

**NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**December 1, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Hall of Pride and Honor**

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Travis Dempsey, NMAA Board of Directors Acting President, at 10:07 a.m. Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Dr. Kim Mizell (Large Area A)  
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)   *\*via teleconference*  
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)  
Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C - Acting President)  
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)  
Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)  
Mr. Scott Elder (Large School District I)  
Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)  
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)  
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (NMAA Commission)

Not Present:

Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)  
Mr. Marvyn Jaramillo, (New Mexico State School Boards Association)

10 members were present representing a quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Mizell made a motion to amend the agenda by moving the Board Member Action item Election of President before the Election of Vice President. Mr. Ramos made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Dr. Romero seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, Board Meeting. Dr. Mizell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

**Board Member Action**

Small Area A - Mr. Dempsey stated due to reelection, Mr. David Lackey and Dr. Arsenio Romero will retain their position on the Board. Additionally, Mr. Anthony Casados was elected for Small Area A. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion for Mr. Casados to start his term effective immediately since that seat is currently vacant. Mr. Madrid made a motion. Mr. Ramos seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Election of President (term ending June 2023) - Mr. Dempsey asked for nominations for Board President. Mr. Madrid nominated Mr. Anthony Casados. Mr. Ramos made the motion to elect Mr. Casados by acclamation. Dr. Mizell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Election of Vice President (term ending June 2023) - Mr. Dempsey asked for nominations for Board Vice-President. Mr. Madrid nominated Mr. Travis Dempsey. Mr. Ramos made the motion to elect Mr. Dempsey by acclamation. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

**NMAA Director's Report:**

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, presented the NMAA Director's Report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) stated that fall championships have concluded and all although they went very well, the NMAA will debrief and address areas of improvement; and 2) thanked the NMAA staff for their hard work throughout the fall state events.

**NMAA Financial Report:**

Annual Audit Report - Ms. Shannon Gilliland, CPA from Taylor-Roth and Company, presented to the Board of Directors the 2021-2022 Audit Report & Financial Statements.

Approval of NMAA 990 for 2021-2022 - Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA 990 for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the 990 as presented. Mr. White made the motion to approve the 990. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

NMAA Finance Report - Ms. Kessler-Schwamer, presented the NMAA Finance Report. She discussed two (2) items on her report: 1) provided an update on state championship ticket sales for soccer, cross country, volleyball, and football; and 2) stated that full box reports for fall championships would be presented at the next meeting once revenues and expenses have been finalized.

**NMAA Activities Report:**

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Activities Report. She discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) stated all activities are currently in progress and participation numbers are trending up; 2) recapped the State One Act Play Festival that took place last month; 3) provided an update on the work of the NMAA Student Leadership Advisory Council; 4) stated that student leadership regional meetings started in October and will continue through the rest of the fall semester and that all have been very well received thus far; 5) provided information regarding the NMAA Foundation's annual Bowl-A-Thon and Golf Classic fundraisers. Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Associate Director, also commented on the NMAA Foundation stating that a copy of the organization's Annual Report was included in each Board member's meeting packet and referenced that the Foundation had an extremely successful year in 2021-2022.

**New Mexico Officials Association Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the New Mexico Officials Association Report. He discussed four (4) items on his report: 1) provided information regarding the number of officials used and their work during the fall state championships; 2) recapped the recruitment initiatives that have been implemented at the NMAA and school levels; 3) reported on the current youth officials' curriculum/instruction initiatives that are underway within several schools across the state; and 4) provided an update on officials' numbers for fall and winter sports.

**Discussion/ Information Items:**

Boys Volleyball – Ms. Marquez stated that the school and coach that asked for this item to be placed on the agenda would not be presenting at this time.

NMAA Membership Dues - Mr. Ralph Ramos, Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent & NMAA Board Member, requested information regarding membership dues for high schools and middle schools. Ms. Marquez reported on how membership dues/fees impact the NMAA budget and provided information regarding the amount schools pay by classification and/or membership status.

