

NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
February 15, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Anthony Casados, NMAA Board of Directors President, at 9:12 a.m. Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A - President)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B) **via phone*
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Mr. Travis Casados (Large Area C)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Ms. Patti Ann Ancell, (New Mexico State School Boards Association)

Not Present:

Dr. Kim Mizell (Large Area A)
Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)
Mr. Scott Elder (Large School District I)

10 members were present representing a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. White made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022, Board Meeting. Mr. Ramos made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Affirmation of Board Members:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to affirm Board positions for Large School District 1 - Mr. Scott Elder of Albuquerque Public Schools; Large School District 2 - Mr. Ralph Ramos of Las Cruces Public Schools; NMAA Commission - Mr. Gary Allison of Springer Municipal Schools; and for the New Mexico School Boards Association - Ms. Patti Ann Ancell from the Lovington Schools Board of Education. Mr. Madrid made a motion to affirm these members. Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, presented the Director's Report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) welcomed Ms. Ancell and Mr. Allison to the NMAA Board of Directors; 2) stated that the Swimming & Diving and Wrestling Championships will be held this weekend and basketball district tournaments will begin next week; 3) reported that the NMAA Foundation is finalizing its annual scholarship recipients with over \$40,000 in funding being distributed to New Mexico students; 4) provided an update on legislation that could impact the NMAA.

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided full financial reports for the Fall Championship Season; and 2) reported on ticket sales for each Fall Championship. Mr. Ramos asked about video streaming and its possible impact on championship attendance. Ms. Marquez stated that the NMAA's partnership with

the NFHS Network has not had a major impact on ticket sales over the last 10 years. Ms. Kessler-Schwamer echoed these comments and stated ticket sales can be very cyclical, especially in the sport of football where matchups, location, and weather all can be factors in final attendance numbers.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Activities Report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) recapped recent state events in bowling, chess, and student council; 2) stated that the remaining 20+ activity state events sanctioned by the NMAA will take place later this spring; 3) provided information regarding the NMAA Foundation's upcoming Bowl-A-Thon and Golf Classic fundraising events; and 4) reported that the National BPA Conference was moved up one week and will now conflict with some of the NMAA's spring championships. Mr. Ramos recommended that the NMAA collaborate more with the state activity organizations when putting together event dates for future years. Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, commented on the upcoming State Choir and Concert Band Contests set to take place in April.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Stevenson presented the officials report. He discussed seven (7) items on his report: 1) stated that 80+ 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 NMAA is still partnered with the NFHS/NFL on their Grassroots Program; 6) recapped the most recent NMOA Board Meeting; and 7) provided an update on the plans to increase opportunities during the NMOA's annual summer State Clinic. Mr. Ramos recommended that the officiating curriculum be included as a breakout presentation during the NMCEL summer conference to increase awareness of the program among superintendents.

Discussion Items

July Awards Banquet - Ms. Marquez 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 that at the Board's request, the staff has explored new ways to classify schools, outside of using only enrollment numbers. Possibilities include success/non-success factors, if student athletes live within your district or not, socio-economic factors, or classifying each school by sport. Ms. Marquez stated she sent out a survey to schools in relation to classification and alignment and will report on the full results at the next Board meeting. Feedback included possible elimination of districts in the sport of football and creating larger conferences by class, the NMAA driving scheduling for football, use of a multiplier for schools that reside by larger school districts and not just private schools, and looking at ways to provide equitable opportunities for all member schools, regardless of size, location, socio-economic status, etc.

Sportsmanship / Compete with Class - Ms. Marquez discussed the current NMAA unsportsmanlike conduct bylaws in comparison to the Oklahoma and Louisiana policies. Through discussion with the Commission and Board, 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. Ms. Marquez stated that at the request of the Commission, egregious acts will be more defined in the proposal when it is considered for action. Feedback was positive as the group felt this would provide more support to administrators at the school level when trying to address sportsmanship issues within their community. It was also stated that more severe penalties/policies should be considered for unsportsmanlike conduct of non-team members (spectators/fans).

Mr. Moyer left the meeting.

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.

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 Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and payments 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 roadblock 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 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. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Madrid made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0).

Executive Session

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:04 am. to discuss financial, personnel, pending/possible legal matters. Mr. Allison made the motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Ramos seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Ms. Patti Ann Ancell (NM State School Boards Association)

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 11:59 am. Mr. Casados stated no action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. Allison made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Ms. Patti Ann Ancell (NM State School Boards Association)

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. Mr. Ramos made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0).

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2023