

**NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting
December 2, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Hall of Pride and Honor**

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Travis Dempsey, NMAA Board of Directors Vice President, at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Daniel Benavidez (Large Area A)
Mr. J.R. Null (Large Area B)
Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C - Vice President)
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)
Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Mr. Ernie Viramontes (NMAA Commission)
Mr. Terry Martin (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Not Present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A - President)
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Mr. Scott Elder (Large School District I)

9 members were present representing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. White seconded the motion. A call vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0).

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021, Board Meeting. Mr. Benavidez made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0).

Executive Session

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. to discuss financial, personnel, pending/possible legal matters. Mr. Martin made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Viramontes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken & passed unanimously (9-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Daniel Benavidez (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. J.R. Null (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C – Vice President)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Ernie Viramontes (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Terry Martin (New Mexico School Boards Association)

Mr. Scott Elder joined the meeting

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 10:01 a.m. Mr. Dempsey stated no action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. White made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Benavidez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Daniel Benavidez (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. J.R. Null (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C – Vice President)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Dr. Arsenio Romero (Large Area D)
Yes		Mr. Scott Elder (Large School District I)
Yes		Mr. Ralph Ramos (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Ernie Viramontes (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Terry Martin (New Mexico School Boards Association)

NMAA Executive Director’s Report:

Ms. Sally Marquez, NMAA Executive Director, presented the Executive Director’s report. She discussed three (3) items on her report. 1) introduced the newest NMAA Staff Member, Mr. Dillon Metzgar as the Assistant to Commissioner of Officials; 2) provided a recap from Fall Championships and reported on the use of digital ticketing for these and future events; and 3) provided information on recent surveys that were conducted regarding state championship formats for volleyball and soccer.

NMAA Financial Report:

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwaner, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA 990 for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the 990 for 2020-2021. Mr. Benavidez made the motion to approve. Mr. Elder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Ms. Kessler-Schwaner, presented the financial report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) provided information regarding the 2021-2022 financials for Fall State Championships; 2) reported that the second PPP loan for the NMAA has been forgiven; and (3) provided an update on digital ticketing for state events through GoFan.

NMAA Activities Report:

Ms. Tammy Richards, NMAA Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) stated that although some regular season activity events are underway, all state events/conferences will take place during the Spring Semester; all are planned to be held in-person but many can be shifted to virtual events if needed; 2) reported that participation numbers for most activities are increasing; and 3) provided information regarding the NMAA’s partnership with Western New Mexico University which provides scholarships to activity participants; also stated that the NMAA is looking to work with Eastern New Mexico and other state universities to build similar relationships.

New Mexico Officials Association Report:

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Commissioner of Officials, presented the officials report. He discussed seven (7) items on his report: 1) provided an update on officiating for the NMAA’s recent Fall

Championships; 2) thanked the regional assignors and athletic directors for their hard work to ensure games were covered throughout the Fall; 3) reported on the launch of the NMOA's Officiating Recruitment program which provides free registrations to coaches, students and an additional two individuals per school; 4) stated the NMOA Task Force Committee has met multiple times in an effort to brainstorm in the areas of recruitment/retention, scheduling, and to work to build a statewide curriculum for officiating; 5) announced a partnership between the NFHS, state associations, and the NFL to launch a Grassroots Officiating Pipeline Development Initiative; 6) stated Winter sports' meetings have started and been very successful; and 7) provided an update on officials numbers which have shown a slight increase in fall and winter sports from 2020-2021; but are still lower than those from 2019-2020 (pre-pandemic).

Discussion/Information Items:

Test to Stay / Test to Play Information - Ms. Marquez discussed the "Test to Stay" program implemented by the Public Education Department to keep kids in school and how "Test to Play" will work to keep students involved in extracurricular activities/athletics. She stated she is working with the CEO of PMG, the NMPED and the Department of Health to work on eliminating the indoor mask mandate during competition and overnight travel regarding vaccinated vs. unvaccinated students. Feedback included support of these programs but also concerns with limited access to tests, personnel, and time to conduct testing on such a large scale across the state.

Scheduling / Regional Assignors - Ms. Marquez discussed the role of regional assignors and how much work they put in each year in comparison to the small stipends they receive for compensation. She stated the NMAA will look at ways to provide additional support to assignors through a possible increase in compensation and/or other resources.

