

Georgia Amateur Wrestling Association



Team Georgia USA Wrestling



2023 Annual Spring Business Meeting
May 21, 2023



2023 Spring Business Meeting

2023 SPRING MEETING AGENDA

3:30 pm – 5:00pm

- Introduction – Chairman, Jason Griner
- Review Vision and Mission Statement
- Executive Board Elections
- Old Business
- Executive Reports
 - Treasurer’s Report
 - Kids Director Report
 - Women’s Report
- Proposal Presentations
- New Business
- Adjourn

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TEAM GEORGIA VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Vision:

Team Georgia's Vision is to be:

The premier organization enabling Georgia to be a “Top Tier” wrestling state

Mission:

The GAWA Vision will be achieved by:

Expanding participation and promoting excellence in Georgia wrestling



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➤ **Opening of Meeting** (Jason Griner, Chairman)

Current Board Members – Thru 8/30/2023

➤ **Executive Board Members**

Chairman- Jason Griner

Second Vice Chair – Shawn Dover

Treasurer- Jessica Parent

Registration Chair- Amanda Prado

Official's Liaison- Kenny Cook

First Vice Chair- Letricia Denson

Secretary – Leah Thomas

Women's Liaison – Donell Bradley

Incoming/Outgoing - OPEN

➤ **Board of Directors**

Kids Director- Joe Croce

Women's Director- Katrina Dover

National Team Director- Donovan Panone

Official's Director- Nolan Meadors II

At-Large Member- Will Johnson

Equipment Director – Scott DeGraff

Olympic Styles Director- Terry Allison

Travel Director- Leslie Paradice

Communications Director: Mary Necula

Volunteer Director- Laura Danforth

At-Large Member- Omi Acosta

➤ **Open Board Positions**

Coaches Education Director

Athlete Representative (Male)

Athlete Representative (Female)

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- Chairman
 - Chief Executive Officer of the Organization
 - Responsible for the day to day operations of the organization.
 - Responsible for maintaining the mission and vision of the organization.
 - Responsible for keeping the organization in compliance with the TGA Bylaws and shall oversee the application of all TGA policies and procedures.
 - Responsible for creating strategic partnerships with corporations and organizations that will help Team GA. with maintaining our mission, vision and financial goals of the organization.

- First and Second Vice Chairpersons
 - Responsible for filling in for Chairman when needed.
 - Responsible for overseeing committees as needed

- Secretary
 - Responsible for recording of minutes for all meetings
 - Responsible for documenting and publishing all of the Policies and Procedures of the corporation
 - Responsible for assisting the Chairman with the corporation correspondence
 - Responsible for keeping required incorporation documentation current with the Georgia Secretary of State's office.

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- Treasurer
 - Chief Financial Officer of the organization.
 - Responsible for maintaining the corporate checkbook, credit card accounts, and other appropriate corporate financial records.
 - Responsible for meeting the financial obligations of the corporation and shall make timely payment of appropriate fees to USA Wrestling.
 - Responsible for the continuation of the tax-free status of the corporation and will file an annual income tax return to that effect with the IRS.
 - Responsible for providing a detailed report on income/expenditures, as well as capital assets, at the annual Fall Business Meeting.
- Registration Chairperson
 - Primary officer in charge of registering and collecting fees from club and individual members of the G. A. W. A.
 - Responsible for obtaining and distribute as appropriate all club and individual registration materials
 - Responsible for providing necessary documentation to USA Wrestling as required.
 - Responsible for providing a detailed report on membership at the annual Fall Business Meeting.
- USWOA Liaison
 - Primary liaison between the USWOA officials' organization and the G.A.W.A. The purpose of this position is to ensure that the G.A.W.A. proactively considers the needs and requirements of officials in every program offered, so that by the time new programs are offered, officials requirements have been considered as well.

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- Women's Liaison
 - Women's Liaison shall work to develop and grow Women's wrestling at all levels of the organization. This position shall endeavor to work with the state high school association(s) to develop Women's programs at the high school level, and ensure that Georgia women's wrestling is represented at all national USA National Women's Wrestling events.
- Incoming/Outgoing
 - Responsible for performing tasks as designated by the Executive Board.

