

NMAA COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, May 27, 2009
9:00 a.m., NMAA Conference Room A



- I. The NMAA Commission met on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 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. Brian Stacy (Large Area B), Mr. Lawrence Johnson (Large Area C), Mr. Sam Olney (Small Area C), Mr. Gary Salazar (Small Area B), Mr. Tom Manning (Large Area D), Mr. Doug Santo (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association), Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association), Mr. Jim Sayre (New Mexico Officials Association), Terry Martin (State School Boards Association), and Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council), and Mr. Pete MacFarlane (Non-Public School Representative.) Absent was Mr. Gary Frazier (Small Area D), and Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals) A quorum was declared and business before the Commission could be conducted.

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

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

The minutes from the May 27, 2009 meeting were presented (see pgs. 5-10) of Attachments). A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Directors' Report – Mr. Tripp stated the NMAA Foundation has started a new marketing strategy. He stated that their goal is to contact businesses to be a sponsor of the foundation. Mr. Tripp stated that the Foundation will be having a banquet at the start of the State Basketball Championships. The banquet will honor one male and one female athlete. This year they will honor Tommy Macdonald, a Roy/Highland High School graduate from the 1950's and Ms. Nancy Lopez a Roswell graduate who promoted girl participation in the sport of tennis. He stated the Foundation will sell tables of 10 seats for \$1000. If interested please contact Mr. Gary Tripp.

Mr. Tripp stated that the True Champions program, which is an extension of the Pursuing Victory with Honor program, includes a curriculum for coaches throughout the state of New Mexico in an effort to provide them with the tool needed to increase motivation among student's athletes, communicate with parents and improve their overall athletic program.

Mr. Tripp informed the Commission about the ongoing issue with Home School participation. One important factor he mentioned was in regards to Home School students and the potential problems with the amount of hours they spend with school vs. a public school student who spends all day in a classroom. He stated the NMAA is working with the Public Education Department on creating an equal level of playing field with Home School participation.

Mr. Tripp discussed District Tournament Championship games in regards to the sport of basketball. He stated there have been problems with boys and girls games being played back to back on the same night and even at the same time. He stated the NMAA discourages schools to do so; Basketball is a huge revenue sport and helps to pay for many spring sports and he encourages schools to allow for fans to take part in both games if they so choose.

Mr. Tripp stated he was approached by the Arizona Association regarding an Arizona and New Mexico border challenge. He stated the lieutenant governor in regards to the centennial is pushing for all sophomores to graduate in two years. The goal is to start January 8th and 9th and have teams from Arizona travel to Clovis to compete in a basketball tournament.

Lastly, Mr. Tripp stated that the NFHS reported that over 3 million females are participating in athletics throughout the nation and over 4 million males are participating. That is a 57,000 increase in female participants and 50,000 increase in male participants since the previous year. Mr. Tripp added that this weekend Section VI will be taking place in Albuquerque. Association Directors and Administration from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado will be traveling to Albuquerque for workshops in an effort to improve high school athletics.

Ms. Sally Marquez stated that the NMAA recently signed a three year contract with Santa Ana Star Center to be the venue for the Spirit, Wrestling, Volleyball and Basketball state championships.

Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that the NMAA is receiving several petitions. She asked that Athletic Directors to please wait to send in petitions until they are complete. She stated there have been several petitions have been sent in without the pertinent documents needed to make a ruling, thus delaying the process.

Lastly, Ms. Marquez stated that UNM has guaranteed the use of the PIT for the 2010 State Basketball Championships. They will stop all construction on October 1, 2009 and clean up the area for the UNM Basketball Season and the State Championships held in March 2010.

Mr. Martinez stated that the Board of Directors adjusted Class B, A and AA alignment and classification. He stated this was in an effort to eliminate several districts from having only two team districts.

Mr. Martinez asked all athletic directors to please verify that all transfer athletes have petitioned and are giving the correct information. He stated the NMAA has sanctioned four schools for falsification of information and ultimately the athlete is the one that loses his/her eligibility and therefore punished.

Mr. Martinez introduced and welcomed Mr. Sam Olney, Athletic Director at Magdalena High School. He took Mr. Louie Baisa's place. Mr. Martinez welcomed Ms. Debra Ledford, Athletic Director at Moreno Valley High School who took the place of Mr.

