

## **NMAA Commission Meeting**

September 2, 2020

9:00 AM

Zoom

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes, Chairman, at 9:02 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present via Zoom:

Mr. Kamau Turner (Small, Area A)  
Mr. Larry Chavez (Large, Area A)  
Mr. Dickie Roybal (Small, Area B)  
Mr. Cooper Henderson (Large, Area B)  
Mr. Jory Mirabal (Small, Area C)  
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (Large Area C)  
Mr. Jason Hightower (Small Area D)  
Ms. LeeAnn Moores (Large, Area D)  
Mr. David Campbell (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)  
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)  
Mr. Daren Jones (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)  
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)  
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

Not Present:

Mr. Al Martinez (Non-Public Schools)  
Mr. Frank Cordova (New Mexico School Boards Association)

14 members were present representing a quorum.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hightower seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 Commission Meeting as presented. Ms. Moores made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. D. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

### **NMAA Director's Report**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items on his report: 1) welcomed two new members to the Commission, Ms. Mary Hahn, representing the Activities Council and Mr. Kamau Turner, representing Small Area A; 2) stated that elections will take place in October for Commission seats representing Small A, Small D, Large A, and Non-Public Schools and for Board Members representing Small D, Large A, and Large C; 3) added that one Board seat is currently up for election due to a vacated term within Large D; 4) provided an update on the NMAA Foundation that included information on its Fall Golf Classic fundraiser and the decision to increase both student scholarship awards for 2020-2021 by \$20,000 and school grants/support by up to \$15,000 from previous years due to the difficult times brought forth by the current pandemic; and 5) stated that Powerlifting has been added as an unofficial activity for

member schools beginning in October. Mr. Young asked for feedback from the group as to if the NMAA should seek approval of Powerlifting as a sanctioned activity for 2020-2021. The Commission recommended that it should be a sanctioned activity for the current school year and thus should be taken to the NMAA Board of Directors for approval at their next meeting.

### **NMAA Finance Report**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the Association's finance report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided an overview of the financial reports for sports and activities from the 2019-2020 school year; and 2) stated that the annual audit was recently completed and that the results and final financials will be presented to the Board of Directors later in the month.

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, provided additional details regarding the financial position of the organization at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, the proposed 2020-2021 budget, and the potential long term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Association.

### **NMAA Activities Report**

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the activities report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) stated that the annual Activities Council Meeting was held on September 1 and New Mexico Association of Student Councils representative Mary Hahn was elected as chair for the next two years; 2) reported that many of the state activity events scheduled for the Spring of 2020 were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic and that most events in 2020-2021 are planned to be held virtually; 3) announced a renewed partnership with Western New Mexico University that will provide scholarship opportunities to students participating in each NMAA sanctioned activity; and 4) provided an update on the composition and current work of NMAA's Student Leadership Advisory Council.

### **New Mexico Officials Association Report**

Ms. Pappas presented the officials report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) stated that the 2020 NMOA State Clinic was held virtually in July with over 600 officials in attendance; 2) reported that the NMOA has conducted over 100 successful webinars for seven different sports over the past six months; 3) announced that the NASO Summit was held virtually this year with over 10,000 attendees (150+ were NM officials); and 4) stated that District Clinics will be held virtually during 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Viramontes asked about officials' numbers and Ms. Pappas stated that these are fairly steady under the circumstances.

### **Discussion/Informational Items**

STEM Challenge - Ms. Marquez stated that although it was successful during its first year as a sanctioned activity, the STEM Challenge would no longer be recognized under the NMAA umbrella due to cash prizes that are awarded to student participants. The NMAA still supports school involvement in this great educational opportunity.

Mental Health Awareness - Ms. Marquez provided an overview of the NMAA's Mental Health Awareness initiative that was launched August 31 and will continue throughout 2020-2021. The initial "Mental Health Awareness Week" will be followed up with "Wellness Wednesdays" for the remainder of the school year.

Basketball: 2-person crews - Ms. Marquez discussed the possible use of 2-person officiating crews in the sport of basketball for smaller classifications. She stated that an action item to

implement this at the 1A level was tabled by the Board of Directors over the summer, and asked for feedback as to if this proposal should be expanded to Class 2A as well due to the financial implications brought forth by the coronavirus pandemic. Feedback from the Commission supported the change for Class 1A & 2A not only because of finances, but also because of potential scheduling and officials' assignment issues that could occur during this unique year. Ms. Marquez stated that this proposal would be presented to the Board of Directors.

### **Action Items**

Rodeo: Consider Removal as Sanctioned Activity - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to eliminate Rodeo as an NMAA sanctioned activity. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Moores made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

### **Discussion/Informational or Action Items**

#### *Handbook Addendum - COVID-19 Adjustments*

(D/I) = Discussion/Informational; (A) = Action

(A) Bylaw 2.5.1: Annual Meeting - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to eliminate the Annual Meeting (Fall Conference) requirement for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Hahn made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Turner seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

(D/I) Bylaw 3.6: District Clinics - Ms. Marquez stated that all District Clinics for the 2020-2021 school year will be held virtually with updated dates that reflect the amended sports calendar.

(D/I) Bylaw 3.9: School Online Reporting - Ms. Marquez provided details regarding the change in dates for the online reporting (schedules/rosters/etc.) of athletic information based on the amended sports calendar for 2020-2021. She also stated that there will be no pre-season meeting requirement for the current school year, but that schools would still need to provide the NMAA pre-season video to all parents and students.

