

ISWA Annual Meeting

September 8, 2024

Call to Order:

Pat Culp called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Meeting was held in person at Lawrence Central High School, Indianapolis. Provided opening comments Thanked all for coming. Wants to make sure all hear same message. ISWA has had a phenomenal year. ISWA had 2,000 athletes, 220 clubs, 127 events. This was amazing. For last 2 years, Indiana has been testing a new tournament system with USA Wrestling. Registration for state events will be accomplished by going to your USA Wrestling profile. Also, Mr. Faulkins has asked to have the first use of the new system, be girls high school tournaments. Pat Culp asked our clubs to let us know if they would like to see changes in the tournament operating system. In the annual meeting packets that were distributed, you will see that we have great Regional Training Centers. Our number of athletes participating in our RTCs this year has been phenomenal.

We had over 200 athletes at our awards program this year. We also recognized ISWA award winners at our awards program this year. Pat Culp recognized these winners.

Doug Strayer was named ISWA Women's coach of the year as well as the USA National Women's coach of the year. Junior Women's team placed 4th nationals this year.

ISWA Freestyle/Greco official of the year – Cynthia Mosconi

Brandon Whaley young official - Jerry Ingalls

ISWA Pairer of the year - Julie Pine

ISWA Volunteer of the year – Finnley Friedt

ISWA Men's coach of the year – Brian Snyder of Avon WC

ISWA Club of the Year – Leo Wrestling – Cameron Harris

John Hurrle Award – Mark Stevenson

Central regionals will be held in Kentucky this year.

The Women's Duals 14U and 16U were held in Indiana this year, and next year USA is bringing Juniors. This will double our number of athletes from this year.

The growth of women in wrestling has been unbelievable! It is the fastest growing sport in the nation. Our women's team placed 4th at Fargo. Very thankful that the IHSAA has now sanctioned women's wrestling.

We are always looking for new officials, will train and get them up to speed. We went to Indiana Tech last year and brought in 10 women officials.

ISWA pairing staff (now nationally called Operations Officials) has grown to 25+. This allows us to cover all areas of Indiana and assist with local events. We have an upcoming event on September 22nd in which the entire staff will be learning the new Events Management System. USA wrestling will be unveiling this system at this training event. We will slowly move away from TrackWrestling. For the last year and a half, Indiana has been in on the ground level of assisting with the development of this system. Because of that, Indiana will be the "pilot" state and will be one of the first states to use it.

Middle School state duals will be held in Fort Wayne again this year.

We are ranked 6th with USA Wrestling based on numbers of athletes. Indiana had 3 Olympians, which is really something to be proud of. Katie Downing Krieble is now the USA National Women's Assistant Coach. She paved the way for women's wrestling in Indiana.

Thomas Pompei will represent NAIA colleges on the USA board of directors starting this year.

Pat Culp recognized our 3 newly acknowledged lifetime members. They are Jean Whetstone, Jim Littlejohn, and Mark Stevenson. They are all stepping down and have been on the board for over 20 years each.

Roll Call:

Board Members: Pat Culp, Jennifer Pierson, Jim Tonte, Tina Fouts, Steve Mathis, Mary Friedt, Dalton Halbig, Payton Halbig, Jason Miller, Jonah Odum, Ryan Parrish, Jennifer Ratliff, Linda Robinson, Mark Stevenson, Danny Struck, Roby Webster, Jean Whetstone

Lifetime Members: Helen Mankey, JD Minch, Mark Stevenson, Jean Whetstone

Office Staff: Tina Tonte, JD Minch

Wrestling Clubs:

Section 1: BNI Warriors, Boilermaker RTC, Bulldog Premier, Chesterton Wrestling Club, Elite Athletic Club, Highland Wrestling Club, Hobart Wrestling Club, Hybrid Wrestling Club, Merrillville, Pirates Wrestling Club, Munster Wrestling Club, Portage Wrestling Club, Red Devil Pride Elite Wrestling, Rochester Wrestling Club, and Viking WC Wrestling Club.

Section 2: Apache Wrestling Club, Carroll Wrestling Club, Columbia City Wrestling Club, Decatur Wrestling Club, East Noble TUF Wrestling Club, Garrett Wrestling Club, Jet Wrestling Club, and Jimtown Wrestling Club, Midwest Extreme Wrestling, Mississinewa "Little Indiana", Northwood Wrestling Club, South Bend Wrestling Club, Snider Wrestling Club, The Fort Hammers, Warrior Regional Training Center, Wawasee Wrestling Club, Western Wrestling Club, and Whitko Club Wrestling

