

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 5:00 p.m. MT

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President
Mark Reiland, First Vice President
Kerry McCoy, Secretary
Van Stokes, Treasurer
Steve Thorpe
Mike Macciavello
Mike Juby
Rob Cate
Veronica Carlson
John Stefanowicz
Stan Dziedzic, UWW Vice President

Absent

Joan Fulp, Second Vice President
Craig LaMont
Jim Ravannack, Past President

Staff:

Rich Bender, Executive Director
Les Gutches, Associate Executive Director
Pete Isais, National Events Director
Ryan Johnson, Director of Sales and Marketing
Gary Abbott, Communications Director
Meredith Wilson, IT Director
Laura Peeters, General Counsel
Cody Bickley, National Team High Performance Manager
Shannon Daugherty, National Teams

Guests

Dr. Jonathan Finnoff, USOPC
Jen Gallagher, USOPC

1. CALL TO ORDER, PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

President Baumgartner called the meeting into order. He welcomed the new Executive Committee members Rob Cate, Craig LaMont and Mike Macchiavello to the meeting. Baumgartner noted the passing of long-time Board member and many-time USA Wrestling officer Greg Strobel, who will be sorely missed.

2. UWW SENIOR WORLDS

Bruce Baumgartner noted that there was a change in the agenda, moving first to the UWW World Championships update. He indicated that as an organization, USA Wrestling must very soon decide whether or not to send a team to the Senior World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia in December. The topic will be discussed and information collected in the near future by different constituent groups, including a survey sent to athletes. The Executive Committee may also need to meet before its next scheduled meeting to decide on this issue

Rich Bender gave background on the topic, including discussion on the UWW Technical Commission, in which he serves. UWW has cancelled all Continental and age-group World Championships, holding out hope to host a Junior World Championships and a Senior World Championships in Serbia in December. The most recent UWW Executive Committee call included decisions to 1) cancel the Junior Worlds; 2) Move forward with the Senior Worlds. It is not clear what will happen with the Olympic Congress, which also needs to happen. UWW set some parameters in regards to the number of top nations and the number of overall participants that would be required for

the Senior Worlds to occur. A final decision was to be made by the UWW Executive Committee in November. He also noted that this Senior Worlds would have no impact on Olympic Qualification or Olympic seeding.

Stan Dziedzic, a UWW Vice President and member of the UWW Executive Committee, indicated that hosting a Worlds was important to many nations getting funding from their governments. He noted that a survey of nations indicated that nine of 10 of the top nations said they would attend, with the USA as the only nation not to say yes. He indicated that now nations have to sign up specific athletes and pay their entry fee. He noted that his belief is that an event should be held, but not a Worlds without key participants, but perhaps a Grand Prix or other international event. He noted that on November 5, UWW would know who is registered and paid to attend the Worlds, and a decision would be made on November 6 based upon that information and the current COVID situation.

Rich Bender noted that the USA has been very vocal internationally on this topic. An important issue is that if wrestling had a big COVID-19 outbreak at the worlds, that it was possible the sport could be left off the program for the 2021 Olympic Games. There has been some people questioning how the USA could host domestic events, yet decide that a World Championships is not advisable. He noted the big difference, including international travel, bringing together people from all over the world which have different levels of COVID situations, potential quarantine where delegation members may not be able to come home, access to medical care and other topics that make it different than a controlled event within one nation. Bender noted that the health and safety of the athletes and delegation are the most important issue. He also noted that the USA decided not to attend the 2002 World Championships in Tehran, Iran, when there was a legitimate and confirmed threat to the safety of the USA delegation if it were to attend.

Cody Bickley explained that the athlete survey would include all 90 National Team Athletes, plus the top eight place winners from the Senior Nationals in Iowa, up to as many as 118 athletes.

Dr. Finnoff, the USOPC Chief Medical Officer, gave his input about the status of the virus worldwide, as well as factors that could be considered by USA Wrestling when making its decision. He provided statistics on the current uptick in COVID trends, both globally and in Serbia. He also provided perspective concerning the medical situation in Serbia.

Jen Gallagher, who handles government matters for the USOPC, provided information on the State Department's safety level of Serbia, which was at Level 3 out of 4, in regards to health and crime, which means "Reconsider travel." She noted there were no restrictions in getting into Serbia, with no health screening to enter the nation. She noted that during the pandemic, there has been some required quarantine required when returning to the USA from a foreign nation, but there was no current federal policy. Many states have created their own required quarantine rules, which can change based upon the status of the virus. She indicated that the U.S. government, as well as the USOPC, would not tell USA Wrestling what to do about this issue.

Executive Committee members asked specific questions from the guests from the USOPC, who left the meeting when the questions were completed. Executive Committee members then discussed among themselves the issues at hand. Bruce Baumgartner set a tentative Special Meeting of the Executive Committee for Tuesday, October 20 at 5 p.m. Mountain Time to readdress the issue. In addition to the athlete survey, meetings of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee and the COVID-19 Public Relations Committee were being set within the week to provide additional input.

III. FINANCE UPDATE

Van Stokes noted the Finance Committee had met on September 29, and looked at the July 31 financial statements. He noted that the August figures were not yet in, yet it appeared the organization would not be far off from its 2019-2020 budget. He noted the annual audit had begun. He noted that current cash balance of USA Wrestling was at \$2.4 million, and that membership was coming in at 65% of the previous year, with an expectation that membership would come in later in the year than in recent fiscal years.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Motion by Mark Reiland to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Second by Steve Thorpe. Motion approved.

V. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MEETING

Bruce Baumgartner updated the Committee on the selection of the committee members. He thanked staff members, including Clarissa Chun, Taylor Miller and Laura Peeters, as well as Executive Committee members Veronica Carlson and Kerry McCoy for their input. He noted that there were easily 30 qualified candidates who had been nominated or self-nominated, but the final number of members was 15, in order to have efficient meetings. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will provide recommendations to the Executive Committee about how to make USA Wrestling the most welcoming, inclusive NGB in the nation.

VI. SENIOR NATIONAL RECAP

Rich Bender noted that the Senior Nationals in Iowa were a success, and gave credit to the efforts of Pete Isais, Rob Cate and many others for putting together a safe and efficient event operations. He noted that the event was well received by athletes, coaches and fans. Those participating conducted themselves well within the safety rules put into place for the event. He also praised the local organizing committee in Iowa City/Coralville for its exceptional efforts in hosting the event.

VII. SAFE SPORT UPDATE

Laura Peeters had no update, except to note that there had been some new situations which had come in recently which were being handled by USA Wrestling.

VIII. AAC UPDATE

Veronica Carlson noted that there were a lot of issues concerning athletes still up in the air due to the COVID situation. She said that she, Jon Stefanowicz and Mallory Velte had been participating in USOPC Athlete meetings on behalf of USA Wrestling.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Bruce Baumgartner noted that the Strobel family had asked that memorial donations in Greg Strobel's honor be made to USA Wrestling to create a leadership institute in his name for National Team athletes to excel off the mat. Rich Bender added his thoughts about Greg Strobel's contributions to USA Wrestling and his leadership within the sport, calling him "one of the most consequential figures in the history of USA Wrestling." He noted that there would be a private family service shortly, but a larger celebration of life was expected sometime in 2021.

Rich Bender also noted that Dan Gable had received a letter from President Donald Trump that Gable would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the first major wrestling figure to get that honor.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Reiland, Second by Van Stokes. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. MT