

SECTION VII SPORTS REGULATIONS

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

SPORT	CLASSES	WEEK # OFFICIAL PRACTICE BEGINS (HIGH SCHOOL)	WEEK # OFFICIAL 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	18-20
	8-Man	6	6	10	9		**10	18-20
	2A	6	7	10	9		**10	19-21
	3A thru 6A	6	7	10	9		**10	19-22
Golf	3	Year round	Year round	10	10	8	5	46
Powerlifting	3	28	28	4	4	N/A	5	40
Soccer	3	7	7	20	17	14	5	18-19
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	38
Spirit/Dance	2	Year round	Year round	10 ⁺ Competitions	N/A	N/A	10	38
Swimming & Diving	1	Year round	Year round	10	10	8	5	34
Tennis	2	Year round	Year round	12	12	8	5	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	2 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 or any other state 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). Once post-season play has begun or state tournament seeding and selection has taken place, no regular season or non-scholastic games/matches/events can be scheduled/played in the same sport. 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.

Q2: A soccer team advances to the state tournament? If a player has not exceeded their individual game limitations, can they also participate in club soccer games during the playoffs before their team has completed post-season play?

A2: No. During the post-season, individuals are ineligible to participate in non-scholastic competition until their team completes or is eliminated from post-season play.

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 6.13.2).

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 school-sanctioned scrimmage.

7.4 RECRUITING & UNDUE INFLUENCE

7.4.1 Provisions on Recruiting/Undue Influence

- A.** A student (domestic or foreign) at any grade level shall not be recruited to a member school of the NMAA to participate in athletics. Recruiting is defined as an act, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, a school, including impermissible contact, which attempts to influence a student to transfer to a member school to participate in athletics, including the offer of improper benefits not available to all members of the student body.
- B.** It shall also be defined as recruiting to provide impermissible benefits not available to all members of the student body to an already enrolled student to influence that student to remain at a member school including recruitment under the guise of academics.
- C.** A school employee, athletic department staff member, or representative of the school's athletic interests (including parents and boosters) shall not influence a student even if the student, his or her parents or any intermediary from another school, makes the initial contact. In this situation, a coach or staff member (paid or unpaid) should immediately refer the person(s) to the school athletic director and/or principal.
- D.** Influencing a student shall include the promise or instilling the expectation of an athletic advantage, playing time, employment of the student or the student's parents or relatives, housing for the student or the student's parents, scholarships or financial aid for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible, providing other improper benefits, making improper contacts or any other material or athletic reward for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible.
- E.** A school employee, athletic department staff member, or representative of the school's athletic interests utilizing an intermediary including a peer, another school employee, a student, a parent or a citizen, to recruit a student-athlete shall be in noncompliance.

7.4.2 Representatives of a School's Athletic Interests

A representative of a school's athletic interests refers to any independent person, business or organization that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that school's interscholastic athletic program, this includes, but is not limited to:

- A.** A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school
- B.** A school alumnus
- C.** The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school
- D.** Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school
- E.** A volunteer with that school's athletic program
- F.** Club coaches/programs affiliated with a coach
- G.** A board member of that school
- H.** A member of an athletic booster organization of that school
- I.** A person, business or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program

7.4.3 Impermissible Contact

Impermissible contact is contact, either directly or indirectly, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, with a student or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

Casual contact by an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of a school with a student who attends another school in normal community settings is not a violation. At NO time during such contact may the conversation pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

A. Specific Prohibitions

Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, representatives of the school's athletic interests or third parties with a student includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1.** Contact or communication concerning potential enrollment or athletic participation at the school, other than the initial referral to the school athletic director and/or principal if approached by a feeder school student or his/her parents/family.
- 2.** Contact with any student not enrolled in a feeder school concerning potential enrollment at the school.
- 3.** Contacting any prospective student-athlete not enrolled in a feeder school or his/her parents/family by phone, email, text, social media, fax, in person, by letter or by other means.
- 4.** Requesting students, parents, boosters, alumni or other representatives of a school's athletic interests to discuss the merits of a school's athletic program with a prospective student-athlete not enrolled in a feeder school or member of his/her family.
- 5.** Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material to students not enrolled in a feeder school, that promotes primarily or exclusively a school's

athletic program or implies a school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending a different school.

