

SECTION VII SPORTS REGULATIONS

7.0 MASTER TABLE OF ATHLETIC EVENTS AS APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SPORT	CLASSES	WEEK # PRACTICE BEGINS (HIGH SCHOOL)	WEEK # PRACTICE BEGINS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)	CONTEST LIMITATIONS			DAYS OF REQUIRED PRACTICE BEFORE COMPETITION	WEEK # STATE EVENTS
				VARSITY	SUB- VARSITY	MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Baseball	5	32	32	26	23	18	5	45-46
Basketball	5	21	*16 19	26	23	18	5	36-37
Cross Country	4	7	7	8	8	7	5	19
Football	6-Man	6	6	9	8	7 th & 8 th only 7 games	**10	17-19
	8-Man	6	6	10	9		**10	18-20
	2A	6	7	10	9		**10	18-21
	3A thru 6A	6	7	10	9		**10	19-22
Golf	3	Year round	Year round	10	10	8	5	46
Soccer	3	7	7	20	17	14	5	19
Softball	4	32	32	26	23	18	5	45-46
Spirit/Cheer	4 All Girl 2 Co-ed	Year round	Year round	10 Competitions	N/A	N/A	10	39
Spirit/Dance Drill	3	Year round	Year round	10 ⁺ Competitions	N/A	N/A	10	39
Swimming & Diving	1	Year round	Year round	10	10	8	5	34
Tennis	2	Year round	Year round	12	12	8	5	Team: 45 Individual: 45
Track & Field	5	33	33	10	7	7	5	1A/3A – 45 4A/5A – 46
Volleyball	5	7	7	23	20	14	5	20
Wrestling	3 Boys 1 Girls	19	16	32 points	28 points	8 events	5	34

Classes: 4 = A-2A Combined 3 = A-3A Combined 2 = A-4A Combined * denotes split season
** may not begin competition until week 8

7.1 CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES

7.1.1 Within New Mexico

High school and junior high/middle school state-level competitions within New Mexico, both athletic and non-athletic, must be sanctioned by and conducted in accordance with the rules, regulations, procedures, and guidelines of the Association.

7.1.2 Out of State

“Extended Trips” are defined per sport as out-of-state travel to any site over 300 land miles from the nearest border of New Mexico. Each school is limited to one extended trip per varsity team, per academic year for athletics. All such trips shall have prior approval and comply with all applicable National Federation sanctioning procedures. The local school board has discretion on approval of extended trips for activities.

7.1.3 Competition Against Suspended School

Member schools shall not participate in activities/athletic events against a school suspended by the Association.

7.1.4 Participation with NFHS Member Schools Only

Member schools may only participate in athletic events with a school who is currently a member of an NFHS Association.

Q1: If an NMAA member soccer team wishes to scrimmage a local club team and utilize the game as their one allowable scrimmage, are they allowed to?

A1: No, NMAA member schools may participate (scrimmage or game) against NFHS or NMAA member schools only.

7.2 DEFINITION OF A SEASON

A sport season is defined as the time when the sport is played from the first day of practice to the end of the state tournament, or when a team/individual does not qualify for or is eliminated from post-season competition (playoffs, district, and/or state tournaments). During District Tournament week, or once seeding and selection for state tournament play has taken place, no regular season games/matches/events can be scheduled/played. At the sub-varsity level, the season concludes at the end of regular season competition. (See 7.6.8)

Q1: A basketball team has played 25 of their allowable 26 games prior to the District Tournament. Even though the tournament begins on Tuesday evening, as the regular season district champion, they don't play in the tournament until the Saturday evening championship game. Can they schedule and play a 26th game on Monday of District Tournament week?

A1: No regular season games may be played during District Tournament Week.

7.3 MULTI-ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom. The NMAA encourages Students to take part in as many activities as possible and school personnel are expected to encourage multi-activity participation as well. Specific parameters are established in this section for season lengths and number of contests per season. Participation on non-school teams is not regulated by the NMAA.

7.3.1 Dual Participation

Participating on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season is discouraged. If a Student is allowed by the local school district to participate in this manner, the student's sub-varsity/varsity event limit may not be exceeded cumulatively. See also NMAA Bylaw 6.13.2 B.

Q1: If a student participates on a high school soccer team and a club soccer team during the NMAA soccer season, do both count against the maximum limit of allowable games?

A1: Yes they do. From the first day of the soccer season through the end of the regular season, a soccer athlete is allowed to play in up to the maximum number of games plus 1 scrimmage.

7.4 OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

During the off-season a Coaching Staff is allowed 7.5 hours of total contact time per week (during days when school is in session only) to work with student athletes grades 8-12. Sports specific and sports specific conditioning classes are to be included within this allowable timeframe. This provision applies to all school coaches, paid and volunteer. This rule prohibits coaching these individuals on any team (school or non-school sponsored) out-of-season during the school year.

7.4.1 Athletic Class and Open Gym/Field

- A. During the school year, but outside a particular sport season (out-of-season), a member school may allow participation in that particular sport during an athletic period.
- B. Open Gym/Field is to be included within the allowable 7.5 hours per week of contact time during the off-season.

Q1: *Our school is on a 4 x 4 block schedule which has an athletic class that meets for 1.5 hours per day. Do I get any time to work with my athletes after school?*

A1: *No. The athletic class consumes the allowable out of season contact time; therefore you are afforded no further contact with your athletes after school.*

Q2: *Does the 7.5 hours per week allowed during the off-season include “open gym/field?”*

A2: *The 7.5 hours per week allowed during the off-season includes “open gym/field.” Having the gym/field opened by parents, volunteer coaches, and/or staff members is not permissible unless you count it within the 7.5 hours of allowable contact time.*

Q3: *School is not in session on President’s Day. Do I then have 7.5 hours of contact time with my athletes, including athletic class, the rest of the week during school days?*

A3: *Yes. Contact with your athletes is not allowed on days when school is not in session; however, you may have contact with your athletes for a total of 7.5 hours for the remainder of the week.*

Q4: *I would like to have “open gym/field” on Saturday. Is it permissible?*

A4: *No. During the off-season, you may only have contact with your athletes on Monday thru Friday and only on the days when school is in session. On Saturday, you cannot have “open gym/field” for your athletes even if someone other than a member of your coaching staff is organizing it.*

Q5: *Our school does not offer an athletic class. May I use the allowable 7.5 hours in different increments or must I practice a maximum of 1.5 hours each day, Monday thru Friday?*

A5: *You can use the 7.5 hours in various increments; for example, working with your athletes for 2.5 hrs. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only.*

Q6: *We have an athletic class that meets for 1 hour per day. I understand that I have 2.5 more contact hours during the week with my athletes. For the freshmen that are not in class, do I still have 7.5 hours a week with them?*

A6: *No. The 7.5 hours is inclusive. Therefore, a coach does not distinguish between who is in athletic class and who is not to determine his/her 7.5 hours of contact time per week.*

Q7: *During the off-season, can a baseball coach work on his sport with the football players who also play baseball for 7.5 hours per week if they have already been with the football coach for 7.5 hours?*

A7: *It is up to the school as to how they want to share athletes. Coaches from each sport have 7.5 hours per week for their program, all inclusive.*

Q8: *If I have utilized my 7.5 hours of weekly off-season contact time with my athletes, can they have extra time to work with one of my junior high coaches?*

A8: *No, the 7.5 hours of contact time includes time spent with any member of your coaching staff, inclusive of volunteer coaches.*

Q9: *I am the head baseball coach at my school and also own and operate a baseball academy in our community. If members of my team(s) wish to come to my business and pay to take batting practice from me during the off-season, does this count against their contact time with me?*

A9: *Yes. You have a maximum of 7.5 hours of contact time per week with your athletes during the off-season to work on their skill development for your sport.*

Q10: *Can a coach in my program (grades 7 thru 12) coach a club team (American Legion, AAU, etc.) consisting of athletes from my program?*

A10: *No. Coaches (head, assistant, and volunteer) involved with your program cannot coach a club team consisting of your sport's athletes during the off-season. They may however, coach club teams during the summer since the NMAA does not regulate summer activity.*

Q11: *Can I work with my athletes (within the 7.5 hours allowable contact time) on a snow day?*

A11: *No. During the off-season, you may work with your athletes only on days when school is in session.*

Q12: *Can 7th grade students be involved in my out-of-season program?*

A12: *No. 7th grade students cannot be involved in an out-of-season program.*

Q13: *May I supervise a “junior league” club program during the off-season?*

A13: *You may supervise a “junior league” club program for student athletes grades 6 and below at your discretion. Working with feeder school athletes grades 8-12, in any format, will count against your 7.5 hours of allowable contact time per week. 6th and 7th grade students cannot be involved in a school’s out-of-season program.*

Q14: *We have an athletic class for our varsity and jv. football players which meets for one hour daily during our school’s seventh period. Our freshman coaches also have an athletic class for the members of our freshman football team which meets for an hour during the first period of the school day. Are we in violation of the 7.5 hours of contact time during the off-season?*

A14: *Yes you are. A program’s coaches, be it head, assistant and/or volunteer, for teams from grades 8-12, have a total of 7.5 hours of contact time weekly with the program’s athletes during the off-season.*

Q15: *I am a football coach and teach a sport specific weight training class in which only football players are enrolled. Does this count against my 7.5 hours of allowable contact time during the off-season?*

A15: *If the class is specific to athletes of the sport that you coach, it DOES count against your allowable contact time. In order for it not to count against your allowable contact time, the class must be open to, without discrimination, all students within the school.*

Q16: *During the off-season, if a school has scheduled parent conferences in lieu of Students attending their regularly scheduled classes, can a coach work with his/her athletes?*

A16: *Parent conferences held during the week are considered a school day so coaches may work with their athletes as part of their allowable 7.5 weekly hrs.*

Q17: *During the off-season, can a coach work with his/her athletes on a teacher in-service day?*

A17: *Coaches cannot conduct off-season workouts with their athletes on a teacher in-service day.*

Q18: *Does a coach led study hall count towards the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season coaching time?*

A18: *Study hall led by a coach does not count towards the allowable 7.5 weekly hours of Out of Season coaching time, contingent upon the fact that no program related activity such as viewing of game film or chalk talk is taking place.*

Q19: *During the off-season, can a coach work with kids during school breaks such as Winter and Spring?*

A19: *During the off-season, coaches can only work with their kids on days that school is in session.*

Q20: *Can prospective team members attend an off-season camp / competition as a school Sponsored group?*

A20: *Attendance at off-season camps / competitions must be individually based and cannot be sponsored in any form or fashion by the school. Furthermore, coaches of that school program cannot be involved with the camp / competition in any way.*

Q21: *If my school has an athletic or sports specific class, do I count the total school time allotted for the class towards my allowable 7.5 hours per week or do I count only the time that I am actually working with my kids (ex. dressing out, warm-up, etc.)?*

A21: *The total time allotted by the school for the athletic/sports specific class shall be counted against the weekly allowable 7.5 hours of out of season coaching.*

Q22: *Does a coach led community service event count toward the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season Coaching time?*

A22: *Community Service projects led by a coach do not count toward the allowable 7.5 weekly hours of Out of Season coaching time as long as the project is approved by the school administration and is not mandatory. Community Service is defined as unpaid voluntary work intended to help people in a particular area.*

Q23: *Does a coach led fundraising event count toward the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season Coaching time?*

A23: *Fundraising events led by a coach do not count toward the allowable 7.5 weekly hours of Out of Season coaching time as long as the event is approved by the school administration and is not mandatory. A fundraising event is defined as a gathering that generates publicity or raises money for a program.*

Q24: *Can community service projects and fundraising events take place on a weekend during the off season?*

A24: *Community service projects and fundraising events can take place on a weekend during the off season as long as the project or event is not mandatory and it is approved by the school administration.*

Q25: *If a youth camp or tournament is used as a community service project or fundraising event, does it count toward the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season Coaching time?*

A25: *(1) A youth camp held on school days where potential team members 7-12 grade are present does count towards the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season Coaching time.*

(2) A youth camp held on school days for grades 6th grade and below does not count toward the 7.5 allowable Out of Season coaching time as long as potential team members 7-12 grade are not present.

(3) A youth camp or tournament held on non-school days must be for students 6th grade and below and potential team members 7-12 grade cannot be present.

Q26: *Does a coach led social event/gathering count toward the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season Coaching time?*

A26: *A coach led social event /gathering does count toward the 7.5 weekly hours of allowable Out of Season Coaching time and must follow the Out of Season Coaching guidelines, which includes “on school days only.” A social event/gathering is defined as a planned informal or formal occasion/ activity in which people come together as a group.*

Q27: *Can a team practice with another team during the season or out of season?*

A27: *No. See Appendices: Definition of Practice.*

7.4.2 Violations for Out-of-Season Coaching During the School Year and/or Undue Influence by a Coach

Violation of either of these rules will result in the following sanctions:

First Offense: The member school will be fined \$2,500.00, which must be paid by the member school prior to its participation in any further contests in that particular sport. The coach, who is in violation, will be instructed to adhere to this rule.

Second Offense: The member school will be fined \$5,000.00, which must be paid by the member school prior to its participation in any further contests in that particular sport. The NMAA will also contact the Public Education Department Licensing Division and inform them of the offending coach’s “unethical practices” in connection with his or her coaching license.

Q1: *Can a coach of a high school program coach a club team during the school year?*

A1: *Yes, as long as the club team is made up of students who are not current or potential feeder school athletes as identified above. For example, a boys’ basketball coach may coach a girls’ basketball club team, or a boys’ basketball club team with students who are not current or potential/feeder athletes.*

Q2: *If a district does not allow 8th graders to participate at the high school level, who are considered the potential/feeder school students?*

A2: *Students in the 8th grade and above are considered the potential/feeder school students.*

Q3: *If a district allows 8th graders to participate at the high school level, who are considered the potential/feeder school students?*

A3: *Students in the 7th grade and above are considered the potential/feeder school students.*

Q4: *A coach’s daughter plays on his high school team. Can he coach her in club?*

A4: *Yes. However, no other current/potential/feeder school students may be on that club team.*

Q5: *Can a volunteer, non-paid individual help with stats for a particular school and then coach a club team out-of-season during the school year which includes current/potential/feeder school students of that same school?*

A5: *Yes, as long as he/she is not assisting at any practices or working in any other coaching capacity on the bench or sideline during a regular or post-season game.*

Q6: *Can a coach (paid or volunteer) travel to events with a club team which includes current/potential/feeder school students as long as he/she is not serving as their coach?*

A6: *No, because he/she still has contact with those current/potential/feeder school students in the club environment.*

Q7: *If a coach resigns after his/her season is over and coaches a club team with current/potential/feeder athletes, then re-signs a contract with that same school for the next season, is this acceptable?*

A7: *No. The school will be subject to the \$2500 fine.*

Q8: *If a head coach resigns after his/her season is over are the current assistant coaches on staff still subject to the out-of-season coaching regulations?*

A8: *Yes. All coaches retain their association with the school and are subject to out-of-season coaching regulations until they formally submit a letter of resignation.*

Q9: *Can a middle-school or junior high school coach serve as the coach of the feeder high school team in that same sport, with the same gender athletes, during the off- season?*

A9: *Any coach of an NMAA member mid-school or junior high school is considered a member of the coaching staff of that specific sport at the high school that his/her school feeds students into and therefore, during the off-season, is not eligible to coach athletes/potential athletes from that school and of the gender that he/she coaches in that sport during the regular season.*

7.4.3 Undue Influence of a Student

The use of any of the following inducements by any person directly or indirectly associated with a student or school, including adults and parents, to secure or encourage the attendance of a student for athletic purposes constitutes undue influence, resulting in ineligibility for all high school athletic participation for 180 school days/365 calendar days. If a coach is directly associated with undue influence, the member school will be fined \$2,500/\$5,000 (See Bylaw 7.4.2)

- A.** Participant living with coach, principal, teacher, or school official without legal guardianship
- B.** Any inducement to get parents or students to change residence or schools for athletic/non-athletic purposes
- C.** Offer or acceptance of money
- D.** Reduction or remission of regular tuition (other than need-based financial aid available to all applicants)
- E.** Offer or acceptance of board, room, or clothing
- F.** Offer or acceptance of money for work in excess of amount regularly paid
- G.** Transportation to school by any school official
- H.** Offer or acceptance of school privileges not normally granted to other students
- I.** Free or reduced rent for parents

- J. Offer for payment of moving expenses for parents
- K. Any student, family or individual that contacts a coach about the student attending a school where he or she coaches must be informed that they need to contact the principal, admissions department, or guidance department if they have an interest in transferring.
- L. Any meeting with coaches regarding prospective athletes or their families should be at the request of the family to the individual(s) responsible for school administration and/or admissions and must take place at the school.

Q1: *If a student pre-enrolls in a school prior to officially withdrawing from his/her present school, can a coach at that school begin the process of communicating with that Student and/or allow him/her to attend team work outs, etc.?*

A1: *No. Members of a coaching staff are to have NO contact with a student athlete presently enrolled at another school. The communication process may only begin once the Student has finalized the withdrawal process from his/her present school.*

7.4.4 Student Transferring to Follow a Coach in High School (see 9.3.R for Middle School)

A transfer/residency requirement assists in the prevention of students switching schools, discourages recruitment, and reduces the opportunity for undue influence.

Beginning with the summer prior to entering the 7th grade, if a student participates on a non-school team (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club settings, summer program, etc.) that is affiliated with or coached by a coach associated with that same sport, at a school other than the one the 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 / calendar days. If the Student transfers to a school that his/her coach has relocated to, regardless of change in the Student's 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 / 365 calendar days.

7.5 SUMMER CAMPS/SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS

Summer activities are under the guidance of the local school/school district. Summer camps, recreation programs, and other programs which are outside the conventional school year are restricted to the period between the end of the second (spring) semester and the beginning of the first (fall) semester of the following school year, or until the official practice season for that sport begins (as stated in the NMAA handbook for each sport), whichever comes first.

7.5.1 Summer Activities

Summer programs are under the direction of the local school/school district. The NMAA does not govern coaching activities during the summer, other than undue influence and guidelines established in 7.5.3 below.

7.5.2 Two-Week Moratorium

Pursuant to the March 7, 2007 ruling of the Board of Directors, it is encouraged that each member school shall observe a two-week moratorium, or two (2) seven-day "no-contact" periods in the summer during which time no coaching, written lesson plans or workout schedules, training, open gyms, in-state or out-of-state travel can occur.

7.5.3 Rule Requirements and Philosophical Basis

Each individual school/district is required to establish and enforce regulations which are driven educationally by the NMAA interscholastic objective. The following requirements, as well as local policy, intend to assure adherence to those rules/procedures, consistent with that objective.

- A. Educational value: Educational goals that are encompassed by the NMAA objective must be incorporated.
- B. Students must be given the opportunity to participate in multiple activities (sports, family, recreational, etc.). It is the responsibility of the local school district to provide time for students to participate in family activities.
- C. Promote physical fitness.
- D. Participation must not be restricted by financial status of the student.
- E. Participation in a camp or recreation program outside the conventional school year and/or during the summer cannot be a requirement for participation in the regular sports season.
- F. In the sport of football, equipment such as, but not confined to football helmets, pads, etc. is prohibited in school sponsored off-season and summer programs.
- G. In the sport of football, schools may use dummies, blocking sleds, and hand shields for conditioning and instructional purposes during the off-season and summer programs.
- H. In the sport of football, schools are prohibited from attending full contact **team** camps during the off-season and summer programs.
- I. In the sport of football, individuals may attend full contact summer position camps. They may utilize school owned football safety equipment if approved by the local school district.

Q1: *May coaches require students to attend summer workouts, leagues, conditioning programs, etc.?*

A1: *No.*

Q2: *May a coach use a student athlete's performance during an optional summer workout, league, conditioning program, etc., to determine position on the upcoming school team?*

A2: *No, because summer workouts, leagues, and conditioning programs are optional.*

Q3: *May a coach conduct a sports camp during the summer for past and potential team members?*

A3: *Yes, as long as attendance at camp is not a pre-requisite to school team membership.*

Q4: *A high school basketball team is going to attend a tournament in Phoenix, AZ during the summer months. Who can be a member of the team?*

A4: *Any student athlete that is enrolled through the registrar of the participating school.*

Q5: *Can football players attend individual (without their team) full contact camps during the summer?*

A5: *Yes. As long as the local school district approves it, and equipment necessary for the safety of the student is certified.*

Q6: *May a coach/ football staff conduct a full contact team or position camp for past or potential team members?*

A6: *No.*

Q7: *What differentiates a summer camp from a summer program?*

A7: *A summer camp is a maximum of one week in duration while a summer program lasts in excess of a week.*

7.6 GENERAL

7.6.1 Co-Ed Participation

If a school maintains separate teams in comparable sports for girls and boys, girls may not participate on boys' teams and boys may not participate on girls' teams. If a school does not sponsor separate teams in comparable sports, boys and girls may participate on the same team, but must participate in the boys' division. Co-ed teams shall be defined as any team having one or more members of the opposite gender and all co-ed teams must participate in the boys' games, tournaments, meets, etc.

Note #1: In Spirit, a team with only one male participant may opt to remain an all-girl squad. Any squad having two or more male participants must compete in the Co-ed classification.

Note #2: In Wrestling, girls may compete in the boys' division during the regular season. Boys may not compete in the girls' division under any circumstance.

Q1: *Why is it against NMAA regulations for a boy to play on a girl's volleyball team?*

A1: *NFHS regulations on net height for boys' and girls' volleyball are different. Therefore, if a team were to have a male athlete on it, the net height for games played would need to be adjusted to meet NFHS standards for male volleyball, thus creating an inequitable game situation for all-female teams.*

Q2: *Are baseball and softball considered comparable sports?*

A2: *The NFHS does not recognize baseball and softball as comparable sports therefore a female athlete may play on a school's baseball team even if her school has a softball team.*

7.6.2 Concurrent Participation on Junior High/Middle School and Senior High Teams for Classes A/AA.

- A.** In Class A and AA schools, 8th and 9th grade students may participate on the junior high/middle school team and senior high team concurrently until the junior high/middle school game limitations are reached. The student must then be moved to the senior high team

permanently for the remainder of that season or until the senior high school maximum game limitation has been reached. Games or tournaments played at either level count toward the limits at both levels.

- B. In Class A and AA schools only, a 9th grader can participate at the jr. high / middle school level as long as there is a mutual agreement between the participating schools.

Note: Seventh grade students are ineligible to participate on senior high teams.

7.6.3 Participants Moving From Junior High/Middle School to Senior High Teams in the 3A thru 5A Classifications

A. In classes 3A thru 5A, eighth grade students participating at the high school level in a particular sport must continue to play at the high school level only for the remainder of the sport season. Games played at the junior high/middle school level will count toward the senior high game limit.

- B. In Class 3A thru 5A, 9th graders are ineligible to participate at the jr. high / middle school level.

Note: Students in classes A and AA are exempt from this regulation.

7.6.4 Scrimmage Limit

A team or individual is allowed one (1) scrimmage day per sport, which must be held prior to the team or individual's first game/match/contest in that sport. The pre-season scrimmage must be against NMAA or NFHS member schools only and does not count toward game limitations. Admission to all scrimmages must be free of charge to the general public. Schools will be allowed to sponsor an alumni game prior to their first regular season game (if approved by the Local School Administration) which will not count against their scrimmage limit.

