

NMAA Commission Meeting

November 18, 2020

9:00 AM

Zoom

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernie Viramontes, Chairman, at 9:01 am. A roll call was conducted by Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, and the following members were present via teleconference:

Mr. Kamau Turner (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. David 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. Jess Martinez (New Mexico Officials Association)
Ms. Mary Hahn (Activities Council)

Not Present:

Mr. Al Martinez (Non-Public Schools)
Mr. Daren Jones (Jr. High/Middle School Committee)

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Moores seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Affentranger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hightower seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

NMAA Director's Report:

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, discussed four (4) items on his report: 1) reported on the recent Board of Directors (Mr. Lee White and Mr. Travis Dempsey were re-elected & Mr. Daniel Benavidez was elected to take over for Mr. Kirk Carpenter) and Commission (Mr. Jason Hightower and Mr. Kamau Turner were re-elected, Mr. Willie Owens was elected to take over for Mr. Al Martinez, & Mr. Ben Tensay was elected to take over for Mr. Larry Chavez) election results and stated that Mr. Larry Chavez will move over to serve as the NMADA Rep, replacing Mr. Dave Campbell; 2) provided an update on the NMAA Foundation that included information regarding the decision to increase both student scholarship awards for 2020-2021 by \$20,000 and school grants/support by up to \$15,000 from previous years due to the difficult times brought forth by the current pandemic and reminded the group that the scholarship application portal was now open for student submissions; 3) stated that the NMAA's newest activity of Powerlifting has started competitions and has been very successful with seventeen schools and

nearly three hundred students participating. Mr. Young requested feedback regarding student workouts during holiday breaks and competition weeks and the group stated that this should be left up to each school; and 4) reported that Esports will continue as an activity for its third year under the NMAA umbrella and that three new games will be offered during the Spring Semester, two of which are sports games that should increase participation significantly.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Dana Pappas, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the Activities Report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) provided information on the Activity Directors Q&A zoom sessions that have taken place throughout the Fall; 2) stated that a directory of all Activities Directors and activity sponsors has been compiled; and 3) reported that the Student Leadership Advisory Council has met twice this year with much of the group's focus placed on Mental Health Awareness.

NMAA Officials Report:

Ms. Pappas presented the New Mexico Officials Association Report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) stated that Volleyball officials held numerous virtual meetings throughout the fall with over 85% of officials in attendance over the past four months, with Basketball officials set to start the same thing at the end of the month; 2) reported that the NMOA is working on a historical directory of post season officials for past championship events; and 3) provided information from the NMOA Executive Board Meeting, which took place in October.

Discussion/Information Items

NMOA/Football: Film Requirement - Ms. Pappas discussed a proposal from Mr. Dusty Giles, Head Football Coach at Jal HS, which would require that all head football coaches provide film from all Varsity contests to the NMAA/NMOA through the NMAA Huddle account. This was approved at a recent NMOA Executive Board Meeting as the film would be used for officials' training and serve as an exchange database for coaches. Feedback was positive but it was felt that the logistics behind submission as well as accountability for meeting the requirement must be ironed out prior to implementation. Mr. Young stated that he will work with Coach Giles, the NMOA, and the NMHSCA to explore this process so that the proposal could be considered as an Action Item during the next Commission Meeting.

Baseball: Sub-Varsity Time Limits - Mr. Young discussed a proposal from the Baseball Sports Specific Committee that would implement a statewide time limit for Sub-Varsity baseball games. He stated that the item has support from the committee, athletic directors, and coaches, but that it may need to wait for approval to determine if softball would like to implement something similar. Feedback included surveying the softball community and then bringing the item back for consideration at the next meeting.

Coaches Education: New NMPSIA Requirements - Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, provided information on the new coaches' education requirements that were approved by the NMAA membership, at the request of the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority, through referenda vote in October. Mr. Campbell reminded the group that the Commission was not in favor of this proposal and asked for clarification on how the Chair should vote when an item like this is then heard by the NMAA Board of Directors. The group discussed how the Chair may be put in to a difficult position if their superintendent is also on the Board and votes a different way than the Commission. Ms. Marquez stated she understood the concerns brought forward and the issue would continue to be reviewed to improve the process moving forward.

NMSBA: Scholastic Eligibility Inquiry - Ms. Marquez discussed the New Mexico state statute pertaining to the scholastic eligibility of students for participation in extra-curricular activities and the history of NMAA bylaws regarding this topic. A September Policy Services Advisory from the New Mexico School Boards Association has raised questions regarding the interpretation of the statute and NMAA bylaws. Ms. Marquez stated she will continue to work with the NMSBA and member schools to clarify the matter.

COVID Addendum: Student Screening / Honesty - Ms. Marquez discussed concerns from school administrators regarding the accuracy of answers given by students during their pre-workout COVID-19 screening. She asked if the NMAA should look to create bylaws/policies that would penalize individuals for providing false information. Feedback from the group included allowing schools to handle these situations on their own (local autonomy).

Bylaws Committee Update - Ms. Marquez stated the Bylaws Committee met last week to look at possible calendar adjustments if sport seasons cannot start in January due to the pandemic. More formal information regarding these possible updates would be shared in December.

Action Items:

COVID Addendum: Cumulative Provision for Freshmen - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal, that on an emergency basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2020-2021 school year only, bylaw 6.2.1 c2 would read as follows: Only semester grades can be used, and all semester grades starting with the 9th grade year must be utilized (the Cumulative Provision cannot be used for middle school/junior high students). Mr. Viramontes asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Turner made the motion to approve the proposal. Ms. Moores 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 10:44 a.m. Ms. Moores made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hahn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (14-0).