

NMAA commission Meeting
May 21, 2014
9:00 AM
NMAA Office

Welcome – Meeting called to order by Mr. Lawrence Johnson, NMAA Commission Chairperson at 9:00 am. A roll call was conducted by Mrs. Mindy loane, NMAA Administrative Assistant, and the following members were present:

Mr. Leonard Velasquez (Small, Area A)
Mr. Wayne Ferguson (Small, Area B)
Mr. Gary Schuster (Small, Area C)
Mr. Dave Campbell (Small, Area D)
Mr. Greg Haston (Large, Area B)
Mr. Lawrence Johnson (Large, Area C)
Mr. Kenny Barreras (Large, Area D)
Mr. Marc Baca (New Mexico Officials Association Rep.)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (National Association of Secondary School Principals Rep.)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association Rep.)
Mr. Don Gerheart (Activities Council Member)
Ms. Vicki Nelms (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association Rep.)
Ms. Debbie Coffman (Jr. High/Middle School Rep.)

Not present:

Mr. Pete MacFarlane (Non-Public School Rep.)
Mr. Terry Martin (State School Boards Association Rep.)
Mr. Bruce Carver (Large, Area A)

Thirteen members present representing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Schuster made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Haston seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2014 Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Barreras made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Nelms seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Directors' Report:

Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, discussed two items during his report: (1) Overview of the successful Winter and Spring Sports Championships and the excitement of the Golf A-AAA State Championships where the Bosque and Socorro girls golf teams finished regulation in

a tie. In the ensuing playoff, Bosque School took the State Championship beating the seven time defending champions; (2) The NMAA has put out a Request for Proposal to the Golf community for the next rotation (3 years) beginning in 2015. The deadline is Friday, May 23rd at 4:00 pm.

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed two items on his report: (1) The upcoming NMAA Foundation 8th Annual Golf Classic which will be held June 2, 2014 at Tanoan Country Club and the 2nd Annual Fun Run on August, 2, 2014 at Albuquerque Academy; (2) the Sportsmanship Committee is continuing to work on the NMAA Sportsmanship Initiative that will be presented to the member schools for the 2014-2015 school year.

Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the 2013-2014 Fall Financial reports and the 2013-2014 Ticket Sales report.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed the results of the Orchestra, Choir and Band State events as well as the results of the Scholastic Publications, JROTC, Chess and Mock Trial competitions. Results are as follows:

MUSIC:

Orchestra – hosted at Volcano Vista High School:

MS - Mesa Middle School

Symphony - Centennial HS

String - La Cueva HS

Choir – hosted at Cleveland High School:

MS – Eisenhower Middle School

A/AA – Victory Christian

AAA – Lovington HS

AAAA – Piedra Vista HS

AAAAA – La Cueva HS

Band – hosted at Atrisco Heritage:

MS – LBJ Middle School

A/AA – Cimarron HS

AAA – Cobre HS

AAAA – Deming HS

AAAAA – Clovis HS

Advisory meetings in July; working to establish hosts (rotating); adjudicators; review guidelines

SCHOLASTIC PUBLICATIONS

Volcano Vista HS

JROTC:

Physical Fitness – La Cueva HS

Drill – Grants HS

Precision Rifle – Volcano Vista HS

Sporter Rifle – Piedra Vista HS

CHESS:

A/AA – Albuquerque Institute for Math & Science

AAA – St. Michael's

4A/5A – Albuquerque Academy

MOCK TRIAL:

Volcano Vista Platinum

NMOA Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed six items in her report: (1) Work continues on revising the NMOA Constitution; (2) Revisiting job responsibilities of varsity assignors and evaluators; (3) Expanding meetings with assignors through monthly conference calls. Dana will rotate to group meetings statewide; (4) Use of Arbiter statewide in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball with some wrestling groups having also expressed an interest in using the Arbiter system; (5) Officiate New Mexico Day will have speakers for all sports, except softball, swimming and wrestling. Opening session speaker is Mike Pereira of Fox Sports. Luncheon speaker will be the legendary NFL referee Jerry Markbreit. Closing session speaker Billy Kennedy of the NBA. Also featuring Larry Young, MLB Supervisor of Umpires. Basketball session will feature Joey Crawford, Steve Javie and Billy Kennedy, and (6) NASO Summit now has 82 supporting organizations.

