

2007 TX-USA Youth Folkstyle Division Annual Meeting

July 21, 2007

Sterling Hotel

Dallas, Texas

0. Call to Order – 10:05am – Louie Martinez

1. Roll Call – Team (#present plus proxies)

Far West Region (9): Eastside Wildcats (3), Texas Tribe (3), Westside Wizards (3)

North Region (38): Allen (3), Arlington Storm (2), Bishop-Lynch (1), Celina (3),

Frisco (3), Ft. Worth (3), Grand Prairie (3), Henderson (1), Texas Heat (3), Texas

Select (1), Texas Grapplers (2), Wild Bunch (1), Stephenville (3), Plano (2),

Grapevine (1), Lake Cities (1), Team Pojo (2), Officials (2), Team Monday (1)

Central Region (6): AAWA Bailey (3), San Antonio (3)

South Region (5): Spring-Klein (3), Team Hercules (2)

West Region (20): Dumas (3), Randall (3), Sandpitt (3), Mav Elite (3), West Amarillo (2), Wesley (3), Texas Patriots (3)

2. Minutes from 2006 Annual Meeting – read and approved.

3. Region Reports:

North Region: Membership up 60 to 1000+ wrestlers. Money from tournaments, USA cards, and Dollamur Bowl went to payments on mats so only owe ~\$5,000. Also bought 2 used clocks. Balance in account is \$0 (went to mats).

South Region: Membership at 329. Local tournaments only averaged ~100 entries and just break even. Houston National entries down without Novice State. Bought digital scales for region. Account balance up to ~\$10,000 thanks to State Tournament profit.

West Region: Membership at 467 based on card payment. Panhandle Nationals had ~775 entries and made ~\$7,000. Account balance is ~\$20,000..

Central Region: Membership up significantly to 530. Local tournaments averaged 300 entries (mostly Rookie and Novice). Heart of Texas/Novice State had almost 1100 entries. Bought 2 mats and 2 table top clocks. Account balance is ~\$6300.

Far West Region: Membership at 388 based on card payments. Sun City National entries over 500 and made ~\$1,000. Local tournaments averaged ~300 entries. Bought 4 new large clocks (cost \$11,000).

Region Development Funds:

North: \$1000 MSD (Middle School Duals), rest to mats.

South: \$1000 MSD, very small balance

West: \$1000 MSD, \$1800 balance

Far West: \$1000 MSD, \$500 travel

Central: \$1000 MSD, \$750 clinic scholarships, \$350 town hall meeting, \$175 FS/GR officials' membership fees

State Tournament Report: ~600 Open and 400 Rookie entries. Brown Center expense with all extras was \$17,000. Large expense for awards. Profit of \$5,000+.

4. Old Business: none noted.

5. New business

- a. Region Board. Proposal to require each region to have a board consisting a Director, Asst. Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. Only one board member should be from the same club. Each club in the region will have 0-3 votes for each position based on membership as per the Bylaws for State meetings.

Lots of discussion in support of the proposal including discussion to consider a paid position for State Executive Director or Treasurer. Paying a person makes them more responsible for achieving goals and makes them legally accountable. Others expressed concern about whether this was really needed (examples of large volunteer organizations) and where money would come from.

- b. Region bank accounts. Proposal for each region and the state youth board to all have accounts with the same bank, require two signatures on checks, and use QuickBooks for records.
- c. Region Audits. Proposal for region accounts to be audited quarterly and results published on website.
- d. USA card registrations. Proposal to eliminate online registration and have region directors handle USA card registrations the old paper way.

Motion to adopt items a-d. PASSED by voice vote.

e. Revisions to tournament rules:

"General Wrestling Rules"

- i. Rule 4, add clause b: Wrestling "doublets" are acceptable uniforms for TX-USA sanctioned tournaments. The uniform must be tight-fitting and not bear objectionable printing.
- ii. Rule 11, add clarification for rest time: The 15 minute rest time does not apply to matches in different divisions for double-entered wrestlers. These wrestlers should be given time to report, but cannot demand the 15 minute rest.
- iii. Rule 11, add clause b: There are no restrictions on the number of matches a wrestler may participate in per day. A wrestler's parents and coach are responsible for determining the number of matches he can safely wrestle.
- iv. Rule 21, add new rule: Youth sized mats (eg. 24' x 24') are acceptable for tournaments. All possible efforts should be made to provide safety mats bordering the competition mats. When this is not possible, the

tournament director should emphasize to the officials and coaches that "out-of-bounds" will be called as needed to protect the wrestlers.

- v. Remove section on "Texas Brackets". A tournament director may choose to use Texas Brackets, but they are not required.
"Rookie and Novice Tournament Rules"
- vi. Rule 3: Modify entry fee to a range of \$10.00-\$12.00.
- vii. Rule 5: add clarification that Tots and D5 can be included in a tournament per the discretion of the Regional Director.

Motion to approve rule changes in item e. PASSED by voice vote.