6. Attending an elementary school, a junior high school, a middle school or a non-school athletic contest to identify prospective student-athletes not enrolled in a feeder school who might be recruited to attend a school.
7. Coordinating for a student or any member of his/her family to visit a school, to take an entrance examination for a school, to participate in an athletic tryout at a school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member, other representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, as part of an effort to pressure, urge or facilitate the student's attendance at a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
8. Making or arranging any other contact with the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

NOTE: 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 athletic director and/or principal if they have an interest in transferring. 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 and/or athletic administration and must take place at the school.

Q1: If a student not presently enrolled in a school and/or members of the student's family meet with a coach in any type of setting or capacity (home, restaurant, etc.) and the student then transfers to that school, would that coach/student/family be deemed to have been in violation of the Undue Influence of a Student bylaw?

A1: Yes. If a student is interested in transferring to another school, all communication should take place with the principal and/or athletic director. If the coach is also the athletic director, communication should be directed through the principal.

Q2: If a parent initiates contact with a coach with the intent of discussing the possibility of his/her son or daughter transferring schools to play in the coach's program, what would be an appropriate response from the coach?

A2: The coach should immediately inform the parent that discussing the issue with him/her would be in violation of NMAA bylaws and should the parent choose to discuss the transfer of his/her son or daughter, he/she should do so with the athletic director and/or principal. The coach should also inform the parent that he/she would be glad to discuss program specifics with them if and when the student has completed the enrollment process.

Q3: Is it permissible for a coach to contact a non-feeder school student or his /her parents prior to the student's enrollment in the school?

A3: No, a coach may not contact a non-feeder student or his/her parents prior to the student's enrollment in the school at which he/she coaches. This shall apply to all students whether they have previously been involved in athletics or not.

Q4: If a Student pre-enrolls in a school prior to officially withdrawing from his/her present school, can a coach begin the process of communicating with that student and/or allowing him/her to attend out of season work outs, etc.?

A4: No. Members of a coaching staff are to have NO contact with a student athlete presently in attendance at another school. The communication process may only begin once the Student has finalized the withdrawal process from his/her present school.

Q5: Can a coach of a high school program coach a club team during the school year and have regular communication with any non-feeder school students who are a part of that club team?

A5: Yes, however, the coach shall not recruit or influence any players on the club team to transfer or open enroll outside their attendance zone school to attend the high school where the coach is employed. Coaches who recruit or influence students to transfer will be subject minimally to a \$2500 fine and students who transfer will be ineligible at all levels of participation at the new school for 365 calendar days for following a coach.

7.4.4 Undue Influence of a Student

An “impermissible benefit” is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or generally made available to all students and/or their families who apply to or attend a school, or that otherwise is prohibited by NMAA rules.

Providing an impermissible benefit to a prospective student-athlete and/or family member by school employees, athletic department staff members or representatives of a school’s athletic interests, to secure or encourage the attendance of that student for athletic purposes constitutes undue influence, resulting in ineligibility for all high school athletic participation for 365 calendar days.

If a coach is directly associated with undue influence, the member school will be fined \$2,500/\$5,000 (See 7.4.6).

Specifically prohibited arrangements, assistance or benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A.** School-based financial assistance of any kind that exceeds the amount for which a student has been approved by an independent financial needs assessment or otherwise is in excess of any supplemental assistance provided by a school to each and every student who qualifies for financial assistance.
- B.** Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates, coupons or vouchers.
- C.** Gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.
- D.** Payment for any work or service that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount normally paid for such work or service.
- E.** Free or reduced-cost transportation.

- F.** Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests, unless legal guardianship appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has been obtained. (See 6.8.2.A for Foreign Exchange exceptions)
- G.** Free or reduced-cost rent for housing, vehicles or other items.
- H.** Full or partial payment of moving expenses or assistance of any kind with an actual physical move.
- I.** Employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid.
- J.** Free or reduced costs to attend a sport or skills camp.
- K.** Any other form of arrangement, assistance, discount or benefit that is not generally available to other students in the school or their families or that is based in any way on athletic ability.

7.4.5 Student Transferring to Follow a Coach in High School (see also 6.1.2, 9.3.18)

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/with any team (i.e. interscholastic, 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 open enrolls at or 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 365 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 365 calendar days. Additionally, if the coach is directly associated with recruiting and/or undue influence, the member school will be fined \$2,500/\$5,000 (See Bylaw 7.4.6).