QI: *If a team wishes to play an alumni game as a fundraiser, does this game count as their one (1) allowable scrimmage?*

AI: *No it does not. Choosing to play an Alumni Game as a fundraiser, is a decision of the Local Administration. If played, the game may only include alumni from the school participating. Each school must require that a signed liability waiver from each athlete (school or Alumni) be submitted to school administration prior to the contest. Admission may be charged. THE ALUMNI GAME MUST BE PLAYED PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED GAME OF THE SEASON.*

7.6.5 Minimum Contests for Post-Season Competition Eligibility (Individual)

Students must participate in a minimum of one quarter (1/4) of the varsity contests scheduled to be eligible for post-season competition. 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.

Note: Sub-varsity players can be moved up for post-season play without playing in one quarter of the varsity contest scheduled.

Q1: *A track team has eight meets scheduled prior to district, and they have dual participation athletes' running track and playing baseball. How many track meets must the athlete participate in to be eligible for post season?*

A1: *Two track meets. Note – if the school schedules 9 or 10 meets, then the athlete would have to participate in three meets to be eligible for post season.*

Q2: *After the State Soccer Playoffs have been completed, can a member of the school's soccer team join the football team to participate in the State Football Playoffs?*

A2: *Unless the soccer player has participated in a minimum of ¼ of the football team's regular season games, he/she is ineligible to participate in post season play for the football team.*

Q3: *A member of the basketball team decides to come out for track right before the district meet. Is he/she eligible to participate?*

A3: *Unless the player has participated in a minimum of ¼ of the track team's regular season meets, he/she is ineligible to participate in post season competition in track.*

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, in order to qualify for the post season. Districts must minimally schedule to play each school in the assigned district one time. Exception: Golf, Spirit and Swimming and Diving. 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 NMAA Bylaw 7.6.14)

Q1: *If during the Winter Break, both a school's junior varsity and varsity basketball teams are participating in tournaments where at least one date conflicts, can an athlete participate in both?*

A1: *No, an athlete cannot represent his/her school in two tournaments simultaneously even though he/she is within the allowable game limitations.*

7.6.7 Master Schedule of Practice and Competition Dates

Fall Sports

Cross Country
Football
Soccer
Volleyball
Golf

Earliest Practice

Monday, Week #7
Monday, Week #6
Monday, Week #7
Monday, Week #7
Year round

Earliest Competition

On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Beginning week 8 after 10 days of practice
On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Monday, Week #10

<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Earliest Practice</u>	<u>Earliest Competition</u>
Basketball	Monday, Week #21	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Spirit	Year round	Monday, Week #19
Swimming	Year round	Monday, Week #19
Wrestling	Monday, Week #19	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
<u>Spring Sports</u>	<u>Earliest Practice</u>	<u>Earliest Competition</u>
Golf	Year round	Monday, Week #33
Tennis	Year round	Monday, Week #33
Softball	Monday, Week #32	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Baseball	Monday, Week #32	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Track & Field	Monday, Week #33	On the 6th day after 5 days of practice

7.6.8 Season Ends

A season ends when a team/individual does not qualify for, or is eliminated from, post-season competition (playoffs, district, and/or state tournaments).

Once district tournament play has begun or state tournament seeding and selection has taken place, no regular season games/matches/events can be scheduled/played. At the sub-varsity level, the season concludes at the end of regular season competition.

7.6.9 Replacing a Champion or Runner-up That Cannot Continue Participation in an NMAA-Sanctioned Post-Season Event

In the absence of a district rule, if a third-place game was not played and the champion or runner-up cannot advance to the next level of the play-offs/tournament, the other two semifinalists may conduct a play-off game to determine which team advances to the runner-up position. If the replaced team is the champion, the runner-up ascends to that position, while the play-off (time permitting) or flip of a coin would determine the succeeding runner-up. If there is not time for a play-off game, or the schools involved agree, a coin toss determines which team participates at the next level.

7.6.10 Tournament Roster

A school's roster for a post-season tournament cannot be changed after it is placed in the scorebook for that school's first game/contest.

- A. A substitution may be made for an ill or injured player based upon a physician's written verification to the NMAA.
 - 1. The replaced player is not permitted to compete later in the tournament.
 - 2. This regulation applies to all tournaments in all sports.
- B. In team sports, a school qualifies as a team, not as individuals.

Q1: Can a roster be changed after the 1st round of state, generally held the weekend prior to the start of the quarterfinals?

A1: No. Once the tournament begins, starting with the first round or quarterfinals in the absence of the first round, the roster cannot be changed. (Please see 7.6.10 A above)

7.6.11 Ties in District Standings

See tie-breaking procedures for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling listed in this section under each sport's specific guidelines.

7.6.12 Protests of Playing Rules

Protests concerning application of the playing rules shall not be accepted.

7.6.13 School Representation Limited to One Team

A school will be represented during the season and in the play-offs/tournament (district or state) by only one (1) varsity team. Non-varsity teams are ineligible for post-season competition, and are ineligible to participate if the member school does not field a varsity team.

Q1: If a student athlete were to meet a state track and field qualifying standard at a sub-varsity event, can this time/mark be utilized to qualify him/her to the state track and field meet?

A1: No, since sub-varsity teams are ineligible for post-season competition, the time/mark, even though it meets the state qualifying standard, cannot be utilized because it was not set at a state qualifying varsity event.

7.6.14 Participation in both Sub-Varsity and Varsity District Tournaments

A player can participate in both a district sub-varsity level tournament and the varsity district tournament in a given sport season only if his/her participation in the sub-varsity tournament does not exceed the regular season allowable game limitation and none of the tournament days run simultaneously.

Q1: If a district chooses to conduct a sub-varsity district tournament (within their allowable number of games) to coordinate with their varsity district tournament in a given sport, can an athlete be included on both rosters?

A1: No, an athlete cannot represent his school in a sub-varsity level district tournament and a varsity district tournament simultaneously.

7.6.15 Team/Individual Failure to Complete District Tournament(s) Schedule

If a team or individual fails to complete its district tournament schedule, it shall not share in the gate receipts (if applicable), trophies, or be allowed to enter or advance to the next applicable tournament. The next place team or individual is eligible to enter the succeeding tournament, when applicable.

NOTE: Also, refer to 7.6.5 for minimum number of contests required to be eligible for post-season participation.

7.6.16 State Events Jurisdiction

State tournaments/meets are under the jurisdiction of the Director or his/her designee.

7.6.17 Team/Individual Failure to Complete State Tournament/Meet Schedule

If a team/individual fails to complete its state tournament/meet schedule, the team/individual may be placed on probation and not allowed to participate the following year in post-season competition. Reinstatement must be petitioned through the Director.

7.6.18 Officials Fees

Please refer to Section V (5.2) of the NMAA Handbook for all current Officials/Assignors Fees.

7.6.19 Pre-Competition Practice Requirement

- A. Fall sports** - Each individual must have a minimum of five (5) days of practice prior to competition with the exception of football which requires a minimum of ten (10) days of practice.
- B. Winter and spring sports** - Each individual must have a minimum of five (5) days of practice prior to competition, except for Spirit which requires a minimum of ten (10) days of practice.
- C. Waiver of Practice Days** (part or all) - Up to five (5) days of the requirement may be waived by the Director based upon participation in an athletics class (winter and spring sports only).

Exception: Individuals participating in a sport during the most immediate previous season are exempt from this requirement (winter and spring sports only).

7.6.20 Brain Injury – Laws of 2010, Chapter 96, Section 1 (SB38)

- A.** As per 2010 New Mexico State Legislation:
 - 1.** A coach shall not allow a student athlete to participate in a school athletic activity on the same day that the student athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a brain injury or has been diagnosed with a brain injury.
 - 2.** A coach may allow a student athlete to return to athletic participation no sooner than 240 hours (10 days) from the hour in which he/she received a brain injury and only after the student athlete:
 - a.** No longer exhibits any sign, symptom or behavior consistent with a brain injury and;
 - b.** Receives medical clearance from a licensed health care professional.
 - 3.** School districts shall also ensure that each coach and student athlete receives annual brain-injury training through the respective NFHS Learn Concussion courses prior to participation. Individuals may complete the training on or after April 1 of the previous school year to be considered current through the following school year.
 - 4.** Each academic year, school districts shall provide a brain-injury training and information form to be signed by both parent, or guardian, and student athlete prior to participation.

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. Go to the NMAA website (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. 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 to remove protective equipment and to shorten practice. 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. 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.

7.6.22 All-Star Games

- A.** All-star games must be sanctioned/approved by the NMAA Commission to comply with NCAA regulations regarding scope and number, when applicable.
- B.** Each contest must be sponsored or co-sponsored by the New Mexico High School Coaches Association.
- C.** Only graduating seniors are eligible to participate.
- D.** Games must be held after the academic completion of the respective school year.
- E.** Rules/policies of games shall be submitted to the NMAA for prior approval. All rules/regulations of the NMAA must be in effect to achieve sanctioning.
- F.** Net proceeds from the game should be used for a charitable purpose.

7.6.23 Unacceptable Material

Member schools and organizations shall ensure that materials used by students participating in interscholastic activities exemplifies good manners, taste, and are in concert with the objective of interscholastic activities.

The NMAA is not intended to be a substitute for the school's enforcement of regulations which preserve the educational nature of interscholastic activities. It is the duty of the NMAA to reinforce this, but the primary responsibility of protecting the integrity of school activities lies with the administration and advisors/coaches of local schools.

7.6.24 Complaints

Any school/individual filing a complaint must submit in writing a full statement of the facts to the Association. The complaint must be signed or co-signed by a local school administrator. The Association shall send a copy to the administrative head of the school against which the complaint has been made, if applicable.

7.6.25 Post-Season and Playoff Scheduling

- A.** Except for golf, A/AA baseball, and 3A softball, state tournaments must include Saturday or other non-school day as one of the days, unless the tournament begins after 3:00PM.
- B.** With the exception of Golf and Tennis, day before or pre-state tournament practices at the site of the state tournament are not permitted in any sport, unless specified by NMAA officials.

7.6.26 School Co-op Participation

Class A and/or AA schools can petition the Director to co-op/tri-op in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and/or softball. At least one school in a co-op and two schools in a tri-op must show proof that they do not have enough willing participants to field their own team. The co-op/tri-op team must play in the classification in which their combined grades 9-12 enrollment would place them, but in no case higher than class AA.

The schools must apply jointly, via letters signed by their superintendents and/or school boards, and agree to share in all areas including costs, liability, discipline, insurance, etc. The schools must agree to remain in the co-op/tri-op for a minimum of a two-year block.

7.7 CONTEST PROCEDURES

7.7.1 Playing Rules

Member schools must conduct their interscholastic performances and athletic activities according to the rules/regulations of the New Mexico Activities Association as well as those codes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Since the National Federation does not publish a set of rules in either golf or tennis, the NMAA utilizes the following codes:

United States Golf Association (USGA)
United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Policies and procedures as stated in the NMAA Handbook take precedence over the above-named national governing bodies when and where applicable.

7.7.2 NMAA Game/Contest Ejection/Disqualification Policy

The following policy is established pursuant to NMAA Bylaw 2.2.2, “Executive Director – Duties and Responsibilities”. This policy is intended to complement the NMAA Sportsmanship program, “Compete with Class.”

A. Parent/Fan Ejections

The local school/district may establish policies for removal/restriction of parents/fans from games/contests in addition to game management requests from game/contest officials. Parents and fans who are ejected must minimally complete one of the following pertinent NFHS Learn sportsmanship courses and submit certificate of completion to the school Athletic Director prior to returning to attendance: “Sportsmanship” or “Positive Sport Parenting.” The local school/district may also establish additional sanctions/guidelines for return to attendance. See also NMAA Bylaw 7.7.4.

B. Participant – First Ejection/Disqualification

1. One game/contest suspension – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed.
2. Complete the NFHSLearn “Sportsmanship” course, submit certificate of completion to the school Athletic Director.

Participant – Second Ejection/Disqualification

1. Two game/contest suspension – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed.
2. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director/designee
3. A local sanction as determined by the local school athletic director and approved by the NMAA, if necessary.

Participant – Third Ejection/Disqualification

1. Student athlete is removed from athletic competition for 180 school days / 365 calendar days.
2. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director/designee prior to participation, if applicable.

Participant – Battery (the use of force against another resulting in harmful or offensive contact)

1. Suspension from 15% of the sport's game limitations – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed. The "15% of the sport's game limitation" will be rounded up to determine the final suspension (i.e. sub-varsity football has a game limitation of 9; 15% of 9 is 1.35 so the suspension is 2 games).
2. Complete the NFHSLearn "Sportsmanship" course, submit certificate of completion to the Athletic Director.
3. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director.
4. A local sanction as determined by the local school administration and approved by the NMAA, if necessary.
5. Any subsequent ejection will result in a student athlete being removed from athletic competition for 180 school days/365 calendar days.

Participant Ejection/Disqualification Clarification:

- *Student athletes may not dress out in uniform, participate in warm-up, or be directly involved with the contest in any way.*
- *Student athletes may attend the contest, sit on the bench, or stand on the sideline if approved by the local school administration.*
- *Student athletes may travel with the team for out of town contests if approved by the local school administration.*
- *Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed necessary by the Director.*

Coach/School Personnel – First Ejection/Disqualification

1. One game/contest suspension – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed.
2. Complete the NFHSLearn "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course (personal payment of course fees, currently \$20.00), submit certificate of completion to the school athletic director for submission to NMAA.

Coach/School Personnel – Subsequent Ejections/Disqualifications

1. Two game/contest suspension – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed
2. \$100.00 fine paid by the school/district
3. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director/designee
4. A local sanction as determined by the local school athletic director and approved by the NMAA.

Coach Ejection/Disqualification Clarification:

- *Coaches must leave the playing facility of the scheduled contest 30 minutes prior to the start of the event. The coach may have absolutely no further communication with any team personnel (coaches, team members, managers, trainers, etc.) until the contest is concluded.*
- *Coaches may travel with the team for out of town contests in the capacity of a chaperone, but must adhere to the rule stated above prior to and during the contest.*
- *Coaches may attend contests of other teams during the sit out period providing the other game(s) is being played at a site other than that of the coach's team.*
- *Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed warranted by the Director.*

D. Multiple Ejections/Disqualifications of students and/or coach/school personnel – same school, same school year.

1. Athletic Director completes the NFHSLearn "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course

(personal payment of course fees - \$20.00), submit certificate of completion to the school principal and NMAA.

2. \$250.00 fine paid by the school/district
3. Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director/designee
4. A local sanction as determined by the local principal/supervisor and approved by the NMAA

E. Officials – First Offense (Level 2 “unprofessional behavior” as per NMOA)

1. \$50.00 fine paid by the individual
2. Complete the NFHSLearn “Sportsmanship” course, submit certificate of completion to the officials’ commissioner.

Officials – Subsequent Offense (Level 2 “unprofessional behavior” as per NMOA)

1. Probation/suspension as determined by officials’ commissioner
2. Complete the NFHSLearn “Teaching and Modeling Behavior” course (personal payment of course
3. Fees, currently \$20.00), submit certificate of completion to the officials’ commissioner

Note: a) all ejections, all sports, are cumulative for the school year, b) sanctions listed are minimal, and may be increased at the discretion of the Executive Director based upon the severity and frequency of incidents.

F. Process of Appeals for Coach or Participant Ejections/Disqualifications

1. Only incidents wherein a misapplication of rules has occurred are subject to appeal. Ejections/Disqualifications which are a result of an official’s judgment are not subject to appeal.
2. The NMAA office must receive a **complete** game film and a letter which specifies the purpose for the appeal prior to the next contest. This information can be generated by the head coach but the request for appeal must be approved and signed off on by the school’s Principal and Athletic Director. The letter must contain the following information:
 - a. Game location, time, date and level of play
 - b. Time in game at which ejection occurred
 - c. Incidents leading up to the ejection
 - d. Rule that was misapplied, including NFHS rulebook citation.

Disclaimer: Please note that the appeals process will not be in place during regular season tournaments due to timing issues. For example, if a participant is ejected/disqualified in a tournament game on Thursday and his/her team plays again on Friday, it would be extremely difficult for the investigative process to take place. However, if the ejection/disqualification were to happen on the final day of a tournament (i.e., Saturday), it would be possible for a full review and investigation to take place.

3. Once the information is received from the school, the NMAA will conduct an investigation into the matter. The NMAA office will review the game film and letter from the school and will contact the officiating crew from the game to confer with them relative to the ejection/disqualification.
4. If, after the NMAA completes the investigation, it is found that a rule is misapplied, the Ejection/disqualification will be overturned. The final decision to overturn an ejection/disqualification rests with the NMAA Executive Director.

Schools reserve the right to submit game film to the NMAA office at any time for review by staff and by officiating evaluators. Officials are held accountable for their performance and the NMAA will review any film provided to the office and officials will be sanctioned accordingly, if found prudent through the investigative process.

7.7.3 Unethical or Unprofessional Behavior Engaged in by a Coach or Other School Personnel

Coaches/other school personnel who engage in unethical or unprofessional behavior shall be subject to sanctions by the Executive Director, in accordance with the tenets of the NMAA Sportsmanship Initiative, "Compete with Class." Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, publicly disagreeing with the judgment of contest officials, entering officials' locker rooms before or after games, demeaning contest opponents, or otherwise publicly defaming or attacking the credibility of officials or opponents. An example of this behavior would be providing negative quotations in newspaper or other media outlets, including social media platforms, about officiating performance or about opponents.

7.7.4 Crowd Control

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 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.

7.7.5 Advertising

Liquor or tobacco advertising will not be included in any advertising related to an athletic/non-athletic event sponsored or sanctioned by the Association.

Note: While applicable to all school and non-school facilities, at times superseding regulations/policies at the host site of an NMAA event preclude the enforcement of this rule (regular season, playoff, tournament, or state event series).

7.7.6 Insurance Requirements

A. Participant Insurance

Participants must be covered by accident/injury insurance prior to participation. They may purchase school-offered insurance or provide the school with documentation that they are covered by a private insurance carrier or federal health (ex. Indian Health Services) program.

B. School/District Insurance

Member schools must be covered by catastrophic insurance.

Q1: If a school does not have updated physicals and accident/injury insurance for each athlete on file, what sanctions may be levied?

A1: All victories in which athletes who have no documented physicals or accident/injury insurance on file in the school participated, shall be forfeited and the school's athletic program shall be placed on probation.

7.7.7 Medical Service

The home school for each contest/game/event is responsible for seeing that emergency medical service is available, either at the event or on call.

7.7.8 Emergency Equipment and Planning

Venues hosting state-level contests, member-school venues included, must have a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and be equipped with an accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) during state-level contests. Failure to meet either of these requirements forfeits the venue's ability to host state-level contests.

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

A. Practice Sessions/Scrimmages

Radio broadcasting, video recording, or telecasting a practice session or scrimmage by anyone not connected with the participating school(s) is prohibited without the consent of the school(s) involved.

B. Regular Season Contests

Radio broadcasting, telecasting, or video streaming a regular season contest is prohibited without the consent of the host school. This does not prohibit use of film and tape for sports clips by media representatives. Video recording is allowed.

Q1: What sanctions will be imposed by the NMAA if school personnel (coaches, volunteers, teachers, administrators, etc.) are found guilty of video recording a practice or scrimmage in which their school is not involved, without the proper written consent of both schools participating?

A1: Minimally, the violating school will forfeit all future regular season games and possibly post-season tournament games against the opponent(s) being videotaped. Other sanctions, as determined by the Director, may be imposed.

C. District, State Playoffs/Tournaments

1. Media, Broadcast, and Telecast

Each member school grants to the New Mexico Activities Association the exclusive telecast or broadcast rights to all events at the playoff level. "Telecast and broadcast rights" include, but are not limited to, over the air television, cable television, radio, Internet, or web streaming. The "playoff level" includes any post-season event identified as festival, district or state (inclusive of 1st round) by Board of Directors action. The NMAA reserves the right to grant or refuse any request for broadcast/telecast at the playoff level. The NMAA may contract with third parties for the telecast or broadcast of any event at the playoff level and establish rights/fees for any such events.

Media representatives at NMAA sanctioned events are subject to applicable rules/procedures/policies as established by the Association. Please refer to the NMAA Media Policy posted on the NMAA website. Authorization and credentials requests must be submitted to the NMAA Director of Communications.

2. Video Taping and Video Streaming Policy

Videotaping of championship events is permitted. The following guidelines must be followed:

- a. Tripods cannot be used within the spectator seating area.
- b. The use of electricity is prohibited.
- c. Spectators will not be permitted in areas reserved for media personnel or persons conducting official NMAA business (i.e. on the court/field, in press box facilities, and/or playing surfaces).

- d. The NMAA reserves the right to request that a person filming move to another area or stop filming a particular event.
- e. Live streaming of any NMAA State Championship Game/Contest must be approved by the NMAA.

7.7.10 Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

For the purpose of this policy, an unmanned aircraft system (“UAS”) commonly known as a drone is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device. The use of drones is prohibited at NMAA sanctioned contests. If these devices are detected at an NMAA sanctioned event (scrimmage, regular and post-season), contest officials are to stop play/activity and notify game/contest management. It is the responsibility of the contest management to ensure that it is not operating at the facility prior to the resumption of play.

Note - An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases where one of the following is met:

- 1. A broadcast rights holder with permission (should have documentation to verify this fact)
- 2. Department of Defense device with applicable permits
- 3. Law enforcement or air ambulance flight operations

It is the responsibility of each local school district to establish policies for the use of drones during practices.

7.7.11 Team Huddles

Neither team (home or visitor) may huddle on or near the center of the field/court/diamond/mat before, during or after contests.

7.8 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- 7.8.1** Meets and tournaments within the state involving only in-state schools do not need approval of the Director unless it is a state track and field special qualifying meet, state swimming and diving special qualifying meet, or a spirit qualifying competition. (See track and field, swimming and diving, and spirit regulations for application deadlines.)
- 7.8.2** Out-of-state school(s) may not be invited unless the tournament is sanctioned by each state represented in the event. National Federation sanctioning procedures are to be followed where applicable.
- 7.8.3** Invitational tournaments may not be conducted after playoffs begin in that sport.
- 7.8.4** A school entering two (2) teams in the same tournament may not transfer a player(s) from one team to the other team nor may a player be included on more than one team's roster.
- 7.8.5** No player may play in two tournaments, such as but not limited to, varsity and sub-varsity, occurring simultaneously or overlapping. (See NMAA Bylaws 7.6.6 C)
- 7.8.6** Violation of tournament regulations by a school or Student may cause that school or Student to be ineligible for post-season play in that sport.
- 7.8.7** See Section 3.8.2 and 3.8.4 for rules and regulations governing interstate high school tournaments or meets.

- 7.8.8 Rules/regulations of the Association must be followed.
- 7.8.9 Officials used for regular season invitational tournaments, in all sports must be approved by the NMAA office and their Varsity Regional Assigner or Local Assignor prior to their assignments to said tournaments.
- 7.8.10 Entry fees required to participate in any tournament or event must be processed through the host school and cannot be paid to booster clubs or outside agencies.

