

NMAA Commission Meeting
August 25, 2021
9:00 AM
Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:04 am. A roll call was conducted by Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA, and the following members were present:

Mr. Ben Tensay (Large, Area A)
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large, Area B) **via teleconference*
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large, Area C)
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (Large, Area D)
Mr. Kamau Turner (Small, Area A)
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)
Ms. Robbie Robinson (Small, Area D)
Mr. Willie Owens (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)
Mr. Larry Chavez (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)
Mr. Dale Lindley (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)
Mr. Frank Cordova (New Mexico State School Boards Association)

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Commission Meeting as presented. Ms. Moores made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Mr. Kamau Turner entered the meeting

Elections:

Mr. Viramontes asked for nominations for Commission Chairperson. Mr. Affentranger nominated Mr. Ernie Viramontes for Commission Chairperson. Ms. Moores seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Mr. Viramontes asked for nominations for Commission Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Chavez nominated Mr. Scott Affentranger for Commission Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items on his report: 1) welcomed to the Commission Ms. Robbie Robinson representing Small Area D and Mr. Dale Lindley representing the Middle Schools/Jr. High School Committee; 2) introduced Mr. Zac Stevenson as the new NMAA Commissioner of Officials; 3) provided information on the Fall Leadership Conference which will be held at the end of September; 4) stated that the NMAA Foundation will distribute over \$35,000 in

student scholarships and \$15,000 in school grants during 2021-2022; and 5) provided information on the Foundation Golf Classic which will be held in September at Santa Ana Star Golf Club.

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, reported on the most recent face covering mandate implemented by the New Mexico Governor's office, through the Public Education Department, which recommends masks for outdoor activities and requires masks for indoor activities.

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided information regarding the 2020-2021 financial reports for all sports and activities; 2) discussed ticket sales for the 2020-2021 state championship events.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) stated that a variety of in-person and virtual competitions took place during 2020-2021; 2) provided information on Powerlifting which will continue as a sanctioned activity for the 2021-22 school year; and 3) reported that the Activities Council Meeting will be held in person on September 7th at the NMAA office.

Mr. Jory Mirabal entered the meeting.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed six (6) items on his report: 1) stated that the NMOA Annual State Clinic occurred virtually over the summer with over 500 attendees; 2) provided information on several football camps that took place over the past week in Santa Fe, Las Cruces and Albuquerque; 3) reported on the 15th annual Referee Educational Forum for basketball officials; 4) stated that new NMOA/NMAA's newest football film requirement is off and running and going well; 5) announced that the 2020 & 2021 NMOA Distinguished Service winners and Hall of Fame inductees would be recognized at the NMAA's special banquet at the end of September; and 6) provided an update on officials numbers for Fall sports which are currently seeing a significant decrease from two years ago. He also stated that rebuilding officials' numbers in all sports would be a top priority for the Association.

Discussion/Informational Items

Seeding and Selection: Coach Input - Mr. Adrian Pete, Rehoboth Christian Athletic Director, discussed the importance of coaches input, one of the six criteria used during seeding and selection. He suggested making the school input form mandatory for all coaches to submit. The group discussed possible sanctions for lack of submission and rewards for participation. The majority of the feedback provided by the Commission was positive and supported continued discussion.

Classification & Alignment Update - Ms. Marquez provided an update on the 2022-2024 Classification and Alignment block stating that 40-day numbers for 2021-2022 would be coming soon and that these would be used to determine average enrollments along with 80-day counts from the previous two years. She stated that the Board of Directors would review these numbers and Classification & Alignment as a whole in December.

Spring Sports Calendar - Ms. Marquez discussed the Spring Sports calendar and the possibility of moving the start and end of these seasons back by two weeks. This would eliminate some of the overlap between winter and spring sports while also helping northern schools with some of the weather issues they deal with early in the season. Feedback included concerns with school events now running in to other traditional summer activities for kids, which was quite common during 2020-2021 when spring championships had to be held in June.

Cancellation of Events Due to COVID-19 - Ms. Marquez asked for feedback regarding the cancellation of events due to COVID-19 exposures/outbreaks and if these should be treated as no contests or forfeitures. Feedback included support to keep these events as no contests, but to also allow for the NMAA to look at each contest on a case-by-case basis and issue forfeits in situations where gamesmanship may occur and lead to a cancellation that was not warranted. Additionally, it was recommended that officials' fees only be paid in situations where last minute cancellations occur.

