

**2008 TX-USA Youth Folkstyle Division Annual Meeting**  
**July 19, 2008**  
**Marriott Hotel**  
**El Paso, Texas**

Call to Order – 12:05pm – Wayne Hill

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

Far West (13): Eastside (3), Team Bliss (3), TX Tribe (3), NE Bad Boys (1), Westside Wizards (3)

Central (2): Bailey (1), Capital City (1)

South (2): Cy-Fair – 2

North (21): TX Heat (3), Allen (3), HP (3), Dallas Dynamite (2), Arlington Storm (3), Grapplers (2), Frisco (3), Officials (2)

West (9): Sandpitt (2), West Amarillo (2), Randall (2), Dumas (2), Officials (1)

2. Minutes from 2007 Annual Meeting – read and approved.

3. Old Business – None noted.

4. Region Reports:

Sergio Martinez – El Paso

Debbie McLemore – Central

George Jarvis – Houston

Bob Mulligan – North

Justin Taylor – Amarillo

El Paso: ~350 members; 4 local tournaments (had issues w/ facilities); development money from Sun City used to travel for MSD (7 wrestlers and 1 coach); paid for ½ a mat? Account balance of \$834

North: Membership grew slightly (over 1000), but D5 was down; held 9 tournaments including State; \$10,000 from Dollamur Bowl used to pay off mats; Account balance of \$16,000.

Central: Membership even at ~530. Account balance \$10,000+.

South: Membership grew slightly to 390-410 range; held 8 tournaments; Account balance \$5685.

Amarillo: Membership at 401; continue to be hurt by middle school teams; Panhandle Nationals had 690 entries + 120 in high school division; purchased clocks for \$12,400; working on 2 Dollamur mats at ~\$6000; Account balance ~\$20,000.

Discussion on facilities and cost

- Can be an issue for North; for example, Keller school facility is \$2500 plus school gets gate and concessions
- Amarillo having a hard time getting access to schools due to facilities being booked for school and other organization events
- El Paso expecting to have to start paying for schools (\$1000?); looking at ways to work with HS coaches
- Central does not have a big problem for local tournaments; lost access to Burger Center, but only have 4 locals; so far have been able to get schools for practice at reasonable cost
- South used Spring Klein for all but 1 tournament

## 5. State Report – Louie Martinez

Huge thanks to Connie Oldfield for 18 years leading Amarillo region!

Facilities are a concern across the state.

Bank accounts took a while because there was no documentation from previous years. Could not get Wells Fargo to work with us, but accounts are now in place at Compass Bank.

FS/GR Team Texas – total budget likely to be ~\$135,000. Money from regions really helped.

Growth: Input from John Reenan that Dallas has 250 boxing club – more than anywhere else in the country. What can we learn from their model?

Believe we really need to link in with MMA and grappling.

Plan to start Schoolboy FS/GR dual team next year w/ Sam Sandoval as director. Duals are in Indianapolis in June.

Feedback and comments:

Dave Lehman – surprised there has not been more tie-in/advertising with Olympics. Also papers and other local outlets. Middle school effort in Keller was a huge success.

Wayne Hill – Agree on the publicity; regions need a media rep.

Jim Dorsey: Website is the key. Should be the source of information for every TX-USA members as well as a marketing tool to grow membership. People who come to the state now have a very hard time finding useful information about the wrestling, clubs, and rules.

- Discussion on website and ideas
- Places to post entries and results

John Reenan - Hold middle school duals before HS

- Maybe going to wrong people; don't just go to others that have vested interest in keeping things the way they are

Troy Collins, Lehman, David Vasquez – key to growth/publicity is tying in to HS duals and using middle schools.

Kirk Cobb – also need to get tie-ins to youth football; has really helped in Allen; football commissioner has 2 kids in wrestling.

Debbie McLemore - agree on youth football; LCP has a huge Pop Warner program that teams try to tap in to.

## 6. New Business

a) Tournament Standards

a. Must be online to count as qualifier

Discussion: Makes posting results, checking qualifiers, managing tournaments much easier. Really comes down to region directors agreeing to sign-up to make it successful and work with teams that don't have computer access/skills (there will be a few). Regions that have their own automated system for running tournaments can still use online system for entries and results. Region directors all agree to work with their clubs.

Motion made and seconded - Every region must use the online entry and results system for local tournaments in order for them to count as a state qualifier.

PASSED by voice vote.

b) Consistent weigh-in procedures across state.

Discussion: Amarillo does weigh-in (usually Friday night) at 4 sites. No random on Saturday.

El Paso also does single weigh-in.

The issue is about weight and the concern in some areas that people might be cheating.

On-site weigh-ins are good because they get rid of busted rule.

Wrestlers that are going to be competitive at state are going to go to Nationals and get on-site weigh-ins that are not contested.

Should be a region issue; each region knows its issues and if/where there are problems.

Local tournaments should be about mat time and developing wrestler interest in the sport.

Making parents/wrestlers go to Friday weigh-ins or having longer tournaments on Saturdays will cut down on some of the participation. We should be getting local tournaments to run faster.

Motion - Allow every region to determine weigh-in procedures and not have a required on-site weigh-in.

Motion rescinded as this is already the rule.

Motion made a seconded – All local tournaments are required to have on-site weigh-ins Friday or Saturday. Random weight checks and busted rules are eliminated.

Friendly amendment offered and accepted – Amend motion to state weigh-ins must be at designated sites with an official.

PASSED by voice vote.

c) All qualifiers must be wrestled one week before the regional.

