



NMAA Volleyball Sports Specific Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 14th, 2010
9:00 AM – NMAA Office



Agenda

- A. Welcome/Introductory Comments

- B. Current Issues
 - 1. State Tournament Roster Limitations – Moving from 12 to 14
 - 2. Seeding/Selection Process for State Tournament
 - 3. Use of 3-Ball/4-Ball Rotation during State Tournament
 - 4. Use of colored volleyball during State Tournament

- C. Other Issues from Committee Members
 - 1. Coaches
 - 2. Officials
 - 3. Athletic Directors

- D. Final Comments

- E. Adjournment



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Meeting Summary

A. Welcome/Introductory Comments

NMAA Assistant Director and Director of Volleyball, Dusty Young, welcomed the committee to start the meeting at approx 9am. Those in attendance were as follows: NMAA Director of Volleyball Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director Sally Marquez, NMAA Administrative Assistant Alissa McCarthy, Class 5A Rep Ben Wallis (Cleveland HS Coach), Class 4A Rep Kim Bell (Moriarty HS Coach), Class 3A Rep Brian Ainsworth (Pojoaque HS Coach), Class 2A Rep Glenda Noblitt (Estancia HS Coach), Class B Rep Darrell Chenault (Elida HS Coach), A.D. Rep Charlie Savedra (Socorro HS), A.D. Rep Vicki Nelms (Los Alamos HS), At Large Rep Keith Leupold (Las Cruces HS), and NMOA rep John Villescasc (Las Cruces Official). At Large Rep Toby Manzanares (Rio Rancho HS) could not attend.

B. Current Issues

1. State Tournament Roster Limitations – Moving from 12 to 14

Mr. Young explained that many coaches had contacted the NMAA regarding an increase in roster limitations for the playoffs in the sport of volleyball. This came to light after basketball coaches asked for a similar increase, where it was then passed by the NMAA Commission and Board. Sally Marquez of the NMAA explained that this was possible, but needed to mirror basketball whereas although 14 players can be in uniform, there is a cap of 20 that can be allowed on the bench (players, coaches, managers, etc.). The committee all agreed that this made sense and that this was a great compromise as having additional players on the roster is a huge positive in the long run. More than 12 players usually suit up for Varsity at one time or another during the year so trimming that down to 12 for postseason play can be tough and bad for the kids. All committee members agreed this should move forward to the Commission. Coach Ainsworth and Coach Wallis will present to the Commission on Jan 12th, and again to the Board if passed. Note that the NMAA will regulate bench presence and only 20 individuals will be allowed on the court when playing. Additional personnel must pay for a ticket and sit in the stands.

2. Seeding/Selection Process for State Tournament

Mr. Young stated that the NMAA was contacted by several coaches stating that it may be beneficial to change the seeding and pool play process for State Volleyball. It was said that teams in each class should be seeded 1-4, with each of these schools being placed in

different pools, and then the remaining teams would be put into pools at random instead of by seeds 5-12. Mrs. Marquez stated that the NMAA was fine either way and this could be looked at should the committee feel this was a good direction to move. All committee members felt that the current seeding process went very well and was the best way to handle pool distributions. One concern brought was that there was a potential one pool could be “overloaded” with top teams, skewing the tournament bracket. This years tournament was very true to the 12 team bracket even after pool play, so it was said that it would be best to keep it as is.

One concern from all committee members with seeding/selection was that both the district regular season champ and tournament champ received automatic bids to the state playoffs. It was felt that if a weak district has two separate winners that automatically qualify, this could keep a better/deserving team out of the tournament field. Much discussion went on and most committee members felt that the district tournament was not needed. However, NMAA Staff and A.D.s on this committee explained that District Tournaments in Volleyball and Basketball are needed and is how districts are able to survive financially throughout the year. The NMAA staff will continue to look into this matter as the new seeding/selection process continues to ensure that this is addressed.

It was also stated that the new process of NMAA Staff conducted the seeding/selection went very well for 2010 State Volleyball. All committee members felt it was done very fairly, and turned out very well. NMAA staff explained that one of the most successful parts of the Volleyball Seeding process was the Coaches Input forms that were collected from the membership. Over 75% of schools sent in information and this was vital to the process. Volleyball coaches need to be commended for these efforts.

3. Use of 3-Ball/4-Ball Rotation during State Tournament

Mr. Young stated that one request for future State Volleyball Tournaments was to implement 3-Ball rotations/ball shaggers within all matches. This was done “on the fly” during the Finals this past year, and seemed to go very well. This system will help keep matches moving, and could save much time during these action packed events. The NMAA staff explained that this would be good for the game, but logistically would be difficult to implement for an entire tournament. With the amount of matches being played and courts being used, numerous individuals would be needed to take this on. Payment, supervision, organization, and other concerns did come up. Coaches on the committee explained that they would be happy to provide students for these duties, which would be great, however missing school may not be in the best interest of the membership. Although there are still certain logistical matters that need to be ironed out, the NMAA will strive to implement a 3-Ball rotational system at the 2011 State Tournament for all semifinal and final matches. The goal will be to “ease” into this new process as we move forward, with the ultimate goal of all matches throughout the tournament eventually having ball shaggers. In the meantime, coaches on the committee stated they will try to implement this protocol in the regular season so that kids understand how it works come state tournament time. Best practices will also be a point of discussion at the NMHSCA coaches clinic as a way to help get this going for 2011.