7.9 GAMES/EVENTS CANCELLED/POSTPONED/RESCHEDULED

- 7.9.1 Since contests are originally scheduled by mutual consent of the administrative head or legally designated school employee, it follows that rescheduled events must also be by mutual consent of the same authorities.
- 7.9.2 The Director is contacted only in instances where schools cannot agree. Contests may be declared forfeited if not played within a reasonable time as determined by the Director.
- 7.9.3 An event called for reason of inclement weather may not be declared forfeited if it can be established that the safety of the participants was at stake. Immediate notification of the other school and officials should follow and changes in games/schedules should be communicated to the NMAA and officials' assigner.
- 7.9.4 Rescheduled games/events are to be played under the same eligibility rules for participation as any regularly scheduled game. (Each participant must be eligible when the game is played.)
- 7.9.5 Games or events where officials are not present are considered postponed unless otherwise determined by the Director.
- 7.9.6 In the event of lightning, refer to the NMAA Lightning/Threatening Weather Policy located on the Sports Medicine page of the NMAA website. If utilizing lightning-detection devices or mobile devices, a 10-mile radius should be used for determining when to suspend play.
- 7.9.7 **Game Cancellation/Reschedule Policy for Official's Pay**
 - A. In the event games are cancelled or rescheduled (dates or times), it is the home school's responsibility to inform the Varsity Regional Assignor or sub-varsity assignor and the NMAA, in writing, at least 24 hours in advance unless unforeseen circumstances occur (i.e., weather, facility, transportation issues). Failure to make this notification will result in the school being responsible for the payment of contest officials. This includes the game fee and mileage/meal/per diem, where applicable.
 - B. The AD, Athletic Coordinator or Athletic Secretary for the host school AND the officials assigned are expected to confirm scheduled games with one another approximately three days in advance of each contest.

7.10 GAMES/EVENTS INTERRUPTED

- 7.10.1 The game officials are the only authoritative body that may interrupt a game or event. In sports where no officials oversee the event, the host school administrator shall determine the rules regarding interrupted games.
- 7.10.2 In the event that a game must be interrupted because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play (i.e. lightning, darkness, power outage, etc.) the head official/referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played; based upon the NFHS definition of a regulation game.

If less than one-half of the game has been played, and it is a district game/post-season game, the game must be rescheduled from the point of interruption/suspension of play.

If less than one-half of the game has been played, and it is a non-district game, the participating schools must mutually agree to reschedule the game from the point of interruption/suspension of play or the game will be considered a non-game.

Note: If one complete half or more of the game has been played in a post-season game, it will be left up to the discretion of the tournament director and/or the NMAA Executive Director to determine if the game is played to its entirety.

- 7.10.3** If the contest is to be finished at a later date, both schools share equally in the expense of the visiting school.
- 7.10.4** Only participants eligible at the interruption are eligible when the contest is resumed.
- 7.10.5** Officials receive one additional round-trip mileage when working the remainder of the game/event at a later date, but receive only one officiating fee. If the same crew cannot be used to complete the game, both the original officiating crew and the crew assigned to complete the game will receive officiating fees. Both crews would receive mileage reimbursement.
- 7.10.6** In the event of lightning, refer to the NMAA Lightning/Threatening Weather Policy located on the Sports Medicine page of the NMAA website. If utilizing lightning-detection devices or mobile devices, a 10-mile radius should be used for determining when to suspend play.

7.11 SELECTION AND SEEDING PROCESS FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS

7.11.1 Selection /Seeding

NMAA Staff members are responsible for the Seeding and Selection process in all team sports.

7.11.2 Selection process for 16-team format for classes A thru 5A in the sport of basketball, 2A thru 5A in the sport of baseball, and A/2A thru 5A in the sport of softball.

Selection process for 12-team format in classes A/3A thru 5A in the sport of soccer, 2A thru 5A in the sport of football, and A thru 5A in the sport of volleyball.

Selection process for 8-team format in 8-man football

Selection process for 6-team format in 6-man football.

Selection process for 4-team format in class A baseball.

A. District Champions will automatically advance to the playoffs. Exception: In the sport of basketball, if the regular season district champion and district tournament champion are different, they will both automatically advance to the playoffs.

B. The remainder of the teams will be selected by the NMAA Staff using the following criteria. There is neither order nor priority in the criteria listed below:

- Finish in regular season district play
- Head to Head
- Wins against district champions regardless of class
- Overall Record

- MaxPreps Freeman Rankings
- Member School Input

****NOTE:** One district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another if they came out of district as a lower seed, with regular season taking precedence over tournament play. In the event of a tie in the regular season district standings, the NMAA Staff may use the six criteria points or any other head to head competition to determine the selection/seeding order between the two teams that are tied.

Example 1: The district teams are Alamogordo, Gadsden, Las Cruces, Mayfield and Oñate. In basketball, prior to the district tournament, the teams are seeded as follows:

Gadsden – 1, Oñate – 2, Mayfield – 3, Las Cruces – 4, Alamogordo – 5

Scenario: Las Cruces enters the district basketball tournament as the 4 seed, but upsets Mayfield, Oñate, and Gadsden and wins the tournament championship. Gadsden (regular season champion) and Las Cruces (tournament champion) both automatically advance into the field of 16. However, should both Mayfield and Oñate receive At-Large berths, by rule Gadsden must be seeded above Oñate, Oñate above Mayfield, and Mayfield above Las Cruces because regular season play takes precedence over tournament play.

Example 2: The same district teams are involved in baseball, but have no district tournament. They finish the regular season as follows:

Mayfield – 1, Alamogordo – 2, Las Cruces – 3, Oñate – 4, Gadsden – 5

Scenario: Mayfield automatically advances into the field of 16. Alamogordo, Las Cruces and Oñate receive At-Large berths. They must be seeded in that order (Mayfield, Alamogordo, Las Cruces and Oñate) due to their finish in regular season play.

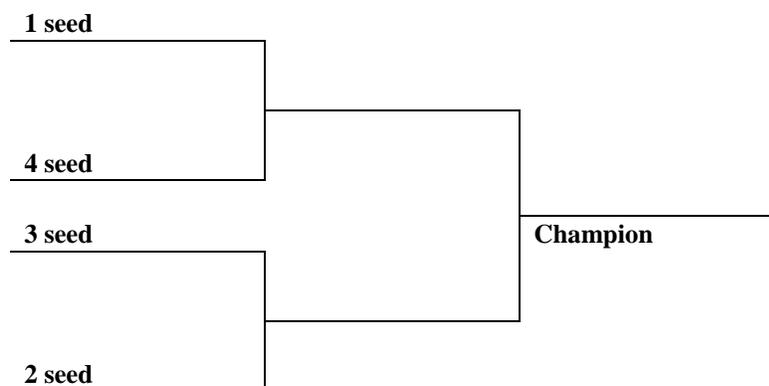
7.11.3 Seeding Process/Criteria for all Classes in Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball.

- Teams will be seeded 1-4, 1-6, 1-8, 1-12 or 1-16 depending on the sport. (See 7.11.2, 7.11.4, and each individual sport for clarification.)
- The higher seed will be the host site for first round games, if applicable.
- There is neither order nor priority in the seeding criteria listed below:
 - Finish in regular season district play
 - Head to Head
 - Wins against district champions regardless of class
 - Overall Record
 - MaxPreps Freeman Rankings
 - Member School Input

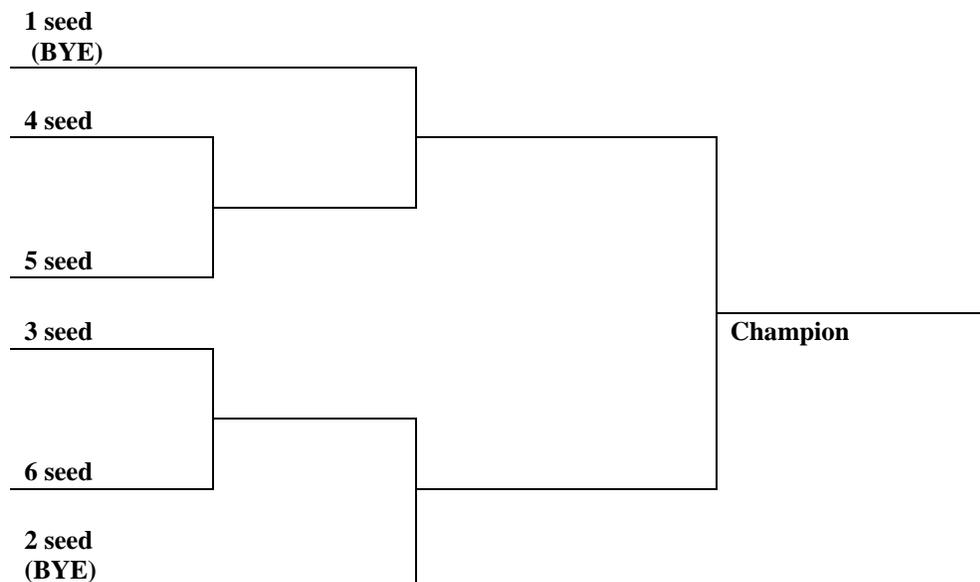
****NOTE:** In the event of a tie among criteria points, head to head will be used to break the tie. If there is no head to head competition, or the head to head competition is tied, then MaxPreps Freeman Rankings will be used to break the tie, except in the sport of tennis where there will be a coin flip.

7.11.4 Seeding Brackets

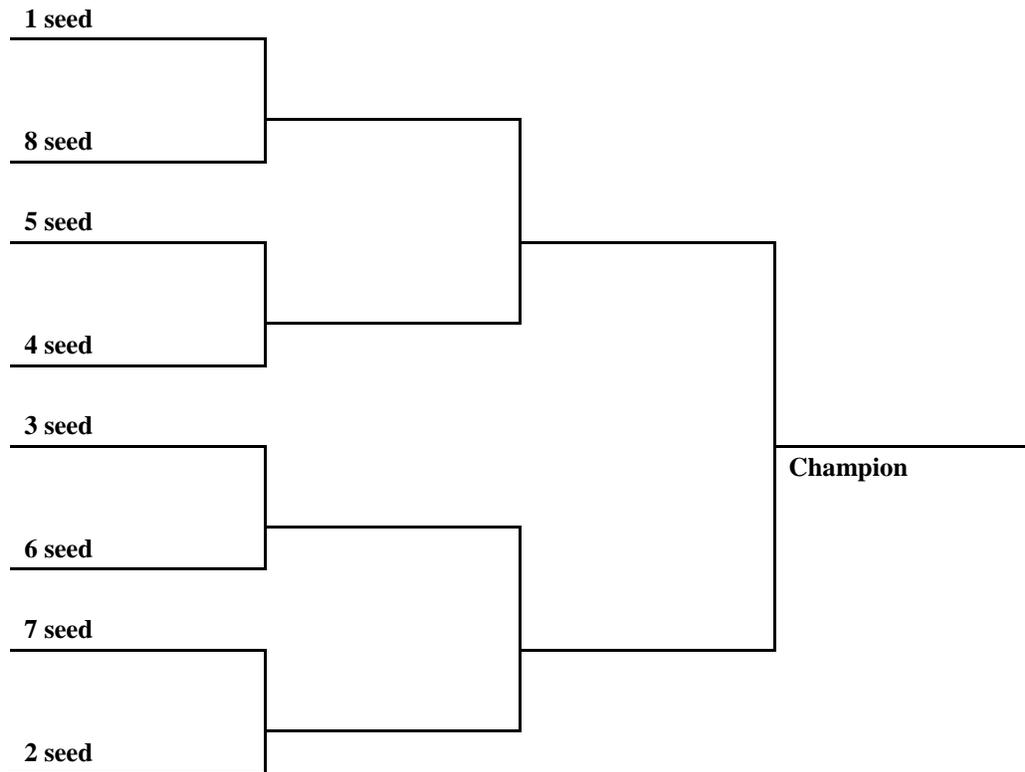
A. 4 – Team Bracket



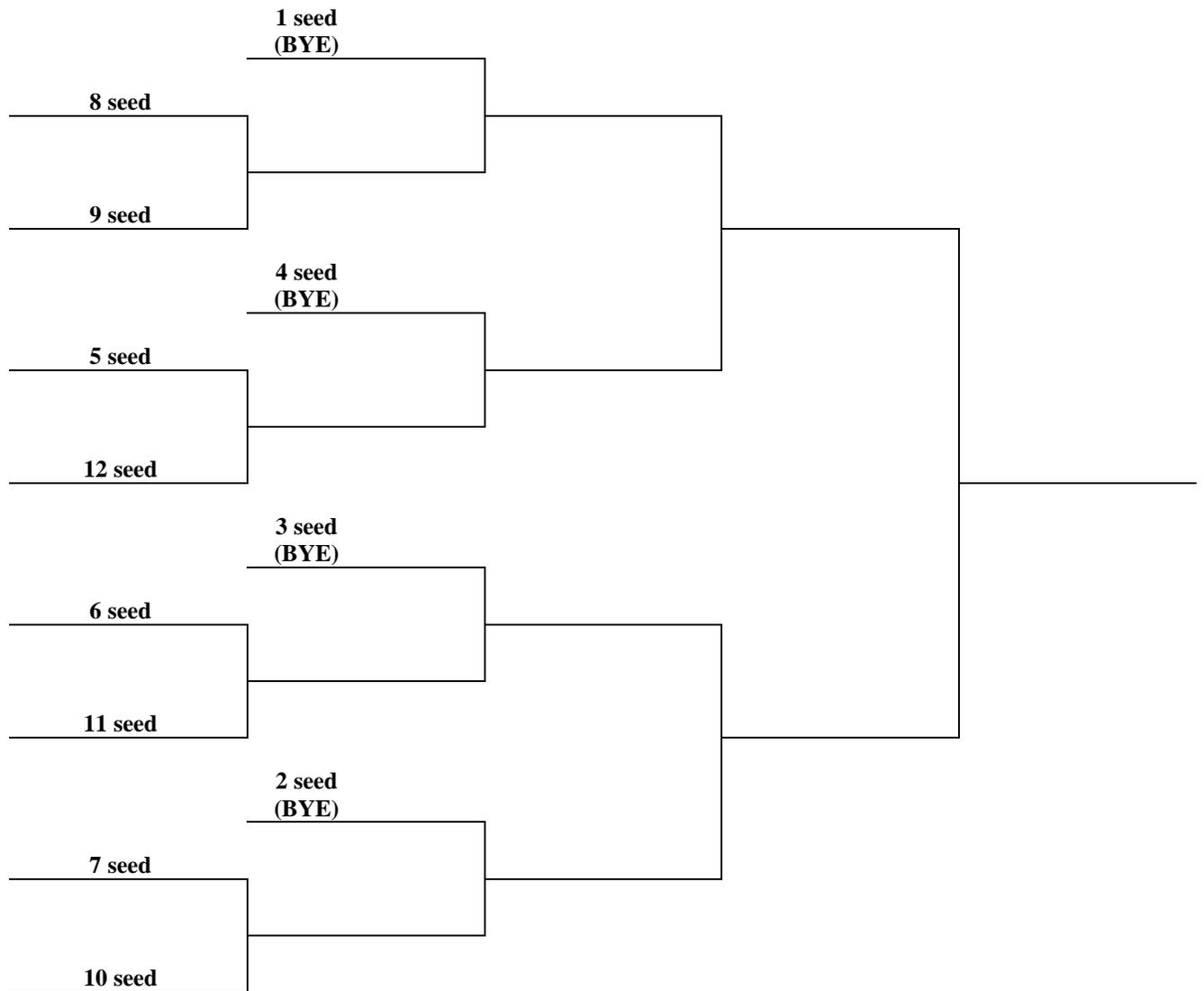
B. 6 – Team Bracket



C. 8 – Team Bracket



D. 12-Team Bracket



E. 16-Team Bracket



7.12.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. Classes** - There are five classes: A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A.
- B. Practice Date** - Practice may begin Monday of Week #32. The season ends when the school is eliminated from or does not qualify for post-season play.
- C. Game Limitation** – Each varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-six (26) total games. Each sub-varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-three (23) total games. This includes regular season and invitational tournament games.

- 1. Innings of Play** - If a school plays two games at different levels (i.e. JV & Varsity) back to back on the same day, at the same site, and against the same school, a student-athlete may participate in 10 innings between the two contests and only count this as one game towards his/her game limitations.

Note: If a player participates in a contest as a courtesy runner only, this will not count towards that player’s game limitations for the season.

D. Pitching Restrictions

- 1.** At the varsity level, a pitcher may throw 120 pitches in any one day. At the sub-varsity level, a pitcher may throw 105 pitches in any one day. 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.

Note – Once a player exceeds the maximum daily pitch count threshold, that player is considered ineligible to pitch, and if used as pitcher once ineligible, the game must be forfeited by the team in violation of these regulations. The school and/or head coach will also be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Executive Director.

Q1: Does a player who has exceeded his maximum daily pitch threshold have to be removed from the game completely, or can he stay in the game at another position?

A1: Once the maximum pitch count threshold is reached, a player can stay in the game and participate at any position other than pitcher.

- 2.** Coaches must post the pitch counts for all players from each game to MaxPreps, along with results, within 24 hours. (Coaches are responsible for players from their own team only)

Note – Failure to post pitch count numbers to MaxPreps within 24 hours will result in the following:

- 1st Offense – Warning
- 2nd & Subsequent Offenses – Head Coach will be suspended for one game

- 3.** Required Rest Periods (varsity & sub-varsity)

Pitches	Required Rest
91+	4 Calendar Days
61-90	3 Calendar Days
41-60	1 Calendar Day
0-40	0 Calendar Days

Calendar day = If a pitcher throws 85 pitches on Tuesday, that player cannot pitch again until Saturday (3 required calendar days of rest).

Note – If a player pitches on consecutive days and accumulates more than 60 pitches total during those two days, the cumulative pitch count must be used to calculate the required rest period. If a player pitches on two consecutive days and is eligible to pitch a third consecutive day, the maximum number of pitches allowed on day three will be 60. The pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if they hit this maximum limit during an at bat, but must exit the game after the batter.

**If a player pitches on three consecutive days, the cumulative pitch count from those three days must be used to calculate the required rest period after day 3. (Example = Pitcher A throws 25 pitches on Thursday, 27 pitches on Friday, and 35 pitches on Saturday, which is 87 pitches cumulatively – required rest after day three would be 3 calendar days.)*

Q1: Pitcher A throws 21 pitches on Thursday, thus is eligible to pitch on Friday. Pitcher A then throws 39 pitches on Friday. Is he eligible to pitch on Saturday? If so, how many pitches can he throw?

A1: Pitcher A totaled 60 pitches between Thursday & Friday, thus is eligible to pitch on Saturday because he did not exceed 60 for the two days nor 40 for Friday. Due to the consecutive day note, the maximum number of pitches allowed for Pitcher A on Saturday would be 60*. *Pitcher A may exceed 60 pitches if he is finishing an at-bat that started before 60.

Q1: Pitcher A throws 21 pitches on Friday, thus is eligible to pitch on Saturday. How many pitches can he throw on Saturday?

A1: Pitcher A can throw 120* pitches on Saturday. The daily maximum is 120*, unless the player pitched the two previous days. *Pitcher A may exceed 120 pitches if he is finishing an at-bat that started before 120.

4. Other Recommendations

Once a pitcher is removed, consideration should be given to the position he is assigned once he is done pitching. Consideration should be given to the throwing requirement of the fielding position once the pitcher vacates the mound.

Develop a pitching philosophy that includes the instruction in proper throwing mechanics, broadening the number of players who will become pitchers on their staffs, and developing a “work up” plan so that a pitcher is not throwing the maximum allowable pitches from the first day of competition (i.e., no more than 65 pitches in weeks 1-3, no more than 85 in weeks 4-6 to allow for growth and arm strength to develop.)

- E. Bat Regulations:** Wood/composite wood bats **only** will be used. See 7.12.6 for specifics.
- F. Protests** – By state association adoption, protests will NOT be allowed.
- G. NMAA District Clinic** – The head coach from each declared baseball school must complete the district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school which will be assessed on March 1st.
- H. State Association Adoption(s)** - The following options in the National Federation Baseball Rulebook have been adopted by a vote of the schools:

1. **NFHS Rule 4-2-2 (10-Run Rule):** A game is ended any time after 5 innings or after 4½ innings when the visiting team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat, or when the home team is behind by 10 or more runs and has completed its turn at bat (after five innings).
2. **NFHS Rule 4-2-3 Regulation Games:** If weather or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game.
 - a. If five full innings have been played or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat; or
 - b. If play has gone beyond five full innings:

If the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.
3. **Suspended Game:** If a game is terminated for any reason (weather, darkness, mechanical failures, etc.) and does not meet the requirements of a regulation game, it will then be treated as a suspended game. The game will be continued from the exact point of suspension with the line-up and batting order of each team the same as it was the moment of suspension.
 - a. **Suspended District Games** - All suspended district games must be completed as indicated above. The game should be completed at its original site, on a date agreed upon by both schools, if feasible. Should circumstances not allow for this (travel/expenses, scheduling conflicts), the following protocol should be followed:

If the two schools meet at a later date, the suspended game will be completed first as part of a doubleheader. This may cause the suspended game to be played at a different site than originally scheduled. However, the home team in the scorebook will be the same as it was originally.
 - b. **Suspended Non-District Games** - Suspended non-district games can be completed if both schools agree to do so. The same protocol should be followed as listed above for district games.
 - c. **Continuation of Suspended Game** - In state tournament play, any suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All state games must be played out to seven innings or more (unless the state adopted 10-run rule ends the game earlier).
4. **Unable to Continue Suspended Game** - If circumstances do not allow for a suspended game to be completed, no win, loss, or tie will be given to either team.
5. **Undetermined Winner** - A regulation game where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a tie for both team's record.
6. **Time Limits** – There is no statewide time limit rule for any level.
 - 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.

**NOTE – Special Run Rules can NOT be implemented as game ending procedures as a district policy or for invitational tournaments (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.*

7. **Forfeited Games – Recorded Scores** – The following procedures for reporting scores should be used when dealing with forfeited games.

- a. **Forfeits Before a Game Begins** – If a game is forfeited for any reason before the first pitch of the game, the score shall be officially recorded as a 10-0 win. Although the NFHS Rulebook states that the score should be listed as 7-0, district tiebreakers set forth in the NMAA Handbook deal with run differentials capped at 10. This will help with the implementation of those tie breakers.

- b. **Forfeits After a Game Begins** – If a game is forfeited for any reason after the first pitch of the game, the following protocol should be used when posting scores:

- i. **Game Has Reached Regulation Standards** – If the game has reached standards to be considered regulation, the score will be that which is recorded at the time the forfeit is announced. However, if the forfeiting team is ahead, the score shall be recorded as 10-0 in favor of the team that was behind.

- ii. **Game Has Not Reached Regulation Standards** – If the game has not reached standards to be considered regulation, the score will be that which is recorded at the time the forfeit is announced. However, if the team that forfeits is behind by less than 10 runs, the final score should be recorded as 10-0. The score should also be recorded as 10-0 if the forfeiting team is ahead (thus giving the team that was behind at the time of the forfeit a 10-0 win).

I. **Speed-Up Rules** - The following speed-up rules have been adopted (Ref. NFHS Baseball Rulebook):

Courtesy Runners:

1. At any time the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.

4. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation.
5. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.

J. Uniformed Coaches - Coaches must be in complete uniform prior to the start of the game. If coaches are not in complete uniform, they will be restricted to their team's dugout.

7.12.2 Umpires

- A.** Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials/umpires for regular season sanctioned contests. When available, three (3) umpires are used at the NMAA State Baseball Tournament.
- B.** Schools are subject to a fine for using non-registered officials for games.

