

ISWA Monthly Meeting

August 5, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting called meeting to order at 1:30 pm by Pat Culp.

Attendance:

Pat Culp, Jennifer Pierson, Jimmy Tonte, Tina Fouts, Jeff Strueder, Josh Curry, Jason DeLois, Mary Friedt, Nick Hull, Jim Littlejohn, Jason Miller, Mark Mundy, Jonah Odum, Ryan Parrish, Jennifer Ratliff, Lauren Rioux, Linda Robinson, Lou Silverman, Mark Stevenson, Danny Struck, Roby Webster, and Jean Whetstone

Staff: Tina Tonte, J.D. Minch

Consultants:

Guest: Steve Mathis, Jared Curcio

Secretary: Tina Fouts

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

Treasurer: Jeff Strueder

- The annual budget meeting was held just prior to the monthly board meeting.
- Working on pulling the final budget together, reflecting any changes that were brought up in the budget meeting.
- We should be approximately \$27,000 in the positive at the end of the budget compilation.
- Mark Mundy made a motion to accept the budget prepared for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, to be presented at the upcoming annual meeting, understanding that there could be adjustments.
- Jason Miller seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Annual Meeting and Satellite Locations

- Jennifer Pierson reported the committee has been looking at satellite meetings in multiple locations. We will not be implementing satellite locations this year.
- The annual meeting will be hosted locally at Lawrence North High School.
- Will start planning for 2024 meeting shortly after the 2023 meeting.
- Will work with zoom and other companies to allow us to follow our by-laws and hold our elections.
- Will be scheduling a meeting next week hopefully.

New Business

Folkstyle Nationals

- Pat Culp reported that she is 99% sure the tournament is to move from April to January 27th.
- USA Wrestling might be moving it to Indiana.
- The proposed date is sectional weekend.
- We would have to supply mats and clocks.
- USA Wrestling is thinking 14 mats and one day of wrestling.
- Nothing is set in stone.
- Looking at holding at Ft. Wayne Coliseum.
- We have potential for Team Indiana Grant Money - \$10,000 and Ft. Wayne - \$5000.

FloWrestling/Track merger

- Pat Culp reported that one of the training items at the state summit will be registration system and ranking system
- Usage of these seemed to go very well.
- Will show how pairers should be using the systems.

Audit

- Pat Culp provided names of the audit committee members: Jim Littlejohn, Jake O'Neill, and Nick Hull.
- The members of the committee will need to appoint someone to speak at the annual meeting.

Evaluation of some of our trips

- Pat Culp stated we need to talk about this, specifically team leader training.
- We need to be making sure that happens.
- There seems to have been some miscommunications.
- We need to talk about food and make sure parents are aware of what is and is not provided.
- We need to sit down with Thomas Pompei and make sure this is being communicated to team leaders.
- We need to come up with something formalized to help Lauren Rioux out with planning such as dates, times leaving, etc.
- Going forward, we need to make sure that all team leaders have their trip reports in within 30 days of the trip. If not received timely, this delays completion of the book.

Financials

- Jeff Strueder asked for a drop date for financials so that they are as close to the annual meeting as possible.

Equipment

- Pat Culp reported that coordination of equipment has gone so much better.
- She has spoken with other leaders while in Fargo, to see how they do their team gear.
- Most states are packing a bag by sizes (small, medium, and large).
- We need to work on a plan to distribute gear.

Policies and Procedures for choosing coaches

- Jimmy Tonte and Danny Struck reported that they have updated the policies and procedures on choosing coaches.
- Staff selection was added, basing things off how the clubs finish at state.
- If #1 had 15 qualify, #2 had 8 qualify, etc.
- People still must apply and agree to responsibilities as a coach on staff.
- Has a whole list of requirements.
- Want to continue to have new people, but we also want to make sure that a club who had no one qualify, does not get chosen over someone who had multiple qualifiers.
- Would like to choose the staff before state.

