

## **ISWA Monthly Meeting**

November 12, 2023

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

### **Attendance:**

Pat Culp, Jennifer Pierson, Jimmy Tonte, Tina Fouts, Steve Mathis, Jennifer Ratliff, Jason DeLois, Nick Hull, Danny Struck, Ryan Parrish, Payton Halbig, Jim Littlejohn, Mary Friedt, Lou Silverman, Dalton Halbig, Jason Miller, and Roby Webster

**Staff:** J.D. Minch

**Consultants:**

**Guest:**

### **Secretary: Tina Fouts**

- Tina Fouts presented the minutes for October, 2023, which were sent in advance through USAW Membership website to review and provide updates.
- Payton Halbig made a motion to accept the minutes
- Jim Littlejohn seconded the motion
- Motion passed unanimously

### **Treasurer: Steve Mathis**

- Financials were sent in advance of the meeting through USAW Membership website to review and provide updates.
- Stepped through reports
  - Budget vs Actuals. Not much at this point
  - Some revenue and some miscellaneous items reported.
  - USA Wrestling sent \$32,125, was put into traditional membership. Will get it categorized correctly by next month.
  - Equipment sales and sponsors showing increase.
  - Expenses include background checks, memberships, office expenses, insurance, per diems for officials to national tourneys.
  - Meeting expenses, registration, travel expenses.
  - Statement of Financial Position
  - Transferred \$150,000 to 6 months CD at 5%. Will make over \$4,000 in the 6 months' time.
- Jason Miller made a motion to accept the treasurer's report
- Payton Halbig seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **Folkstyle Nationals/Middle School State Duals**

- Pat Culp reported that the coliseum arrangements are in place.
- Mary Friedt has almost all of the mats arranged.

- USA Wrestling is paying \$150 per table on Saturday and \$100 per table on Sunday US Nationals' table workers (single payment for full day, per table).
- 10U and down wrestle on Sunday
- 12U and 14U wrestle on Saturday.
- Table workers will get free parking, free admission, food, free t-shirt (normally).
- 2 people required per table.
- Dates for the tournament are January 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Ryan Parrish asked if they weigh in Friday for nationals, will their weigh in count for Middle School State Duals. No, we determined it in the prior meeting. We do not count tenths, so they are technically getting a one pound allowance.
- Jimmy Tonte explained that we looked at National High School Federation rules and if you give it to one, you have to give it to all.
- Pat Culp confirmed we will do mat side weigh ins like we have done in the past.
- Tournament will be conducted on 8 mats.
- Pat Culp will be working with J.D. Minch and Mark Stevenson to get equipment to the coliseum early.

### **Open Board Positions**

- Pat Culp reported that we have received no applications for the open board position of Logistics Director.
- Asked if we know anyone who would be interested to please encourage them to complete the application that is available online.

### **New Business**

#### **Deadline for the book**

- Pat Culp reminded all that the deadline is November 17<sup>th</sup>, to get all information to the office, for the book to go to print in time for the December publishing date.

### **Miscellaneous discussions**

#### **Rule Changes**

- Jim Littlejohn advised that USA Wrestling has determined, for the Girls' Folkstyle Nationals and Tour of America events they have implemented the step-out rule.
- Might want to put this into the book.
- Will be in place for Folkstyle Nationals and 14U (they will have a separate division for girls).
- Asked if we want to implement for our tournaments.
- This would help prepare the girls for college with the rules.
- Only a step out from neutral counts for the point.
- Jason DeLois has concerns with D1, will it stay with freestyle rules, or will they go to NCAA rules?
- Jim Littlejohn had a conversation with Gary Mayab and they are dead set on staying with freestyle for women's.
- Women's college coaches are supporting of that.
- Jimmy Tonte doesn't foresee the rule changing in college.
- Motion – Jim Little made a motion that we implement the step-out rule for our major events and encourage for local events
- Jason DeLois seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously
- Ryan Parrish asked to confirm mouthpieces are not required unless they have braces

- Jim Littlejohn confirmed that mouthpieces are not request unless the individual has braces.
- 14U and below – Indiana requires headgear.
- Dalton seconded that we agreed on mouthpieces not required.

