

ISWA Monthly Meeting

April 16, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting called meeting to order at 12:00 pm by Pat Culp. Meeting was held via zoom.

Attendance:

Pat Culp, Jennifer Pierson, Tina Fouts, Jeff Strueder, Jeanne Whetstone, Roby Webster, Mark Stevenson, Lou Silverman, Mary Friedt, Jim Littlejohn, Jonah Odum, Linda Robinson, Jason DeLois, Jason Miller, Michelle Kaster, Jimmy Tonte, Thomas Pompei, Nick Hull, Danny Struck, Jake O'Neill, Mark Mundy

Staff: Tina Tonte, J.D. Minch

Consultants:

Guest: Steve Mathis

Secretary: Tina Fouts

- Presented February minutes, which were sent in advance through USAW Membership website to review and provide updates
- Motion to accept minutes by Jason Miller
- Jennifer Pierson seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer: Jeff Strueder

- Financial documents were loaded to USAW library for review prior to meeting.
- Shared reports online.
- Steve Mathis was invited to view the meeting.
- Not much changed from last meeting.
- Folkstyle State bills should be finished up soon.
- Hospitality not reflected in current report. Receipts were just provided.
- Budget v Actual – 3x gear agreement paid.
- We are at 97% budget for membership.
- Stepped through the full report.
- Folkstyle State hospitality receipts were provided just prior to the meeting.
- Supplies reflect ethernet and cords purchased and divided between tournaments.
- Video series – partial payment for editing.
- 14U Duals will be more of an ala carte trip, Will be run like Heartland Duals (our budget for hotels, etc. for coaches and those that we need to be there).
- We have placed 10% of each trip put down on buses for trips.
- Gear for Heartland was just over \$20,000, pretty close to our estimate.
- Spoke with Jason DeLois – 4 coaches paid for them (hotels and transportation).
- Will formalize 2 team leaders and then coaches per diem for additional coaches (Heartland Duals).
- Buses for Junior and 16U Nationals – 3 buses, 2 for men, 1 for women.
- 16U Duals fee represents electrical fees from ERMCO at Grand Park. Didn't get paid previously due to difficulty in delivery of bill.
- Jake O'Neill asked about Kids' Nationals - are we reimbursing coaches if they travel out there?

- Jeff stated we will have to decide. There is a formula for #of kids per coach. Needs to be determined between Jonah and Danny.
- Jonah Odum stated that last year we did 5 to 1 (kids to coaches) but more kids came with Chad Red and Sean Schmaltz. A minimum number of kids was listed and if they met that, he had them submit receipts and we would reimburse their travel.
- Discussions of potential discount for kids to go on these trips, when a parent has more than one kid attending. Pat Culp and Jeff Strueder stated this is something that would need to be discussed. Pat Culp recommended we re-convene and discuss when we have a better idea of what they are asking for regarding a discount.
- Jason Miller made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report.
- Jim Littlejohn seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Upcoming meetings

- Pat Culp discussed the next 2 meetings will be in-person meetings – in the office.
- They will take place on June 11th (tournament recap meeting) and August 5 (all day meeting with budget meeting occurring in the morning and the regular August monthly meeting after lunch).
- A reminder of the team building gathering in the evening of August 5th

Coaches Band process

- Pat Culp reported that this new process went well. We will be following the same process for Freestyle and Greco State
- Coaches' Conduct/waiver will be added online.
- This is open now and coaches can register for their coaches' bands at this time.
- We asked to have our Coaches' Conduct/waiver statement be added because we wanted to make sure Indiana's rules and regulations are listed, as opposed to generic rules

Ranking System

- Pat Culp reported that the ranking system was put into registration process.
- Ranking was 85% accurate.
- 2 – 3 brackets were incorrect. USA is checking into it.
- Asked how we felt that the process went.
- Michelle Kaster stated a scanner is needed for coaches' band process. We need to know what scanner should be ordered so that we have the correct one.
- Jimmy Tonte felt ranking system went well.
- Pat Culp stated that it is bringing in Regional and National events. Indiana is one of the few states that are using the ranking system.