- Jimmy Tonte looked over the past 5 years and the results were fairly consistent.
- Pat Culp wants to look at the new onboarding process.
- These are guidelines. Pat Culp asked Danny Struck and Jimmy Tonte to review policies and procedures for coaching choices and update if needed.
- This will be presented at the annual meeting.
- Discussions around determining whether athletes are under academy, high school, etc.
- Danny Struck is working on fine tuning the applications to make sure we have coaches riding the buses.
- Also working on crossovers for coaches who are coaching both boys and girls.

Heartland Duals

- Jason Miller reported that the trip ran pretty smoothly.
- Lauren Rioux already has hotels booked for this year.
- Had issues with hotels this year. There was a change in staff and they lost our information.
- Anyone wanting to start on a trip, have them contact Jason and he will put them on the trip.

14U

- Pat Culp reported that Thomas Pompei will need to train for this, since it is a new process for this team.

Team Duals

- Jimmy Tonte reported that duals went well.
- Junior duals went very well. Was a small frustration for coaches because the athletes were unable to shower before going home.
- 16U duals have a few things that need to be worked out.
- Some wording in the paperwork needs to be changed.
- Had issues with athletes bowing out after 2 bouts of Greco after earning their pound allowance.
- Jimmy Tonte stated we need to put information into the paperwork that if they are going to be wrestling both styles, they commit to the style unless there is an injury.

Fargo

- Jimmy Tonte reported that Greg Schaefer and Dan Mikesell were on top of things.
- Team meetings were held, organization was very good.
- Kids knew where to be.
- Fargo communication – Tina Tonte gave Jennifer Pierson the app and this allowed her to update social media.
- Jimmy Tonte thinks we need to push to have 2 separate teams.
- Jason DeLois reported that they were able to assign different coaches, younger coaches, this year.
- Nick Hull said that there was a suggestion about moving the camp to an earlier date, because the majority of the camp was spent cutting weight.
- Suggestion to hold the camp and allow them to go home and get their weight under control and then go back to the tournament.

Kids National

- Jonah reported that things were difficult with split travel.
- Harper and Schmaltz tried to pull the kids together in Air Bnb's.
- Some parents drove out.
- Would be ideal if the team could travel together, but they are making it work.

Consultant & Staff Reports

- **Law & Legislation – Steve Pugliese**
 - Not present. No report.
 - Pat Culp reported that he answered a few emails before the Fargo trip.
- **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.
 - Annual report has been submitted.
- **Membership Staff – JD Minch**
 - Current Athletes – 10,884 – 13% Up from previous year – 54% New athletes
 - Current Wrestling Leaders – 1,364 – 7% Up from previous year – 34% New wrestling leaders
 - Current Clubs – 210 – Up 3% from previous year – 18% New clubs
 - Sanctioned Events – 116 – Up 2% from previous year
 - Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 10 Silver / 531 Bronze / 810 Copper
 - Provided a breakdown of athlete numbers by age group.
 - Number of registered wrestlers increased in 2023 by 1,246 (13%). There were gains in all age categories.
 - University/Senior/Veterans became Masters A, B, C, D, E.
 - There are 997 female wrestlers which was an increase of 282 (28%), which is 15% higher than the total increase.
 - Number of USAW registered Wrestling Leaders increased by 83 (6%). 34% were new wrestling leaders.
 - Number of ISWA member clubs increased in 2023 by 7 (3%). 18% were new clubs.
 - Number of sanctioned events decreased by 2. Down by 2%. This may be attributed to individual site requirements about facility usage.
 - Again, this year, all USA athlete and coaches' cards were purchased on line for \$40. Link was provided on ISWA website for ease in purchasing cards on-line. After age verification was completed, the athletes were able to print cards, with access to reprint in case of a lost card.
 - A signed waiver within USAW membership replaced event waivers/consent forms.
 - 210 clubs – 30 new clubs, 3 club name changes, 9 new directors
 - Crowns – Men – 2 double crowns, 28 triple crowns, Women – 33 double crowns
 - 214 of 224 participants in the IHSSAA state finals were or are ISWA wrestlers
 - All 14 IHSSAA Champions were or are ISWA wrestlers
 - 8 of the 14 IHSSAA Champions are current ISWA wrestlers
 - 110 of the 112 State Placers are current ISWA wrestlers