### **Low Income Assistance for membership**

- Pat Culp reported that we recently had a club who asked if ISWA did any type of assistance (buying USA cards for low income families).
- She had an inquiry also from Maconaquah. Her response was that normally clubs take care of that but we have low-income areas that we have supported in the past.
- Asked if we want to establish a way to assist or leave up to clubs.
- Jennifer Pierson stated that the other request we received was from Rare Breed (formerly Beat the Streets, Jireh). We have assisted this group (or a form of this group) for many years and they only typically use 11-12 each year. That has been going on for the last 7-10 years.
- We have had a couple of other clubs in similar situations reaching out recently for those who cannot afford cards.
- Many discussions over how we could manage requests such as these.
- How would we determine recipients of the assistance? Would there be a number chosen that we would provide for a season and once they are gone, there are no more available?
- How would we determine the criteria?
- We need to have a process in place, determine income that falls into the category low-income.
- Jennifer Pierson recommended we state a maximum number we set for the year, and maybe a maximum number per club. They would have to determine who qualifies for the need and submit an application/justification to be provided for the person in need.
- Roby Webster suggested that we table discussion and have the executive board come up with a plan to present at the next board meeting. Need concrete guidelines.
- Additional discussions of areas that might have the need for assistance and what we might gain in state tournament participation based on more athletes in the system.
- Steve Mathis suggested looking at other states and how they run the program and is there any stipulation that USA Wrestling might put on the high school team membership program that is available through USA Wrestling
- We would want to stay within their guidelines as well.
- Jennifer Pierson recommended running a financial analysis.
- Continued discussions of benefits, issues, etc.

### **Middle School State Duals**

- Question was raised if we want to do large and small groups for this tournament
- Ryan Parrish is dealing with a lot of stress from coaches with taking elementary duals to 3 sizes.
- The coaches don't want to fall into the medium sized group.
- Have small teams that want to jump to large.
- Some do want to stay in small, a few want to be medium.
- We are 2 weeks into registration but we are not full and this has never happened.
- Jennifer Ratliff feels we leave middle school as is.
- There wasn't a lot of backlash when we went from 1 to 2 divisions per Ryan Parrish.
- Jennifer Ratliff said the reason we aren't full for Elementary Duals is that we opened 8 more spots.
- We couldn't make them all large because it would be a huge pool that couldn't happen in a day.
- For now, we are putting the people where they belong in and if they don't fill, then we will let them move up.
- Part of the problem is that the numbers have to fit into brackets to get the rounds in.
- One club last year entered two teams on the first day (one large and one small) which caused another club to not be able to get into the tournament at all.

- Discussions around high school classification and the fact that some schools have petitioned their way into higher divisions instead of where they place by enrollment.
- We currently have 3 large openings.
- Jen Ratliff made a motion: For elementary duals, we set a deadline and leave registration open to teams only for the divisions they qualify for, until deadline, then we will open up to teams to bump up in the order in which they registered, if there are spots available.
- Roby seconded the motion.
- Discussions about the motion. Jason DeLois talked about ranking information and come up with Track duals ranking. Pat c stated that would happen for next year.
- Motion passed with one opposed.
- Middle School Duals will stay the same.

Ryan Parrish voiced that he has had complaints from coaches that they have to get their entire teams to Ft. Wayne, that aren't interested in competing in the US Nationals. Jimmy Tonte is getting the same complaints. The teams are used to this tournament being centrally located in the Indianapolis area, that is in the center of the state.

### **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 – 3,790
  - Current Wrestling Leaders – 509
  - Current Clubs – 134
  - Sanctioned Events – 56
  - All are up in % from this time last year
  - Have verified 187 athlete ages in the last 4 days
  - Chartered 20 clubs last week
  - 15 sanctions this past week
  - Received 3 checks this past week:
    - American Charities
    - 2 ISWA t-shirt sponsor
  - Retailed directors current list of required items that they have not completed
  - Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 8 Silver / 257 Bronze / 349 Copper

### **State Services - Staff – Tina Tonte**

- Continuing updates to the event schedule sanction.
- Emailing Jennifer Pierson list of those sanctioned so section directors can contact clubs to allow processing time.
- Working with Jennifer Pierson and has scheduled a call this week about StackSports website migration.
- Working to make the December deadline for ISWA publication.

