

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
5:00 p.m. MT

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Don Reynolds, Treasurer
Van Stokes, Secretary
John Stefanowicz
Rob Cate
Zac Dominguez
Mike Macchiavello
Nate Engel
Mallory Velte
Craig LaMont
Veronica Carlson
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Rich Bender, Executive Director
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant
Kenya Dixon, Manager of Safe Sport and Compliance
Aphten Goldman, Director of Business Development
Lorraine Rorabaugh, Manager of Donor and Alumni Relations

Absent:

Steven Thorpe
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. WELCOME

Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM MT. He thanked all for joining. He asked Van Stokes to read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality. No conflicts were present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 14, 2023 MEETING

Don Reynolds made a motion to approve the June 14, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Zac Dominguez. Approved unanimously.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Baumgartner shared with the committee his plans for attending JR National Duals later this week, and his excitement to see the action. He discussed the work being done to prepare for the State Leaders Summit and Board of Directors Meeting in August, as well as the continued preparation for the Senior World Championships in Belgrade in September. He also plans to attend one to two age group World Championships later this year.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender greeted the committee and thanked them for their time. He shared that it is a very busy time for all departments. USAW staff have just finished mid-year reviews and are considering some restructuring in the fundraising and business development departments. The men's freestyle world team camp just wrapped up in Colorado Springs and all three teams are in Budapest for the final ranking tournament.

Rich shared that the final preparations for Fargo are underway and the preregistration numbers are over 7,500 which greatly exceeds former years. He thanked Chris Kallai and Team Ohio for their flexibility with moving to Concordia University for the tournament and asked committee members to thank Kallai for his leadership with the adjustment if they see him.

Rich also provided an update on the USOPC. He recently attended the quarterly board meeting at the end of June. He shared that a lot of conversation surrounded athlete representation and how athletes serving on the USOPC board are elected. Currently, the USOPC operates a 1.5 Billion dollar budget per quadrennial, and is preparing for the next quad with a focus on private donor fundraising.

Rich shared that United World Wrestling has voted to allow Russian and Belarussian athletes to compete as independent athletes at this years' Senior World Championship. Restrictions do still apply, however the opportunity to participate will exist. Additionally, UWW has advised that if Russian or Belarussian athletes are banned or unable to receive visas from host countries, events could be moved from those countries.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Reynolds gave a brief Finance Committee report. The committee has been quiet following last month's vote to recommend FY 24's budget for approval. At the end of this month, the committee will meet to review May and June statements and then prepare a report for the Board of Directors Meeting in August.

6. BY-LAW UPDATES

Van Stokes shared that the Governance Committee met yesterday and reviewed the proposed Bylaw changes. They were unanimously approved and will be sent on to the Board of Directors for a vote at the August meeting. Megan Ball provided further information regarding the additional recommendations from the USOPC received after the Governance Committee meeting and how these recommendations will be addressed.

7. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Johnny Stefanowicz reported the AAC has discussed the medical delay procedures and the number of questions and concerns received this year. The AAC did support no third national team spot in Men's Freestyle at 57 kilos. They will take the feedback on the procedures to the sport committees to review. The National Team contracts have been reviewed and will be sent out to athletes soon. Additionally, the medical advisory committee has been created as an ad hoc committee for the time being. The AAC is meeting next week to tie up any loose ends before the State Leaders Summit and Board meeting next month. Their future goal is to expand athlete representation and participation in state organizations.

8. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry McCoy shared that the committee had a call last week and primarily discussed celebration months and USAW's commitment to celebrating diversity. Conversations primarily focused on the various areas of diversity and establishing a full year round commitment to diversity at all levels. The committee believes USAW has a commitment to diversity, but still has room to grow and improve.

9. SAFE SPORT REPORT

Kenya Dixon and Rich Bender shared that USAW had the Safe Sport Event Audit in Tulsa at JR Duals. Initial reports have been very positive, but the final audit results have not yet been delivered.

10. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp shared that 3 states are preparing for announcements regarding women's programs. She also shared that Fargo registrations for girls were up 163 participants from last year. Joan gave praise to Andrea Yamamoto for her work with the NFHS to create a guide on coaching girls in wrestling for coaches, staff, and athletic directors.

Kerry McCoy added that on August 19th there will be a girls only clinic at Delaware State University.

11. USOPC BOARD ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Bruce Baumgartner explained that the USOPC requires board assessments to be completed every two years currently. This year's assessment will be very similar to the one done two years ago and the results will be compared to previous assessments. It will open on July 20th and close on August 10th. Bruce hopes to have full participation.

12. IN- PERSON BOARD MEETING

Bruce Baumgartner shared that he arrives on the 9th in Colorado Springs for the State Leaders Summit and Board of Directors Meeting. If an executive committee meeting is needed in August, please pencil in August 2nd.

13. NEW BUSINESS

No new business. Bruce thanked the committee for all they do and looked forward to seeing everyone next month in Colorado Springs.

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