Football – Guardian Caps - Mr. Ramos thanked everyone for their support with the unfortunate incident that took place at Organ Mountain High School during the football season. He stated that the school district has since purchased guardian cap headgear for students to use on their football helmets during practice as an expanded safety measure. He asked the NMAA's position on the

use of this equipment during football games. Mr. Young stated that guardian caps and other similar products are not legal or illegal per NFHS rules but said that all helmets used must be NOCSAE certified and it is up to the manufacture to determine if the addition of this type of third-party product will have an impact on the helmet's certification. Mr. Young added that schools interested in using this product during games should contact the manufacturer directly to check on the NOCSAE certification to see if the helmet and added headgear would be legal or not.

Senate Bill 38 – Concussion Regulations - Mr. Ramos stated that Las Cruces Schools has placed a heavy emphasis on student-athlete safety and will be providing even more training and tracking policies in the area of concussions to help better assist its athletic trainers.

Sports Academies / Specialized Sports Training - Ms. Marquez provided information regarding students participating in specialized sports academies. She presented two possible proposals to help with this growing trend. Transfer students who enroll in an NMAA-member school after attending a specialized sport training academy or school, shall be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport(s) for 180 school / 365 calendar days from the date of their enrollment. Specialization sport training programs include, without limitation, non-school sponsored sports training academies or facilities that recruit participants for specialized training. Specialized sport training programs also include non-NFHS member prep school, non-scholastic team/program or municipal sports teams, or transfer students who enroll in an NMAA-member school after attending a specialized sport training academy or school, shall be ineligible for varsity participation in that sport(s) for 180 school / 365 calendar days from the date of their enrollment unless they enroll in their previous school. Specialized sport training programs include, without limitation, non-school sponsored sports training academies or facilities that recruit participants for specialized training. Specialization sport training programs also include non-NFHS member prep school, non- scholastic team/program, or municipal sports teams. Feedback from the Board included treating these individuals as transfer students, sitting out from varsity participation in that sport due to possible displacement occurring when these students return.

2023-2024 Calendar for Football - Ms. Marquez stated that based on feedback from the membership, the 2023 football season will start on its traditional date. All other sports will still begin one week later due to state championship facility conflicts referenced in the summer of 2022, meaning cross country, soccer, and volleyball will start two weeks after football begins.

Music License – ASCAP - Ms. Marquez updated the Board on music licensure. She stated through the NFHS, all NMAA member schools are covered under the ASCAP performance license, however schools can purchase other licensure if they so choose since each library is limited to certain music. There will be a time, however, when this NFHS/ASCAP agreement is no longer in place. Discussion ensued regarding the NFHS Network and video streaming rights for state championships. Mr. Young and Ms. Marquez provided information regarding this process and stated that the NMAA will work with the Network to improve broadcasts each year while also looking to see how local media groups may fit in these initiatives.

Sportsmanship / Compete with Class - Ms. Marquez discussed the NMAA's current sportsmanship bylaws and the possibility of adopting similar policies used in Oklahoma and Louisiana which have significant sanctions in place, including postseason bans or season shutdowns, for schools/programs involved in more than one incident. Feedback included support of sanctions for sportsmanship violations for fans/spectators but separate sanctions for athletes/coaches, while also looking to provide more self-regulation training at the school level to not only curb unsportsmanlike behavior, but also to provide consistent messages across the state.

Appeals Process & Hardship Petitions - Ms. Marquez discussed the current hardship and appeals processes and possible updates needed due to an increase in litigation and NMAA decisions being overturned by the courts. Discussion included the use of a retired judge to mediate these cases.

Feedback included adding this step at some point during the process, possibly between the appeals committee and Board. Ms. Marquez stated she will continue to talk with other states to see which option best fits New Mexico.

Classification & Alignment - Ms. Marquez stated that the NMAA is looking at new ways to classify and align schools in the future and referenced the process used in Ohio which not only looks at enrollment numbers, but also the actual residence of students at a particular school. She stated that students living outside a school's attendance zone actually count as more than just one towards total enrollment. Mr Dempsey stated that using this type of formula may help to curb recruiting and the formation of super teams at public schools. Ms. Marquez also referenced previously discussed protocols that look at socio-economic factors or success factors as possible non-traditional ways to classify schools. Feedback included support to look at all of these options to get ahead of the significant changes that have taken place in education and interscholastic athletics in recent years. Ms. Marquez stated the NMAA will continue to research these options as new policies are considered for the next two-year block.

