



NMAA

New Mexico Activities Association

May 31, 2017

Attn: Committee on Women's Athletics
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Dear Committee on Women's Athletics,

The New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) is aware of the efforts underway by USA Cheer to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. Their initiative to place STUNT on the emerging sport list is important as it provides additional opportunities for women to participate in athletics and derive the important educational benefits that come with participating in intercollegiate athletics.

The New Mexico Activities Association was formed in 1921 as a non-profit organization whose principle purpose is the regulation, direction, administration, and supervision of interscholastic athletics and activities in the state of New Mexico. The NMAA prides itself in its leadership, providing educational and social experiences for the students and communities of New Mexico. The NMAA has taken a leadership role nationally in several areas, including sportsmanship, through their "Compete with Class" initiative.

The New Mexico Activities Association is comprised of New Mexico public and private middle/junior high and senior high schools. Each senior high member school is placed into a competitive district according to their enrollment and geographic location for the purpose of conducting and managing NMAA-sanctioned events within that district.

At the college level, currently women have few opportunities to participate in competitive cheerleading. The 800,000+ girls participating at the high school level in traditional and competitive cheerleading are funneled into less than 40,000 opportunities to participate in traditional cheer, some of which are held by men. By offering STUNT teams, colleges and universities will open a new range of participation opportunities that were otherwise closed for young women and girls to continue participating in their sport. With a 30-person roster, STUNT provides colleges and universities with an effective way to expand female sports offering, and improve compliance with Title IX. This will also improve compliance at the high school level.

It is our understanding that the University of New Mexico will be participating in STUNT next season. The addition of STUNT at the college level opens up opportunities for high school cheerleaders here in our state.

We fully support the efforts of USA Cheer to secure NCAA emerging sport status for STUNT and urge the Committee on Women's Athletics to approve their proposal for formal designation.

Sincerely,

Sally Marquez
Executive Director