Q1: If a student athlete plays on a summer league team, participates in summer practices etc. at a junior/senior high school outside of his/her attendance zone, and then transfers to that school, is he/she in violation of the Student Transferring to Follow a Coach bylaw?

A1: Yes. If a student has not officially withdrawn from his/her present school and enrolled in the new school that he/she plans to attend, he/she will be deemed ineligible should he/she choose to transfer to that school after participating on a summer league team, and/or in summer practice, open gym, etc.

Q2: When does the following a coach rule go into effect?

A2: The following a coach rule is in effect once the student completes the 6th grade and begins summer break before the student's 7th grade year.

7.4.6 Violations for Recruitment 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.

7.5 OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING & SUMMER REGULATIONS

7.5.1 Philosophical Basis

Consistent with the concept that interscholastic athletics and activities are a part of the educational system, and consistent with the established goals of health, safety, and sportsmanship, the following guidelines for out-of-season and summer regulations are set forth:

- A.** The basic responsibility of all administrators, coaches and sponsors is to provide students who are participating in interscholastic athletics and activities with a worthwhile, educational experience.
- B.** All sports have a defined-season, and no sport may operate to the detriment of any other sport.
- C.** All students should have the opportunity to participate in as many interscholastic athletic and activity experiences as is reasonably possible.

7.5.2 Rule Requirements

The following requirements apply to schools and coaches out of season at all times, both during the summer as well as the off-season during the school year at workouts, clinics, camps, or competitions. In addition, each individual school/district is required to establish and enforce regulations which are driven educationally by the NMAA interscholastic objective.

- A.** Students must be given the opportunity to participate in multiple activities throughout the year (sports, family, recreational, etc.).
- B.** Participation must not be restricted by financial status of the student.
- C.** Participation in out-of-season or summer program activities cannot be a requirement for participation during the regular sports season. The participation of students in any sports activity that occurs outside of its defined season must be voluntary.
- D.** Recruiting, Undue Influence and Following a Coach regulations will be enforced and must be followed.
- E.** No school competition uniforms or warm-ups may be used (practice jerseys permitted).
- F.** The use of general funds for out-of-season or summer activities is at the discretion of the local school/district.

G. Football Specific

- 1.** If approved by school/district administration, helmets and/or pads are permitted for a period of no more than two consecutive weeks (Monday-Saturday) beginning the Monday of week #47 through the Saturday of week #3 of the following NMAA calendar year. If a school opts to conduct off-season/summer workouts in this capacity, the following regulations must be followed:

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 20 minutes per player on each day.

Week 2 – Full contact is allowed for a total of no more than 90 minutes per player for the week. Also, on a single day, full contact should be limited to no more than 30 minutes per player. In addition, schools could utilize this second week as an opportunity for students to attend a full padded camp if approved by local administration.

Note – As is the case with all sports, football workouts/camps held during the off-season/summer cannot be mandatory for student-athletes.

- 2.** Outside of the above two-week helmeted/padded practice opportunity, the following provisions shall apply.
 - a.** Equipment such as, but not confined to football helmets, pads, etc. is prohibited in school sponsored off-season and summer programs.
 - b.** Schools may use dummies, blocking sleds, and hand shields for conditioning and instructional purposes during the off-season and summer programs.
 - c.** Schools are prohibited from attending full contact team camps during the off-season and summer programs.

Q1: May coaches require students to attend out-of-season or summer workouts, leagues, conditioning programs, etc.?

A1: No. The participation of students in any sports activity that occurs outside of its defined season must be voluntary.

Q2: May a coach use a student athlete’s performance during optional out-of-season or summer workouts, league, conditioning program, etc., to determine position on the upcoming school team?

A2: No, because any sports activity that occurs outside of its defined season is 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: During the off-season or summer, can NMAA member school coaches coach club teams that include non-feeder students or students who are not currently enrolled at his or her high school?

A4: Yes, however, if any of those students later transfer or open enroll at that high school, they will be deemed to have followed a coach and will be ineligible for a minimum of 365 school days. Additionally, if the coach is found to have recruited or induced the student to transfer, he/she could be subject to a fine of up to \$5000.

7.5.3 Out-of-Season Coaching During the School Year

Out-of-Season is defined as the period of time during the school year but outside of a sport's defined season.