State Football Playoff Host Sites - Ms. Marquez stated that the NMAA has received much feedback throughout the 2022 State Football Championships regarding the process used to determine host sites during the semifinal and final rounds and the quality of the facilities used in certain situations. She stated that concerns have been raised regarding higher seeds having to travel because of the current past history format and due to certain facility constraints, such as spectator seating, locker rooms, press boxes, restrooms, field conditions, and handicap accessibility. Mr. Young added that most feedback regarding higher seeds and past history comes from community members and not schools, but that an increase in facility concerns has come from coaches and athletic directors this year. Feedback included possible facility requirements be implemented in order to host these contests, especially when it comes to ADA. Feedback also showed support in the current past history format due to the impact these major events have on communities across New Mexico each year. The NMAA will continue to discuss this issue with coaches and athletic directors with possible adjustments shared with member schools for feedback during the spring semester.

**Action Items:**

Baseball: Class A State Qualifiers - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider adjusting the number of qualifiers for the Class A State Baseball playoffs from 4 to 6 starting with the current school year (2023 season). This will add an additional round to the state playoffs. The new quarterfinal round will be played the Wednesday of Week #45 at the site of the higher seed. This is the same day that Class 2A holds its 1<sup>st</sup> Round of 12. The top two seeds would receive a bye into the semifinals. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Viramontes made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Baseball: Home/Visitor for State - Mr. Young presented a proposal to edit the current State Baseball Playoff Bylaws so that the higher seed serves as the home team for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals (instead of a coin flip deciding this in the semifinals and finals for Classes 2A-5A and in the finals for Class A). The New Language for Bylaw 7.12.4 State Tournament Information would read as follows: During the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals, the higher seed will be the home team. Note – in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals, the higher seed may opt to be the visiting team but must provide notice of this choice to the Tournament Director no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the contest. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Elder made the motion to approve the proposal. Dr. Romero seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (9-1).

Baseball: Sub-Varsity Time Limit - Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider addition of a statewide limit for sub-varsity baseball games. Language would read as follows: 7.12.1.H.6. a. Time Limits – Only the below time limits are permitted in the sport of baseball. A. District Time

Limits – A time limit can be implemented by a district if they choose to do so. Games that end due to a time limit will be considered regulation games regardless of how many innings are played. The score will remain as recorded when the game was called. B. Invitational Tournament Time Limits – Time limits can be implemented for invitational tournaments put on by schools/school districts. Games that end due to a time limit will be considered regulation games regardless of how many innings are played. The score will remain as recorded when the game was called. C. Sub-Varsity Time Limits – At the sub-varsity level, no inning may start after two hours of play. Schools can lower this time limit if mutually agreed upon in advance (i.e. 1 hour & 45 minutes). \*NOTE – Special Run Rules can NOT be implemented as game ending procedures as a district policy, for invitational tournaments, or for sub-varsity contests (i.e. 15 runs after 3 innings). If a game does not meet the NFHS standards of five completed innings (or four and a half if the home team ahead), it is only a regulation game if a specific time limit was in place for the contest in question. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Dr. Mizell made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Ramos seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Scholastic Eligibility & Minimum Contests for State - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to exempt students who are unable to meet the one-quarter participation rule due to scholastic ineligibility. Bylaw 7.6.5 Minimum Contests for Post-Season Competition Eligibility (Individual) would read as follows: Students must participate in a minimum of one quarter (1/4) of the varsity contests scheduled to be eligible for post-season competition. 1) Injured Player – A player who sustains an injury that precludes participation in one quarter of varsity contests scheduled during the regular season, may participate in post-season competition provided the student has been on the team roster throughout the season. In addition, the injury must be certified in writing by a licensed medical physician and submitted to the Director as well as kept on file by the school principal. For this exception to apply, the injured player cannot have participated in any other sport (inside or outside of the school) during the regular sports season. 2) Scholastically Ineligible Student – A student whose scholastic eligibility status precludes participation in one quarter of the varsity contests scheduled during the regular season may participate in post-season competition provided the student has regained scholastic eligibility. For this exception to apply, the student must have been actively participating in team practices throughout the duration of the season and the school must be able to verify that participation. Note: Sub-varsity players can be moved up for post-season play without playing in one quarter of the varsity contest scheduled. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Ramos made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Foreign Exchange Student Residence Policies - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to permit foreign exchange students wishing to participate in athletics to reside with school employees who are not coaches or athletic department staff members. The New Language shall read as follows: 6.1.3 Undue Influence of a Student; F. Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests, unless legal guardianship appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has been obtained (See also 6.8.2 Foreign Students). (See 6.8.2.A for Foreign Exchange exceptions). 6.8.2 Foreign Students A. International Student Exchange Participant-Eligible immediately if the student is participating in a formal program sanctioned through the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and is not directly placed by the CSIET program. Directly placed foreign exchange students will be eligible at the sub-varsity level only. Students who receive a foreign exchange waiver are eligible to participate in NMAA sanctioned athletic events for a period of one calendar school year. If they return for a second year to the host school or any other member school, they are ineligible to participate in NMAA sanctioned athletic events; this includes students who change their visa status. Foreign exchange students who receive a foreign exchange waiver may reside with school employees who are not athletic department staff members. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented.