Kids' Nationals

- Pat Culp asked if we want to bid to host this tournament. It was determined that we will find out more about what is involved, to enable us to make a determination.

Central Regionals

- Pat Culp stated that Ft. Wayne may offer grant money if we can host another year. She spoke with Scott Cleaver from Wisconsin. They would really like us to host it because it is close enough that they have a decent number of athletes participate.

US Nationals

- Jason Miller asked if participation in the US Nationals counts as 2 qualifiers. This was discussed and it only counts as 1 qualifier. Not sure how the information has gotten out that it will count as 2 qualifiers.

Monthly Board Meetings

- Pat Culp reminded all board members that if they are not in attendance at a board meeting, they should be submitting a report. Also, the minutes should be reviewed so that we all know what was discussed and what decisions have been made. This is a requirement as a board member to know what is discussed and voted on.

Publication Deadline

- Pat Culp stated that the deadline for submitting items for the publication must be met by all board members that are required to submit content. Trips, 30 days after the trip by the Team Leader. Board members 10-31 is when their report is due.

Freestyle/Greco Combined Local Tournaments

- Pat Culp discussed that since Freestyle State has qualifier requirements. We should remind local tournaments that when they are hosting both styles – freestyle should be wrestled first. Greco should be wrestled second, because if they are injured while wrestling in the Greco tournament, they will miss a Freestyle qualifier if unable to wrestle.

Old Business

Annual Meeting

- Jennifer Pierson will get a committee together to review annual meeting process. Specifically looking to see if there are virtual options available.

Consultant & Staff Reports

- **Law & Legislation – Steve Pugliese**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Sports Medicine – Nicole Moss**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Technology – Chris Pruitt**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Olympic Wrestling Styles Consultant – Zach Errett**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Membership Staff – JD Minch**
 - Current Athletes – 10,630 – 13% Up from previous year – 53% New athletes
 - Current Wrestling Leaders – 1,293 – 5% Up from previous year – 33% New wrestling leaders
 - Current Clubs – 206 – Up 52% from previous year – 17% New clubs
 - Sanctioned Events – 114 – Up 2% from previous year
 - Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 7 Silver / 489 Bronze / 776 Copper
 - Tina Tonte and Jay Dowden are sorting out Freestyle and Greco medals.
 - JD is trying to re-inventory extra gear for the last 2 years and put into plastic containers instead of cardboard boxes.
 - Running out of space at the office.
- **State Services - Staff – Tina Tonte**
 - Mark Mundy's father passed away, shared news.

- Any updates for website, please email office.
- Was notified of a typo on flyer is now updated and online.
- Freestyle state flyer is done – please review.
- Thanked Jonah Odum and JD Minch regarding their work in the storage area in garage.
- Freestyle/Greco medals sorted in totes.
- Thanks to AM Awards for all of their help.
- Thomas Pompei – working with him on team Indiana trips, changes to camp, registration, and flyers.
- Working on preparations for Freestyle/Greco State and Central Regionals.
- Working with Linda Robinson and Nicole Moss to prepare in advance.
- Will not be at Central Regionals.
- Office has processed Indy Rare Breeds – 9 member’s athlete memberships.
- Publication – trying to find out about the price hike. Numbers are very close to last year’s and pages were the same amount. She has asked Denise for a better explanation for the price jump.
- Tina Fouts asked about volunteer shirts. We couldn’t find them for Folkstyle State this year. We need to make sure they are located.
- Mark Stevenson asked about donating items we have had sitting around for years.
- Pat Culp said that we do try to clear out and send to missionaries and such.