Outside of the requirements listed in this section and section 7.5.2, athletic programs are under the direction of the local school/district as it relates to out-of-season coaching. Local schools/districts have the autonomy to create and regulate policies which are stricter than NMAA guidelines.

While out-of-season during the school year, the following requirements apply to all schools and coaches:

- A.** NMAA member schools, coaches and/or students of NMAA member schools may be involved with sports activities such as training programs, recreational activities, open gyms, clinics, camps, and tournaments.
- B.** On a voluntary basis, coaches and/or students may participate on teams affiliated with NMAA member schools provided participation is limited to non-scholastic competition or events.

Q1: How much time may a coach spend with his/her athletes during the off-season?

A1: Contact limitations are at the discretion of the local school/district during the off-season.

Q2: When school is not in session during a weekday (holiday, in-service, cancellation), can coaches still participate in out-of-season coaching activities?

A2: Yes, at the discretion of the local school/district.

Q3: During the off-season, I would like to have "open gym/field" on the weekend. Is it permissible?

A3: Yes, at the discretion of the local school/district, out-of-season coaching activities are permissible on weekends.

Q4: If I run an "open gym" session for my basketball players during the off-season, can players from other schools also participate in that practice session?

A4: Who can be included in "open gym/field" is at the discretion of the local school/district.

Q5: *During the off-season, can a baseball coach work on his sport with the football players who also play baseball?*

A5: *Yes. Each school has the discretion to create their own policies for the sharing of athletes, both in season and out.*

Q6: *While out of season, can I coach a club team consisting of current students as well as students not currently enrolled at my high school?*

A6: *Yes, however, if any of those students later transfer or open enroll at that high school, they will be deemed to have followed a coach and will be ineligible for a minimum of 365 school days. Additionally, if the coach is found to have recruited or induced the student to transfer, he/she could be subject to a fine of up to \$5000.*

Q7: *During the off-season, can a school/individual enter a “sanctioned” high school tournament, meet, etc.?*

A7: *No. Competition outside of the defined NMAA season is limited to non-scholastic competition only.*

Q8: *May a member school coach travel with or transport his/her athletes for competition during the off-season?*

A8: *Yes, at the discretion of the local school/district.*

Q9: *Can member schools use general funds to help fund out-of-season coaching activities (coaches’ stipends, travel expenses, tournament entry fees, etc.)?*

A9: *Yes, at the discretion of the local school/district.*

7.5.4 Summer Activities

Summer is defined as the period between the completion of the traditional/conventional academic year and the start of the new academic year, or the first official practice date as stated in the NMAA handbook for fall sports, whichever comes first.

Outside of the requirements listed in this section and section 7.5.2, summer activities are under the guidance of the local school/school district. Local schools/districts have the autonomy to create and regulate policies which are stricter than NMAA guidelines.

A. Two-Week Moratorium

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.

Q1: A high school basketball coach is taking her team to attend a tournament in Phoenix, AZ during the summer months. Who can be a member of the team?

A1: Any student can be a member of the team however, if any students not currently enrolled at her school later transfer or open enroll there, they will be deemed to have followed a coach and will be ineligible for a minimum of 365 school days. Additionally, if the coach is found to have recruited or induced the student to transfer, she could be subject to a fine of up to \$5000.

Q2: What differentiates a summer camp from a summer program?

A2: A summer camp is a maximum of one week in duration while a summer program lasts in excess of a week. Participation in a summer camp would not trigger a following a coach violation while participation in a summer program (summer activity exceeding one week) would.

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' division.

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.

Q1: Why is it against NMAA regulations for a boy to play on a girls' 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 or practice with 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 (See 7.6.2).

7.6.4 Scrimmage Limit

During the season, 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.

Q1: If a team wishes to play an alumni game as a fundraiser, does this game count as their one (1) allowable scrimmage?

A1: 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. Injured Player** – 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 and must have at least five (5) days of practice after medical release (See 7.6.19).
- B. Scholastically Ineligible Student** – A student whose scholastic eligibility status precludes participation in one quarter of the varsity contests scheduled during the regular season, may participate in post-season competition provided the student has regained scholastic eligibility.

For this exception to apply, the student must have been actively participating in team practices throughout the duration of the season and the school must be able to verify that participation.