7.12.3 District Tie-breaker procedures

(to be used by ALL districts within the sport of baseball)

- A.** A school must play its full district schedule to be eligible for the championship.
- B.** District placement is determined by district play record
- C.** District Tiebreakers – Two Teams
 1. In case of a tie in district record, the team with the better head to head record in district play will have earned higher placement.
 2. If the two tied teams have the same head to head record in district play, a run differential from the district games between the tied teams will be used to determine placement. A 10 run differential will be the maximum allowed for any one game. Each team involved uses either a plus or minus run differential; if a team wins by 7, they are credited +7; the other team has a deficit of -7 in the calculation.
 3. If the two teams are still tied, a run differential from ALL district games will be used to determine placement. A 10 run differential will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
 4. If the two teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.
 5. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff.
- D.** District Tiebreakers – More Than Two Teams
 1. In case of a tie in district record, the team with the better head to head record in district play between the tied teams will have earned higher placement.
 2. If the tied teams have the same head to head record in district play, a run differential will be used based on all of the head to head district games between the tied teams. A 10 run differential will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
 3. If all teams are still tied, a run differential from ALL district games will be used to determine placement. A 10 run differential will be the maximum allowed for any one game.

4. If the teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.
5. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff

*****NOTE:** *If any step in this process leads to the placement of a team or teams, but still leaves two teams in a tie, the tiebreaker system from Section C will be used as it will revert back to the two team tiebreaker procedure.*

Example A:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with a 2-2 record. Team A defeated Team B by a score of 5-2 and 3-1; therefore, Team A has earned the higher placement.

Example B:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with a 2-2 record. Team A defeated Team B by a score of 4-1 and Team B defeated Team A by a score of 3-2. Team A would have +3 and -1 run differential, totaling +2, while Team B would have -3 and +1 run differential, totaling -2. Therefore, Team A has earned the higher placement.

Example C:

Teams A, B and C are all tied with a 2-2 record. The results of the district games are as follows:
 Team A (4) vs. Team B (2)
 Team A (2) vs. Team C (3)
 Team B (5) vs. Team C (1)

Results: Team A +1, Team B +2, Team C -3
 Therefore, Team B has earned the highest placement, with Team A receiving the second highest placement and Team C finishing last.

Example D:

Teams A, B and C are all tied with a 2-2 record. The results of the district games are as follows:
 Team A (4) vs. Team B (2)
 Team A (2) vs. Team C (3)
 Team B (4) vs. Team C (1)

Results: Team A +1, Team B +1, Team C -2
 Therefore, Team C is placed in 3rd place with the worst run differential. Teams A and B are still tied, however, and thus the two team tie breaker system will now be used. In head to head competition between Team A and B, Team A was 1-0 and has earned higher placement and 1st Place. Team B is placed in 2nd.

7.12.4 State Tournament Information

***NOTE** – See Section 7.11.2 for Seeding & Selection Process

- A. Dates:** Week #45 – 1st Round for Classes 2A-5A
 Week #46 – Semis-Finals for Class A
 Quarters-Finals for Classes 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A

B. State Tournament Format for Class A

1. 4 teams advance to the playoffs.
2. The district champion will automatically advance to the playoffs.
3. The remaining teams will be selected “at large” by the Seeding/Selection Committee (NMAA Staff). There will be 2 at large teams selected.

4. The tournament will be an 4-team single elimination bracket with the semifinals-finals held during Week #46.
5. During the semifinals, the higher seed will be the home team. During the finals, a coin flip will determine home/visitor with the higher seed calling the toss.

Note – in the semifinal match-ups, the higher seed may opt to be the visiting team, but must provide notice of this choice to the Tournament Director a minimum of 24 hours prior to the start of this round.

C. State Tournament Format for Classes 2A-5A

1. 16 teams advance to the playoffs.
 2. The district champion will automatically advance to the playoffs.
 3. The remaining teams will be selected “at large” by the Seeding/Selection Committee. There will be 12 at large teams selected from class 3A, 11 from class 5A, and 10 from class 2A & 4A.
 4. In the first round of 16 for Class 2A, a single game will be held to determine who advances to the quarterfinals. The higher seed will determine the home site. This game should be played on the Wednesday of Week #45.
 5. In the first round of 16 for Classes 3A-5A, a two out of three series will be played with the winner of this series advancing to the quarterfinals. The higher seed will determine the home site and will act as the home team for all three games.
 6. Protocol for scheduling of the first round series (2 out of 3) for Classes 3A-5A is as follows:
 - a. Game 1 should be played on the Friday of Week #45, no earlier than 3pm and no later than 7pm.
 - b. Game 2 should then be played on Saturday (Week #45), no earlier than 10am and no later than 11am.
 - c. Game 3 (if necessary) should be played following the conclusion of Game 2. The recommended time between games is 30-45 minutes.
- *Note:** Deviations from this schedule must be approved by the NMAA.
7. During the quarterfinals, the higher seed will be the home team. During the semifinals and finals, a coin flip will determine home/visitor with the higher seed calling the toss.

Note – in the quarterfinal match-ups, the higher seed may opt to be the visiting team, but must provide notice of this choice to the Tournament Director a minimum of 24 hours prior to the start of this round.

D. Roster Limitation:

Each team is limited to eighteen (18) eligible participants. Rosters may not be changed during the tournament from the original list submitted.

- E. Officials’ Fees -** Fees for state tournament officials are based on the number of games called plus mileage and per diem if applicable.

7.12.5 Financial Information for the 1st Round of 16

A. Class 2A-5A First Round Hosts

1. Each host school will be responsible for paying any expenses that may be incurred during the 1st Round. This includes game officials, tournament personnel, and any other expenses that may occur from hosting the event.
2. The host school will determine if there will be a gate charge for attendance at these events. However, if admission is charged, it will be \$5. The revenues brought in from this gate will go directly to the school. No money will need to be sent to the NMAA or visiting schools.

7.12.6 Baseball Bats

Only wood or composite wood bats may be used. This rule shall be effective for ALL levels of high school play.

- A. Wood Bats – Any single piece wood bat shall be deemed legal as long as it adheres to NFHS standards as listed in the baseball rules book. These standards state that a single piece wood bat must be no more than 36 inches in length with a barrel no more than 2 ¾ inches in diameter.
- B. Composite Wood Bats – Composite wood bats shall be deemed legal as long as they adhere to NFHS standards which state that the bat must be BBCOR certified. This certification must be permanently displayed on the bat by way of a BBCOR stamp.
- C. BBCOR Certified Metal/Composite Bats – ALL BBCOR metal/composite bats are illegal for use during NMAA sanctioned high school contests played in the state of New Mexico. These bats may, however, be used in practice and middle/junior high school competition.

Q1: A New Mexico school is traveling to play in another state. Do the players on the NM team have to use wood/composite bats?

A1: No, since the game is being played outside of the state of New Mexico, the rules and regulations enforced by the State Association of the host school will be followed. For example, a team playing in Colorado would follow the CHSAA Bylaws which allows the use of BBCOR certified (metal or wood) bats.

Q2: A school from outside of the state of New Mexico is traveling to play at a NMAA member school. Are the players on the visiting team required to use wood/composite wood bats?

A2: Yes, since the game is being played in New Mexico, all players participating in this contest must follow NMAA Bylaws which state that only wood/composite bats are allowed. HOWEVER, if the host school wishes to allow an out of state team to use certified BBCOR metals bats, they do have that option. The host school must work with the visiting school ahead of time to decide if this will be allowed, and if so, this information must be given in advance to the game officials. If an out of state team is allowed to use BBCOR metal bats, the NMAA member school/host must still use wood or composite wood bats.

Q3: Are middle school baseball programs required to use wood/composite wood bats?

A3: No, athletes participating in a middle school contest may use any BBCOR certified bat. This includes aluminum, composite, composite wood or wood bats.

- ***Note – A middle school athlete must use a wood/composite wood bat while participating in a contest at the high school level.***

7.13 BASKETBALL

7.13.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. Classes** – There are five classes in both boys and girls: A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A.
- B. Practice Dates** – Practice may begin on the following dates:
1. Girls – Monday of Week #21.
 2. Boys – Monday of Week #21.
- C. Game Limitation** – Each varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-six (26) total games prior to the district tournament. Each sub-varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-three (23) total games. This includes regular season and invitational tournament games.
- D. NMAA Rules Clinic** – At least one head boys’ team coach and one head girls’ team coach from each declared basketball school must complete the district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between November 1st and November 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school which will be assessed on December 1st.
- E. Quarters of Play** – A player is considered to have played a game when he/she competes interscholastically in five or less quarters on any day or night against a given school. (Five quarters is the maximum permitted). This applies to all levels including Junior High/Middle School. If a player enters into his/her sixth quarter of play in a day against a given school, a technical foul will be assessed on the coach and the player removed from the game.

Q1: Can an athlete play in more than one game (excess of 5 quarters) in a day?

A1: Yes, as long as the games are against different schools. Example: A player plays in a one day tournament in which he/she plays multiple games. Each game shall count against his/her maximum allowable game limits.

Q2: Is this rule meant to disallow an athlete from playing more than one game in a day?

A2: No, the purpose of the rule is to simply disallow an athlete from playing in more than 5 quarters against the same school in one day. (i.e. JV and Varsity back to back games).

Q3: Can a player play in a JV game at one site and later travel to another site to play another game against another school on the same day?

A3: Yes, as long as the games are not tournament games. Each game shall count against that student athlete’s game limitation.

- F. Tournament Play** – A student athlete may not participate in more than one tournament simultaneously.
- G. Mercy Rule** – When a team is ahead at half-time by 35 or more points or becomes 35 or more points ahead in the second half, the clock will stop only for time-outs and for two and three shot free throws. If the point differential becomes less than 35 points, regular timing resumes.

Situation 1: With Team A leading by 34 points in the second half and shooting a 1-and-1,

- Ruling:** Team A makes the front end of the bonus situation. The clock would start as Team A has gone ahead by 35 points and it is not a two or three shot free throw situation.
- Situation 2:** With Team B trailing Team A by 35 points in the second half and Team B shooting free throws, Team B makes the first free throw of the bonus situation.
- Ruling:** The clock would not continue to run because the point differential is less than 35 points.
- Situation 3:** Team A makes a basket and is now ahead by 35 points in the second half. While making the basket, a Team A player is fouled and will shoot one free throw.
- Ruling:** The clock would continue to run and Team A would shoot one free throw. The clock will only stop on two and three shot free throws.
- Situation 4:** Team A is leading by 35 points in the second half and Team B double dribbles.
- Ruling:** The clock would continue to run because the mercy rule takes effect in the second half.

- H. Schedule Deadlines/Procedures** – One copy of the schedule for the succeeding school year is to be sent to the NMAA and must be postmarked on or before the Tuesday after Labor Day. Delinquent schedules are subject to a fine.
- I. Girls' Basketball Specifications** – The basketball used by all classes for Girls play shall be 28½” in circumference, weighing 18-20 ounces.

7.13.2 Officials

- A.** Officials working NMAA sanctioned events must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials for NMAA regular-season sanctioned contests. Three (3) NMAA/NMOA officials may be used.
- B.** Schools are subject to a fine for using non-registered officials.
- C.** Officials are selected and assigned through the commissioners' system for all regular season games.
- D.** A school may designate up to 5% of the officials in each region of the state as a #3 (“will not use”) on the preferential list which is due in the NMAA office the Tuesday after Labor Day. The coach must provide a narrative statement within the context of one or more of the “Categories for Justification of Exclusion” in order for the exclusion to be considered.

7.13.3 District Tournaments

- A. Dates:** Girls/Boys: Week #35 for classes A - 5A
- B. Roster Limitation** - Each team is limited to fourteen (14) uniformed squad members for their district tournament. Rosters may not be changed during the tournament from the original list submitted.
- C. Event Conduct** - The site, seeding, bracket, personnel, and other items are left to the discretion of the schools in the district. The district tournament is under the direction of the district chairperson and/or his/her designee. Ticket prices will be set by the NMAA Executive Director.

D. Qualifying Procedures for State Tournaments

The regular season District Champion and the District Tournament Champion (could be one or two per district) advance to the NMAA State Tournament with the rest of the field being made up of at-large berths.

E. District Tie- Breaking Procedures to Determine Placement

(to be used by ALL districts within the sport of basketball)

1. A school must play each member of the district an equal number of times to be eligible for the championship.
2. District placement is determined by district play record.
3. If two teams are tied for 1st place there will be an automatic playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds. This game will be played at a neutral site as determined by the competing schools in conjunction with the NMAA Executive Director.
4. In the event that more than two teams are tied for 1st place, placement is determined using the following procedures:
 - A. The team(s) with the better head to head record in district play between the tied teams will have earned higher placement.
 - B. If more than two teams are still tied, a point differential of +10 and -10 of the district games between the tied teams will be used to determine placement.
 - C. If a tie still exists, a point differential of +10 and -10 of all district games will be used to determine placement.

Note: When the first place team has been determined through the tie-breaking procedures, the remaining teams if tied will go through the process once again, beginning with 4A, to determine who will play the first place team in the automatic playoff game.

Note: If only the last place team is determined through the tie-breaking procedures, the remaining teams if tied will go through the process once again, beginning with 4A. If there are only two remaining teams tied, they will play in the automatic playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds.

- D. If a tie still exists, a coin flip will be used to determine placement. The NMAA Executive Director or designee in conjunction with the tied schools will conduct the flip. (If three teams are tied, three coins will be tossed with the odd team receiving 3rd place and the remaining two teams having a playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds.)

F. Ties for second place or lower

When two or more teams are tied for second place or lower, please adhere to 4 above. A playoff game shall not be included in the process.

- G. Officials** - 3-Person mechanics (officials) are required for district basketball tournament games in all classifications for both boys' and girls'.

7.13.4 State Tournament Information

A. Dates: Classes A thru 5A Girls/Boys – 1st Round State Tournament – Week #36
(Girls 1st round games played Friday, Boys 1st round games on Saturday)
Classes A – 5A Girls/Boys – Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals – Week #37

B. Roster Limitation - Each team is limited to fourteen (14) uniformed squad members.
Rosters may not be changed during the tournament from the original list submitted.

Note: Twenty (20) members of a qualifying team will be permitted to sit on the bench, behind the bench, or at the scorer's table. This includes players, coaches, managers, athletic trainers, administrators, bus drivers, etc...

C. 1st Round of State Financial Reports - A report, along with the distribution, must be made to the NMAA on or before the appropriate deadlines. The report, money, and unused tickets is due twenty-one (21) calendar days after the conclusion of the event. The percentage of gate receipts remitted is set annually by the Board upon recommendation from the Director.

D. State Tournament Pairings - The regular season District Champion and the District Tournament Champion (could be one or two per district) advance to the NMAA State Tournament. The remainder of the field will be made up of at-large berths. Selection and seeding will take place to determine the 16-team bracket for Classes A-5A. (See 7.11). Higher seeds will host first round games.

Note: One district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another if they came out of district as a lower seed, with regular season taking precedence over tournament play. In the event of a tie in the regular season district standings, the NMAA Staff may use the six criteria points listed in 7.11.2 or any other head to head competition to determine the selection/seeding order between the two teams that are tied.

E. Officials' Fees - Fees for state tournament officials are based on the number of games called plus mileage and per diem if applicable.

F. Use of Noisemakers – Noisemakers are permitted as long as they do not simulate a whistle or horn. Tournament administrators and/or game officials have final jurisdiction over what is or is not allowed.

7.14 CROSS COUNTRY

7.14.1 General Rules/Policies

A. Classes - There are four classes in both boys and girls: A/2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A.

B. Practice Date - Practice may begin Monday of Week #7.

C. Practice Days Requirement - Each team or individual must have at least five (5) days of practice before competing in a meet.

D. Meet Limitations - Each team or individual is limited to eight (8) regular season meets, prior to the district meet in all classifications. This includes fun runs, road races, charity events, and any other paid or unpaid running events, etc.

E. NMAA District Clinic - At least one head boys' team coach and one head girls' team coach from each declared cross country school must attend the NMAA district clinic at the NMHSCA Coaches Clinic or complete the district clinic online at www.nmact.org between

August 1st and August 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school per head coach which will be assessed on September 1st.

- F. **Distance** - The race or competition distance is between 1.5 and 3.1 miles for both boys and girls.
- G. **Championship Host Site** - Each state championship host site is mandated to host an open regular season meet prior to the state championships so that all schools have an opportunity to compete at the same location of the state championships. This meet must be conducted between Week #14 and Week #16.

7.14.2 District Meet

- A. The district meets are held on Friday or Saturday of Week #18.
 - B. Number Qualifying for State Championships
 - 1. 3A-5A – District meets qualify the top three (3) teams in each district and the top three (3) individual district meet finishers from non-qualifying teams to the State Championships.
 - 2. A/2A – District meets qualify the top six (6) teams in each district and the top four (4) individual district meet finishers from non-qualifying teams to the State Championships.
- * Note: All runners finishing in the top ten (10) at the district meet qualify for the State Championships with the exception of those finishing 8th or 9th on their team.
- B. Teams are allowed to enter a maximum of nine (9) runners in the District Meet (only). At all other varsity meets, teams are limited to seven (7) runners.

7.14.3 State Championships Entry Procedures

Entries must be correctly submitted prior to Sunday of Week #19 at 11:59pm. District hosts are responsible for submitting the results using the proper form and electronically sending them to the NMAA office. A \$500 fine will be imposed to the district host who does not send in the meet results prior to the deadline.

7.14.4 State Championships

- A. **Date** - State championships are held on the Saturday of Week #19.
- B. **Distance:** The race or competition is between 1.5 and 3.1 miles for both boys and girls.

7.15 FOOTBALL

7.15.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. **Classes** - There are seven classes: 6-Man, 8-Man, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A.
- B. **Practice Regulations**
 - 1. **Start Date** - Practice may begin on Monday of Week #6.
 - 2. **Minimum Practices before Participation** - Each team or individual must have at least eight (8) days of practice before participating in a scrimmage and ten (10) days of practice before competing in a game. The first regular season game may be played beginning Week #8.

The first four (4) days of practice for each participant shall be a time of conditioning without wearing full pads. The first two days of practice should be in shorts and helmets (no pads). During days three and four participants should be in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets (“shells”). Full pads can then be worn during all remaining practices.

A maximum of four (4) days of conditioning may be waived if verification is submitted in writing to the Director that the student has been enrolled in a fitness class/athletic period under the jurisdiction of school personnel. (Applies to the second grading period only)

3. Full Pads / Full Contact Regulations by Week

Week 1 – The first two days of practice should be in shorts and helmets (no pads). During days three and four players should be in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets (“shells”). Full pads can then be worn during days five and six – during this time full contact is allowed but should be limited to no more than 30 minutes per player on each day.

***Week 2** – Full contact is allowed for a total of no more than 120 minutes per player per week. Also, on a single day, full contact should be limited to no more than 30 minutes per player. In addition, one intra-squad or scrimmage would be allowed.

**NOTE – Per NMAA Bylaws, schools are allowed ONE scrimmage. Players must participate in a minimum of 8 days of practice prior to participating in a scrimmage and 10 days of practice prior to competing in a game.*

Week 3-End of Season – Full contact is allowed for a total of no more than 90 minutes per player per week. Also, on a single day, full contact should be limited to no more than 30 minutes per player.

Important Definitions

Full Contact – football drills or live game simulations where “live action” occurs.

Live Action – contact at game speed where players execute full tackles at a competitive pace taking players to the ground.

Shells – players are dressed in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets

**NOTE* – It is assumed that when players are in “shells”, no live action will occur

4. In football, schools may use dummies, blocking sleds and hand shields for conditioning and instructional purposes during the off-season. Helmets and pads are not allowed during the offseason or summer.

C. Competition Period: A student shall not accumulate more than 8 football experiences within a 5-day period. A football experience is defined as follows:

- Participating in more than one play on offense during a quarter, or
- Participating in more than one play on defense during a quarter

**NOTE* – Special Teams plays do not count towards participation limits / football experiences.

EXAMPLE: Student A is on both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Football Teams. The student participates in the JV and Varsity games as follows (FE = Football Experience):

Tuesday, Junior Varsity

1st Quarter – 2 plays on offense (1 FE), 12 plays on defense (1 FE)

2nd Quarter – 15 plays on defense (1 FE)
 3rd Quarter – 12 plays on defense (1 FE)
 4th Quarter – 1 play on offense (NOT an FE), 11 plays on defense (1 FE),

TOTAL FOOTBALL EXPERIENCES = 5

Friday, Varsity

1st Quarter – 10 plays on offense (1 FE)
 2nd Quarter – 15 plays on offense (1 FE)
 3rd Quarter – 14 plays on offense (1 FE)
 4th Quarter – Did not play

TOTAL FOOTBALL EXPERIENCES = 3

TOTAL FOOTBALL EXPERIENCES FOR THE 5-DAY PERIOD = 8

D. Game Limitations

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 team or individual is limited to total regular season games as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Varsity</u>	<u>Non-Varsity</u>
6- Man	9	8
8-Man	10	9
2A thru 6A	10	9

Q1: *Our program has several student-athletes that play on both a sub-varsity and varsity team. During the 11-week football contest season, our sub-varsity team plays during our varsity team's bye week. Can a student-athlete participate in a football contest during all 11 weeks?*

A1: *No. Individuals are limited to 10 games per season. Per the definition of a football game, a student-athlete is considered to have played one game when he/she participates in eight or less football experiences within a 5-day period.*

Q2: *Since special teams plays do not count as football experiences, can a student-athlete that participates on special teams only play a game during all 11 weeks of the football contest season?*

A2: *No. Individuals are limited to 10 games per season. Although this student-athlete may participate in zero football experiences by that definition, he/she has still participated and thus can only do so in 10 of the 11 weeks to be in compliance with game limitations.*

E. 8-Man football Rules, Recommendations and Information

1. Where possible, the field will be 100 yards long and 40 yards wide. The hash marks will be placed 40 feet from the sideline (13 yards 1 foot).
2. The 80 yard field is acceptable if the schools are unable to extend to 100 yards. The field must be 40 yards wide.
3. The end zones will be 10 yards in length.

4. 4 downs to make a 1st down which is 10 yards.
 5. The kickoff on a 100 yard field will be from the 40 yard line. The kickoff of an 80 yard field will be from the 30 yard line.
 6. Scoring is identical to 11-Man football. 6 points for touchdowns, 2 points for running or passing after touchdowns, 1 point for an extra point kick, 3 points for field goals, etc.
 7. Penalties will be enforced exactly the same as 11-Man football.
 8. Only five players must be on the offensive line of scrimmage.
 9. There is no number code. Officials will need to be very observant as to who is eligible or ineligible on each offensive play.
- F. Schedule Deadlines/Procedures** - One copy of the schedule for the subsequent school year is to be sent to the NMAA and must be postmarked on or before May 15. Delinquent schedules are subject to a fine to the school, payable to the Association.
- G. NMAA District Clinic** - The head football coach from each declared football school must attend the NMAA in-person district clinic or complete the alternate version of the district clinic if it is a year where the in-person clinic is not mandatory. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school per head coach which will be assessed on September 1st.
- H. Tie Breaker** - The tie-breaking procedure in the National Federation Football Rulebook is used in all games (varsity, sub-varsity and middle school) between New Mexico schools, as well as out-of-state guests, with the results determining the winner.
- I. Mercy Rule**
- 6 Man** - When a team is ahead at halftime by 35 or more points or becomes 35 or more points ahead in the second half, the clock will not stop during out of bounds, incomplete passes or first downs. The clock only stops for timeouts or scores. If the point differential becomes less than 35 points, regular timing resumes. A game is ended at halftime or during the second half if a team is 50 or more points behind.
- 8-Man and 11-Man** - When a team is ahead by 35 or more points, the clock will not stop during out of bounds, incomplete passes or first downs. The clock only stops for timeouts or scores. If the point differential becomes less than 35 points, regular timing resumes. A game is ended at halftime or during the second half if a team is 50 or more points behind.
- J. Post-Game Protocols for Spectators** – At the conclusion of each football game, spectators may not access the field.
- Exception – For State Championship contests, spectators may be allowed access to the field after the conclusion of the awards presentations should the host school allow for it.
- K. Coaches Education** – Football Coaches must complete the USA Football Heads Up Certification Course. It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure that each coach has this certification, which is current for four (4) years from the date of completion. This requirement is for ALL middle school / junior high and high school coaches.
- J. Use of Play Clock** – Per NFHS Rules, an electronic/field level 40/25-second play clock can be used if the host school has the technology and staff available to effectively operate the system. Game officials can opt to keep this 40/25-second count on the field if it is determined that the clock is malfunctioning or operated inconsistently.

