

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 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
Zac Dominguez
Craig LaMont
Steve Thorpe
Mallory Velte
Veronica Carlson
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Rich Bender, Executive Director
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant
Cody Bickley, Director of National Teams High Performance
Kenya Dixon, Manager of Safe Sport and Compliance
Greg Dana, Director of Finance
Aphten Goldman, Director of Business Development

Absent:

Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling
Rob Cate
Mike Macchiavello
Nate Engel

1. WELCOME

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM MT. He thanked all for joining. He asked Van Stokes to read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality. All athletes present noted a conflict of interest due to the vote on Olympic Trials Selection Procedures.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 2, 2023

Don Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes, Joan Fulp seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Baumgartner shared he leaves the next day for Belgrade, Serbia and will return to the States on September 25th. He reminded all committee members to finalize their membership including background check and Safe Sport training.

President Baumgartner let the committee know that USA Wrestling is applying for a USOPC international grant to help fund Bruce's campaign to be elected to the UWW Bureau after Stan Dzedzic's term ends in 2024.

President Baumgartner thanked the staff and volunteers who helped make a successful Board of Directors Meeting and State Leaders Summit. The Board Assessment results have been returned and will be discussed at the next meeting. Additionally, the audit results have been completely finalized. It is expected that the organization will be recertified in good standing.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Rich Bender shared that he is currently at the USOPC Board of Directors Meeting in Los Angeles, CA and he will travel to Belgrade tomorrow. There is a USOPC Assembly that occurs over the next few days in LA that includes multiple NGBs and Athlete groups collaborating. Any significant updates from the Board meeting and/or assembly will be shared at the next meeting. Rich thanked and applauded the Executive Committee for their work this past year and their help the organization to have its best year yet. It was the most prolific year medal and membership wise. Additionally, the organization is already off to a monumental start with the best opening membership month in history.

Rich shared that the MFS team attended acclimation camp in Ramstein, Germany while the WFS and GR team acclimated in Normandy, France. The Normandy center will be used next year for all styles to acclimate prior to the Paris Games. He shared that the true bronze matches for Olympic weights will take place at the World Championships following the medal matches this year to qualify the weight for countries for next year's Olympic Games.

President Baumgartner asked if there were any pertinent UWW or USOPC updates. Rich shared that some Russian/Belarussian athletes have been approved to compete at the World Championships after not initially being approved. The U23 World Championship has moved from Finland to Albania for the same original dates in October. Currently, the USOPC is focusing in on preparations for the LA 2028 Games and the potential for Salt Lake City to hold the 2030 Winter Games.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON VOTE OF APPROVAL

President Baumgartner nominated Pat Culp to be the Audit Committee Chair. Zac Dominguez motioned to accept the nomination. Van Stokes seconded the motion. Pat has confirmed she is

willing and ready to serve in any way she can. Pat Culp was unanimously approved to be the Audit Committee Chair.

6. SPORT COMMITTEE COACH AND TRIALS SELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS - REVIEW & VOTES

President Baumgartner turned the meeting over to Cody Bickley to walk the committee through the various trials procedures. Cody Bickley began by explaining the selection procedures for the Pan Am Games. The Pan Am Games is not a qualifier for the Olympic Games and therefore wrestling receives fewer credentials than other sports. We take two national team staff per style and one volunteer coach is assigned based on the makeup of the team. The recommendations and selections for the volunteer coach for each style for the Pan Am Games were approved. The respective coaches for each style are as follows: MFS – Jake Varner, WFS – Nate Engel, GR – Spenser Mango

Zac Dominguez motioned to accept the coaches. Joan Fulp seconded. Mallory Velte abstained as she has a conflict with Nate Engel being her personal coach. The coaches were unanimously approved.

