

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, July 13, 2022
5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Herb House, 1st Vice President
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Kerry McCoy, Secretary
Van Stokes, Treasurer
Mike Macchiavello
John Stefanowicz
Mallory Velte
Craig LaMont
Veronica Carlson
Mike Juby
Rob Cate
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio
Les Gutches, Chief Operating Officer
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications
Laura Peeters, General Counsel
Cody Bickley, Director of National Teams High Performance
Meredith Wilson, Director of IT, Digital Content & Marketing
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Nate Engel
Steven Thorpe
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. PRESIDENT’S GREETING & CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee. He noted that the Board of Directors meeting was set for August 11-12 in Colorado Springs, and if any committee members had not yet finalized their travel to do so.

President Baumgartner read the Conflict of Interest Statement and asked for any disclosures. No disclosures were made.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 13, 2022 MEETING

Corrections to the draft minutes should include listing Herb House as 1st Vice President, as well as adding the word “he” to the third sentence of the Finance Report. Motion to approve the May 13 minutes, with corrections, made by Van Stokes, seconded by Joan Fulp. Approved

3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner congratulated Rich Bender for his re-election to the USOPC Board of Directors. He reported that he had attended the Olympic Assembly in Colorado Springs, and Mallory Velte was there as an AAC representative. He also noted that Adeline Gray was there. He gave a summary of the activities at the Assembly, including some of the concerns that the NGBs had expressed to the USOPC during the meetings.

Mallory Velte noted the Assembly went well, and it was her first that she attended in-person, which was better than the previous virtual one. She noted that USA Wrestling seemed to be doing well, in comparison to what she heard from other sports.

Bruce Baumgartner also reported on attending the USA Wrestling Long Range Planning Committee meeting in Colorado Springs and thanked the USOPC staff which helped at the meeting. He noted that he spent time with USA Wrestling staff while there. He noted that staff member Steve Fraser would be retiring and thanked him for his service. He will be attending the USMC Junior/16U Nationals in Fargo later in July. He also reported that the USOPC asked him to be part of a virtual discussion panel on July 26.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender reported that the USOPC had elected a new president, Gene Sykes, and some background concerning the election, which also included Dexter Payne as a candidate. He also praised Steve Fraser, noting that few people had been more impactful on U.S. Greco-Roman than he has been, and also did a great job in his Developmental position with USA Wrestling.

Cody Bickley provided an update on the Greco-Roman staff, with new General Manager of Greco-Roman Programs Ivan Ivanov now leading the program. He noted that Ivan will oversee the preparation for the World Team, and that he will evaluate the direction he will take the program with no implementation of changes until after the World Championships.

Rich Bender noted that the hiring process for the Director of Business Development was continuing, and that there will be a hiring process started for Steve Fraser’s position. He also noted that the Marketing firm reviewing USA Wrestling’s marketing needs had begun its work.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Van Stokes reported that the Finance Committee met on June 27, a call he took at the USA Wrestling headquarters. It was the second review of the FY 2023 budget proposal. He reported

on the healthy peer review process, with input from staff directors. He said the staff brought back a revised budget, and the committee was pleased with the work. The Finance Committee approved the budget that will be presented to the Board of Directors in July. The committee also reviewed the May financial statements, with USA Wrestling ahead of membership revenue by \$1.4 million and total revenue by \$1.6 million. He said he expects the organization to finish the fiscal year in a very solid position.

6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Veronica Carlson noted that John Stefanowicz was a finalist for the election to the USOPC AAC Board.

7. LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Van Stokes reported on the in-person Long Range Planning Committee meeting held at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs, Colo., June 28-29. He said the meeting met its objectives to dialogue and look to the future. The focus was on the road to Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles in 2028, covering all aspects of the organization. The group updated the five strategic priorities of the plan, keeping the priorities but making appropriate adjustments. The group also looked at the external and internal environment. He expressed gratitude for the work of the USOPC staff who conducted the meeting, Avery Wilson, Dave Patterson and Katie Gullick.

Rich Bender noted that Avery Wilson was retiring after a distinguished career, and her last duty with the USOPC had been working on the USA Wrestling Long Range Plan meeting. He also thanked Megan Ball for her work on organizing the meeting. Bruce thanked all of the athletes who made a major contribution to the meeting, Katherine Shai, Wynn Michalak and Pat Smith. He also praised the work of Heather Lawrence and new Independent Board member Angie Taylor who attended the meeting. Rich Bender noted that the Long Range Plan would be front and center for the staff moving forward. Van Stokes called it a collaborative work in progress, with help from the USOPC to move it forward.

8. D, E & I COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry McCoy noted the work that the committee had done in regards to the transgender issue in sports. He noted that the committee spent considerable time reviewing the uniform issue for U.S. athlete Latifa McBryde, who made the Junior Pan Am team. USA Wrestling sought UWW approval for her to wear the uniform in freestyle competition at the Pan Am event, which was not approved. He also noted the biggest project for the committee was its Accomplishment Report, which would be ready to present at the Board of Directors meeting. He noted that the committee would be doing more of its work in smaller subcommittees in the future.

The Executive Committee members shared information and perspectives concerning the transgender issue as part of this report.

9. SAFE SPORT UPDATE

Laura Peeters noted a busy period of Safe Sport activity, with nothing out of the ordinary. She reported that the U.S. Center for Safe Sport's IT integration with USA Wrestling's membership system did not work well recently, which USA Wrestling staff Tony Black and Dave Mathews were working to correct.

Laura Peeters reported that the USOPC NGB Compliance Audit had begun its certification process. Numerous documents had been uploaded to the USOPC, and weekly meetings have been set over the next few months.

10. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp said that there was not much new to report on the high school scene, but we currently stand at 36 states with official championships, with Indiana and Alabama approving emerging sport status. She reported that USA Wrestling female membership has grown above 25,000, up more than 6,000 since 2019, and that there will be almost 1,000 entered in the USMC Junior Nationals in Fargo in mid-July.

11. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING UPDATE

Rich Bender noted that USA Wrestling continued to send teams to UWW events, and that there was no change in the UWW decision to exclude Russia and Belarus from competition. He noted some challenges in getting access to tickets for the Senior Worlds in Serbia.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Rich Bender reported that the USOPC had decided to extend the current Digital Marketing Agreement with the NGBs for another year, through the end of 2023. USA Wrestling would continue to have its website content on the USOPC platform, and also receive the \$300,000 to USA Wrestling as part of the agreement. Rich thanked his staff for working on that project.

Motion to adjourn by Van Stokes, seconded by Joan Fulp.
Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.