State Services - Staff – Tina Tonte

- Reminded board that annual reports are due
- 2 trip reports have not been turned in.
- Conflict of Interest/Whistleblower forms will be signed online – will email.
- Soft launch – Sports Stack (new website platform)
- Had her first experience in attending tournament at Fargo. Will be providing an evaluation from a state services prospective.

- Working on awards ceremony preparation.
- Preparing for annual meeting.
- Assisting Jennifer Ratliff with updates to the Club Organizer Tournament Guide.
- Summit preparation
- Working with Jennifer Pierson on new website and annual meeting breakout content.

Directors Reports

Vice Chair– Administration – Jennifer Pierson

- Working with Annual Meeting Committee for September
- Working with tournament committee to get bids out.
- Worked with nomination committee to send slate.
- Going to summit next week.
- Annual report will come to office this week.

• **Tournament Director – Roby Webster**

- Getting internet cords measured out and brought his wheel to work on them today.
- Wanted to congratulate Linda Robinson on the job she does on feeding everyone at our state tournaments.

▪ **Hospitality Director – Linda Robinson**

- All scholarships have been paid out.
- Was present but had to leave early

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

- Working on developing training for registration and seeding programs through USA.
- Has met with events coordinators at the fieldhouse in Columbus.
- Facility will not be ready for operations until after freestyle season next year.
- Working on finalizing tournament bid process.

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

- Will be happy to help Jen with training

▪ **Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**

- Delivery of Fargo gear came in.
- Was personally delivered by Rudis.
- They brought it all in to the office.
- Talked to Jimmy Tonte about the good feedback from Pat Parham on sizing.
- Was ordered based on weight classes.
- Would help to have information on sizing for coaching staff.
- Folkstyle Nationals – 5 National Champs
- Payton Hornsby was triple crown winner – 3rd in history.
- 6 true runners up and 34-36 All Americans.
- Held camp at Franklin – 130 kids attended Kollin Moore clinician.

▪ **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Mark Mundy**

- Had a really good season.
- We are still short on officials, talking about ways to recruit and working on being a little stricter on coaches' behavior.
- Got zero calls from officials complaining about Indiana coaches this year in Fargo.
- Pat Culp said she got excellent feedback on our coaches this year.

- We did have a mass exodus of officials in Fargo this year but we were still well represented.
 - Working on re-writing the protest procedures for state tournaments. We are always looking to improve the process. Had some issues with the procedures last year.
 - Discussed a problem that occurred.
- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jim Littlejohn**
 - Nothing to report.
 - Introduced Jared Curcio, who he is training to potentially step in when Jim is ready to retire
- **Logistics Director – Lauren Rioux**
 - Trips are all finished.
 - Went pretty smoothly this year.
 - Booking hotels for next year.
- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
 - Not present. No report.
 - Annual report submitted
 - Was noted that Section 1 had a successful season
 - 34 clubs and 7 were new this season.
 - Some results – Crown Point was runner up in Elementary Duals as well as Crown Point Bulldog Premier won Folkstyle State team race for large teams and Freestyle and 2nd in Greco
- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**
 - Annual report is in.
 - Will be notifying clubs that we will not be doing satellite meetings.
 - Remind them to pencil in with schools for tournaments and remind them that they need to update the google forms updated for their bids. Get dates set.
 - Will let them know that we should have Central Regionals again this year.
 - Nomination Committee report: Slate is as follows: State chair – Pat Culp; Vice Chair Programs – Jimmy Tonte; Vice Chair Administration – Jennifer Pierson; Treasurer – Steve Mathis; Secretary – Tina Fouts
- **Section 3 – Dalton Halbig**
 - Not Present. No report.
 - Finishing up Annual Report and will submit shortly.
- **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
 - Annual Report has been submitted.
- **Section 5 – Vacant**
 - Pat Culp reported that the Section 5 vacancy has been posted on the website as Michelle Kaster has resigned her position.
 - Her Annual Report has been submitted.
- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
 - Reported that he just returned from Fargo.
 - Thought it was cool to see Cadets and Juniors wrestle at the same time.
 - Also was great to see top level college coaches watching and recruiting.

