

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, 2024
5:00 p.m. MT

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President
Don Reynolds, Treasurer
Van Stokes, Secretary
Veronica Carlson
Rob Cate
Pat Ream
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
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications & Special Projects
Aphten Sterling, Director of Business Development
Pete Isais, Director of National Events
Richard Immel, Senior Manager of Communications

Absent:

Nate Engel
Mike Macchiavello
John Stefanowicz
Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President
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.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR APRIL 27, 2024

Pat Ream made a motion to approve the April 27, 2024, minutes; Joan Fulp seconded. Motion approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Baumgartner noted that he attended the U20/U23 Trials in Geneva, Ohio, as well as the Last Olympic Games Qualifier in Istanbul, Turkey, where the USA qualified to additional athletes for the Olympics. He noted it is a busy time for the organization and thanked all the volunteers and the national staff for their efforts. He noted we all must work to continue to get better. His schedule ahead includes an event in Budapest, Hungary, a UWW Virtual meeting in June, the Junior/16U Nationals in Fargo, plus the State Leaders Conference and Board of Directors Meeting in Colorado Springs.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/USOPC/UWW REPORT

Rich Bender noted that membership is the straw that stirs the drink for USA Wrestling and was grateful for the success this year with increased membership. He noted that we are tracking to have 40,000 more members this year than last. He announced that the staff had completed its draft budget for the Finance Committee to work with. He reported that the recent Hall of Fame Honors Weekend was inspirational, and USA Wrestling has a massive connection there. He thanked the hosts in Lancaster, Pa. for organizing a great Olympic Team Training Camp. He gave an update on the Development Department, and noted there will be an Olympic Team cookout on July 8. He also congratulated Mallory Velte for her new job with Beat the Streets Los Angeles.

Bender reported that the USOPC would host its Board meeting in a few weeks at the USA Swimming Trials, and that all systems were go for the Olympic Team heading to Paris.

In Istanbul, USA Wrestling qualified two more weight classes, putting Team USA with 15 Olympians, the most of any nation and the same as the Tokyo team size. He had some great meetings with UWW President Nenad Lalovic and the UWW staff while in Istanbul. He was able to participate in referee hearings, which was handled impressively. Three USA referees will be working in Paris (Casey Goessel, Sam Julian, Susana Sylstad). The transfer rule recommendation has been submitted to UWW, and there will be a June 24 UWW Extraordinary Congress.

5. GENDER CHALLENGE

Bruce Baumgartner informed the Executive Committee that there has been a gender challenge over a minor athlete. The Executive Committee was explained the process, which is spelled out in the current policy, which says "In the event that the gender of a competing athlete is questioned, the Executive Committee of USA Wrestling will designate a medical doctor who will have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of the competitor."

Baumgartner explained that we are waiting for direction from legal counsel to secure the doctor, and once that is done, the Executive Committee will receive an email to approve the doctor.

The Executive Committee members asked a number of questions about this, which were discussed and answered.

6. FINANCE REPORT

Don Reynolds noted that the Finance Committee had met last month and approved the March financial statements. He noted that Alex Lugo of the USPOC Endowment Fund walked through USA Wrestling's investments, and the committee had previously met with Steve Post of Investment Trust. The next meeting will include the review of the April statements, plus the committee will begin its review of the proposed fiscal year 2024-25 budget as presented by staff. Staff directors will be in the meeting to provide information and answer questions. Reynolds said he is confident the Finance Committee will have an approved budget to present to the Board of Directors for approval in August. He also noted that the ad-hoc committee formed to review the membership prices has met once, and will meet again next week.

7. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No report. Mallory Velte mentioned that Team USA AAC was involved in seeking independence from the USOPC.

8. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Megan Ball reported that the DE&I Committee had met on May 29, and discussed the communications plan for diversity celebrations. She also noted that Afsoon Johnston's subcommittee on cultural/religious gear has been meeting and has come up with a design to share with UWW. The next meeting is set for July 17.

9. STATE LEADERS REPORT

Pat Ream reported that there were record entries for the USA Wrestling Regional Championships, and that the Junior/16U Nationals in Fargo was expected to grow and surpass the record set in 2023. An agenda had been set for Regional meetings, and award nominees were selected at each Region. He discussed that the Junior Duals was the next Duals property up for bid. He noted that there will be some elections for regional representatives, and that the Vice Chair of the Women's Age Group Council will be up for election. Tony Black noted that membership was up in 50 of the 51 state associations. He also noted that Dave Mathews had collected up to 1 million results for the database used to create the PIN ratings for the National Duals.

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Page 4 of 4

10. NEW BUSINESS

No new business. Van Stokes praised Bruce Baumgartner and Don Reynolds for calling in from Europe to attend this meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Don Reynolds. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.