

NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
September 18
9:00 a.m.
NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Anthony Casados, NMAA Board of Directors President, at 10:04 a.m. Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A - President)
Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D) **via Teleconference*
Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D) **via Teleconference*
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

11 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Dr. Gabriella Duran Blakey (Large School District I)

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr. Allison made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Mr. Hilario Chavez joined the meeting.

NMAA Director's Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) provided information regarding the 2024 Summer Conference that included the NMAA, NMOA, NMHSCA, NMADA, and student leaders; 2) stated fall sports are underway and are going well; and 3) reported that the NMAA will again take part in the NMSBA Regional meetings that are taking place over the next month. Mr. Casados asked if the NMAA could put together an eligibility workshop for athletic directors to not only go over bylaws, but to also discuss the overall process of petitions and paperwork submissions. Ms. Marquez stated this will be a topic of discussion at the mandatory NMAA Annual Meeting that is set to take place on September 25th via Zoom.

NMAA Financial Report:

Annual Audit Report - Ms. Shannon Gilliland, CPA with Taylor Roth, presented the Annual Audit report for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to accept the Annual Audit Report. Mr. Allison made a motion to accept the NMAA Audit Report as presented. Mr. Tripp seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

NMAA Finance Report - Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) presented final box reports for all 2023-

2024 state championships, and 2) provided ticket sales information for all 2023-2024 state championships. Ms. Marquez added to the report to go over some of the expense increases and measures taken to combat this in 2024-2025. The Board discussed the NMAA collaborating with the City of Albuquerque to help with expenses and marketing of state championship events.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Jackie Martinez, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Activities Report. She discussed four (4) items on her report: 1) stated that the annual Activities Council Meeting took place on September 3rd; 2) reported on increasing participation numbers in all activities and overall successes for 2023-2024; 3) provided information regarding the NMAA's inaugural State Marching Band Competition that will take place on October 26th; and 4) reported that State One Act Play will be the only other culminating event for activities this Fall with all others taking place in the spring.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Director of Officiating Services, presented the New Mexico Officials Association Report. He discussed six (6) items: 1) reported on the changes made to officials certification and advancement policies which will lead to more merit based selections for state championship assignments; 2) provided information regarding training/educational tools that are now integrated both on DragonFly and NFHS Learn; 3) stated that there are 14 schools currently utilizing RefReps, with increases expected; 4) reported on officials' numbers for Fall sports which are all at their highest levels since the pandemic; 5) provided information regarding increases to officials' registration fees approved by the NMOA Board that will provide individuals with a second sport free of charge; 6) stated that although numbers are up, availability of officials can be limited which also causes issues with officials assignments.

General Discussion/Information Items

Esports: Use of Titles Like Overwatch - Mr. Michael Mascone, NMAA Esports Liaison, discussed the growth of Esports and the current push from coaches around the state to adopt an FPS title like Overwatch or Valorant as part of the NMAA's official spring season. He understands that the NMAA has been sensitive to this issue due to the nature of the games and FPS style within the school setting, but stated these particular titles are more objective based and animated in nature compared to stereotypical FPS titles. He added that many schools are already competing in these games, just not under the NMAA umbrella.

Football: State Playoff Host Site Requirements - Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, reintroduced an item the Board discussed in May pertaining to host sites utilized during State Football and the ability of certain communities/facilities to provide a first-class venue/experience for participants and spectators. He presented information regarding guidelines the Football Sports Specific Committee discussed but stated it may be difficult to apply them statewide due to the significant differences between small and large school playoff games. Feedback included defining what is considered adequate as that can range from each classification, as well as the need to provide equity at each venue for the opposing schools. Mr. Strickland suggested utilizing this list as more of an inventory of what a host school can offer so visiting teams know what to expect.