Directors Reports

Vice Chair– Administration – Jennifer Pierson

- Working from social media standpoint for the last couple of months – getting out more information out on scholarships, local events, RTC’s.
- One obstacle is getting information from the RTCs as far as who their clinician will be.
- Need to get schedules and information from each location so that we can share on social media and put out list at the beginning of each week so that these things are publicized.
- Working on getting the informational videos together to post as well as information about the 2 qualifiers required for Freestyle State.
- Working with tournament committee on Freestyle and Central Regionals.
- Working with clubs that are holding qualifiers that are not on trackwrestling.
- Requiring that they check in on USA Wrestling check-in to enable to verify they checked in.
- Reviewing how tournaments are being run so that we can determine if these are actualqualifying tournaments. Are they on brackets or are they friendship meets?
- For next year, would like to schedule out having a social media calendar.
- There are things we know will be happening so that we can come up with a posting calendar to make sure we are getting all information out and posted.
- Will help in determining when do we want to highlight things for freestyle and RTCs, special information for promoting specific items.

• Tournament Director – Roby Webster

- Have been having meetings to work on upcoming tournaments
- Adding 2 mats to Freestyle State - 8 mats in fieldhouse.
- Will move awards out of fieldhouse.
- Will get out signup sheet for workers tonight.
- Central Regionals – meeting to get moving along.

▪ Hospitality Director – Linda Robinson

- Everything has gone well for tournaments so far.
- Waiting for Freestyle to take off.

- 16 mats for freestyle.
- Folkstyle State went well.
- Central Regionals – we are responsible for a social to be held every year.
- We have tried to do hors d'oeuvres the last couple of years.
- We have referees who come straight off the mats so has been discussed with Pat Culp about providing heartier food than hors d'oeuvres.
- Last year, used \$1700 and if we provide more substantial food, it will be approximately \$2500.
- This will allow us to not have to order pizza as we have had to do in the past.
- Scholarship committee – we had 8 applications.
- Scholarships were advertised on social media, emails to all coaches in Indiana and some Ads too, to try to touch more people.
- Committee – Jim Littlejohn, Linda Robinson, and 5 Section Directors.
- Applications: 4/27 meeting with committee to select 7 winners for 2023.
- Tina Tonte asked that once the selection has been made, would like to have the images and where they are going, so that we the office can find the information to put in the book.

- **Pairing Officials Developmental Director – Jennifer Ratliff**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported that she has been attending the tournament committee meetings.

- **Indiana Representative to National Pairings – Jean Whetstone**
 - Helped start Penn tournament
 - Had a master wrestler come in and wrestled first match and then injure defaulted.
 - He came to her and said he should be considered a qualifier and he had stitches. She told him shaking hands didn't count.
 - Sent letter to USA Wrestling that she will no longer be doing national tournaments but will be doing Indiana.
 - Jennifer Pierson said that they are working on communicating out to all what counts as a qualifier.
 - If only one in your bracket, then it is counted as a qualifier.
 - Just registering for an event doesn't make it a qualifier.
 - Pat Culp said that kids that are forfeiting, they are receiving an email and the tournament director too stating that this wasn't a qualifier.
 - Roby Webster asked about injury during the match – does that count as a qualifier? Pat Culp says we check with the tournament director to determine what actually transpired.

- **Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**
 - Talked with Corey Graham, Tom Hall, and Steve Livingston – Cadet, Junior, and Schoolboy Duals gear packets have been ordered.
 - Clarified what needed to be ordered based on the information regarding teams.
 - Steve Livingston is up in the air since this is the first year it is away from Indiana. Not sure how things will go about. Ordered much less than in years pass.
 - Talking to Rudis about and athlete for a mini-camp, will notify once it is formalized.
 - Sales at our in-state tournaments – 3x, Rudis, Blue Chip – bidding for our state tournaments. All bids are due back by 4/21.
 - Jason Miller asked about Kids' National trip - \$250 for gear packet, \$25 for coaches. Will determine best way to get the information out (Indiana Mat, website??).
 - Has some extra from Heartland Duals.

