



**NMAA OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
SENIOR HIGH REFERENDUM  
February 24, 2020



**Due Date: March 9, 2020**

Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools to vote on the issue below. Please read through the entire referendum before selecting your response. Thank you for your participation in the governance of your organization and for your support of interscholastic activities.

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**Bylaw 7.6.21 – Heat Illness Prevention Protocol**

This proposal would amend the current heat illness policy to be implemented anytime school-sanctioned athletic activities occur, including competition.

*\*Verbiage stricken is removed. Verbiage underlined is new.*

**7.6.21 Heat Illness Prevention Protocol**

The athletic trainer and the head coach of each sport and level are responsible for checking the heat index prior to the beginning of ~~practice~~ any athletic activity. Go to the NMAA website ([www.nmact.org](http://www.nmact.org)) and enter your zip code and the site will calculate the heat index for the current time. You may also use the site to calculate for projected high temperatures. If the heat index is above 104, ~~practice is cancelled.~~ athletic activity must be postponed until Practice may occur later in the day provided the heat index falls to 104 or less. If the heat index is 100-104, consider ~~modification~~ modifying practices to remove protective equipment and to shorten practice duration. If the heat index is 95-99, use caution, but you may practice. If the heat index is under 95, the risk of heat illness is present, but the risk is greatly reduced. Water breaks should occur every 20-30 minutes during practice. Do not restrict the intake of fluids. Immersion in cold water is the treatment of choice for management of acute heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Call EMS if you suspect heat illness.

**Rationale:** The previous policy did not take into account competition, only practice. While practice reps/duration may exceed that experienced in competition, the risk for heat illness during competition is still present. The amended policy will ensure greater health and safety measures with respect to heat illness.

**We Favor**

**We Do Not Favor**

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**This box must be completed by all member schools.**

_____	_____
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**NEW – Section X Scholastic Eligibility Bylaw (10.8)**

This proposal would require students who transfer out of a public school into a charter, alternative or non-member private school setting, during the semester, to be scholastically eligible at the time of their disenrollment in order to maintain scholastic eligibility.

\*The new bylaw (10.8) would read:

*Transferring while Scholastically Ineligible*

*If an academically ineligible Student in good standing transfers from a public school in his/her attendance zone to a charter/alternative/non-member private school setting, the Student is considered academically ineligible for participation. Student may gain eligibility as per NMAA Bylaw 6.2.1.*

**Rationale:** Prevents students who are failing from gaining scholastic eligibility by dis-enrolling late in the semester into a less stringent academic setting.

**We Favor**

**We Do Not Favor**

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**Eligibility Bylaw 6.8.2 – Foreign Students**

This proposal clarifies that foreign exchange students who return to a member school after completing a formal sanctioned CSIET program are ineligible for varsity participation for 180 school / 365 calendar days.

*\*Underlined language is new*

- 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.
- B. Foreign Students (non U.S. citizens): Foreign Students who enter this country without their parents/legal guardians and enroll in a NMAA member high school without a formal sanctioned CSIET program, or who return to a member school after completing a formal sanctioned CSIET program, are ineligible for 180 school / 365 calendar days at the varsity level. A Foreign Student who enrolls during his/her senior year may not participate in NMAA sanctioned events. It is not permissible for foreign students to live with coaches, administrators, or school officials without U.S. court ordered legal guardianship (See Undue Influence, 6.1.3). Foreign Students residing at boarding schools are exempt from this rule.

**Rationale:** Clarification of this rule is necessary to reinforce the understanding that the foreign exchange experience is limited to one-year of varsity eligibility and that those students who choose to remain after that year will not be afforded continued varsity eligibility.

**We Favor**

**We Do Not Favor**

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**Due Date: March 9, 2020**

*Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools **that participate in the sport of basketball** to vote on the issue below. Please read through the entire referendum before selecting your response. Thank you for your participation in the governance of your organization and for your support of interscholastic activities.*

**Basketball Bylaw 7.13.12 – Officials**

This proposal would require that a 3-person officiating crew be used for all varsity basketball games. Two officials could still be used at the sub-varsity level.

