

NMAA Bylaws Committee Meeting
November 11, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Virtual

Welcome – Meeting called to order by Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, at 1:01 p.m. Mr. Young conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Kevin Lackey
Mr. Ben Tensay
Mr. Britt Cooper
Ms. Karen Nougues
Mr. Isaac Gamboa
Ms. Taryn Bachis
Mr. Angel Castillo
Mr. Scott Affentranger
Ms. Arelene Anglada
Ms. Michelle Ronga
Mr. Stewart Burnett
Mr. Sergio Castanon
Mr. Gary Boatman
Ms. Rainy Crisp

14 members were present.

Not Present:

Ms. Debra Sena Holton
Mr. Jory Mirabal
Ms. Robbie Robinson
Mr. Adrian Ortega
Mr. Adrian Pete

Approval of the Agenda: Mr. Young asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Tensay made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).

Discussion Items:

Update Regarding Committee & Processes – Mr. Young provided an update on the committee make up due to changes on the NMAA Commission. He welcomed Debra Sena Holton and Kevin Lackey as the newest representatives. He also stated that Commission Elections are ongoing which will change one more member since Ms. Nougues will be retiring – the group thanked Ms. Nougues for her service. Mr. Young also provided information regarding the NMAA's various committees and stated that this and future Bylaws Committee Meetings would be held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act until further clarification is given from the State in this area.

Classification & Alignment for 2026-2028 – Mr. Young presented a potential breakdown of schools by classification and district for 2026-2028 for the sport of basketball which would then filter down to all other sports other than football. He stated that some minor updates have been made from a previous draft based on feedback from the membership. There was no feedback for Classes 2A-5A. Mr. Lackey brought up concerns with two particular districts in Class A that represent eastern schools, stating that one would be very competitive, which could cause issues with state

tournament seeding. Mr. Young stated that the staff is considering an increase in qualifiers for Class A & 2A based on the number of schools competing, so that could help in the area. Mr. Lackey will solicit feedback from the other schools in the area and will report back. Mr. Young then presented information pertaining to football. He stated that based on feedback from coaches and some irregularities that resulted from larger districts with seeding and selection, smaller districts could be considered. Feedback from the majority of the committee did not support a move to smaller districts due to the difficulties this leads to with scheduling. Seeding and selection was also discussed as this and scheduling go hand in hand. The group also discussed travel being an issue with both small and large districts. Mr. Burnett stated that the Class 2A division didn't necessarily need to change to larger districts. Mr. Boatman felt that 8-Man also did not need to move towards larger districts. Mr. Lackey said that larger districts were probably beneficial in 6-Man. Mr. Young added that although the next proposal considered by the Board will be fairly "status quo" to that of the current block, the membership could consider a new model similar to what Mr. Tensay, Mr. Gamboa, and Mr. Castillo have presented in the past. The group agreed and a new option will be considered along with the large/small district models.

Eligibility Bylaws – Mr. Young provided an update on the NMAA Handbook Review and stated that although there are many bylaws that may be considered for updates, eligibility guidelines as listed in Section 6 will be the first area addressed. He stated that there are many external forces impacting the Association via litigation and potential legislation that could significantly impact interscholastic athletics in New Mexico. He also stated that the Association needs to ensure it adapts to national and societal trends while staying true to the core values of education-based athletics. Feedback supported potential updates to eligibility bylaws that would provide more flexibility for transfer students. The group was adamant that the education-based theme needs to stay prominent regardless of what changes are proposed and recruitment and super teams cannot be a part of high school athletics. Mr. Young stated that an eligibility proposal(s) will probably be placed on the February Commission/Board Meeting agendas for consideration for the 2026-2027 school year.

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Young asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m. Mr. Tensay made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).