

NMAA Commission Meeting

September 4, 2019

9:00 AM

NMAA Office

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:00 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present:

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

Not Present:

Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)
Mr. Steve Perea (Activities Council)

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 with a modification to move the addendum agenda item to the first item under VII – Discussion/Informational Items. Mr. Host 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 22, 2019 Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Hightower seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Elections:

Mr. Viramontes asked for nominations for Commission Chairperson. Mr. Henderson nominated Mr. Ernie Viramontes for Commission Chairperson. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Mr. Viramontes asked for nominations for Commission Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Mabrey nominated Mr. Scott Affentranger for Commission Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, presented the directors' report. He discussed five (5) items on his report: 1) introduced the newest member of the Commission – Mr. Daren Jones of Los Alamos Middle School as the new Mid School / Jr. High rep; 2) stated that three commission representatives have terms that will be coming to an end in December, thus elections for these would take place after the Fall Conference (Small A, Small C, & Large C); 3) reported that the NMAA/NMADA Fall Leadership Conference would take place at the end of September; 4) provided an update on the October Spirit Clinic that would be mandatory for all coaches/schools; and 5) announced that the NMAA has started a weekly show called Game Time that will air every Tuesday night on the website.

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 2018-2019 financial reports for all sports and activities; 2) discussed ticket sales for the 2018-2019 state championship events. Mr. Viramontes asked about state soccer and if the change in dates for 2018 had an impact on ticket sales. Ms. Kessler-Schwamer stated that the change did not have much of an effect as numbers were similar to 2017.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) reported on the August Activities Council Meeting which welcomed two new representatives from Esports and the STEM Challenge; 2) stated that Drama/One-Act is the only activity state event to take place in the Fall, with all others being held in the Spring (February-May); and 3) announced that there is support from the Activities Council to hold only one annual meeting at the start of the school year (instead of one in the fall and one in the spring).

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Ms. Pappas presented the officials report. She discussed nine (9) items on her report: 1) reported on the numerous basketball camps and clinics that took place over the summer months; 2) stated that the July NMOA State Clinic was a success; 3) provided information on the NASO Summit and her recent appointment to the NASO Board of Directors; 4) reported on the Referee Educational Forum that took place in August for basketball officials; 5) stated that several football camps took place in August; 6) provided information regarding a case in Pennsylvania between the PIAA and their officials association; 7) reported on the recent change to utilize regional assignors in all sports; 8) provided an update on officials numbers and the effectiveness of recent recruitment efforts; and 9) stated that the in-person rules clinics held in the fall were very well received by both officials and coaches.

General Discussion/Information Items

School Sports Exceptions - Ms. Tera Dick discussed the possibility of creating an exception for students attending a school where certain sports may not be offered which would allow them to participate in these programs at another school/schools.

Baseball Umpires Fees Increase - Ms. Pappas discussed the possibility of raising baseball umpire fees for the 2020-2021 school year so that these fees match those given to basketball officials. Both the Commission and Board of Directors have supported this idea at past meetings and Ms. Pappas stated it would be an action item at a later meeting. The Commission was still in favor of this proposal.

Member School "Cyber Programs" - Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director discussed Cyber Programs within member schools. She stated that these programs allow students from all areas of New Mexico to participate in athletics/activities at the school where they are enrolled as a "cyber student". Feedback from the Commission included participation only at their home attendance zone school, or the possibility of using a multiplier for enrollment purposes. Ms. Marquez informed the Commission that she will discuss this issue with the bylaws committee that is currently reviewing several other NMAA rules/regulations.

Scholastic Eligibility: Clean Slate - Ms. Marquez discussed ridding the clean slate rule through middle school, affording a clean slate only to 9th graders playing for the first time at the high school level. Current bylaws allow for an 8th grade student that is academically ineligible for middle school athletics to participate at the high school level. This has been looked at as a potential issue by the NMAA and some member schools.

Scholastic Eligibility: Cumulative Provision - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of utilizing the cumulative provision for juniors and seniors only. The Commission felt that this change was not necessary as the current rule is fine as is.

State Championship Qualifiers - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of lowering the number of state qualifiers in Class 2A & 3A baseball and Class A/2A & 3A softball from 16 to 12 and Class A-3A soccer from 12 to 8. The Commission provided positive feedback due to the lower number of schools that participate within those classes for baseball, softball, and soccer.

Out of Season Coaching - Ms. Marquez discussed current out of season coaching bylaws and some of the concerns that have been brought to the NMAA in recent years. She also stated that this is a major topic of discussion among the current bylaw committee. She also informed the Commission that a survey will be issued at the Fall Conference to collect feedback on the issue from all member schools.

Heat Illness Prevention Protocol: Ms. Marquez discussed current bylaws pertaining to heat illness and the fact that the policy references practices and not games/contests. The Commission felt that this should be applied to games/contests as well. Mr. Young stated that the NMAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee will review the issue at its next meeting and a proposal to update the policy can be crafted from there.

Co-Ops: Ms. Marquez discussed co-ops and the possibility of allowing all classifications to co-op in an effort to save programs at all levels. She stated that some states do allow large schools to co-op if they can prove they are not able to field teams over a certain period of time. Feedback included researching other states for their co-op rules.

Classification and Alignment Update: Ms. Marquez informed the Commission of the timeline in regards to classification and alignment. Information will be brought to the Board of Directors at its September meeting.

Action Items

Administration Presence During All Contests - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider an addition to Bylaw 7.7.4 (Crowd Control) that would require an administrative presence at all contests. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Moores made the motion to table the proposal. Mr. Roybal seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Foreign Exchange Direct Placement Students - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider an update to Bylaw 6.8.2.A (International Student Exchange Participant) whereas a student is eligible immediately if the student is participating in a formal program sanctioned through the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and is not directly placed by the CSIET program. Directly placed foreign exchange students will be eligible at the sub-varsity level only. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Henderson made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Bylaw 2.3.4: Activity Organizations - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend Bylaw 2.3.4 (Activity Organizations) to read as follows: Activity Organizations may be admitted to the Association if 10% of the membership's high schools agree to participate (See Bylaw 4.2.1) and if approved by the Commission and Board of Directors. A copy of their constitution and bylaws must be submitted. Activity organizations have no vote in the election of officers for the Association. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Host made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Bylaw 7.4.3: Undue Influence - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to consider an addition to Bylaw 7.4.3 (Undue Influence of a Student) to include if a coach is directly associated with undue influence, the member school will be fined \$2,500/\$5,000 (See Bylaw 7.4.2). In addition, this would change Bylaw 7.4.2 to read as Violations for Out-of-Season Coaching during the school year and/or Undue Influence by a Coach. Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Henderson made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Mabrey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Golf: State Qualifying Formula - Mr. Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to consider an adjustment to the qualifying formula for the boys' state golf championships (team and individual). 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).

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. Mr. Chavez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. (14-0).