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 baseball 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, Girls Wrestling, Powerlifting, 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 also 7.6.14, 7.8.5)
- D. Ejections/Suspensions** – Games/contests missed by an individual due to an ejection or suspension shall count toward the student athlete's individual contest limitations. (See also 7.7.2.B)

Q1: What is the penalty for scheduling/playing too many games?

A1: The Executive Director has purview of this penalty and shall make a ruling depending on the severity of the violation and when the violation is discovered. Typically, penalties involve forfeitures of games/competitions which exceed the limit.

Q2: If a school is required to forfeit a district game due to exceeding their competition limits, are they still eligible for post-season play?

A2: The Executive Director has purview over this scenario and shall make a ruling depending on the severity of the violation.

Q3: 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?

A3: 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

Winter Sports

Basketball
Powerlifting
Spirit
Swimming
Wrestling

Earliest Practice

Monday, Week #21
Monday, Week #28
Year round
Year round
Monday, Week #19

Earliest Competition

On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
Monday, Week #19
Monday, Week #19
On the 6th day after 5 days of practice

Spring Sports

Golf
Tennis
Softball
Baseball
Track & Field

Earliest Practice

Year round
Year round
Monday, Week #32
Monday, Week #32
Monday, Week #33

Earliest Competition

Monday, Week #33
Monday, Week #33
On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
On the 6th day after 5 days of practice
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 post-season play has begun or state tournament seeding and selection has taken place, no regular season or non-scholastic games/matches/events can be scheduled/played in the same sport. At the sub-varsity level, the season concludes at the end of regular season competition. (See 7.2)

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 the sport-specific bylaws for each sport.

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) simultaneously 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 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, and not requesting a medical exemption to rule 7.6.5, are exempt from this requirement (winter and spring sports only).

7.6.20 Brain Injury – Laws of 2010, Chapter 96 (SB1, 137, 38)

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

Each school is responsible for obtaining either a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature or Heat Index reading at the site of practices and competitions. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) considers more environmental factors than heat index and should be a school's first choice when evaluating conditions and planning activities. In the absence of a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature reading, a digital psychrometer or other instrument may be used at the site of the activity to measure the heat index. The use of a weather app on a cell phone is permissible to measure heat index if no other instrument is available to measure heat index at the site of the practice or competition.

A cold-water immersion tub or other form of rapid on-site cooling should be available for all warm-weather practices. If exertional heat stroke is suspected, use immersion for on-site cooling before transporting to the hospital. Access to water should always be available to all athletes.

A. Practice Protocols

1. WBGT < 87 or Heat Index < 95 Degrees

- a.** Provide at least 10 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout each hour of practice. Recommend at least two to three separate rest breaks each hour.

2. WBGT 87 to 89.9 or Heat Index of 95 Degrees to 99 Degrees

- a.** Maximum practice time is 2 hours.
- b.** For All Sports: Provide at least 15 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout each hour of practice. Recommend at least three to four separate rest breaks each hour.
- c.** For Football: Players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice that does not involve contact, and all protective equipment must be removed during conditioning activities. If the Heat Index/WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts.

3. WBGT 90 to 92 or Heat Index of 100 Degrees to 104 Degrees

- a. Maximum practice time is 1 hour.
- b. For All Sports: There must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice and no conditioning activities.
- c. For Football: No protective equipment may be worn during practice that does not involve contact.

4. Above 92.0 WBGT or Heat Index Above 104 Degrees

- a. No outdoor practice. Outdoor practice cannot take place until WBGT level is 92.0 or below or heat index is 104 or below.

B. Competition Protocols

1. WBGT > 87 or Heat Index > 95

- a. **Soccer Modification** - The referee shall stop the game for a heat time-out lasting no less than five minutes during the first and second half. The time-out will be called at the first logical time to stop play after the 20-minute mark of each half.
- b. **Football Modification** - Officials shall stop the game for a heat time-out at the first dead ball after the halfway point of each quarter. If either team has possession of the ball inside the other team's twenty-yard line, officials may delay this time out until either the offensive team scores or the ball is turned over.

2. Above 92.0 WBGT or Heat Index Above 104 Degrees

- a. No outdoor competition. An outdoor competition cannot take place until WBGT level is 92.0 or below or heat index is 104 or below.