- Will make at least a t-shirt order for anyone that doesn't have a gear package.
- Jason Miller asked if gear package the same as Heartland. Jonah confirmed that the gear package is the same.
- **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Mark Mundy**
 - Preparing for Freestyle State.
 - Invitation to bring in more officials. Not getting a great response.
 - State tournaments in surrounding states seem to happen on the same dates.
 - Might want to review to see if we want to consider different dates to accommodate officials.
 - Coaches' bands – very different than event bands makes it easier to make sure only coaches are on the mat.
 - Some coaches are real problems to the officials. Might need to be a little more strenuous with what we will tolerate.
 - Working on staffing annual trips as well.
- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jim Littlejohn**
 - Folkstyle State – had 55 officials.
 - The goal is to have 2 on 1 coverage and that helps eliminate some of the wear on the officials.
 - At the same time try to pair younger people with more experienced officials for mentoring.
 - We are getting fewer and fewer veterans and experienced officials working the state tournament.
 - A lot is due to middle school season still in place and they are busy with these things.
 - Brought in some out of state officials – some from Ohio.
 - All were state finals officials from Ohio.
 - They rotate one year in and one year out at their state tournaments.
 - We had 6 state finals officials.
 - Only one instance of a coach being ejected and it was on Sunday.
 - Report filed with Pat Culp and one parent had to be ejected.
 - Jim had him removed.
 - All in all, a good couple of days.
 - Successful tournament from an official's standpoint.
 - Table help (ROTC kids) did pretty well, considering that they learned on the fly.
 - Need to be educated more on the live mikes.
 - Some language and conversations shouldn't have been held at the tables.
 - National standpoint – 6 Indiana officials went to Heartland Duals and represented Indiana well.
 - Congratulate team Indiana for winning middle school division and outstanding official – Jared Curcio. This was chosen by coaches.
 - Nearly 60 teams at the tournament.
 - Folkstyle Nationals – 6 Indiana officials at Cedar Falls.
 - Successful tournament. We represent well as a state.
 - Asked about sharp decline in Indiana athletes participating in Folkstyle Nationals. Asked if we should revisit establishing this as a national trip for team Indiana.
 - Discussions around whether we should look at this.
 - Jimmy Tonte feels that we promoted it more in the past.
 - Tabled the discussion to work on at the June meeting.
 - Nick Hull asked about measuring our numbers against other states in the area.

- Jim Littlejohn stated he had been asked last year to officiate at national high school coaches' association duals in Virginia Beach on Memorial Day weekend.
- Wanted to see if it can be a sponsored trip – 7 Indiana teams were there. Not a USA event. Has room in his budget to cover the hotels.
- Jake O'Neill proposed to sponsor Jim Littlejohn on this trip. There would be the cost of one room, with 4 to the room.
- Roby Webster seconded the motion.
- Brought up that this is not a USA event.
- Roby Webster asked about going to the Coaches' Association, asking them to pick up the other costs.
- JD Minch spoke on behalf of the Coaches' Association and stated they will pick up the other expenses.
- A friendly motion to update the motion to indicate accommodations. Jake O'Neill accepted the friendly motion to update.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Jim Littlejohn spoke about a coaches' tour series and would like to see something like this in Indiana.
- Pat Culp said we did have that – Gladiator Series, that ended with Covid.
- The athletes accumulated points and one of the reasons was to get kids to travel through the state.
- One award that was provided was a state of Indiana and each event in the series that you went to, you got a piece of a puzzle.
- Pat Culp stated we need to have someone step up and re-establish it. There were many individuals involved.
- Jim Littlejohn wondered about accumulating points throughout the series and then an award at the end.

- **Logistics Director – Lauren Rioux**
 - Not present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson stated people needing hotel rooms, an email was sent out for state and central regionals.
 - If you haven't responded, letting her know you need a room, reach out as soon as possible to see if she can still handle it.

- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
 - Not present. Report via email
 - Focused on contacting ISWA clubs to make sure their wrestlers participate in at least 2 Freestyle events before State finals.
 - Locally today, in Northern Indiana area we have 200 participants at Crown Point Freestyle / Greco.
 - There's also a tournament nearby at the Penn Rumble Classic in progress.
 - On April 20th we have the Hobart Freestyle open.
 - On April 28th-30th, King of the Ring at Thomas Edison High School, Lake Station.
 - Also have an alternate tournament on April 29th, South Bend Freestyle / Greco at Riley HS.
 - Word out to clubs that there are a few last chance Freestyle qualifiers with Contenders and Floyd Central as options.
 - Confident to increase Section 1 participation for women at Freestyle again along with Men's Freestyle & Greco at State Finals.

- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**

- Dropped off the call prior to her report.
 - Sent quick report – Working on Freestyle/Greco State and Central Regionals.
 - Working with tournament committee.
 - Working on mats and volunteers for Central Regionals.
 - Have all mats confirmed and some volunteers.
 - One mat fee if they are providing volunteers and one fee if not.
 - Continuing to work on that.
- **Section 3 – Dalton Halbig**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported that he has been reaching out to clubs that need to be sanctioned.
 - Working with Mark Mundy to get officials for Freestyle/Greco State and promoting this tournament to local clubs.
- **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
 - Was on the call and had to leave
 - JD Minch reported Section 4 is doing great.
 - Staying up with taking care of club notifications, etc.
 - Mark needs to know dates and times for Freestyle/Greco State and Central Regionals.
 - Friday 5/5 at approximately 4-5 pm for loading.
 - Pat Culp is going in around noon on Friday meeting with IT at Avon to get wiring.
 - Central Regionals – last year we loaded a day early, bringing the truck up to Ft. Wayne on Friday.
 - Pat Culp reported that schools will be bringing mats on Thursday.
 - She will be setting up on Thursday night.
 - Trackwrestling kits will come to Ft. Wayne and JD Minch will have to bring back on the truck.
 - Pat Culp will send email with dates and times for Mark Stevenson so he can reserve the trucks.
- **Section 5 – Michelle Kaster**
 - Reaching out to clubs regarding 2 qualifiers.
 - Making sure everyone has their lists ready for freestyle state.

Linda Robinson asked if she needs to do anything for Central Regionals for weigh-ins. Pat Culp stated that no, she does not.

- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
 - **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
 - Coaches list is moving forward.
 - Thomas Pompei has been amazing at making him move on it.
 - Danny, Jimmy Tonte, Jake O'Neill and Thomas Pompei have been meeting a lot and talking to Pat Culp about ways to rotate and get new guys and coaches involved.
 - Steve Livingston is working on getting applications in since it is the first outbound trip for Schoolboy Duals.
 - Deadline to apply was put in place to get them to get their applications in.
 - We might have to accept late applications, if we do not have enough coaches applying.
 - Guest clinician for Freestyle State - Derek Sikora with USA Wrestling is working on it.
 - Listed every Indiana person that is a USA sponsored athlete. Has been requested.

- **Cadet/Junior Director –Jake O’Neill**
 - Thomas Pompei covered everything that he has been working on.
 - Huge thanks to Thomas on all he has done on getting the trips together.
 - Working on getting coaches lined up.
- **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
 - Olympic season is under way.
 - Watching it grow. Measuring the numbers and working with RTCs to help develop.
 - Working on videos for coaches’ education and athlete education.
 - Some social media videos for women’s freestyle/greco for upcoming state tournament and will get to Jennifer this week.
 - There are more programs that are having dual tournaments.
 - All videos have been shot. Wants to get others involved to help with these.
 - Should have everything wrapped up in the next couple of weeks.
 - Interested to see if numbers grow this year with all that is being done to promote.
- **Kid’s Director – Jason Miller**
 - Heartland – different selection process due to conflict with date of the tournament.
 - Wasn’t sure we could fill 2 teams for Elementary and Middle School. Were able to do that.
 - Selection process was a huge success.
 - Didn’t have wrestle offs.
 - Had our first national championship team out there.
 - Received mental attitude award.
 - Focused on 14U Duals and Kids’ Nationals and have equally successful trips for those
- **Regional Training Center Director – Josh Curry**
 - Not Present. Report submitted to Jimmy Tonte.
 - RTCs are in full swing.
 - Better job promoting with social media.
 - Reported that Jennifer Pierson is a graphics design wizard. Has created great graphics to promote them.
 - Shout out to Mooresville. Coach Mikesell has a great room and has prepared clinicians for almost every workout.
 - Coach Hull has put together some great videos with ISWA graphics that will continue to move the state forward.
 - Jimmy Tonte stated that there are big improvements in a lot of areas.
- **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
 - Paperwork for trips almost finalized.
 - Working with Tina Tonte – sending final drafts shortly.
 - All team leaders good at this point.
 - Pat Parham has been asked to be the Junior leader. He is working on approval to take the time off.
 - Website reworked, flyers for State will hold all information needed, along with QR codes to take them to registration and payment link.
 - Code of Conduct included and link for recruiting information.
 - Canceling camps for multiple reasons for most trips.
 - Will see how it goes this year and may look at early combined camp for all trips, next year.