7.15.2 Officials

- A. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned events must be registered through the Association.
- B. The use of a non-registered official for any contest shall subject the violating school to a fine.

C. Number of Officials:

6-Man/8-Man/2A/3A.....Four (4)
4A/5A/6A.....Five (5)*

*Provided there are sufficient numbers of registered NMAA/NMOA officials to satisfy this requirement.

- D. Officials are selected and assigned by the commissioners, under the direction of the state commissioner, for regular season games and play-off games.
- E. A school may designate up to 5% of the officials in each region of the state as a #3 (“will not use”) on the preferential list which is due in the NMAA office on or before June 1st; however a coach must provide a narrative statement within the context of one or more of the “Categories for Justification of Exclusion” in order for the exclusion to be considered.

7.15.3 District Information

- A. A school must play its full district schedule to be eligible for the championship.
- B. In case of a two team tie for placement within the district, the team that defeated the other in regular district play will earn the higher placement.
- C. In the event that more than two teams tie, placement is determined by a point spread system during the season as follows:
 - 1. Compare the results of head to head competition: If one team has defeated the other two, that team has earned a higher placement.
 - 2. Placement shall be determined by the point spread of games played between the tied teams, with 13 points being the maximum allowed for any one game. Each team involved uses either a plus or a minus spread; if a team wins by 10, they are credited (+10); the other team has a deficit (-10) in the calculation.
 - 3. If two teams tie on the point spread of the tied teams, the team which defeated the other team in regular district play has earned the higher placement.
 - 4. If all teams tie in the point spread of the tied teams, the point spread on all district games shall be used, with 13 points being the maximum allowed for any one game.
 - 5. If two teams tie in the point spread of the tied teams, the team which defeated the other team in regular district play has earned the higher placement.
 - 6. If all teams are still tied, a coin toss determines placement.
 - a. The three tied teams each flip a coin.
 - b. The “odd man out” is the third place team.
 - c. First and second place is then determined by which team defeated the other team in regular district play.

Example: A, B, and C all flip a coin. A and B coins are heads, C coin is tails. C is therefore 3rd place. A beat B head-to-head during regular district play. A is first place and B is second place.

7. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff.

7.15.4 Playoff Information

A. General

1. Each school determines the number of players it suits out for playoff games.
2. In case of a tie score in playoff games, including the championship, a winner is determined by the procedure set forth in the National Federation Football Rulebook Ten-Yard-Line Overtime Procedure.

B. Playoff Procedure and Seeding for a 6-Team format in 6-Man Football

1. Six teams advance to the playoffs.
2. The district champions automatically advance to the playoffs.
3. There will be four At-Large selections chosen by NMAA Staff.
4. The six teams will be seeded 1 through 6
5. The higher seed will host the quarterfinal and semifinal games. In the final game, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

C. Playoff Procedures and Selection/Seeding for 8-Team Format in 8-Man Football

1. Eight teams advance to the playoffs.
2. The district champion automatically advances to the playoffs. The remaining teams will be selected At-Large by the NMAA Staff to fill the 8-team bracket.
3. The 8 teams will be seeded 1-8 by the NMAA Staff.
4. The higher seed will host the quarterfinal games.
5. In the semifinal and final rounds, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

D. Playoff Procedures and Selection/Seeding for 12-Team Format for Classes 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A

1. Twelve teams advance to the playoffs.
2. The district champion automatically advances to the playoffs. The remaining teams will be selected At-Large by the NMAA Staff to fill the 12-team bracket.
3. The 12 teams will be seeded 1-12 by the NMAA Staff.
4. The higher seed will host the first round of 12 and quarterfinal games.
5. In the semifinal and final rounds, the home site is determined by past history. If the two schools do not have past history, the higher seed will host.

For Classes 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, & 8-man, Past history is defined by the NMAA as any semifinal or final round playoff game between 2 schools dating back to 1953.

Q1: Highland played Onate in the semifinals in 2005 at the Field of Dream. These two teams play this year in the finals. Based on past history, where will the game be held?

A1: Based on the two schools' past history, the game will be held in Albuquerque.

For Class 6-Man, Past history is defined by the NMAA as any final round playoff game between 2 schools dating back to 1953.

Q2: Reserve played Vaughn in the semifinals in 2017 at Reserve. These two teams play this year in the finals. Would the semifinal game from 2017 be used when determining past history?

A2: No, only final round match-ups are used when determining past history for 6-Man.

Q3: Belen played Artesia in Artesia in the 2005 quarterfinals due to the fact that Artesia got a first round bye in the round of 12. If Belen and Artesia play this year in the semifinals, where will the game be held?

A3: The quarterfinal game does not qualify as "past history" because it is not a semifinal or final. Thus, the location will be determined based on potential previous match-ups between these schools that may have taken place during the semifinals or finals. If these schools have no past history, the higher seed will host.

Q4: Animas played Melrose in the 6-man semifinals in 2004. The game was played in Animas. Both schools are now in the 8-man division in football and are playing in this year's 8-man championship. Where will the game be held?

A4: The game will be held in Melrose based on the past history of the two schools. The classification of the schools is not a factor in this decision.

E. Dates and Times for Football Playoff Games (1st Round, Quarterfinals, Semifinals)

1. If the two schools are 250 or more miles apart (one way), the following format will be used:
 - a. Mutual agreement by participating schools.
 - b. Non-agreement, the game will be played on Saturday at 1pm.
2. If the two schools are less than 250 miles apart (one way), the following format will be used:
 - a. Mutual agreement by participating schools.
 - b. Non-agreement, the home team makes the choice of:
 - 1) Friday at 7:00 or 7:30 p.m., or
 - 2) Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
 - c. In the event there is a stadium conflict, the date and time will be decided by the NMAA with priority given to the team that must travel the farthest distance.

NOTE: The 250 miles is from one city to another as indicated on the NMAA (NMOA) Officials chart utilized to determine payment for mileage.

F. Dates and Times for Football Championship Games (Finals)

- 1. Championship games must be played on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m., unless there is mutual agreement between the two schools to play on Friday night.

7.15.5 Financial Information

- A. After expenses, the net profit from all playoff/championship game receipts are split 70% to the Association and 30% to the participating schools. Deficits are the responsibility of the participating schools.
- B. Financial Reports - The NMAA financial report found on the website along with all supporting documentation concerning expenses and tickets must be sent to the NMAA within 21 calendar days of the event. A check with the amount owed to the NMAA must accompany this information. Distribution to the visiting school is made directly to that school from the host school.

7.15.6 Playoff Weeks

Week 16	6-Man playoff brackets released (Saturday Evening)
Week 17	6-Man Quarterfinals 8-Man & Class 2A playoff brackets released (Saturday Evening)
Week 18	6-Man Semifinals, 8-Man Quarterfinals, & 2A 1 st Round of Twelve 3A, 4A, 5A, & 6A brackets released (Saturday Evening)
Week 19	6-Man Finals, 8-Man Semifinals, & 2A Quarterfinals 3A, 4A, 5A, & 6A First Round of Twelve
Week 20	8-Man Finals & 2A Semifinals 3A, 4A, 5A, & 6A Quarterfinals
Week 21	2A Finals 3A, 4A, 5A, & 6A Semifinals
Week 22	3A, 4A, 5A, & 6A Finals

7.16 GOLF

7.16.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. **Classes** - There are three classes in both boys and girls: A-3A, 4A and 5A.
- B. **Practice Dates** - Practice is open year round.
- C. **Competition Season** - The competitive season is as follows:

Fall Season:	Week #10 to the end of Week #20
Spring Season:	Week #33 through the State Tournament.
- D. **Match/Tournament Limitation** - Each team/individual is limited to ten (10) regular season matches/tournaments, regardless of the level at which they are played, prior to the district tournament. Matches/tournaments during each split season count toward the limit allowed during the school year (i.e. 10). District and state competitions are considered post-season events. District tournaments must be held during Week #44 or #45 and are limited to an 18-

hole event. One player represents team/school participation. Schools/individuals cannot qualify legs during post-season events.

NOTE #1: Players must participate in a minimum of 25% of the school's regular season scheduled tournaments prior to the district tournament in order to be eligible for post-season competition. Effective 2019-2020 school year.

NOTE #2: Only one team per school may qualify a leg at each tournament. No more than 5 players may be on a team. Additional school members who play in tournaments on a space available basis may qualify individual legs, as can the members of the team. Non-varsity individuals/teams may not qualify legs to the state tournament. In addition, non-varsity individuals/teams cannot qualify to the state tournament through the district tournament. Regular season meet limitations apply to non-varsity participants.

- E. Invitational Tournament Restriction** - Invitational tournaments are limited to eighteen (18) holes. Practice rounds may be played provided no time is missed from school for travel or for play of the practice rounds.
- F. Coaching and USGA Rule 24.4** - A coach or school representative must be present and cannot play while his or her players are competing on the golf course. The coach or school representative must have a coaching license to coach his/her players. Each school may appoint up to two persons (coaches) who may give advice to participants representing that school. The coach may not stand behind his/her player while the player is making a stroke. The designated coach must be identifiable by wearing the NMAA golf coaching badge. The coach and his/her cart are outside agencies and not part of the player's side.

Communication between the coach and a player is only allowed from tee-to-green. Once the player and his/her golf ball are on the green, no communication may occur between the player and the coach until all members of the playing group have completed the hole and left the putting green. Penalty for violation - At committee's discretion, the player will be assessed a 2-stroke penalty.

- G. Unsportsmanlike Conduct** - Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any event. An athlete using abusive language, throwing clubs, or who is involved in any other act judged to be unsportsmanlike by the Tournament Committee will be penalized in the following manner: First offense - a two-stroke penalty will be incurred by the player, Second offense - disqualification. Disqualified players cannot participate in the next scheduled event. (7.7.2)
- H. Ethics** - Teams entering a tournament may not withdraw due to weather and then reschedule another tournament if the original tournament was completed.
- I. Dress Code** - Traditional golf apparel that is in good taste in conjunction with local course rules will be enforced.
- J. Cell phones** - Cell phones must be kept on SILENT on the golf course and can NOT be used to make phone calls, however, use of cell phones to take pictures is permitted as long as it is not a distraction to the golfers or holds up the pace of play. ALL phone conversations MUST be made at the clubhouse. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave the course. Players may not use cell phones or other communication devices while playing.
- K. Sunday Practice** - Coaches/Parents are prohibited from playing during the Sunday practice round prior to the state tournament.
- L. Range finders** - A player competing in a NMAA sanctioned golf tournament, or a designated head coach, may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to

gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of USGA Rule 4.3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used. In such a case the player would also be disqualified from the next event for unsportsmanlike conduct (NMAA bylaw 7.7.2).

The distance between objects is a matter of public information and therefore not advice. As such, if a fellow competitor asks for yardage information, the player and/or coach utilizing a distance measuring device must provide that information in a timely manner or risk incurring a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

M. Scrimmage - If a school team elects to have a scrimmage, it must be the first event of that school year, regardless of season (fall or spring). Only one scrimmage is allowed per year per team/individual as defined in Section XIV - Definitions. All players are strongly encouraged to carry the NMAA Hard Card.

N. NMAA District Clinic - The head coach from each declared golf school must complete the district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine per coach to the school which will be assessed on March 1st.

7.16.2 Qualifying Procedure

A. General

1. **Matches** - Matches must be played on a rated course.
2. **State Qualifying Formula** - Target Scores (shot three times on at least two different courses):

$$\text{NMAA Course Rating} = \text{USGA Course Rating} + ((\text{USGA Course Slope} - 113) \times .1)$$

5A Boys:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 40
5A Girls:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 115
4A Boys:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 45
4A Girls:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 120
A/3A Boys:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 55
A/3A Girls:	NMAA Course Rating x 4 + 130
Individual Boys:	NMAA Course Rating + 10
Individual Girls:	NMAA Course Rating + 25

3. **NMAA Course Rating** - Use as is to compute the target scores. Do not round off NMAA course ratings; round the total to the nearest whole number in normal fashion after scores have been shot. Current course rating and slope database can be found on the USGA website: www.usga.org.

Example:

$$70.9 \times 4 = 283.6 + 45 = 328.6 = 329 \text{ (Boys 4A)}$$

$$70.8 \times 4 = 283.2 + 45 = 328.2 = 328 \text{ (Boys 4A)}$$

$$70.6 + 10 = 80.6 = 81 \text{ (Boys Individual)}$$

$$70.3 + 10 = 80.3 = 80 \text{ (Boys Individual)}$$

4. **Tee Positions** - Must correspond with course rating (do not use white tee markers and the blue course rating)
 - a. If regular tee position is moved forward on more than three holes, subtract two strokes from the course rating.

- b. If preferred lies are used or the ball is lifted, cleaned and replaced, subtract three strokes from the course rating.
5. **Miscellaneous - Spectator** rules are the same as identified for the state tournament (no advice or discussion with players on the course). Use of caddies and powered carts of any kind are not allowed. Pull carts are allowed at any time. Following [USGA Rules for Golfers with Disabilities](#), participants with written medical authorization, submitted and approved in advance by the NMAA may be allowed to use a powered golf car or cart.
6. **Maximum Score** - A player's score for each hole is capped at a maximum of nine strokes. The maximum score is achieved by the number of strokes made including any penalty strokes that may have been assessed. Once the player reaches the maximum score of nine, the player shall stop play for that hole. A player who does not complete a hole (often referred to informally as "picking up") is not disqualified, but simply gets the maximum score for the hole, which is nine.
- Note: Maximum Score can be used in all regular season and district tournaments but will NOT be used at the State Championship.** Maximum Score can also be used in qualifying scores for either a team or an individual to achieve a leg towards qualifying for the State Championship.
7. **Results Reporting** - The host coach shall complete and submit the official online "Qualifying Certification Sheet" to the NMAA within 24 hours of the tournament's completion. Scores must be attested to by at least three coaches from participating schools in that event. NOTE: Qualifying forms may be found on the Golf page on the NMAA website, under Important Documents.
8. **Minimum Number of Schools** - To achieve qualifying event status there must be a minimum of three varsity high schools (3 boys and/or 3 girls teams) participating in the match. NOTE: One (1) player constitutes team/school representation.
9. **Qualifying Scores** - Qualifying legs must be shot prior to the district tournament.
10. **Entry Forms** - Entry forms due to the NMAA office by 8:00 a.m. Wednesday of Week #45.
11. **State Qualifying** - Teams and Individuals

a. Teams

Only full teams (four or five members by definition representing a particular school) are eligible for the NMAA state team trophy competition. The district tournament champion team automatically qualifies to the NMAA state tournament if they shoot a qualifying score at the district tournament. Teams also advance to the state tournament by equaling or exceeding the qualifying standards set by the NMAA for the regular season ("target" system). Teams must qualify a minimum of three legs, which must be shot on at least two different courses, to advance to the state tournament.

b. Individuals

The district tournament individual champion automatically qualifies to the NMAA state tournament if they shoot a qualifying score at the district tournament. An unlimited number of varsity individuals per school may also qualify to the state tournament by equaling or exceeding the qualifying standards set by the NMAA for the regular season ("target" system). Individuals must qualify a minimum of three

legs, which must be shot on at least two different courses to advance to the state tournament.

12. Out-of-State - Scores shot on courses in surrounding states are accepted provided the course is rated and at least three schools have participated.

13. Acquiring Course Rating - Courses requiring a rating may accomplish such status through the applicable USGA course rating process.

7.16.3 State Tournament

A. Date - State tournaments are held during Week #46.

B. Teams - Each school is limited to one, four or five-member varsity team, per gender. Schools may qualify an unlimited number of varsity individuals.

C. State Seeding- NMAA staff is in charge of seeding and will consider such things as scoring average, course ratings, weather conditions, and number of qualifying legs in the seeding process.

D. Sunday Practice – Coaches/Parents are prohibited from playing during the Sunday practice rounds prior to the state tournament.

E. Tie Breaking Procedures

1. State Championship (First Place Only) - In the event a team score is tied after 36 holes of play, the following procedure is used to determine the winner:

- a.** Four or five golfers (team) tee off from the number one or ten tee, whichever is the most open. The teams alternate hitting; proceeding from the number five player to the number one player. USGA rules are followed from then on.
- b.** Scoring is the best of four (4) scores on each hole totaled.
- c.** Play discontinues when one team's total score is greater.
- d.** The champion is determined by the team with the lowest total for four players.

2. Ties for second and third place - Ties for second and third place are resolved by comparing the total scores from both days of the first three individual finishers from the tying teams. If necessary, utilize the same procedure involving the first two players and finally the first finisher until the tie is broken.

F. Awards

1. Medalists - Six medalists are identified in each classification based upon their two-day (36-hole) total. Ties are broken for first place only for individuals at the state tournament using a three-hole aggregate score playoff and a sudden death if the score remains tied at the end of the playoff.

2. Teams - A first, second and third-place team trophy will be awarded in each classification.

7.17 SOCCER

7.17.1 General Rules/Policies

A. Classes - There are three classes for both boys and girls, A/3A, 4A and 5A.

B. Practice Date - Practice may begin Monday of Week #7.

C. Practice Requirement - Each team or individual must have at least five (5) days of practice before competing in a game.

D. NMAA District Clinic - At least one head boys' team coach and one head girls' team coach from each declared soccer school must complete the district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between August 1st and August 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine per coach to the school which will be assessed on September 1st.

E. Game Limitations

1. Each varsity team or individual is limited to twenty (20) regular season games, inclusive of a tournament. Each sub-varsity team or individual is limited to seventeen (17) regular season games.
2. In a two game combination (varsity/sub-varsity) on any given day against the same school, a player may not play in more than three (3) of the four (4) halves. Overtime periods and shootouts are considered part of the second half.

Q1: Can an athlete play in more than one game (in excess of 3 halves) in one day?

AI: Yes, as long as the games are against different schools. Example: A player plays in a tournament in which he/she plays in two games against different schools on the same day. Each game shall count against his/her maximum allowable game limits.

F. Length of Game - Games are two (2) halves of forty (40) minutes each as per the National Federation rulebook. Varsity regular season games, including district play, which are tied after the completion of regulation play shall be resolved in the following manner: The teams shall play two ten-minute sudden victory overtime periods. If no goals are scored during the two ten-minute sudden-victory overtime periods the game shall remain a tie. **Exceptions:** 1. All Junior Varsity games shall remain tied at the end of regulation time and 2. Regular season tournament games may, at the option of the tournament host, be settled by kicks from the mark (shootout) and 3. State Tournament games will be settled by kicks from the mark (shootout) as per 7.17.1.J.

NOTE: The official time is kept on the field by the head referee.

G. Schedule/Procedures - One copy of the schedule for the succeeding school year is to be sent to the NMAA and must be postmarked on or before May 1st (only for centrally located schools). Delinquent schedules are subject to a fine payable to the Association as determined by the Board annually.

H. Regular Season Tournament Overtime Procedures - The tournament organizer has the ability to modify the overtime procedures during regular season tournaments prior to the tournament beginning.

I. District Tie-Breaking Procedures to Determine Placement - For district games teams earn 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. In the event that two or more teams tie during regular season district play (based on point totals), placement is determined by a goal differential system during the season as follows:

1. Compare the results of head to head competition.
2. Placement shall be determined by a goal differential of the teams tied based on district games, with 5 points being the maximum allowed for any one game. Each team involved uses either a plus or a minus goal differential; if a team wins by 5, they are credited (+5); the other team has a deficit (-5) in the calculation.

3. If two or more teams tie on the goal differential of the tied teams, the team which defeated the other teams in regular district play has earned the higher placement.
4. If all teams tie in the goal differential of the tied teams, the goal differential on all district games shall be used with 5 points being the maximum allowed for any one game.
5. If two or more teams tie in the goal differential of the tied teams on all district games, the team which defeated the other teams in regular district play has earned the higher placement.
6. If all teams tie in the goal differential on all district games, the least number of goals allowed in district play shall be used. The team which has allowed the least number of goals has earned the higher placement.
7. If all teams are still tied, a coin toss determines placement.
8. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff.

Example A:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with 8 points. Team A defeated Team B by scores of 5-2 and 3-1; therefore, Team A (+5) has earned the higher placement over Team B (-5).

Example B:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with 8 points. Team A defeated Team B 4-2 and tied Team B 1-1. Team A (+2) has earned the higher placement on the basis of the win over team B (-2).

Example C:

Teams A, B and C are tied at the end of the season with 8 points. The result of district games involving the tied teams is as follows:

Team A (4) vs Team B (2)	Team A (1) vs Team B (1)
Team B (4) vs Team C (1)	Team B (2) vs Team C (1)
Team C (5) vs Team A (1)	Team C (3) vs Team A (3)

Results: Team A=-2; Team B=+2; Team C = 0. Team B has earned the highest placement (+2), with Team C 2nd (0) and Team A 3rd (-2).

Example D:

Teams A, B and C are tied at the end of the season with 8 points. The result of district games involving the tied teams is as follows:

Team A (4) vs Team B (2)	Team A (1) vs Team B (1)
Team B (4) vs Team C (1)	Team B (2) vs Team C (1)
Team C (4) vs Team A (1)	Team C (3) vs Team A (3)

Results: Team A= -1; Team B =+2; Team C= -1. Team B has earned the highest placement (+2); Team A and Team C are tied with a -1 goal differential. Team C has a +3 point differential in the head to head games against Team A and therefore has earned the #2 placement; Team A is 3rd.

J. Game Tie-Breaking Procedure - Regular season tournament games (at option of the host school) and all state tournament games

In games, when the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the referee instructs both teams to return to their respective team boxes. Coaches are allowed five minutes to confer with their teams. During this timeframe, the referee shall instruct both coaches as to proper procedure.

1. There shall be two ten (10) minute sudden victory overtime periods.

NOTE: In the final state championship games only, there shall be as many as four ten (10) minute sudden victory overtime periods.

- a. A coin toss shall be held as indicated in the National Federation Soccer Rulebook.
 - b. At the end of each ten (10) minute sudden-victory overtime period, teams shall change ends.
2. If the score still remains tied, coaches, officials and team captains assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure as outlined below:
 - a. The head referee chooses the goal at which all of the kicks from the penalty line shall be taken.
 - b. Each coach selects any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the kicks.
 - c. The head referee designates which captain will call the coin toss. The team winning the coin toss has the choice of kicking first or second.
 - d. Teams alternate kickers; there is no follow-up on kicks. .
 - e. Following a total of five kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks is the winner.
 - f. The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each penalty kick.
 3. If the score remains tied after each team has had five kicks from the penalty line:
 - a. Each coach selects five different players than the first five who already have kicked to take the kicks in a sudden victory situation, the teams kicking in the same order as determined by the coin toss. If one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without further kicks being taken.
 - b. If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory kicks with the coach selecting any five players to take the next set of alternating kicks. If a tie still remains, repeat step 3a for regular season contests and other applicable games in which a winner must be determined through a progression.
 4. Sub-varsity games are considered an official game at the end of regulation, regardless if the game is tied.

K. Mercy Rule - A game is ended if at half-time or any time during the second half a team is ten (10) goals behind.

L. Officials

1. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials for NMAA regular-season sanctioned contests.
2. Schools are subject to a fine for using non-registered officials.

M. Scorebook Requirement – The home team is required to maintain a game scorebook. For all contests minimally, the scorebook must include team rosters, record of halves played, goals scored by team and individuals and cards issued. The head referee must sign the book at the conclusion of the contest.

7.17.2 State Tournament (All Classes)

A. Dates:

Classes A/3A, 4A, 5A:
 First Round– Week #18
 Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals – Week #19

B. Roster Limitation - Each team is limited to twenty-two (22) squad members.

C. State Pairings (See Section 7.11)

In all classes, the District Champion advances to the NMAA State Tournament. The remainder of the field of 12 teams will be filled with at-large selections.

D. State Tournament

The State tournament will be a 12-team single elimination tournament, with the first round to be played at the home site of the higher seed on Saturday, unless the two schools can agree to play on Friday. The top four seeds are to be given a bye for the first round.

7.17.3 Misconduct Progression Rule

A. Regular Season

1. Yellow cards received during regular season or tournament competition must be counted. Once a player has accumulated five yellow cards, they are suspended for the next game. Once the player accumulates three additional yellow cards (totaling eight yellow cards), they are suspended for the next two games and are required to attend a meeting with the school's Athletic Director, head coach and the NMAA Executive Director or his/her designee. Any additional yellow cards received by a player after eight total cards will be subject to more severe penalties by the NMAA Executive Director, including but not limited to suspension from additional contests.
2. Any team whose players and coaches, during the regular season, collectively receive a total of 24 or more yellow cards (including all second yellow/red cards and straight red cards) will be required to attend a meeting with the school's Athletic Director and the NMAA Executive Director or his/her designee.
3. Any school receiving 32 or more yellow cards will be prohibited from participation in post-season. Any yellow/red cards received by the coach will count toward the 32 card total.
- 4a. If a player receives a red card or a second yellow card resulting in disqualification, that individual is suspended for the next scheduled game. These are minimum penalties. (See 7.7.2)
- 4b. A coach or player who is issued a red card for (D9) Violent Conduct-Fighting may receive a three (3) match suspension, starting with the next scheduled match and including any carryover to the State Soccer Tournament. A second Violent Conduct-Fighting red card received in the same season may result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season, including carryover to the State Soccer Tournament.
- 4c. By definition a player or coach would be guilty of Violent Conduct – Fighting if he/she acts deliberately to strike or punch, or attempt to strike or punch another player, coach, bench personnel or fan. These acts include, but are not limited to, kicking, head butting, hair pulling or an open handed strike, if done deliberately and in a malicious manner, either on the field of play or outside its boundaries and whether the ball is in play or not. A player, coach or member of bench personnel shall be guilty of fighting if he/she leaves the coaching/bench area to participate in an altercation.
5. Coaches who are ejected must sit out the next contest minimally in post season as well as regular season play.

B. Post Season

Upon the commencement of the first round of post-season, all players and coaches receive a "clean slate" for the accumulation of cards. However, any pending sit-out resulting from the accumulation of cards or a direct send-off must be fulfilled in post-season (starting the quarterfinal round) if the requirement for a sit-out has not been met during the regular season

or first round of the playoffs. For example, if a player receives his/her fifth yellow card or is sent off during the final regular season game, he/she will be required to sit out the first game of the post-season if the team has qualified for post-season competition. If the team earns a first round bye he/she will be required to sit out the quarterfinal game. If the player receives his/her fifth yellow card or is sent off during the first round of the state playoffs, he/she will be required to sit out the quarterfinal round of the post season. The player will sit out the first game of the next season if the team has not qualified for post-season competition.

1. If a player is ejected for “persisting in misconduct after receiving caution” (a “second yellow card” offense) he/she is charged with one caution in that contest. However, the player ejected is not permitted to participate in the following contest.
2. Any yellow cards received during the regular season or first round of the playoffs DO NOT carry over into the post-season. Athletes who receive a second yellow card in post-season play will be required to sit out the next game. Also, an athlete who receives a red card must sit out the next game minimally, no matter when it is received.
3. Coaches who are ejected must sit out the next contest minimally in post season as well as regular season play.

C. Referee

At the end of each contest, the referee confirms that all cautions and ejections during the contest are recorded both on his/her game report form (for players, name and number should be listed) and in the official scorebook (normally kept by the home team).

D. Athletic Administration

Athletic Directors, Administrators and/or Coaches are required to monitor the misconduct of their team members and themselves. The referee notes all cautions/ejections and reports it to the NMAA no later than the day following the game.

Q1: During a contest player “A” receives a yellow card in the first half and a second yellow in the second half, resulting in disqualification from the game. How many yellow cards has player “A” received under the Progression Rule (7.17.3A1)?

A1: Player “A” has accumulated 1 yellow card toward the Progression Rule. The second yellow card/soft red card does not count toward the Progression Rule. However the second yellow/soft red does count toward the team card totals (7.17.3A2 & A3).

Q2: During a contest player “B” receives a yellow card in the first half and a straight red card in the second half. How many cards have been accumulated under the rules?

A2: The yellow card received by player “B” in the first half counts as a yellow card under the Progression Rule. The straight red card, resulting in ejection from the contest, counts only toward the team totals (7.17.3A2 & A3).

Q3: Player “C” has accumulated 4 yellow cards going into today’s game. During the first half of today’s game player “C” receives a yellow card, his 5th of the season. What penalties occur as a result of his 5th yellow of the season?

A3: Player “C” may complete the current game, assuming he does not receive a second yellow, but must sit out the following game and complete all requirements under 7.7.2 (NMAA Game/contest ejection policy). In addition, the yellow card counts toward the team card totals under 7.17.3A2 & A3.

Q4: During the final game of the regular season player "A" receives a yellow card, which is his 5th yellow card of the regular season. Does he have to sit out the first game of the state tournament, since players receive a "clean slate" in respect to cards (7.17.3B)?

A4: Players have a "clean slate" with respect to accumulation of cards starting with the state quarterfinal game. Any pending sit out resulting from accumulation of cards during the regular season must be served. Player "A" must therefore sit out the first game of the state playoffs.

Q5: During the first round of the state playoffs, a player receives his/her 4th yellow card of the season. During the quarterfinal round game, the player receives his /her 5th yellow card. Does the player have to sit out the semi-final round game as a result of the accumulation of yellow card rule?

A5: No, after the first round of state, the player receives a "clean slate" for the quarterfinal round and beyond. However the yellow received in the quarterfinal game counts as the player's first yellow in state play. If he/she receives a second yellow during the semi-final game, he/she would be required to sit out the championship game if the team qualifies.

7.18 SOFTBALL

7.18.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. **Classes** - There are four classes: A-2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A.
- B. **Practice Date** - Practice may begin Monday of Week #32.
- C. **Game Limitation** - Each varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-six (26) total games. Each sub-varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-three (23) total games. This includes regular season games and invitational tournament games.
 - 1. **Innings of Play** - If a school plays two games at different levels (i.e. JV & Varsity) back to back on the same day, at the same site, and against the same school, a student-athlete may participate in 10 innings between the two contests and only count this as one game towards their game limitations.

Note: If a player participates in a contest as a courtesy runner only, this will not count towards that player's game limitations for the season.
- D. **Protests** - By state association adoption, protests will NOT be allowed.
- E. **NMAA District Clinic** - The head coach from each declared softball school must complete the NMAA district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school which will be assessed on March 1st.
- F. **State Association Adoptions** - The following options in the National Federation Softball Rulebook have been adopted by a vote of the schools:
 - 1. **NFHS Rule 4-2-2 Regulation Games** - If a game ends because of weather conditions, or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game provided:

- a. Five full innings have been played; or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns; or,
 - b. Play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat. The score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in its half of the completed inning, scores a run (or runs) which equal or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case the final score shall be recorded when the game is called.
2. **International Tie Breaker** - In the case of a tied game, the International Tie Breaker will be utilized as follows: At the start of each half-inning beginning in the top of the 8th, the offensive team will begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on second base. If the Pitcher or Catcher is that ninth batter, then a courtesy runner may be used. A substitute may also be legally inserted for the runner.
3. **10-Run and 15-Run Rules** - A game shall be terminated after three innings if one team is ahead by 15 runs and after 5 innings if one team is ahead by 10 runs for both varsity and junior varsity contests.
4. **Suspended Game** - If a game is terminated for any reason (weather, darkness, mechanical failures, etc.) and does not meet the requirements of a regulation game it will be treated as a suspended game. The game will be continued from the exact point of suspension with the line-up and batting order of each team the same as it was the moment of suspension.
- a. **Suspended District Games** - All suspended district games must be completed as indicated above. The game should be completed at its original site, on a date agreed upon by both schools, if feasible.
 - b. **Suspended Non-District Games** - Suspended non-district games can be completed if both schools agreed to do so. The same protocol should be followed as listed above for district games.
 - c. **Continuation of Suspended Game** - In state tournament play, any suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All state games must be played out to seven innings or more (unless the state adopted 10 or 15-run rule ends the game earlier).
5. **Unable to Continue Suspended Game** - If circumstances do not allow for a suspended game to be completed no win, loss, or tie will be given to either team.
6. **Undetermined Winner** - A regulation game where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a tie for both team's record.
7. **Time Limits** - There is no statewide time limit rule for any level.
- 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.

Note: NFHS Rule 4.2.3, Note #1 – If a state association has adopted game-ending procedures, only those game-ending procedures may be used should the opposing coaches wish to terminate a game.

7.18.2 Umpires

- A. Umpires working any NMAA sanctioned event must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials for NMAA regular season sanctioned contests.
- B. The use of a non-registered official subjects the violating school to a fine.

7.18.3 District Tie-breaking procedures to Determine Placement

(to be used by ALL districts within the sport of softball)

- A. A school must play each member of the district to be eligible for the championship.
- B. District placement is determined by district play record
- C. District Tiebreakers – Two Teams
 - 1. In case of a tie in district record, the team with the better head to head record in district play will have earned higher placement.
 - 2. If the two tied teams have the same head to head record in district play, a run differential from the district games between the tied teams will be used to determine placement. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game. Each team involved uses either a plus or minus run differential; if a team wins by 7, they are credited +7; the other team has a deficit of -7 in the calculation.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, a run differential from ALL district games will be used to determine placement. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
 - 4. If the two teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.
 - 5. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff.
- D. District Tiebreakers – More Than Two Teams
 - 1. In case of a tie in district record, the team with the better head to head record in district play between the tied teams will have earned higher placement.
 - 2. If the tied teams have the same head to head record in district play, a run differential will be used based on all of the head to head district games between the tied teams. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
 - 3. If all teams are still tied, a run differential from ALL district games will be used to determine placement. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
 - 4. If the teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.
 - 5. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff

*****NOTE:** *If any step in this process leads to the placement of a team or teams, but still leaves two teams in a tie, the tiebreaker system from Section C will be used as it will revert back to the two team tiebreaker procedure.*

Example A:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with a 2-2 record. Team A defeated Team B by a score of 5-2 and 3-1; therefore, Team A has earned the higher placement.

Example B:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with a 2-2 record. Team A defeated Team B by a score of 4-1 and Team B defeated Team A by a score of 3-2. Team A would have +3 and -1 run differential, totaling +2, while Team B would have -3 and +1 run differential, totaling -2. Therefore, Team A has earned the higher placement.

Example C:

Teams A, B and C are all tied with a 2-2 record. The results of the district games are as follows:

Team A (4) vs. Team B (2)

Team A (2) vs. Team C (3)

Team B (5) vs. Team C (1)

Results: Team A +1, Team B +2, Team C -3

Therefore, Team B has earned the highest placement, with Team A receiving the second highest placement and Team C finishing last.

Example D:

Teams A, B and C are all tied with a 2-2 record. The results of the district games are as follows:

Team A (4) vs. Team B (2)

Team A (2) vs. Team C (3)

Team B (4) vs. Team C (1)

Results: Team A +1, Team B +1, Team C -2

Therefore, Team C is placed in 3rd place with the worst run differential. Teams A and B are still tied, however, and thus the two team tie breaker system will now be used. In head to head competition between Team A and B, Team A was 1-0 and has earned higher placement and 1st Place. Team B is placed in 2nd.

7.18.4 State Tournament Information

A. Dates

Week #45 Seeding and First Round for Classes 3A-5A

Note: 3A First Round must be held on Wednesday of Week #45

Week #46 Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Finals for Classes 3A-5A

Week #46 Seeding and First Round thru Finals for Class A/2A

B. Qualifying Information

1. In all classes, the District Champion advances to the NMAA State Tournament. The remainder of the field of 16 teams will be filled with at-large selections.

C. Tournament Format

1. All Classes will play in a 16 team bracket under the following format:
 - a. The first round of 16 will be single elimination.
 - b. The remaining 8 teams will play a double elimination tournament

Note: See section 7.11.2 for Seeding and Selection Process

- D. Roster Limitation** - Teams are limited to eighteen (18) uniformed squad members on their roster.

7.19 SPIRIT - COMPETITIVE

7.19.1 General Rules/Policies

A. Coaches Education

All Coaches and Sponsors must have a coaching license which is issued by the State Education Agency and be an employee or have a contractual relationship with that particular school system (this applies to both voluntary and paid individuals). Spirit coaches must also complete the NFHS/AACCA Spirit Safety Certification Course. It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure that each Spirit coach is licensed and has AACCA certification, which is current for four years from the date of completion.

B. Safety

NFHS safety rules apply to New Mexico spirit teams at all times. Violation of safety guidelines at anytime during the school year may result in sanctioning by the Executive Director.

- C. Classes** - Teams must compete at the classification level that the school declares for boys' basketball participation.

There are six classes in cheer during the competition season: A/2A, 3A, 4A, 5A All-Girl only and A/4A Co-Ed and 5A Co-Ed. Co-Ed division is defined as any team having two (2) male participants. Teams with one (1) male participant may choose to compete as Co-Ed or in the All-Girl classification.

There are three classes in dance during the competition season: A-3A, 4A, and 5A.

- D. Practice Date** – Practice may occur year round.
- E. Competition Season** – Competition may begin on Monday of Week #19. The season is over at the conclusion of the State Competition.
- F. Competition Limitation** – Each varsity team is limited to ten (10) total competitions.
- G. Practice Requirement** – Each individual must complete a minimum of ten (10) practices on mats or an approved performing surface per NFHS Safety Rules prior to participating in stunts or tumbling in any environment. Practices are counted from the first day of the Fall season or the student's first day of participation.
- H. NMAA Rules Clinic** – All coaches from each competitive spirit team must attend the NMAA rules clinic in order to participate in the State Championships.

7.19.2 Judges

- A.** Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use a minimum of three (3) NMAA/NMOA performance judges for cheer with music and dance or four (4) NMAA/NMOA performance judges for Game Day cheer, and one (1) NMAA/NMOA technical judge for regular season sanctioned competitions.
- B.** Schools are subject to a fine for using non-registered officials for competitions.

7.19.3 School Facilitated Competitions

- A. Schools may host competitions and apply for sanctioning through the NMAA. Competitions must be sanctioned in order to be considered as one of the three (3) required for a team to be eligible for State Competition.
- B. To be considered for approval, all competitions must satisfy the following conditions:
 - 1. A minimum of four (4) varsity cheer and/or dance teams must attend the competition
 - 2. A minimum of one (1) certified technical judge must adjudicate the competition
 - 3. A minimum of three (3) certified performance judges must adjudicate the competition or a minimum of four (4) certified performance judges for the Game Day competition.
 - 4. A sanctioning request form must be submitted to and approved by the NMAA. This form may be found on the NMAA website at www.nmact.org. Once approved, the competition host will be notified by the NMAA.

7.19.4 State Championships Entry Procedures

Entries for the State Championships must be correctly submitted prior to Tuesday of Week #34.

7.19.5 State Championships

- A. **Date** - State championships are held on the Friday and Saturday of Week #39 pending Dreamstyle Arena availability.
- B. **State Championship Eligibility** - Teams must compete in at least three (3) sanctioned competitions prior to State in order to be eligible for State Competition.
- C. **Format**
 - 1. Each team will perform two routines with no more than 4 team members different from one routine to the other.
 - 2. Two (2) panels of six (6) performance judges for cheer and two (2) panels of five (5) for dance; and two (2) panels of two (2) technical judges.
- D. **Roster Limitation:**
 - 1. Each all-girl cheer team is limited to twenty-four (24) performers in addition to a mascot(s), four (4) alternates, two (2) managers, and four (4) coaches.
 - 2. Each co-ed cheer team is limited to twenty-four (24) performers in addition to a mascot(s), four (4) alternates, two (2) managers, and four (4) coaches.
 - 3. There is no limit on the number of performers on a dance team. However, each dance team is limited to four (4) alternates, two (2) managers, and four (4) coaches.
 - 4. Each individual listed on a team's roster must meet the requirements as listed below:
 - a. Performers – eligible per NMAA Bylaws, have competed in a minimum of ¼ of the varsity contests scheduled, and included on the team roster on the NMAA website. (See Bylaw 7.6.5)
 - b. Alternates – eligible per NMAA Bylaws, have competed in a minimum of ¼ of the varsity contests scheduled, and included on the team roster on the NMAA website.
 - c. Coaches (head and assistant) – State licensed, AACCA certified, school recognized and listed on the NMAA website as the coach of the appropriate team.

7.20 SWIMMING AND DIVING

7.20.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. Classes** - There is one class in both boys and girls, A-5A.
- B. Practice Dates** - Practice is allowed year round.
- C. NMAA District Clinic** - The head coach from each declared swimming and diving school must complete the NMAA district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between November 1st and November 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school per head coach assessed on December 1st.
- D. Competitive Season** - The competitive high school season begins the Monday of Week #19 and concludes with the state championships on Saturday of Week #34.
- E. District Meets** - District meets are to be held on Friday or Saturday of Week #31, 32, or 33.
- F. Meet Limitation** - Each team or individual is limited to ten (10) meets not including the post season (i.e. district and state). If a student is allowed by the school to participate on a non-school team during the high school season, the student's combined meets may not exceed 10 (not including district and state meets). **NOTE: See NMAA bylaw 6.13.2.**
- G. Sub-varsity events** - Junior varsity, junior high, and other sub-varsity events must be held as separate events apart from varsity competition.
- H. Competition Rules** - NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules are the official rules of all NMAA Swimming and Diving meets. The NMAA has the ability to make these rules stricter as needed.
- M. Diving Competition** - There shall be no minimum total degree of difficulty for optional dives, except when attempting to qualify for the State Championships. The degree of difficulty for all dives is listed in the NFHS Swimming and Diving Rule Book.

7.20.2 State Championships Qualifying Information

- A.** Declared special qualifying swimming and diving meets must be submitted and approved by the NMAA in advance of the season, prior to Friday of Week #17. This form may be found on the NMAA website at www.nmact.org. The link for submitting this information is located on the "Forms" section of the NMAA website. Once correctly submitted, the meet will be listed on the NMAA website as a qualifying meet.
- B.** Individuals qualify for the state championships by equaling the qualifying marks for swimming and the degree of difficulty in diving, as set by the NMAA State Swimming and Diving Committee. First and second place finishers in each swimming event at a district championship meet also qualify for the state championships. The qualifying results must be achieved at an approved qualifying meet involving at least one other high school team of the same gender (in or out of state). Entries for the State Meet must be correctly submitted prior to 11:59 PM on Sunday of Week #34. Entries must be submitted online at www.directathletics.com in order to participate. A \$500 fine will be imposed to each school that makes changes to their team state championship entries after this entry deadline. **NOTE:** One non-qualified individual may be entered along with each qualifying relay team. At the State Meet, any member of the team may participate in a relay event provided a) they had previously been entered into the State Meet by virtue of being listed on Direct Athletics as a State qualifier or by being entered as the one non-qualifier allowed per relay team and b) they have not exceeded the maximum number of allowed events as per NFHS Rule 3.2.1.

- C. Member schools have seven (7) calendar days to post qualifying marks, established at qualifying meets, on the www.directathletics.com website.
- D. All qualifying meet hosts must submit their results electronically using Hy-Tek Meet Manager to the NMAA office within seven (7) calendar days upon the conclusion of the event. State qualifying performances must be designated as such on the program. These results should be emailed to the attention of the NMAA Swimming and Diving Administrator.
- E. A certified NMAA/NMOA Swimming Official must be present and must sign all meet results at the conclusion of the qualifying meet. These results must be mailed/faxed to the NMAA office within seven (7) calendar days of completion of the event. State qualifying performances must be highlighted.
- F. Dive sheets must be submitted to the NMAA office within seven (7) calendar days of completion of a qualifying meet. Dive sheets which meet the degree of difficulty requirement to qualify for State (12.3 for boys, 11.2 for girls), must include the signature of the diving coach or the meet referee.

Divers qualify for the State Championship based on successful completion of a six dive optional program in either one (1) six-dive dual meet or one (1) eleven-dive invitational meet. Successful completion means that a diver has performed all six optional dives in a single competition and received a score of above zero from each judge for each dive. The optional dives must not end with a zero-one (i.e. 201,301, etc.). NOTE: If an eleven-dive contest is used to qualify, the five voluntary dives must be circled for identification.

A diver who wishes to qualify for the State Championship Meet in a dual meet may attempt all six optional dives in that meet. A diver who is not ready to qualify for the State Championship Meet should use the standard dual meet format.

- G. All swimming and diving qualifying meets must comply with standard meet format per NFHS rules thus eliminating multiple attempts at qualifying per event during a single meet.
- H. Swimming qualifying standards will be established each year by the NMAA. These standards will be calculated by dividing the last three years 18th place time at the state championships. When there is no 18th place time, the last place time will be used.
- I. Hosts of state qualifying meets are required to have a location for all swimming and diving events. If a location is not provided for both, it will not be considered a qualifying meet. All facilities must meet NFHS approved guidelines.

7.20.3 State Championship Information

- A. **Date** - State Championships are held during Week #34
- B. **Mandatory Meeting** - A mandatory meeting will be held the Friday of Week #34 which must be attended by the team's head coach. Failure to attend without proper communication to the Event Director will result in sanctions at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- C. **Team Trophies** – First, second and third place trophies will be presented for each gender based on total points accumulated. Additionally, the highest scoring class A-3A team in each gender will receive a first place trophy for the A-3A classification.

7.21 TENNIS

7.21.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. **Classes** - There are two classes in both boys and girls: A/4A and 5A.

- B. Practice Date** - Practice is open year round.
- C. Competitive Season** - The competitive season is as follows: Week #33 through the State Tournament.

NOTE: Participation in matches in other states during the Fall is permissible; however any match will be applied to the Spring match limitation. No individual may participate in more than one (1) competitive high school season per year and no more than four seasons, grades 9-12.

- D. Match Limitation** - Each team or individual is limited to twelve (12) matches/tournaments/events prior to the district tournament. By definition a match, tournament or event is a competition that logically and equitably determines the rank order of teams/individuals based on the competitive format of the event.
- E. Rules** - USTA rules are used except as indicated in this Handbook.
- F. NMAA District Clinic** - The head coach from each declared tennis school must attend the NMAA district clinic, if scheduled, or complete the district clinic online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school.

7.21.2 District Competition (Team and Individual)

- A. Dates:** The district tournament is held during Week #44.

B. Team Champions

1. Districts may determine team champions by the following methods:
 - a. A district tournament in which the seeding is determined specifically by the district in advance of the event, or;
 - b. Head-to-head matches during regular season competition without a post-season district team tournament.

Note: Districts must declare which method they will utilize by February 7.

2. Scoring: In order to qualify for the state tennis team championship through district play, it is required that schools use the 6-singles, 3-doubles format (9 total points) with all matches consisting of the best two-of-three tie-breaker sets, with ad scoring and a 7-point tie-breaker at 6-all in each set.
 - a. Where districts determine team champions based on a head-to-head dual match format all matches will be completed to the full nine points. By agreement of match coaches, or by district tennis rules, once a team has earned 5 points match scoring for the remainder of the matches may be modified from 7.21.2.b.2.
 - b. Where districts determine team champions based on a year-end district tournament, tournament matches are ended when a team earns five points.
 - c. Postponed and suspended matches due to darkness, weather or other conditions refer to NMAA handbook sections 7.9 and 7.10. If it is determined that a district match cannot be completed it shall be rescheduled and continued from the point of interruption. Rescheduling of a suspended match shall be by the mutual agreement of the teams. If agreement cannot be reached the NMAA director of tennis will determine a date and time for the rescheduled match. See Q&A #4 below for clarification of substitution of players for suspended matches.
3. **District Team Tie-Breaker.** In tennis districts where the district team champion and

runner-up is determined based on the result of head-to-head matches against district teams the following tie-breaker will be applied in cases of ties in final district standings

a. In the case of a two-team tie, the team that defeated the other in head-to-head District play will earn the higher placement.

b. In the event that more than two teams are tied placement is determined by a point system as follows:

1. Compare the results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams.
If one team has defeated the other two teams, that team has earned the higher placement; the remaining two teams are placed based on the result of their head-to-head dual match

.. if more than two teams are still tied then

2. the winner of the most individual singles/doubles matches utilizing the 6-3 format in all matches between the tied teams, determines the placement order. In the event of a two-way tie for most matches won, the team which defeated the other in the district head-to-head match will earn the higher placement.

Example 1

School A: defeats school B 7-2; loses to school C 4-5= 11

School B: loses to school A 2-7; defeats school C 7-2= 9

School C: defeats school A 5-4; loses to school B 2-7= 7

Result: School C is third place. School B is second place.

School A is district champion.

Example 2

School A: defeats school B 6-3; loses to school C 4-5= 10

School B: loses to school A 3-6, defeats school C 7-2= 10

School C: defeats school A 5-4; loses to school B 2-7= 7

Result: School C is third place. Schools A and B are tied in total matches won. School A is placed first and School B second based on the result of their head-to-head match.

Example 3

School A: defeats school B 7-2; loses to school C 4-5= 11

School B: loses to school A 2-7; defeats school C 6-3= 8

School C: defeats school A 5-4; loses to school B 3-6= 8

Result: School A is the district champion. School B places second because they defeated School C 6-3 in their head-to-head dual match.

... if more than two teams are still tied then

3. the team losing the fewest number of sets in matches between the tied teams determines the placement order. In the event of a two-way tie for fewest number of sets lost, the team which has defeated the other in the district head-to-head match will earn the higher placement

Example 1

Schools A, B and C each finish the district season with 3-1

records. Each school's district loss is to one of the tied teams.

All matches amongst tied teams were by a 5-4 score, so tiebreaker #2(total

matches won) yields a 3-way tie (9 matches won & 9 lost by each school). Applying tiebreaker #3 (fewest sets lost) Team A lost 18 sets in their 18 total matches. Teams B and C each lost a total of 20 sets in their 18 matches. Result: Team A is placed 1st based on fewest lost sets. Teams B and C are tied with 20 sets lost. Team C defeated Team B 5-4 in their head-to-head match. Team C is placed 2nd and Team B 3rd in the final district standings.

.... if more than two teams are still tied, then

4. the team losing the fewest number of games in matches between the tied teams determines the placement order. In the event of a two-way tie for fewest number of games lost, the team which has defeated the other in the district head-to-head match will earn the higher placement.

.... if more than two teams are still tied then

5. coin toss will determine placement, as follows:
 - a All 3 teams flip a coin
 - b The “odd man out” is the third place team
 - c first and second place is then determined by which team defeated the other in their head-to-head match

4. Rosters – Team Competition (District & State)

Member schools will declare their rosters from strongest to weakest by the Monday of Week 42.

- Rosters may consist of up to 12 singles players and up to 6 doubles teams, but must have at least 6 singles players and 3 doubles teams (players may play both singles and doubles).
- Rosters must be submitted to the NMAA tennis director via fax or email.
- Coaches may not change this roster from Monday of Week 42 through the State Tournament, except as described in 7.21.3.C.8.
- Match line-up must be presented to the opposing coach prior to each match after the Monday of Week 42.

Q1: A school's submitted roster on Monday of Week #42 lists only six singles players and three doubles teams. When the team arrives at the district match/ district tournament/state tournament their #1 singles player, who is also on their #1 doubles team, is not present due to injury/illness. Can the team still compete, and which singles/doubles spots can be defaulted, if any?

A1: No. NMAA Rules require schools to have a minimum of 6 singles players and 3 doubles teams to compete in team competition. If at match time they do not meet this minimum standard the entire team must forfeit the match.

Q2: Same scenario as in Q1. The school is already underway in the singles portion of the dual match competition. One of their singles players (a member of the #2 doubles team) is injured and must default that match and will not be available for their scheduled doubles match.

A2: Because the match was started with the required 6 singles players, and no roster substitutes, the match may continue. For doubles the team can either incur a forfeit at the #2 doubles position, or the team may utilize the allowable doubles substitution rule by moving the full #3 doubles team to the #2 position or one member or the #3 doubles team to take the injured players slot, and thereby forfeit the #3 doubles position.

Q3: In District Team matches, if one school does not have the required minimum 6 players (NMAA 7.21.2.B.4) can the teams still play the match, and how is the score reported?

A3: The official score of the match is recorded as a 9-0 forfeit in favor of the team that meets the 6-player minimum at match time. The individual singles/doubles results will count toward the individual singles/doubles records on Max Preps.

Q4: Same fact situation as in Q3 except the match is a Non-District match?

A4: Non-District matches do not need to meet the 6-player minimum and 9-point format. By mutual agreement of the schools (or team tournament format), an abbreviated team format can be utilized (e.g. 3 singles/2 doubles – 5 point format). Or the schools may agree to play a standard 9-point format with defaults occurring starting with the #6 singles and #3 doubles places (e.g. Team A only has 4 players. Match would include singles spots 1-4 and doubles spots 1-2, with defaults at #5 and #6 singles and #3 doubles).

Q5: Under what circumstances may a team's roster be modified for district/state competition?

A5: In both singles and doubles a team's lineup can utilize any combination of 6 singles and 3 doubles teams as long as they conform to the submitted NMAA roster. Where the modification involves changing one member of a roster doubles team, follow the substitution format under NMAA 7.21.3.C.8

Q6: Team lineups for district/state tournament play must be submitted 30 minutes prior to the match (District—to opposing coach; State—to tournament director) and must conform to the formal rosters submitted to the NMAA in week #42. What changes may be made to those lineups after they are submitted, including suspended matches?

A6: Changes to submitted lineups can only be made for the following reasons: 1. Once a team has reached 5 points (out of total of 9) and secured the match result, lineup changes may be made in order to provide opportunity to play to lower ranked players in the team lineup and 2. Verified injury or illness of a player. The injury/illness to the player should be made after consultation with the on-site trainer and/or medical personnel or school administrator, and determination that the player cannot continue. In that event the substitution provisions of NMAA 7.21.3.C.8 may be applied.

Q7: A team's official roster is the listing of singles players and doubles teams posted, in order of strongest to weakest, on the NMAA Tennis Site by Monday of Week #42. What is the responsibility of head coaches during district matches?

A7: Team lineups (singles and doubles) should be traded at least 30-minutes prior to match time. Lineups must reflect the order of singles players/doubles teams according to the official roster, or meet the criteria for substitution in 7.21.3C8. Deviations must be brought to the attention of the rival coach and corrected before the start of the match.

Q8: What is the process for a school to formally request an NMAA review of a rival school's roster posted on-line, where a stacking issue is raised?

A8: Rosters are submitted by Monday of week #42 and posted to the NMAA Tennis site by Tuesday of week#42. Schools have until Monday of week #43 to submit a formal protest of a rival school's roster. Determination of a stacking protest will be made by the NMAA no later than Wednesday of week #43 (district tournament week) at 5:00pm

5. **Stacking** - Stacking is prohibited. It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct if a coach deliberately “stacks” their schools roster. Stacking may result in disqualification of the team in District Competition.
6. **In district team competition, once the team’s lineup is declared to the NMAA (Monday of Week 42), lineups must follow state team competition rules (NMAA7.21.3.C).**

C. Individual Champions

1. In all classes, a district individual tournament determines the top four singles individuals, as well as the top four doubles teams, all of which qualify to the state tournament. Match scoring in all district individual tournaments is best two-of-three tie-breaker sets, with ad scoring and a 7-point tiebreaker at 6-all in each set.
2. A singles player/doubles team must complete the semi-final match in order to qualify to compete in the 3rd place state qualifying match. The NMAA Director of Tennis has the final say in matters relating to this issue and whether a player is considered to have completed a match.

7.21.3 State Tournament

A. Dates

1. Seeding – Sunday of Week # 45
2. The NMAA Individual Singles/Doubles State Tennis Tournament is held Wednesday and Thursday of Week # 45.
3. The NMAA Team State Tennis Tournament is held Friday and Saturday of Week # 45.

B. Seeding/Selection

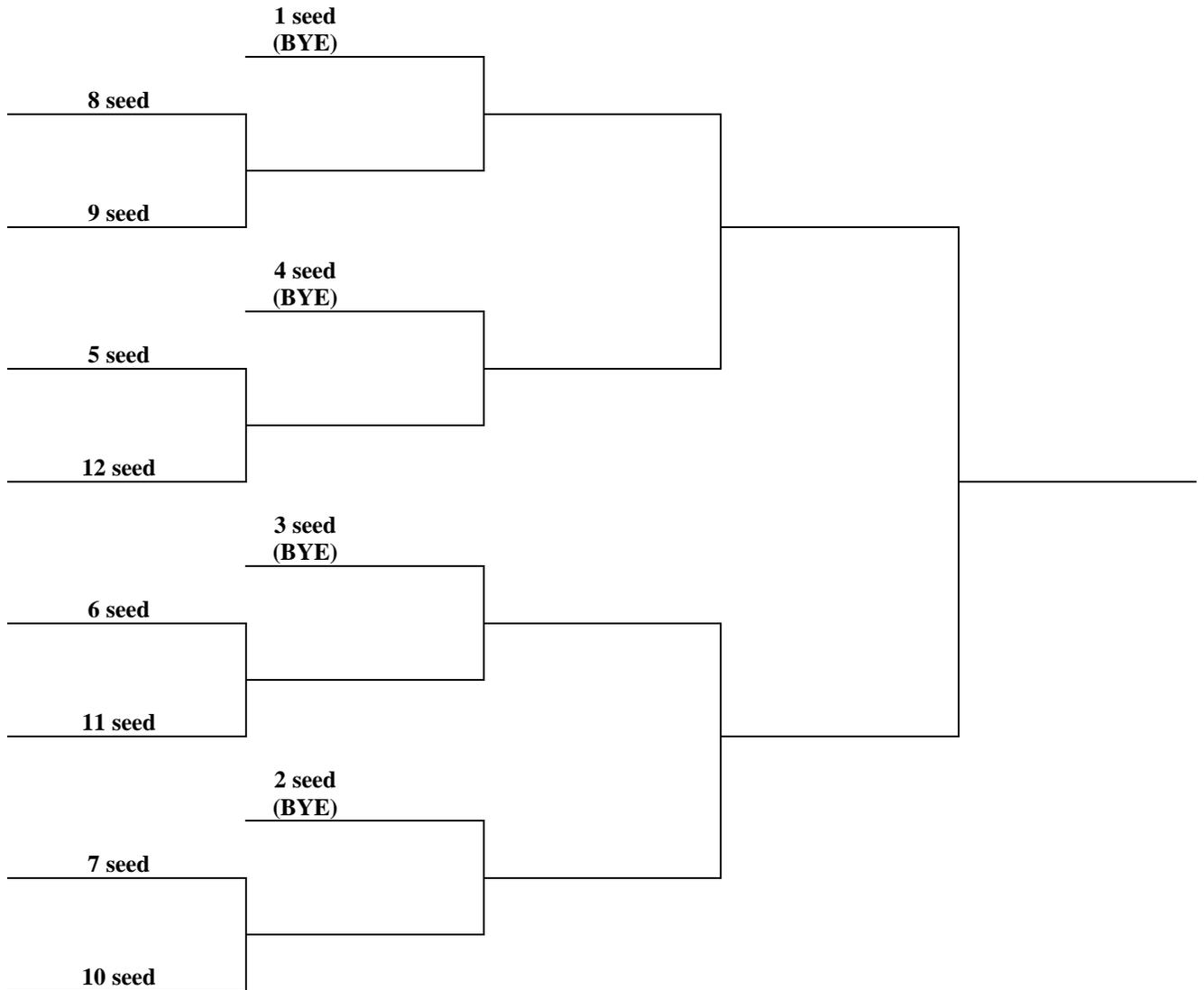
1. **Team Competition:** In all classes, all teams qualifying for the State Tournament will be seeded 1-12 for placement into the state tournament bracket. Teams will be seeded as per NMAA bylaw 7.11.
2. **Individual Competition:** In all classes, the top four individuals will be seeded in the Individual Singles/Doubles Tournament, with the remaining 16 singles players and 16 doubles teams drawn to complete each bracket. Seeding will be conducted by a committee comprised of district representatives.
3. The district placement form will determine finish in district. Tie-breaker see 7.21.2.B.3.

C. Team Competition 6-3 Format

1. **Team Qualifying:** For all classes, the district team champion will qualify to the State Tournament. All remaining teams will be selected based on the NMAA seeding criteria in NMAA bylaw 7.11.
2. **Team Requirement:** Teams are required to have the full complement of six singles and three doubles to participate in district team competition and qualify for the team competition at the State Tournament.
3. **Participation:** Participants are permitted to participate in both doubles and singles.

4. **Rosters:** Teams qualifying to the state tournament will use the full roster submitted to the NMAA office on the Monday of Week #42 (See 7.21.2.B.4). A full roster would include at least six singles players, but no more than twelve, and at least three doubles teams, but no more than six. Players and teams must be listed from the strongest to weakest. In each round of team competition, a team can select any line-up of singles players and doubles teams from their full roster and submit such a line-up to the Director on site 30 minutes before the start of that round of team competition so long as they remain in order from the strongest to weakest. (It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct if a coach deliberately “stacks” their school’s line-up. Stacking may result in disqualification of the team in the State Tournament.)
5. **Scoring Format:** All matches will consist of the best two of three sets, with all games to be played under ad scoring with a seven-point tie-breaker at 6-all in any set.
6. **Match Format:** A team/match winner is determined by who wins the most singles/doubles matches against the opponent on an aggregate basis; i.e., the best 5 out of 9 singles and doubles matches combined constitutes the winner of that match. All 9 matches will be played out in the first round. In first round matches once a team has earned 5 points the remainder of the matches will play a 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a third set. Once a both teams have completed their initial round of the tournament (playing all 9 matches out), and have advanced to the next round, play will conclude for each round thereafter once a team has won the best 5 out of 9 single/double matches combined. This format will continue for the duration of the tournament.
7. **Coaching:** Coaching during team play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players during change of sides through the fence only. In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player, and coaching may occur during this time.
8. **Doubles Substitution:** On the official match lineup form a coach may replace a member of a designated doubles team as follows: The replacement player must be on the full Doubles Team Roster, as declared on Monday of NMAA week #42. Replacement of a player is restricted as follows: a player may move up one position only in the lineup. i.e. a member of the #1 doubles team must be replaced by a member of the team’s #2 doubles team only. That #2 doubles team member must be replaced by a member of the #3 doubles team. A member of the #3 doubles team may be replaced by any player from a lower declared team. Coaches also have the option of moving all declared teams forward in their lineup (declared #2 becomes #1; declared #3 becomes #2 etc.)
9. **Lineup Changes after submission:** See Q & A in 7.21.2.B.4.
10. **Awards:** State Championship trophies will be awarded to the team champion and runner-up in each classification. The team champion will also receive a banner and bracket representing their accomplishment. Each individual on the championship team will receive a medal.

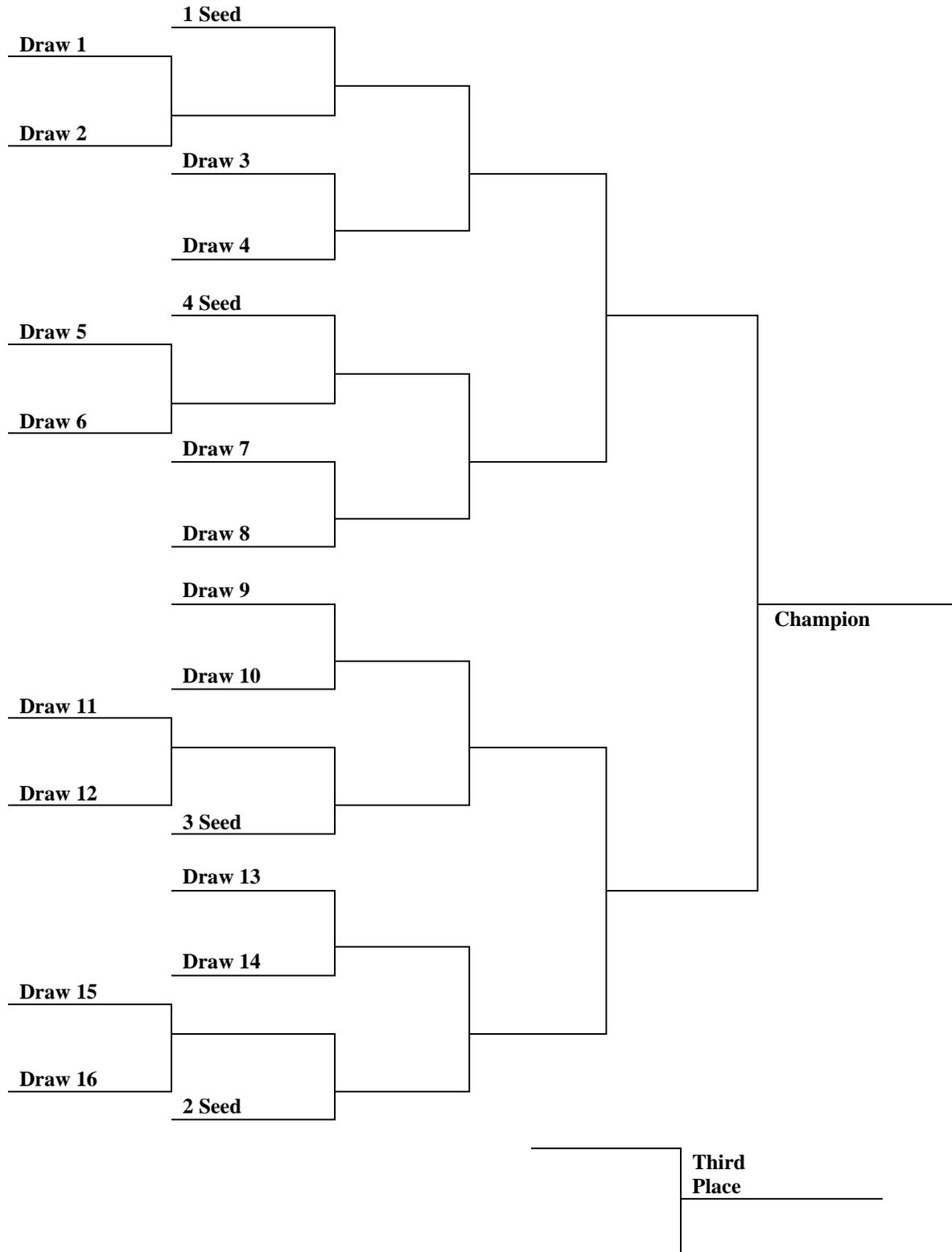
D. Team Brackets: A-4A and 5A



E. Individual Singles/Doubles Competition Format

1. In all classes, the district tournament shall determine the top four singles, as well as the top four doubles, all of which qualify to the state tournament. Players may compete in only one of these two categories
2. All matches will consist of the best two of three sets, with all games to be played under ad scoring and with a seven-point tie-breaker at 6-all in any set.
3. Coaching during individual play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players during change of sides through the fence only. In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player, and coaching may occur.
4. “After the district individual tournament, but prior to the state seeding meeting, if a singles player or doubles team which has qualified to the state tournament through the district tournament process, becomes unable to compete at the state tournament for any reason (withdrawal under USTA Table 10 – Draw Sheet Terminology), that singles player or doubles team may be removed from the state tournament bracket selection process. The NMAA Director of Tennis must be notified of the withdrawal and the reason therefore in advance of the state seeding meeting. If the withdrawal occurs after the state seeding meeting that singles player/doubles team will be defaulted from the event and the scheduled opponent will advance to the next round of play. There will be no re-drawing of brackets if the withdrawal occurs after the seeding meeting.”
5. A player/doubles team must complete the semi-final match in order to qualify to compete in the 3rd place match. The NMAA Director of Tennis has the final say in matters relating to this issue and whether a player is considered to have completed a semi-final match
6. Awards – First, Second and Third place medals for singles and doubles competition will be awarded to individuals in all classes.

F. Individual (Singles/Doubles) Brackets: All Classes



7.22.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. **Classes** - There are five (5) classes in both boys and girls: A, 2A, 3A, 4A, & 5A.
- B. **Practice Dates** - Practice may begin on the Monday of Week #33.
- C. **Meet Limitation** - Each varsity team/individual is limited to ten (10) meets prior to the district event. Each sub-varsity team/individual is limited to seven (7) meets.

NOTE: The Marilyn Sepulveda Track and Field Meet does not count against the overall ten-meet team limitation for that season. If an individual accepts an invitation to participate in this particular meet, it does count against that individual's track and field season meet limitation.

Q1: Once the season has officially begun, can an athlete compete in an indoor meet that is not included in the team's allowable 10 meet schedule?

A1: Yes, as long as he or she does not represent their school and is not coached by a member of the high school's coaching staff. The meet WILL count against the athlete's allowable 10 meet limitation.

Q2: Can a team schedule more than 10 varsity track and field meets, as long as each athlete participates in no more than 10?

