

**NMAA COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A**



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Lawrence Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Alissa McCarthy, Administrative Assistant called roll and the following commissioners were present: Debra Ledford (Small Area A), Mr. Phillip Sategna (Large Area A), Mr. Lawrence Johnson (Large Area C), Mr. Sam Olney (Small Area C), Mr. Keith Durham (Small Area B), Mr. Tom Manning (Large Area D), Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association), Mr. Jim Sayre (New Mexico Officials Association), Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association), and Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council); Mr. Pete MacFarlane (Non-Public School Representative), and Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals) A quorum was declared and business before the Commission could be conducted. Absent were Mr. Doug Santo (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association); Mr. Brian Stacey (Large Area B) and Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D).

Present from the NMAA was Ms. Sally Marquez, Associate Director and Mr. Mario Martinez, Associate Director.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented and Mr. MacFarlane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the November 18, 2009 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes. Mr. Sayre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Directors' Report* – Mr. Tripp stated that he was fortunate enough to attend the Winter Meetings during the holiday break which composed of all 51 state associations across the nation. He stated that among the many topics that were discussed included were Cyber Schools, Home School, Charter School and Alternative School students. He states that sixteen states do not allow Home School students to participate in athletics, Mr. Tripp stated that he feels every student has the right to participate however there is a need to create a level of playing field and that is where the problems come in.

Mr. Tripp stated that the NCAA is coming out with new policies to help bring back the student in student athletes. He stated that 80% of collegiate athletes consider themselves just athletes. He stated that another issue the NCAA is concerned with are coaches pay and when in season and off season occurs in all collegiate sports. He continued stating that most division one universities, a lot of student athletes are dealing with credit recovery after their completion of four years. The NCAA is placing policies to help freshman and sophomore core courses. The idea floating around deals with giving scholarships to student

athletes even if they are not academically eligible. The athletes would not be eligible to participate until they meet all academic standards at that university.

Mr. Tripp added that the NFHS Executive Director is retiring. The candidates include Mr. Bob Garner, Mr. Marty Hickman, and Mr. Gary Musselman.

Mr. Tripp reported that while attending the winter meetings, Congress called to report on Concussions. He stated that there is new research showing the detrimental effects and fatalities that can result from student athletes getting concussions. He stated that brain research was done and the NFHS, NCAA and NFL are looking to educate all schools about concussions. The NMAA is looking on how to educate coaches about concussions to prevent further injuries resulting from concussions.

Lastly, Mr. Tripp stated that the Legislative session starts next week. He stated that due to Bud Mulcock and his illness, he will be attending much of the Legislative session, Mr. Tripp asked for prayers for Bud and his family. He also added that Mr. Dickie Rodriguez died this past week; he was a tremendous official of New Mexico and asked for prayers for his family as well.

Mr. Martinez informed the Commission that if they would like the packet the night before, the packet could get delivered to their hotel if they are staying in Albuquerque the night prior. He added that he is sending a Football survey out, he stated that as they enter into the next four year block he would like to get coaches views and their stance on a variety of issue. Mr. Martinez stated that Mr. Juan Martinez another official of New Mexico passed away over the weekend, he asked for prayers for his family as well. Lastly, Mr. Martinez announced that he will be retiring in June from the NMAA. He stated that he has been blessed with a tremendous 34 year career and thanked everyone for their support over the many years.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Martinez for his service.

*II. General Action Items- Wrestling match/meet limitations as proposed by the Wrestling Sport Specific Committee.*

Mr. Scott Evans referred the Commission to page 8. He stated that proposal A on this page was passed through referenda, proposal B refers to the Wrestling Sport Specific recommendation that was tabled at the last Commission meeting. He stated that in the past there were not any event limitations. He stated that coaches wanted more mat time. He passed out a sheet showing the amounts of matches for the 2009 wrestling state qualifiers. This shows an athlete in 5A wrestled two times more than other athletes. With the change to the 32 point format a school can still have a great team and have several matches. He added that this will only affect a few schools in each classification on having to change their schedules.

Mr. Martin made a motion to bring the proposal back to the table. Mr. Affentranger seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept this new proposal. No motion was made, the proposal dies.

*II. General Discussion Item- Referenda Results on game/match limitations and cheer/drill becoming a sport.*

Mr. Martinez stated pages 9-14 shows all the schools that voted and did not vote. He stated there was a 71% that did vote. He stated there was some negative feedback on these proposals in that there were three proposals and not just two.

He added that that the referenda for spirit becoming a sport passed with a vote of 82-32. Proposal one had 52 votes, proposal 2 had 38 votes and proposal 3 had 26 votes. He stated that it is up to local autonomy whether schools play the maximum amount of games.

### **Commission took a 10 minute recess and re-convened at 10:19 AM**

#### *General Discussion Item- Activities Update*

Ms. Dana Sanchez stated that the Activities Council met yesterday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and all activity representatives reported participation numbers remained the same, with no decrease in participant numbers from the prior year. She stated that state competitions for most activities are starting at the beginning of February. She reported that All-State Ensembles occurred a couple of weeks ago; New Mexico had the first guitar ensemble. She stated that Mock Trial will hold their first national competition in 2012. Lastly she added that the Activities Display will be at the Legislative Session starting on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gerheart added his concern for activities as the Legislative session starts. He stated that he hopes activities will not be displaced due to school budget cuts.

