

**NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**December 4, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor**

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Martin Madrid, NMAA Board of Directors Vice-President, at 9:00 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) - *Via Teleconference*  
Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)  
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)  
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)  
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)  
Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)  
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)  
Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)  
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)  
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)  
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)  
Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)

13 members were present representing a quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. White made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025, Board Meeting. Mr. Ruiz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2025, Board Meeting. Mr. Strickland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

**NMAA Directors' Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) stated fall championships wrapped up and were very successful and well attended; 2) thanked Albuquerque Academy; Bernalillo High School, Cleveland High School, and Rio Rancho High School for assisting in hosting fall championships; 3) reported winter sports season has begun and is in full swing; 4) the National Athletic Directors' Conference will be taking place in Tampa, Florida the following week with approximately 20 New Mexico Athletic Directors expected to attend, and next year's event will take place in Phoenix, AZ; 5) Elections took place for both the Commission and Board of Directors. On the Commission, Mr. Jory Mirabal was reelected for Small Area C; and Mr. Alan Edmonson was elected for Large Area C, taking over for Ms. Karen Nougues who will be entering retirement. For the Board of Directors, Mr. Anthony Casados was reelected for Small Area A; Mr. David Lackey was reelected for Small Area C; and Mr. William Hawkins from Silver Consolidated Schools was elected for Large Area C, taking over for Mr. Travis Dempsey who will be entering retirement.

**Financial Reports:**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the NMAA 990 from 2024-2025. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the 990 from 2024-2025 as presented. Mr. Tripp made a motion to approve the 990. Mr. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

Ms. Kessler-Schwamer also presented the NMAA Financial Report. Although no ticket sale data to provide at this time due to pending settlements, overall fall championships have been successful and ticket sales are forecasted to be up from last year.

**NMAA Foundation Report:**

Ms. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the NMAA Foundation report. She discussed five (5) items on her report: 1) stated the NMAA Foundation wrapped up the first grant cycle for the 2025-26 school year. Twelve schools were awarded grants totaling over \$10,000; 2) stated the NMAA Foundation Scholarship application portal has opened and will remain open until January 15<sup>th</sup>; 3) stated that additional scholarships will be awarded this year; the Sally Marquez NMAA Scholarship; the Joe Bailey Memorial Scholarship; The Karen Trujillo Memorial Scholarship; and the Mike Phipps *Never Never Never Give Up* Scholarship; 4) stated the Annual Foundation Bowl A Thon will be held at Ten Pins and More in February; and lastly 5) stated that Mr. Sammy "C" Chioda, who served on the NMAA Foundation Board, passed away recently, and offered condolences from the NMAA.

**NMAA Activities Report:**

Ms. Sanchez, presented the activities report. She discussed three (3) items on her report: 1) stated the 2nd Annual NMAA State Marching Band took place in October with 28 schools competing this year; 2) reported all remaining Activity State Competitions will take place in the spring semester and 3) recognized one of New Mexico's own music educators. Mr. Daniel Holmes, band director at Cleveland High School, has been named the NFHS Section 6 Outstanding Educator for Music, representing Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

**New Mexico Official's Association Report:**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, Director of Officials Services, presented the NMOA Report. He discussed six (6) items in his report: 1) stated this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the Behind the Flag training program and have seen great improvements in training and evaluation of officials through the program; 2) stated that there has been an increase in submission of film in the sport of football from several schools in an effort to help educate officials; 3) welcomed Nate Acosta back on staff, who will help with officials' training; 4) reported on recruitment and retention goals for state tournament officials; 5) reported that elections for assignors will be taking place for the next two-year block; and 6) thanked those officials who assisted with creating NFHS Center for Officials Services (COS) training courses for officials in their respective sports. Mr. Young also added that the NMAA Foundation has allocated grant funding to the RefReps program to help with associated fees.

**General Discussion/Information Items:***University of New Mexico Partnership:*

Mr. Fernando Lovo, Athletic Director, University of New Mexico, stated he is excited to collaborate with the NMAA in an effort to build a great relationship for the betterment of New Mexico student-athletes. He stated that it is important to give back to the community and to be accessible and affordable for student-athletes and their families.

