

NMAA Board of Directors Meeting

June 3, 2015

9:00 AM

NMAA Office

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. T.J. Parks at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was conducted by Mrs. Mindy Ioane, NMAA Graphic Designer/Special Event Coordinator, and the following members were present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small, Area A)
Mr. Kirk Carpenter (Large, Area A) via teleconference
Mr. Paul Benoit (Small, Area B)
Mr. T.J. Parks (Large, Area B)
Mr. Mike Chambers (Small, Area C)
Dr. Craig Cummins (Large, Area C)
Ms. Lesa Dodd (Small, Area D)
Mr. Gene Parson (Large, Area D)
Dr. Brad Winter (Large School District I)
Mr. Stan Rounds (Large School District II)
Dr. Crit Caton (At-Large Member)
Mr. Bruce Carver (NMAA Commission Rep.)

Not present:

Mr. Dion Sandoval (NM School Board Rep.)

12 members present representing a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Parks asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting. Mr. Rounds made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Benoit seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Election of Board President:

Mr. Parks asked for nominations for the 2-year term of Board of Directors President. Mr. Benoit made the motion to retain Mr. T.J. Parks as NMAA Board of Directors President. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Parks asked for nominations for the 2-year term of Vice President of the Board of Directors. Dr. Caton made a motion to retain Mr. Anthony Casados as Vice President of the Board of Directors. Mr. Parson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Executive Session:

Mr. Parks asked for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session at 9:06 am. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Parks announced that during the Executive Session members discussed budget, the Executive Director's evaluation and legal contracts and cases. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to reconvene the meeting at 9:31 am. Mr. Benoit made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Mr. Casados seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

NMAA Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed four (4) items during her report: 1) Ms. Marquez announced the success of the Spring State Championships despite numerous rain storms and lightning delays. She commended coaches, Athletic Directors and staff for working together for the sake of the student athletes. Ms. Marquez announced that for the sport of Softball she decided not to charge admission for the final games due to the delays and change of venues; 2) the "Compete with Class" initiative has had positive feedback during its first year. A professional "Compete with Class" DVD is going to be made for Athletic Directors/coaches to present to parents during pre-season meetings. It will also give schools strategies to help maintain the program; 3) the NMAA Foundation held their 9th annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 1st at The Canyon Club at Four Hills in Albuquerque and on August 1st will host the Foundation Fun Run. Both events are part of the effort to raise money for scholarships given out yearly; and 4) Ms. Marquez announced that Mr. Paul Benoit will be leaving his position as representative for Small, Area B upon his retirement. Three nominations have been received to fill the vacancy: Jamie Widner from Melrose, Glenn Frey from Victory Christian, and Richard Perea from Santa Rosa. Voting will begin this week. Mr. Dion Sandoval will be replaced on the Board by Mr. Terry Martin (who will move from the NMAA Commission) as the NM School Boards Representative. Jennifer Viramontes will fill Terry Martin's vacated position on the Commission as the NM School Boards Representative. Dr. Winter will be replaced by the new Superintendent of Albuquerque Public Schools, Dr. Luis Valentino. Ms. Marquez thanked both Mr. Benoit and Dr. Winter for their service on the NMAA Board of Directors.

Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the 2014-2015 Financial Reports with the exception of the Spring sports numbers, which have not been finalized.

Finance Action Item:

2015-2016 NMAA Budget: presented during the Executive Session. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Rounds made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Parson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Chambers commended the NMAA staff for the success of the Spring State Championships given the weather issues and delays. He commended Ms. Marquez for her leadership and direction given difficult circumstances.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed six (6) items on her report: 1) since the last Board meeting, 20 activity contests and conferences have taken place; 2) during the month of April the NMAA hosted Orchestra at Volcano Vista High School and Choir and Band at Cleveland High School with approximately 4000 students participating; 3) all activity results can be found on the NMAA web site by clicking on the Activity page; 4) dates of all NMAA activities for the 2015-2016 school year can be found on the NMAA Calendar; 5) transfer guidelines/eligibility issues have become an area of concern for many activity groups; and 6) the next Activities Council meeting will be held via teleconference.

