

Wisconsin Wrestling Federation Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 15th, 2023

- Todd Schaaf, State Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:01; attendees were welcomed and the executive board, board members, at large members and WWF employees were introduced.
- **Tournament Updates, Todd Schaaf for Jeff Jones**

Todd went over the tournament updates briefly as it was discussed at district meetings. He did highlight some updates listed below.

 - Update that WWF Team State Championships will be held in Verona for 2024.
 - WWF Youth State Tournament
 - WWF Youth State Tournament will include a girls division to be hosted on Sunday to promote girls division.
 - Weigh-ins for Friday and Saturday will be held in the Arena building next to the coliseum to avoid congestion and will be more time efficient.
 - A flight schedule will be considered after experiencing updated changes in 2024.
 - USA Wrestling has determined that the modified folkstyle rules will be used at Preseason Nationals, Post Season Nationals and at the Tour of America events in the girls division only.
 - Northern Plains Regional tournament will be held in Rochester, Minnesota May 10-12.
- **Pairing Report, Jolene Bonte**
 - Voted and approved in Fargo to rebrand the Pairing Official title to Operation Official.
 - Jeff Jones was elected USA Operation Official Director
 - Wisconsin has over 18 Operation Officials and quite a few continue to represent Wisconsin, traveling for USA events.
- **Mat Official Report, Tom Platner**
 - Wisconsin had 13 possible upgrades
 - M1 had 3 new officials
 - M1C had 2 new officials
 - M2 had 4 new officials
 - Casey Brennan Goessel received 2023 Dave Errett Award
 - Cody Goessel received 2023 Bill Stecklein Award
 - Wisconsin had representation at US Open, National Tournaments, and UWW Events.

- **Kid's Director, Tony Schaaf**

Tony gave a brief update for all the tournaments, including 14U Dual team earned 4th place in Freestyle and 3rd place in Greco. It was shared that the success of the kid's program was from being a very strong balanced team. The goal is to continue developing and setting up for the future.

- **Women's Director Report-Neysa Bianchi**

- Planning to continue offering monthly camps to promote Freestyle for women.
- 30 female wrestlers competed at Spokane, WA. 20 of these athletes placed in the top 8.
- 50 female wrestlers competed at Fargo.
- National Duals: This was the last year girls will have combined teams at National Duals. Moving forward, Wisconsin will have 14U, 16U and Junior women's teams.

- **Communications Report-Gabby Lord-Klein**

- Fargo
 - 38 All-Americans including 6 champs, 6 runner ups.
 - Juniors FS tied the record for best team results.
 - All teams placed in the top 10 teams.
- Duals-7 out of 9 teams placed in the top 10.
- Wisconsin Athletes at World Events leaving a footprint with USA.
- Possible explanation of WI success:
 - Credentials for staff and coaches' improvements
 - Women have qualifiers for teams.
 - Junior boys were chosen with the USA Pin System instead of WWF point system.
 - Training opportunity growth in the off-season.
 - Reached and surpassed the USA membership goal of over 13,000 memberships.
 - Athlete retention is very good from USA Statistics for Wisconsin.

- **State Coach Coordinator Report-Scott Kluever**

- We are surrounded by greatness. WWF strives to have the right people in the right places.
- It's the little things that are encouraging the big changes.
- Highlighted WWF will have trainers with teams through the whole path to Fargo.
- Update-Girls and Juniors will fly to Oklahoma instead of driving.
- Will use the same training plan as last year.

- Scott encourages teams to sanction their FS/GR tournaments early to help promote clinics and ensure clinician availability at these events.
- **Budget Review**-Todd shared the WWF Budget and explanation of income and expenses. Went over the balance of allocating expenses for value and investment in Wisconsin. Mike explained line definitions and classification. Sally Stewart made the motion to approve the budget and Tom Platner 2nd. All voted in favor of approval.
- **At-Large Director Election-Matt Verbeten**
Hollie Satona nominated Sally Stewart, which she accepted. Randy Ferrell nominated Newton Smerchek, which he accepted. Tony Schaaf nominated Eric Lehrke, which he accepted. Scott Kluever nominated Ernie Millard, which he accepted, and Jessie Lankey nominated Preston Breunig, which he accepted. Todd Schaaf moved to close nominations and Hollie Satona 2nd. All nominees gave a brief introduction.
- Voting was completed through the USA Membership ballot program and elected At-Large Directors are now Newton Smerchek, Eric Lehrke, Ernie Millard and Preston Breunig.
- **Tournament Director Election-Matt Verbeten**
Sally nominated Jeff Jones and Tom Platner 2nd. No additional nominations were made. Randy Ferrell moved to close nominations and Terry Stone 2nd. Jeff Jones was elected as Tournament Director with no contest.
- **New Business**
 - Matt Verbeten spoke of working with WIAA in promoting the High School Girls Program. Information is being gathered on differences in weight loss, training, and practices, etc. They are looking for more insight on how to improve and find additional members to enhance the high school division for WIAA.

Gabby Lord-Klein moved to adjourn the meeting, and Neysa Bianchi 2nd. All voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Todd adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.