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- **Board of Directors**

- **Kids Director**

- Oversees the Folkstyle Season
 - Folkstyle Growth and Participation
 - Recruiting Folkstyle kids to wrestle Olympic Styles

- **Olympic Styles Director**

- Oversees the Freestyle/Greco-Roman Season
 - Olympic Styles Growth and Participation
 - Recruiting Olympic Styles kids to wrestle National Teams

- **Coaches Education Director**

- Oversees the Coaches Education (NCEP) Program in Georgia
 - Ensures all Georgia NCEP classes/courses are in compliance with USA Wrestling National Office

- **Women's Director**

- Recruits Female Wrestlers to Team Georgia
 - Works to provide opportunities for all Georgia Female Wrestlers
 - Assists Women's Liaison with specific tasks

- **Official's Director**

- Recruits Officials to Team Georgia
 - Works to provide opportunities for all Georgia Officials Regionally and Nationally
 - Assists Official's Liaison with specific tasks

- **Officials Education Director**

- Coordinates all Officials training for Olympic Styles
 - Assists Official's Liaison with specific tasks



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- **Board of Directors (Cont.)**

- **National Team Director**

- Oversees our National Team Programs
- Oversees Coaches and Curriculum
- Works with Olympic Styles Director recruiting kids for National Teams

- **Travel Director**

- Coordinates all travel related bookings for Team Georgia
- Airline Flights, Hotels, Rental Vehicles, Buses, etc.

- **Volunteer Director**

- Coordinates all Volunteers for Team Georgia Events

- **Equipment Director**

- Arranges delivery/pickup and organizes all Team Georgia equipment for setup and teardown at all Team Georgia Tournaments
- Oversees all Team Georgia equipment uses by outside organizations

- **Social Media Director**

- Responsible for all Social Media content publishing and creation
 - Twitter, Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram, etc.
- Responsible for Website content publishing and creation

- **At-Large Members**

- **Athlete Representatives**

- The At-Large and Athlete Representatives provide a voice on the Board of Directors for the Clubs, Coaches and Athletes
- Assist in Board related items and Team Georgia tournament operations as available.

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Elections:

See ballots –

Please fill out and return if you haven't done so.

Chairman – Jason Griner - Running for Re-Election

2nd Vice Chair – Scott DeGraff – Running for Election

SECRETARY - OPEN

Officials Liaison – Kenny Cook – Running for Re-Election

Incoming/Outgoing – Jeremy Paradise – Running for Election

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Kid's Director – Joe Croce - Running for Re-Election

Officials Director – Nolan Meadors – Running for Re-Election

At Large Members – Will Johnson – Re-Election

Que Johnson – Running for Election

Omi Acosta – Re-Election

Travel Director – Jennifer Wells – Running for Election

Volunteer Director – OPEN

Communications Director – Mary Necula – Running for Re-Election

I.T. Director – John Stulak – Running for Election

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**Treasurer Report is presented at the
Fall Meeting.**

Taxes have filed

**If you have questions, please reach
out to treasurer@teamgeorgiawrestling.com**

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Kid's Director Report Joe Croce

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Focus Areas



Original Goal: Attain 5% growth of total wrestlers year over year

- Recruiting
 - Help train clubs to improve grass roots recruiting
- Retention
 - Increase participation
 - Improve tournament experience
 - Develop a path and empower progression through the levels (beginner, open, elite)