#### *General Discussion Item-National Student Leadership Conference*

Ms. Dana Sanchez stated that the National Student Leadership conference is sponsored by the NFHS and held in July. She stated that a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 12 students throughout New Mexico will be attending this conference. She stated that T-Mobile fund all expenses for the students who attend this conference. Nominations are due to Kristin at the NMAA by January 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The nomination form can be found on the NMA website at nmact.org. For more questions please email Kristin at the NMAA. (kderr@nmact.org.)

#### *General Discussion Item- Spirit Becoming a Sport during the fall 2010 and progress in this area.*

Ms. Marquez stated that Spirit becoming a sport passed by referenda with a 70% vote by the member schools. She stated that this will benefit schools in the future due to passing of the Athletics Equities act that will go into effect fall 2010. She stated that a woman's law center is on top of the new Equities act and blasted the NMAA for spirit becoming a sport. She stated that this law woman's law firm is looking for schools that are not in Title IX compliance and with spirit becoming a sport they are upset that it will make several schools be in compliance. She stated that she, Gary and Kristin she met with Varsity Sports who are the official sponsors of Cheer and Drill and they discussed Spirit possibly becoming a year round sport similar to golf and tennis. She emphasized that due to the technicality of the sport there are not many educators within this area. She stated that if Spirit became a year round sport, the season would start in November and end in March. State Spirit would be held at the beginning of March and the NMAA would work to have 4-5 other competitions for schools to compete in prior to the State Competition. She added one competition the NMAA is looking into would be held during the state basketball tournament, with the squads performing during the halftimes of the games.

#### *General Discussion Item- Seeding an Selection and the qualifying series starting with the 2010-2011 school year with potential changes from the current format.*

Mr. Martinez stated that on page 16 of the packet are potential changes in the seeding and selection format. He stated proposals in the make-up of the committee include proposal A which states that every district selects a representative to serve on the committee. Proposal B states that the NMAA staff will conduct the seeding and selection process for all sports.

He stated proposals for the changes in criteria include proposal A: leaving the criteria as it current is. Proposal B states using the current criteria with additions being made such as adding in the New Mexico High School Coaches Association coaches poll to be a part of criteria. Mr. Martinez reported on a summary of qualifying series and the changes in a particular sport regarding the amount of teams that qualify for the state tournament. Some of the feedback from the Commission included having one committee for all seeding and selections allowing for more consistency across the board. Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA would like to do all of the seeding to create constancy and keep the blame from going to administrators therefore placing it on the NMAA.

### **Commission took a 10 minute recess and re-convened at 10:30 AM**

*General Discussion Item- Potential Problems with the current football mercy rule and possible changes.*

Mr. Martinez stated that listed on page 20 currently the mercy rule states that the game stops after 35 points have been scored in the second half and the clock continues to run and only stops for official/team time outs. He stated that coaches have emphasized problems with the current mercy rule and suggestions of having a 45-50 point cap would help with games that truly are not beneficial for either team. He mentioned by adding a cap this could help a lot with hard feeling between teams and coaches and can be something very positive in the game of football. He asked for coaches to email him with feedback regarding changes to the current football mercy rule. (mmartinez@nmact.org)

*General Discussion Item- Officials Format in regards to football playoffs*

Mr. Martinez stated that there was discussion in the Football Sports Specific committee regarding changing the umpire of football games. He stated currently the official format is having a referee and an umpire that is unchanging. He recommended that the when the crew be referred to as the referee only, therefore changing the umpire. This would allow for other officials to gain experience. He added that this item will be taken to the NMOA Board meeting next week for further discussion.

*General Discussion Item- Track and Field meet limitations and NMAA interpretations in this area.*

Mr. Zayas referred the Commission to page 22. He stated there has been concern mainly in the metro area regarding athletes and their participation in indoor meets. He stated that for instance if an athlete participates on a high school team and takes part in an indoor meet in another state, this in turn would count towards their 10 individual meet limitation. This would not count towards the high school's limit of 10 meets. The athlete would only be able to participate in 8 meets individually and the high school would still take part in the 10 meet limitation.

*General Discussion Item- Current bylaws and the current appeal procedures.*

Ms. Marquez stated that the administrative staff at the NMAA is seeing changes that need to be made to the current bylaws. She stated for instance the bylaws regarding foreign students and homes school/charter school students need to be improved. She stated that the current NMAA appeals process is the longest process in the nation and the NMAA is looking to make changes to this.

*General Discussion Item- Possible concussion legislation and feedback in this area.*

Mr. Martinez stated that the NMAA is looking to push from an educational standpoint regarding the many variables involved in the dangers of concussions. Ideas brought to the commission include having classes at the coach's clinic.

*General Discussion Item- Mandatory NMAA DVD for 2010-2011*

Ms. Marquez stated that it has been two years since the NMAA had made a new preseason DVD. She stated that they are going to be making a new DVD this summer and asked for feedback on what needed to be added to the DVD this year. Please email Sally Marquez with any ideas. ([smarquez@nmact.org](mailto:smarquez@nmact.org).)

*General Discussion Item- State basketball and the changes being made due to the remodeling of the Pit.*

Ms. Marquez stated that due to the construction of the Pit there will not be a hospitality room this year. She stated that legally the NMAA cannot have food outside in tents due to sanitary reasons. She stated that the seating will still be the same, however the restrooms will be outside as well as some vendors. She stated that parking is very limited this year as well. Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that Bernalillo High School will be hosting Class A again and the other locations include Santa Ana and the Pit; the schedules will remain the same.

*General Discussion Item- Scholarship Deadlines*

Mr. Aragon stated that the scholarship deadline for all scholarships is February 12, 2010.

- V. Mr. Johnson informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
- VI. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin. It was seconded by Mr. MacFarlane and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.