7.6.22 CPR/AED – Laws of 2023, Chapter 178 (SB450)

As per 2023 New Mexico State Legislation, all persons who perform athletic coaching in grades seven through 12 shall hold valid licenses in athletic coaching issued by the department of education and maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including training in the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Certification shall include in-person, hands-on training. Schools shall verify that their coaches maintain current certification in CPR with AED training.

7.6.23 Air Quality

During periods of poor air quality, the local AQI (Air Quality Index) should be monitored. The AQI for the current location and time can be located by entering the local zip code into the [Airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov) website. Exposure to air should be managed more carefully for students with pre-existing lung or heart conditions. When the AQI rises above 100 schools should consider removing such athletes at risk from practice or competition. At AQI values above 150 serious considerations should be given to rescheduling the activity or moving it indoors if possible.

7.6.24 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 current seniors that are academically eligible per NMAA standards and on pace to graduate, or have graduated, may participate.
- 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.

7.6.25 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.

7.6.26 Complaints

Any school/individual filing a complaint may be required to submit, in writing/email, a full statement of the facts to the Director. The Director shall have the discretion to decide whether an investigation is warranted and the authority to investigate and act on any complaint.

7.6.27 Post-Season and Playoff Scheduling

- A.** Except for golf and A/AA baseball, 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.

7.6.28 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 golf, powerlifting, or tennis, the NMAA utilizes the following codes:

United States Golf Association (USGA)
NMAA Powerlifting Rulebook
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 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 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.*
- *Games/contests missed due to suspension shall count toward the student athlete's individual contest limitations.*
- *Schools shall ensure students who are ejected are supervised at all times.*
- *Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed necessary by the Director.*

C. 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. 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 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 and Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A school is responsible for the conduct of its team, coaches, students, and fans at any interscholastic event in which the school is participating. The basic responsibility for crowd control lies with the host administration who are required to provide an administrator or administrator's designee to be in attendance. It is also recommended that the visiting school provide an administrator or administrator's designee for any potentially contentious contests. In both situations, the administrator and/or administrator's designee cannot be a coach participating in the event. The Executive Director may invoke penalties upon a member school for actions, which violate the principles of "Compete with Class." Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, students, and/or spectators may cause the school or individual to be placed on probation or suspension for 365 calendar days (See also 7.6.25).

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

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

7.7.5 Advertising

Liquor, tobacco, or marijuana 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 (See 6.16).

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.

Q2: Do students need to provide proof of insurance if the school already has a blanket insurance policy that covers their sport programs and participants?

A2: No. The blanket policy satisfies the requirement, and it would be up to each individual school to require additional individual coverage if they so choose.

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 by Board of Directors action, including 1st round. 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 recording move to another area or stop recording a particular event.
- e. Live streaming of any NMAA State Championship Game/Contest must be approved by the NMAA.

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

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. NFHS and NMAA 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 the Regional Assigning Coordinator 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 Regional Assigning Coordinator 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 travel ring fee, where applicable.
 - B.** The Athletic Director, 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 travel-ring fee 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 travel-ring fees.
- 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 in the team sports of Basketball, Baseball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball.

- 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 (not considered in the sport of football)
 - Overall Record
 - MaxPreps Freeman Rankings (not considered in the sport of tennis)
 - 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 Organ Mountain. In basketball, prior to the district tournament, the teams are seeded as follows:

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

Scenario: Las Cruces enters the district basketball tournament as the 4 seed, but upsets Mayfield, Organ Mountain, 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 Organ Mountain receive At-Large

berths, by rule Gadsden must be seeded above Organ Mountain, Organ Mountain 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, Organ Mountain – 4, Gadsden – 5