A2: No, a team can only schedule 10 varsity meets per season prior to the district meet.

Q3: Is a team's overall meet total affected if an athlete competes in a national outdoor track and field meet that is not part of the team's 10 meet schedule?

A3: No, as long as the individual athlete does not exceed his/her limit of 10 meets prior to the district meet and the individual athlete does not represent their school at this meet.

- D. **Event Participation Limits** - A contestant may participate in a maximum of five events per meet but no more than four may be track events, and no more than four may be field events. Further, no more than three of the four track events allowed can be 400 meters or longer, which includes participation in relays.

Example of distance combinations:

3200 M run, 1600 M run and 800 M run plus 1 other under 400 M.
3200 M run, 1600 M run and 400 M run plus 1 other under 400 M.
1600 M run, 800 M run and 400 M run plus 1 other under 400 M.
400 M leg (1600 Relay), 3200 M run and 1600 M run plus 1 other under 400 M.
1600 M run, 400 M leg (1600 M relay) and open 400 M plus 1 other under 400 M.

- E. **Contestant Restrictions** – There are no restrictions on the number of contestants from a given school who are allowed to enter an individual event, unless otherwise specified by the meet director and/or games committee.

- F. NMAA District Clinic** - At least one head boys' coach and one head girls' coach from each declared track and field school must attend the NMAA district clinic at the NMTCCCA Coaches Clinic in January, or complete the district clinic online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school per head coach which will be assessed on March 1st.
- G. Pole Vault Safety Certification** - All head Track and Field coaches and all Pole Vault coaches must have successfully passed the Pole Vault Safety Certification Board Exam at the NMTCCCA Coaches Clinic in January, or online at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/40000>, prior to competition by their team's athletes. Certification is valid for a period of four (4) years.
- H. State Qualifying Standards** - State qualifying standards will be determined by the Track and Field Sports Specific Committee at the beginning of each two-year block to be used for that entire two-year block.
- I. Guidelines on Handling Contests during Lightning Disturbances**
The NMAA will follow guidelines outlined in the NFHS Track and Field Rules Book. Host site administration is responsible for ensuring that NFHS guidelines are strictly adhered to.
- J. Procedure for Approval of Special Qualifying Meets**
Individuals or relay teams must achieve the minimum qualifying times, heights or distances set by the NMAA for the respective classifications. Performances achieved and recorded at an approved invitational meet during the defined Track and Field season for the respective classifications are eligible for seeding into the NMAA State Track and Field Championships.
To be considered for approval, all qualifying meets must satisfy the following conditions:
1. The regular season invitational meet must be comprised of teams representing at least three (3) schools.
 2. Declared special qualifying track and field meets must be submitted and approved by the NMAA in advance of the season, prior to Monday of Week #31. This form may be found on the NMAA website at www.nmact.org. The link for submitting this information is located on the Forms section of the NMAA website. Once approved, acknowledgement will be made from the NMAA with the meet host.
 3. A simultaneous starting device must be used for all running races.
- K. Certification of Qualifying Results**
1. For individual and/or relay team results to be considered based on meeting the qualifying marks (at a qualifying or district meet), the times, heights and/or distances must be verified by the end of that meet. The official results must be certified by the meet referee and sent to the NMAA office within a week of the conclusion of the meet.
 2. It is the responsibility of the coach to submit qualification information for his/her athletes to the designated NMAA database. No other forms of submissions will be accepted. Member schools have seven (7) calendar days to post qualifying marks established at qualifying meets.
 3. District meet results and the season composite of results are due by entering the qualified athletes and teams onto the designated NMAA database the Sunday prior to the State Championships (11:59 PM). This system will no longer take entries after this time.
- L. Special Qualifying Marks** - Special qualifying times, heights and distances for the state championships are made available each year through the NMAA office by a formula that is established by the Track & Field Sports Specific Committee.

Notes: Qualifying marks in running events must be submitted to the nearest hundredth second for seeding purposes.

All schools in classifications 4A thru 5A will be required to use Fully Automated Timing (FAT) for all state qualifying track and field meets.

M. Certified Officials

1. A certified NMAA/NMOA Track & Field Official must be present and sign all meet results at the conclusion of each qualifying meet. If this criterion is not met, the meet will not be considered a qualifier toward the state championships. These results must be sent to the NMAA office within seven (7) calendar days.
2. Meet referees may be coaches who are certified track officials via the NMAA / NMOA as long as there are at least THREE coaches from three different schools at the meet who are NMOA certified and all three must agree to certify/verify the results of the meet.

7.22.2 District Meets

A. Dates - District meets are held Friday and/or Saturday during:

1. Week #44 for Classes A, 2A, and 3A for both boys and girls.
2. Week #45 for Classes 4A and 5A for both boys and girls.

B. District Meet Director - The district meet is under the direction of the district chairperson or his/her designee.

C. State Championship Qualifying Information

1. **District Meets in all Classes** - In each district meet, the first two (2) places in individual events and the first and second place teams in each relay event advance to the State Championships. In addition, any individuals or relay teams that meet the special qualifying times, heights, or distances set by the NMAA are eligible to be entered.

NOTE: A school may qualify only one (1) team in a given relay event.

NOTE: During district track and field meets, second-place ties in jumping events are broken using the procedure outlined in Rule 7.3.2B of the NFHS Track and Field Rule Book. **Only two jumpers may qualify by place from a district meet.**

7.22.3 State Championships

A. Dates:

1. Week #45 for Classes A, 2A, and 3A for both boys and girls.
2. Week #46 for Classes 4A and 5A for both boys and girls.

B. Deadlines for State Championships Seeding

1. All results must be submitted to the NMAA office no later than 11:59 PM on Sunday prior to the state championships through the designated NMAA database. A \$500 fine will be imposed to each school that makes additions to their team state championship entries after the published entry deadline.
2. School representatives shall have a window of opportunity to declare participants and/or make adjustments for errors from 10:00 AM through 4:00 PM on Monday during the week of their State Championships.
3. The individual events a participant will be entered in must also be declared prior to the deadline (4:00 p.m. on Monday during the week of the state championships).

Q1: Prior to the state track and field meet, how long does a coach have to make sure that all of his/her entries have been correctly entered into the designated NMAA database?

A1: Each coach has until 11:59 PM on Sunday prior to the State Championships to insure that all of their participants have been correctly entered. Failure to meet this deadline results in a \$500.00 fine to the violating school.

Q2: How can a coach enter relay alternates who have not qualified for the State Championships in any event onto the designated NMAA database?

A2: Alternates can be entered on relays and will therefore become part of the participation list that gives them the opportunity to potentially run on relay teams at the State Meet.

Q3: A school has an athlete who has qualified for the State Championships in more than five events. In order to avoid a financial sanction, when must the coach declare what events the athlete will not be participating in?

A3: The coach must declare to the NMAA what events the individual will not participate in by 4:00 PM on Monday prior to the State Championships or face a \$500.00 fine for non-compliance.

Q4: Is a 4A or 5A field athlete required to compete in a FAT timed meet in order to qualify for the State Championships in the jumping or throwing events?

A4: No, 4A and 5A throwers and jumpers may qualify for state championship competition at non-FAT timed meets.

Q5: Do 4A or 5A District Meets need to be FAT timed since athletes can qualify out of District by place?

A5: Since seeding for State Championship running events is based on time, all District Meets must be FAT timed.

- C. Metric System** - The metric system is used for track events; the English system is used for field events.
- D. Distance Events** - There are no preliminaries in the 800 meter run, 1600 meter run or 3200 meter run.
- E. Finals Qualification** - Eight (8) participants in individual events and eight (8) relay teams qualify for the finals. Points and medals are awarded to the top six (6) places in each event
- F. Scoring** - Individual events are scored: 7-5-4-3-2-1; relays scored 10-8-6-4-2-1.
- G. High-Point Award** - Each high-point individual (by class and gender) receives a recognition award.
- H. Lane Assignments** - Lane assignments are as follows:
Curved races: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 2, 1 Straight races: 4, 5, 3, 6, 2, 7, 1, 8

I. State Track and Field Championships

Events are for both boys and girls unless noted otherwise.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. | 100 meter dash | 11. | 800 meter relay |
| 2. | 200 meter dash | 12. | 1600 meter medley relay |
| 3. | 400 meter dash | 13. | 1600 meter relay |
| 4. | 800 meter run | 14. | Shot Put |
| 5. | 1600 meter run | 15. | Discus |
| 6. | 3200 meter run | 16. | Long Jump |
| 7. | 100 meter hurdles – girls | 17. | High Jump |
| 8. | 110 meter hurdles – boys | 18. | Javelin |
| 9. | 300 meter hurdles | 19. | Pole Vault |
| 10. | 400 meter relay | 20. | Triple Jump |

7.23 VOLLEYBALL

7.23.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. Classes** - There are five classes: A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A.
- B. Practice Dates** - Practice may begin on Monday of Week #7.
- C. Practice Requirement** - Each team or individual must have at least five (5) days of practice before competing in a match.
- D. NMAA District Clinic** - The head coach from each declared volleyball school must complete the district clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between August 1st and August 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine per coach to the school which will be assessed on September 1st.
- E. Match Limitation** - Each varsity team or individual is limited to (20) total matches prior to the district tournament, including regular season and invitational tournaments. Each sub-varsity team or individual is limited to seventeen (17) total matches, including regular season and invitational tournaments. End-of-season/district tournament matches for junior varsity, if applicable, are counted toward the seventeen (17) total match limitations.
- F. Match Scoring** - Varsity matches are decided based on the scores for five games using the best 3 out of 5 format. Sub-varsity regular season matches use the best 2 out of 3 games. All varsity and sub-varsity matches will utilize rally scoring throughout.

Exception: For invitational tournaments, the host school determines what format is used for its own tournament (2 out of 3 or 3 out of 5, with rally scoring).
- G. Scoring**- Rally scoring will be used in all games. The game will be played to 25 points per game with no “cap,” except that the deciding game will be played to 15 points with no “cap.” In rally scoring, every service except a re-play or re-serve results in a point, regardless of which team is serving. If the serving team wins the rally, it receives a point and continues its serve. If the receiving team wins the rally, it receives a point and the ball for service. No “cap” means that once the number of game points has been achieved (25 points or 15 points for the deciding game), the winner must be determined by a margin of two points with no “cap” or maximum on the number of points.
- H. Pool Play/ Invitational Tournaments** – Pool Play games must be 2 games to 25 starting at a score of 4-4 with a cap of 27 for seeding purposes during an invitational tournament. Pool play games do not count toward match limitations. Tournament formats must count a

minimum of 2 matches towards a team's season match limitations. All tournament matches played during an invitational tournament count towards a team's match limitations.

I. Individual Game Limitations

1. When two schools meet to play two matches involving varsity and sub-varsity teams on a given day or night, each player is limited to a maximum of five games.

<u>Prior Match</u>	<u>Succeeding Match</u>
Plays in 1 game	May play in 4 games
Plays in 2 games	May play in 3 games
Plays in 3 games	May play in 2 games
Plays in 4 games	May play in 1 game only

2. When two schools meet to play two matches involving any combination of sub-varsity team levels on a given day or night, each player is limited to a maximum of four games.

<u>Prior Match</u>	<u>Succeeding Match</u>
Plays in 1 game	May play in 3 games
Plays in 2 games	May play in 2 games
Plays in 3 games	May play in 1 game

NOTE: Sub-varsity is defined as any level below varsity, including Junior High/Middle School.

J. Libero Trackers

It is the responsibility of the host team to provide a libero tracker regardless if the home team has a libero in the lineup.

7.23.2 Officials

- A. Officials working NMAA sanctioned events must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials for regular season sanctioned contests.
- B. Use of an official not registered with the NMAA subjects the violating school to a fine. Fines/fees are determined by the Board annually.
- C. Regular Season Official's Fees -Officials are paid the following fees, plus applicable mileage, meal and rider fees. *****Effective July 1, 2009, no gross receipts tax is to be calculated on game fees. Schools will pay game fees, applicable mileage, rider and meal fees only. Do NOT pay out gross receipts tax!*****

Varsity- \$50.00/game
 Sub-Varsity- \$45.00/game
 Junior High- \$35.00 /game
 \$25.00 per pool play match at the varsity level
 \$20.00 per pool play match at the sub-varsity level
 \$17.00 per pool play match at the junior high level

7.23.3 District Tournaments

- A. **Date** - Week #19 for All Classes

- B. Roster Limitation** - Each team is limited to fourteen (14) uniformed squad members. Rosters may not be changed during the tournament from the original list submitted unless an injury preventing a player to continue occurs. A doctor's note will be requested at this time.
- C. Event Conduct** - The site, seeding, bracket, personnel and other items are left to the discretion of the schools in the district. The district tournament is under the direction of the district chairperson or his/her designee.
- D. Qualifying Procedures for the State Tournament**
In all classes, the regular season District Champion and the District Tournament Champion (could be one or two per district) advance to the NMAA State Tournament with the rest of the field being made up of at-large berths.
- E. District Tie-Breaking Procedures to Determine Placement**
(to be used by ALL districts within the sport of volleyball)
1. A school must play each member of the district an equal number of times to be eligible for the championship.
 2. District placement is determined by district play record.
 3. If two teams are tied for 1st place there will be an automatic playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds. This game will be played at a neutral site as determined by the NMAA Executive Director.
 4. In the event that more than two teams are tied, placement is determined using the following procedures:
 - a. The team with the better head to head record in district play between the tied teams will have earned higher placement.
 - b. If more than two teams are still tied, then the head to head games within the district matches between the tied teams will be used to determine placement (i.e., 3-0, 3-1, 3 2). The top two teams will then have a playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds.
 - c. If a tie of more than two teams still exists, then the head to head points within the district matches between the tied teams will be used to determine placement (i.e., 25 20, 20-25, 25-17, 18-25, 15-13). The top two teams will then have a playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds.
 - d. If a tie of more than two teams still exists, then the head to head points within the district matches between all district teams will be used to determine placement (i.e., 25-20, 20-25, 25-17, 18-25, 15-13). The top two teams will then have a playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds.
 - e. If a tie of more than two teams still exists, a coin flip will be used to determine placement. The NMAA Executive Director or designee in conjunction with the tied schools will conduct the flip. Three coins will be tossed with the odd team receiving 3rd place and the remaining two teams having a playoff game to determine the #1 and #2 seeds.
 5. Ties for second place or lower
 - a. When two or more teams are tied for second place or lower, please adhere to 4 a thru e above. A playoff game shall not be included in the process.

7.23.4 State Tournament Information

A. Dates

Selection/Seeding – All Classes – Sunday of Week #20
1st Round of State – All Classes – Thursday of Week #20
Quarterfinals – All Classes – Friday of Week #20
Semifinals – All Classes – Saturday of Week #20
Finals – All Classes – Saturday of Week #20

B. Roster Limitation

Each team is limited to fourteen (14) uniformed squad members. Rosters may not be changed during the tournament from the original list submitted unless an injury preventing a player to continue occurs. A doctor's note will be requested at this time.

Note: Twenty (20) members of a qualifying team will be permitted to sit on the bench, behind the bench, or at the scorer's table. This includes players, coaches, managers, athletic trainers, administrators, bus drivers, etc...

C. Qualifying Procedures

The regular season District Champion and the District Tournament Champion (could be one or two per district) advance to the NMAA State Tournament with the rest of the field being made up of at-large berths. All classes will compete in a 12-team bracket.

D. Officials' Fees - Fees for state tournament officials are based on the number of games called plus mileage and per diem if applicable.

7.24 WRESTLING

7.24.1 General Rules/Policies

A. **Classes** – There are three (3) classes for boys: A/3A, 4A, 5A and one (1) class for girls: A/5A

B. **Dates** – Practice may begin on Monday of Week #19.

C. **NMAA Rules Clinic** – The head coach from each declared wrestling school must attend the October rules clinic or complete the alternate online clinic at www.nmact.org between November 1st and November 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school which will be assessed on December 1st.

D. **Match/Meet Limitation** – Each varsity team/individual is limited to thirty-two (32) competition points prior to the district tournament. Each sub-varsity team/individual is limited to 28 competition points prior to the district tournament. Competition points are as follows: Dual Meet – 1 point, Double Dual/Triangular – 2 points, Quad/One Day Tournament – 3 points, Two Day Tournament with Single or Double Elimination – 4 points, Two Day Multi-School Event with No/Limited Elimination – 6 points. (See bylaw 9.8.12.B for middle school/junior high competition limits)

NOTE #1: Individuals must participate in a minimum of 25% of the team's regular season scheduled events to be eligible for post-season participation (district/state tournament). See 7.6.5.

NOTE #2: For Individuals' limits, all events, sub – varsity (including MS/JH) and varsity count towards an individual's event limits. When the total number of competition points at all levels reaches 28, the individual is no longer eligible for sub-varsity competition. When the total number of competition points reaches 32, the individual is no longer eligible for further regular season varsity competition.

E. Individual Wrestler Representation Limited to One Team – A wrestler cannot represent his/her school on both the junior varsity and varsity level teams, or both the girls' and boys' teams, against the same school on that date.

F. Weighing in and Weight Management Program

1. Weigh-in – Unless otherwise noted as a part of the NMAA Weight Management Program, the National Federation Wrestling Rulebook is followed for dual meet and tournament weigh-ins.

2. Weight Management Program – The NMAA Weight Management Program shall consist of a biometrically determined lowest allowable weight class, a maximum weight loss per week, and a certified minimum weight procedure. The objectives of the policy are to: a) insure the health and safety of each participant b) encourage participation, and c) maintain a level competitive environment. The program policies and procedures shall be established annually through the joint efforts of the NMAA staff, the NMAA Wrestling Sport Specific Committee, and the New Mexico Athletic Trainers Association.

3. Girls' Weight Classes

a. There will be ten (10) weight classes utilized for girls wrestling:

100	113	126	145*	182*
106	120	132	160*	220*

***Note:** Participants may not weigh less than or equal to the weight below

G. Individual Tournament Software – Trackwrestling is the approved computer system for any varsity tournament, which utilizes individual brackets (www.trackwrestling.com).

H. Co-Ed Participation – During the regular season, girls may compete in boys' events. Boys may not, under any circumstance, compete in girls only events.

7.24.2 Officials

A. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must register through the Association. Schools are required to use a registered NMAA/NMOA official for regular season sanctioned events.

B. The use of a non-registered official for matches subjects the violating school to a fine. Fines/fees are determined by the Board annually.

C. The NMAA has adopted NFHS Wrestling Rule 3.2, which provides for the use of an assistant referee during competition. (When one is available – not required.)

7.24.3 District Duals (Boys Only)

- A. A school must compete in a dual meet competition against each member of the district to be eligible for the championship. All district dual meets must be completed before the week of the district individual tournament.
- B. District placement is determined by district dual meet record.
- C. In the case of a two-way tie, the team that defeated the other in regular district competition will be the champion; the loser will be the runner-up.
- D. In the event that more than two teams tie, the champion and/or runner-up is determined by a point spread system during the season as follows:
 - 1. Compare the results of head-to-head competition: If one team has defeated the other two, that team is declared the champion or runner-up, as applicable.
 - 2. If the tied teams have the same head-to-head record, the champion and runner-up shall be determined by the point spread of dual meets wrestled between the tied teams. Each team involved uses either a plus or minus spread; if a team wins by 10, they are credited (+10); the other team has a deficit (-10) in the calculation.
 - 3. If two teams tie on the point spread of the tied teams, the team, which defeated the other team in regular district competition, shall be the champion or runner-up, as applicable.
 - 4. If all teams tie in the point spread of the tied teams, the number of matches won (including forfeits) among the tied teams shall be used.
 - 5. If two teams tie in the number of matches won, the team, which defeated the other team in regular district competition, shall be the champion or runner-up, as applicable.
 - 6. If all teams are tied on the number of matches won, the point spread of all district duals shall be used.
 - 7. If two teams tie on the point spread of all district duals, the team, which defeated the other, shall be the champion or runner-up, as applicable.
 - 8. If all teams are still tied, a coin toss determines placement.

7.24.4 District Individual Tournament

- A. **Date** – The district tournament shall be held during week #33.
- B. **Bracket Software** – Trackwrestling is the approved computer system used for all district tournaments.
- C. **Individual Varsity Records** – Coaches are required to maintain accurate and complete individual records for their varsity athletes via Trackwrestling. District tournament rosters with all varsity win/loss records must be entered into the Trackwrestling system by Tuesday the week of the district tournament (week #33). Failure to submit district tournament rosters with complete and accurate individual records by the deadline will result in a \$250 fine to the school.
- D. **State Qualification** – State qualifying will be based on either automatic qualifying via individual placement at the district tournament or via the wild card procedure.
- E. **Girl Entries** – Girls must participate in the girls' classification at the district tournament.

- F. Team Scores** – Boys’ scores may be calculated unofficially at the discretion of the district. Girls’ scores are official and determine district placement.

7.24.5 State Tournament

- A. Date** – The State Tournament is held during week #34.
- B. State Tournament Qualifying** – Qualifying shall be determined by placement in the district tournament OR by the wild card procedure.

- 1. Automatic Qualifying** – The number of automatic qualifiers in each district and classification are as follows:

Class 5A (26 Schools) 1-5A (3), 2-5A (3), 3-5A (3), 4-5A (2), 5-5A (3)
Class 4A (26 Schools) 1-4A (3), 2-4A (3), 3-4A (2), 4/5-4A (3), 6-4A (3)
Class 3A (11 Schools) 1-A/3A (3), 2-A/3A (3)
Girls (63) Schools 1-A/5A (4), 2-A/5A (4)

- 2. Wild Card Procedure** – District tournament participants not receiving an automatic qualification will be eligible for a wild card berth. The number of wild card selections in each class are as follows:

Girls – (0)*, Class A/3A – (2), Class 4A – (2), Class 5A – (2)

Wild card selection will be based on the following criteria in priority order:

- a. Best overall percentage record
- b. Most number of wins
- c. Coin flip or draw of lots

NOTE: If a district does not use all their allowable automatic qualifiers, that qualifying spot will be added to the wild card pool. (**Should a girls’ district not use all of their automatic qualifying spots, those spots will be added as wild cards.*)

C. Brackets (Weight Classes)

1. Seeding/drawing will take place Monday the week of the state tournament.
2. Entries are considered verified at the conclusion of each classification’s seeding meeting (see 7.24.5.D for Exception).
3. Seeds in each weight class shall be determined by Trackwrestling software.
4. Modified double elimination format.
5. Bracket placement, byes, drawing as per NFHS rulebook.

D. Verification of Entries Exception (Seeded Wrestlers)

1. If a seeded wrestler withdraws after the verification of entries, the following rules will be applied:

- a. Deadline for seeded wrestlers to withdraw is 11:59pm Wednesday the week of the state tournament.
- b. All seeded wrestlers below the withdrawing wrestler will shift up one seed.
- c. The first unseeded wrestler in the Trackwrestling seed matrix will assume the final seed.
- d. The first alternate is added to the field and the bracket is redrawn.
- e. Alternates will be selected based on the following priority order:
 - i. Best Overall Percentage Record
 - ii. Number of wins
 - iii. Coin toss or draw of lots

E. Scoring and Awards

- 1. Scoring as per the NFHS rulebook.
- 2. The number of places to be scored and awarded medals in each classification shall be determined by the Board of Directors with input from the Wrestling Sport Specific Committee.
- 3. Trophies to the top three (3) teams.