

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Tuesday, May 11, 2022
5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Kerry McCoy, Secretary
Van Stokes, Treasurer
Mike Macchiavello
Nate Engel
John Stefanowicz
Rob Cate
Craig LaMont
Steven Thorpe
Mallory Velte
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio
Les Gutches, Associate Executive Director for Programs and Strategy
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications
Laura Peeters, General Counsel
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Veronica Carlson
Mike Juby
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and jumped right into the agenda

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 26, 2022 MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 26 minutes made by Joan Fulp. Second by Steve Thorpe with one correction. In the girls wrestling report, change "during the COVID year" to "during the current year.". Approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner noted it has been busy time for USA Wrestling since the in-person meeting in March. He noted the in-person meeting was informative, and better than a Zoom meeting. He said the U.S. Open went well, with strong Senior level competition. He praised the alumni

celebration for women's wrestling held at the Open this year. He attended the Pan American Championships in Mexico, where the USA won the team title in all three styles. He said that the USA qualified most of its weights for the Pan American Games. Baumgartner will attend the USOPC Congress in June. He noted that he will attend both Final X events, Stillwater on June 3 and New York on June 8. The Hall of Fame Honors Weekend will be held with Final X Stillwater. He also reminded all to vote for John Smith for the USOPC Hall of Fame.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender noted that the USA set a high standard at the Pan American Championships, with both veteran athletes and young wrestlers competing well. He noted the three USA people who were inducted into the UWW Americas new Hall of Fame, Bruce Baumgartner as a leader, Jordan Burroughs as an athlete and Bill Zadick as a coach. He thanked Rob Cate for his excellent work at the U.S. Open and noted that the Women's Nationals in Texas had record entries.

Bender reported that the USOPC had some recent staff changes, He also noted that USA Wrestling, the USOPC and Francisco Lee hosted ACODEPA, the Pan American Sports Confederations, at his home. The USOPC will elect a new president, and it is down to two candidates, Dexter Payne (U.S. Ski/Snowboard president) and Gene Sykes (former LA28 bid chair).

He also reported on some new staff members at USA Wrestling. Ellen Paddock has joined as the new Communications Coordinator. Ivan Ivanov was hired as Greco-Roman General Manager. James Green was named the new Men's Freestyle Developmental Coach. A job search continues for a Business Development Director, and a firm to consult on a Marketing strategy.

He noted that there are still forces in college wrestling seeking to fight against the RTC model, and that USA Wrestling remains engaged.

5. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING UPDATE

Rich Bender reported on a recent call with UWW President Nenad Lalovic. He believes UWW should allow Russians to participate on committees. He indicated that the 2023 Senior Worlds would not be in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and reconfirmed his commitment for the USA to host the 2027 Senior Worlds, at a city of USA Wrestling's choice. He is considering whether or not to seek the IOC Presidency. He would announce a decision after the Paris Olympics. Russia and Belarus are not included in the 2022 Senior Worlds.

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Finance Committee met April 25, with part of the call with Steve Post giving an investment review. The USA Wrestling investment policies are being followed during this time of challenge. In regard to internal financial reports, USA Wrestling is \$1.8 million ahead of expectations, with

\$250,000 below expenses. Staff is currently working on the budget, with the Finance Committee to review in June.

7. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mike Macchiavello reported that Joey McKenna had accepted the first AAC position available, and they were working on the second AAC position. The group is also seeking men's freestyle athletes to step up for positions.

8. POLICY UPDATES

The Executive Committee received a set of policy updates for review. There were four policies updated in the last year. Under USOPC requirements, these updates must be uploaded by June 8 by USA Wrestling. Laura Peeters summarized the policy changes required by USOPC Compliance. She noted that the USOPC is pushing hard on anti-retaliation statements.

Kerry McCoy requested that the language concerning gender be updated to include gender neutral language. He also asked that under complaint 1.5 that the document does not indicate how under ethics/membership that people would be notified. Laura Peeters said she would make those updates. Van Stokes said that USA Wrestling had made the required changes and praised staff for their work on keeping up with the required changes.

Rob Cate offered concerns on the language concerning conflict of interest and stated that with the language involved, it would be difficult for many volunteer leaders not to be considered in a conflict of interest in some way. He also noted an error in the Code of Conduct on Olympic wagering, which does not reflect that sports gambling has now become legal across the nation. The committee discussed many aspects of the Conflict of Interest language, and how USA Wrestling is able to govern itself with that language as an approved policy.

Motion to accept the policies, with the noted corrections from Kerry McCoy, made by Steve Thorpe, seconded by Van Stokes. Approved.

The committee continued to discuss its obligation to make policy changes when it is in the best interest of the organization and the sport.

9. BY LAW REVISIONS

Bruce Baumgartner asked if these revisions needed to be made as part of the USOPC audit process, and Laura Peeters confirmed that they were. Laura Peeters gave details on the specifics of these changes and answered questions on their timing. These changes will need to be voted upon by the entire Board, and there was discussion about how this would be done in order to meet the June 4 deadline. A meeting time of Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 Eastern time was set to move this forward.

10. SAFE SPORT UPDATE

Laura Peeters noted that USA Wrestling had gone through its administrative audit, which went well. Although the U.S. Center for Safe Sport shows little leniency in how it scores, USA Wrestling has checked the boxes, with one area fully implemented and three partially implemented. Laura Peeters praised Tony Black, Dave Mathews and Megan Ball for their work on this audit.

11. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp noted that two more states had officially added women's wrestling, Wyoming and North Carolina, and Indiana had given girls wrestling emerging sport status. She reported on her attending meetings in North Carolina and Virginia, and noted that a vote was coming soon in Alabama.

12. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

Kerry McCoy noted the women's alumni reunion in Las Vegas, and the span of success which was included in the group. He noted the committee had met in April, and had another meeting set for later in May. He noted some work on an issue concerning the scheduling of women's wrestling at the Regional and local levels, which was being addressed. He also noted the group was working on an accomplishment document, and would be making recommendations on diversity training.

13. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business. The committee went into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.