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

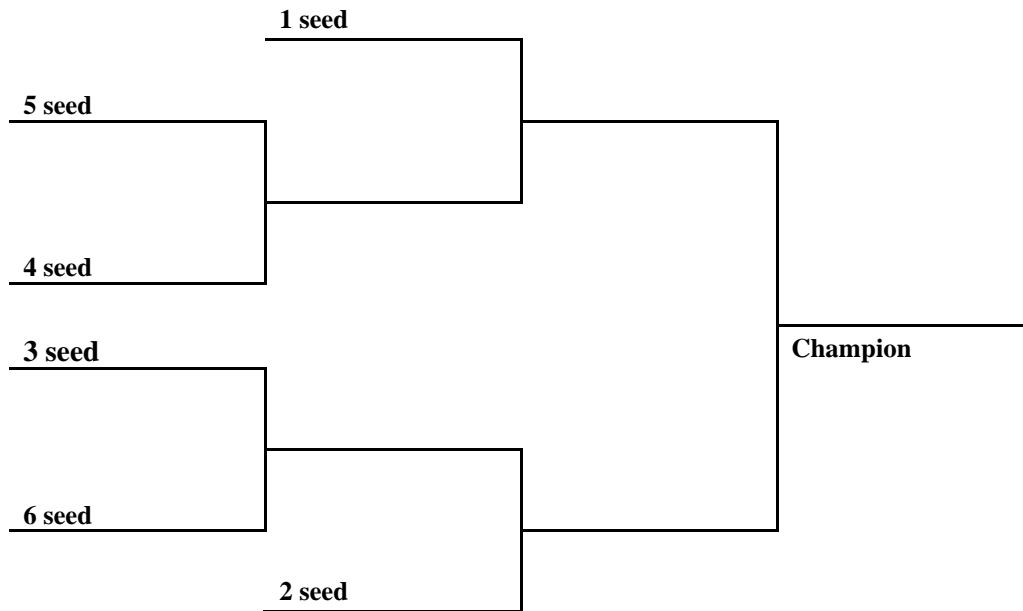
7.11.3 Seeding Process/Criteria for all Classes in Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball.

- A. Teams will be seeded 1-6, 1-8, 1-12 or 1-16 depending on the sport/classification. (See 7.11.2, 7.11.4, and each individual sport for clarification.)
- B. The higher seed will be the host site for first round games, if applicable.
- C. 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 (not considered in the sport of football)
 - Overall Record
 - MaxPreps Freeman Rankings (not considered in the sport of tennis)
 - Member School Input

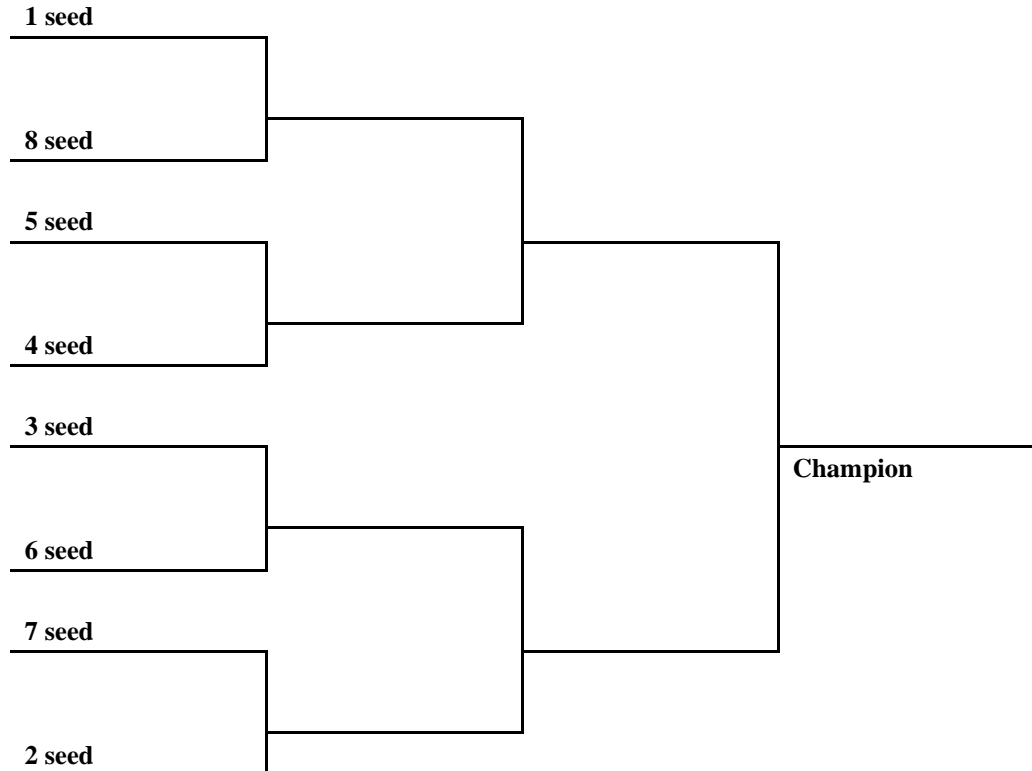
****NOTE:** In the event of a tie among criteria points, head to head will be used to break the tie. If there is no head to head competition, or the head to head competition is tied, then MaxPreps Strength of Schedule will be used to break the tie.

