

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

Tuesday, October 8, 2019  
5:00 PM Mountain Time

**Present:**

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman  
Mark Reiland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Greg Strobel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Kerry McCoy, Secretary  
Van Stokes, Treasurer  
Veronica Carlson  
Kyven Gadson  
Steven Thorpe  
Rick Tucci  
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President  
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio  
Dwayne Cooper, Associate Executive Director  
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications  
Dan Prochnow, Safe Sport Director  
Cody Bickley, High Performance Manager  
Haley Scherr, Executive Assistant

**Absent:**

Mike Juby  
Louis Rosbottom  
Pat Smith  
Stan Dziedzic, UWW Vice President

**1. WELCOME, ROLL CALL**

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and took roll call.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 Executive Committee made by Mark Reiland. Second by Greg Strobel.  
Approved.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dwayne Cooper noted that USA Wrestling was one week and a half before the beginning of its annual audit for the year ending August 31, 2019. The auditors will be in the office on October 21 for about a week and will generally have a report by the middle of November. He noted the cash

flow for USA Wrestling is at its lowest level of the fiscal year, and there is \$1.2 million in the bank, which will build up from this point forward. He also indicated that membership for the new 2019-20 season has so far exceeded budget expectations.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF 2020 DIVISIONS AND WEIGHT CLASSES**

The changes proposed for 2020 were mostly in the age-group women's program, where the age groups were adjusted to be consistent with the age-groups used for boys wrestling. The proposed new weight classes were determined based upon actual weigh-in data from USA Wrestling's age-group women's events. This proposal was created by the USA Wrestling Women's Age-Group Council and accepted by the Junior Olympic Wrestling Committee.

Motion to accept changes in 2020 Divisions and Weight Classes made by Rick Tucci. Second by Jim Ravannack.

Approved.

#### **5. SAFE SPORT REPORT**

Dan Prochnow provided the most current Safe Sport report to the Executive Committee, outlining the number of cases currently in the system and their status. He also reported that the U.S. Center for Safe Sport would be doing a Safe Sport audit of USA Wrestling on November 21. He also noted that a new Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy is being discussed in a draft form, which would be considered for the 2020-21 season.

Prochnow presented a marked-up version of the USA Wrestling Safe Sport Handbook, which showed new updates based upon the most current Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. Included are some new forms.

Motion to approve revised USA Wrestling Safe Sport Handbook made by Greg Strobel. Second by Jim Ravannack.

Approved.

Dan Prochnow also presented the 10 people who are named to the new ad-hoc SafeSport Task Force. These people are: Jose Delgado, Veronica Carlson, John Stefanowicz, Sam Julian, Bior Guigni, Krista Graff, John Carpenter, Julia Salata, Kyven Gadson, Hardell Moore.

Prochnow explained the duties of the Task Force. 1) Assists with new ways to educate people on SafeSport; 2) Finds new ways to promote the ease of reporting; 3) Works to make it understandable to USA Wrestling constituents; 4) Creates methods to engrain SafeSport in the wrestling culture.

#### **6. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS REVIEW**

Cody Bickley gave a report on the 2019 World Championships in Nur-Sultan, which he called a mixed bag of results. For the first time, the U.S. Women's Team had three World champions on the same year. Both the men's freestyle and women's freestyle teams were not pleased with the final outcome, but both battled back to win a World trophy in third place. It shows how high our expectations are and how high the bar is set for these teams. Adeline Gray won her record fifth Senior World title.

Bickley reported that the USA qualified four weights for the Tokyo Games (Men's freestyle 74 kg and 97 kg and Women's freestyle 68 kg and 76 kg). The USA qualified no weights in Greco-Roman. There will be a lot of work to do, needing 14 more weights. The next opportunity is in the second week of March in Ottawa, Canada at the Pan American Olympic Qualifier. If any weights remain not qualified, the final opportunity is the World Qualifier in Sofia, Bulgaria in May. For Tokyo, each weight has only 16 athletes, which is down from 18-19 in past Olympics, making it harder to qualify this time. He also noted that procedures have been set in place for which USA athletes will participate in the March Pan Am Olympic Qualifier. Among Pan American nations, Canada still needs to qualify all their women and Cuba still needs to qualify all of their men's freestylers.

Van Stokes, as chair of the Greco-Roman Sport Committee, gave his assessment of the Greco-Roman program at Worlds and the task ahead in Olympic Qualifying.

Cody Bickley explained that there would be one Olympic Trials qualification procedure change needed to make. With the Dave Schultz Memorial not being held, which had one spot in the Trials in each weight, the recommendation will be to change the qualifiers from one per weight at the March Last Chance Qualifier to two per weight there.

## **7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN-PERSON MEETING**

Staff mentioned possible locations for this meeting being in Fort Worth at the U.S. Nationals in December, the NCAAs in Minneapolis in March and the U.S. Open in Las Vegas in April. Rich Bender indicated that it is the recommendation of staff to hold it at the NCAA Championships.

The Executive Committee discussed it and there was general agreement that the NCAA Championships would be the best option. It was asked by Greg Strobel on what day, and the response was on the Saturday morning of the NCAA Tournament.

## **8. 2020 BOARD MEETING**

It was noted that the Olympic Games wrestling competition would be held August 2-8 in Tokyo, Japan. Rich Bender reported that staff reviewed options and suggested the Board meeting be held in mid-to-late August. There was support for holding the Board meeting and the State Leaders Summit together, as had been done in the past. The date of August 15, 2020 and in Colorado Springs, Colo. was the recommendation.

## **9. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING UPDATE**

Rich Bender had received notes from UWW Vice President Stan Dziedzic, who could not attend the call, for this report. Stan noted the UWW Hall of Fame induction for 2020 was scheduled. A decision had been made that if any member of the UWW Hall had received doping offenses that they would be removed from the Hall of Fame. In the UWW Hall of Fame Class of 2020, the men's freestyle inductees were brothers John Peterson and Ben Peterson of the USA. Both were Olympic champions and Olympic silver medalists.

The draws at the 2019 World Championships were discussed at the UWW level, as some had questioned the draws received by the host Kazakhstan team. UWW reported that there had been no outside influence on the draws. There was discussion that UWW was not pleased with the consistency of the officiating at the World Championships, and this was an important topic for further attention. Rich Bender said USA Wrestling was proud of the efforts of the U.S. referees who worked in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan at the Senior Worlds, as they did a great job and were great leaders.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

Bruce Baumgartner reminded the Executive Committee members and those on the Board of Directors that they must read and sign the Conflict of Interest Statement. He also said he would reach out to any Board member who had not renewed his/her USA Wrestling membership yet.

Kerry McCoy asked for any updates on the Regional Training Center issue. Rich Bender reported that Cody Bickley had received information that the "Iowa State" RTC proposal had been withdrawn today. Rich Bender noted that we had received much feedback which was supportive of the new RTC guidelines that USA Wrestling implemented at the start of this season. He also noted that we had received the first official complaint, which would be investigated and adjudicated. He noted that the new proposal at the NCAAs was heading the opposite direction of the Iowa State proposal. He said USA Wrestling was happy with the effort to save RTCs but there was much work ahead on oversight of the program. Cody Bickley noted that since September 1 there has been much positive response, but USA Wrestling needs to get better and hold people accountable. He noted a good relationship with the NCAA and with compliance directors.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Strobel, second by Rick Tucci. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. Mountain time.