

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of TX-USA Wrestling, Inc. August 18, 2018

Agenda:

- Call to Order: 12:03pm
- Roll Call, designation of club representatives
 - South
 - Spring-Klein - 2
 - Cypress WC- 1
 - Boneyard - 2
 - KAWC - 3
 - Vici - 1
 - Central
 - Hippo - 1
 - Four Points - 1
 - Ohana - 1
 - NB Elite - 3
 - ATX - 1
 - North
 - Spartan - 2
 - Punisher - 3
 - Azle - 2
 - Arlington Storm - 3
 - Mighty Eagles - 1
 - Texans - 1
 - Dragon Youth - 2
 - KWA - 1
 - Northwest HS - 1
 - Stephenville - 1
 - Allen HS- 1
 - Best Trained - 2
 - Wakeland HS - 1
 - West
 - Wesley - 2
 - Randall - 3
 - West Amarillo - 1
 - Vernon - 2
 - West TX Grapplers - 1
 - Far West
 - Wildcats
 - TWOA - 3
 - Quorum Established
- Approval of Minutes
 - **Motion to approve minutes of March 4, Spring Meeting as posted on website. Second. Approved.**
- State Chairman Report – Randall Balch
 - Membership
 - 6050 athletes
 - 4250 full - peak, but not much growth over years
 - 1800 HS - 33 teams;
 - Ironman Series participation up significantly
 - FS/GR participation strong

- Record State entries
 - Fargo participation up for Men and Women
 - Women's JR Duals champs
- USAW Women's Nationals in Irving
 - 773 entries (largest Women's tournament in USA)
 - Lost money due to USAW format change (3-days)
 - U23 will be added to it this year
- USAW tournaments open for bids
- Objectives - focus on leadership and excellence
 - Athletes (see slides posted on meetings page)
 - Coaches
 - Officials
 - Now must have SafeSport and USA membership
 - From Tony Black - Athletes officiating at local level must have either Athlete or Leader membership; for regional/national events must have Wrestling Leader card
 - Fundraising
- Background Check
 - All Olympic sports orgs are standardizing BG check
- Wrestling Leader Membership
 - New type combining previous Coach and Leader
- Safe Sport Overview and Updates (see slides posted on meeting page)
 - All Adults covered (not just coaches)
 - Guidelines for in-person contact
 - Social media - separate personal and CLUB accounts; no 1:1 texting
 - Communications – make sure parents or others are included
 - Travel
 - Presents special risks and challenges
 - Need to organize and conduct charter bus trips accordingly
 - State (TX-USAW) and individual responsibility
 - Reporting
 - How can we track volunteers and know they have completed SafeSport Training?
 - Board will look into possible options
- Region Reports
 - South - Ryan Sheeren
 - Account balance up
 - Houston Nationals profitable due to increased numbers
 - Dedicated on FS tournament as Cadet/JR fundraiser (overall donated ~\$140/wrestler)
 - ESD/MSD – sponsored region wrestler \$100/wrestler
 - Improved parking at S/K
 - Bus to El Paso for Edge of Texas was great; sold out quickly
 - Officials - need a plan to improve numbers and ability
 - Central – Xavier Hernandez
 - Account balance down slightly
 - Bought 2 mats
 - Still need to make Team TX contributions
 - Looking to raise money for Team TX kids
 - North – Jeff Black
 - Account balance up; big boost from State
 - Referee training plans; we will pay costs

- Helped fund Bus to El Paso; trip was great
 - Ran Girls divisions at all of our tournaments - looking to grow
- West – Ryan Diaz
 - Panhandle more profitable with increased numbers
 - Donated \$6k to Team TX
 - Looking to buy either mats or clocks; possibly additional trailer for mats
 - Looking to start Panhandle Friday night to finish at reasonable hour Saturday
- Far West – Ralph Solis
 - Thanks to all who attended Edge of Texas; tournament was great with strong numbers
 - Note that Las Cruces Invitational tournament will be the Sunday after Edge of Texas (12/16)
 - Wrestlers can weigh-in at Edge of TX and get 2 tournaments on the weekend
 - Youth State will be at the El Paso Coliseum On March 1-2
- Treasurer's Report – Jim Dorsey
 - State Account
 - Current state balance (w/o National Teams) ~\$29k
 - Pending adjustments from teams, regions, plus 2019 prepaids would bring year-end balance to ~\$59k
 - National Team accounts will end year lower than 2017
 - **Motion to accept treasurer's report as presented. Second. Approved.**
- Youth Folkstyle
 - **2018-19 Youth Schedule - Ironman Series and State Tournament**
 - **Nov 23-24 - Panhandle Nationals, Amarillo Civic Center**
 - **Dec 15 - Edge of Texas, UTEP**
 - **Jan 11-12 - Houston Nationals,**
 - **Jan 26 - Heart of Texas, Round Rock Sports Center**
 - **Feb 1-2 - Lonestar Natls, Ft Worth Convention Center**
 - **March 1-2 - Youth State, El Paso Coliseum**
- FS/GR Season and Team TX (Men and Women)
- Elections
 - State Chairman
 - Randall Balch
 - **Charlie Strange (Cypress WC) - elected by vote count**
 - Treasurer - remainder of John's Term
 - **Roy Beckman (South Region, Vici) - elected by acclamation**
 - Secretary -
 - **Jim Dorsey (ATX) - elected by acclamation**
 - Youth Director
 - Nick McClellan (Texans) -
 - **Todd Olson (Punisher WC) - elected by vote count**
 - Women's Director
 - **Travis Clark (All-American WC) - elected by acclamation**
- Old Business
 1. Novice and Rookie classification changes.