4. Use of colored ball during State Tournament

With the new rule that came out in 2010 by the NFHS allowing for a colored volleyball to be used, many coaches would like to see this implemented during state tournament play. Colored balls have become very popular and are used quite a bit by many NMAA member schools. The main concern from NMAA staff is that colors used can be looked at as favoring certain member schools, and this is not good practice for the association. One committee member brought up using black/white, while another stated the NMAA colors (red/white/blue) may work, but Mrs. Marquez again reminded the committee that many schools use these colors, and perception could lead some to believe that the NMAA is favoring certain schools. Mrs. Marquez then stated that the NMAA would allow for a pink and white colored ball, but this would be the only other option besides all white. Being that pink is not a color of any member school and that the "Dig Pink" promotion has been so large in New Mexico, it is felt that this would be a solid compromise for state tournament play. Although some coaches/officials are concerned about "spin" when it comes to colored balls, the overall consensus is that it is not an issue and thus a pink and white ball leather Wilson volleyball will be used during the 2011 State Tournament. The NMAA will work with its Wilson Reps to ensure plenty of these volleyballs are available for purchase over the next year so that schools will be able to use them throughout the regular season in preparation for state.

C. Other Issues from Committee Members

1. Coaches

Coach Bell of Moriarty brought up a concern regarding invitational tournaments and the format used by some hosts. Vicki Nelms of Los Alamos also stated that this was brought to her attention by many coaches in her area. Many tournaments now use creative pool play formats to play additional volleyball without hindering their match limitations/number per NMAA bylaws. NMAA Bylaws currently state that pool play (shortened matches) do not count as a match towards the limit allowed. In the past, many pool play matches at invitational tournaments went to 15, then to 21, and now to 25. This concerned some coaches because it is felt that without consistency on how pool play is handled, there is not a level playing field across the state. Mrs. Marquez stated that the rules currently listed within the NMAA Handbook are somewhat vague, and this is a reason why many tournaments handle pool play differently. Committee members felt that because of the state tournament format, invitational tournaments should be handled similarly and thus pool play matches should be played as 2 games to 25. Committee members also felt that due to the nature of the sport, volleyball can hold multiple pool play matches that do not count towards match limitations without a whole lot of additional time and money spent. After much discussion, Mr. Young and Mrs. Marquez stated that the NMAA will now clarify invitational tournaments/pool play protocols/etc. within the NMAA bylaws so that the entire state can be consistent in how this is handled. For 2011, it should be noted that pool play matches during invitational tournaments should be played as 2 games to 25 and multiple pool play matches can be played without going against game limitations.

Another concern from the committee that was brought up by Coach Wallis dealt with the reporting of scores to the NMAA's MVP system. Currently, coaches post results from matches, and when displayed on their team schedule, only games won/lost are shown for each match. It is requested by the committee and coaches across the state that individual game scores are also displayed. This information is important and it is felt that this can only help the NMAA staff even more when conducted seeding/selection meetings. NMAA staff stated that this should be easy to address and will make sure this is implemented for the 2011 season.

A final additional issue brought up by the committee dealt with exposure of our student athletes through statistics, player of the week awards, etc. on various internet sites. Coach Wallis brought up many good ways to help highlight our athletes, but Coach Leupold then stated that this was an issue more for the NM High School Coaches Association and could be looked at from that group.

2. *Officials*

John Villescás, Volleyball Official out of Las Cruces was then asked if there were any concerns from the officiating world. The main concern again dealt with the changes in pool play formats for invitational tournaments and compensation for these matches. When pool play first started, games were played to 15. Now, these are traditionally played to 25. These can take much more time than in the past, and an argument has been made that if a team wins a real match 3-0 in straight sets, it is almost the same amount of work as two pool play games going to 25. With that, a match fee is \$50, while pool play fees are \$10. This seems somewhat unfair and has been brought to the NMAA's attention several times over the last couple years. Mr. Young stated that this topic will be taken to the NMOA Executive Board, where if passed it would then go on to the NMAA Board of Directors for final approval. It was also stated that due to current times, any increases in officials fees will be difficult to get through the Board. A possible game fee reduction for all sports officials is currently on the table so although an increase in pool play fees may be possible, this may take a couple years to be implemented. The NMAA staff will however pass this information on to the NMOA Executive Board, and it will move forward through the process set forth in NMOA and NMAA Bylaws.

Coaches on the committee then stated that state tournament officiating and officiating as a whole was very good in 2010 and continues to get better each year. One concern from a few coaches was the assigning of officials during state tournament play. Some feel that having officials from their region/area call matches could be frowned upon by outsiders. Others, however, feel that this is the best practice as the players/coaches are used to playing in front of those officials all year and it makes it easier to compete and communicate during the most important time of the season. Mr. Young stated that he will discuss this with NMOA Commissioner of Officials Dana Sanchez and that the staff is always striving to make sure this particular issue is taken care of as best as possible.

3. Athletic Directors

The Athletic Directors on the committee were then asked if there were any concerns from the administrative side of things for volleyball. Both Vicki Nelms and Charlie Savedra stated that their main concerns had already been addressed within the meeting (pool play protocols, paying of officials for pool play) and no new issues needed to be discussed.

D. Final Comments

Mr. Young asked if there were any other issues and none were brought to the committee's attention. Coach Ainsworth asked that the topics regarding Invitational Tournaments and the Colored (pink/white, leather, Wilson) Volleyball for State be addressed as soon as possible so that schools can properly prepare for next season. Mr. Young stated that this information will be sent to the membership before the holiday break or during the first week of January. Mr. Young concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and input. He again stated that all of the issues discussed would be posted within the NMAA website and that important information for 2011 would also be sent to the membership.

E. Adjournment

The meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 1130am.