Agreed, the rule already states that entry forms with completed qualifiers must be turned in one week before regionals. No need for motion to change rule.

## 7. Weight Allowances

- a) Get rid of rule or keep it?

Discussion: Rule causes many problems with qualifiers and cutting weight.

Kids do grow and it is not good to force them into a higher class when there are big jumps (at some of the higher weights). Also don't want them to have to start cutting to stay in the same class. No motion for change.

- b) Clarify rule on wrestling lowest weight one time before Jan. 1 in order to get the allowance.

Discussion: More discussion on problems with the rule. The online registration system will help verify the qualifiers.

There are some kids who don't cut weight and don't grow. When D4 gets 2 lbs allowance they are now under the lower weight and would like to "move down."

Moving it back to Feb. 1 like before gets rid of qualifier issue but doesn't help with growth as much.

Motion made and seconded – End discussion and leave rule as is. Wrestler must make scratch weight once before Jan. 1 to get the allowance.

PASSED by voice vote.

- c) We still need some way to establish the weight prior to Jan 1.

Discussion: Lengthy discussion on verifying qualifiers and weights. The online registration system will help and can have it identify wrestlers who have to make scratch weight (because they did not have a qualifier at lower weight before Jan. 1).

Even if system identifies wrestlers for scratch weight, it is not practical to have officials and tournament directors trying to weigh in kids at different weights.

Motion made and seconded - Wrestlers who have not wrestled before Jan. 1 must make scratch weight for all three qualifiers.

PASSED by voice vote.

- d) State membership requirement by Jan. 1

Discussion: Don't understand why we need to have this. What about kids that find wrestling late or move into the state?

Almost every youth sport has membership or registration requirements and deadlines.

Motion – Remove requirement that wrestlers must be a member of the state association by Jan. 1 in order to qualify for state. No 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- e) Change rule for HWT to state max 25lbs difference.

Discussion: Should align with USA Wrestling policy and put a limit on weight difference.

Most tournaments already try to do this.

Is the USAW policy 25lbs or does it differ by age group?

Would handle by having multiple HWT classes and awards.

Motion made and seconded – All HWT weight classes will include a limit of 25lbs weight difference.

PASSED by voice vote.

#### 8. USA card fees

Discussion: Based on region reports most seem to be in good financial shape.

Motion made and seconded - Reduce USA card fee to \$40.

PASSED by voice vote.

Region Development Fund:

Discussion: Same argument as USA card fee.

The National Tournament fees were never increased as part of the RDF. In fact, increasing the entry fee had been proposed and voted down. The RDF was just a way of saying regions should be spending part of their funds specifically on development.

Motion made and seconded - Remove Region Development Fund from rules and remove \$5 added to National Tournament entry fee. (Editor's note: \$5 was never added to the entry fee so this part of the motion technically does not change any rule. JMD)

PASSED by voice vote.

#### 9. Address club voting rules

a) Discussion of voting rules for clubs and officials.

Motion made and seconded - Allow the officials in each region to vote equal to a club for Youth Division business only.

PASSED by voice vote.

b) Motion made and seconded - Change voting rules for Youth business to include an additional vote for each 25 members over 50 up a maximum of 5 votes per club.

FAILED by voice vote.

#### 10. Middle School Duals Report – Jim Dorsey

We took two teams again to USAW Middle School Duals in Danville, IL. Teams performed very well and the experience for both the A team and the young development team was great. The A team lost in the Silver bracket finals by 1 point. We had 6 wrestlers lose zero or one match. However, getting wrestlers to commit and fill out the teams is still very hard. We had several wrestlers that had to back out for various reasons in the last 2-3 days. We lost one dual by 1 point and another by 3 points we probably would have won otherwise.

Sergio Martinez (Development Team coach) - Agree with all that was said over the years about MSD. I never believed what was being said (about the trip/tournament), but it really is amazing. Every region needs to push their kids to go.

Appointed Kirk Cobb as MSD coordinator for 2009.

#### 11. National Tournaments

Need to set criteria. Has to be out of state talent.

Out of state is a ridiculous measure. El Paso already said NM kids come for all the locals so why should they count as “out of state” for Sun City?

Sun City also had bonus Honor Roll points to help grow the tournament.

Lots of discussion about travel and lack of numbers/quality at Houston Nationals.

Agreed, but Houston also has to travel to Amarillo and El Paso.

Houston as ~4 million residents and high school wrestling is growing FAST. We should be talking about growing youth wrestling in Houston instead of eliminating opportunities for the region.

If we want to grow in Houston, we should incentivize the tournament to get people going and not cutting it out.

Motion made and seconded – Combine Heart of Texas and Houston Nationals for Honor Roll points and alternate locations. Include Novice State as part of the tournament.

PASSED by voice vote.

#### 12. Inner city program

John Reenan voted as director if inner-city development.

#### 13. By Law review

Voted Jim Dorsey to coordinate a review of the ByLaws and make recommendations for changes.

Each region to designate 2 participants on committee.

#### 14. Video telecast of annual meeting

No voting or participation from remote sites; just broadcast so everyone has a chance to follow what is going on.

Motion made and seconded – State to arrange and fund broadcast of 2009 annual meeting in Austin.

PASSED by voice vote.

15. Discussion of paying region directors

Leave it as a region issue.

16. Elections:

Vice- president - Leo Sandoval (only nomination) ELECTED by voice vote.

President – Wayne Hill (only nomination) ELECTED by voice vote.

Wayne Hill adjourned meeting at approximately 5:00pm.

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Minutes submitted by Jim Dorsey.