Softball: State Tournament Format - Ms. Marquez discussed possible updates to the State Softball Tournament that would move the first round and quarterfinals to single elimination matchups at host school sites. The semifinals and finals would then be held in the Albuquerque metro area and would utilize a double elimination format. This change, if voted on and approved, will go into effect for this year's 2025 State Softball Championships. She stated Softball coaches will also be surveyed regarding the change prior to the next Commission/Board Meetings. Feedback included support to explore this possible adjustment.

Bylaw 3.11.1: Game Contracts - Ms. Marquez discussed Bylaw 3.11.1 which currently allows either administrators or designated school employees to enter into game contracts. She stated this has caused some issues where coaches are now scheduling games/tournaments and later dropping out of them. Feedback included mandating contracts between schools and adjusting bylaw verbiage to ensure the A.D. and/or other administrators are the only ones that can schedule.

8th Grade Eligibility - Ms. Marquez stated currently 8th graders are eligible to play up at the high school level only at their home attendance zone school, or if they are in the feeder system as of elementary school. She reported that survey results were close to 50/50 regarding this option and feedback from the Board thus supported no changes at this time.

Eligibility for Children of Head Coaches - Ms. Marquez reported that the Appeals Committee has asked the NMAA to consider adding specific verbiage to the NMAA Handbook that would address eligibility of students transferring to a new school with their mother/father that has been hired as a head coach at the new school. There has been an uptick in these types of eligibility requests that have traditionally been granted by the appeals committee and feedback is needed from the membership to see where the NMAA goes with this issue – many of these requests are using this ruling to take advantage of the situation. Feedback included continued exploration of adjustments to these regulations in an effort to deter gamesmanship in this area.

Middle School Cross Country Invitational - Ms. Marquez stated the inaugural Middle School Cross Country Invitational will take place on October 18th at St. Pius High School. Many schools have already shown interest in attending and it should be an exciting/successful event.

NMAA Annual Meeting - Ms. Marquez stated the NMAA's Annual Meeting will take place this year on September 25th via zoom. The change to a virtual meeting will be made due to the new summer conference that included athletic director training throughout the event.

Sportsmanship / Compete with Class - Mr. Allison discussed some of the unsportsmanlike behavior being displayed at volleyball matches and other sporting events where negative comments are made directly at students from the opposing team. He stated there is a need for administrators and coaches to take the initiative in correcting this type of behavior.

Action Items

Marching Band & JROTC: Physicals, EAPs, Heat Illness - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to combine bylaws 8.1.3 and 8.1.4 to create a single health and safety bylaw for activities. This would include the new activity of Marching Band and include heat illness prevention and air quality guidance in the activities of JROTC and Marching Band.

8.1.3 Physicals/Insurance/Catastrophic Insurance Requirements - CURRENT

Bowling and JROTC participants must maintain an annual physical that is kept on file with the local school (Please see 6.15 for specific guidelines). Bowling and JROTC participants must also have insurance coverage on file with the school as specified in 6.16.

8.1.4 Emergency Equipment and Planning – CURRENT

State Championship venues for Bowling and JROTC must have a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and be equipped with an accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) during State Championship contests. Failure to meet either of these requirements forfeits the venue's ability to host State Championship contests.

8.1.3 Health and Safety Requirements - PROPOSED

The following health and safety requirements must be met for the activities of Bowling, JROTC, and Marching Band:

- A.** Participants must maintain an annual physical that is kept on file with the local school as per 6.15.
- B.** Participants must have insurance coverage on file with the school as per 6.16.
- C.** State Championship venues must have a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and be equipped with an accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) during State Championship contests. Failure to meet either of these requirements forfeits the venue's ability to host State Championship contests.
- D.** The activities of JROTC and Marching band must also adhere to heat illness prevention protocols as per 7.6.21 and be aware of air quality guidance as per 7.6.23.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Executive Session:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:58 a.m. Mr. Tripp made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 12:48 p.m. Mr. Tripp made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion. Mr. Casados stated no action was taken in Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. Mr. Madrid made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024