Student Eligibility: Specialized Sports Training - Ms. Marquez reported that there has been an increase in students participating at specialized sports academies all over the country and that NMAA eligibility rules currently allow for these students to take a year off from school sports, and then return to any NMAA school based on "Did Not Participate" exceptions. Feedback included support to change bylaws so that these students would only be eligible to return to the school they attended prior to leaving for the academy.

Student Eligibility: Virtual/Online Schooling - Ms. Marquez discussed the increased availability of online schooling and how eligibility is and should be determined for these students. She reported that some students may be living out of state, but attending NMAA member schools via their online academies. The group felt that this was a difficult issue because of so many different variables and agreed that continued discussion was needed.

Track & Field: Fully Automatic Timing - Ms. Marquez asked for feedback regarding the possible expansion of Fully Automatic Timing requirements for Class A-3A State Qualifying Meets. This would provide consistency with the entry of meet results and would ensure that all State Qualifying Meets across the state were using the same process (Classes A-5A). Feedback included support to require this for all classifications starting with the 2022-2023 school year.

Track & Field: Hytek Requirement - Ms. Marquez stated that in an effort to simplify the state qualifier entry process for Track & Field, the NMAA would like to require that all schools use a software called Hytek beginning with 2022 season. Mr. Chris Kedge, NMAA Assistant Director, provided information on the limited cost for this software and ease of use. The group supported this requirement and recommended that it be implemented for the upcoming Track & Field season.

Tennis: One vs. Two Weekends for State - Ms. Marquez provided information on the possibility of holding State Tennis over two weekends instead of one. This would place the individual and team events on separate weeks. The group felt that this should be explored as it could lead to less class-time lost for students.

Basketball: Shot Clock - Ms. Marquez stated the NFHS, by state association adoption, approved a shot clock in the sport of basketball beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. She stated that coach surveys over the past year have resulted in mixed results and continued discussion among the membership is needed. Feedback included concerns with cost for schools, actual need for a shot clock based on the way the game is currently played, difficulties in officiating the new rule, and potential issues with staffing this additional position as part of game/table personnel.

Wrestling: Weight Classes – Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented information regarding an NFHS allowance to reduce the number of weight classes in the sport of Wrestling. He stated that New Mexico should consider this due to the high number of forfeits that occur each year. Feedback included support to make this change in the future.

Wrestling: Classifications - Mr. Owen discussed the possibility of combining Class A-3A and 4A in the sport of Wrestling due to the lack of participation in the A-3A classification. This change could help lessen the number of forfeits while also making for a more competitive State Championship event. The majority of the group supported this potential change but concerns were raised regarding small school programs and how other NMAA sports are Classified & Aligned.

Wrestling: Regional Tournaments - Mr. Owen presented information regarding the possibility of using regional tournaments to qualify athletes for the State Championships. He stated that this is the current process used in Girls Wrestling, and many coaches have stated interest in doing the same for the Boys division. Feedback was positive but asked for more data from coaches. Mr. Owen stated he would survey athletic directors and coaches and report back to the Commission.

Action Items:

Football: Film Requirement Expansion - Mr. Young presented a proposal to amend the last sentence of Bylaw 7.15.1.M to read: The NMAA/NMOA HUDL Account will serve as an open library where all varsity game film is stored and can be accessed by coaches, officials and NMAA/NMOA staff. Sanctions for failure to submit game film will be determined by the Executive Director. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Baseball: 2A/3A State Tournament Top Seeds Bye - Mr. Young presented a proposal to add the following to Bylaw 7.12.4.C: 8. The top four seeds in Class 2A & 3A may play an exhibition game during their "bye week". This exhibition must be played against one of the other top four seeds in Class 2A or 3A and must be approved by both school administrations. All pitching restrictions regulations as listed in 7.12.1.D would apply during/after this exhibition. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. No motion was made and the proposal fails.