Out-of-Season Coaching - Ms. Marquez discussed out-of-season coaching regulations and asked the group if it was time to look at potential changes. She also presented participation data showing how many single sport athletes there are in New Mexico compared to multi-sport athletes. The Board provided feedback that was both in favor of the current rules and in favor of possible changes that would help ensure these rules are keeping up with the times. The NMAA will continue to review this topic and present possible updates at a later date.

Basketball: Shot Clock - Ms. Marquez stated the NFHS, by state association adoption, approved the use of a shot clock in basketball beginning with the 2022-23 school year. Feedback included concerns over the potential financial impact this could have on schools.

Spirit: Activity vs Sport - Ms. Marquez discussed the possibility of moving Spirit back to an activity rather than sanctioning it as a sport. She stated the NMAA would still hold a state competition for spirit if it was classified as an activity, but there would no longer be regular season competition requirements in order to participate in the state championships.

State Championships: Event Locations - Mr. Ramos discussed the possibility of hosting state championship events for both athletics and activities at New Mexico State University and other higher education entities. Dr. Romero echoed these comments and stated that this would also help increase tourism in those areas, improve relationships with high education entities, and provide more opportunities for student athletes to participate at different venues throughout the state for championship events.

Action Items

Tennis: Universal Tennis Rating - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Assistant Director, presented a proposal to require the use of Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) by NMAA-member tennis schools during the 2021-2022 school year to study possible seeding/selection application for future years. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Benavidez made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Bylaw 6.1.2: Student Transferring to Follow a Coach - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to clarify that the following-a-coach rule is intended to apply any time a student transfers to a school in which the student has previously participated with one or more acting school coaches in that sport any time after the 6th grade. This would include participation in both non-school teams as well as school-based teams. Bylaw 6.1.2/9.3 R Student Transferring to Follow a Coach shall read: The transfer/residency requirement is implemented as a means to discourage recruitment and reduce the opportunity for undue influence. Beginning with the summer prior to the 7th grade, if a student participated on/with any team (i.e. Interscholastic, AAU, American legion, club settings, summer programs, etc.) that is affiliated with or coached by a coach associated with that same sport at that school other than the one this Student attends or has attended, and then transfers to that school regardless of change in bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the Student has been recruited to attend that school or transferred to that school for athletic reasons and the Student will be ineligible for all high school athletic participation for 180 school days/ 365 calendar days. If that Student transfers to a school that his/her coach has relocated to, regardless of change in Students bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the Student transferred to that school for athletic reasons, and he/she will be ineligible there for all high school athletic participation for 180 school days/ 365 calendar days. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Viramontes made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

COVID Handbook Addendum #8: Missed Games - Ms. Marquez presented a proposal to amend the NMAA COVID Handbook Addendum, originally created and adopted for use on an emergency and temporary basis throughout the pandemic, to clarify that only teams/programs shut down by state, county or local health departments are eligible to have missed games counted as "no contests". COVID Handbook Addendum #8 shall read as follows:

8: Missed games-NMAA Bylaw 7.9 (See also 3.11.4, 5.1.6 and 5.1.7)

- a) Teams/programs shut down by state county or local health departments relative to COVID-19, will not be penalized a loss or forfeit.
- b) Games missed due to 8.a will be considered a "no contest" but and be made up if mutually agreed upon.
- c) Teams may work to reschedule with new possible opponents should they have open dates due to scheduled opponents missing games.
- d) District games missed due to 8.a must be rescheduled if time permits (see Rule 9 below). Teams may work to reschedule with new possible opponents if the district game(s) cannot be rescheduled.
- e) Once post-season brackets have been drawn, teams or individuals unable to play due to COVID-19 restrictions will be eliminated from the field and the team or individual they are scheduled to play will advance to the next round.
- f) Schools required to cancel games due to state, county, or local health departments determinations relative to COVID-19 shall be responsible for any applicable officials' fees.
- g) School/district decisions to forfeit games, for any reason, shall result in a loss/forfeit.
- h) School/district decisions to forfeit district games, for any reason, shall render a school ineligible for post-season play (as per NMAA Bylaw 7.6.6. B).

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. White made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Ramos seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Classification & Alignment: Proposal for 2022-2024 - Ms. Marquez presented the proposed Classification & Alignment of schools for the 2022-2023/ 2023-2024 block. Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Benavidez made the motion to approve the proposal. Dr. Romero seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

Consider Adjournment:

Mr. Dempsey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m. Mr. Ramos made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Benavidez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

The next Board Meeting will be scheduled for December 9, 2021