7.11.4 Seeding Brackets

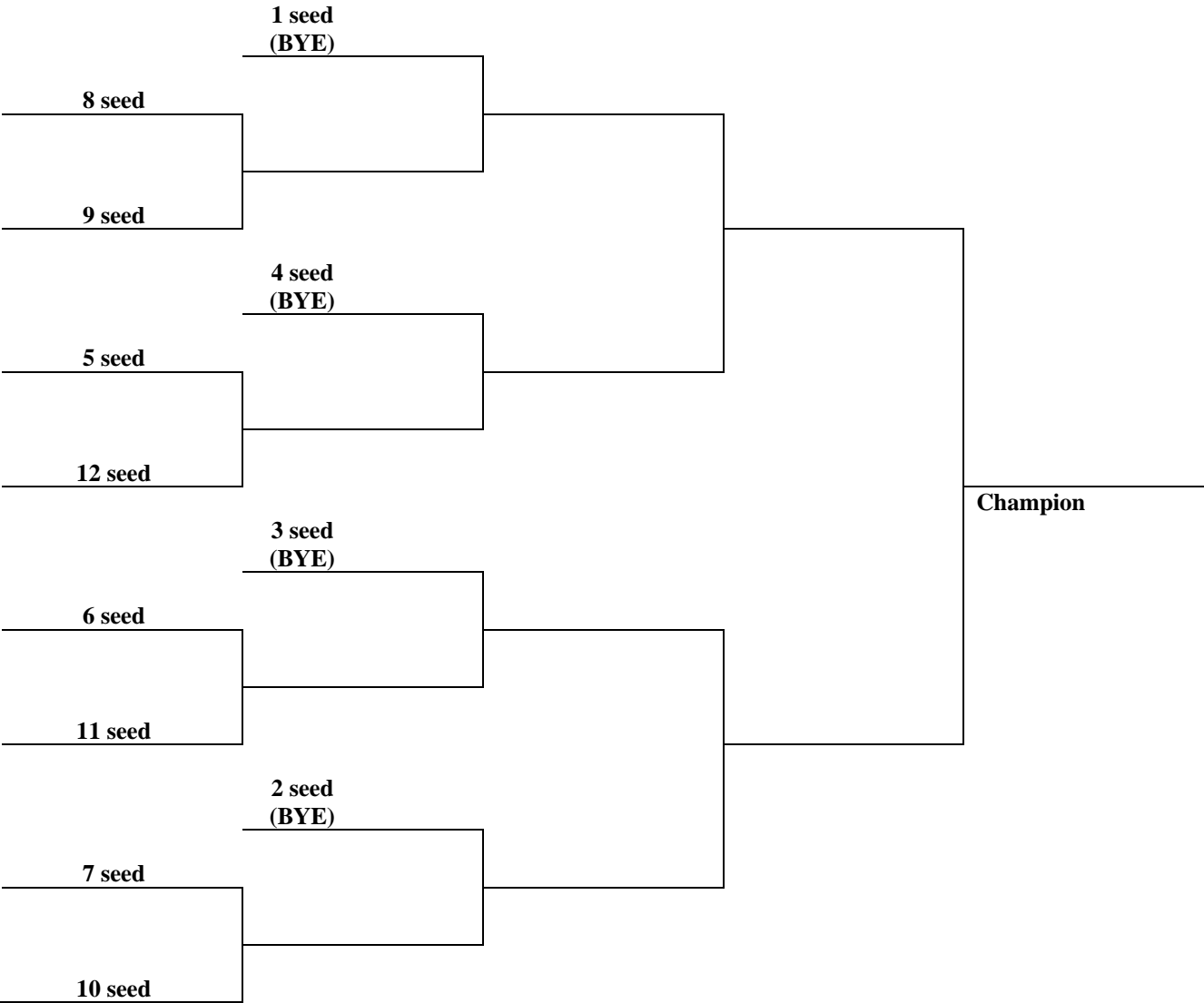
A. 6 – Team Bracket



B. 8 – Team Bracket



C. 12-Team Bracket



D. 16-Team Bracket