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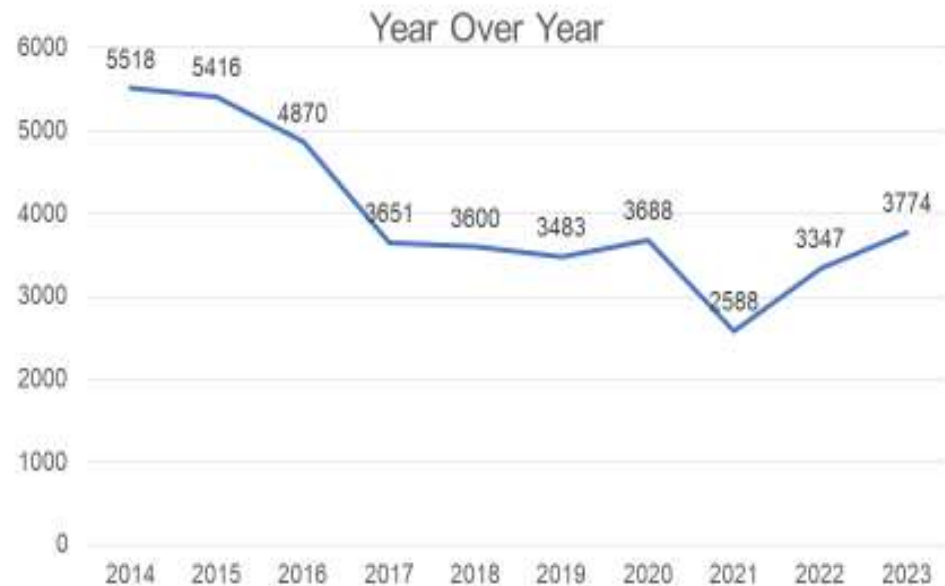


Recruiting Results



Below numbers are with above 14u removed*:

- 2014 = 5518 kids
- 2015 = 5416 kids
- 2016 = 4870 kids
- 2017 = 3651 kids
- 2018 = 3600 kids
- 2019 = 3483 kids
- 2020 = 3688 kids
- 2021 = 2588 Kids
- 2022 = 3347 Kids
- 2023 = 3774 Kids (13% growth from 2022)



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Retention



Below represents USAW card renewals from the previous year:

2019: 1306 out of 2018's total = 36.0%

2020: 1455 out of 2019's total = 41.7%

2021: 1169 out of 2020's total = 31.6%

2022: 1038 out of 2021's total = 40.1%

2023: 1439 out of 2022's total = 43%

This year 57% were new to wrestling.

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Championship Participation



State

- 1000 in 2016 but 1506 at qualifiers (36% of membership)
- 1012 in 2017 (28% of membership) - Lakepoint
- 947 in 2018 (26% of membership) - Lakepoint
- 780 in 2019 (22% of membership) - Perry
- 810 in 2020 (22% of membership) - Perry
- 776 in 2021 (30% of membership)- Lakepoint
- 873 in 2022 (26% of membership) – Warner Robins
- 812 in 2023 (21% of membership) - Perry

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Championship Participation



Novice Championship

- 489 in 2018
- 544 in 2019
- 659 in 2020
- 490 in 2021
- 569 in 2022
- 629 in 2023

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Novice + State Together



2020

- 810 at State in Perry + Separate Novice = 1307 = 35% of membership

2021

- 776 at State in Lakepoint +305 novice who ONLY did novice = 1081 (42% of membership)

2022

- 873 at State in Warner Robins + 569 in Novice = 1442 (43% of membership)

2023

- 812 at State in Perry + 629 in Novice= 1441 (38% of Membership)

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Tournament Participation



Open	#	Novice	#
Etowah Eagles	244	Etowah Eagles	177
Parkview	487	Social Circle	107
Chestatee	256	War Eagle Novice	125
Creekview	311	Life U Novice	201
South Georgia Classic	324	Creekview Novice	249
John Wayne	399	Oconee Takedown Novice	153
American Slam	449	St. Francis	347
Peachtree Ridge	543	John Wayne Novice	371
Dawsonville Mean Street	225	Life	119
Qualifier Chestatee	355	Pat Noll Novice	203
Qualifier Paulding	344	Forsyth Central Novice	194
Qualifier Jones County	308	Peachtree Ridge Novice	271
Qualifier Ridgeland	169	Mountain View Novice	239
		706 Novice	213
		Commerce Clash	189

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Yearly Differences



Year	est. Youth Numbers	Yearly Differences
2014	5518	
2015	5416	-2%
2016	4870	-10%
2017	3651	-25%
2018	3600	-1%
2019	3483	-3%
2020	3688	6%
2021	2588	-30%
2022	3347	29%
2023	3774	13%

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Women's Report Donell Bradley

