

NMAA HANDBOOK ADDENDUM
COVID-19 BYLAW AMENDMENTS/CLARIFICATIONS
2020-2021 ONLY

1. Annual Meeting – 2.5.1

- a. There will not be an Annual Meeting (Fall Conference) requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.

2. District Clinics (All conducted via Zoom except for Spirit) – 3.6

- Cross Country, Golf, – September 28
- Spirit – October 17
- Football, Volleyball – February 17
- Soccer – February 22
- Basketball, Swimming & Diving – March 15
- Wrestling – March 23
- Golf, Tennis, Track & Field – March 29
- Baseball, Softball – March 30

3. School Online Reporting – NMAA Bylaw 3.9

a. **Beginning of School Information – 3.9.2**

- i. No change to current NMAA policy. Each member school must submit/update their school information through Max Preps by September 1.

b. **Beginning of Athletic Season Information (Max Preps Deadlines) – 3.9.3**

- Cross Country, Football, Volleyball – March 5
- Soccer – March 12
- Basketball, Spirit – April 2
- Swimming & Diving, Wrestling – April 9
- Baseball, Golf, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field – April 16

c. **Pre-Season Meetings – 3.9.4**

- i. There are no pre-season meeting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year however; schools will need to provide the NMAA Pre-Season video to all parents and students.

4. Failure to Complete Season and Classification & Alignment – NMAA Bylaw 4.1.3.A

- a. Schools must notify the NMAA by February 15, 2021 if they plan to opt out of, or have a delayed start in, one or more Fall Season sports. Schools must notify the NMAA by March 15, 2021 if they plan to opt out of, or have a delayed start in, one or more Winter or Spring Season sports.
- b. Schools unable to start or complete seasons due to state, county, or local health department or local school/school district determinations will be exempt from penalties for failure to complete seasons and/or fulfill contracts.
- c. Classification and alignment by sport will be updated throughout 2020-2021 to account for schools that will not have programs due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the pandemic.

5. Scholastic Eligibility – NMAA Bylaw 6.2

- a. A Student may compete without reference to his/her immediate or previous scholastic record during the Fall 2020 semester. The end of the Fall 2020 semester is the beginning of the scholarship requirement (2.0 with no F's) for Students. The cumulative provision may not be applied if a Student has more than one "F" in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation. The cumulative provision can be used for 9th grade students during the 2020-2021 school year.
- b. A Student who is scholastically eligible at the end of the 1st semester of the 2020-2021 school year shall remain eligible for the remainder of the 2020-2021 competition calendar.
- c. A Student who is scholastically ineligible after the 1st semester of the 2020-2021 year, and is unable to utilize the cumulative provision, is subject to the following guidelines for regaining and retaining eligibility for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year:
 - i. A Student may regain his/her eligibility at the next regular grading period (3rd quarter or 4th 6-weeks).
 - ii. A Student who regains eligibility at the 3rd quarter will retain his/her eligibility for the remainder of the 2020-2021 competition calendar.
 - iii. A Student on a 6-week grading period who regains/maintains eligibility after the 5th 6-weeks will retain his/her eligibility for the remainder of the 2020-2021 competition calendar.
 - iv. A Student who is ineligible at the conclusion of the 3rd quarter or 5th 6-weeks, will remain ineligible for the remainder of the 2020-2021 competition calendar.
- d. In case the scholastic record for the previous semester grading period is insufficient due to complications caused by the pandemic, the school, on behalf of the student, may petition the NMAA for a waiver of the previous semester grading period scholarship requirement.
- e. Spring 2021 semester grades determine scholastic eligibility for the Fall 2021 semester.

6. Multiple Seasons in Same Sport – NMAA Bylaw 6.5.1.C.1, 6.13.1.B

- a. No changes to current NMAA policy.

7. Transfer Students – NMAA Bylaw 6.6

- a. New Mexico students who transfer and participate in interscholastic athletics at an out-of-state school during the 2020-2021 school year shall not be subject to transfer penalties during the 2021-2022 school year provided those students return to their initial school.
- b. Students who transfer schools without a bona fide move to a non-adjointing school district, will be ineligible for all levels of athletic participation for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year (in effect as of February 17, 2021).

8. Did Not Participate Exception – NMAA Bylaw 6.9.2.B

- a. If a school is unable to offer a particular sport during the 2020-2021 school year due to state, county, or local health department or local school/school district determinations, students who later transfer from those schools will have their 2019-2020 sport participation utilized when applying the did not participate exception.

9. Participation after Graduation – NMAA Bylaw 6.11

- a. A Student that earns or is eligible for his/her GED or high school diploma or its equivalent during the 2020-2021 school year, shall be eligible to participate during the Spring 2021 semester provided, he/she continues to reside at home for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year with the same parents/guardians he/she was living with immediately preceding graduation.

10. Semesters of Attendance – NMAA Bylaw 6.12

- a. No changes to current NMAA policy.

11. Physical Exam Waivers – NMAA Bylaw 6.15

- a. Students who received a sports physical on or after April 1, 2019 may utilize the NMAA Returning Athlete Physical form if approved by the local school/district.
- b. Students who have not had a physical exam on or after April 1, 2019 must receive a formal sports physical utilizing the NMAA Required Physical Form.
- c. Students who test positive for Covid-19 will need to be cleared from an appropriate health care provider using the NMAA Covid-19 Medical Clearance form.

