

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
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
Pat Ream
Veronica Carlson
Zac Dominguez
Mallory Velte
Craig LaMont
James Ravannack, Past President
Rich Bender, Executive Director
Megan Ball, Executive Assistant
Kenya Dixon, Manager of Safe Sport and Compliance
Aphten Sterling, Director of Business Development
Cody Bickley, Director of National Teams High Performance
Bill Zadick, National Men's Freestyle Head Coach
Terry Steiner, National Women's Freestyle Head Coach
Joe Russell, Manager of Men's Freestyle Programs
Greg Dana, Director of Finance
David Mathews, Director of Application Development
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications & Special Projects
Pete Isais, Director of National Events
Joey McKenna, guest

Absent:

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

1. WELCOME

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order. He asked Van Stokes to read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality. Mallory Velte mentioned that some of the members were candidates for Athlete of the Year or Man/Woman of the Year.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Mallory Velte made a motion to approve the February 7, 2024 minutes; Joan Fulp seconded. Motion approved

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Baumgartner said that they are working on the agenda for the Virtual Board meeting which is scheduled for April 3 and the In-Person Executive Committee meeting set for late April. He is also working on getting ready for the Junior/16U Nationals in Fargo this summer.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/USOPC/UWW REPORT

Rich Bender noted that USA Wrestling has more members on this day, than any time in USA Wrestling history. It has been a busy time for USA Wrestling, coming off of the Pan American Championships and Pan American Olympic Qualifier. The USA qualified six of the 11 spots not qualified at the Senior Worlds. There are five more weights that need to get qualified in Istanbul in May. The NCWWC, the national tournament for NCAA women, was a great event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with congratulations to former USA Wrestling employees Clarissa Chun and Gary Mayabb who coached Iowa to the team title. Bender notified the committee that National Freestyle Developmental Coach Zack Esposito had taken the top assistant coach position at NC State.

On the USOPC front, Bender noted that the USOPC Board meeting was currently going on. He reported that things are wrapping up for Salt Lake City to host the 2034 Olympic Games. The IOC has been in directed negotiation process with Salt Lake City, and it could be finalized by July.

He reported that the Olympic Games qualifying process was going on around the nation and world. He reported that UWW changed course and will host a World Championships in 2024 for the 12 weight classes not at the Olympics. It will be held in October, following the U20 Worlds in Tirana, Albania, as well as with the UWW Congress there. On the most recent Athlete Advisory Committee call, the athletes gave input on when to hold the Trials for the 2024 Senior Worlds, and the decision was to hold them six weeks prior to the Worlds. USA Wrestling is working to find a host location for this Trials event. Answering a question, Rich Bender briefed the Executive Committee on the excellent work of the outside security at the Pan American Olympic Qualifier in Acapulco, Mexico, noting that there was no time the delegation felt unsafe.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Don Reynolds indicated that the Finance Committee met the previous month and reviewed and approved November results, which indicated strong financial performance by USA Wrestling. He noted that the organization was running 15% ahead of budget and all categories were

tracking. The next Finance Committee meeting set for the next week will review December and January financial reports, and Steve Post concerning the organization's investments. At a later meeting, representatives from the USOPC Investment Fund will meet with the committee.

Greg Dana reported that USA Wrestling is adding a 1/2 time person to the Finance Team, with an April 1 start date. He also noted that the organization was going through a significant finance system upgrade, where data will be on the cloud and more secure, with a target of transition by end of the fiscal year.

6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Stefanowicz noted that after the Pan American events in Mexico, the athletes were given a post-event survey. The athlete concerns were mostly focused on the venue and third-party concerns. The athletes will push for UWW to make this better in the future. The big work recently has been concerning the selection process for the U.S. team for the 2024 World Championships in the 12 weight classes. They suggested hosting the event on the second week after Labor Day, and making the qualification process as accessible as possible.

7. MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR VOTING

The Committee was presented with the list of candidates for each award, as nominated by stakeholders in the organization. There were no new nominees from the Executive Committee for the awards. The process for the vote was finalized, as Executive Committee members should vote in the portal.

8. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Kerry McCoy had no report, as the most recent meeting had been postponed.

9. IN PERSON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Bruce Baumgartner asked if any Executive Committee members had not yet finalized travel to the meeting that it be done right away. The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the South Point in a room close to the arena, followed by dinner.

10. WOMEN'S WRESTLING UPDATE

Joan Fulp noted Women's History Month. She updated the committee on the National Wrestling Hall of Fame 10x10 foot exhibit, which was displayed at the NCWWC (women's college nationals) and will be at the NCAA Championships and Olympic Trials. She reported that Iowa won the NCAA title and Menlo won the NAIA title this year. She noted that USA Wrestling was running 38% ahead in female membership. She also noted the event schedule change for the year, where the boys and girls will compete together at the two Folkstyle Nationals events. She

provided an update on high school wrestling growth, and noted that she will be at the NFHS Wrestling rules meeting, April 1-3.

11. COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Bruce Baumgartner noted the upcoming meeting schedule for the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. There will be a Board meeting on April 3, and the In-Person Executive Committee meeting on April 27. The May 8 Executive Committee meeting would be cancelled, unless there is an emergency need. The next two Executive Committee meetings are June 5 and July 9, with the in-person Board of Directors meeting set for August 17.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Pat Reem explained the process about a meeting with the USA Wrestling Events staff about how major duals events would be bid in the future. He noted it was a productive meeting, and some grass-roots issues had been addressed.

Motion to adjourn by Mallory Velte. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.