## SECTION VII

### SPORTS REGULATIONS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>CLASSES</th>
<th>WEEK # PRACTICE BEGINS (HIGH SCHOOL)</th>
<th>WEEK # PRACTICE BEGINS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)</th>
<th>CONTEST LIMITATIONS</th>
<th>DAYS OF REQUIRED PRACTICE BEFORE COMPETITION</th>
<th>WEEK # STATE EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Varsity</td>
<td>Sub-Varsity</td>
<td>Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>6-Man</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-Man</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>**10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>**10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3A thru 6A</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>**10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit/Cheer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 Co-ed</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Competitions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spirit/Dance Drill</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Competitions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>3 Boys 1 Girls</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32 points</td>
<td>28 points</td>
<td>8 events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.*

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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.*

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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.
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.

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.

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.
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 StudentTransferring 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

For Summer 2020, summer programs are under the direction of the NMAA. The NMAA will
govern coaching activities during the summer.

Note: During 2020, summer activities can begin on June 15th. If a school/school district opts
to allow for summer activities to take place, the guidelines produced by the NMAA must
be followed. These guidelines are based on the public health orders set by the Governor
of New Mexico and will be updated accordingly. Schools/school districts can implement
a later start date and/or stricter guidelines.

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

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.
### 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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q3:</th>
<th>May a coach conduct a sports camp during the summer for past and potential team members?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A3:</td>
<td>Yes, as long as attendance at camp is not a pre-requisite to school team membership.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q4:</th>
<th>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?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A4:</td>
<td>Any student athlete that is enrolled through the registrar of the participating school.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5:</th>
<th>Can football players attend individual (without their team) full contact camps during the summer?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A5:</td>
<td>Yes. As long as the local school district approves it, and equipment necessary for the safety of the student is certified.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q6:</th>
<th>May a coach/football staff conduct a full contact team or position camp for past or potential team members?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A6:</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q7:</th>
<th>What differentiates a summer camp from a summer program?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A7:</td>
<td>A summer camp is a maximum of one week in duration while a summer program lasts in excess of a week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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 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)
### 7.6.7 Master Schedule of Practice and Competition Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>Earliest Practice</th>
<th>Earliest Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Sports</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Monday, Week #7</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Monday, Week #6</td>
<td>Beginning week 8 after 10 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Monday, Week #7</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Monday, Week #7</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Monday, Week #10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter Sports</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Monday, Week #21</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Monday, Week #19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Monday, Week #19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>Monday, Week #19</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring Sports</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Monday, Week #33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td>Monday, Week #33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Monday, Week #32</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Monday, Week #32</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Monday, Week #33</td>
<td>On the 6th day after 5 days of practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

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**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.
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 any athletic activity. The heat index for your current location and time can be calculated by entering your zip code into the National Weather Service Heat Index Calculator found on the Sports Medicine page of the NMAA website (www.nmact.org). You may also use the site to calculate for projected high temperatures. If the heat index is above 104, athletic activity must be postponed until later in the day provided the heat index falls to 104 or less. If the heat index is 100-104, consider modifying practices to remove protective equipment and to shorten practice duration. If the heat index is 95-99, use caution, but you may practice. If the heat index is under 95, the risk of heat illness is present, but the risk is greatly reduced. Water breaks should occur every 20-30 minutes during practice. Do not restrict the intake of fluids. Immersion in cold water is the treatment of choice for management of acute heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Call EMS if you suspect heat illness.

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 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.

7.6.26 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
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.

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. $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 NMAAA 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 (See also 7.6.23).

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.
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
Video taping 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, 4A and 5A in the sport of baseball, and 4A and 5A in the sport of softball.

Selection process for 12-team format in classes 4A and 5A in the sport of soccer, 3A thru 6A in the sport of football, and A thru 5A in the sport of volleyball, 2A and 3A baseball, and A/2A and 3A softball.

Selection process for 8-team format in A/3A soccer and 2A and 6-man football

Selection process for 6-team format in 8-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.

A. 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.)

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
• 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.

### 7.11.4 Seeding Brackets

**A.** 4 – Team Bracket

```
1 seed
   
4 seed
   
3 seed 
   
2 seed

Champion
```
B. 6 – Team Bracket

1 seed (BYE)

4 seed

5 seed

3 seed

6 seed

2 seed (BYE)

Champion

C. 8 – Team Bracket

1 seed

8 seed

5 seed

4 seed

3 seed

6 seed

7 seed

2 seed

Champion
D. 12-Team Bracket

1 seed  
(BYE)

8 seed

9 seed

4 seed  
(BYE)

5 seed

12 seed

3 seed  
(BYE)

6 seed

11 seed

2 seed  
(BYE)

7 seed

10 seed
E. 16-Team Bracket

1 seed

16 seed

8 seed

9 seed

5 seed

12 seed

4 seed

13 seed

3 seed

14 seed

6 seed

11 seed

7 seed

10 seed

15 seed

2 seed

Champion