Manuel Romero. Lastly, he welcomed Mr. Doug Santo, Athletic Director at Loving High School taking Mr. Larry Waters place on the Commission.

II. General Action Items- Consider allowing pool play on Thursday of the 2009 State Volleyball Championships as per the Volleyball Coaches of New Mexico.

Mr. Toby Manzanares, head volleyball coach at Rio Rancho High School asked for the Commission's consideration in allowing pool play on Thursday of the State Volleyball Championships. He stated that during the 2008 championships there were great matches, and pool play was played on Wednesday. He stated the format if pool play was allowed would be for A/AA would be 2 pools of four, 2 games to 21. 3A-5A pool play format would be 3 pools of 4 2 games to 25. Mr. Manzanares stated that if pool play is reinstated for 2009, pool play and first round would be played on Thursday, quarterfinals and semifinals would be played on Friday and Championships would be on Saturday. Mr. Manzanares informed the commission if pool play was not reinstated it would mean some teams would be eliminated Thursday morning and that would conclude their state championships play. Ms. Kim Bell, head volleyball coach at Moriarty stated that during the coaches meeting during the summer several coaches were very concerned about pool play being eliminated. She stated that pool play truly benefits the sport of volleyball.

Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that the Volleyball coaches respect getting rid of Wednesday of the state tournament, which is why pool play would be added within the limits of the Board of Directors request of eliminating one day of the tournament. Volleyball is a sport where the girls can play several matches in one day. For the 2009 state championships pool play would start at 8:00 a.m., if pool play was not reinstated, the championships would start at 9:00 a.m. that morning, therefore it does not make any difference in regards to the schedule. Class A/AA would start in the afternoon on Thursday to help with travel.

Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Olney seconded, the motion passed with a vote of 12-1.

General Action Items – Consider mandating that each student athlete in NM complete the online Life of An Athlete curriculum starting in the Fall 2010. (referenda item)

Mr. Robert Zayas informed the Commission that 143 New Mexico car crashes turned fatal due to alcohol. He stated that 320 car accidents in the past two years with alcohol related incidents.

Mr. Zayas stated that the Life of An Athlete program shows the negative effects alcohol has on an athlete's performance. He proposed that every high school athlete take a 45 minute curriculum, consisting of an interactive video, to make athletes aware of the effects alcohol has on athletic performance. Me. Zayas stated that this would be implemented beginning with the Fall 2010.

Mr. Zayas referred the Commission to page 11. He stated that the Fall sports deadline for an athlete to complete this program would be September 15, Winter Sports December 15 and Spring Sports April 1. A database would be created to help athletic directors with the tracking of their athletes and whether they completed the course.

Mr. Gerheart made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Stacy seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Consider clarifying eligibility for Cyber School students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. (referenda item)

Ms. Sally Marquez referred the Commission to page 15 stating that Cyber schools are becoming more common. A student is enrolled in a school, however is taking classes online and receiving a high school diploma rather than a GED. She stated that currently Cyber School students taking classes online are eligible to participate in their home attendance area. Mr. Tripp added that in order to make athletics a level playing field, Cyber School students must participate in their home public school attendance area and the Cyber School must be accredited through the Public Education Department. Ideal New Mexico is accredited by the Public Education Department and is developed to help public schools receive funding for Cyber School students.

Mr. Sategna made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Stacy seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Consider adding to 8.2.3 whereas Spirit coaches are required to complete the NFHS/AACCA online safety education program. (referenda item)

Ms. Kristin Derr referred the Commission to page 16 of the Commission packet. She stated that the NFHS has joined with ACCA to provide an online safety education program for all spirit coaches. She stated that this is an online curriculum that will cost an additional \$40 to help in an effort to reduce injuries in Spirit. Ms. Derr proposed that all Spirit coaches be required to take this online curriculum beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Gerheart seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

General Action Items – Consider making cheer and drill a sport versus an activity beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. (referenda item)

Ms. Marquez stated on behalf of many athletic directors and superintendents in an effort to help schools with the school Equities Act making spirit a sport in the state of New Mexico. Ms. Marquez stated the Equities Act will be in place starting Fall 2010, this will include all enrollment numbers, participation numbers by gender, money spent on all sports and many more will be published for the public to see. She stated that currently Spirit is not counted in the numbers for Title IX. She referred the Commission to page 18 where it shows the changes that would need to be done in the Spirit bylaws in order for school to be compliant. Those include Spirit becoming a part of the athletic budget, all transfer rules will apply, must have a definite season, uniforms will be on a rotating (3-4 year) basis, out of state travel and out of season coaching rule (club). She proposed that Spirit become a sport starting with the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Mabrey seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission took a 10 minute recess and re-convened at 10:37 AM

Sport Specific General Action Items – Consider restructuring the qualifying procedure in tennis which will reduce the number of state qualifiers in individuals and doubles play.

