

## **ISWA Monthly Meeting**

October 8, 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, Mark Stevenson, Jeanne Whetstone, Jennifer Ratliff, Jonah Odum, Jason DeLois, Nick Hull, Jake O'Neill, Danny Struck, and Ryan Parrish

**Staff:** Tina Tonte, J.D. Minch

### **Consultants:**

**Guest:** Jeff Strueder, Payton Halbig, Dave Mathews (USA Wrestling for last part of the meeting)

### **Secretary: Tina Fouts**

- Tina Fouts presented the minutes for September, 2023, which were sent in advance through USAW Membership website to review and provide updates.
- Mark Stevenson made a motion to accept the minutes
- Jeanne Whetstone 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.
- Reported that Jeff Strueder has been helping with training. They have been to the bank and signatures and related items have been switched over due to change in treasurer.
- Budget vs actuals – discussed September activity
- Revenue from equipment sales at annual meeting.
- Some travel expenses to annual summit
- Regular monthly expenses.
- Shared reports on screen for review and discussion.
- State of financial position shared on screen.
- When transferring treasurer information at Chase, noticed money sitting here and not receiving much in the way of interest.
- Asked about CD rate – almost 5% for 6 months.
- Suggested maybe use \$100,000 in a CD for 6 months.
- Risk would be if we need it and can't get to it out before 6 months, if needed.
- Discussed previous CDs and the fact that they were held at a different bank, reducing our account balances with Chase. This caused us to experience fees to our account due to below minimum balance.
- Jeff Strueder discussed maybe setting some money aside in the spring, when we have our big fundraising events.
- Discussed possibly putting \$150,000 for 6 months.
- Steve Mathis made a motion to place \$150,000 through Chase for 6 months CD.
- Mark Stevenson seconded the motion.

- Motion passes unanimously.
- Might need to ask for addresses for bill pay, as Jeff Strueder's information didn't transfer over.
- Mark Stevenson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report
- Jeanne Whetstone seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

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

- Pat Culp stated we are moving ahead with hosting Folkstyle Nationals and Mary Friedt is working on finding workers and mats.
- We worked with USA Wrestling and they will run middle school athletes on Saturday and they will run the remaining kids on Sunday.
- We will use 8 mats on Sunday and run Middle School State Duals.
  - Each team will bring a worker.
  - Will post shortly for table help from any clubs and we will get them on a table.
  - USA Wrestling pays \$150 on Saturday per table and \$100 per table on Sunday.
  - Longer day on Saturday.
  - Pete Isais and Rob Cate did a walkthrough recently with Pat Culp, of the coliseum.
  - They are bringing fog machine and will have raised platform.
  - Working with JD Minch, getting the truck there.
  - Jen Ratliff and a few others pairers will work on set up a couple of days early.
  - Asked about hotel rooms for workers.
  - Pat will reach out to the city of Ft. Wayne.
  - Jennifer Pierson asked about whether weights will count from US Nationals for Middle School State Duals the following day.
  - Jimmy Tonte & Jake O'Neill asked about kids that wrestled the day before, wondered if they would get any pound allowance
  - Jake thinks there should be separate weigh-ins.
  - Jen Ratliff said we need to make sure it is communicated clearly.
  - Mark Stevenson asked about giving a 2 pound across the board but must have proof you wrestled the day before.
  - JD Minch suggested a 1 lb. allowance and tenths of pounds are not counted.
  - Because we have never given a weight allowance in the past and we will leave it as we are doing it. No changes to weigh-ins.
  - JD Minch asked for help getting stuff to Ft. Wayne and back (equipment).
  - Pat Culp and JD Minch will talk about it closer to the date.
  - Jason Delois will take the days off and help JD.

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

- Jennifer Pierson, Roby Webster, and Jen Ratliff are meeting after this meeting, to discuss bids for tournaments.

## **New Business**

### **Open Board Positions**

- Logistics Director – Lauren Rioux has resigned her position. Pat Culp asked if we know of anyone that is interested in the position, the application is online and to please direct them there.
- Pat is currently doing part of this position and is working with Site Search to determine if we still want to use them.

