

NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
September 20, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Hall of Pride and Honor

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Anthony Casados, NMAA Board of Directors President, at 9:06 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. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Mr. Scott Elder (Large School District I) **joined at 9:10 a.m.*
Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)

Not Present:
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Dr. Kim Mizzell (Large Area A)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Ms. Patti Ann Ancell, (New Mexico School Boards Association)

8 members were present representing a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2023, Board Meeting. Mr. Allison made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (7-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, presented the Director's Report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) reported that the NMAA Annual Meeting / Fall Conference will take place September 24-25 in Albuquerque; 2) stated that Fall Sports have begun and are going well; and 3) introduced the NMAA's newest staff members, Ms. Annette Castillo and Mr. Carl Vigil. Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, added that the annual Commission and Board elections will take place in October after the Fall Conference; seats up for election on the Board are Large Area C, Small Area D, and Large Area A.

Mr. Elder joined the meeting.

NMAA Financial Report:

Annual Audit Report - Ms. Shannon Gilliland, CPA with Taylor Roth, presented the Annual Audit report for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to accept the Annual Audit Report. Mr. Moyer made a motion to accept the NMAA Audit Report as presented. Mr. Strickland seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA Financial Report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) presented the 2022-2023 financial reports for all state championships; and 2) reported on the 2022-2023 ticket sales for all state championships.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) provided information regarding the Annual Activities Council Meeting that was held earlier in the month; 2) stated that most activities saw an increase in participant numbers in 2022-2023; 3) reported that the master calendar of activity state events has been updated with each group attempting to adjust their schedules to ensure limited overlap; 4) stated that State One Act Play / Drama will take place in the fall, with all other state events set for the spring; and 5) provided information regarding the success of the student leadership regional meetings that are taking place this fall.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the NMOA report. He discussed seven (7) items on his report: 1) provided information regarding officials' numbers for the fall which show an increase in most sports again this year, but noted they are still down from pre-COVID; 2) reported on the recruitment initiatives underway by schools, officials groups, and the NMAA; 3) commended assignors, and athletic directors for their collaborative work in schedule adjustments to ensure coverage of contests; 4) provided information regarding the new "Travel Ring" payment system and tutorials available regarding this process; 5) mentioned the 2024 Summer Conference that will be a collaborative event for coaches, officials, athletic directors, and student leaders; 6) reported on the Ref Reps officials education initiative; and 7) stated that the NMAA will be pushing coach feedback on officials after each contest while also looking to include school input as part of state championship officials' selections. Mr. Moyer stated that schedule changes made the week of a particular contest can have a negative impact on schools and asked for more notice in these situations. Mr. Stevenson stated that the NMOA tries to accommodate this but stated that unforeseen circumstances can sometimes lead to last-minute adjustments due to officials' numbers and availability.

Discussion Items:

Officials Fees - Consistency by Sport: Mr. Stevenson discussed the need to review officials' fees for all-day events versus single game contests. This would include fees for officials in the sports of track & field, spirit, wrestling, and swimming & diving. Feedback included providing a cost analysis for the Board to review which shows the current fee structure versus what will be proposed.

Football: State Playoff Officials' Assignments - Mr. Stevenson discussed the constraints that are in place when it comes to assigning officials to state playoff football games based on the region of each school. He stated that it has become much more difficult to assign officials this way based on limited availability of state level officials in each region and the travel required for many of these individuals when using this process. He proposed using officials from the host school's region but ensuring that these individuals are not from the host school's city while also looking at true conflicts of interest instead of just an official's "region".

Classification and Alignment - Ms. Marquez stated the proposal for the 2024-2026 Classification and Alignment of Schools will be presented at the Board of Director meeting in late November. She also provided information regarding the NMAA's intent to keep the same five classification (seven in football) system and enrollment thresholds in place for 2024-2026 but noted that a non-success factor, similar to that used in Oregon, will be proposed in the sport of football. She also stated that larger districts will be proposed in the sport of football to help with scheduling. The NMAA is currently waiting on the 40-day count from the PED for the current year to finalize enrollment averages which will then allow schools to be classified/aligned.

Appeals Process - Ms. Marquez discussed an adjustment to the current appeals process that would add the use of a retired judge or independent hearing officer and possibly combine the board/appeals committee into one group. Feedback included a review of how information is presented to each group and if additional information can be added as an appeal moves forward.

Membership Dues- Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of increasing membership dues to offset the continual increases the NMAA is seeing with state championship event expenses. Mr. Casados referenced a previous fundraising initiative that allowed schools to participate in additional games, with a portion of the gate receipts dedicated to the NMAA. Ms. Marquez stated this has been considered for the NMAA Foundation, but the initiative may be difficult to implement due to seeding/selection criteria. Mr. Strickland stated that an increase in dues should be explored because of rising expenses and due to the fact that schools are receiving more funding from the state for its various at-risk programs.

Forfeiture Fees - Ms. Marquez discussed current forfeiture fees as listed in the NMAA Handbook and asked if adjustments should be made to the clause allowing schools to request additional funds due to revenues lost from a game that is not played. She also asked if 6A football should be added to the fee structure since 5A is the highest classification currently listed. Feedback supported the addition of 6A football and a flat fee for forfeited games due to the numerous variables that need to be taken in to consideration when trying to determine lost revenues.

Scholastic Eligibility: Summer School Courses - Ms. Marquez discussed the bylaw regarding summer school make-up classes needing to be the exact same course. This has raised some concerns due to limited offerings during the summer - i.e. AP English versus English. Feedback included the allowance of a similar class that makes progress towards graduation requirements.

Eligibility: Semesters of Attendance - Ms. Marquez discussed a situation where an 8th grade student does not participate at the high school level, then drops out of school the next year, and comes back as a 9th grader after a year off from school. Current bylaws state that a 9th grader's "semesters of attendance clock" does not start until the student first participates at the high school level. The NMAA suggested that this be adjusted so that the clock would start for a student in this situation as soon as the 8th grade year was finished, thus the year off from school would count as one year of eligibility – leaving only three years of eligibility left when the student returns to school. Feedback supported a change of this nature.

Action Items:

Advertising/Sponsorship Bylaws - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to update bylaws to include marijuana as a restricted product to be marketed or advertised during NMAA sanctioned events. Bylaw 7.7.5 Advertising shall read as follows: Liquor, tobacco, or marijuana advertising will not be included in any advertising related to an athletic/non-athletic event sponsored or sanctioned by the Association. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Moyer made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

Officials Fees: State Playoffs - Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to modify current officials' fees for state playoff level contests/events. Officials' fees for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball will be set at \$100 (\$50 for line judges in volleyball). A proposal to increase the fees for wrestling, swimming & diving, spirit, and track & field will be brought back to the Board at a later date. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Dempsey made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Strickland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

Wrestling: Regional Seeding & Wildcard Limitations - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal that in order to be eligible for a regional seed or a state wildcard, wrestlers must have at least 25% of their season's total varsity matches at the weight class entered at the regional tournament. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Madrid made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Casados announced that the next regular NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting has been moved to November 29, 2023 (one day earlier than originally scheduled).

Executive Session:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:36 a.m. to discuss financial, personnel, pending/possible legal matters. Mr. Allison made the motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)

Yes		Mr. Scott Elder (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 11:44 a.m. Mr. Casados stated no action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. Chavez made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Scott Elder (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Gary Allison (NMAA Commission)

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Mr. Moyer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Chavez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (8-0).

The next regular Board Meeting will be November 29, 2023