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USAW Female Membership Numbers

Female Athlete Memberships	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Georgia	459	409	319	367	320	268	199
<i>Change From Previous Year</i>	12%	28%	-13%	15%	19%	35%	

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2023 Olympic Styles Season So Far- Women's Nationals/WTT

8 Girls from GA Participated in Women's Nationals Results

Georgia Girls in College

Amani Jones: U20 55kg- 1st Place

Age Group Participants

Natalie Lippstreu: 14U 85 lbs- 6th Place

Genevieve An: U17 73kg- 5th Place

Kara-Lynn Dover: 12U 100 lbs- 3rd Place

May Prado: U17 65kg- 1st Place (World Team Member)

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2023 Olympic Styles Season So Far- FS/GR State

2023 Georgia Freestyle/Greco-Roman State

of Girls Total

First year of HS girls being split into 16U & Junior due to new qualification process for Fargo

Addition of Greco for Girls to support Girls Triple Crown Award

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2023 Olympic Styles Season Upcoming Events

16U/Junior Duals in Tulsa

Two Women's Freestyle Teams Competing in Duals

Currently have 27 girls on the roster

Still have spots for 200 & 225

First Year Greco Will Be Offered For Women!!!

16U/ Junior Nationals in Fargo

Changes to Qualification Process for Girls

States now limited to 4 per age/weight/style (same as men's)

Regionals will now serve as auto-qualifying event for women as well

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How do we continue growth & participation?

Continued Increase in Athletes Across All Women's Age Groups

Continue Encouragement of Girl Participation in Greco

Partnering with Georgia High Schools to Help Promote Girl's Wrestling

Encourage Further Growth and Participation of Female Wrestling Leaders

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PROPOSALS

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The Team Georgia board requests to make the following changes to the bylaws to keep the bylaws in line with the current wrestling needs.

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5.5.7. ~~Women's Wrestling Liaison~~ – **Women's Director** The Women's Wrestling Liaison shall work to develop and grow Women's wrestling at all levels of the organization. This position shall endeavor to work with the state high school association(s) to develop Women's programs at the high school level, and ensure that Georgia women's wrestling is represented at all national USA National Women's Wrestling events.

6.5.2. The Women's Director - The Women's Director must have been involved with G. A. W. A. activities for a minimum of two consecutive years. **Requesting removal of this position. It is a duplicate. As mentioned prior, The Women's Director is a USA position that TGA has previously called the Women's Liaison. We want to change verbiage to be in line with USA Wrestling. Currently, the two positions are the same.**

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6.5.7. The Travel Director – The Travel Director must have been involved with G.A.W.A. activities for a minimum of two consecutive years. The Travel Director will work directly under the treasurer planning the travel budget and making travel arrangements.

6.5.8. The I.T. Director – The I.T. Director must have been involved with G.A.W.A. activities for a minimum of two consecutive years. The I.T. director will oversee the computers, monitors, software, streaming software etc. The I.T. Director will answer questions and assist tournament directors to make sure we are able to run tournaments electronically.

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6.5.9. The Equipment Director – The Equipment Director must have been involved with G.A.W.A. activities for a minimum of two consecutive years. The Equipment Director will oversee all equipment including but not limited to trailers, mats, computers, monitors, stands, coolers, signage, etc. An inventory and knowledge of all inventory is required.

6.5.10. The Volunteer Director – The Volunteer Director must have been involved with G.A.W.A. activities for a minimum of two consecutive years. The Equipment Director will get volunteers for all Team Georgia Events including but not limited to Kid's State, Freestyle and Greco State, Freshman/Girls State or any other even hosted by Team Georgia.

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Team Georgia Wrestling

2023-24 Youth Season

Improvements & Proposals

Developed by Donovan Panone, John Stulak, Joe Croce and Jason Griner

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Guiding Principals

Progression - Develop a path and empower progression through the levels (beginner, open, national elite)

- Participation - Improves progression and retention
- Competition - Iron sharpens iron, produce nationally competitive wrestlers in MS, HS and College

Principals are NOT based on financial or organizational effectiveness. Those

are important but only as they help the above principals.

