

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, October 12, 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
Mike Macchiavello
John Stefanowicz
Nate Engel
Rob Cate
Craig LaMont
Zac Dominguez
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
Joey McKenna, guest

Absent:

Steven Thorpe
Mallory Velte
Veronica Carlson
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. PRESIDENT'S GREETING

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee. He noted that he has contacted Angie Taylor and Ted Young to serve on the Finance Committee. He also noted that he will need to replace an audit committee member from outside the Board. He also asked the committee about any conflict of interest, of which there were none expressed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 MEETING

Correction to indicate that Rob Cate was present at the meeting and Craig LaMont was absent. Motion to approve the September 28 minutes, with corrections, made by Zac Dominguez, seconded by Nate Engel. Approved

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner commended the staff for getting the Senior Trials procedure proposals to the three Sport Committees and the Athletes Advisory Committee and National Team athletes for review and discussion.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender reported on the Wrestle Like A Girl Gala in Washington, D.C., which he just returned from earlier in the day. He said it was a great night for the sport. Kyra Barry, Tamyra Mensah Stock and Donna DeVarona were honored, and it also celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Rich, Terry Steiner and Kerry McCoy were USA Wrestling leaders there. He noted that staff was working hard on the World Cup, handling visa needs and getting the USA teams organized. He noted that the Ukrainian women's team was invited to train in the USA two weeks prior to the World Cup, with support from an IOC grant and free room and board from the USOPC. He noted that the first USA team had left for Pontevedra, Spain for the U23 Worlds, and if the U23 team wins five medals, it would set a new medal record for one year for USA Wrestling. He also noted that the organization was close to getting hires completed for the private donor fundraising and the business development positions.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Don Reynolds reported that the July 2022 financial reports were completed and would be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting in November. He also expected the year-end financial reports soon. He reported that September 2022 revenue levels were strong and looking good for October as well. The committee welcomed Angie Taylor and Ted Young as new members. A tentative schedule for the Finance Committee meetings was developed and would be finalized in a week.

6. INSURANCE UPDATE

Les Gutches reported on the status of USA Wrestling's insurance coverage, including for coverage for sexual issues. He discussed the strategy around the process, as well as its current status. Rich Bender noted that USA Wrestling has reached the USOPC requirements concerning insurance. Additional updates to the Executive Committee will be provided if necessary.

7. ATHLETES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

John Stefanowicz said the AAC was continuing to work on recruiting athlete representatives and what is expected concerning the definition of an athlete. They are working with Laura Peeters on the details. There are also some new National Team members this year, and the AAC is working on ways to onboard them, using this new group as a test group to develop their program.

8. BOARD ONBOARDING

Bruce Baumgartner and Rich Bender have made calls to all of the new Board of Directors members. Megan Ball and staff are working on getting all members current with membership and Conflict of Interest statement signatures, with an October 15 target deadline. They are also working to get members of all of the committees also current.

9. DE&I COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry McCoy reported that the committee met with the Big Ten a week prior on ways to collaborate and came up with some excellent ideas in the D,E & I space. The Big Ten sets the standard in college wrestling and had a lot to share with USA Wrestling. He also reported that he was a member of the Wrestle Like A Girl Board, and has let them know what USA Wrestling is doing with its D, E & I efforts. They are interested in continuing that dialogue. He also noted that more work was needed in developing and implementing USA Wrestling's celebration schedule plans.

10. SAFE SPORT AND COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Laura Peeters reported that she is part of the USOPC group working on a master service agreement with the U.S. Center for Safe Sport. She reported that there are still a lot of service issues there. She also noted the volume of Safe Sport complaints increases as the membership grows. In regards to USOPC compliance, USA Wrestling has submitted its response as part of the USOPC audit, and a further report will be made on that situation at the next Executive Committee meeting.

11. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp reported no new state association updates at the high school level. She and Andrea Yamamoto are sending coaching resources to women's wrestling leaders in many states. She said that what needs to happen in the next year is more focus on building the infrastructure of women's wrestling at all levels. She indicated that girls and women come through the sport and are not involved anymore. We need to let them know they have a place in wrestling. A new focus must be on developing women to be coaches, officials and leaders. There will be USA Wrestling women's directors Zoom calls, as well as additional alumni outreach. Other efforts are being made to support women to participate in the USA Wrestling State Leaders Summit. There is also a project to work with college coaches to develop their freestyle abilities. Joan Fulp said a strong plan needs to be developed and put into practice at all levels.

The committee discussed ideas concerning cooperative efforts with Wrestle Like A Girl, as well as adjustments to the RTC system that would make them more available to women. A partnership with Wrestle Like A Girl in making "coaching women" a part of the coaches education curriculum is underway.

12. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING UPDATE

Rich Bender indicated that the World Cup in Iowa was a major focus of activity now. He noted that in mid-October, UWW would work on the location of the 2023 Senior World Championships, with Budapest or Istanbul possibilities. He noted that USA Wrestling has met with Rob Cate about bringing World Championship events to Las Vegas, and that Pat Christensen with Las Vegas Events was supportive.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The next Executive Committee meeting is set for November 9.

The committee went into Executive Session at this point.