NMOA Officials Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) during the 2015 State Basketball Championships, the NMOA used mixed crews for the first time in the last decade. They

received good feedback from coaches and officials about this concept. They also used same region officials if the two competing schools were from the same region; 2) NMOA Constitution revision has passed by a vote of the officials; 3) the southeast region had severe struggles covering baseball and softball first round games of the State Championships due to a lack of umpires; 4) the NMOA recruitment video will be ready for the 2015-2016 school year; and 5) the NMOA State Clinic will take place Saturday, July 18, 2015 at the Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque. The luncheon speaker will be Joey Crawford (NBA), who has declined payment for his services.

General Discussion/Information Items:

CHSAA Board – Allow NM 8th graders to compete: Ms. Marquez announced that the Colorado Association’s Board of Directors voted to allow New Mexico 8th graders to compete with their NM high school teams in the state of Colorado if they are on rosters approved by the NMAA.

Classification/alignment schedule: Ms. Marquez announced that her hope is that the classification/alignment proposal will be voted on by the Board in December for the 2016-2017/2017-2018 block. The NMAA must receive 40 day counts from the PED in November in order to present a proposal. In 2014, the numbers were not given to the NMAA until December 5th. Ms. Marquez has already asked the PED if the numbers could be given to the NMAA by the end of November. The members discussed issues that would arise if the numbers are not received on time and suggested having member schools submit their numbers to the NMAA as well as to the PED in the future.

Amending ejection policy for fighting/excessive contact: Ms. Marquez asked the Board to discuss the current ejection policy. She asked for feedback on whether the Executive Director should continue to administer sanctions at her discretion or to have a standard suspension similar to the soccer proposal to be presented later in the meeting (3 game suspension for fighting / excessive contact). She asked if the NMAA needs to strengthen the ejection policy when it involves fighting/excessive contact. The members discussed the importance of having a written policy to give the Executive Director jurisdiction over these types of incidents.

Open Enrollment choice/eligibility: Ms. Marquez discussed the fact that there are many issues with open enrollment statewide within the public schools. Members discussed restricting immediate eligibility for students who make an open enrollment choice to attend a public school. Mr. Parks discussed forming a committee of Superintendents and Athletic Directors (with the help of Mr. Bruce Carver) to address this issue.

Option for sport programs to move up in class: Ms. Marquez asked for feedback on allowing successful programs to volunteer to move up in classification in sports where they excel. She explained that some teams do want to move up. She also mentioned that some state associations automatically move teams up in class for a classification/alignment block based on “success factors.” Board members discussed whether allowing this would exacerbate problems with open enrollment choice and whether the associations that do allow programs to volunteer to move up in class have open enrollment. Ms. Marquez agreed to look into it and report back to the Board.

Overall record in selection/seeding: Ms. Marquez asked for feedback concerning the “overall record” criteria point. The issue arises when schools do not play the same number of games. After discussion, the members agreed that a mathematical percentage to the nearest tenth would be best to determine this criteria point.

Break: 10:49 am - 11:01 am

General Action Items:

Selection/seeding change in tie-breaker process: Ms. Marquez asked the members to consider a proposal to amend the current Note section of bylaw 7.11.3 from “**NOTE: In the event of a tie among criteria points, the MaxPreps Freeman Rankings will be used to break the tie.” to “**NOTE: In the event of a tie among criteria points, head to head will be used to break the tie. If there is no head to head competition, or the head to head competition is tied, then MaxPreps Freeman Rankings will be used to break the tie.” NMAA staff believes that the fairest way to break a tie in criteria points is by a head to head matchup when available. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Winter made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Alumni game prior to start of season: (Referenda Item): Ms. Marquez asked the members to consider a proposal to bylaw 7.6.4 Scrimmage Limit (Alumni Game) that would define when the game could be played as follows: Schools will be allowed to sponsor an alumni game prior to their first regular season game (if approved by the local school administration), which will not count against their scrimmage limit. Since the member schools voted to allow an alumni game, some schools have been using this game for competition prior to district games or the state tournament. The game, in some cases, is not being used for fundraising and community support as intended. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to approve this proposal. Dr. Winter made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Scholastic eligibility at semester only: (Referenda Item): Ms. Marquez asked the Board to consider a proposal to change bylaw 6.2.1 A1 Scholarship which currently reads, “A Student shall have a 2.0 grade point average with no more than (1) F, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, either cumulatively or for the six or nine week grading period immediately preceding participation”, to “A student shall have a 2.0 grade point average with no more than one (1) F, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, either cumulatively or for the semester grading period immediately preceding participation. A Scholastically ineligible student may regain eligibility at the nine week or twelve week grading period if he/she meets required academic standards.” This proposal will delete 6.2.1 A3, “A student enrolled in on campus courses for less than 51% of the school day may have their eligibility determined by semester grades only.” The rationale for this proposal is that with the increase of online, credit recovery, and concurrent enrollment courses, it is difficult for athletic directors/coaches to properly check and/or monitor scholastic eligibility at all marking periods. This proposal, if approved by vote of the membership, will go into effect for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board discussed the importance of making sure that the Superintendents of New Mexico understand this proposal before they cast their referenda vote. Mr. Parks volunteered to present this issue during the Superintendent’s conference on July 24, 2015. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Winter made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the proposal failed (12-0). Dr. Winter then made a motion to table the proposal. Mr. Benoit seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0). Proposal tabled.