General Action Items:

Pre-Competition Practice Rule: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to eliminate the words, "or physical education class" in bylaw 7.6.19 C Pre-Competition Practice Requirement. The rationale for this proposal is that physical education class does not prepare a student physically for the rigors of sport competition. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

9th Grade Participation at Mid/Jr. High Level: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to eliminate 9th grade participation at the middle school level in the 3A-6A classifications. A 9th grader can participate at the middle school level in A-AA, as long as there is mutual agreement between the participating schools. The rationale is that a 9th grader is considered a high school student-athlete and should at least play at the C-team or JV level. 9th graders playing against 7th graders is a safety concern. A-AA schools may need 9th graders to participate due to limited numbers. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart made the

motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Barreras seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (12-1).

8th Grade Participation at High School in Classes 4A-6A: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to eliminate 8th grade participation at the high school level in the 4A-6A classifications. The following are concerns the NMAA staff continues to hear and see the negative effects of:

1. Safety – 14 year olds with 17-18 year olds.
2. Displacement of 9th and 10th graders on high school teams by 8th graders.
3. Too much too soon – unmotivated and discipline problems by senior year.
4. Undue influence

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Schuster made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Barreras seconded the motion. Discussion ensued concerning the pros and cons. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed (5-7).

Yes	No	Name
	✓	Mr. Scott Affentranger, NMASSP Representative
✓		Mr. Marc Baca, NMOA Representative
	✓	Ms. Vicki Nelms, NMHSADA Representative
	✓	Mr. Dave Campbell, Small, Area D
✓		Mr. Gary Schuster, Small, Area C
	✓	Mr. Wayne Ferguson, Small, Area B
✓		Mr. Leonard Velasquez, Small, Area A
	✓	Ms. Debbie Coffman, Jr. High/Middle School Rep
✓		Mr. Don Gerheart, Activities Council Member
abstain		Mr. Thomas Mabrey, NMHSCA
✓		Mr. Kenny Barreras, Large, Area D
	✓	Mr. Lawrence Johnson, Large, Area C
	✓	Mr. Greg Haston, Large, Area B

Participant Third Ejection: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider the following proposal to change bylaw 7.7.2:

Participant – Second Ejection

1. Two game/contest suspensions – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed.
2. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director/designee.
3. A local sanction as determined by the local school athletic director and approved by the NMAA, if necessary.

Participant – Third Ejection

1. Student-athlete is removed from athletic competition for the remainder of the year.
2. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director/designee prior to participation the following year, if applicable.

The rationale for this proposal is that the NMAA has removed student-athletes from athletic competition for the remainder of the year after their third ejection. The proposal puts the consequences in writing and therefore not subject to the interpretation of the athletic director. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Velasquez made the motion. Mr. Baca seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Violations of Rules and Regulations: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to add the word “coach” to NMAA Bylaw 6.20.1 Violations of Rules and Regulations by Participants, Fans, or Students. The rationale for this proposal is that a coach should be penalized, just as participants, fans, and students, for violations of the rules and regulations of the NMAA. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart made a motion to accept the proposal with the change of wording from “coach” to “school personnel”. Ms. Nelms seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Middle/Jr. High Rodeo: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to sanction rodeo as an NMAA activity at the Middle and Junior High level. The rationale is that the New Mexico High School Rodeo Association, the organization that governs New Mexico rodeo, also governs Middle and Junior High School Rodeo. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Schuster seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (10-3).

Yes	No	Name
✓		Mr. Scott Affentranger, NMASSP Representative
✓		Mr. Marc Baca, NMOA Representative
	✓	Ms. Vicki Nelms, NMHSADA Representative
✓		Mr. Dave Campbell, Small, Area D
✓		Mr. Gary Schuster, Small, Area C
✓		Mr. Wayne Ferguson, Small, Area B
✓		Mr. Leonard Velasquez, Small, Area A
✓		Ms. Debbie Coffman, Jr. High/Middle School Rep
✓		Mr. Don Gerheart, Activities Council Member
✓		Mr. Thomas Mabrey, NMHSCA
	✓	Mr. Kenny Barreras, Large, Area D
✓		Mr. Lawrence Johnson, Large, Area C
	✓	Mr. Greg Haston, Large, Area B

Selection/Seeding Criteria: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to change NMAA Bylaws 7.11.2 and 7.11.3 Seeding and Selection as follows:

The remainder of the teams will be selected and seeded by the NMAA Staff using the following criteria. There is neither order nor priority in the criteria listed below:

1. Finish in regular season district play
2. Head to Head
3. Wins against district champions regardless of class
4. Overall record
5. MaxPreps Freeman Rankings
6. Member school input

In the event of a tie among criteria points, MaxPreps Freeman Rankings will be used to break the tie. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Haston seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (12-1).

First Round Opponent Requirement: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to eliminate Bylaw 7.11.3 D to allow the brackets to be more of a "true" seed. The Bylaw currently reads: "With the exception of 6-man, 8-man and Class A Football, teams from the same district will be guaranteed not to play each other in the first round of state. NMAA Staff must take this into consideration when seeding teams." Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made the motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Nelms seconded the motion. The motion passed (12-1).

Break 10:20-10:35

School Co-op Participation: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to remove NMAA Bylaw 7.15.2 Football Co-op and change bylaw 7.6.26 to read as follows:

Two Class A and/or AA schools can petition the Director to co-op in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and/or softball. At least one school must show proof that they do not have enough willing participants to field their own team. The co-op team must play in the classification in which their combined grades 9-12 enrollment would place them, but in no case higher than Class AAA.

The two schools must apply jointly, via letters signed by their superintendents and/or school boards, and agree to share in all areas including costs, liability, discipline, insurance, etc. The schools must agree to remain in the co-op for a minimum of a two-year block.

The rationale for this proposal is that the NMAA bylaws currently have different wording for co-op arrangements depending on the sports involved. This proposal is an attempt to standardize co-op requirements for all team sports. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Baca made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed unanimously (13-0).

Sports Specific Action Items:

Football: Consider adjustments to 8-man and AA qualifying: Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to make adjustments to the state football championship qualifying numbers in 8-man and Class A as follows:

8-man: Moves from 11 teams to 18 teams in the new block

- Qualifiers would be changed from 6 to 8
- No changes to dates/calendar (Championship held week #21, November 21-22)

AA: Moves from 10 teams to 7 teams

- Qualifiers would be changed from 6 to 4
- Championship game would be held one week earlier (week #20, November 14-15)

The rationale for this proposal is that the new Classification and Alignment block for 2014-2016 has changed the number of football playing schools in some classes. Based on these changes, the NMAA and the Football Sport Specific Committee feel that adjustments should be made to the qualifying numbers in both 8-man and AA. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Baca made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Velasquez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. (13-0)

Football: Consideration of Practice Regulations: (Referenda Item) Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Committee to consider the implementation of new football practice regulations that would be added to Sections 7 and 9 of the NMAA handbook. Concussions and player safety in the sport of football have become hot topics across the country at all levels over the past few years. The NFHS Football Rules Committee met in January and one item of discussion dealt with practice regulations. Although the committee's position was not to mandate a universal policy to be used across the country, it was strongly recommended that each state association look to implement its own policy. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. (13-0)

Baseball: Consider adjustments to A/AA Championships: Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to make an adjustment to the Class A/AA State Baseball Championship format whereby the quarterfinal round would be held in Albuquerque during the same week as the semifinals and finals. The rationale for this proposal is that schools in this classification would like all schools qualifying for state come to Albuquerque. It is felt that having the quarterfinals through finals in a three day period will help alleviate the potential issue of a team riding one pitcher into the championship game. The budget impact is a possible increase in travel expenses for schools based on the fact that the quarterfinal games will now be played at a neutral/centralized location instead of the site of the higher seed (eight teams traveling instead of four for that round). Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Velasquez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. (13-0)

Baseball: Consider adjustments to AAA Championships: Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Committee to consider a proposal to allow an adjustment to the Class AAA State Baseball Championship format whereby the first round of sixteen would be a best of three series instead of a single game. The format would be to play a doubleheader on the Wednesday of week #45 and then if necessary, the third game would be played the following day (Thursday). Coaches at this level feel that teams can currently rely on one pitcher to get them into the state semifinals. Changing the first round to a best of three series will ensure that the best overall team, and not necessarily the team with the best pitcher, will advance to the quarterfinal round. This proposal will also put Class 3A in line with the format used in 4A-6A. The budget impact would be a possible increase in travel expenses for the host school, based on additional games (officials/ fees, personnel, etc.). Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Velasquez made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. Mr. Mabrey retracted his motion. Mr. Johnson asked for a second to accept the proposal. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Wrestling: Adjustment of State Qualifying numbers: Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to adjust state qualification numbers based on the new block to include 16 qualifiers in 6A and 5A and 12 qualifiers in 2A/4A utilizing automatic qualifiers via the district tournament and wild cards to fill remaining spots in the bracket. The rationale is as follows:

1. Overall qualifying numbers stay comparable to previous block.
2. Brackets will be standardized across classifications to alleviate prior logistical concerns.
3. District qualifying is more equitable.
4. Wild cards fall in line with other sports utilizing automatic qualifiers and at-large selections to fill the bracket.
5. Wild cards help alleviate the "strong district" factor, helping better ensure qualified athletes are not left home.
6. Wild cards will be selected based on winning percentage.

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Barreras seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Soccer: Change to allow tie games in regular season: (Referenda Item) Mr. Joe Butler, NMAA Assistant Director, and Larry Waters, member of the Soccer Sport Specific Committee presented a proposal to adjust soccer bylaws that would allow ties in regular season competition. The changes/additions to rules are as follows:

7.17.1G: Varsity regular season games, including district play, which are tied after the completion of regulation play shall be resolved in the following manner: The teams shall play two ten-minute sudden victory overtime periods. If no goals are scored during the two ten-minute sudden-victory overtime periods the game shall remain a tie. Exceptions: 1. All Junior Varsity games shall remain tied at the end of regulation time and 2. Regular season tournament games may, at the option of the tournament host, be settled by kicks from the mark (shootout)

and 3. State Tournament games will be settled by kicks from the mark (shootout) as per 7.17.1L.

7.17.1K : For district games teams earn 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. In the event that two or more teams tie based on point totals at the conclusion of district play, placement is determined by a goal differential system...

7.17.1L: *add the following:* (Regular Season Tournament Games at Option of Host School and all State Tournament Games). Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Campbell made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Gerheart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Soccer: Soccer State Tournament Reformatting: Mr. Joe Butler, NMAA Assistant Director, and Larry Waters, member of the Soccer Sport Specific Committee presented a proposal to consider reformatting the state soccer tournament as presented. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Nelms made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion failed (1-12).

Swim/Dive: Remove exception to meet limitations: (Referenda Item) Larry Waters, Swimming/Diving Sport Specific Committee member presented a proposal to remove the exception for swimming/diving from bylaw 6.13.2 B2. Rationale for this proposal is that the Sport Specific Committee and others felt that swimmers are being worn out by the number of “big meets” especially in January and February. The hope is that this will encourage students to focus on school meets and to communicate with their coaches when the student and their parents choose to compete in outside events if allowed to do so by their school. Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed (7-6).

