

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
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
John Stefanowicz
Rob Cate
Zac Dominguez
Mallory Velte
Veronica Carlson
Craig LaMont
Nate Engel
Mike Macchiavello
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio
Les Gutches, Associate Executive Director for Programs and Strategy
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications
Cody Bickley, Director of National Teams High Performance
Aphten Goldman, Director of Business Development
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant
Joe Russell, Manager of Men's Freestyle Programs
Morgan Benham, Manager of Corporate Partnerships

Absent:

Steven Thorpe
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. PRESIDENT'S GREETING

First Vice-President Kerry McCoy made the Conflict of Interest statement.

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee. He said that he had attended the USA Wrestling staff holiday party and service awards in Colorado Springs.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 14, 2022 MEETING

Motion to approve the December 14, 2022 minutes made by Joan Fulp, second by Veronica Carlson. Approved

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner noted that he intends to keep these meetings to one hour as possible. He asked for reports to take between 2-3 minutes, and for members to send information as possible in advance. He attended the Beat the Streets LA event, and noted that it was a good event for the athletes. There was a special function where BTS LA founder Andy Barth was recognized. He also met with staff while in Colorado Springs, and it was an excellent function for the staff. While in Colorado Springs, he met with Holly Shick of the USOPC to discuss USA Wrestling's governance and the audit. He noted the USOPC told him they are changing audit standards for next year, and that USA Wrestling was in the top 25%. He says USA Wrestling wants to be the best in this area.

Bruce Baumgartner is working on his UWW travel schedule, as part of the campaign for UWW Bureau. He asked for committee member input on where and when to hold the in-person Executive Committee meeting. He also announced that he intends to appoint Zac Dominguez as chair of the Greco-Roman Sports Committee, and received support from the committee on that choice. That opens a vacancy on the Greco-Roman Sport Committee, which will need to be filled soon.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender expressed excitement about the hiring of Director of Business Development Aphten Goldman, who he introduced to the committee. He also noted the hiring of Meredith Suess as National Teams and RTC Coordinator. He updated the committee that Justin Ruiz was moving from Director of Donor and Alumni Relations to be the interim General Manager for Greco-Roman. He noted that the staff team of Justin Ruiz, Herb House and Cheney Haight were getting strong support in their new roles. All three National Teams were currently training at the Bill Farrell Training Center at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center. USA Wrestling staff also had a chance to meet with the Greco-Roman Team Leaders in New York recently.

He reported that over the holidays, General Counsel Laura Peeters resigned from USA Wrestling. He explained the staffing plan during the present time, which includes current staff involvement and outside legal counsel. He noted that there will be two positions in the future, one for in-house counsel and one for a Safe Sport Manager.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Reynolds has audio issues and did not present the report. Les Gutches reported that November and December statements would be ready for the next Finance meeting, and that an extension was taken on the filing of the 990. USA Wrestling was waiting on the final financial audit report. He explained the new end-to-end HR service provided to staff, which will streamline functions and provide ease-of-use for employees. He said that USA Wrestling

remained in strong financial position, that there budget discipline and that membership is strong. He noted that the organization is dealing with issues caused by inflation.

6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

John Stefanowicz congratulated Aphten Goldman for joining staff. He noted the AAC was status quo during the holidays. They are waiting for another meeting with Holly Shick of the USOPC concerning the audit. He noted only one athlete position needing to be replaced and explained that the Team Procedures had moved forward with athlete involvement..

7. TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES UPDATE

Cody Bickley noted that there would be a Sports Committee meeting for men's freestyle later that evening and ones for Greco-Roman and women's freestyle on the next day. These meetings would cover age-group procedures (U15, U17, U20, U23, Senior Pan Am). He noted there were not many changes from last year, and explained the process at each age level. Bruce Baumgartner asked when the final versions would be available for Executive Committee vote. Cody Bickley said by end of the week. The committee decided to hold an email vote on these procedures.

8. WORLD BEACH GAMES PROCEDURES

Gary Abbott presented the World Beach Games procedures, and event that will be held in Bali, Indonesia in the fall of 2023. The procedures were prepared by a small committee with 1/3 athlete involvement (Ashley Flavin, a 2019 WBG athlete and current college coach). He explained the differences in the process from four years ago, due to how the UWW Qualification System was being managed.

Motion to approve the procedures as written by Zac Dominguez, second by Veronica Carlson.
Approved.

9. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Kerry McCoy reported that the committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting and there was no new news.

10. SAFE SPORT REPORT

Megan Ball explained that some Safe Sport activity had come in recently, and was being handled by herself, Tony Black and Derek Sikora. She explained the process about how the U.S. Center for Safe Sport determines whether to handle a case or send it back to the NGB. She noted that some cases sent to USA Wrestling goes to the state level, while others may be handled by USA Wrestling counsel.

11. WOMEN'S WRESTLING REPORT

Joan Fulp noted that three states were holding their first official state girls meets this winter, Iowa, Ohio and Wyoming. She said that she and Andrea Yamamoto were invited back to the NFHS rules committee meeting in April. She is excited about the numbers of high school girls, as shown by the weight management program. She reported that the Committee to Advance Women's Wrestling will have a call in late January, which is a collaborative group from many parts of the sport, including athletes.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND UWW REPORT

Rich Bender noted that Tela O'Donnell (2004 Olympian, board member of Wrestle Like A Girl) was in Colorado Springs for an extended time, meeting with USA Wrestling's Coaches Education Manager Mike Clayton on a collaborative curriculum for coaching girls wrestling.

He noted that the UWW Technical Commission had no substantive rule changes, and that USA Wrestling supports keeping the current rules intact. The Senior World Championships in Belgrade will have the following schedule (by discipline): Men's Freestyle, Women's Freestyle, Greco-Roman.

13. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

The Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 5:52 p.m. to discuss the Executive Director Evaluation Process.