

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, March 3, 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. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association); Mr. Jim Sayre (New Mexico Officials Association); Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council); Mr. Pete MacFarlane (Non-Public School Representative); Mr. Doug Santo (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association); Mr. Brian Stacey (Large Area B) 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. Tom Manning (Large Area D); Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association) and Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D).

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

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

The minutes from the January 13, 2010 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Olney to approve the minutes. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Directors' Report – Mr. Tripp stated that with budget cuts occurring he feels that it is important to promote extracurricular activities. He stated that although these cuts are occurring, it is important for superintendents to keep what they already have and continue to fight for what is needed in regards to extracurricular activities.

Mr. Tripp stated that once the state tournaments have concluded for 2010 the NMAA staff will sit down in June with the Board of Directors and set goals for the next school year. He asked for the members of the Commission to review new programs such as Life of an Athlete and the Schools Equities Act and email him with any suggestions or improvements that are needed to be made.

Lastly, Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA Foundation Golf Tournament will be held this year on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at the Belen Golf Course. He stated that fundraisers such as this are what make it possible in providing student athletes with scholarships to further their education.

Mr. Martinez stated that the Pursuing Victory with Honor Scholarships this year were placed into one account, previously each scholarship had its own account. As time has passed, the scholarship monies were running out. Upon approval of the Board of Directors all scholarship money was placed into one account (foundation account) to keep the various scholarships continuing.

He added two scholarships for \$2500 were given, and each applicant was researched by a committee member. A luncheon will be held on March 12th to honor the sixteen scholarship recipients as well as receiving recognition on the Pit floor during the state tournament.

II. General Action Items- Consider approving the format of spirit as a sport

Ms. Kristin Derr referred the Commission to page 8 of their packet. She stated that some of the changes to the spirit format are schools must declare whether they will participate in competitive spirit or side-line only spirit at the beginning of each *two-year* block. Students must complete a minimum of *ten* practices on mats prior to throwing stunts for safety concerns. Lastly, coaches must attend the NMAA district clinic held during the NMHSCA Coaches Clinic held in the summer. Failure to attend will result in a \$100 fine.

In Competitive Spirit teams may attend *no more than 5* competitions per competition season, state competition does not count towards this limitation, and a student may only participate with one team per competition.

Pending approval the spirit coaches will register with the NMOA as other sports officials do, and will be paid as per the NMAO fee schedule.

Lastly regarding eligibility of the spirit squads each squad will submit a DVD recording no more than 10 minutes of game action. Each squad must attend 80% of home games or 60% of all games.

Some recommendations for this format included adding the number of squad members that must be a part of the competition cheer (attendance at games) as well as the classifications of spirit, Class B is not included and this could eventually be problematic.

Ms. Marquez added that she and Kristin did meet with 5 cheer/drill coaches throughout the state. They recommended the ten day practice rule with stunts and attending 80% of home games.

Mr. Olney made a motion to accept this format with the additions to the format. Mr. Sategna seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Item- Consider revisions of the football mercy rule in 8-man and Class A-5A.

Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to page 11. He stated that the football coaches were given a survey and are resistant to changing the mercy rule with a vote of 65-13. He stated that the football coaches would prefer the mercy rule be left alone however it would be up to the Board of Directors if the mercy rule were to change. He emphasized that currently in 8-man-5A the mercy rule states that if a team is 35 points or more ahead of a team at the half or thereafter the clock continues to run except during time outs. In 6-man there is a 45 point cap.

Mr. Martinez stated that there is not one positive thing that results from these games. Smaller/younger kids are playing against varsity athletes and this can potentially be a safety issue. Discussion of a 50 differential at halftime or later at any level including middle school as well as for 8-man to 5A.

Mr. Sayre made a motion to approve this proposal for changing the current mercy rule for football to be a 50 point differential at the half or any time thereafter for a levels including middle school. Mr. Durham seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

General Action Item- Consider allowing double elimination format for this year's softball state tournament per the Softball Sports Specific Committee.

Mr. Gene Victor presented on behalf of the softball community referring the Commission to a handout. He asked the Commission to consider allowing softball to go back to a double elimination tournament as it has been for the past two years. He stated the rationale behind having a double elimination tournament is that teams travel long distances and with a single elimination tournament they could potentially only play one game, returning home that same night. He stated that baseball is held over four days and softball was only given two days for the state tournament, this could potentially be a Title IX issue. Lastly, he stated that volleyball was given pool play back, as pool play is a part of the sport, double elimination is part of the sport of softball. Therefore, he is proposing that double elimination be brought back for this year's state tournament.