Ms. Marquez stated last Spring in the sport of Tennis, the NMAA was able to try the new format passed by the Board of Directors. This format included having the singles, doubles and team tournaments over a three day span versus a time period of two weekends. She stated there were several complaints by coaches regarding their athletes playing too many matches in one day, therefore increasing their risk for injury and fatigue. In order for this to occur, she proposed that 2 athletes per district in Class 4A/5A will be taken and 3 per district in Class 3A-A. This would ensure that an athlete would play only three matches in one day. She stated if this would pass, scoring would be changed back to regular scoring rather than no ad scoring which was used the previous year.

Mr. Sategna made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Salazar seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sport Specific General Action Items – By state adoption and NFHS rules, move the pitching distance from 40’ to 43’ for this spring 2010, one year earlier as it is mandated for Spring 2011. (referenda item)

Mr. Gene Pino stated that the NFHS recently passed a new pitching distance of 43’ being which will be mandatory for 2011. He proposed that the new pitching distance be mandated for Spring 2010 rather than 2011 at mandated by the NFHS. He stated that currently the pitching distance is 40’, which allows for the pitcher to dominate the game, this would get the entire team on the field more involved in the game allowing for more excitement.

Mr. Pino referred the Commission to page 21, he stated he sent out a survey this past summer regarding the mandating of this rule to be changed to 2010 rather than 2011. The coaches and athletic directors were in favor of mandating the change in distance for Spring 2010.

Mr. Stacy made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Martin seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sport Specific General Action Items – Consider amending the current bylaw concerning the reporting time after District Track and Field meets for A/AA Schools.

Mr. Martinez stated that due to the adjustment made for the Track and Field Championships for the current school year, he proposed amending the current bylaw 7.21.3 C6b regarding the reporting time district track meets for A/AA. He stated currently it reads school representatives shall report their times by Monday at 5:00. He proposed changing the time to Monday at 11:00 a.m. for Class A/AA teams and Monday at 5:00 p.m. for Class 3A-5A teams.

Mr. Olney made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Martin seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sport Specific General Action Items – Consider adding to the NMAA Bylaws 7.21.1 F that once pole vault certification has been achieved, it is valid for a period of 4 years. Effective Spring 2010 (referenda item)

Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to page 23. He stated currently the NMAA requires all pole vault coaches be certified in the safety standards. This certification is currently good for two years and then must be renewed. He proposed the certification be good for 4 years rather than two years.

Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Olney seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sport Specific General Action Items –Consider seeding Class A/AA basketball 1-16 versus the current system as per the basketball sports specific committee.

Ms. Marquez proposed, per the Basketball Sports Specific Committee, seeding Class A/AA 1-16 before the first round. She stated that this would make district champions and regular season district champion get an automatic bid with the rest being at large. She stated this could potentially eliminate the runner-up getting an automatic bid into the tournament. Mr. Tripp stated that the NMAA held a meeting for Class B recently and discussed the issue of teams not playing outside of their area. He stated that it then becomes hard to seed the smaller schools. He stated the NMAA is asking Class B schools play at least four schools outside of their district to help with this matter.

Mr. Olney made a motion to accept the proposal presented. Mr. Salazar seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

III. General Discussion Item- Playing Alumni games/scrimmages and the potential problems.

Mr. Tripp stated that schools scrimmage alumni and/or scrimmaging another alumni teams. He stated that issues pertaining this include schools are not playing against other member school; alumni are over the age of 18 therefore they have used up their eligibility status and the liability issues if an alumni gets injured. Ms. Marquez stated the possible issue of alumni and club teams playing against member schools for scrimmages. Discussion included the alumni match being a large fundraiser for the school, and potentially adding parameters to the alumni match to help keep it under control rather than eliminating it completely.