- f. State Tournament. General discussion about Open, Novice, and Rookie tournaments.
 - Should all tournaments be run together at the same location the same weekend? No, too much!
 - Is Novice State really needed? Concern about travel and if Novice dilutes Open. Claim that Novice falsely protects kids from getting ready for Open.

Motion to eliminate Novice State Tournament. PASSED by roll call vote.

Note: Novice is still an option for local tournaments in regions and these tournaments WILL count as qualifiers.

- g. Growth Allowance. Discussion about confusion due to growth allowance in January. This created a number of questions about what weight wrestlers were qualified for at state. Despite the concerns, several points were made about the need to keep the allowance as kids do grow during the season.

Motion to eliminate growth allowance. FAILED by voice vote.

- h. Surcharge for tournaments held on same day as Nationals. Proposal made to eliminate the \$1.00 surcharge a club must pay to a National tournament for hosting a tournament on the same day. This led to a long discussion on the scheduling of Nationals given the shorter season. All regions expressed the desire and need to have a National-designated tournament even if other regions have a local that date.

Motion to eliminate surcharge tournaments held on same day as Nationals. PASSED by voice vote.

- i. Reward "toughest" National tournament with 10 additional Honor Roll points. Feeling this would encourage tournaments to develop tougher competition. Vote at each summer meeting would select the toughest tournament from the previous year and that tournament would be worth 10 additional honor roll points in the coming season.

Motion to approve proposal. PASSED by voice vote.

Voted Panhandle as toughest tournament for 06-07.

- j. USA Folkstyle Nationals. USA Wrestling is bringing a national tournament to Texas in March. The entire state needs to contribute to planning and running the tournament.

Motion that each region name/elect a representative for the planning committee. PASSED by voice vote.

- k. Qualifiers for Rookie State. Brief discussion on weight class qualifications for Rookies. With the growth allowance there were questions about what weight a Rookie is allowed to wrestle at State after wrestling during the season. All agreed that the INTENT is to wrestle in the same weight class. No motions for changes.
- l. Injury exceptions. Discussed handling of wrestlers with a cast, specifically at Regionals. Currently officials around the state treat the situation differently (NFHS rules give decision to official). Some allow weigh-ins but not wrestling; some allow wrestling with a small cast if padded. This has been an issue at Regionals when a wrestler has all of his qualifiers but may be in a cast temporarily. To be consistent for all wrestlers, clarified rule to allow wrestlers to weigh-in with a cast at Regionals and then injury default if the official rules they cannot wrestle. This meets their requirement for the State tournament.

6. Member Input.

- a. Plug for Silver Class. Great class and allows you to teach the Bronze class.
- b. Middle School Duals. There was a lengthy discussion early in the meeting about how wrestlers are “eligible” wrestlers are notified and how the team is selected. Should top 3 wrestlers in each weight at State receive a letter? There was a table setup at State this past year and everyone had the opportunity to get information and sign-up. Information was posted on the TX-USA home page and the forums in December. Region directors were encouraged to “recruit” wrestlers in their region throughout the year. Also, this is not strictly a TX-USA event as anyone can register a team and attend.
- c. Thanks to the board for their efforts throughout the year.
- d. Question about whether a tournament handbook exists to help events run well. The short answer was no, but it’s a good idea.
- e. Input that teams need charter and USA card materials BEFORE October. Teams want to start practice and even attend tournaments in some cases. The board needs to check with USA Wrestling in Colorado to see how to do this.

- f. Re-opened discussion on USA card cost and money for regions/state. Comments that wrestling costs in general are very reasonable and small increase would provide funds to benefit regions.

Motion to set USA card fee at \$40.00 with additional \$5 going to the region. PASSED by voice vote.

- g. Discussion about travel funds provided by state. There used to be a \$1500.00 allocation per region that was used to reimburse travel expenses such as charter buses. Concern about where the money would come from since we don't have a good idea about the state finances.

Motion to allocate \$1500.00 per region for travel reimbursement. Withdrawn without a vote.

- h. More discussion on weigh-in rules. The current rules already give the tournament director discretion to determine weigh-in procedures as long as notice is given on the web page. However, at the Dollamur Bowl this year, the weigh-in rules were changed very late and most entrants did not receive notice. In addition, the rules varied from station to station at the tournament! Several comments that the rules should be consistent at all Nationals which have always had open weigh-ins until the designated end of weigh-ins.

Motion to amend National tournament rules to allow wrestlers until the close of weigh-ins to make weight. PASSED by voice vote.

- i. Discussion on Saturday weigh-ins at Nationals. Concern that some wrestlers cannot attend because they have to miss school and/or parents have to miss work to make Friday weigh-ins. Others countered that Saturday weigh-ins would delay tournaments too much and they already last all day.

7. Election of Officers. Vice-President position is up for election (two-year term). Louie Martinez nominated Kirk Cobb. No other nominations from the floor. Kirk Cobb elected by voice vote.

8. Louie Martinez adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.