

NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
May 30, 2024
9:00 a.m.
NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Anthony Casados, NMAA Board of Directors President, at 9:00 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. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II) **via teleconference*
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

12 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Madrid made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr. Allison made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed four (4) items in her report: 1) stated spring sports wrapped up this past weekend, thus concluding another successful year of interscholastic athletics – activities conclude soon with State FFA in June; 2) thanked the NMAA staff for all of their hard work in 2023-2024; 3) provided information for the upcoming NMAA Foundation Golf Classic fundraiser; and 4) reported on recent surveys that have been sent to coaches and athletic directors about Basketball District Tournaments and Tiebreaker Games.

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Finance Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented box reports for all state championships but stated winter and spring events have yet to be finalized; and 2) provided ticket sales information for all state championships.

2024-2025 NMAA Budget - Ms. Marquez presented the NMAA Budget for 2024-2025. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed six (6) items on her report: 1) reported that all activity state events have concluded with the exception of FFA, which will take place this weekend in Las Cruces; 2) stated that it was a very successful year with participation numbers growing steadily in most activities; 3) provided information regarding the 2024-2025 activities calendar and fall Activities Council Meeting; 4) gave additional information pertaining to the 2024 NMAA Foundation Golf Classic; and; 5) thanked Mr. White for his help during the State Softball Championships.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the NMOA report. He discussed six (6) items in his report: 1) provided a recap of the hard work done by officials at the recent Spring Championships and thanked schools for their support and patience with inclement weather during those events; 2) stated that NMOA elections will take place in the coming weeks for open positions, including officers; 3) reported that numerous NMOA bylaw revisions were approved, including a change in registration fees; 4) provided information regarding the Summer Collaborative Conference that will take place in July; 5) stated that New Mexico will be participating in a new pilot program with DragonFly; and 6) thanked Carl Vigil for all of his hard work during his first year working with the NMAA/NMOA.

Discussion/Information Items:

Softball: State Softball Tournament Format - Ms. Marquez discussed the current state softball tournament format and logistical challenges that result from a double elimination bracket with so many games, especially in situations of inclement weather. Survey results came back in favor of the first round and quarterfinal games being played at home sites with the semis and finals at a central location. Feedback included potential cons for smaller schools due to increases in travel expenses and support from larger schools in hosting state playoff events in their local communities.

Football: Higher Seed Hosts all Rounds - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of adjusting how playoff sites are determined in state football from past history hosting the semis and finals to the higher seed hosting all rounds. Feedback included some support for this change.

Football: Neutral / Centralized Site for Finals - Ms. Marquez reported that both the coach and athletic director surveys supported the use of a central and/or neutral location for the state football finals. Mr. Young provided additional data for both, stating that the results were similar for central/neutral locations. He added that the 8-Man through 4A classifications were the only ones in favor of a central location. The group discussed this topic extensively, with both pros and cons to making a change of this magnitude. Pros included ensuring top of the line facilities for the championship games (especially with small schools) and creating a bigger event. Cons included loss of revenue due to travel and less ticket sales, not giving other communities around the state an opportunity to host and moving away from a long-standing and successful tradition. There are concerns with some schools not having a facility that is conducive to hosting a state championship game, and it was recommended that the NMAA consider creating facility guidelines that must be met in order to host. Mr. Young stated the sports specific committee worked on a draft of this last school year and that will serve as a good starting point in creating a proposal for the membership to consider.

Swimming & Diving: Dual participation - Ms. Marquez stated there have been difficulties with the club and high school seasons running concurrently. She stated that survey results were somewhat split with a small majority of athletic directors in favor of eliminating dual participation, thus forcing swimmers to choose either club or high school during the NMAA's official season. Feedback included sending out a survey to gauge interest in moving the high school season to the Fall and to see if facilities and officials would be available at that time.

Wrestling: Co-ops - Ms. Marquez stated athletic director survey results were in favor of allowing teams to co-op in wrestling due to the team component the sport offers. There are some concerns that although there is a team component, individual performance is what determines team champions similar to sports like track & field, cross country, golf, tennis, and swimming & diving. Mr. Marvin MaCauley, Superintendent of Mesa Vista Schools, discussed the benefits of co-ops in wrestling for small schools that do not have enough student participants to create a full team. Feedback included some support but questioned whether opening this up for wrestling would lead to issues in other individual sports. Specific parameters would need to be created to help with this and to help ensure co-ops are for schools in close proximity.

Action Items

Football: Seeding/Selection Criteria - Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, presented a proposal to consider removing “Wins vs. District Champions” from the criteria used to seed and select teams for the State Football Championships. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (10-2).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
	No	Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
	No	Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

NMAA Bylaw 3.1: Governance Structure - Mr. Young presented a proposal to update section 3.1 of the NMAA Handbook (NMAA Governance Structure) due to changes to classification & alignment for 2024-2026. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Allison made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Air Quality: Consider Adoption of Policy - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to implement an Air Quality policy to provide guidance for schools when air quality is questionable. The new policy would read as follows in Bylaw 7.6.23: During periods of poor air quality, the local AQI (Air Quality Index) should be monitored. The AQI for your current location and time can be located by entering your zip code into the Airnow.gov website. Exposure to air should be managed more carefully for students with pre-existing lung or heart conditions. When the AQI rises above 100 schools should consider removing such athletes at risk from practice or competition. At AQI values above 150 serious consideration should be given to rescheduling the activity or moving it indoors if possible. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tripp seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Heat Illness: Consider Adjustments to Current Policy - Ms. Marquez presented a policy to update current Heat Illness Prevention Protocol to 1) include Wet Bulb Globe Temperature as an alternative to Heat Index and 2) include required activity restrictions at specific heat measurement thresholds. The proposed policy is as follows:

7.6.21 Heat Illness Prevention Protocol

Each school is responsible for obtaining either a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature or Heat Index reading at the site of practices and competitions. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) considers more environmental factors than heat index and should be a school's first choice when evaluating conditions and planning activities. In the absence of a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature reading, a digital psychrometer or other instrument may be used at the site of the activity to measure the heat index. The use of a weather app on a cell phone is permissible to measure heat index if no other instrument is available to measure heat index at the site of the practice or competition.

A cold-water immersion tub or other form of rapid on-site cooling should be available for all warm-weather practices. If exertional heat stroke is suspected, use immersion for on-site cooling before transporting to the hospital. Access to water should always be available to all athletes.

1. Practice Protocols

- a. WBGT < 87 or Heat Index < 95 Degrees
 - i. Provide at least 10 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout each hour of practice. Recommend at least two to three separate rest breaks each hour.
- b. WBGT 87 to 89.9 or Heat Index of 95 Degrees to 99 Degrees
 - i. Maximum practice time is 2 hours.
 - ii. For All Sports: Provide at least 15 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout each hour of practice. Recommend at least three to four separate rest breaks each hour.
 - iii. For Football: Players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice that does not involve contact, and all protective equipment must be removed during conditioning activities. If the Heat Index/WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts.
- c. WBGT 90 to 92 or Heat Index of 100 Degrees to 104 Degrees
 - i. Maximum practice time is 1 hour.
 - ii. For All Sports: There must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice and no conditioning activities.
 - iii. For Football: No protective equipment may be worn during practice that does not involve contact.
- d. Above 92.0 WBGT or Heat Index Above 104 Degrees
 - i. No outdoor practice. Outdoor practice cannot take place until WBGT level is 92.0 or below or heat index is 104 or below.

2. Competition Protocols

- a. WBGT > 87 or Heat Index > 95
 - i. Soccer Modification - The referee shall stop the game for a heat time-out lasting no less than five minutes during the first and second half. The time-out will be called at the first logical time to stop play after the 20-minute mark of each half.
 - ii. Football Modification - Officials shall stop the game for a heat time-out at the first dead ball after the halfway point of each quarter. If either team has possession of the ball inside the other

- team's twenty-yard line, officials may delay this time out until either the offensive team scores or the ball is turned over.
- b. Above 92.0 WBGT or Heat Index Above 104 Degrees
 - i. No outdoor competition. An outdoor competition cannot take place until WBGT level is 92.0 or below or heat index is 104 or below.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tripp seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

