

North Dakota USA Wrestling Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2015

1:00 PM

Type of Meeting: General Assembly

Meeting Facilitator: Joel Sandy, USAWND State Chairman

Invitees: All 2015 chartered members of North Dakota USA Wrestling

I. Call to order-Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm

II. Roll call-showed that 15 of 21 clubs were represented.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting-Minutes from the 2014 Spring meeting had been sent out for all to review. Motion was made and seconded to approve last year's minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Director Reports

a) Treasurer's Report – Dean Shearer provided handouts that showed revenues and expenses over the past 3 years. He also provided a handout that showed our ending balances in our checking/savings for the past 7 years. Our organization is in very good shape financially and we will have to spend some additional funds this year in order for us to show a decrease in our ending balance, per advice from tax accountant as we are 501C and have shown increases the past 5 years. More to follow in New Business section d.

b) Officials Director Report – Jeff Schumacher was not present at the meeting.

c) Women's Director Report –Bill Smith gave an overview of how the girls seasons and tourneys have been going. They took 7 girls to the Iowa State Championships, and girls to the Oklahoma Nationals. He mentioned that earlier this month that Minot Matwrats provided 'girl only' brackets and the girls really appreciated that.

d) Kids Director Report – Kevin White had Dyke Boese give a brief update about the Elementary teams and Middle School teams that we sent to Iowa last month. He also talked about trying to send as many kids as possible to the Northern Plains Regionals this year in Illinois. There was some discussion about NPR being moved full time to Rochester MN in the future. Different states would be able to help out with tables/etc and earn funds.

e) Cadet/Junior Director Report – Scott Knowlen gave an update on the Cadets and Juniors. He talked about the Regional Cadet Duals that were held at Northern Plains Regionals last year in Fargo. He also talked about Cadet/Junior Nationals in Fargo. ND had 2 National champs the past Summer at Fargo: Ryan Bles in Junior Freestyle, and Brandon Metz in Cadet Greco. ND also had another All-American in both Junior and Cadets, giving us a total of 4 All-Americans last year. Scott also gave a push to get more kids going to Junior Duals in Oklahoma in June. He has turned over the responsibility for Junior Duals to Luke Mellmer. Luke took the group last year after Scott put it together. This year, Luke is putting the teams together. Scott also talked about the Cadet/Junior camp in July just prior to Cadet/Junior Nationals. He had handouts for that camp that were distributed. Scott also announced that he would like to give up his

position after this Summer and asked that we vote in an interim for next year to complete his 2nd year of responsibilities. Vote to be taken later in the meeting.

e) Chairman's Report – Joel Sandy gave an update on our numbers. This is the 9th straight year we have seen a growth in our USA numbers. In the past 7 years, we have seen a 50% increase in athletes from 1,001 in 2008 to 1,502 this year. We have also seen a bigger % increase in the same time of coaches from 122 to 188.

V. Open issues

a) Elementary National Duals recap. Dyke Boese provided a recap of the event. They took 50 kids this year with 2 teams. It has been a good learning opportunity for our young kids. It is relatively inexpensive and provides a good atmosphere for our youth. He recommends that we continue to support this event and look to see if we could continue using the buses from Harlow as they were really nice and the drivers were very nice also.

b) Middle School National Duals recap. Basically the same recap from Dyke. He recommends that we continue to send 2 teams to this event.

c) Freshman/Sophomore dual recap. There was a group formed from different teams that attended this event. USAWND did not contribute to this group as it was not open to kids across the state. USAWND did offer to contribute but funds would be tied to sale of raffle tickets and the group declined that assistance this year.

VI. New business

a) Folkstyle /Greco/ Freestyle Season length. Dennis Freeman brought this up. This is the second year in a row that this topic has been on our agenda. This year, it was the longest topic. After much discussion both for and against expanding Freestyle seasons, and a couple of different motions and votes, it was decided to have 5 weeks between the State Folkstyle and State Freestyle/Greco tourneys. We have set the state Greco/Freestyle tourney to begin on the last FRIDAY of the month of April, and then back up 5 weeks to have the State Folkstyle. We set the next 6 years as the following:

	Folkstyle	Greco/Freestyle	
2016	March 25-26	April 29-30	
2017	March 24-25	April 28-29	
2018	March 23-24	April 27-28	
2019	March 22-23	April 26-27	note: March 21-23 will be NCAAs
2020	March 20-21	April 24-25	note: March 19-21 will be NCAAs
2021	March 26-27	April 30-May 1	

In 2016 and every year forward at the state meeting, we will need to add to this above schedule so we always have 6 years of State tourneys planned.