- Section 5 Director – Pat Culp reported that Payton Halbig has gone through the interview process. The interview committee recommended him from the candidate applications received. Payton was asked to log out of the call for the vote and we would contact him when he could log back in.
- Motion to appoint Payton Halbig as the Section 5 Director was made by the interview committee
- Mark Stevenson seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously

## **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 – 1,031 – 19% Up from previous year – 21% New athletes
  - Current Wrestling Leaders – 268 – 7% Up from previous year – 12% New wrestling leaders
  - Current Clubs – 80 – Up 4% from previous year – 5% New clubs
  - Sanctioned Events – 29 – Up 38% from previous year
  - Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 7 Silver / 185 Bronze / 22 Copper
  - Most copper coaches have moved up to bronze.
  - New internet in the office.
  - Have had a couple of deliveries. One is a tape machine to tape mats. And internet stuff. 4 monitor screens.
  - Things are going pretty well.
  - Clubs are signing up and athletes are registering.
  - We are ahead on all categories over last year.
  - Fall clinic is Thursday and Friday of this week for coaches' association.
  - Stays current with ISWA so there is no conflict with events.
  - JD was asked if there is a way to track the Teal certifications.
  - Pat said it can be tracked but we have had a lot of coaches who have taken the teal course. She will try to get a number.

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

- Sanctions and charters being updated.
- USA Wrestling has sports stacks being held hostage while they make updates.
- Jennifer Pierson is working with her on the switch over.
- From last USA call, no discussion about having this lockdown so the other states aren't jumping on sports stack as quickly as Indiana is.
- Wants to find out how long we are continuing with sports engine without a fee.
- Wondering if the governing body will allow us to continue to use Sports Engine with the governing body covering the fees.
- Pat Culp believes 1 year.
- Communication with background and membership renewal.
- Work with the office for renewals send to the office@iswa.com.
- Jen Ratliff updating the pairers for tournament directors.

- Set up sports engine account to reach directors page/section directors' page.
- JD Minch may need to update the file for addresses for board members.
- Any questions or anyone needs help, reach out to her.
- Xfinity comcast is new WIFI provider, should be faster and less kicking off during meetings.

## **Directors Reports**

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

- Had meeting with pairing directors and Jean Whetstone for reaching out to clubs making sure tournaments are set up.
- Section Director meeting for this week.
- Advised that she will contact Jim Littlejohn and Mark Mundy, need to schedule a 15-minute meeting for this week, for going over special projects for this season.
- Look for a text or email.
- Thanks everyone for their help at the annual meeting.
- Had a good amount of people stay for the sessions.
- Has been working with Tina Tonte on the website.
- Has taken some of the sports connect training. Looks like additional features are being added. Will be nice to incorporate into our plan.

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

- Not Present. No Report

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

- Not Present. No report.

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

- Has been spending a lot of time assigning pairers for tournaments, including Girls, JV, and regionals.
- Elementary duals – agreed to 12 large 12 medium and 8 small.
- Looking at the bracketing for fairness.
- 2 pools of 4 for small teams (5 rounds total).
- 4 pools of 4 for larger ones (6 rounds with one bye for each).
- Thinks it will be ok because smalls will be done.
- May add 45 minutes total time.
- Went to fieldhouse in Columbus with Jennifer Pierson and Roby Webster and will go with Pat Culp this week.
- Exploring possibility of folkstyle state and needs to talk to Linda Robinson about logistics for hospitality.
- Going to preseason in Iowa to learn some stuff for when we host folkstyle nationals.
- We are getting a lot of events being run and finding out that they are getting less in payout from Trackwrestling/Flo.
- Will work with pricing to share with clubs so that they can use the USA registration to assist.
- Do not want clubs to be hurt financially because of price change.
- Information will be emailed out.
- Pat Culp stated that it was voted in at summit and at annual meeting for all national/regional events, ELO numbers will be used.
- Jake O'Neill brought it up for middle school qualifiers and middle school state.
- Indiana was one of the major pilot states to use ELO numbers.