12. Out-of-Season Coaching – NMAA Bylaw 7.4, 9.7.8

- a. High school out-of-season coaching regulations will remain in effect as per Bylaw 7.4 in the NMAA Handbook.
- b. Middle school students/coaches will be permitted out-of-season contact time, exclusive of the high school, but must follow the out-of-season coaching regulations listed in Bylaw 7.4 of the NMAA Handbook.
- c. Saturdays and holidays may be included in the 7.5-hour restriction.
- d. Summer regulations will go into effect Memorial weekend.

13. Minimum Contests for Post-Season Eligibility – NMAA Bylaw 7.6.5

- a. Not in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.
- b. Schools will still be required to meet district competition requirements.

14. Missed Games – NMAA Bylaw 7.9 (See also 3.11.4, 5.1.6 & 5.1.7)

- a. Teams will not be penalized a loss or forfeit due to state, county, or local health department determinations relative to Covid-19.
- b. Games missed due to Covid-19 will be considered a “no contest” but can be made up if mutually agreed upon.
- c. Teams may work to reschedule with new possible opponents should they have open dates due to scheduled opponents missing games.
- d. District games missed due to Covid-19 must be rescheduled if time permits (see Rule 17 below). Teams may work to reschedule with new possible opponents if the district game(s) cannot be rescheduled.

- e. Once post-season brackets have been drawn, teams or individuals unable to play due to COVID-19 restrictions will be eliminated from the field and the team or individual they are scheduled to play will advance to the next round.

15. Out-of-State Competition

- a. Out-of-State competition is permitted but schools must comply with public health orders, including potential quarantine orders.

16. Home/Charter/Alternative/Non-Member Private School Eligibility – NMAA Section 10

- a. No changes to current NMAA policies.
- b. Students electing to remain enrolled through virtual curriculum offered by the local public school, retain eligibility at that school.
- c. Students who attend charter schools that choose to remain fully remote, shall not be eligible to participate at their local public school in any sport the charter school had planned to offer this year.

17. Seeding & Selection Rules – NMAA Bylaw 7.11 – **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

a. Team Qualifying Numbers

- i. 8-Team Format
 - Baseball (2A-5A), Basketball (A-5A), Soccer (4A-5A), Softball (A/2A-5A), Tennis (A/4A, 5A) Volleyball (A-5A)
- ii. 4-Team Format
 - Baseball (A), Soccer (A/3A)

b. Individual Qualifying Numbers

- i. Cross Country
 - The top-2 teams in each district qualify for the State Championships.
 - The top-3 individual runners not associated with the top-2 teams in each district will qualify for the State Championships.
- ii. Golf
 - The top-2 teams in each district qualify for the State Championships.
 - The top-2 individuals not associated with the top-2 teams in each district will qualify for the State Championships.
- iii. Swimming & Diving
 - Top 16 state-qualifying times advance to the State Championships.
 - Finals only. No preliminary rounds.
- iv. Tennis
 - District champions automatically qualify in both singles and doubles.
 - Three (3) at large bids selected in addition to the district champions to complete an 8-man bracket in both singles and doubles.
- v. Track & Field
 - TBD
- vi. Wrestling
 - TBD

c. **Seeding & Selection (Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball)**

- District Champions will automatically qualify for the State Championships.
- At-large teams will be selected using the standard criteria listed in Section 7.11.2.B of the Handbook.
- A school forced to cancel one or more district games due to state, county, or local health department determinations, must complete at least 51% of their district schedule to be eligible for post-season selection. This rule only applies to those schools forced to shut down due to state, county, or local health department determinations.
- District finish will be determined using the win/loss percentage of district games played.
- District ties will be broken using the sport specific procedures listed in Section 7 of the Handbook.
- District tie-breaking games will not occur in the sport of basketball.
- State seeding will utilize the standard criteria listed in section 7.11.3 of the Handbook.

18. Powerlifting

- a. Powerlifting will be added as a sanctioned activity for the 2020-2021 school year.

19. Football

- a. There will be no state playoffs.
- b. Out-of-Season Equipment Allowance (Exception to Bylaws 7.15.1.B.4 & 9.8.4.A.4)
- i. Football helmets and shoulder pads can be used during offseason workouts. This exception would ONLY apply for the period beginning February 1, 2021, through the first official day of practice for the 2021 Spring Semester football season. All athletes must first participate in a minimum of two (2) days of practice with helmets only prior to working out in shells (helmets and shoulder pads); shells can be worn beginning day three of practice at the earliest.
 - ii. Full contact / Live Action drills are prohibited during these offseason workouts. In addition, all NMAA/COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines must be followed.
 - iii. If a school opts to use helmets and shoulder pads during this time, the initial 4-day acclimation period (2-days in helmets, 2-days in helmets and shoulder pads) required prior to moving in to full pads during Week 1 of official practice will be waived. Note that this acclimation period would still apply for athletes who did not participate in offseason workouts or did not fulfill 2 days in helmets and 2 days in shells.
- c. Football Practice Regulations (Adjustment to Bylaws 7.15.1.B & 9.8.4.A)
- i. Minimum days of practice prior to participating in a game changed to eight (8)
 - ii. Weekly full contact regulations adjusted per new calendar
 - iii. Full regulations: <https://www.nmact.org/files/NMAAFootballPracticeRegulations.pdf>