Motions made (results posted in parenthesis) during this topic: 1) To move the 2016 State Folkstyle to March 25-26 (passed). 2) To not rebid the 2016 State Folkstyle and have it stay with Matpac (passed) 3) To have all USA tourneys to have Schoolboys and up wrestle

Greco/Freestyle, no matter which month the USA tourney was in. (failed). 4) To have the 2017 State Folkstyle move to March 3&4 and have all remaining time spent on Greco/Freestyle (failed). 5) To have State Greco to be held on the last Friday of April and have the State Folkstyle to be 5 weeks prior (passed).

b)Referee Education and Promotion-Kevin White brought this issue up, informing the group that we have a tough time getting and keeping refs and getting the refs to become more experienced. After a brief discussion, there was a committee put together to recommend how to address this to the whole group. Committee consists of Kevin White, Randy Burwick, Jerome DeCoteau, Luke Mellmer, and Jeff Schumacher. Committee deadline to have recommendations back to the USAWND Board is August 31st.

c) Support our local college programs-Dean Shearer brought this item up mostly because of the budget surplus we will have again this year. As a 501C, we need to be cautious to not increase our assets, instead we should be spending our income back out each year. Dean presented an estimate surplus of between \$3,500 and \$5,000 this year. Ideas presented were to give more money to kids going to Northern Plains, split remaining excess funds after all expenses/revenues were recorded by August 31st to all USA clubs and they could decide what to do with those funds. There was a committee formed of Dyke Boese, Bill Smith, Scott Meschke, and Jerome DeCoteau to bring back a recommendation to the USAWND board by May 31st to decide how to handle the surplus this year.

Update 5-31-15: Committee met on 5-19-15 and came up with the following suggestions: 1) We would like to fund a bus to Rockford Illinois for Northern Plains Regionals June 18th through the 20th. The bus would leave from Bismarck. Cost for wrestlers to ride the bus would be \$0. Cost for parents/relatives would be \$100 each. Based on preliminary responses back from inquiries that **Dyke Boese** has made on the Grappler, it looks like at least 20 kids, and approximately 30 parents. The bus quote is \$5400 from Bismarck. With 30 parents going, and without a 2nd bus going, expenses are expected to be about \$2400 at this time. That is less than the expected excess above, but does allow us to add another bus if we can fill it at about the same level, or take the second bus from Fargo if it works out better financially. *Note: an email vote was taken in May 2015, and it was unanimous, and suggestion for bus to NPR was approved.* 2)Any excess received funds this fiscal year, after paying all remaining expenses (Junior Duals, Junior Nationals, Northern Plains Entry fees, Bus, etc), would be split out between clubs before August 31st. Update 9-10-15, after all bills were paid, USAWND had a negative balance for the year as we spent \$3,613 more than what we took in during 2015 year ending 8-31-15. Our ending checking balance was \$44,101. We ended up spending a net total of \$4060 for bus from Bismarck, (bus cost less the riders)

d) 2015 Proposed Budget – Dean Shearer presented financial data from 2013, 2014, and so far in 2015 as support of the proposed budget for 2016. After discussion it decided that we should remove the Freshman/Sophomore budget and put those monies to Cadet Duals. It was also discussed to fund ND Girls education and national dual teams in the amount of \$2,000. As this is the first year these funds have been approved, Bill Smith, the Women’s Director, will be supplying a budget proposal to show how this money is to be spent.

The following major items were requested and approved in our budget for 2016:

Junior Duals \$10,500

Cadet Duals \$3,500

Middle School Duals \$4,000

Elementary Duals \$4,000

Girls Duals/National/Education \$2,000

Junior/Cadet Nationals \$3,000

Junior/Cadet Camp \$5,000

Northern Plains Regionals \$4,200

Triple Crown Awards \$1,000

Treasurer/Secretary Salary \$2,000

It was noted that the Junior Duals and Cadet Duals are the responsibility of the Junior Director and funds for those 2 teams can be moved around to make it easier for the Cadet Dual team kids to go.

e) Coach’s Certification-Dean Shearer brought this up as requested by the Class B coaches around the state. The thought process was if they already had to take classes to become a coach in high school, there was too much redundancy in taking the Copper class that USAWND requires along with the USA coaches card to be able to coach at tournaments. They requested that if they were a high school coach, that designation would be able to replace the Bronze certificate. After a brief discussion, it was decided to leave the same requirements that we currently have. Coaches to be on the floor have to have a current USA Coaches card and possess a Copper certificate.

f) Organizing a Regional Girls Tournament in ND-Bill Smith spoke about this possibility and would like to see this happen. He suggested that we could grow our wrestling base if we had more girls participate. Kevin White suggested that we have our clubs advertise that we have women’s only practices in an effort to grow this base. After some discussion, it was suggested that the girls have their own divisions at State. The group agreed that at 2016 State tourneys, girls would have their own divisions.

g) Tournament Sanctioning-Kevin White brought this item up. He referenced that we had at least 4 clubs host tourneys requiring USA cards to attend, but they event was not sanctioned.