New bylaw regarding Academically Ineligible Participant: (Referenda Item): Ms. Marquez presented an addition to bylaw 6.2.1 B.2 as follows: A student-athlete who has participated in an interscholastic event during his/her period of academic ineligibility must sit out the number of games/events/contests that he/she participated in once he/she becomes academically eligible. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Caton made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Carver seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (11-1).

Dr. Winter left the meeting at 11:47 am.

Drone (UAS) policy: (Referenda Item): Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Board to consider a proposal to add a policy on drones within Section 7 of the NMAA Handbook. The proposed verbiage would be added as Bylaw 7.7.9 Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones) as follows:

For purposes of this policy, an unmanned aircraft system (“UAS”), commonly known as a drone, is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.

The use of drones is prohibited at NMAA sanctioned contests. If these devices are detected at an NMAA sanctioned event (scrimmage, regular, and postseason), contest officials are to stop play/activity and notify game/contest management. It is the responsibility of the contest management to ensure that it is not operating at the facility prior to the resumption of play.

Note: An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases where one of the following is met:

-A broadcast rights holder with permission (should have documentation to verify this fact)

-Department of Defense device with applicable permits

-Law enforcement or air ambulance flight operations

It is the responsibility of each local school district to establish policies for the use of drones during practices.

The rationale for this proposal is that the use of drones to film interscholastic athletic contests has become a discussion point across the nation over the last year. The National Federation of State High School Associations published an article in November providing information on legal issues surrounding the use of drones and this was also discussed at the NFHS Executive Director’s Meeting in January. Due to the potential safety issues that could arise from flying a drone in a populated public space, many state associations have prohibited the use of these devices during sanctioned contests. In addition, the U.S. Congress has directed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to clarify the rules governing drones by September 30, 2015. Because of this, it is felt that the safest course of action for school districts might be to delay the acquisition of drones for use by their athletics departments until those guidelines become available. NMAA staff feels that the best course of action at this time would be to implement a policy within the Handbook that prohibits the use of drones until the issue can be re-evaluated once more information has been collected. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Caton made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Carver seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Sport Specific Action Items:

Football: Date/Time of Championship Games: Mr. Young asked the Board to consider a proposal to adjust NMAA bylaw 7.15.4.F regarding the date and time of State Football Championship games as follows: Championship games must be played on Saturday at 1:00 or 2:00 pm, unless there is mutual agreement between the schools to play on Friday night. The rationale for this proposal is that many schools travel long distances to play games during state football. It is felt that this travel can cause problems for their respective communities to attend road games when they are played on Friday night. Because of the importance of a championship game to the school and community, the Football Sports Specific Committee proposes that these final rounds be held on Saturdays only, unless the two schools agree to play on Friday night. This will provide a better opportunity for parents, fans, and other community members to see the games in person. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Carver made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Dr. Caton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Football: Adjust definition of past history: Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider adjusting the definition of past history as it pertains to determining the host site for certain football playoff games (7.15.4 Q & A) as

follows: past history is defined by the NMAA as any semifinal or final round playoff game between 2 schools dating back to 1953. The rationale for this proposal is that NMAA bylaws currently define past history as any playoff game played between 2 schools dating back to 1953, regardless of round (1st Round, Quarters, Semis, Finals). It is felt that this definition put some schools at a disadvantage if they have long term success and receive a high seed year after year. In that scenario, a school is consistently hosting a 1st round/quarterfinal game and it is thus very likely that they will be playing on the road in the semis/finals in future years. Because successful teams can essentially be punished for long term success, the Football Sports Specific Committee proposes that only semifinal and final games be looked at when determining "past history" between two schools. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Rounds made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Football: Host site determination when no past history: Mr. Young asked the Board to consider a proposal to adjust the NMAA bylaws regarding host sites for state football playoff games when schools have no past history (7.15.4) as follows:

Class 8-Man, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A:

-In the semifinal and final rounds, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

Class 6-Man, 2A:

-In the final rounds, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

The rationale for this proposal is that NMAA bylaws state that a coin flip will determine the host site should teams match-up with no playoff history. The Football Sports Specific Committee feels that utilizing the higher seed as the host in this scenario is preferable. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Caton made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Casados seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Football: Adjustment regarding the mercy rule clock: (Referenda Item): Mr. Young presented a proposal to adjust NMAA bylaws regarding the football mercy rule (7.15.1.I) as follows:

Class 8-Man, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A (updated slightly - starting the running clock earlier)

-When a team is ahead by 35 or more points, or becomes 35 or more points ahead, the clock will not stop during out of bounds, incomplete passes or first downs. The clock only stops for timeouts or scores. If the point differential becomes less than 35 points, regular timing resumes. A game is ended at halftime or during the second half if a team is 50 or more points behind.

Class 6-Man (no change from current rule)

-When a team is ahead at halftime by 35 or more points, or becomes 35 or more points ahead in the second half, the clock will not stop during out of bounds, incomplete passes or first downs. The clock only stops for timeouts or scores. If the point differential becomes less than 35 points, regular timing resumes. A game is ended at halftime or during the second half if a team is 50 or more points behind.

The rationale for this proposal is that currently, the mercy rule states that a running clock will be used when one team is up by 35 or more points at halftime or beyond. Additionally, a game is terminated when one team is up by 50 or more points at halftime or beyond. It is felt that this can be detrimental to the game for several reasons. First, terminating the game early does not allow for teams to play substitutes who may not get in to

the game otherwise. Second, it can lead to logistical issues for host schools that have special ceremonies/festivities planned for halftime. Because of this, the Football Sports Specific Committee proposes that the 35 point running clock rule begin in the first half. The rationale is that starting the running clock earlier will make it more difficult for a team to reach 50 points by halftime, thus extending the game without eliminating the 50 point threshold for termination. The Football SSC and 6-Man coaches feel that no change is needed in their division at this time. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Ms. Dodd made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Casados seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (11-0).

Wrestling: Amend current middle school wrestling competition limits: (Referenda Item): Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, asked the Board to consider a proposal to modify bylaw 9.8.12.B – Match Limitations, as follows: “The maximum number of meets for teams or individuals is eight (8).” The rationale for this proposal is that the language in the current bylaw doesn’t clearly define competition limits, allowing for misinterpretation. The amended bylaw establishes a standard meet limit and also follows other middle school limits closely. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Rounds made the motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Caton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Soccer: Change to Misconduct Progression rule: (Referenda Item): Mr. Joe Butler, NMAA Assistant Director, asked the Board to consider a proposal to modify NMAA Bylaw 7.17.3.A4 (Misconduct Progression Rule) by adding the following language: “A coach or player who is issued a red card for (D1) Violent Conduct - Fighting may receive a three (3) match suspension, starting with the next scheduled match and including any carryover to the state soccer tournament. A second Violent Conduct - Fighting red card received in the same season may result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season, including carryover to the state soccer tournament. By definition, a player or coach would be guilty of Violent Conduct - Fighting if he/she acts deliberately to strike or punch, or attempt to strike or punch another player, coach, bench personnel or fan. These acts include, but are not limited to, kicking, head butting, hair pulling or an open handed strike, if done deliberately and in a malicious manner, either on the field of play or outside its boundaries and whether the ball is in play or not. A player, coach or member of bench personnel shall be guilty of fighting if he/she leaves the coaching/bench area to participate in an altercation. The appeals process and additional sanctions available to the NMAA Executive Director are as per the provisions of NMAA 7.7.2 (Ejection Penalties).” The rationale for the proposal is to establish appropriate penalties for players and coaches who engage in fighting before, during and following a high school soccer match in New Mexico, during the period of the officials’ jurisdiction over the match. Mr. Parks asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Rounds made a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Caton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Adjournment: Mr. Parks asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Benoit made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 pm. Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Next scheduled Board of Directors’ Meeting – September 23, 2015 (NMAA)