Section 3: Avon Wrestling Club, Carmel USA Wrestling Club, Cascade Youth Wrestling Club, Contenders Wrestling Academy, Franklin Central Wrestling Club, HSE Wrestling Club, IHSWCA, Monrovia Youth Wrestling Club, Mooresville Wrestling Club, Normonco Wrestling Club, Perry Meridian Wrestling Club, Riverton Parke Wrestling Club, Roncalli Wrestling Foundation, Southmont Wrestling Club, Southport Wrestling Club, Techie Wrestling Club, Victory College Prep, WEBO Wrestling Club, and Zionsville Wrestling Club

Section 4: Alexandria Wrestling Academy, Braves Wrestling Club, Center Grove Wrestling Club, Columbus East Wrestling Club, Columbus North Wrestling Club, Delta Wrestling Club, Dragon Wrestling Club, Franklin Wrestling Club, Greenwood Wrestling Club, Jay County Wrestling Club, Jennings County Wrestling Club, Monroe Central Wrestling Club, New Castle Youth Wrestling Club, Northeastern Wrestling Club, Tribe (Anderson) Wrestling Club, Whiteland Wrestling Club, and Yorktown Wrestling Club

Section 5: Bloomington South Wrestling Club, Eastern Wrestling Club, Floyd Wrestling Club, Intense Wrestling Club, Jasper Wrestling Club, Mater Dei Wrestling Club, Maurer Coughlin Wrestling Club, Princeton Wrestling Club, Red Hornets Wrestling Club, Southridge Wrestling Crew, Tell City Wrestling Club, and Team Jeff Wrestling Club

Tina Fouts confirmed we have a quorum with 30% of governing body in attendance and that we can conduct official business.

Payton Halbig discussed the nomination process for the executive board, including the makeup of the nomination committee. Slate was selected from the eligible names that were submitted. Significant consideration was given to the number of nominations each nominee received. The slate was determined and presented at the August board meeting and voted to be presented at the annual meeting. Payton explained that the process is the slate will be presented by naming the nominee for each position, that position will then have nominations opened to the floor, the nominations will then be closed. The votes will be counted and reported, and the person selected will then be voted upon. The process will be repeated for each executive board position that is being voted upon. No questions were raised.

Reported that the nomination for State Chair is Pat Culp; for Vice Chair Admin, Jennifer Pierson; for Vice Chair Programs, Jim Tonte; for Secretary, Tina Fouts; and for Treasurer, Steve Mathis.

Nominations were opened to the floor for each position individually. No other nominations were forthcoming. Nominations were closed individually as they were opened, received no nominations, and then closed. No objections to nominations from the floor to be closed.

Took a vote for each position – all were voted in favor with no oppositions. The final members of the Executive Board for the 2024-2025 season are as follows:

State Chair – Pat Culp

Vice Chair, Admin – Jennifer Pierson

Vice Chair, Programs – Jim Tonte

Secretary – Tina Fouts

Treasurer – Steve Mathis

Secretary, Tina Fouts – minutes from August Meeting

- Tina Fouts directed all board members in attendance to the August minutes that were provided with the packets and sent to board members in advance to review.
- Mary Friedt noted that she wasn't included in the attendance and she was there. Tina will update the minutes.
- Roby Webster made a motion to accept the minutes
- Jennifer Ratliff seconded the motion
- No questions or additional discussions
- Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report (copies of reports will be posted on both the ISWA website as well as the USA Wrestling membership website.

- Steve Mathis used projection to provide financial reports and went through budget vs actual reports. These reports were also included in the attendees' packets.
- Jean Whetstone made a motion to accept the treasurer's report
- Mary Friedt seconded the motion
- No additional questions
- Motion passed unanimously

2024-2025 Annual Budget

- Steve Mathis used projection to provide budget that was voted upon in the August budget meeting, to present at the annual meeting
- Beth Lybarbger made a motion to accept the treasurer's report
- Linda Robinson seconded the motion
- No additional questions
- Motion passed unanimously

Old Business

- **Folkstyle State** – we are at almost 3,000 wrestlers.
- We have outgrown, basically, all school facilities in the state with regards to participation numbers.
- We had issues last year that led to the inability to stream matches at Folkstyle State.
- Moving Folkstyle State for 2025 to Columbus, Indiana. There is a new facility there that is in a strip mall type location that has added a large fieldhouse facility.
- We will be using 30 mats and all will be in one location.
- There will be plenty of parking.
- Brand new, beautiful facility that has opened in the past month or so.
- We will have a few restrictions. Will not be able to bring food in because of their turf.
- It is connected to a mall, so food will be available, basically onsite.

