

2006 TX-USA Youth Folkstyle Division Annual Meeting
July 15, 2006
Spring-Klein Wrestling Club
Houston, TX

0. Call to Order – 12:10pm – Louie Martinez
1. Roll Call – Team (#present plus proxies)
 - South Region: Clear Lake (1), CUMC (3), Cy-Fair (2), Spring-Klein (3), Texans LoneStar (2)
 - Central Region: AAWA Bailey (3), SACS (1), San Antonio (2)
 - North Region: Allen (3), Arlington Storm (2), Bishop-Lynch (1), Celina (2), Frisco (3), Ft. Worth (3), Grand Prairie (2), Henderson (2), Texas Heat (2), Texas Select (1)
 - West Region: Dumas (3), Randall (3), Sandpitt (3)
 - Far West Region: Eastside Wildcats (3), Spartans (1), Texas Tribe (3), Westside Wizards (3)
2. Minutes from 2005 Annual Meeting – read and approved.
3. Region Reports:
 - South Region: Membership “officially” down to 322 based on USA card reimbursement; believe actual wrestlers >400. Tournaments only averaged ~100 entries. Houston National/Novice State very successful despite late date.

Central Region: Membership down slightly. Number of “local” tournaments increased to highest number (5 including H.O.T .) with average number of entries similar to 2005. Region is in good shape financially.

North Region: Membership up (no number given). Money from tournaments went to purchase of mats. Tournaments averaged~620 entries. Brute Bowl made money thanks to move to new facility. Members present expressed congratulations and thanks to the teams that ran this year’s Brute Bowl tournament - very good job for first time with a major event!

West Region: Membership way down, ~375 members. Middle schools starting programs resulting in big drop for Div 4 and 5. Panhandle Nationals had 800 entries.

Far West Region: Membership at ~280. Eliminating high school division due to lack of participation. Sun City National entries over 600. Local tournaments average ~250 entries (pull from New Mexico).
4. Old Business: none noted.
5. State Tournament Report:
 - Entries – Open (620), Rookie (290), High School (50)
 - The tournament made money overall, but Div 6 (HS) lost money. This and other questions led to a long discussion on the HS division. Members present expressed congratulations and thanks to the Amarillo region for a great job on the tournament.
6. New business

- a. Season Schedule. Long discussion regarding the overall length of the season and the scheduling of the state tournament. Schedule proposals for having the state tournament before and after UIL HS State were discussed. The primary concerns if State is moved earlier were finding available facilities and officials, accommodating the 5 National tournaments, and scheduling for the Regional tournament.
Motion was made to hold the 2007 State Tournament on Feb. 17 – PASSED.
- b. Qualifiers for State. Another lengthy discussion concerning the qualification rules for entry in the State Tournament.
Motion was made to amend the qualifier rules to explicitly state there are no medical exemptions to the rule – PASSED.
With the early date for State, the Regional tournament will now conflict with UIL HS District tournaments. Motion was made to exempt Div 5 wrestlers from the Regional tournament IF they met the 3 qualifier requirement AND they wrestle for their HS in the UIL District tournament – PASSED. (Note, Div 5 HS wrestlers always have the option of entering State in Div 6 if they have not met qualifying requirements.)
- c. Posting Tournament Results. Key discussion points:
- Important to the kids
 - Helps grow the sport
 - Helps police qualifiers
 - Lets “odd” weight wrestlers know where they might find competition
 - Goal should be results posted within 3 days
 - Tournament host should not be paid until results are posted (used to be in rules?)
- Motion made that tournament host team(s) does not get paid for entries until the results have been submitted to the regional director – PASSED.
- d. State Tournament Rotation. Motion made to continue rotating the state tournament location among the 5 regions – PASSED.
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| Future Schedule | 2007 Houston |
| | 2008 Dallas-Ft. Worth |
| | 2009 El Paso |
| | 2010 Austin |
| | 2011 Amarillo |
- e. Eliminating Weight Cutting at Weigh-in Sites. Extensive discussion regarding weight-cutting:
- i. Discussion about using the rules that have been in place at several of the National tournaments and the last 3 State tournaments to prevent on-site weight-cutting. Motion was made to eliminate all weight-cutting at the weigh-in site – PASSED. Second motion was made to immediately scratch a wrestler who is more than 2% over weight at the weigh-in site – PASSED.

