

NMAA Commission Meeting
February 6, 2019
9:00 AM
NMAA Office

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:03 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

Mr. Tim Host (Small, Area A)
Mr. Larry Chavez (Large, Area A)
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large, Area B)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large, Area C) – Chair
Mr. Jason Hightower (Small, Area D)
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (Large, Area D)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals) – Vice Chair
Mr. David Campbell (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Mr. Steve Perea (Activities Council)
Mr. Tony Rubin (New Mexico School Boards Association)
Mr. Al Martinez (Non-Public Schools)

Not Present:

Ms. Debbie Coffman (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2018 Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed (5) items on his report: 1) welcomed the two newest Commission members (Mr. Hightower & Ms. Moores); 2) provided an update on winter sports/championships (wrestling, swimming & diving, basketball, & spirit); 3) reported on the NMAA Foundation Scholarship program; 4) provided an update with regards to sportsmanship throughout the fall and winter seasons; and 5) reported on the current legislative session and the introduction of House Bill 438 (school personnel act – coaching).

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented two (2) items on her report: 1) provided financial reports for all fall championships; and 2) presented ticket sales information for all fall championships.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Deputy Director, presented four (4) items on her report: 1) stated that the Activities Council met in early January; 2) provided an update on the status of the NMAA's partnership with Western New Mexico University for Activities' scholarships; 3) stated that numerous activity events would take place over the next few months; and 4) provided an update on the nomination process and work of the NMAA Student Leadership Advisory Council.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Ms. Pappas presented two (2) items on her report: provided a recap of the NMOA State Baseball, Softball and Track and Field Clinics; and 2) stated that the NMOA Executive Board met in January. The Commission then asked Ms. Pappas to provide an update on officials' numbers for spring sports, which are very low at this time. Mr. Campbell also recommended that officials' fees for baseball umpires be revisited and that a possible increase to match the increase for football and basketball should be considered starting in 2019-2020.

General Discussion/Information Items

Tournament Fees – Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed the fees that are currently being charged by schools when hosting various tournaments/meets/events during the regular season. There is a concern that these fees are starting to place a financial burden on schools across the state. The Commission recommended that this topic continue to be reviewed with possible guidelines implemented in the future. The NMAA will also discuss this item with the Board of Directors to collect more feedback.

3rd Party Filming – Ms. Marquez discussed current bylaws pertaining to the 3rd party filming of events/practices. Due to the increased use of cell phones and advances in technology, she stated that this is very hard to regulate and asked if the group felt this regulation was outdated. The Commission did feel that this bylaw may no longer be necessary and recommended that a proposal to update the regulation be brought back to the group as an action item in May.

Forfeitures / Not Competing Schedules – Ms. Marquez discussed the recent increase in forfeitures and number of schools not completing their schedules. She stated that this is having a significant negative impact on schools and kids that are ready to play a contest, but cannot due to last minute cancellations. The Commission agreed that this is an issue and recommended that strict fines, forfeitures, and possibly even decreasing games allowed for schools in future years be used as deterrents. The NMAA will also review this topic with the Board of Directors.

8th Grade Participation for Class 4A/5A – Ms. Marquez discussed 8th grade participation at the high school level, in particular for larger schools (Class 4A & 5A), and the inequities this allowance can create. The Commission discussed the item at length and agreed that this topic should continue to be reviewed with the Board of Directors and membership as a whole.

Scholastic Eligibility: 8th Graders Playing at HS Level – Ms. Marquez discussed 8th graders playing at the high school level and adding a new requirement that would ensure these individuals are in fact scholastically eligible to participate by the current marking period. The Commission supported this proposal and recommended that it be taken directly to the Board of Directors for action.

Volleyball: State Tournament Format – Ms. Marquez discussed the current State Volleyball Championship format and possible adjustments for the future. She stated that the Volleyball Sports Specific Committee supported a change that would eliminate pool play, but institute a modified double elimination format. The Commission supported this change in format and recommended that it be taken to the Board of Directors for action.

Football: One Site for State Finals – Mr. Young discussed the possibility of one site being used for all state football finals. He stated that continued discussion regarding this matter was supported by the Football Sports Specific Committee and that a slight majority of coaches were in favor of this change. The Commission provided both pros and cons regarding this topic. The NMAA will also discuss the item with the Board of Directors.