Changes approved by USA Wrestling

- The rules changes that were proposed by National Federation of High School Wrestling
- A copy of the rule changes was included in the attendees' packet.
- **Kids' Nationals** (14U, 12U, 10U, and 8U) – currently they must compete in a state, regional, or receive a waiver to compete.
 - This rule has been removed. Athletes no longer need to compete in a national event to qualify to compete at Kids' Nationals.
 - Previously the rule was the weight that the athlete qualified for at the state or regional event affected what weight class they could wrestle in. They had to wrestle at that weight or they could move up no more than 1 weight class. This rule has been removed.
 - Girls are now allowed to compete in this event. They will have their own division. In the past they had to go to Women's Nationals. Greco will also now be included for girls.
- **14U Boys** – they have gone from first weight class currently at 71 pounds to 75 pounds. The highest weight class will be 250.
- **14U Girls** – they are also moving from the first weight class being 71 pounds to 75 pounds.
- **16U and Junior Girls** – currently the first weight class is 100 pounds for Juniors and 88 pounds for 16U. They will both now start at 95 pounds.
- **Girls' Divisions Rules Modification** (a copy of the rule changes was included in the attendees' packet). NOT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, this is for Folkstyle.
 - Step-out rule was approved last year at the state summit but was not implemented.
 - There will be 1 point awarded if from a neutral position (with neither wrestler on the mat with one or two knees touching in a down position) the action goes out of bounds based on NFHS guidelines. All attempts by both wrestlers should be made to wrestle aggressively and in the center of the mat. The step-out point

will be awarded to the opponent of the wrestler who goes out of bounds first with two or more supporting points.

- **Clarifications:**

- This rule differs from the NFHS rules for being “inbounds”. Once the step-out criteria is met, the opponent will be awarded 1 point. If there is a step-out by a wrestler and the other wrestler immediately completes a scoring action, that action will be scored, and the step-out point will NOT be scored. The official should not sound the whistle for the step-out and allow the offensive action to score.
- Once the wrestler steps out of bounds with the two supporting points, that wrestler cannot return from out of bounds to score points. The whistle will sound and 1-point will be awarded to the opponent and wrestling will resume in the middle of the mat.
- If a wrestler leaves the mat under attack to avoid being scored on, the step-out point will be scored plus 1 point for fleeing the mat.
- If a wrestler uses a straight arm “push-out”, the opponent is NOT penalized. This is considered stalling under the NFHS rules and should be penalized accordingly.
- If the defensive wrestler stands, an attempt to gain an escape point, is driven out of bounds, without gaining an escape point, there will NOT be a step-out point awarded. (Neutral wrestling was not established).
- If the defensive wrestler stands, is awarded the escape point, and then steps out of bounds, the step-out point will be awarded.
- Step-out points are recorded “SO-1” in a scorebook and will be a “+1” in TrackWrestling. Step-out points are NOT to be considered penalty points.

- **Neutral Start (these are subject to change)**

- At the end of each period including overtime, the wrestlers will begin the subsequent period in the standing/neutral position.
- In the event of overtime:
 - The first period of overtime will begin in the neutral position, as in the current rule. If no scoring happens, the wrestlers will wrestle 2 30-second periods.
 - The modification is that these 30-second periods will be conducted similarly to the Freestyle “Activity period”. The coin is flipped, and that wrestler chooses if they wish to be “on the clock” first. If they choose this and no scoring happens in the 30 seconds, their opponent will be awarded 1 point. The same is done for the second 30-second period with the other wrestler “on the clock”. At the end of the 2nd 30-second period, the point will be awarded if no scoring has occurred and if the score remains tied, that wrestler, the one “scoring last” will be declared the winner. This allows for strategy to be used in selecting who is to be placed “on the clock” first in the 1st 30 seconds.
- Example:
 - In overtime, any score in the 1-minute period, will award the match to the wrestler earning that score.
 - As this is the rule from NFHS, the entire 30 seconds in each of the 2nd and 3rd overtime periods will be wrestled to completion unless there is a fall. If the wrestler “on the clock” does not score, 1 point will be awarded to their opponent regardless of any score by the other wrestler – stalling, step-out, or takedown points will be awarded as earned.

- Directors and Team Leaders reports were all included in the attendees' packets, for review.
- Pat Culp explained we want to start using a lot more social media from our team trips.
- Discussed the annual publication. We are looking at potentially changing to only digital. The individuals who spoke up stated that they prefer the hard copy.
- Pat Culp asked Tina Tonte to speak about the cost of the publication. She explained the cost involved in printing and mailing. Also discussed was the possibility of having a place where anyone that wants a hard copy could order online and it would be paid for online and delivered directly to the home.
- This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.
- Pat Culp informed all in attendance that Jim Littlejohn has retired from the board and Jared Curcio will be taking over his role.

Meeting broke up without motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 10:06 am. Tournament bid meeting was held and administered by Jennifer Pierson, then attendees divided out to attend training sessions.

Submitted by
Tina Fouts
ISWA Secretary