

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Van Stokes, Secretary
Don Reynolds, Treasurer
Rob Cate
Steve Thorpe
Zac Dominguez
Veronica Carlson
Mallory Velte
Nate Engel
John Stefanowicz
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio
Les Gutches, Chief Operating Officer
Laura Peeters, General Counsel
Joe Russell, Manager of Men's Freestyle Programs
Shannon Daugherty, Men's Freestyle & RTC Coordinator
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Michael Macchiavello
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling
Craig LaMont

1. PRESIDENT'S GREETING & CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. He congratulated Mallory Velte on her medal and the teams on their performance at the Senior World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia. He welcomed Zac Dominguez and Don Reynolds to the committee.

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

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

No corrections were made for the previous minutes. Motion to approve the July 13 minutes made by Joan Fulp, seconded by Steve Thorpe. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner provided a brief President's report. He attended the Senior World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia earlier in September. The Women's Freestyle team took 2nd, the Men's Freestyle team took 1st, and there was clear continued progress with the Greco-Roman team. He thanked USA Wrestling staff and supporters for their attendance.

While in Serbia, President Baumgartner attended the UWW congress, many meetings, and events outside of the competition. He feels positive about future representation in the UWW Bureau by the United States.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, 2022 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE, & UNITED WORLD WRESTLING UPDATE

Rich Bender reported further on the impressive performance at the Senior Worlds. He shared the media coverage and social media statistics as well specific sources that covered aspects of the event. There was an election during the UWW Congress, and Daniel Igali (Nigeria) was elected to the Bureau. The 2023 World Championships location has not yet been formally announced. It is expected to be held in either Budapest or Istanbul.

He shared that the UWW Paris Olympic qualifying process was announced today. A change in these procedures is that the winners of the bronze medal matches at World Championships will have to compete against each other at the event to see who receives the quota for the weight for the Games.

Rich Bender also reported that USA Wrestling is entering the final stages of the USOPC Audit for retaining NGB status and has been successful so far. A few changes will need to be made, but overall, the organization is in good standing.

He also shared that internal meetings are taking place to improve events, hospitality programs, and social media coverage. Additionally, four positions are in the process of being filled. He reported that the membership year is off to a great start and World Cup preparations are in full swing.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Don Reynolds shared a brief update on the financial situation. Staff are currently finalizing the July and August numbers to close out the 2022 Fiscal Year. Currently, the organization looks to be ending the 2022 Fiscal Year in very good position.

Bruce Baumgartner discussed filling the two open Finance Committee positions. He would like to appoint Dr. Angie Taylor and Ted Young to fill the two open positions. If they do not accept the appointment, he will ask Heather Lawrence and Will Cokeley respectively. He requested the Executive Committee's approval in making the appointments.

There was a motion to approve President Baumgartner's decision to appointment two individuals to fill the Finance Committee Vacancies by Van Stokes. The motion was seconded by Don Reynolds and unanimously approved.

President Baumgartner will report back during the October meeting who accepted the positions.

Les Gutches provided an update on the primary general liability policy. After meeting with agents and reviewing options, the organization has opted for a Self-Insured Reduction which reduces the premium and gives the organization more control over how claims are initially handled while encouraging risk management awareness. USA Wrestling will be responsible for the first \$250k of each claim. When making this decision he explained that over an 8-year period the organization would have saved almost a million dollars by choosing this option. Additionally, this is an annual saving of just over \$300k.

Les Gutches also explained that now the excess policy is at \$5 million, but now excludes sexual abuse and molestation coverage. For now, the organization is limited to \$1 million per claim or \$5 million in aggregate claims. He shared that over 60 companies were given the ability to offer excess coverage, but only one company provided rates. The rates they offered had unreasonably high premiums and would not be cost effective. He noted the USOPC only requires \$1 million in coverage and USA Wrestling meets that. Les Gutches and Laura Peeters are researching how other NGBs are handling this. Staff will present any additional information regarding policy decisions at the next meeting.

6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Veronica Carlson shared that the AAC met today after a short recess due to the Senior World Championships. She explained that she will be stepping down as Chair, and Johnny Stefanowicz will take over as chair. The AAC will then vote to appoint a new Vice-Chair. President Baumgartner thanked Veronica for her leadership and wished her the best.

7. NEW BOARD MEMBER ONBOARDING & EDUCATION – BOARD MEMBERSHIP/REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

Bruce Baumgartner updated the committee on the progress made with formal onboarding. Any of those who have not finished onboarding will be reached out to individually by Bruce and Megan Ball. He shared that new Board members had a few additional steps and will be meeting with Bruce and Rich to discuss any questions they may have.

8. D, E & I COMMITTEE REPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry McCoy shared that the committee will be teaming up with the Big Ten conference to see how both parties can partner on additional DEI topics. Additionally, the committee will be requesting UWW, Flo, and other coverage outlets specifically state Women's Freestyle instead of Women's Wrestling in order to acknowledge specific disciplines.

9. SAFE SPORT UPDATE & USOPC COMPLIANCE AUDIT UPDATE

Laura Peeters shared that more policies and procedures to be approved by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport. These are already being done in practice but are now required by the Center to be in writing. She also shared that there be an event audit in 2023 at a Youth Event, likely at Fargo. Laura noted that she will be a part of the committee that is reviewing the new contract between the Center and the USOPC.

Laura will send out the preliminary findings report to the committee next week. From the findings there will be a few policy and bylaw revisions that will need to be reviewed by the Board. These will be sent to the Executive Committee for review prior to being sent to the Board.

10. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp noted that Virginia has voted to move their state into emerging sport status. Additionally, NFHS finally released numbers after a break since 2018. Joan and Andrea will review those numbers and share the data. Joan also shared that Wrestle Like A Girl held a girls wrestling advocacy day in conjunction with the 50 year anniversary of Title IX a few weeks ago in Washington D.C. Many state leaders and young girls were present. Rob Cate shared Nevada will be voting to official recognize girls wrestling on 9/29/22. Kerry McCoy noted that the WLAG Gala will be on 10/11 in Washington D.C. with many members present.

11. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Motion to adjourn by Steve Thorpe, seconded by Don Reynolds.
Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.