

# WWCA Executive Board Meeting

**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

**Winter Meeting**

**Kohl Center, Madison, WI**

**7:00 am**

## **Minutes...**

### **Committee in attendance:**

Chris Hansen (Hudson/District 1)

Jason Lulloff (Holmen/District 3)

Curtis Fiedler (River Valley/District 5)

Craig Austin (Whitnall/District 7)

Pat Ratkovich (Wausau East/District 2)

Justin Lancaster (Freedom/District 4)

Ryan Gerber (Fort Atkinson/District 6)

Randy Ferrell (Arrowhead/WWCA President)

John Quinlan (Whitnall/Past President)

John Hatfield (Random Lake/Secretary)

Wendall Bean (Whitewater/Fall Clinic Chairman)

Mike Blasczyk (Appleton/Officials Representative)

Matt Verbeten (Wrightstown WWF Representative)

Peter Moe (Cambridge/ President Elect)

Bob Empey (Stoughton/Treasurer)

Tim Potratz (Awards/Weyauwega-Fremont)

Tom McGarvie (Watertown/Alumni Chair & HOF Chair)

Jason Stromberg (Mukwonago/ Public Relations)

## **I. Call to Order and Welcome Randy Ferrell.**

President Randy Ferrell called the meeting to order at 7:03 am.

## **II. Reports**

### **A. WIAA Representative: Wade Labecki**

**1. Report-** Jason Lulloff gave data to Wade Labecki in regards to the Head & Neck Survey given to coaches. Wade discussed issues coming down from NFHS. Girls participation and consistent girls weight classes were discussed. Wade would prefer that NFHS not set strict weight classes for girls to allow states the flexibility to adjust to their own situation. He recommended that in order to further girls wrestling in the state, WWCA might want to send representatives to the WADA meeting and to make sure membership is bringing girls wrestling issues to our own administrators. While WIAA has heard from many coaches and competitors about girls wrestling, Wade indicated that no schools have contacted WIAA about opportunities being needed for girls wrestling. Wade also expressed a desire to be on the same page as far as the WWCA, the WIAA and the Coaches Advisory Committee. He would like to know that all proposals brought by the Coaches Advisory Committee had been vetted by the WWCA executive board with the proven support of coaches. Matt Verbeten asked Wade what hurdles

would need to be cleared to begin a seeding process for the team competition. Wade mentioned that administrators and travel cost might be a main hindrance.

### **B. Don Hale - Wisconsin Chapter National Hall of Fame**

**1. Report-** Don talked about the nomination procedure for the National Hall of Fame and wanting to have the nomination forms available on the WWCA website. Don wanted to hold off on a banquet this year but plan one for next year and every year after going forward. The reason for holding off this year is that nominations had not been completed and a location and time for the banquet has not yet been established.

### **C. Girls Wrestling Ad Hoc Committee**

**1. Report-** Jason Lulloff spoke about how the Ad Hoc committee is setting up a road map to get women's wrestling established in Wisconsin. The main result from the survey to which 168 members responded - "Would you be in support of making women's wrestling an official WIAA sport?" 80% yes, 18% maybe, 2% no. Many respondents said they would be willing to supplement their existing events with girls-only brackets. Don Hale mentioned adding Jim Stephenson from Waunakee to this committee. Matt Verbetten advocated that the schools need to start contacting the WIAA. Chris Hansen supported that and thought coaches should advocate with their own athletic directors as a first step. Jason Stromberg added that backing up any conversations between coaches and ADs with an email as well would be a great way to create documentation. Tom McGarvie wanted to support 3 talking points with ADs, 1) Girls deserve their own division. 2) It is less safe for girls to wrestle boys at their own weight class than it would be for girls to wrestle only girls. 3) Wrestling would have been lost at the Olympic level had it not been for women's wrestling.

### **D. Equal Divisions Project Update**

**1. Report-** Justin Lancaster reported that the fall breakout session and the sectional meetings were positive as far as the equal division project. Justin proposed that a committee be created to further the idea that Wisconsin begin to move to 3 equal divisions for Wisconsin wrestling. Bob Empey wanted the committee to be careful in causing any changes without considering unintended consequences. All agreed that the committee is exploratory at this point.

Motion made by Justin Lancaster to create a committee to look into equal divisions. Seconded by Jason Lulloff. Motion Passed 18-0.

Committee members: Division 1: Chris Hansen and Pat Ratkovich. Division 2: Curtis Fiedler, Justin Lancaster, and Matt Verbetten. Division 3: Pete Moe and John Hatfield. Goal is for this committee to present at the summer meeting.

### **E. State Regionals Numbers: John Hatfield**

**1. Report-** John shared compiled data that Dale Loebel and Dave McCarthy passed on. Participation numbers are down in terms of athletes who skinfolded (a 16% decrease since 2013). While average team size is shrinking (11.1 wrestlers per team in 2008 down to 10.3 this year), the percent of teams that are full has remained relatively constant (24% of teams were full in 2008, 23% were full this year). This speaks to the “haves and have-nots” of the sport. Weight class distribution was also discussed.

### **F. Coaches Advisory Topics to Bring Forth**

#### **1. Seeding D2 and D3 Team Sectionals**

Motion made by Tom McGarvie to seed the D2 and D3 Team Sectionals once all entrants have been decided by Regionals. Seeding meeting would happen face-to-face on Tuesday. Procedure would follow Team State Seeding procedures. Seconded by Chris Hansen. Motion Passed 14-0 with 4 abstentions.

Craig Austin suggested that we ask for trackwrestling form improvements as far as showing where athletes weighed in.

Mike Blasczyk asked if the officials should ask for Assistant Referees at D1 Team Sectionals.

Motion made by Curtis Fiedler to add an Assistant Referee at Team Sectional finals in all Divisions. Seconded by Jason Stromberg. Motion Passed 18-0.

Discussion on the seeding of the state tournament for all divisions. Motion made by Matt Verbeten to make a committee to discuss seeding criteria. Second by John Quinlan. Motion passed 12-0.

Committee Members: Division 1: Ryan Gerber, Division 2: Curtis Fiedler, Matt Verbeten, Division 3: Pete Moe.

### **G. Public Relations Report - Jason Stromberg**

1. My House backed out as a partial sponsor of the Nicholas Suite at the last minute. Working on a different sponsor. Blue Chip was mentioned as a possibility, but we will explore multiple options. Jason said that we should take a hard look at the functioning of the Nicholas Suite during the state tournament. Action on this was deferred to the Spring Meeting.

### **H. Awards Chairman Report - Tom McGarvie**

1. List of people giving awards for the state tournament was discussed. It was asked if we want to open it up to Head Coaches for the Champions of that tournament or do we want to continue with the current process of just HOF members presenting state medals? Discussion on pros and cons for both situations. Tom suggested continuing with HOF members presenting medals.

#### **IV. Spring Meeting Details**

Sunday April 28, 2019 - Wisconsin Dells. Topics to include results from the Advisory Committee meeting, By-Law Review, and Challenge Series Chairmen.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

1. Peter Moe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 am.  
Randy Ferrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 14-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
John Hatfield  
WWCA Secretary