- ii. Discussion continued about confusion/abuse of the 4% allowance for random weight checks at tournaments. Motion made to eliminate the 4% allowance at random weigh-ins – PASSED.
 - iii. Discussion on the growth allowance and having it line-up with the HS date. Motion made to change the date for the growth allowance to January 1 – PASSED.
- f. Clarifying State Team Championship Calculations. Incorrect team entry forms turned in by teams created problems at the State tournament. In addition, some teams misunderstood whether more than one wrestler from the same team could earn points in a weight class. The rule states that a team can enter up to 15 wrestlers and there are no restrictions on multiple wrestlers in the same weight class. In order to calculate the team points as quickly and accurately as possible, the team entries must be filled out correctly. Motion was made that the team entry must be filled out and signed by the coach and must include wrestler, division, and weight – PASSED.
- g. Clarifying Move-Ups at State. There was concern expressed that several wrestlers entered a Division above their actual age and were in danger of getting injured. The feeling in the discussion was that the current rules already cover the situation and no changes were necessary. Regional Tournament rule #4 states qualifiers must be “at least three qualifying tournaments in their lowest eligible division.”
- h. Enhancing the Website. Strong desire to have a more youth oriented site with up to date information. Although the youth officers do not have control over the website, the preference was to work within the current site rather than start an independent site. Tom Rodenbaugh and Louie Martinez volunteered to lead the effort to enhance the youth portion of the site.
- i. Developmental Fund. Discussion initially focused on the Middle School Duals and the need to establish this as a consistent program similar to the Cadet and Junior National Duals. Providing opportunities for wrestlers throughout the state to compete against national caliber competition will be an incentive for youth wrestlers and improve the quality of wrestling in the state. This topic has been discussed at the last several state meetings, but funding options have not been approved. The proposal is to fund just a small portion of the trip (primarily the bus) so that planning can proceed knowing that a small group will not have to cover the bus expense if two full teams cannot be arranged. A number of funding options were discussed including USA Card fees, tournament entry fees, National tournament entry fee, and the State tournament entry fee.

Further discussion covered selection of the team (priority goes to state champs) and making sure teams will attend USA Wrestling events. Although there was general support for the Middle School Duals proposal, there was concern about dedicating significant Region funds if few (or no) wrestlers from the region chose to participate. Also, there are other uses for developmental funds and some of the funding proposals would generate more money than needed for the Middle School Duals.

Motion was made to require each Region to dedicate \$5.00 per Open entry at their National tournament to a Developmental Fund. The Region must report at the Youth Folkstyle Annual State Meeting how these developmental funds were spent. Motion PASSED.

- j. Background Checks. Very lengthy discussion covering various aspects of background checks including
 - Who would review the checks?
 - What is considered “passing”?
 - Effectiveness of the checks
 - Cost of the checks
 - Club vs region vs statewide
 - Who are we trying to protect – kids, club, or TX-USA?
 - Federal law will soon require checks for all (?) volunteers in 501(c)3 organizations
 - Education of parents and kids in place of or in addition to checks
 - What does USA Wrestling do/suggest?

In the end, the support was strong for making the best effort to start efforts on background checks. Motion was made for the Youth Executive Board to work closely with the TX-USA State Executive Board on a policy for implementing background checks for all coaches – PASSED.

- k. Clarification of HWT Division. When the HWT class was added into Div 1-4 the rule limiting maximum weight differential was not included. There is concern this may create safety issues if HWT wrestlers with large weight differences are matched at tournaments. Several tournament organizers indicated the old rule is still used in most cases and coaches/parents still have the ultimate responsibility to insure safety at the time of the match. No motions offered for rule changes.
- 7. Election of Officers. Election for the remaining one-year of the Vice-President term. Kirk Cobb of Allen and Dee Rutherford of Sandpitt were nominated. Kirk Cobb was elected by ballot.
 - 8. Louie Martinez adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm.