

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
5:00 p.m. MT

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Don Reynolds, Treasurer
Van Stokes, Secretary
John Stefanowicz
Rob Cate
Zac Dominguez
Mike Macchiavello
Nate Engel
Steven Thorpe
Mallory Velte
Craig LaMont
Veronica Carlson
Rich Bender, Executive Director
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications
Cody Bickley, Director of National Teams High Performance
Aphten Goldman, Director of Business Development
Megan Ball, Executive Assistsant
Lorraine Rorabaugh, Manager of Donor and Alumni Relations
Stephanie Jezwinski, Fundraising Coordinator
Sam White, Intern

Absent:

Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and said that it seemed a long time since they had met in their in-person meeting in Las Vegas in April. He thanked the members for their leadership.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR APRIL 25, 2023 MEETING

Motion to approve the April 25, 2023 minutes made by Nate Engel, second by Joan Fulp.
Approved

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner thanked the members for attending the in-person meeting in Las Vegas and noted that the U.S. Open was an excellent event. He also reported that he attended the National Wrestling Hall of Fame inductions in Stillwater, Okla. in early June, as well as Final X in Newark, N.J. the next weekend. He noted some of the items on the agenda for the meeting, including the by-law recommendations, some of which came from the USOPC compliance audit. He noted that in future virtual Board of Directors meetings that he will ask the different groups represented to provide written or verbal reports. He also noted that he was looking forward to attending the USMC Junior/16U Nationals in Fargo, N.D.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender noted that after the successful U.S. Open, that the USA had a dominant performance at the Senior Pan American Championships in Argentina, winning team titles in all three disciplines. He also reported on Final X, with perspective about the success of the event and the talent of the U.S. Senior World Team. He noted that 29 of the 30 weight classes were set, with one remaining wrestle-off at 57 kg in women's freestyle.

Cody Bickley further explained the process about how a returning World medalist can request and receive a delay on a Final X championship series. Specifically, he noted how Helen Maroulis met all the criteria, and received the extension. He also noted how the decision will be reached about when and where the Special Wrestle-off will be.

Rich Bender noted that memberships for 2022-23 had gone over 293,000, which is 40,000 more than USA Wrestling has ever had in the past. He noted new members of the USA Wrestling staff: Savannah Asmann (Communications Coordinator), Melinda Suple (Manager of Membership Services) and Erwins Saget (Manager of Applications Development). He also noted that an offer had been made and accepted for Greg Dana to serve as the new Finance Director at USA Wrestling. Van Stokes provided additional information about Greg Dana, and explained his start date was June 26.

Rich Bender also noted that the USOPC Board meeting was coming up in a week and would focus on strategic planning through Los Angeles and Brisbane Games. He gave an update on the UWW decisions regarding the inclusion of Russian and Belarussian athletes in upcoming events.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Reynolds noted that in the last meeting, the Finance Committee approved the March results and reviewed the April data. He noted a \$1.5 million positive variance and \$1.7 million in unrestricted cash at the time of their review. He praised Van Stokes for his volunteer work on site at the national office, helping drive forward the budget process and help lead the search for the new Finance Director.

Don Reynolds reported that the Finance Committee had received the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget, reviews the line items, sent questions to staff, and then met to review the Budget on June 13. The staff had submitted a budget with a positive variance of \$12,710, basically break even, in a fiscal year with both a Senior World Championships and an Olympic Games. He noted that the revenue for the proposed budget was over \$20 million, a first for the organization, fueled by top line revenue growth. Each staff department head fielded questions about their budget items. At the end of the meeting, the Finance Committee approved the proposed budget, which will be presented to the Board of Directors at its August meeting. He noted it was the first time that a proposed budget had been approved upon first review. Reynolds noted that the next Finance meeting would be on June 26, where the most current financial statements will be reviewed.

6. BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Van Stokes read the Conflict of Interest statement for the meeting.

Van Stokes reviewed the Bylaw Amendments which the Executive Committee was being asked to review, which would be sent on to the Governance Committee, and ultimately could be presented to the Board of Directors in August.

The amendments included the following specific areas of the By-Laws

- 4.1.i
- 4.4
- 4.4.6
- 4.7
- 4.7.1
- 5.4
- 7.1.6
- 7.2
- 7.2.1
- 7.2.1(d)
- 7.2.4
- 7.3

The Executive Committee discussed various aspects of each of these amendments, with Stokes and other answering questions.

7. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

John Stefanowicz reported the AAC had met on June 21 and noted great strides in many areas. He noted the AAC will work to maximize Elite Athlete Health Insurance coverage for athletes.

He also noted that there had been some trailblazing work in the on-boarding of women athletes to the National Team. The committee is also working to create a Medical Advisory Committee.

8. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no D, E & I Committee report for this meeting.

9. WORLD BEACH GAMES COACH/TEAM LEADER

Gary Abbott presented the recommendation of the Coach/Team Leader Selection Committee for the World Beach Games, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia in August. The process followed the approved procedures for this volunteer position, which included Executive Committee approval prior to being forwarded to the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee. Gary Abbott explained about the large number of applicants and the process to interview three individuals for the position. He presented the recommendation of the selection committee, Timothy Box of Oceanside, Calif., and gave information on his achievements and experience.

Motion to approve Timothy Box as Coach/Team Leader by Don Reynolds, second by Joan Fulp. Approved.

10. SAFE SPORT UPDATE

Megan Ball reported that an event auditor from the U.S. Center for Safe Sport attended the USA Wrestling Junior National Duals in Tulsa, Okla. for two days in June as part of its event audit process. The auditor reviewed the check-in and event procedures, and a number of USA Wrestling staff, including Manager of Safe Sport and Compliance Kenya Dixon, were on hand to support the audit work. Megan noted that the auditor highly applauded the USA Wrestling membership system and how it is used at events. The expectation is that USA Wrestling will soon have the Safe Sport event audit results and will share with the Executive Committee when it becomes available.

11. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp noted that with the PIAA (Pennsylvania) approving girls wrestling state championships, that there were 39 states which met the criteria heading into the 2022-24 season, with more expected soon. She also noted that at the Junior Duals, there was excellent growth, with 42 Junior girls' teams and 21 14U teams entered in Tulsa. She noted the results of some recent meetings within the women's wrestling leadership, Joan Fulp also explained how eight USA Wrestling state association women's directors would be selected from nominations and have their expenses covered for the USA Wrestling State Leaders Conference in August. She also noted a wonderful ABC Good Morning America segment on women's wrestling pioneer Afsoon Roshanzamir Johnston would be aired soon.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Bruce Baumgartner noted that the in-person Board of Directors meeting was set for August 11-12 in Colorado Springs, with a goal of being finished by 12:00 noon on the 12th. He noted that Megan Ball would send details to the Board in short order. He also reported on a Greco-Roman fundraising golf tournament scheduled for August 13.

The Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 6:16 p.m.