*School Input Seeding/Criteria:*

Mr. Young discussed coaches input forms and the potential gamesmanship that can occur by coaches skewing votes for a particular aim. Feedback included the importance of continuing to

include coaches' input to ensure they have a voice in the process but making the submissions more transparent by requiring them to be publicly released.

*Bylaw/Handbook Review Update:*

Mr. Young provided an update on potential changes to the NMAA handbook. The focus is currently on eligibility bylaws within Section 6 of the handbook as well as classification and alignment.

*Eligibility/One-Free Transfer*

Mr. Young discussed the ever-changing landscape of high school eligibility and the prospect of a one-free transfer for each student-athlete during their high school career. He stated that the trend nationwide is moving towards a one free transfer rule of some sort. He anticipates bringing a proposal to the Commission for possible action in February. Feedback included potential inequities created between metropolitan and rural schools/districts, displacement concerns, and the possibility of "super" teams. Additionally, data and feedback were requested from other states who currently have some type of one-free transfer exception already in place.

**Action Items**

*NM Mesa as a Sanctioned Activity:*

Mr. Young presented a proposal to consider NM Mesa as a Sanctioned Activity. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Tripp seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (12-1).

*Academic Competition as a Sanctioned Activity:*

Mr. Vance Lee, Superintendent, Capitan Schools, presented a proposal to consider Academic Competition as a Sanctioned Activity. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (12-1).

*NMOA: Officials' Fees:*

Mr. Stevenson presented a proposal, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, to add a \$15 first tier to the Travel Ring schedule and increase game fees by \$5 in all sports and all levels. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Ruiz made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed (12-1).

*Football: 6-Man and 8-Man Calendar:*

Mr. Tyler Dunkel, Assistant Director, presented a proposal to move the 6-Man and 8-Man calendar back one week so that all classifications in football end on Week #18 of the NMAA calendar. This would also move the 6-Man and 8-Man Championship game back one week as well. The start of the season would remain on Week #8. Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (10-3).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
	No	Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
	No	Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)

Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
	No	Mr. Gary Tripp (NM School Boards Association)

*Section 13: Window to Hear Appeals:*

Mr. Young presented a proposal to extend the window to hear appeals from five (5) business days to ten (10) business days to hear Appeal Review Committee (ARC) and/or Board of Directors (BOD) appeals.

\*Stricken language is removed. Underlined language is added.

13.1.3.B Notice of Appeal and Notice of Hearing – (ARC)

The Appeals Review Committee shall meet by teleconference or Zoom or other virtual platform to hear the appeal within ~~five (5)~~ ten (10) business days of receipt of the Request for Appeal to Appeals Review Committee and shall issue notice of the hearing including the date, time, and place or means of the hearing as soon as a quorum can be arranged.

13.2.4 Scheduling the Appeal – (BOD)

Five members of the Board of Directors shall meet to consider the appeal no later than ~~five (5)~~ ten (10) business days after the applicable form is received by the Director.

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

*2026-2028 Classification and Alignment (Non-Football):*

Mr. Young presented a proposal for the Classification & Alignment of schools (Non-Football) for the next two-year block (2026-2027 / 2027-2028). Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Strickland made the motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (13-0).

*2026-2028 Football Classification and Alignment:*

Mr. Young presented two proposals (Option 1 and Option 2) for the Football Classification and Alignment of schools for the next two year block (2026-2027 / 2027-2028). Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to approve the proposal of Option 1 for the 2026-2028 Football Classification and Alignment as presented. Mr. Affentranger made the motion to approve Option 1 of the proposal. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (9-4).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
	No	Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
	No	Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)

Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
	No	Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
	No	Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (NM School Boards Association)

### Executive Session

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. Mr. Diehl made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed (13-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (NM School Boards Association)

*Mr. Casados exited the meeting.*

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 11:41 a.m. Mr. Stickland made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. Mr. Madrid stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Will Hawkins (Large Area C)

Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Mr. Todd Bibiano (Large Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large Schools District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large Schools District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)
Yes		Mr. Gary Tripp (NM School Boards Association)

**Consider Adjournment:**

Mr. Madrid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m. Mr. Strickland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (12-0).

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025**