General Discussion Item- Alignment and Classification

Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to page 26 and 27. He stated that several schools chose to play up. Magdalena moved to AA. He stated fewer schools were then part of Class B and in order to keep districts from being 2 teams only some changes had to be made. Mr. Martinez stated one major change was Animas in volleyball. They will automatically make it to state due to the other two schools in their district will compete at the Class B level. Mr. Martinez added in an effort to help with seeding and selection Class B schools will play 4 matches outside of their district.

General Discussion Item-Seeding and Selection Update

Mr. Martinez referred the Commission to page 28. He stated that this is a proposed timeline with the Board of Directors. He stated the NMAA came up with four options to help with the improvement of the seeding and selection process. Option 1: keep the current process. Option 2: NMAA staff do the seeding/selection process. Option 3: Use a power rating system and Option 4: refer back to pre-determined matchups. Discussion included having coaches input, and keeping the human element present in the process.

General Discussion Item- Title IX and the Equities Act

Ms. Marquez stated Title IX and the Equities act will be a large part of the Fall Conference. She recommends that every school have a representative there to learn more about how this will effect their school. Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that she has traveled throughout the state presenting on this topic. If interested in having her speak to your community please contact Sally Marquez at the NMAA.

General Discussion Item- Eligibility requirements for student participating in extracurricular activities.

Ms. Kristin Derr stated in Section 8 of the NMAA Handbook, currently activity participants do not have to abide by the same eligibility requirements as athletes. She stated this is now becoming an issue with transfer students and residential eligibility. She stated adding eligibility requirements for all extracurricular activities, those activities not linked to a class or a student receiving credit for the activity is a possibility.

General Discussion Item- NMHSCA All Star Games

Mr. Mabrey stated that currently there are 19 all star games a year. He stated that the all star games seem to be costly for smaller schools and these games seem to be getting to large and too expensive to manage. He stated the recommendation is to limit some games and make things more equitable across the board.

General Discussion Item- Fall Sport Venues, schedules and information

Ms. Marquez stated that the Volleyball Championships will be held November 12-14th at the Santa Ana Star Center. She stated this year volleyball coaches will be competing in Dig Pink during the month of October in an effort to raise money for cancer research and awareness. She added that last year teams throughout the state raised around \$70,000 this year their goal is \$100,000.

Mr. Tripp stated that the Soccer Championships will be held at the APS Soccer Complex, Cross Country will be held at Rio Rancho and Football will be held at the site of the higher seed. Mr. Tripp added the NMAA was able negotiate a 3 year contract with Santa Ana in three sports for championship venues.

General Discussion Item- Activities Update

Ms. Kristin Derr stated they recently had an Activities Council meeting where they discussed eligibility for activities and adding them to Section 8 of the handbook. She stated last weekend was the annual Spirit Summit which was very successful. Lastly, One Act Play is being held at the San Juan College November 1-5th.

IV. Addendum Agenda

General Discussion Item- Consider the reduction in games in several sports with the intention of alleviating some of the financial burden on member schools as per a recommendation from several athletic directors.

Mr. Johnson stated a group of athletic directors met regarding reducing games due to financial matters. Mr. Johnson stated several schools are experiencing budget cuts and reducing games would help alleviate some of the financial burden.

Mr. Martinez stated that if games are reduced, it would cause problems with Class B and the NMAA wanting them to travel and play four games out of their district. He added that for most small schools athletic events become the social part of the town, without athletic events there is not a lot more to do in smaller communities.

Ms. Marquez added stating the with new equities act cutting games from all other sports besides football would be a Title IX issue. She also stated that the Equities Act will make all schools provide schedules to be posted to the public.

General Discussion Item-The fee structure for post season events at home sites put in place by the NMAA could be problematic for some schools/districts.

Mr. Tom Manning presented a letter from Ms. Vicki Nelms, Athletic Director at Los Alamos High School. He stated within the letter it questions the fee scheduled put in place by the NMAA and passed by the Board of Directors. She questioned custodial pay, athletic director's duties to run games and the fact that trainers and secretaries are not included in the fee schedule. Ms. Carol Daniels added that the reason for salary caps within the fee schedules it to keep the financial reports consistent between schools throughout the states. Mr. Martinez added if there is an issue with the fee schedule, because many communities are very different, write a letter to the NMAA and they will review it and either approve it or deny it.

- V. Mr. Johnson informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m.
- VI. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin. It was seconded by Mr. Sategna and a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.