- Jen Ratliff did an analysis comparing our former process and the ELO pin numbers was much more accurate.
- Created some training materials and they are now on the USA Wrestling site for training purposes.
- **Indiana Representative to National Pairings – Jean Whetstone**
  - Reached out to all section 5 pairing leaders asking them to reach out to clubs having tournaments and letting them know we are there to help them set up tournaments.
  - Making sure they have the correct personnel at their tournaments.
  - Reached out to the remaining pairers to have them get their leadership memberships renewed and offering help to any who need it.
- **Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**
  - Has solidified our state series vendor. Will be 3X.
  - There was a lot of good competition with bids.
  - Discussed the contract proposals and how it was decided to stay with 3X.
  - Is now working on getting national teams gear contract in place.
  - EI Sports, Blue Chip, Rudis, 3X have submitted bids.
  - Did not get bids back from Wrestling Boutique or Barbarian.
  - Had a call with Rudis last Friday. Came in significantly higher than all others.
  - Discussed negotiations and was able to get them talked down somewhat.
  - Discussed what they are willing to provide for the negotiated prices.
  - With the negotiations, will be the lowest of all providers.
  - We will move to having a 2-year contract for team gear providers.
  - Board member polos are in the office to be distributed.
  - Rudis will be the choice unless what they spoke about does not get put into writing.
- **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Mark Mundy**
  - Not Present. No Report.
- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jim Littlejohn**
  - Not Present. No Report.
- **Logistics Director – Vacant**
  - Ryan Parrish stated said that someone asked about the application process and said he wasn't able to apply.
  - Jennifer Pierson will check on this right after the meeting. There should be a link to an application online.
  - She believes the application goes to Pat Culp who forwards them to the interview committee.
- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
  - Not present. No report.
  - Jennifer Pierson reported he is working with clubs to make sure sanctioning and set up in the system.
- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**
  - Not Present. Report via email.
  - A few new clubs have chartered.
  - Will be reaching out to welcome them.

- Will also be contacting all of our Clubs and encouraging them to send in Club charters and tournament sanctions ASAP.
  - Will offer to help them find the best way to access the important ISWA and USAW info that is available such as purchasing cards, accessing tournament event list etc.
  - Will remind them of the importance of parents and coaches to acquire their background check, SAFE Sport certification, Wrestling Leader card and the necessity of Copper, Bronze etc. cards for State Tournaments.
  - The next big thing is to get firm commitments for the 20 mats and table help workers for all of those mats on Saturday and 12 on Sunday, for Kids Folkstyle Nationals at the Coliseum on January 27 & 28. At this time, have commitments on about 8. Once all of the details are finalized as far as the amount paid per mat, for workers (per day), perks for workers, etc., I will re contact Clubs in Section 2 and then expand to maybe nearby schools that are not ISWA members and Clubs outside of Section 2.
  - I appreciate the regular updates from the Office on membership renewal and new Clubs.
- **Section 3 – Dalton Halbig**
    - Not Present. No report.
  - **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
    - Has received some updates from JD Minch regarding new clubs.
    - Has reached out to some clubs regarding sanctioned events.
  - **Section 5 – Vacant (Payton Halbig voted in at this meeting)**
    - Has been in contact with a few clubs to get charters renewed.
    - A couple of clubs have renewed.
    - Not many tournaments scheduled and those that have set up have helpers and set-up.
    - Has been talking to Mark Mundy and Ben Nicely to get an officials' class or training to get more Freestyle and Greco officials.
    - Would like to make it an annual thing.

Jennifer Pierson asked to remind clubs that are not chartered, if they are practicing, they are not covered by the insurance. USA Wrestling has moved from paper to electronic system for insurance. An email will be going out to all clubs and all registered athletes. Submission should be a lot easier with the electronic process.

- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
  - Reported that people under him have been working on specific projects that they will be reporting on.
- **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
  - His project is getting silver certifications completed for those individuals who have taken the course.
  - He has reached out to a few people to give them a push to get them to complete.
  - Believes Indiana has more go to silver clinic than any other state.
  - Want to keep pushing this.
  - Has reached out to 3 people who have finished the course and pushing them to finish the certification.
  - Pushing education, in spring next Silver Course will be at Penn State.
  - Will then mentor them to finish.
  - People wanting to apply for summer coaching positions, updated process are posted on the website.