Proposal A:

 - a. The current Novice rule stipulates that a wrestler is novice if they are a 1st or 2nd year wrestler.

Change to:

- 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year wrestler, AND no previous Open State Placers or previous Novice State Finalist.
- Tot and D1 are considered Novice and may compete as Novice or Open regardless of previous placements. Essentially, Tots and D1 are exempt from the Novice rule. If a D2 wrestler has competed for 3 yrs. previous to the first D2 year, they are considered to be Open (1st yr. tot, 2nd yr. D1, 3rd yr. D1, 4th year D2 – Open)

Proposal B:

- b. Eliminate Rookie and have only Novice and Open. Novice would be 3-yrs.
 - Could include provisions for forcing top 3rd-year wrestlers to Open.

Discussion:

Jeff Black withdrew Proposal B after concerns about no Rookie option

Many wrestlers not ready to go to Open after 2 yrs so they quit.

Expect only 3rd yr wrestlers participating in Novice would be those not ready for Open.

Actually, a large percentage would double enter Novice and Open for mat time (and to get wins)

Coaches and parents should move the top Novice wrestlers up.

How do we police out of state wrestlers?

Motion to approve Proposal A changing Novice to 3-yr definition. Second. Passed.

2. Proposal to expand official Girls divisions to cover all age groups. 2017-2018 was the first year for official Girls division in TX-USAW and covered only "Middle School". Need to determine if current D1-D5 are duplicated or if USAW Girls age/weights would be used.

Discussion:

Preference is USAW weights as this makes out of state participation easier.

Tracking this will be hard relative to TX-USAW Open state qualifiers.

Note the Girls divisions would still be optional at local tournaments.

Motion to approve adding Girls Division based on USAW ages/weights. Second. Passed.

3. Open State doesn't allow move-ups. Proposal to allow wrestlers who bust weight at State to move-up for a fee.

Discussion:

Purpose is to make sure kids get to wrestle.

This option is currently allowed at nearly all TX-USAW tournaments and some parents are confused by difference at state.

Note wrestlers are already allowed to REGISTER for a higher weight than their qualifiers. This just allows them to also move up at weigh-ins.

Motion to allow wrestlers to move up at Open State for a fee determined by host. Second. Passed.

4. Add fee to all local and Ironman Series tournaments to help fund Folkstyle National Teams. Points 1 & 2 go together and all money goes directly into a separate TXUSAW Folkstyle National Teams account.
 - Change State tournament pricing range from \$10-\$15 to \$10-\$17 and \$2 from each entry goes to National Teams account.
 - Increase all Ironman Series tournament entries by \$5 and the additional \$5 from each entry goes to National Teams account.

Discussion:

Need to fund these teams to increase participation among our top wrestlers. Any access from Folkstyle teams would be used for FS/GR teams. For most wrestlers this would be \$20-\$30 additional cost per year. Teams will still not be completely free. Wrestlers will still have to pay for equipment at least.

Motion to increase tournament fees with additional fee going to Folkstyle National Teams account. Second. Passed.

- New Business for Discussion
 1. Change D4 and D5 weight class to align with UIL middle school.
 - Why: To more closely align the D4 and D5 weights to those commonly used for UIL Middle School events. As UIL wrestling expands to more middle schools, it will be easier for parents and wrestlers to participate in both UIL and TX USA events.

D4: 75, 80, 89, 98, 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 140, 150, 162, 175, 200, 285

D5: 89, 98, 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 140, 150, 162, 175, 200, 285

- Additional request received to consider adding D4-65lbs

Discussion:

Lower weight class (D4-65) can't be supported by entries. Reviewed limited data from middle school state and TX-USAW state. No motion made. Item tabled to Spring Meeting.

2. Starting in 2019-2020, require Youth State Tournament be held either the week before or the week of UIL Districts to shorten the season. Also, swap Rookie and Novice State so that Novice and Open State are run together.
 - For most of the seasoned wrestlers the folkstyle season begins early October and doesn't end until early March. This represents 5 months of folkstyle wrestling. In youth sports the way to keep people coming back for more is to give them just enough that they desire more. Our current season has them asking themselves if they really want more.
3. Coach in circle during a match - Propose rule to make it a MATCH point for the opposing wrestler if a coach is on or over the line while the match clock is running.
 - Coaches on or slightly across the wrestling circle is way too common
 - Many don't even budge when wrestlers are right at their feet

- Adjourned

Submitted by Jim Dorsey, TX-USAW Secretary