NMAA Bylaw 3.3.1 B: Coaching Requirements - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider adding verbiage to Bylaw 3.3.1.B so that coaches already receiving similar training from their school/school district do not have to also take the additional NFHS Courses of Bullying, Hazing, & Inappropriate Behaviors and Protecting Students from Abuse. The bylaw would read as follows (*new verbiage underlined*):

3.3.1.B. Coaching Requirements – Educational Courses

Coaches must complete the Bullying, Hazing, & Inappropriate Behaviors and Protecting Students from Abuse Courses which are offered through the National Federation of State High School Associations' Coaches Education Learning Center (NFHSlearn.com). It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure that each coach has this certification, which is current for two (2) years from the date of completion. This requirement is for ALL middle school / junior high and high school coaches.

**NOTE – Coaches that are employees of the school/school district and receive training in these areas (Bullying/Hazing & Protecting Students) directly from the school/school district through another program do not need to complete the NFHS Courses. Schools must ensure, however, that accurate records for training outside of the NFHS Courses be documented and take place by coaches a minimum of every two years. Contract coaches must still complete the two NFHS Courses listed above.*

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Soccer: Regular Season Tournament Tiebreakers - Mr. Chris Kedge, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to consider adding verbiage to Bylaw 7.17.1.G so that teams are credited with a win/loss to their record if a winner is determined via overtime or shootout during a regular season soccer tournament. The bylaw would read as follows (*new language underlined*):

Bylaw 7.17.1.G Regular Season Tournament Overtime Procedures - The tournament organizer has the ability to modify the overtime procedures during regular season tournaments prior to the tournament beginning. Regardless of the overtime procedures used, if a winner is determined during overtime or shootout, teams will be given a win/loss towards their record.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Soccer: State Tournament Format: Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider updating Bylaw 7.17.2.D so that only the first round and quarterfinal state tournament matches would take place at the site of the higher seed. Semifinals and Finals would be hosted by the NMAA at a site determined by the Association staff. The bylaw would read as follows:

Bylaw 7.17.2.D State Tournament

1. A/3A – Eight (8) teams will advance to the State Tournament and participate in an 8-team single elimination bracket, with the quarterfinals to be played at the home site of the higher seed.
2. 4A-5A – Twelve (12) teams will advance to the State tournament and participate in a 12-team single elimination tournament, with the first round and quarterfinals to be played at the home site of the higher seed. The top four seeds are given a bye for the first round.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and failed (6-6).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
	No	Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
	No	Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
	No	Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
	No	Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)
	No	Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
	No	Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Eligibility: Transferring After Tryouts - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to update current policy to provide additional opportunities for students who transfer after being cut or before they've participated in a sanctioned NMAA competition in that sport. Bylaw 6.13.1 Season/Championship Limit shall read as follows:

- A. A Senior High Student is eligible for no more than four (4) seasons in any sport unless that student participated at the senior high level during his/her 8th grade year in which he/she is eligible for no more than five (5) seasons. A Junior High/Middle School Student shall not participate for more than three (3) seasons in a given sport, regardless of circumstances (7th, 8th, and 9th for junior high and/or 6th, 7th and 8th for middle schools).
- B. A Student is limited to one (1) season per school year in a specific sport. This applies to Students transferring from another state where the season may have already occurred in that sport.
- C. It shall be considered a season of participation when a student participates in an NMAA sanctioned competition (or equivalent), at any level, in that sport. (See Appendices for definitions of participant, participation, and practice.)
- D. Students who transfer after participating in tryouts or after practicing at that school for five (5) or more days after the official practice start date will be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport at the new school for the remainder of the school year.

E. Students who transfer after participating in an NMAA sanctioned competition (or equivalent), at any level, will be ineligible for participation at any level in that sport at the new school for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Bylaw Revisions: Section 2 & 13 (Board Meetings, Appeals) - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider approval of revisions to Sections 2 & 13 of the NMAA Handbook. Per Bylaw 2.7.5, if the concept behind these revisions is approved by the Board of Directors, they will be enacted immediately on a temporary/emergency basis until exact verbiage can be vetted by the Association's legal counsel. Once the verbiage is finalized, the membership will vote on the updated bylaws via a traditional referenda vote.

Conceptual Revisions to Section 2

2.2.1 Board Meetings (Open Meetings Act)

- Appeals are not open to the public.

2.6.2 Appeals Review Committee Appeal Process

- Appeals may not be heard after the deadline to appeal.

- Sending school will be notified of the appeal and can speak at the appeal in opposition.

- Appeal will be heard via Zoom or teleconference.

2.6.3 Appeals from Review Committee

- Documents not included in the Appeal Review Committee appeal cannot be added to an appeal to the Board of Directors

Conceptual Revisions to Section 13

13.1.2 Notice of Appeal and Notice of Hearing (Appeals Committee)

- Request must be initiated by the school. No parent appeals.

- Request for appeal must be within 10 business days

- NMAA must be in receipt of \$250 fee prior to the scheduled appeal. If the appeal is modified or overturned, the fee will be reimbursed.

- Parents must sign off that they have been notified that all documents must be presented to the Appeals Review Committee

- Appeal hearing will be scheduled within 5 business days. Appeal hearing will be heard via Zoom or teleconference

- Appeal hearings will be audio recorded

- Sending school can write a statement that they object to, and/or can be present at the hearing and make a statement as such. (13.1.6)

13.1.5 Conduct of Review Committees Hearings

- Hearings will be recorded.

- Hearings will be de novo (new information, testimony allowed). Will look at "gray."

13.2.1 Appeal to the Board of Directors

- Five board members to hear the appeal on record (no new information, documents, testimony). In cases of appealing a sanction, testimony will be heard

- Any evidence or testimony not at the Appeal Committee hearing will not be considered.

- No testimony will be heard. Board will review Appeals Committee decisions and all documents including the recording

13.2.2 Notice of Appeal

- Appeal must be requested within 10 business days.

- NMAA must be in receipt of \$500 fee prior to the scheduled appeal. If the appeal is modified or overturned, the fee will be reimbursed.
- Parent appeals will be considered by the Board, but the school must initiate the appeal and indicate it is a parent appeal.

13.2.5 Scheduling the Hearing

- Five Board members will review Appeals Committee decisions and all documents including the recording within 5 days of the appeal. The board can review independently prior to the scheduled hearing.

13.2.5 Conduct of Hearing

- Parents and school can attend the hearing but not make a statement. The Board decides whether the Executive Director and Appeals Committee applied bylaws correctly.

-BUSINESS DAY: Weekdays that are not state or federal holidays or when the NMAA Offices are closed.

-RECORD: The record is all materials and testimony (as recorded) provided to the Appeals Review Committee or the Board of Directors for consideration during an appeal hearing.

-RECORDS: All types of materials containing information, including without limitation, educational records maintained by a school or health care provider, electronic or hard copy documents, emails, social media posts, other electronically stored information, photographs, videos, on which information is included.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Bylaw Revisions: Section 6 (Participation, Eligibility, Appeals) - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider approval of revisions to Section 6 of the NMAA Handbook. Per Bylaw 2.7.5, if the concept behind these revisions is approved by the Board of Directors, they will be enacted immediately on a temporary/emergency basis until exact verbiage can be vetted by the Association's legal counsel. Once the verbiage is finalized, the membership will vote on the updated bylaws via a traditional referenda vote.

Conceptual Revisions to Section 6

6.1 Student Participation

- Deleted language to ensure that parents do not use this paragraph for reasoning not to follow eligibility bylaws. Student discipline is at the discretion of the school.

6.9.3 Eligibility Review Process

- Hardship Petition – Sending school will be notified and can oppose in front of the Hardship Committee.
- Parents sign off on Petition for Eligibility that all documents have been included in the Regular and Hardship petition.

6.9.4 Effect of Eligibility Determination

- Determination of eligibility by the NMAA does not guarantee playing time. That is the discretion of the school.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Executive Session

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:05 a.m. Mr. Moyer made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Tripp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 11:38 a.m. Mr. Tripp made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. Mr. Casados stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously. (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m. Mr. Strickland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024