAA Director of Communications. Telecasting fees may apply dependent upon whether the telecast is live or tape delayed and the event being televised.

The NMAA occupies jurisdiction over the radio broadcasts of all New Mexico high school interscholastic championship events (First round of state, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals). The broadcast of all regular season contests is under the jurisdiction of each host school.

- a. The installation of phone lines and press box assignments is the responsibility of the individual radio station. Radio stations should contact the facility manager or athletic director to arrange for specific broadcasting needs.
- b. Broadcasting or telecasting of any activity sponsored by the Association, as per Board policy, must be approved by the NMAA Director of Communications.
- c. Radio stations will confine their remarks to an actual description of the games and the action in connection with them and announcers will make no comments in regard to the judgment of game officials or coaches during any broadcast originating from the game/contest site. Violation of this clause will result in the station not being permitted to continue its broadcast.

2. Video Taping and Video Streaming Policy

Videotaping of championship events is permitted. The following guidelines must be followed:

- a. Tripods cannot be used within the spectator seating area.
- b. The use of electricity is prohibited.
- c. Spectators will not be permitted in areas reserved for media personnel or persons conducting official NMAA business (i.e. on the court, field, in press box facilities, and/or playing surfaces).
- d. The NMAA reserves the right to request that a person filming move to another area or stop filming a particular event.
- e. Live streaming of any NMAA State Championship Game/Contest must be approved by the NMAA.

7.8 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- 7.8.1** Meets and tournaments within the state involving only in-state schools do not need approval of the Director unless it is a state track and field special qualifying meet state swimming and diving special qualifying meet, or a spirit qualifying competition. (See track and field, swimming and diving and spirit regulations for application deadlines.)
- 7.8.2** Out-of-state school(s) may not be invited unless the tournament is sanctioned by each state represented in the event. National Federation sanctioning procedures are to be followed where applicable.
- 7.8.3** Invitational tournaments may not be conducted after playoffs begin in that sport.
- 7.8.4** A school entering two (2) teams in the same tournament may not transfer a player(s) from one team to the other team nor may a player be included on more than one team's roster.
- 7.8.5** No player may play in two tournaments, such as but not limited to, varsity and non-varsity, occurring simultaneously or overlapping. (See NMAA Bylaws 7.6.6 C)
- 7.8.6** Violation of tournament regulations by a school or Student may cause that school or Student to be ineligible for post-season play in that sport.
- 7.8.7** See Section 3.11 for rules and regulations governing interstate high school tournaments or meets.
- 7.8.8** Rules/regulations of the Association must be followed.
- 7.8.9** Officials used for regular season invitational tournaments, in all sports must be approved by the NMAA office and their Varsity Regional Assigner or Local Assignor prior to their assignments to said tournaments.

7.9 GAMES/EVENTS POSTPONED

- 7.9.1** Since contests are originally scheduled by mutual consent of the administrative head or legally designated school employee, it follows that rescheduled events must also be by mutual consent of the same authorities.
- 7.9.2** The Director is contacted only in instances where schools cannot agree. Contests may be declared forfeited if not played within a reasonable time as determined by the Director.
- 7.9.3** An event called for reason of inclement weather may not be declared forfeited if it can be established that the safety of the participants was at stake. Immediate notification of the other school and officials should follow and changes in games/schedules should be communicated to the NMAA and officials assigner.
- 7.9.4** Rescheduled games/events are to be played under the same eligibility rules for participation as any regularly scheduled game. (Each participant must be eligible when the game is played.)
- 7.9.5** Games or events where officials are not present are considered postponed unless otherwise determined by the Director.

7.10 GAMES/EVENTS INTERRUPTED

- 7.10.1** The game officials are the only authoritative body that may interrupt a game or event. In sports where no officials oversee the event, the host school administrator shall determine the rules regarding interrupted games. If game/match/contest cannot be continued, it shall be rescheduled and continued from the point of interruption, unless otherwise specified in that sport's section of the Handbook.
- 7.10.2** The contest is considered finished if interrupted in the last half, at the half-time intermission, at the point when, by that sport's definition, a game is completed (i.e., baseball and softball), or if the contest is more than one-half completed based upon the definition of a complete contest. For further clarification, please reference each sport's section in the Handbook.
- 7.10.3** If the contest is to be finished at a later date, both schools share equally in the expense of the visiting school.
- 7.10.4** Only participants eligible at the interruption are eligible when the contest is resumed.
- 7.10.5** Officials receive one additional round-trip mileage when working the remainder of the game/event at a later date, but receive only one officiating fee.

7.11 SELECTION AND SEEDING PROCESS FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS

No Seeding
and
Selection
Process for
Spirit

7.11.1 Selection /Seeding

- A. Members of the NMAA Staff will be responsible for the entire Seeding and Selection process in all team sports.

7.11.2 Selection process for the 16 team format for classes 1A thru 5A in the sports of basketball and softball and 2A thru 5A in the sport of baseball.

Selection process for the 12-team format in classes A-3A, thru 5A in the sport of soccer, 3A thru 5A in the sport of football and 1A thru 5A in the sport of volleyball.

Selection process for 8 team format in class B volleyball / basketball, class AA football and class A baseball.

Selection process for 6 team format in class A, 8-man and 6-man football.

- A. District Champions will automatically advance to the playoffs. Exception: In the sports of basketball and volleyball that have district tournaments, if the regular season district champion and district tournament champion are different, they will both automatically advance to the playoffs.
- B. The remainder of the teams will be selected by the NMAA Staff using the following criteria. There is neither order nor priority in the criteria listed below:
1. Finish in district play and/or district tournaments.
 2. Head to head
 3. Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts regardless of classification.