

NMAA Commission Meeting
September 5, 2018
9:00 AM
NMAA Office

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes at 9:02 am. A roll call was conducted by Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA, 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. Dave Campbell (Small, Area D)
Ms. Nickie McCarty (Large, Area D)
Mr. Thomas Mabrey (New Mexico High School Coaches Association)
Mr. Al Martinez (Non-Public School)
Mr. Scott Affentranger (New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals)
Mr. Mike Huston (New Mexico High School Athletic Directors Association)
Mr. Steve Perea (Activities Council)
Ms. Debbie Coffman (Jr. High/Middle School)
Mr. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)

Not Present:

Mr. Tony Rubin (New Mexico School Boards Association)

15 members present representing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Huston made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2018 Commission Meeting as presented. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Perea seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).

NMAA Directors' Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed five (5) items on his report: 1) he introduced a new Commission Member, Mr. Steve Perea who is the NMAA's Chess liaison and will serve as the Activities Council representative; 2) he reported that there will be four openings on the Commission this fall. Elections will be held in October for Small Area D, Large Area A, Large Area B and Large Area D. He also stated that Mr. Dave Campbell shift from the Small Area D rep to the NMADA rep since he is now President of that organization. 3) he informed the group that the 2018 NMAA/NMADA Fall Conference will be held September 30-October 1, 2018 at the Marriot Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque; 4) he stated that the NMAA staff has been and will continue to travel the state this fall for various meetings/presentations; and 5) he reported, along with Executive Director Sally Marquez, that the start to the 2018 sports season has seen several negative incidents pertaining to sportsmanship and that the NMAA would continue to work with schools to enforce new the new sportsmanship bylaw in an effort to create a positive culture statewide.

NMAA Financial Report:

Mrs. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, Business Manager, presented the financial report. She discussed one (1) item on her report: 1) she provided reports for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and stated that these would be final later in the month once the annual audit of the organization was complete.

NMAA Activities Report:

Mrs. Dana Pappas, Deputy Director, presented the activities report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) she again introduced Mr. Steve Perea as the new chair for the Activities Council, replacing Mr. Don Gerheart; 2) she provided information from the August 28th Activities Council meeting; 3) she stated that the fall is a slower time for activities with only one state event (One Act Play); and 4) she informed the group that nearly 30 schools were represented at the NMAA's first Esports workshop held in August.

NMAA Officials Report:

Ms. Pappas presented the officials report. She discussed six (6) items on her report: 1) she provided an update on the many in-person trainings that took place over the summer which included multiple basketball & football camps, the basketball REF, and NMOA state clinic; 2) she stated that the NMOA is working on a variety of training videos for official's education and improvement; 3) she discussed the Battles 2 Ballfields program that was recently introduced in New Mexico and has brought six veterans in to the officiating ranks; 4) she informed the group that the 2019 NMOA State clinic will be held on July 12-13; 5) she stated that the NMAA will again be holding Officials' Appreciation Weeks throughout the year, and has also added Coach Appreciation weeks as well; and 6) she reported on the football officials' shortage that has plagued the membership this fall.

General Discussion/Information Items

Basketball – Replay: Mr. Roy Sanchez, Athletic Director at Eldorado High School, discussed the potential need for instant replay in the sport of basketball for last second shots. He reported that approximately ten states currently utilize this tool during various state tournament games. He asked the Commission to consider this potential change as it could be a useful tool to help officials in pivotal situations while also bettering the game of basketball for the membership.

NMADA/NIAAA – Importance of LTC Program: Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, discussed the NIAAA LTC program and the importance of continuing education and professional development in the field of athletic administration. She encouraged Athletic Directors to take part in these classes in an effort to keep the profession growing and improve the annual turnover rate.

NMOA – Officials' Fees: Ms. Pappas presented the finalized proposal for increases to officials' fees. This would be effective July 1, 2019. The proposal includes data based on feedback and input from the NMAA Commission and Board of Directors.

NMOA – Sub-Varsity Assignors: Ms. Pappas stated the NMOA Executive Board would like to discuss this item in more detail at its October meeting and that it would be placed on the next Commission agenda once more feedback is collected.

EAP/AED Requirement – Activity State Events: Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, asked for feedback in potentially requiring an EAP and accessible AED at all state activity events activities. This is currently the case for all sports and the activities of Bowling, JROTC and Rodeo. Based on feedback from the Activities Council and Commission, the NMAA will continue to work on this project in an effort to mandate it for all activities, while also looking at ways to help each individual activity organization with associated costs.

Scholastic Eligibility – 8th Grade Clean Slate Rule: Ms. Marquez discussed scholastic eligibility, in particular the clean slate rule that allows for students to participate in activities/athletics regardless of previous year grades once they make an open enrollment choice to participate in high school athletics. Currently, 8th graders are allotted a clean slate at the start of high school for athletic purposes. The issue with this rule is 8th graders, currently not academically eligible to participate at the middle school level, are able to participate at the high school level under this rule. Feedback from the Commission is for the NMAA to continue to look at the clean slate rule and address the 8th grade situation mentioned above, while also considering other options that could adjust other aspects of the rule as a whole.

Coach Education – NFHS Rules Exams: Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of a requirement that coaches take the same rules exam that officials take to start each season. Although the group felt that continued education is always a good thing, it was felt that face to face clinics/opportunities would be better than adding another online requirement. The NMAA will work with the NMHSCA to see if something like this is feasible for the future.

Football – Team Huddles at Midfield: Ms. Marquez discussed the concern in regards to teams huddling at midfield before, during and/or after the game, causing some animosity between the two schools. There are rules in effect in the sport of basketball that do not allow this to occur. The Commission recommended that the NMAA put together a proposal that would prohibit this practice in all sports.

Ejection Policy for Fighting: Ms. Marquez discussed the increased number of ejections for fighting and asked if the NMAA should consider harsher penalties (i.e. multiple game ejections, meetings with the Executive Director) for these type of ejections. She referenced how it has helped in the sport of soccer and inquired as to if it should thus be applied to all sports. The Commission recommended that changes should be pursued but that football may need to be looked at differently because of its shorter season.

IB Program at Sandia High School: Ms. Marquez discussed current eligibility rulings for students transferring to Sandia HS when accepted to its IB Program. After discussion, Ms. Marquez stated that this would also be on the agenda for the next Board of Directors' Meeting.

Consider Adjournment

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 am. Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (15-0).