

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
5:00 PM Mountain Time

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Mark Reiland, 1st Vice President
Greg Strobel, 2nd Vice President
Kerry McCoy, Secretary
Veronica Carlson
Mike Juby
Louis Rosbottom
Pat Smith
Rick Tucci
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio
Dwaine Cooper, Associate Executive Director
Les Gutches, Associate Executive Director
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications
Haley Scherr, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Van Stokes, Treasurer
Kyven Gadson
Steven Thorpe
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President
Stan Dziedzic, UWW Vice President

1. WELCOME, ROLL CALL/OPENING STATEMENT

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and took roll call. He noted that his trip to a staff recognition dinner in Colorado Springs had been cancelled after the death of Safe Sport Director Dan Prochnow. He also noted that the Executive Committee In-Person Meeting will be in March at the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2019 MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 Executive Committee made by Loius Rosbottom. Second by Rick Tucci.
Approved.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Dwaine Cooper reported that the Finance Committee would next meet in February. He noted that investment counselor Steve Post will be on the call. He noted that the organization was tracking well against the budget, and the December financial statements would be completed very soon.

4. SAFE SPORT UPDATE

Bruce Baumgartner offered condolences and noted that Safe Sport Director Dan Prochnow will be missed. Les Gutches noted how Dan had quickly built USA Wrestling's Safe Sport program into one of the best in the Olympic family, and that it was important not to let it have a setback after Dan's passing. He reported that Laura Peters, an attorney in private practice who helped form the USOC Safe Sport effort, had stepped in right away and done a great job in the interim. Laura Peters was recommended by USOPC Chief of Sport Performance and NGB Services Rick Adams. Laura has been responding to the USA Wrestling Safe Sport needs, and coordinating as needed with USA Wrestling counsel Stephen Hess. A search has begun for a full-time employee in this position. Rich Bender gave perspective of what happened with Dan since the last Executive Committee meeting, and talked about the memorial service which staff members attended in Dan's memory.

5. CFO SEARCH

Les Gutches reported that, in coordination with Van Stokes, a screening committee had been set for the CFO search. There were 71 applicants for the position, including several strong candidates. The screening committee, working with a screening rubric, is bringing the number of final candidates down to 5-7, which Rich Bender would ultimately decide who was hired. Rich Bender noted that a hire could happen within a month, but that might be an aggressive timeline. He also noted that Dwaine Cooper would be available to assist in the transition once the hire is made.

6. MARCH IN-PERSON MEETING

The meeting would be held in the hotel that USA Wrestling was staying in Minneapolis on Saturday, March 21, starting at 7:30 a.m. The morning session at the NCAA Championships would start at 10:00 a.m. Information has been sent out to all Executive Committee members.

7. OLYMPIC QUALIFYING/OLYMPIC TRIALS UPDATE

Rich Bender reported that USA Wrestling has qualified four of the 18 weight classes for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics at the 2019 World Championships in Kazakhstan. The next opportunity for qualifying is the 2020 Pan American Olympic Games Qualifier in Ottawa, Canada in March, where the USA aims to secure the 14 remaining weights. The final chance for any weights left not qualified after Ottawa is the World Olympic Qualifier in Sofia, Bulgaria, the first weekend of May.

Concerning the U.S. Olympic Team Trials at Penn State, April 4-5, the event is sold out and it is a challenge to get additional tickets. The final event for athletes to qualify for the field is at the Last Chance Olympic Trials Qualifier in Millersville, Pa., the week prior to the Trials at Penn State. The Olympic Trials will air in primetime by NBC Sports.

8. ON-BOARDING PROCESS UPDATE

Staff members Haley Scherr and Meredith Wilson are researching a platform to host USA Wrestling's On-Boarding of Board members. Haley reported that the goal is to integrate the On-Boarding process into USA Wrestling's membership system.

9. GRAPPLING PROPOSAL FROM AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Gary Abbott, the staff liaison for the Ad-Hoc Associated Styles Committee, presented a proposal concerning a change in the Grappling program which is currently managed by USA Wrestling. A group, led by USA Wrestling leaders Rich Tado and Blair Green, had formed a new organization named USA Grappling. After discussion with the Ad-Hoc committee which oversees Grappling for USA Wrestling, a proposal to relinquish control of UWW Grappling in the United States to USA Grappling had been approved by the committee for presentation to the Executive Committee. The 2020 season would be a transition with USA Wrestling involvement, with control of the program going to USA Grappling in 2021.

Bruce Baumgartner suggested that USA Wrestling legal counsel look at the Grappling deal, and the matter be tabled to the March in-person meeting. A representative of USA Grappling would be invited to the meeting. Rich Bender explained that USA Wrestling has not done justice for the Grappling athletes, and had to take resources away from other programs to improve its program in this non-Olympic discipline. Bruce Baumgartner indicated that the committee did not feel comfortable with the details of the proposal to vote on it this meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Rich Bender, on behalf of the entire staff, offered condolences to Bruce Baumgartner on his father's passing.

Mark Reiland asked if there would be a March 10 Executive call, and was informed that it was not scheduled, and was replaced by the in-person meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Mountain time.