

## **NMAA Commission Meeting**

February 1, 2023

9:00 AM

Hall of Pride and Honor

**Welcome** – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scott Affentranger at 9:01 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Mr. Gary Allison (Small Area A)  
Mr. Ben Tensay (Large Area A)  
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)  
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large, Area B)  
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)  
Ms. Karen Nougues (Large, Area C)  
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small Area D)  
Ms. Ann Stewart (Large, Area D)  
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)  
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association) *\*via phone*  
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council) *\*via phone*  
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)  
Ms. Linda Montoya (New Mexico School Boards Association)

15 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Adrian Pete (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of the discussion item - Academic Competition as Sanctioned Activity. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Affentranger asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022, Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

### **Elections:**

Election of Commission Chairperson - Mr. Affentranger asked for nominations for Chair of the NMAA Commission. Mr. Mabrey nominated Mr. Affentranger and Mr. Henderson seconded. Mr. Roybal nominated Ms. Robinson who declined to serve in this role. Ms. Robinson nominated Mr. Roybal who also declined. Mr. Mirabal nominated Mr. Allison and Mr. Roybal seconded. Ms. Moores nominated Mr. Tensay and Mr. Martinez seconded. Mr. Affentranger removed his name from consideration. A roll call vote was taken between Mr. Allison and Mr. Tensay. Mr. Allison was elected Commission Chair with an 11-4 vote.

### **NMAA Director's Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items on his report: 1) welcomed to the Commission Mr. Allison from Springer Schools - representing Small Area A, Ms. Montoya from

the West Las Vegas Board of Education - representing the NM School Boards Association, Ms. Nougues from Gadsden Schools - representing Large Area C, and stated Mr. Mirabal of Magdalena Schools was reelected to represent Small Area C; 2) reported on the upcoming Winter Championships of Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, Basketball, and Spirit; 3) provided information regarding the NMAA Foundation's 2021-2022 Annual Report; 4) stated that the NMAA Foundation's scholarship program will see over 40 scholarships awarded later in February; and 5) reported that the NMAA Foundation's annual fundraising events will take place in April (Bowl-A-Thon) and June (Golf Classic).

#### **NMAA Financial Report:**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) reported on ticket sales for each Fall Championship; and 2) provided full financial reports for the Fall Championship Season.

#### **NMAA Activities Report:**

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) reported that State Bowling will take place this week for both small and large schools; 2) stated that all other state activity events will take place throughout the next three months; 3) acknowledged Ms. Hahn for the national recognition she has received for her service to Student Council; and 4) provided information regarding the NMADA hosting sectional NIAAA meetings during the upcoming State Basketball Championships.

#### **New Mexico Officials Association Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed seven (7) items on his report: 1) stated that 75 officials will represent the NMOA at the upcoming State Basketball, Swimming & Diving, and Wrestling Championships; 2) provided an update on the recruitment efforts of the NMOA; 3) reported on the statewide officiating curriculum that has been created as an elective course for high school students across the state; 4) recapped a national officials consortium that was recently hosted by the NFHS; 5) stated that continuing education is still a priority for the NMOA with events like the spring football officials forum and other clinics taking place during the offseason; 6) provided an update on the plans to increase opportunities during the NMOA's annual summer State Clinic; and 7) reported on current officials' numbers for spring sports. Mr. Allison asked for information regarding basketball officials' numbers – Mr. Stevenson stated that numbers are up, but availability is an issue that can lead to coverage issues, especially at the sub-varsity and middle school levels.

#### **General Discussion/Information Items:**

July Awards Banquet - Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, provided information on the NMAA Hall of Fame Banquet being adjusted so that honorees could be recognized in conjunction with NMOA and NMHSCA Hall of Famers during a special summer awards banquet to be held annually in July. Other NMAA, NMOA, NMHSCA, and NMADA awards will be distributed during this banquet, which will help to bring each of these organizations together as a more collaborative summer event is planned for the future.

Classification & Alignment - Ms. Marquez provided information on classification and alignment for the next two-year block. She stated the NMAA Board has asked the staff to look at new ways to classify schools, outside of using only enrollment numbers. Two of these possibilities include success/non-success factors and socio-economic factors. Ms. Marquez stated she will send out a survey to schools in relation to classification and alignment later in February. The NMAA Bylaws Committee will review data/ideas collected by staff and this information will be relayed to both the NMAA Commission & Board.

Sportsmanship / Compete with Class - Ms. Marquez discussed the current NMAA unsportsmanlike conduct bylaws in comparison to the Oklahoma and Louisiana policies. Through discussion the NMAA has come up with the following possibilities for bylaw changes in this area moving forward: Suspension for Athletic Activities for Unsporting Conduct would include: 1. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a team participant, including a coach, occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the team will be suspended from participation in that activity for the remainder of the season. 2. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a non-team participant occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the non-team member, along with all school spectators will be suspended from attendance in that activity for the remainder of the season. 3. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in the NMAA Handbook as non-compliance with sport specific rules and NMAA policies, including behaviors incompatible with "Compete with Class" and the interscholastic educational objective. Examples of egregious unsportsmanlike conduct by participants, coaches, or spectators include but are not limited to, fans entering the playing surface to engage in acts of violence or abuse, constant verbal attacks on officials, attacking other fans, coaches physically or verbally attacking officials, players fighting other players during post game handshakes, or student sections verbally chanting inappropriate or demeaning comments towards individuals, teams, or officials. 4. In the event the second act of misconduct occurs when there are no contests left in the current season, the penalty may be applied to the next season in the same activity. The NMAA will notify the school that the team and/or individual/spectators has been placed on warning after the first offense. Although feedback was mostly positive, it was felt that egregious unsportsmanlike conduct should be better/more defined should the membership decide to adopt this new policy.

Appeals / Hardships - Ms. Marquez provided information regarding the current process for hardship petitions and appeals and possible updates moving forward. The NMAA is exploring the use of a mediator during the appeals process – the mediator could possibly be a retired judge as this practice is used in other states around the country. Feedback was positive, but also included a recommendation that both the sending and receiving schools be represented during hardship and/or appeal hearings.

Eligibility: Amateurism / NIL- Ms. Marquez discussed the need for adjustments to NMAA bylaws pertaining to amateurism. This is due to changes at the NCAA level with regards to NIL and payments to athletes. The group discussed the difference between school programs receiving funding from businesses/sponsors as opposed to direct payments made to athletes.

Baseball: State Tournament Venues – Ms. Marquez and Mr. Young reported that the NMAA has been looking at alternative venues for the State Baseball Championships due to facility conflicts with both Isotopes Park and the University of New Mexico. They stated that the Albuquerque Regional Sports Complex would be an ideal location for the event with its five baseball fields, but policies prohibiting the use of metal cleats have been a road block in using that facility in previous years. Ms. Marquez stated that the city of Albuquerque has verbally approved the use of metal spikes for the 2023 tournament, so the NMAA hopes to finalize details soon that will move the majority of the tournament to the baseball complex located in west Albuquerque.

Football: State Playoff Sites - Mr. Young provided an update on information that has been collected regarding sites for the State Football Championships. He stated that a survey was sent to football coaches and athletic directors with this data being reviewed by the football sports specific committee. The current recommendation from this committee is to leave past history bylaws as is but look to implement some sort of facility guidelines/standards that must be met for a school to host a football playoff game.

Football: NFHS Equipment Discussions - Mr. Young reported on several football equipment items that were discussed at the recent NFHS Football Rules Committee meeting. He stated that the legality of after-market products added to football helmets will be reviewed by helmet manufacturers and NOCSAE. He also reported that in light of the incident that occurred with Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills, shoulder pads may be looked at as equipment needing NOCSAE certification in the future. This NFHS SMAC did also state that this incident should remind sports organizations across the country as to how important it is to have EAPs in place for athletic contests.

**Action Items:**

Eligibility: Specialized Sports Training / Academies - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal regarding Specialized Sports Training. Bylaw 6.9.2.C Specialized Sports Training shall read: students and/or transfer students who enroll in an NMAA-member school after attending a specialized sport training academy or school, shall be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport(s) for 180 school / 365 calendar days from the date of their enrollment. Specialization sport training programs include, without limitation, non-school sponsored sports training academies or facilities that recruit participants for specialized training. Specialization sport training programs also include non-NFHS member prep school, non-scholastic team/program, or municipal sports teams. Mr. Allison asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

**Consider Adjournment**

Mr. Allison asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 a.m. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).