Cody then shared that there will be back-to-back weekends in Acapulco, MX. The first weekend will be for Pan Am Championships and the second will be the Olympic qualifier. Prior to Tokyo, in GR and MFS, the previous year's world team member was selected. The WFS team had a wrestle off for it. This worked well for the Women's team as they qualified all weights at the Pan Am qualifier. Due to the success of this process, the other styles adopted a similar process. If the World Team Member for the GR team medals at the Pan Am Games, they go to the finals of the Senior Nationals in December. The MFS and WFS sides mirror each other. If you were a medalist from 2019-2023, you are able to challenge the 2023 World Team member if they do not qualify the weight in Belgrade. Cody did call attention to the condition for the MFS and GR teams that states if the 2023 World Team member chooses not to attend the Pan Am Qualifier, they will lose that month's stipend.

Zac Dominguez motioned to accept the procedures, Steve Thorpe seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

For the Olympic Teams:

Men's Freestyle – Olympic weight medalist from Belgrade sits to the 2nd day of OTT, non-Olympic weight sits to semi-finals. There is no change from previous procedures. There were few updates from the previous trials procedures. The Athlete Advisory Committee received the initial draft of the procedures 40 days before the meeting. Additionally, the USOPC still has to approve the procedures. Mallory Velte motioned to approve the MFS procedures, Joan Fulp seconded. Unanimously approved.

Greco-Roman – an Olympic weight medalist from Worlds will set to Day 2, or non-Olympic weight medalist will sit to semis. If they qualify the weight, they set to the finals of Day 2 of the OTT. Whoever goes to Pan Am qualifier, they set to the finals of day 2. Amended to include U20 world medalists from 2020-2023. Van Stokes made a motion to approve the GR procedures. Zac Domingues seconded. The GR procedures were unanimously approved.

Women’s Freestyle – Olympic weight medalist sits to finals on day 2, for non-Olympic weight the medalist will sit to semis. There was much discussion regarding the inclusion of “G: 2023 CISM Women’s Freestyle World Championships team member is automatically qualified to enter the 2024 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling.”

No active athlete on the WFS Sports Committee call voted to approve the criteria as written. Johnny Stefanowicz provided additional context for the discontent with the procedures. Kerry McCoy also provided additional context for the votes and discussion around it. Much discussion was had regarding if it should be approved or returned to the committee and the most appropriate way to do so. It was determined that Item G would be sent back to the WFS Sport Committee to be reviewed and revised before the October meeting. Zac Dominguez made a motion to approve the procedures without item G, have it re-discussed and added later after final approval. Van Stokes seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Don Reynolds provided a brief finance committee report. The department is wrapping up the previous fiscal year and planning for the auditors to come in office in the coming weeks.

8. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Athlete Advisory Committee report.

9. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry McCoy shared that the DEI committee met last week. Hispanic Heritage month begins on the 15th, and a social media plan is in place. The primary focus this year is sharing stories and overcoming adversity. Kerry also reminded the committee of the Teal Certification and the ability to complete the course through September for no charge.

10. SAFE SPORT REPORT

Kenya Dixon shared a brief update on Safe Sport and let the committee know that the Audit report is now available online. Safe Sport week is the last week of September, and state coordinator meetings will begin in October.

11. WOMEN’S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp shared there are no new updates on states. As of today, over 2,000 people have taken the Teal Certification course. Additionally, Joan shared that the Congressional hearing on the Status of the United States Olympic and Paralympics that took place the previous week can be listened to if requested.

12. VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 15, 2023 – 7PM ET

President Baumgartner let the committee know there will be a brief virtual board meeting on November 15th. If anyone wants items on the agenda, please send them to President Baumgartner early.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Steve Thorpe announced that he will be stepping down from his role effective October 1. President Baumgartner thanked him for his many years of service, his dedication, and his contributions to the sport and organization. Rich Bender echoed President Baumgartner's sentiments.

Cody Bickley shared September 1 was Zack Esposito's first day as the Men's Freestyle developmental coach.

Kerry McCoy asked about the new website and if continued updates and improvements will be made. Megan Ball and Rich Bender confirmed that updates will continue, and all feedback is welcome.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION IF NEEDED

Motion to adjourn: Mallory Velte

Second: Zac Dominguez

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm MT