Baseball: Bat Regulations - Mr. Young presented a proposal, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year (2023 season), to remove NMAA Bylaw 7.12.6 and edit Bylaw 7.12.1.E to read as follows: Bat Regulations - All legal bats as per NFHS Rules can be used. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Robinson made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Golf: State Qualifying Standards - Mr. Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to update bylaws in Section 7.16.2 to reflect new qualifying standards for the State Golf Championships. These new standards would include the following: Require that a school must play a minimum of five tournaments as a team and individual golfers must play in a minimum of three tournaments to be eligible to compete in the State Golf Championships. Use of iWanamaker rankings to qualify teams for the State Golf Tournament - other than the District Champion. The District Champion and the next three teams in classifications 4A and 5A and the next two teams in classification A-3A based on iWanamaker rankings will qualify for the State Championships. If a school participates in more than 5 tournaments, only their top 5 events will be used to calculate rankings. The top eight individual golfers in each classification based on iWanamaker rankings that are not already part of a qualifying team will be entered in to the State Championships. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMHSCA: All-Star Game Format - Mr. Buster Mabrey, NMHSCA Executive Director, presented a proposal to edit Bylaw 7.6.22.D to read as follows. Games must be held after the academic completion of the respective school year unless specific games are approved by the NMAA Commission and Board of Directors on a yearly basis. The proposal also included dates for proposed All-Star Games to be held in November, March, and June during 2021-2022. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Lindley made the motion to approve the changes to Bylaw 7.6.22.D and amend the proposed dates for the All-Star Games in 2021-2022 so that the small school events took place at the same time as the large school events. Mr. Mirabal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Out-of-Season Coaching: Contact on Saturdays - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 7.4 Out-of-Season coaching to read: During the off-season, a coaching staff is allowed 7.5 hours of total contact time per week, Monday through Saturday, and only when school is in session, to work with student athletes grades 8-12. Sports Specific and sports specific conditioning classes

are to be included within this allowable timeframe. This provision applies to all school coaches, paid and volunteer. This rule prohibits coaching these individuals on any team (school or non-school sponsored) out of season during the school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Moores made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tensay seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. (13-1).

Out-of-Season Coaching: Middle/Jr. High Schools - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend the out of season coaching rule to provide middle school coaching staffs their own 7.5 hours of contact time. Bylaw 7.4 amended to read: During the off-season, each school's coaching staff is allowed 7.5 hours of total contact time per week, (during days when schools is in session only) to work with student athletes grades 6-12. Sports Specific and sports specific conditioning classes are to be included within this allowable timeframe. This provision applies to all school coaches, paid and volunteer. This rule prohibits coaching these individuals on any team (school or non-school sponsored) out of season during the school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Owens made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Scholastic Eligibility: Cumulative Provision for Freshmen - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal To permit freshman students to use the cumulative provision at the conclusion of the first semester. Bylaw 6.2.1.A.1.c – Cumulative Provision would read as follows: 1. A student who is ineligible at the end of a semester may utilize the cumulative provision. 2. Only semester grades can be used, and all semester grades starting with the 9th grade year must be utilized. (The cumulative provision cannot be used for middle school/junior high Students.) 3. The cumulative provision may not be applied if a Student has more than one "F" in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation. 4. A student must have passed a minimum of 51% of coursework taken by a full - time student in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation to take advantage of the cumulative provision option. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. No motion was made and the proposal fails.

Scholastic Eligibility: 8th Grade Clean Slate – Mr. Owen, on behalf of Ms. Marquez, presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 9.4 and reserve the scholastic eligibility clean slate rule only for incoming 9th graders who have not already participated in high school athletics. 9.4 Interscholastic Eligibility Scholarship would read as follows: A. A Student first participating at the sixth or seventh grade level may compete without reference to his/her immediate or previous scholastic record. The end of the first semester establishes the scholarship requirements for this Student. B. An eighth grade Student competing in interscholastic sports at the high school level has made his/her open enrollment choice. The Student's eligibility to participate shall be determined by the semester grading period immediately preceding participation. C. A ninth grade Student who has not previously competed in interscholastic sports at the high school level has his/her open enrollment choice. The Student may compete without reference to his/her immediate or previous scholastic record in eighth grade (last semester). The end of the first semester in 9th grade establishes the beginning of the scholarship requirements for this Student. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Mabrey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Lindley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Mr. Tensay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).