- Anyone trying to get a clinic in, Thursday and Friday coaches' association hosting clinic.
- **Cadet/Junior Director –Jake O'Neill**
  - No Report.
  - Was reported that there are 8 sites for qualifiers for Individual Middle School State (Coaches' Association Event).
  - Has been working with Jen Ratliff to get sites sanctioned and ready to host and working to use ELO pins.
  - Pat Culp reported that Jake's project is statistics from Fargo.
- **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
  - Looking to get a jump on Freestyle/Greco
  - Working on virtual coaches beginning in March, would like to use athletes with an Indiana connection like Sarah Hildebrandt, Stevan Micic, Mason Parris.
  - Getting virtual training early with grass root coaches.
  - Will be having some virtual assistance from around the state.
  - Talking about RTC getting more locked in and more teams locked in for duals.
  - Has been invited to camp at Olympic training center 11/26-12/2
- **Kid's Director – Jason Miller**
  - Not Present. No Report.
  - Pat Culp said that he is working on flyers and introducing wrestling to middle school athletes.
- **Regional Training Center Director – Josh Curry**
  - Not Present. Report sent to Jimmy Tonte.
  - Still working on trying to do RTC team duals.
  - Will talk to coaches at the coaches' clinic this week to take more interest in RTCs in the region as well as getting freestyle in rooms with 3 point takedowns in college.
- **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
  - Not Present. No Report.
- **Women's Director – Jason DeLois**
  - Season is about to start.
  - Not much going on right now.
  - Working on getting word out for opportunities – USA and non-USA events.
  - 14 girls that made USA pre-season high school rankings.
    1. Heather Crull – 8<sup>th</sup> in nation.
    2. Kendall Moe
    3. Rianne Murphy
    4. Makenzie Smith
    5. Julianna Ocampo
    6. Amelia Murphy
    7. Joy Cantu
    8. Kyla Johnson
    9. Rose Kaplan
    10. Maddie Marsh
    11. Aleksandra Bastaic
    12. Elly Janovsky

13. Varzidy Batchelor

14. Hannah West

- Had 30 girls at Fargo this year, pushing for 40 next year.
- Tournament last weekend (non-USA event) had 5 Indiana teams.
- Jimmy Tonte wants to get a women's council meeting together soon.
- Jason needs suggestions for who to include on the council.
- Per Pat Culp, executive board can assign people to the council.

▪ **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**

- Not Present. No Report.

▪ **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**

- Wanted to thank Jonah Odum and Tina Tonte for all their help with the awards ceremony.
- It became a large undertaking. Franklin Community High School did a great job hosting.
- The only thing he is working on is Elementary Duals State.
- In the past we have had home schooled kids as wild cards.
- Getting a lot more push back in allowing home schooled kids wanting to wrestle for the school in which they live.
- There is no real way to police the issue but we need to come up with something.
- Jimmy Tonte suggested using the address for the USA card.
- After discussions, will not be changing the current process

**Additional items:**

- Dave Mathews from USA Wrestling joined our call to discuss ELO – pin system.
- Rewards consistency over time.
- Individual sports using this – tennis, swimming, etc. for seeding.
- USA Westling adopted a model and moved through some testing over time to see where the sweet spot was for accuracy.
- Everyone starts out at 1,000 then you lose or gain points depending upon the outcome.
- If you are expected to win and you don't, you are penalized.
- Doesn't take into account head to head competition or where the tournament was.
- Some brackets are not equal to other brackets.
- Depends upon who you are beating.
- Explained the process for duals and individuals.
- Have looked at results for Fargo to see how close it comes. For men, 65% of the winners were accurate.
- Pat Culp mentioned that Wisconsin is choosing their national teams based on ELO pins.
- Dave Mathews said they used their winners and then used Elos to fill their holes.
- Jimmy Tonte said once we get past the first three placers, we might go to ELOS at that time.
- Dave stated they use mostly USA events but for HS they use HS States and Super 32 since a lot of numbers drop off at the high school level.
- They have composite, freestyle, Greco, and folkstyle. Based on win/loss not scores.

Payton Halbig motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Nick Hull seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 2:15pm**



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

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Fouts*  
ISWA Secretary