

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Tuesday, March 8, 2022
5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Kerry McCoy, Secretary
Veronica Carlson
Mike Juby
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
Meredith Wilson, Director of IT, Digital Content and Marketing
Cody Bickley, Director of National Teams High Performance
Morgan Rabine, Manager of Corporate Partnerships
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Van Stokes, Treasurer
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. WELCOME

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and explained that in light of the war in Ukraine and the issues it causes for wrestling, this meeting remained on the schedule. In addition, the U23 procedures could be finalized earlier in order to get it to the athletes.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2022 MINUTES AND THE FEBRUARY 16, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING

Motion to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes, with one correction, that Steve Thorpe was in attendance, made by Steve Thorpe. Second by Nate Engel. Approved.

Motion to approve the February 16, 2022, with the correction of taking out the names of absent from the minutes, made by Joan Fulp, second by Steve Thorpe. Approved.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender gave an update on world issues, including the war in Ukraine, and its affect on USA Wrestling. There was a U.S. team competing in Europe when the invasion of Ukraine began. USA Wrestling contacted the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee immediately, which advised the team to complete its competition, as there was no credible threat to them in Turkey. Since then, UWW has banned Russia and Belarus from international wrestling competitions indefinitely. UWW President Nenad Lalovic sits on the IOC Executive Committee. The IOC asked National Olympic Committees and International Federations not to allow Russia/Belarus in their events, as well as not to host events in those countries. At the UWW Bureau meeting, the 2022 Worlds in Krasnoyarsk, Russia were not discussed. On behalf of USA Wrestling, UWW Vice President Stan Dziedzic passed on the offer to USA Wrestling to host the 2023 Worlds if circumstances present themselves.

USA Wrestling sent an invitation to Ukrainian athletes to come to the USA to train. The offer was declined, as they explained that they were focused on the war. USA Wrestling intends to support the Ukrainian Wrestling Federation as appropriate. Currently, UWW is meeting with the IOC to determine the best way to support Ukraine.

4. U23 WOMEN'S TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES

Cody Bickley presented the team selection procedures for U23 Women, which tabled the proposal until a follow-up meeting. Cody Bickley explained the details which made these different than those for the other disciplines.

Motion to approve the U23 Women's World Team procedures by Veronica Carlson, Second by Joan Fulp. Approved.

5. IN-PERSON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Bruce Baumgartner explained the agenda and specific times for the In-Person Executive Committee meeting in Iowa City on March 26. After breakfast at 7:30 a.m., there will be a short Board of Directors meeting at 8:00 a.m. to vote on the Independent Director position, which will be followed by the Executive Committee meeting which will wrap up in the morning. After lunch, the group will attend the Celebration of Life for Mark Reiland from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and will come together again for dinner.

6. NEW BUSINESS

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Rich Bender made a shout out to the women leaders in USA Wrestling in recognition of International Women's Day.

Rich Bender gave details on the Olympic medal ceremony for Tervel Dlagnev, which was held during the Big Ten Wrestling Championships in Lincoln, Neb. on March 6. USA Wrestling worked with the USOPC, the Big Ten Conference and the University of Nebraska to set up the ceremony, IOC member Anita DeFrantz attended.

He also reported on the third NCWWC Nationals, the annual national tournament for NCAA women's wrestling, which was hosted in Adrian, Mich., March 4-5. There were over 200 athletes, and the talent was exceptional.

Rich Bender also reported on the meeting USA Wrestling held with wrestlers with Athletes for Medical Freedom at the national headquarters. The athletes also met with Sarah Hirshland of the USOPC. Sarah Hirshland reported that she was impressed by the athletes and told them that USA Wrestling does a great job.

The committee talked about various activities going on during the week of the NCAA Div. I Championships in Detroit, March 17-19.

Rich Bender reported that there will be a Women's Wrestling Summit at USA Wrestling headquarters on March 28-29, led by Kyra Barry. He also reported that Coach Tony Dungy came to Colorado Springs to meet with Jahi Jones and Kerry McCoy about the HBCU Wrestling initiative.

Motion to adjourn by Kerry McCoy, seconded by Veronica Carlson
Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.