Action Items

Football: State Qualifiers for 8-Man Playoffs – Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider adjusting the number of qualifiers for the 8-Man State Football playoffs from 12 to 8. This would start in the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Roybal made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Mirabal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Football: Individual Game Limitations (Referenda) – Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider adjusting Bylaw 7.15.1 D so that individuals can participate in a maximum of 11 football games during the regular season. Varsity teams would still be limited to 10 total games (sub-varsity to 9 total games; classes 8-Man & 2A-6A). Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Football: Summer Activity (Referenda) – Mr. Kief Johnson, Ruidoso HS Football Coach & A.D., Mr. Charlie Dotson, Eldorado HS Football Coach, and Mr. Stewart Burnett, Estancia HS Football Coach & A.D., presented a proposal to consider adjusting NMAA Bylaws 7.5.3 and 7.15.1 B which would allow schools a 5-day period during the summer where helmets and pads can be used in a limited manner for 4 days total. The 5-day period must take place after Memorial Day and no later than Week #4 of the NMAA calendar. The first two days should be in shorts and helmets, no pads. During days three and four players should be in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets (shells). Schools may conduct these workouts in 4 consecutive days, or may add a day of rest between days two and three. Full contact is strictly prohibited. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to table the proposal so that more information could be collected. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMOA: Varsity Assignors in All Sports – Ms. Pappas presented a proposal for the NMAA office to begin selecting Varsity Regional Assignors for officials in all sports. This would go into effect starting with the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Perea made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMOA: Game Cancellation/ Reschedule Policy (Referenda) – Ms. Pappas presented a proposal whereas in the event games are cancelled or rescheduled, it is the home school's responsibility to inform the Varsity Regional Assignor or sub varsity assignor and the NMAA, in writing, at least 24 hours in advance unless unforeseen circumstances occur (weather, facility, transportation issue). Failure to notify would result in the school being responsible for paying the contest officials. In addition, the Athletic Director or Athletic Secretary for the host school and the officials assigned are expected to confirm scheduled games with one another approximately three days in advance of each contest. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Campbell made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Basketball: Replay – Mr. Roy Sanchez, Eldorado HS Boys Basketball Coach & A.D., presented a proposal to adopt the use of replay for the NMAA Basketball State Championships (quarterfinals to finals), in concert with NFHS Rule 2.2.1 This would be in effect immediately for the 2019 state championships. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Campbell made the motion to approve the proposal as presented, contingent on all three facilities utilized during the tournament having the ability to operate a floor monitor. If not feasible, this proposal would go into effect for the 2020 basketball season. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Seeding/Selection: Ties in District Standings – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 7.11.2 so that in the event of a tie in the regular season district standings, the NMAA Staff may use the six criteria points or any other head to head competition to determine the selection/seeding order between the two teams that are tied. This would go into effect starting with the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Viramontes made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Middle School: Transferring to Follow a Coach (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 9.3 R to clarify that students who transfer to follow a coach at the middle school level will be ineligible for high school participation for both the 8th and 9th grade school years. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Rubin made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Middle School: Annual Meeting Requirement (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 2.5.1, State Meeting, so that each member school, both high school and middle/junior high, must be represented at the annual meeting by its official voter (or the Superintendent designee) or the school is assessed a fine. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Campbell made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Scholastic Eligibility: Cumulative Provision (10th-12th Grade) (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 6.2.1c, Cumulative Provision, whereas only semester grades can be used, and all semester grades starting with the 9th grade year must be utilized (the cumulative provision cannot be used for 9th grade or middle/junior high students.) Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Host seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Scholastic Eligibility: Cumulative Provision (2.3 GPA) (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 6.2.1c, Cumulative Provision, whereas a student shall have a 2.3 grade point average, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, in order to be eligible using the cumulative provision. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Rubin made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (9-5).

Ejection Policy: Fighting (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 7.7.2 in regards to the protocol used when a participant is ejected for fighting (the first ejection for fighting would be treated as a participant's second overall ejection; a second ejection would then be treated as a participant's third overall ejection). Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Chavez made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Host seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Scrimmage Definition/Bylaws (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider adjusting the definition of a "scrimmage" as listed in Section 14 of the NMAA Handbook to read: Scrimmage - a practice competition between two (2) or more schools where time and score are not kept, admission is not charged, and paid officials are not used (officials must work without pay, are beginning or registered officials, and are secured locally). A team or individual is allowed one (1) scrimmage day per sport which must occur prior to the school's first game/match/contest in that sport. Participants must meet minimum practice requirements before scrimmaging. The pre-season scrimmage does not count towards game limitations. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Host made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMAA Rules Clinics (Referenda) – Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to make an adjustment to NMAA Bylaw 3.6.1 (and other places throughout the handbook) whereas the deadline for all head coaches to complete the district clinic would be either in person or online at www.nmact.org, depending on the sport. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Mr. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).