After some discussion, it was felt that this really was just an oversight from these clubs. Dean Shearer will be sending out reminders at the beginning of the year to all the clubs letting them know when the new fiscal year starts (September 1) to renew their club and get athletes their USA cards. This will be part of his reminders.

h) Seeding the State Tournaments-Dennis Freeman brought this up. In the past, the State Folkstyle has been 'seeded'. It was discussed at this meeting that because we are wrestling for true '2nd', and as long as the kids were split based on clubs, that seeding is not needed. The group decided to use Random Draw as a means to form brackets in all USA State tourneys. It was discussed and decided to require Trackwrestling to be setup to require separation of team. This is done by going into Trackwrestling settings and setting "Separate Teams" = to YES and "Use Separation Criteria" = to NO. Notes: after the meeting, Nick Walton confirmed that Track Wrestling could split kids by clubs when a 'Random Draw' is used. It is important to note for all clubs that they need to sign up under the exact same club name. Example, if kids sign up under Tech Team and some kids from the same club sign up under Tech Team Wrestling Club, they are technically signed up under 2 different clubs. There was one club had 3 different names at State Greco tourney. Track Wrestling does not differentiate between similar named clubs when doing a random draw.

i) State Dual Tournament issues-Dennis Freeman brought this item up. It was somewhat hashed over through emails already. There were discussions on how to make them more competitive and allow other clubs to combine to field full teams. After some discussions, it was pointed out that this is not a USAWND sanctioned event, so the organizers could have whatever rules they want to for the teams. We will let the Dual formats be decided by the teams.

j) Term dates for Directors. It was decided that term dates start on September 1st of the current year. Directors are voted on in April, but their term does not start until September 1st. The reason for this is our busiest 6 months of the year are February through July and to remove someone and replace them with a new person during that time could be a little overwhelming to the new person. The clubs agreed on this and it will be added to our By-Laws.

Scott Knowlen wanted to step down early from his position after serving as the Junior Director for several years. He would be willing to go through August 31st with this position but wanted to have someone take over for him next year beginning September 1st. He recommended Luke Mellmer. The clubs are familiar with Luke and Luke was voted in as interim Junior Director to complete Scott's term that runs through August 31st, 2016.

k) Select Hosts for 2017 USAWND State Folkstyle and State Greco/Freestyle Tournaments. After the discussion in section a)length of seasons, it was decided to give any prospective bidder until May 11th to submit Bids to Dean Shearer for the 2017 State tourneys. Dean would send the bids out to all the clubs that week and each club would be able to vote on where to hold the tourneys. Dean will keep all votes confidential. The DUE DATE to clubs wanting to bid is May 12th. Send bids to shearerringneckhunter@hotmail.com and ask for a confirmation that I received your bid.

Update 5-25-15, after votes were taken, State Folkstyle was awarded to Matpac on March 24-25, 2017. State Greco/Freestyle was awarded to Bismarck Gorillas on April 28-29, 2017.

l) 2015 Tourney dates for USA Clubs: See below.

m) Select “Club of the Year” and “Milo Trusty” award winners
Club of the year award winners was Bismarck Gorillas. Milo Trusty award winner was Robin Gumke.

n) Officer Elections

At-Large Club Director (1-year term) Randy Burwick was re-elected to this 1 year term. This will be his second and final term.

At-Large Athlete (1-year term) Taylor Nein was elected to this 1 year term.

Kids Director (2-year term) Justin DeCoteau was elected.

Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term) Dean Shearer was re-elected.

Juniors Director (Interim) Luke Mellmer was elected.

The following positions will be up for elections in 2016: At-Large Club Director (1 yr), At-Large Athlete (1 yr), Officials Director (2 yr), Junior Director (2 yr), Women’s Director (2 yr), and State Chairman (3 yr).

The following positions will be up for elections in 2017: At-Large Club Director (1 yr), At-Large Athlete (1 yr), Kids Director (2 yr), Secretary/Treasurer (2 yr).

The following positions will be up for elections in 2018: At-Large Club Director (1 yr), At-Large Athlete (1 yr), Officials Director (2 yr), Junior Director (2 yr), and Women’s Director (2 yr).

The following positions will be up for elections in 2019: At-Large Club Director (1 yr), At-Large Athlete (1 yr), Kids Director (2 yr), Secretary/Treasurer (2 yr) and State Chairman (3 yr)

Here is a list of the TENTATIVE dates for 2016 tourneys. Please refer to the Dakota Grappler post as time gets closer as some of these dates will change.

Dec 13 Carrington individual **(USA club)**

Feb 27 Carrington individual and team

Feb 27 Bismarck Gorillas **USA tourney**

Mar 12 Dickinson **USA Tourney**

Mar 18 Mandan Elementary/MS Qualifier

Mar 19 Mandan **USA Tourney**

Mar 25-26 Bismarck State Folkstyle **USA tourney**

April 2 USA Folkstyle Nationals- Iowa

April 2 Minot Matwrats (Greco/Free) **USA tourney**

April 9 Rugby Kids/Old timers tourney **(USA Club)**

April 16 Grand Forks Gladiators (Greco/Free) **USA tourney**

April 16 University of Mary-Bismarck, (Greco/Free)

April 8-10 USA Elementary Duals-Nebraska (have to qualify at the tourney in March)

April 8-10 AAU Middle School Duals- Iowa (have to qualify at the tourney in March)

April 23 Minot Matwrats (Greco/Free) **USA tourney**

April 23 Tech Team (Greco/Free) **USA Tourney**

April 29 Jamestown State Greco **USA tourney**

April 30 Jamestown State Freestyle **USA tourney**