

NMAA Board of Directors

June 5, 2014

9:00 AM

NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Ms. Janel Ryan, NMAA Board of Directors President at 11:33 a.m. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Jacquelyne Martinez, NMAA Project Coordinator, and the following members were present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Mr. Paul Benoit (Small Area B)
Mr. Mike Chambers (Small Area C)
Ms. Lesa Dodd (Small Area D)
Ms. Janel Ryan (Large Area A - President)
Mr. T.J. Parks (Large Area B - Vice President)
Mr. Gene Parson (Large Area D)
Mr. Winston Brooks (Large School District I)
Dr. Crit Caton (At-Large Member)
Mr. Lawrence Johnson (NMAA Commission Representative)

Not present:

Mr. Stan Rounds (Large School District II)
Mr. Dion Sandoval (NM School Board Association)
Dr. George Straface (Large Area C)

Ten members present representing a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the agenda including the addendum agenda. Ms. Dodd made the motion to approve the agendas. Mr. Benoit seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014 meeting. Dr. Caton made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Casados seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Executive Session:

There were no legal, financial or personnel issues to discuss. Executive session was not needed at this time.

NMAA Executive Directors' Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, did not have anything to report.

Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the 2013-14 Fall and Winter Sports Financial Reports, the 2013-14 Ticket Sales Report and the 2014-15 NMAA Budget.

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the board for approval of the 2014-2015 NMAA budget. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the NMAA 2014-2015 budget. Mr. Chambers made the motion to approve the budget. Mr. Parks seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the budget passed unanimously (10-0).

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.

NMOA Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Deputy Director, discussed two items in her report: (1) 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 is 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 (2) NASO Summit now has 82 supporting organizations.

General Action Items:

Pre-Competition Practice Rule: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Brooks made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed unanimously (10-0).

9th Grade Participation at Mid/Jr. High Level: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Johnson made the motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed unanimously (10-0).

Participant Third Ejection: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board to consider the following change to 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Chambers made the motion to accept the proposal with the change of wording that on a third ejection the student is removed from athletic competition for 365 days / one calendar year. Mr. Brooks seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Violations of Rules and Regulations: (Referenda Item) Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board to consider a proposal to add the words "School Personnel" to NMAA Bylaw 6.20.1 Violations of Rules and Regulations by Participants, Fans, or Students. The rationale for this proposal is that school personnel should be penalized, just as participants, fans, and students, for violations of the rules and regulations of the NMAA. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Casados made a motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Middle/Jr. High Rodeo: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Parson made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Casados seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Selection/Seeding Criteria: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Dr. Caton made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Benoit seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed (9-1).

First Round Opponent Requirement: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board 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." Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Parson made the motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. The motion passed (10-0).

School Co-op Participation: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board 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 AA.

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 sport. This proposal is an attempt to standardize co-op requirements for all team sports. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Chambers made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Benoit seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed unanimously (10-0).

Change wording in bylaw 13.3 Appeal to PED: Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, asked the Board to consider this proposal which was being made at the request of the PED. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Ms. Dodd made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Parson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed unanimously (10-0).

Governance Structure for the 2014-15/2015-16 Block: Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, presented a proposal to make adjustments to the Governance Structure listed in NMAA bylaw 3.1 based on the approved Classifications for the 2014-2015 / 2015-2016 block. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Chambers made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Casados seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the proposal passed unanimously (10-0).

Sports Specific Action Items:

Football: Consider adjustments to 8-man and AA qualifying: Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Board to consider a proposal to make adjustments to 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 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Dr. Caton made a motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Football: Consideration of Practice Regulations: (Referenda Item) Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Board 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Parson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Baseball: Consider adjustments to A/AA Championships: Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Board 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 teams qualifying for state to 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. There 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). Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Benoit made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Parks seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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.

Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Chambers made a motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

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

7.17.1 F: 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, 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 7.17.1 K.

7.17.1 J: 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...

7.17.1 K: *add the following:* (Regular Season Tournament Games at Option of Host School and all State Tournament Games).

Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Benoit made the motion to accept the proposal. Mr. Parks seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Swim/Dive: Remove exception to meet limitations: (Referenda Item) Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, 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. Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Parson made a motion to accept the proposal. Ms. Dodd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Golf: Allow the use of distance measuring devices: Mr. Bill Cleland, NMAA Associate Director, asked the Board to consider modifying NMAA bylaw 7.16.1 J to allow for the use of distance measuring devices (i.e. range finders) at all NMAA golf events (regular and post-season). Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Chambers made a motion to accept the proposal. Dr. Caton seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Addendum Agenda:

Softball: Decrease State qualifiers to 12 beginning in 2014-15: Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to reduce the number of state qualifiers to 12, while removing the home of higher seed first round and bringing all 12 teams to the state tournament. Top four seeds would earn a bye to the double elimination bracket, bottom eight seeds would play a single elimination game to get into the double elimination bracket. The rationale for this proposal is as follows:

1. Lack of competitiveness of the bottom four seeds.
2. Travel costs/missed school for bottom four seeds without guarantee of complete game (10 and 15 run rules).
3. Centralized location for first round to reduce travel expenses.
4. Removal of "home of higher seed" first round gives schools an additional week for make-up games as well as additional flexibility in scheduling.

Removing the bottom four seeds will reduce the travel and lodging costs for the schools previously seeded 13-16. The state tournament schedule will still permit three days per classification thus preventing any increase in state tournament expenses for the remaining teams. The centralized location also reduces travel costs for first round games. In addition, the NMAA budget will be increased with the addition of eight teams.

Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Proposal died for lack of a motion.

Consider Adjournment:

Ms. Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 p.m. Mr. Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Next Meeting Date: September 24, 2014