

**MINUTES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
5:00 p.m. MT

**Present:**

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman  
Joan Fulp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Don Reynolds, Treasurer  
Van Stokes, Secretary  
John Stefanowicz  
Craig LaMont  
Mallory Velte  
Pat Ream  
Veronica Carlson  
Nate Engel  
Rob Cate  
Zac Dominguez  
Mike Macchiavello  
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  
Tony Black, Director of State Services  
Richard Immel, Senior Manager of Communications

**Absent:**

Kerry McCoy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

**1. WELCOME**

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM MT. He thanked all for joining and reminded the committee that Steve Thorpe has stepped down from the committee. Pat Ream has assumed Thorpe's position and President Baumgartner welcomed him to the call. He asked Joan Fulp to read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality. No conflicts were present.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 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 provided a brief update to the committee including the recent success at the Senior World Championships. He met and interacted with many UWW representatives, including during an event at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Belgrade. He thanked the staff and attendees for their work on the event. President Baumgartner additionally thanked the volunteers, coaches, staff, team leaders, and fans for their work and attendance.

He plans to attend the Bill Farrell in New York in November, and then Senior Nationals in Fort Worth in December. He will work with other committee members and staff to ensure all board and committee positions are filled in a timely manner.

### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Rich Bender shared that President Baumgartner is receiving the Simon Award from the US Olympic & Paralympic Endowment in December. There will be an award ceremony at the NYAC and then they will head to Senior Nationals. Bender added that our teams have currently won 40 medals this competitive season with one more age-group level World Championship to go to beat the previous record of 49.

Bender shared that the organization is off to record start with membership and turned the meeting over to Tony Black, Director of State Services to provide further details. Tony shared that as of today we are at 62,000 members. This is 35% ahead of any previous year to date. Clubs are also up compared to last year, but events are 30% ahead of the previous years.

Bender shared a USOPC update and was proud to share that the USOPC is providing a significant increase in financial contributions to USAW. Rich credited Cody Bickley and his team for their work to build the relationship and program to receive this. Additionally, LA28 announced they will put forward baseball/softball, squash, lacrosse, flag football, and cricket to the IOC Executive Committee to be included in the LA Games. The final program will be decided in the coming months. After the sport programs are finalized, then the disciplines of each sport will be determined.

On the UWW front, Bender is putting forward a list of topics to be discussed with the Technical Commission in the coming weeks to suggest adjustments after Paris.

### **5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Don Reynolds shared that all things are progressing well in the Finance Department, the first regularly scheduled finance committee call will be the first week of November. The organization is continuing to have a strong financial position and it is expected for many events to be sold out this year.

## **6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Johnny Stefanowicz shared that the AAC is moving forward and had a successful meeting at the end of September. He shared that Team USA AC is working towards further independence from the USOPC. The AAC is working on creating a more effective database of eligible athletes to serve on committees and in leadership roles. There is now one open position on the AAC and board, there will be interviews taking place and that will be filled in the near future.

## **7. WOMEN'S SPORT COMMITTEE TRIALS SELECTION PROCEDURES UPDATE**

President Baumgartner turned the call over to Cody Bickley to provide an update on the Women's Freestyle Olympic Trials Selection Procedures. Bickley explained that the AAC will be meeting in the near future on some additional topics.

Following the last executive committee meeting, the Women's Freestyle Sport Committee met and had further discussion around the inclusion of CISM in the Women's Freestyle OTT Selection Procedures. The committee approved the updated language that any 2023 CISM World Medalist would qualify for Olympic Team Trials, the results from that vote came back overwhelmingly in support of this addition. Johnny Stefanowicz motioned to accept the updated language. Van Stokes seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **8. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

No current update.

## **9. SAFE SPORT REPORT**

Kenya Dixon shared that the Event Audit from this summer now shows as "Complete" on the Center's website and all details are available if anyone would like to view the report. Additionally, the first State Safe Sport Coordinator meeting of the year will take place next week.

## **10. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE**

Joan Fulp shared that female membership numbers are up significantly from last year. Last month, Joan attended a women's wrestling summit at FloWrestling developed by Eve Duncan. Representatives from major contributors to the growth of women's wrestling were present. The goal was to provide additional resources and education with state programs. Joan is hopeful that with continued collaboration the groups can contribute further to state programs.

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

President Baumgartner reminded the committee that next month there will be a full board meeting and not an executive committee meeting.

### **13. NEW BUSINESS**

Van Stokes asked for an audit update. Megan Ball shared that the audit is complete, with all findings closed and with the organization in good standing. This positions the organization for a positive certification renewal later this year.

Rich Bender added that USAW has made a bid for both age-group and senior World Championships from 2025-2027 leading up the LA Games. A UWW site visit will take place next month before the sites are awarded.

### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION IF NEEDED**

The meeting entered Executive Session at 5:55 pm MT.