The new language would read:

*“Officials working NMAA sanctioned events must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use three (3) NMAA/NMOA officials for NMAA regular-season sanctioned varsity contests. Two (2) officials may be used at the sub-varsity level.”*

**Rationale:** A number of schools in all classifications (especially 4A-5A) have opted to use only two officials during the 2019-2020 school year and the result has been complaints from the competing coaches (as well as spectators) and concerns from several administrators. Officials simply cannot manage the physicality of the game at the Class 4A and 5A levels without a third official and this is becoming common at the Class A-3A level as well. Two-person officiating is antiquated and will result in negative “non-basketball” off-ball situations. The game and the players have evolved past two-person officiating.

**We Favor**

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*Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools that participate in the sport of football within Class 8-Man, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, & 6A to vote on the issue below. Please read through the entire referendum before selecting your response. Thank you for your participation in the governance of your organization and for your support of interscholastic activities.*

**Football Bylaw 7.15.1.D – Individual Game Limitations**

This proposal would allow for football players that compete on both the sub-varsity and varsity teams (“floaters”) to participate in a game during all 11 weeks of the regular season.

*\*new verbiage in italics*

1. Football Game Definition - For the purpose of determining the number of games played by an individual, a student-athlete is considered to have played a football game when he/she participates interscholastically in eight or less football experiences in a consecutive five-day period.

2. Each individual is limited to total regular season games as follows:

- 6-Man – 9
- 8-Man & 2A-6A – 11

3. Each team is limited to total regular season games as follows

- 6-Man – 9 (sub-varsity – 8)
- 8-Man & 2A-6A – 10 (sub-varsity – 9)

**Rationale:** Because many schools schedule sub-varsity games during a varsity program’s “bye week”, athletes that “float” between teams may have to sit out this sub-varsity contest so that he/she does not violate the individual game limitation bylaws as set forth in the NMAA Handbook.

**We Favor**

**We Do Not Favor**

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Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools **that participate in the sport of baseball** to vote on the issue below. Please read through the entire referendum before selecting your response. Thank you for your participation in the governance of your organization and for your support of interscholastic activities.

**Baseball Bylaw 7.12.1.D.1 – Pitching Restrictions**

This proposal would limit the number of pitches an athlete can throw during a 3-day period as opposed to the previous regulations which only provided a daily maximum.

*\*changes in italics/underlined*

At the varsity level, a pitcher may throw 120 pitches in any three-day period. At the sub-varsity level, a pitcher may throw 105 pitches in any three-day period. The pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if they hit the maximum limit (120 in varsity, 105 in sub-varsity) during an at-bat, but must exit the game after the batter.

**Rationale:** Assist with player safety and the protection of young arms. The change limits the number of pitches an athlete can throw within a 3-day period. For example, current rules allow an individual to throw 60 pitches on Thursday and then come back and throw 120 pitches on Saturday (180 total) or 40 pitches on Friday and 120 pitches on Saturday (160 total). It is felt that this may be excessive and thus the baseball sports specific committee recommended a change.

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*Upon direction of the Board of Directors, the New Mexico Activities Association is asking member schools that participate in the sport of golf to vote on the issue below. Please read through the entire referendum before selecting your response. Thank you for your participation in the governance of your organization and for your support of interscholastic activities.*

**Golf Bylaw 7.16.1.J – Cell Phones**

This proposal would allow for competitors to use cell phones during competition for the limited purpose of making an emergency phone call to a coach or tournament official and to input scores.

\*The new language would read:

*Players may not use cell phones or other communication devices while playing, except in the following circumstances:*

1. *Calling a coach or tournament official for a medical or other emergency*
2. *Inputting scores for live scoring or other scoring applications, such as iWanamaker*
  - a. *When inputting scores, ONE person from each group, prior to the start of the round will be designated to input scores using their cell phone. Scores should be inputted following the completion of each hole at the next tee box before anyone in the group tees off to start the next hole. If at some point during the round the designated scorer for that group cannot continue to score due to ie: cell phone battery dies, etc., a new player within the group will take over and the tournament director should be notified of the change in scorers.*

**Rationale:** The golf sports specific committee requested that schools pilot the iWanamaker scoring system in an effort to determine if this could be used for state qualification in future years. The use of cell phones would be necessary so that students can enter scores in to this system during a round.

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