



NMAA OFFICIAL BALLOT
SENIOR HIGH REFERENDUM
June 7, 2023



Due Date: June 21, 2023

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.

Bylaw 7.7.4 – Crowd Control & Unsportsmanlike Conduct

This proposal would Update “Crowd Control” bylaws to include specific penalties for egregious acts of unsportsmanlike conduct.

**NEW VERBIAGE UNDERLINED, TEXT WITH A STRIKETHROUGH TO BE REMOVED*

7.7.4 Crowd Control & Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A school is responsible for the conduct of its team, coaches, students, and fans at any interscholastic event in which the school is participating. The basic responsibility for crowd control lies with the host administration who are required to provide an administrator or administrator’s designee to be in attendance. It is also recommended that the visiting school provide an administrator or administrator’s designee for any potentially contentious contests. In both situations, the administrator and/or administrator’s designee cannot be a coach participating in the event. The Executive Director may invoke penalties upon a member school for actions, which violate the principles of “Compete with Class.” ~~These actions include, but are not limited to, hindering the normal progress of an event, creating situations that may lead to the restriction or discontinuance of interscholastic competition, or endangering or threatening the personal safety of any individuals involved.~~ Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, students, and/or spectators may cause the school or individual to be placed on probation or suspension for 180 school days/365 calendar days (See also 7.6.23).

A. Team/Fan Suspension from Athletic Activities for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a team participant, including a coach, occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the team will be suspended from participation in that activity for the remainder of the season.
2. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a non-team participant occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, all school spectators will be suspended from attendance in that activity for the remainder of the season.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in the NMAA Handbook as non-compliance with sport specific rules and NMAA policies, including behaviors incompatible with “Compete with Class” and the interscholastic educational objective. Examples of egregious unsportsmanlike conduct by participants, coaches, or spectators include but are not limited to, fans entering the playing surface to engage in acts of violence or abuse, constant verbal attacks on officials, attacking other fans, coaches physically or verbally attacking officials, players fighting other players during post game handshakes, or student sections verbally chanting inappropriate or demeaning comments towards individuals, teams, or officials.
4. In the event the second act of misconduct occurs when there are no contests left in the current season, the penalty may be applied to the next season in the same activity. The NMAA will notify the school that the team and/or individual/spectators has been placed on warning after the first offense.

Rationale: More concrete and stringent penalties are necessary to deter egregious acts of unsportsmanlike conduct and better ensure the principles of interscholastic activity and “Compete with Class” are not overshadowed by poor behavior.

UPDATES TO Bylaw 7.7.4 – Crowd Control & Unsportsmanlike Conduct

We Favor

We Do Not Favor

This box must be completed by all member schools.

_____ Print Name of Official Voter	_____ Signature of Official Voter
_____ Print Name of Superintendent/Head of School	_____ Signature of Superintendent/Head of School
_____ School	_____ District/Classification

Due date is June 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

*This ballot, with both signatures affixed, must be received in the NMAA office by 4:00 p.m. Please fax completed referenda to Mindy Ioane at (505) 923-3114. **Please note that if either signature above is missing, the ballot will not be counted.** Contact Dusty Young (dusty@nmact.org) if you have any questions regarding this referendum.*



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Bylaw 6.18.3

This proposal would update "Amateurism" bylaws to provide clarity on when amateur status is lost and the means in which student-athletes can utilize their name, image and likeness.

CURRENT BYLAW

6.18.3 Reimbursement or Financial Benefit

An amateur athlete shall not receive (directly or indirectly) reimbursement or financial benefit as a result of their athletic performance or abilities. Financial benefit includes cash, stipends, compensation, endorsements, boarding/living expenses, free or reduced meals, merchandise, gift certificates, etc.

PROPOSED BYLAW (above verbiage removed and below would replace it)

6.18.3 Loss of Amateur Status

An amateur athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

- A. Competing for money or other monetary compensation
- B. Receiving any award or prize of monetary value
- C. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value in affiliation or connection with activities involving the student's school team or school.
 - 1. This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student to participate in a commercial endorsement provided there is no school team, school, or NMAA affiliation.
 - 2. The student is prohibited from appearing in the uniform of the student's school and may not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of the school, or NMAA as part of any endorsement.

NOTE: This provision is also applicable to participants in the activity of Esports.

Rationale: Due to the increasing prevalence of social media influence and the ability to monetize that presence and influence, it is necessary to clarify the ways in which students can utilize their name, image and likeness while still retaining their amateur status.

We Favor

We Do Not Favor

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Bylaw 7.7.9 – Video Recording/Telecasts/Radio Broadcasting Consent Rule/Procedures

This proposal would add a section to video-recording bylaws that would regulate the use of telescopic camera/video poles during NMAA sanctioned events.

ADD Section D to 7.7.9

- D. Telescopic Camera Poles** – Telescopic camera poles shall be manned at all times and shall only be utilized by approved media or school personnel. Telescopic camera poles shall not be permitted on the players’ sideline or inside the spectator seating area.

Rationale: It is necessary to create telescopic pole regulations due to their increased prevalence at sporting events and possible risks to spectators/participants.

We Favor

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Bylaw 6.4.1.A.2

This proposal would clarify the circumstances in which an 8th grade student may participate in high school athletics outside their attendance zone high school.

**NEW VERBIAGE UNDERLINED*

6.4.1.A.2 An eighth-grade student who participates in high school athletics, at any level of competition, will make his/her Open Enrollment Choice at the eighth-grade level. 8th grade students not already attending the institution they will be participating for, must participate at their home attendance zone public high school unless one of the following exceptions is applicable:

- a. Students enrolled in a K-12, 6-12 or other combined member school are eligible to participate at the school in which they are currently enrolled.
- b. Students are eligible to participate outside their home attendance zone public high school if it can be verified that:
 - i. The student has been enrolled consecutively in that school's feeder system since elementary school.
 - ii. The student is an out-of-state transfer that has been enrolled consecutively in that school's feeder system since their initial enrollment in New Mexico.

Rationale: The current rule was intended to prevent early recruitment of students into feeder middle schools for future 8th grade participation in high school athletics. This change further clarifies the intent and allows 8th grade students who have been established in the feeder system to participate outside their attendance zone and at their current feeder high school.

We Favor

We Do Not Favor

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