(D/I) Bylaw 4.1.3 A: Failure to Complete Season - Ms. Marquez stated schools that drop programs or fail to complete seasons during 2020-2021 would not be subject to penalties. However, if a school does choose to drop a particular sports program before the season begins, it must notify the NMAA at least two weeks prior to the official start date. Mr. Young clarified that this exemption to penalties pertains to classification and alignment policies/bylaws.

(D/I) Bylaw 6.2: Scholastic Eligibility- Ms. Marquez reminded the group of the change in scholastic eligibility bylaws for the 2020-2021 school year only. This was approved by the Board of Directors over the summer.

(D/I) Bylaw 6.5.A.C.1 and 6.13.1 B: Multiple Seasons in Same Sports - Ms. Marquez stated that there are no changes to this NMAA bylaw and referenced that this would prohibit a student from participating in a certain sport outside of New Mexico in the Fall, and then coming back to New Mexico and participating in the same sport in the Spring.

(D/I) Bylaw 6.6: Transfer Students - Ms. Marquez stated there are no changes to this bylaw.

(A) Bylaw 6.9.2 B - Did Not Participate Exception: Ms. Marquez presented a proposal that if a school is unable to offer a particular sport during the 2020-2021 school year due to state, country or local health department, or school/school district determinations, students who later

transfer from those schools will have their 2019-2020 sport participation utilized when applying the did not participate exception. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Chavez made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hightower seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

(D/I) Bylaw 6.12: Semesters of Attendance - Ms. Marquez stated that there are no changes to bylaw.

(D/I) Bylaw 6.15: Physical Exam Waivers - Ms. Marquez reminded the group of the changes that were made to the physical exam requirements for the 2020-2021 school year only. These were approved by the Board of Directors over the summer.

(A) Bylaw 7.4 and 9.7.8: Out of Season Coaching - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to update Out of Season Coaching bylaws for junior high and middle schools for the 2020-2021 school year only. All high school out-of-season coaching regulations will remain in effect as per Bylaw 7.4 in the NMAA Handbook. However, middle school students/coaches will be permitted out-of-season contact time, exclusive of the high school, but must follow the out of season coaching regulations listed in Bylaw 7.4. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Campbell made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hightower seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

(A) Bylaw 7.6.5: Minimum Contests for Postseason Eligibility - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to eliminate the requirement for individual students to participate in a minimum of 25% of its team's contests to be eligible for post-season competition. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

(A) Bylaw 7.9, 3.11.4, 5.1.6, & 5.1.7: Missed Games - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal that teams not be penalized a loss or forfeit due to state, county, or local health department determinations relative to COVID-19. These games will be considered a "no contest" but can be made up if mutually agreed upon. District games missed due to COVID-19 must be rescheduled if time permits. Teams may work to reschedule with new opponents if games (district or non-district) cannot be rescheduled. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Hightower made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. D. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

(D/I) Out of State Competition - Ms. Marquez clarified that out of state competition is permitted. Schools, however, must comply with public health orders, including potential quarantine orders, that may be in place at the time of the contest.

(D/I) Section 10: Home/Charter/Alternative/ Non-Member Private School Eligibility - Ms. Marquez stated that there are no changes to these bylaws. She also clarified that students electing to remain enrolled through virtual curriculum offered by the local public school retain eligibility at that school.

(D/I) Bylaw 7.11: Seeding and Selection – Qualifying Numbers - Ms. Marquez provided details pertaining to the new qualifying numbers for the 2020-2021 school year only. 8-team formats will be utilized for Baseball (2A-5A), Basketball (A-5A), Football (6-man, 2A-6A), Soccer (A/3A-5A, Softball (A/2A-5A), and Volleyball (A-5A). 4-Team formats will be utilized for Baseball (A), and Football (8-Man).

(A) Bylaw 7.11: Seeding and Selection – District Champions & At-Large Bids - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal that for 2020-2021, District Champions automatically qualify for the State Championships with the remaining teams selected At-Large using the standard criteria listed in Section 7.11.2 B of the NMAA Handbook. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Chavez made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed. (12-2).

Yes	No	Commission Member
X		Mr. Scott Affentranger
X		Mr. Jason Hightower
	X	Mr. Jess Martinez
	X	Mr. David Campbell
X		Mr. Jory Mirabal
X		Mr. Dickie Roybal
X		Mr. Daren Jones
X		Mr. Buster Mabrey
X		Mr. Ernie Viramontes
X		Ms. Mary Hahn
X		Mr. Cooper Henderson
X		Ms. LeeAnn Moores
X		Mr. Larry Chavez
X		Mr. Kamau Turner

Bylaw 7.11: Seeding and Selection – Parameters/Criteria - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal that if a school is forced to cancel one or more district games due to state, country or local health department determinations, it must complete at least 51% of their district schedule to be eligible for post-season selection. This rule only applies to those schools forced to shut down due to state, country, local health department determinations. District finish will be determined using the win/loss percentage of district games played. District ties will be broken using the sport specific procedures listed in Section 7 of the NMAA Handbook. District tie-breaking games will not occur in the sport of basketball. State seeding will utilize the standard criteria listed in Section 7.11.3 of the NMAA Handbook. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hightower 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 10:50 a.m. Mr. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

The next NMAA Commission Meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020.