Mr. Victor stated that he understands that a cost factor could come into play especially for APS, however the schedule could be worked with to allow for mostly 5A games to be held at noon therefore travel could be delayed until that morning. He stated that the double elimination does make more money for the NMAA and allows for 16 teams to participate. Mr. Young stated that baseball is stretched over four days because there are not enough facilities in Albuquerque that can provide lights for the games.

Ms. Marquez added in regards to the School Athletic Equities Act that most people tend to compare softball to baseball, however these are two different sports and this Act is meant to compare all sports within the athletic program.

Mr. Pino stated his concern regarding the change to double elimination for this year. Several schools have planned their graduations around state events in May. He fears if the change is made now this could be very problematic for schools that have already arranged their schedules.

Ms. Marquez stated that by the Board of Directors bringing back pool play for volleyball, there was not any additional costs to the schools. The Board asked that the state volleyball tournament be completed in three days and the NMAA was in compliance of what the Board asked. She stated if softball could do a double elimination tournament in two days they would comply as well.

Mr. Mabrey made a motion to accept this proposal, changing the state softball tournament to a double format rather than the current single elimination format. No second was made. The motion dies.

General Action Item-Consider using NMOA Executive Board Members (NMOA Sport Specific Chairs) to serve on NMAA Sport Specific Committees.

Ms. Dana Sanchez referred the Commission to page 12. She proposed using NMOA Executive Board Members as part of the sport specific committees. She stated the twelve Executive Board members would each represent the sport they specialize in. The term would be two years. The officials currently serving on the sport specific committees would finish out their terms before the Executive Committee would serve.

Mr. Gerheart made a motion to accept this proposal. Mr. Sayre seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Item- Consider requiring basketball regional assignors to assign regular season invitational basketball tournaments, with the input from host schools. Modification to 7.8.9 of the NMAA Handbook.

Ms. Sanchez stated that per the NMOA Board would like regional assignors to assign regular season invitational tournaments with input from host schools. She stated that currently schools hosting the invitational tournaments in all sports are required to have their list of officials approved by the NMAA office and/or the assignor. She stated this would improve the consistency and help to eliminate problems of officials being chosen that are not part of the NMOA, it would become a structure for accountability. She added that many schools use the same officials every year for these tournaments and this proposal would help give other officials the opportunity to gain experience in these invitational tournaments.

Lastly she added that the regional assignors would include the host schools input while assigning to these invitational tournaments, therefore if a school had a particular requests their input is taken into consideration when assigning for these invitational tournaments.

Mr. Sayre made a motion to accept this proposal. Mr. Stacy seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

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

General Discussion Item- Review the results of the seeding/selection and qualifying series advisory referenda with feedback from the Commission.

Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to page 15. He stated that 104 member schools voted on this referenda. Fifty four member schools voted in favor of having representatives from each district serve on the seeding/selection committee; fifty three member schools voted in favor of continuing with the current seeding/selection process however with the additions being use of the NMHSCA poll as part of criteria as well as using performance against other teams regardless of classification.

Additionally, fifty six member schools voted for the district champions automatically qualifying with the remainder of the field being at large bids, and in 8-man football, four of the six member schools who voted were not in favor of qualifying six teams to the state tournament as opposed to the current qualifying system.

Mr. Martinez stated that the NMAA's recommendations that will be made to the Board at their next meeting will include the NMAA being responsible for the entire seeding/selection process for all team sports. The seeding/selection process will remain the same as is presently used with the following additions: the present number two under the current criteria will include the sentence at the end of the statement regardless of

classification, and the NMHSCA coaches poll will be used to help with the seeding/selection process.

Recommendations made by the Commission include having a minimum number of coaches to vote in the poll before it may be used in the criteria. Look at strength of schedule and the number of district champions a particular team has played as well as compare teams regardless of classification.

General Discussion Item- Review the results of the football survey with feedback from the Commission.

Mr. Martinez stated that the votes were all close and the survey was conducted to receive feedback from coaches on current football rules.

General Discussion Item- Newly formed Bylaws Committee with potential revisions for the future.