- Working with Jennifer Ratliff & Dave Matthews for teams to register with new USAW membership site for this year's Elementary State Duals. Coaches pleased with new process.
- Thanks to J.D. Minch for his patience as we work through the age verification busy season.
- Reminder to Directors to complete background checks and SafeSport & email office for renewal.
- Also, to complete conflict of interest and whistle blower.

## **Directors Reports**

### **Vice Chair– Administration – Jennifer Pierson**

- Working with Tina Tonte on the book. Deadline to meet December print date is 11/17.
- Meeting this week to go over SportsStack – we are able to get back in.
- Meeting Jim Littlejohn and Mark Mundy to go over some initiatives for the year.
- Roby will talk about tournament meetings in regards to state tournaments.
- No action from the disciplinary committee.

### **• Tournament Director – Roby Webster**

- Jen Pierson reported they have met to review state tournament bids
- Franklin will host Elementary Duals
- Avon will host Freestyle/Greco State
- Warren Central turned in a bid for Folkstyle State. Waiting on some cost information to come back from the high school for custodial and security.
- Folkstyle State location has been tabled until we get the additional costs.
- This week contracts will go out to Franklin and Avon.
- Will have an additional meeting when receive cost from Jake O'Neill for Warren Central.

### **▪ Hospitality Director – Linda Robinson**

- Not Present. No report.
- Jennifer Pierson will reach out to her to make sure we are set for Elementary Duals.
- Nothing reported from Scholarship Committee

### **▪ Pairing Officials Developmental Director – Jennifer Ratliff**

- Working on Duals registration for Elementary Duals.
- Has heard it is pretty easy for them to register.
- We are saving a few hundred dollars to do it this way.
- Creating education for pairers so that they can use USA Wrestling registration.
- Significant cost savings over track. Also available to use pins.
- There is an FAQ with videos on website in registration area.
- Deadline will be set for 11/30 – will double check with Ryan.
- Will post information as to the process for this year, once decided.
- For Middle School Duals registration, December 7<sup>th</sup> to open and will work with Ryan to determine timing.

### **▪ Indiana Representative to National Pairings – Jean Whetstone**

- Not present. No Report.
- A reminder was sent to pairers to update email.

### **▪ Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**

- Not present. Report via email
- Rudis won the National gear contract.
- Lowest cost and provided the most “in-kind” items.
- Will have another athlete for a camp this year.
- Google docs link will be sent later in the week. All directors should make sure their contact information is up to date.
- Just received mock-ups for gear designs and will be sending to the gear committee for review.
- Waiting to see if Rudis can provide “strap pack” for coaches.
- They currently do not, but are looking into the possibility
- Request was made by coaches due to Fargo being so hard to navigate due to crowd size.
- Very excited to have earned his silver certification and is now working on getting his gold certification.
- Jennifer Pierson asked all board members to send their contact information to Tina Tonte in the office, if it needs to be updated. Asked all to check the Director’s page to make sure information is accurate.
  
- **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Mark Mundy**
  - Not Present. No Report.
  
- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jim Littlejohn**
  - Had a good trip to Pre-Season Nationals. Had good representation of officials and wrestlers.
  - Working on securing officials for all of our events, including Folkstyle Nationals.
  - If anyone knows of any officials interested, have them reach out to him.
  - Will rely heavily on officials from other states.
  - Rule of modification for girls’ events for step-out rule will apply.
  
- **Logistics Director – Vacant**
  - Steve Mathis and Jennifer Pierson will reach out to Site Search in a week or so, to communicate our expectations and make sure we have links for registrations and make sure we have better metrics.
  - For use with grant applications.
  - Pat Culp will talk with someone to help us out in the time being.
  
- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
  - Not present. Report via email.
  - Provided list of clubs in section 1 that have bid tournaments but have not yet sanctioned.
  - One club recently found out that their facility will not be available to them and secondary date will not work due to a tournament already bid that is close by. They will work with the tournament committee if they are able to come up with another date.
  - Contacted clubs to remind them of the upcoming Elementary Duals State tournament.
  
- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**
  - Sent email this morning to all section 2 clubs regarding openings for Elementary Duals, hosting Kids’ Nationals and Middle School State Duals in Ft. Wayne January 27 and 28.
  - Still need to get a couple of mats. We are still 4 mats short and a ton of people.

- Reminded them that they must sanction their events, bidding doesn't have the event posted until it is sanctioned.
  - They also must be chartered as a club to sanction the event.
  - 1 tournament next weekend and 3 in December who haven't completed their paperwork.
  - Working hard to get Kids' Nationals up and running.
  - Jennifer Pierson asked how she wants to post on social media – to let her know when ready.
- **Section 3 – Dalton Halbig**
  - Will send an email to the clubs in his area to remind them to get chartered and to sanction their events.
- **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
  - Not present. Not Report.
  - Jennifer Pierson reviewed his sanction report and they appear to be up to date.
- **Section 5 –Payton Halbig**
  - Working to get volunteers for Folkstyle Nationals.
  - 20 out of 47 clubs are chartered.
  - Sent an email to remind clubs to charter, to get tournaments sanctioned and remind of insurance.
  - Contacted 2 clubs to get correct contact information.
  - Hasn't been to club meetings other than his own club.
  - Will send email in couple of days reminders about Kids' Nationals.
  - Jennifer Pierson said if tournament is within 3 weeks and is not sanctioned, might require a phone call or a direct email to the person who bid the tournament.
- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
  - **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
    - Wanted to congratulate Jonah Odum, as the next silver coach.
    - ISWA helped with hotel cost to go to clinic.
    - As a result of a list of projects from Pat Culp – Ryan Parish is pushing to finish his silver certification
    - Looking at a list for those who have taken the silver clinic to encourage them to finish.
    - Will challenge people to take the silver clinic and will reimburse when they are done.
    - Will try to take a group of coaches to Pennsylvania before the Olympic trials – to take the silver clinic.
    - They will use world level speakers (coaches).
    - Application is up online but will send out once high school season starts.
    - Has a request to USA Wrestling to see how many coaches Indiana has past and present because J.D.'s numbers only show those who have purchased their cards for the current year.
    - Feels that this will be good to get people to take these courses.
  - **Cadet/Junior Director –Jake O'Neill**
    - Not Present. Report via email.
    - Working with Jennifer Ratliff on sanctioning and setting up qualifiers for IHSWCA Middle School State

- Working with Lou Silverman and a Japanese connection on a Cultural Exchange trip to Japan
  - Continue to work with Jennifer Ratliff on specifics for IHSWCA Middle School State
  - Jennifer Ratliff stated that they are using USA Membership registration to allow for pins to be used, and can't do it until the schools that are hosting qualifiers schedule the registrations online.
  - Jennifer Pierson will send an email as she has the list as to who needs to register letting them know they have to get the qualifier sanctioned.
- **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
    - Nothing new to report.
    - On schedule with everything being worked on.
    - Videos, interest in freestyle teams, getting them on schedule for virtual platforms.
    - Going to OTC soon and excited for that.
- **Kid's Director – Jason Miller**
    - Nothing new to report.
    - Working on publication to send to middle school coaches to help with numbers and building teams.
- **Regional Training Center Director – Josh Curry**
    - Not Present. Report sent to Jimmy Tonte.
    - Sending out the sign-up sheet for RTC sites soon, usually around Christmas
    - Looking to still get RTC sites and teams for the duals
- **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
    - Not Present. No Report.
- **Women's Director – Jason DeLois**
    - Nothing much to report on the ISWA front.
    - Mentioned girls' high school season has started on a good foot and talked about how the state series will run
- **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**
    - For Middle School trip - trying to secure dates as Hawaii rejected June dates.
    - Looking at 7/1-7/10, waiting for confirmation.
    - Will be similar to the trip a few years ago.
    - Climbing small mountains (volcanos).
    - Jake O'Neill is trying to get in contact with Japan, if doesn't happen soon, will pivot to look at securing a trip to South Korea.
- **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**
    - Discussed previously in the meeting, regarding Elementary Duals

Jason Miller motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Jason DeLois seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 2:16pm**

**The next meeting will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.**



Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Fouts*

ISWA Secretary