- Boys arrive in Fargo 1 day earlier, for practice.
 - Leaving July 14th getting there on July 15th, practicing on 15th and 16th with weigh-ins on 16th.
 - Girl's will have small camp due to change in schedule at Fargo.
 - Every team leader will be at state to hand out flyers
- **Women's Director – Jason DeLois**
 - Girls went to 14U Folkstyle Women's Nationals in Spokane, WA,
 - 2 qualified for 14U World Teams (champions) wrestling in Turkey in August (Rianne Murphy and Heather Crull).
 - 14 total went out to complete.
 - Monthly participation totals are higher than ever have been.
 - Gets a report from Tina T and Joan from USA wrestling – Indiana is 12th in the country.
 - Californian, Kansas, and Washington are top 3 in the nation.
 - Next tournament will be combined 16U/Jr, June 13-17
 - Theresa Rankin is team leader for the trip.
 - Going to try to get a small camp together.
 - Will be doing a camp for Fargo.
 - Theresa Ranking will be coming down and doing an RTC for New Palestine.
 - Has a list of the leftover gear – may need to reorder for 14U trip and Jr trip.
 - Should be able to build a full team for 14U.
 - What should he do as far as ordering for this? Hard to guess numbers at this point.
 - Since some will have gear already, he is trying to determine how much to pre-order.
 - Jake O'Neill feels that we should make sure that no matter what we do, we make sure the kids all get gear.
 - Jeff Strueder said we always budget for full team order of gear in pricing the trip.
 - Thinks Theresa will do a great job as team leader,
 - Jason stated he has been the only one in the past because the numbers were low.
 - Appreciates bringing more into the fold.
 - Likes to go on the Fargo trip to help with logistics that are different than the other trips.
 - Looking forward to helping her on these trips.
 - Fargo is a little different schedule this year for the girls. Girls go out before boys and then leave early without the 2-3 days idle as in the past.
 - They will come back at the time the boys are starting.
 - 16U and Jr girls will be wrestling at the same time. If we get anything over 46 girls, we will be in a pinch.
 - There are a lot of girls coaches that are helping with the boys as well. They will have to go out with the girls and then ride back with the boys.
- **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**
 - Confirmed Hungarians will be coming 7/11 – 7/21
 - 13 wrestlers (2 girls) and 5 adults.
 - Will divide them amongst several clubs.
 - Will host several events.
 - Working on going to Florida the week before Disney duals and spend time with American top team and a local high school in Ft. Lauderdale, since Korea trip was canceled.
 - Hosting an adult Turkish team in June. Have some visa issues. 6/15-6/30. Trying to assist with the process.
- **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**

- No present. No Report.

Additional items:

Pat Culp stated that USA Wrestling will start having new courses on women's wrestling coaching. Jeff Strueder asked for all to start letting him know of trips that may change so that he can prepare for numbers.

Michelle Kaster motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Jean Whetstone seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:57pm

Next Meeting will be June 11th at noon, in the office.

The following meeting will be August 5th in the office.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fouts

ISWA Secretary