Mr. Tripp referred the Commission to page thirty two which consists of a list of the newly formed Bylaws Committee Members. He informed the Commission that this committee will be used to look at the current NMAA Handbook and make any adjustments and/or changes needing to be made. He stated the committee consists of representatives at all levels including coaches, Principals and School Board Members. He stated this committee will meet four times throughout the semester and are accepting any feedback anyone may have regarding the current Bylaws.

General Discussion Item- Activities Update

Ms. Kristin Derr stated that the State Choir Contest took place and thirty schools participated this year. She stated that the winners include Class 5A Eldorado High School, 4A Sandia Prep, 3A Piedra Vista and 1A/2A Victory Christian Academy. This was a tremendous event that took place at the Albuquerque Academy.

She stated that State Bowling will be held on March 5-6 at 10 Pins in Rio Rancho, NM. Lastly, she stated that six students were chosen for the Student Leadership Conference, the winners and alternates are posted online. New Mexico is able to take twelve kids this year (winners and alternates) due to other states not using the maximum amount of slots given per state.

General Discussion Item- Review the Senate Bill 1 that was recently passed by the New Mexico State Legislature thus mandating concussion training for all coaches throughout the state.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission about the recently passed Senate Bill 1 regarding concussions. He stated that the Governor recently passed this Bill which mandates that all coaches throughout the state. He stated that Senator Sanchez emphasized the importance of mandatory concussion training in middle schools and high schools across the state. The NMAA will be working with the Brain Injury Association of New Mexico in an effort to inform all coaches of the risks of concussions.

On March 9th Mr. Tripp, the President from the Trainers Association and Mr. Rob Evers will be meeting with the Brain Association to brainstorm ideas for the mandatory training. Discussion regarding mandatory training done online through the NFHS as well as a Bylaw protocol of a concussion occurs during an athletic event will be discussed during this time. More details to come by April 1, 2010.

General Discussion Item- School Athletic Equities Act

Mr. Tripp stated that Senator Cynthia Nava proposed a delay for the School Athletic Act that was to go into effect starting in the fall of 2010. He stated that the House and the Senate have both agreed to delay, however is awaiting the Governor's final approval. The Governor has fourteen days to sign off on the delay. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

General Discussion Item- Calendar for the 2010-2011 School year with minor changes/adjustments from this year's calendar.

Mr. Zayas referred the Commission to page 33. He stated that fall practice will start August 9th, winter practice will start on November 1st and spring will start January 31 and February 7th. He added that he hopes to get the Calendar out before the first of May and it will be posted on the website as well. Lastly he stated that state spirit will be held on March 25-26th and the state A/AA and 3A/5A Track and Field championships will be held on two separate weekends.

General Discussion Item- Foundation report with announcement of the 2010 scholarship recipients.

Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to page 34. He stated that the recipients of the scholarships for 2010 range from schools throughout the state. He stated that a banquet/luncheon will take place to honor these recipients as well as honoring them on the Pit floor during the tournament. Mr. Tripp reminded the Commission about the Foundation Golf Tournament being held in Belen on May 27th to which the money raised will go the providing scholarships such as these.

General Discussion Item- NMAA Hal of Fame inductee Dave Barney

Mr. Zayas stated that this year Mr. Dave Barney is the newest inductee to the NMAA Hall of Fame. He stated a banquet will be held at 12:00pm at the Marriot. Dave Barney is one of the best coaches in the state and is very well deserving of this award.

General Discussion Item- State Basketball Tournament Schedule and Information

Ms. Marquez stated that the first round will be held the weekend of March 5-6. The finals for the girls and boys will be played at the Pit on Friday and Saturday March 12-13th. Class A teams will be held at Bernalillo High School. Parking at the Pit will be an issue this week and Handicap parking is located on the south side of the Pit. She added the Complimentary pass gate will be on the South East side of the Pit.

Mr. Tripp congratulated the 25 year teams including Grady, Kirtland Central, Clayton and Alamogordo.

Mr. Johnson added the NMADA will be having meetings during the week of the tournament. He stated that Thursday at the NMAA the NMADA Board will have a meeting at 10:00am. At 11:00 a.m. there will be an athletic director meeting, lunch at 12:00 p.m. The NMADA will be hosting the Section 6 meeting this year consisting of 5 other states. At 1:00 p.m. will be a presentation/meeting.

- V. Mr. Johnson informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
- VI. A motion to adjourn was made by Gerheart. It was seconded by Mr. Stacy and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.