- Saw a lot of comraderies between coaches.
- Making big strides in Indiana. Was truly Team Indiana.
- **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
 - Didn't talk to Jimmy Tonte or Pat Culp much about wrestling this summer.
 - Really connected and spent a whole year on the coaching staff.
 - Reiterated expectations to coaching staff.
 - Greg Schaefer and Dan Mikesell did a great job.
 - Still wants to work with the coaches to help them understand what an honor it is to be chosen as a member of Team Indiana coaching staff.
 - Spends an hour a week with Coaches Council and other times a month have been discussion smaller weight classes and whether they should be eliminated.
 - Is a proponent of keeping them because small wrestlers having to wrestle kids quite a few pounds more than them isn't a good thing.
 - Doing clinics this summer.
- **Coaches Council Report**
 - No report. Will have one soon.
 - Evaluations from Fargo and development/choosing coaching staff are items being worked on.
- **Cadet/Junior Director –Jake O'Neill**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - Annual report provided listing placements of Team Indiana teams.
 - Will continue discussions on national team trips with Thomas Pompei, Danny Struck, and Jimmy Tonte.
 - Will discuss trip budgets with those listed above, as well.
- **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
 - This year's team leaders at Fargo did a great job. You could see the higher level of respect this year. Helped with coaches getting along.
 - Has a lot of plans for next year.
 - Duals coming, multi-media coming. Changes to national teams.
- **Kid's Director – Jason Miller**
 - No report, with the exception of having the first national championship team.
 - Thinks selection process has something to do with that.
 - Hotels are in place for next year.
 - Will order gear as soon as the vendor is selected.
 - Anyone who wants to go on the trip to coach, let him know.
- **Regional Training Center Director – Josh Curry**
 - Was present but had to leave before providing report.
 - Jimmy Tonte reported that Nick Hull and Josh have talked about RTC/Olympic styles – wanted to add to the budget for RTC duals and teams.
 - 4-8 teams, have some great ideas for these duals.
 - Needs to have coaches' summit to create coaches' curriculum.
 - Should meet every year.
 - Coaches are meeting and talking about making Indiana wrestling better. See text
 - RTCs are still going on.
 - Participation has been lower from northern RTCs.
 - Some stating that most kids are starting to go back towards folkstyle.

- Those that are focusing on Freestyle and Greco still say they have had really good improvement.
- Looking forward to the camp at Franklin this week.
- Trying to make a good push for RTCs for those kids who are going to Fargo for the next month.