Dr. Mizell made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Elder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Participant Ejections & Impact on Game Limitations - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to count games missed due to an ejection or suspension toward the student's overall competition limit. *New language would read as follows:* 7.6.6 Maximum/Minimum Number of Games/Contests Permitted (Schools/Teams) A. Game Limitation (Maximum) - Schools/teams may not schedule more than the maximum number of games/contests allowed for each sport relative to each level of competition. For example, a 26-game limitation means that a school can schedule only 26 games at the varsity level. Refer to 7.0 in this section for the number of games/contests permitted. B. Schedule/Competition Requirement (Minimum) – Schools must compete within the assigned district (as determined by the NMAA) and must complete their entire district schedule, as determined by the district, to qualify for the post season. Districts must minimally schedule to play each school in the assigned district one time. Exception: Golf, Spirit, Swimming and Diving, and Girls Wrestling. District play must be completed prior to state tournament seeding and selection. C. Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets - Sub-varsity district tournaments/meets count towards game limitations. A player cannot play in two tournaments (regular season or district) simultaneously (See also 7.6.14, 7.8.5). D. Ejections/Suspensions - Games/contests missed by an individual due to an ejection or suspension shall count toward the student athlete's individual contest limitations. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Lackey made the motion to approve the proposal. Dr. Romero seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Post-Secondary School Participation - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to edit Bylaw 6.13.3 to clarify that student-athletes cannot participate at any time against collegiate teams/individuals while representing an NMAA member school. Bylaw 6.13.3 Post-Secondary School Participation would read as follows: A Student who, while representing a member school, competes against any collegiate individual or team, shall be subject to NMAA sanctions. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Ramos made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Elder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

NMOA: Travel Rings - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to modify the current Officials fee's structure, moving away from mileage for one driver to a standard fee for all officials based on incremental rings from the official's home to the contest site. The new structure is as follows: \$5 game fee increase and mileage rings with fees starting at mile 26. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Ramos made the motion to approve the proposal. Dr. Mizell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

NMOA: Per Diem - Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to increase Officials Hotel Per Diem from \$75 to \$100 when requested for trips over 150 miles one way. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Dr. Romero made a motion to amend the proposal, increasing the per diem to \$125. Mr. Ramos seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

NMOA: Softball Game Fees. Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal to increase softball umpires' fees so that they are comparable to those of baseball officials and consistent with the fee structures used in other states. Fees would increase for varsity contests only beginning with the 2024 season: Varsity- from \$55.00 to \$65.00; JV & 9th grade would stay at \$45.00 and junior high (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) would stay at \$35.00. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. White made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10- 0).

Mr. Dempsey stated that this would be the last meeting for Mr. Viramontes and subsequently thanked him for his service to the Board and support of the NMAA and students of New Mexico.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:28 p.m. to discuss financial, personnel, and pending/possible legal matters. Mr. White made the motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Elder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Dr. Kim Mizell (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Scott Elder (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Ernie Viramontes (NMAA Commission)

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 1:17 p.m. Mr. Dempsey stated no action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. Elder made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Dr. Kim Mizell (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Scott Elder (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Ernie Viramontes (NMAA Commission)

**Consider Adjournment:**

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. Mr. White made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

**The next Board Meeting will be scheduled for February 15, 2023**