Yes	No	Name
✓		Mr. Scott Affentranger, NMASSP Representative
	✓	Mr. Marc Baca, NMOA Representative
	✓	Ms. Vicki Nelms, NMHSADA Representative
✓		Mr. Dave Campbell, Small, Area D
	✓	Mr. Gary Schuster, Small, Area C
✓		Mr. Wayne Ferguson, Small, Area B
	✓	Mr. Leonard Velasquez, Small, Area A
✓		Ms. Debbie Coffman, Jr. High/Middle School Rep
✓		Mr. Don Gerheart, Activities Council Member
✓		Mr. Thomas Mabrey, NMHSCA
	✓	Mr. Kenny Barreras, Large, Area D
	✓	Mr. Lawrence Johnson, Large, Area C
✓		Mr. Greg Haston, Large, Area B

General Discussion/Information Items

Alumni Game before start of season only: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Committee to discuss a proposal that would allow schools to sponsor an alumni game (if approved by the local school Administration) prior to the start of the regular season only. The rationale for this proposal is that an alumni game, which does not count against game limitations, should take place prior to the first regular season game. This will prevent schools from using an alumni game for gamesmanship purposes. Mr. Young mentioned the fact that during some sports in some parts of the state, having an alumni game before the start of the season would not be possible due to weather conditions.

Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco policy requirement: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, presented a discussion item asking that schools/school districts be required to have a drug, alcohol, and tobacco policy in place for students participating in athletics and activities. All participants and parents must sign the policy prior to participating. The rationale is that all students should be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free, in particular students participating in athletics and activities. There needs to be a penalty placed on students in athletics and activities who are not abiding by the school's policy. Schools have asked the NMAA for local autonomy in regards to a drug and alcohol policy.

Changes to Governance Structure: Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, presented the NMAA Governance Structure from Section III of the NMAA Handbook and the proposed structure for the new block.

Football 48 minute rule: Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed the current NMAA Bylaw 7.15.1.C regarding the amount of time that an athlete can participate in games during a five day period. During the February meeting, the Commission asked NMAA staff to look at how other states handle this particular issue. Some common responses were as follows:

- Athletes may participate in one game during a five day period (one play = one game)
- Athletes must have a minimum of four nights rest between games (one play = one game)
- Athletes may participate in two games per week (one play = one game)
- Athletes may participate in "X" amount of quarters in a single season*

**there are variations to this rule on exact quarter amounts (56, 60, etc.)*

A January survey sent to head football coaches resulted in 59 responses. Results were 50-9 in favor of keeping the current competition period rule in place. The sport specific committee voted unanimously to keep the rule as is.

Mr. Young will continue to research this and will bring it back as an action item at a future commission meeting.

Cold weather policy: Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed the possibility of establishing a Cold Weather Policy as a result of the weather issues that occurred during the 2013 State Football Championships. NMAA staff does not feel that a policy is needed at this time.

Softball: Number of qualifiers to State Championship: Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented 1st Round Statistics from 2010-2014 and a Softball State Qualifying Numbers Survey showing that there is not a lot of competition in games between the top four vs. the bottom four seeds. It is felt that only 12 teams should qualify to State. Discussion will continue on this subject in the future.

Ms. Sally Marquez personally thanked Ms. Vicki Nelms for her service to the NMAA and to the kids of New Mexico as she has accepted a position out-of-state. Ms. Marquez also thanked Mr. Lawrence Johnson for his long term commitment to the NMAA, serving on the Commission and the Board of Directors for many years, along with his commitment to the students of New Mexico.

Adjourn

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 pm. Mr. Affentranger made the motion. Mr. Velasquez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Commission Meeting Date

September 10, 2014 (NMAA)