- **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - All trips went well. Team leaders did a great job. Especially new team leaders, Pat Parham for Junior Duals and Dan Mikesell and Greg Schaefer for Fargo.
 - All team leaders at this time have expressed interest in coming back next year.
 - Suggestion from Pat Parham to shorten the deadline to accept for duals as he feels he lost some guys in that 10-day window.
 - Suggestions from Steve Livingston to only take 1 freestyle and 1 greco team for 14U duals if it is out of state.
 - Greg Schaefer has a list of trip improvements, but did not have that currently.
 - We should officially have 2 team leaders for women's Fargo like we do for boys as the numbers continue to grow.
 - We had 118 boys and 33 girls on this trip.
 - No camp seemed to work out well.
 - For Junior/16U duals our suggestion would be to have 1-2 practices before the bus departs. Meet at a school. Practice 1-2 times. Depart for trip. Provide a small lunch. Something inexpensive and shouldn't alter the trip cost.
 - USAW made having a mini camp at Fargo a little difficult since every state could only book one, 1-hour practice a day. We had to get into a HS to practice as well, but we made it work.
 - Has talked to Lauren Rioux about hotel location for 16U and Junior Duals. Possibly looking into different and/or closer location. Some scenery around 16U hotel wasn't ideal.
 - Our gear was very nice, but singlets blended in with many other states (especially at Fargo). Recommendations from kids and coaches were to go with blacks and greys as main colors with the red/blue bands. It was very hard to tell when Indiana was on the mat. Our state name was barely visible.
 - Thanks to Jonah Odum for providing plenty of gear for the coaches on the trip. Probably can use a few more 2XL for coaches. Would also like coaches' fanny pack/shoulder strap bag. Especially for long days at Fargo.
 - I think sizes for kids were good. We were probably a little short on small/mediums and a little too much XL/2XL for Fargo but that would change year to year. I think he did a good job ordering.
 - Recruiting guide business cards looked good.
 - We need to continue to keep selecting coaches early/earlier and get coaches on the trip who truly want to be there for the state. Too many coaches wanted to go 1-2 weeks out after realizing they had kids on the trip and only wanted to go because of that.
 - It is nice to have consistency on these trips as they are very difficult and hard to manage.

- **Women's Director – Jason DeLois**
 - Fargo took 32 girls 2 more than last year. We had 6 All-Americans and their placements were.
 - 16U placements: Aleksandra Bastaic 2nd place 138lbs.; Kendall Moe 3rd place 94lbs.; Elly Janovsky 6th place 152lbs.

- Juniors: Heather Crull 1st 106lbs.; Rose Kaplan 4th 122lbs.; Makenize Smith 5th 106lbs.
 - 16U team finished 14th
 - Junior team finishes 13th
 - Two girls on the 17U World Team: Rianne Murphy 46kg. DNP, lost in first match; Heather Crull 49kg. 3rd place bronze medal and dominated in her match with a fall.
 - New team leader in Theresa Rankin from Trine.
 - She did a great job organizing the team camp and leading the girls at Fargo. It will be helpful having two women's team leaders moving forward as the growth is inevitable and will help tremendously with appropriate communications.
 - Asked how we select who the team leaders are from year to year because he was not a part of this process and would like to be included as he feels he has a good idea of what is best for the girls.
 - Was stated that Thomas Pompei is the Team Leader director and makes these decisions.
- **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**
 - Successfully hosted Hungarians.
 - Hosts did a great job.
 - 13 kids, 2 girls, 5 adults. Great relationships were started.
 - Wrestlers as well as coaches will continue to communicate for years and have made lifelong friends.
 - They were very happy with their stay in Indiana.
 - Will try to get the Japan trip up for next year, not sure it will happen.
 - Will work with Jake O'Neill who has a contact there.
 - Will go back to Hawaii with Middle School trip.
 - High School trip to South Korea, if Japan doesn't work out.
- **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**
 - Was present for the budget meeting but had to leave prior to the monthly board meeting.
 - Annual report has been submitted.
 - Jimmy Tonte outlined the annual report to the board.

Additional items:

Was reported that the Pairer for Section 1 will be Brook Carlton. Section 4 Pairer will be Julie Pine. For those attending the awards banquet on Sunday, entry will be door 55. Workers should arrive at 9am. Text Tina Tonte upon your arrival as the doors will be locked. Ceremony starts at 11am with doors opening at 10am.

Lauren Rioux motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Mary Friedt seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 4:05pm

The next meeting will be September 10th at Lawrence North High School at 9am.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fouts

ISWA Secretary