We serve the wrestlers.

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Guiding Principles - Assumptions

Progression vs. Recreation

- Assumes wrestlers want to improve at the sport and learn how to win and that we are not designing a system for a recreational sport league or like Karate.
- There is nothing wrong with being recreational, but wrestling is too hard of a sport to do if you are not improving because others will pass you and losing isn't fun. Part of the allure of the sport is the chase to get better.
- Progression & Life Lessons
 - The biggest lesson wrestling teaches is how to face challenges, learn to improve and bounce back. We should empower our wrestlers to move forward in the sport

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Issues to Resolve

The following are the primary issues that need solving in order to get us focused on the core principles:

- Novice Division
- Tournament Schedule
- Qualifiers
- Communication

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Novice Division

What

- **Reduce focus on novice as a whole in order to promote progression**
- **Make novice for 1st year wrestlers only**

Why

- **Progression - Prevents parents from holding their wrestler back because of fear. 2nd year kids adapt to**

their level of competition.

- **Participation**
- **Makes open tournaments less intimidating because there is a higher volume of 2nd year wrestlers.**
- **Will improve bracket size at open tournaments (will need two each weekend which also improves our geographic reach)**

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Novice Division

- More 1st year wrestlers can participate in novice events since it will now fill up with only 1st years
- Eliminates the participation barrier at state and qualifiers because parents are worried about losing their “novice status”
- Prevents state placers or more experienced wrestlers from entering novice tournaments
- Less headaches for Team GA dealing with novice issues all season

Novice

Novice Season operational changes

- Novice season ends Jan 21, 2024 (Novice Championship)
- Shortened season allows and end of season accomplishment for those w

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Novice

Novice Season operational changes

- Novice season ends Jan 21, 2024 (Novice Championship)
- Shortened season allows and end of season accomplishment for those who start spring sports and promotes progression into open events, attempting to qualify for state
- Potentially run novice events Madison style to simplify match ups and not worry about making weight. Will eliminate issues of missing weight and adjusting brackets.
- With a higher volume of 2nd year wrestlers at open tournaments, we need to ensure we are adding more mats and/or having two geographically separated tournaments on the same day. We need to increase participation, not limit it

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Schedule

- Deliberate, intentionally designed for Progression, Participation and Competition. Not just based on who applies.
- Type of event - Open, Mega, Duals, Novice
- Size of schools - target schools who can host more mats to increase participation and not cap numbers as low
- Improved geographic separation (North, South, East Metro, West Metro)
- Develop a scheduling committee with 3-4 members representing geographic areas (North, South, East Metro & West Metro). They will have more knowledge and contacts with area schools to find hosts.

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- Proactively reach out earlier, not waiting for the schools to apply.
- Feb 1 - Start designing schedule and locking in locations - Start early so schools can book gyms before basketball does
- April 1 - Request deadline
- June 1 - Schedule finished

Schedule

- Megs need to be MEGA
- Only 3-4 per season
- Host at locations that can hold 8-12 mats
- Only tournament that weekend
- Novice combined with Megs to promote cross bracketing (progression, participation)
- Girls brackets at every tournament, especially mega

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Schedule

- Megas need to be MEGA
- Only 3-4 per season
- Host at locations that can hold 8-12 mats
- Only tournament that weekend
- Novice combined with Megas to promote cross bracketing (progression, participation)
- Girls brackets at every tournament, especially megas
- Megas are very likely NOT going to affect state seeding (see note about USAW PIN)
- B4B is going away so need one additional incentive to encourage our top kids to attend and look to invite out of state wrestlers (competition)

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- Include Duals
 - At least 3-4 dual events (on Sundays)
 - ES, MS - using small MS state weights, Elite and Club divisions
 - Schedule the Sunday after megas to entice out of state teams
 - ***Will need a Duals chairman & committee like in the pas

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State Seeding

As noted, it is proposed that Megas will not be used for state seeding and to use the new USAW PIN system.

Based on the Elo rating system, the PIN system factors in historical and current data of wins and losses and pulls from both Flowrestling & Trackwrestling data.

- Beat people higher rated, you gain more points than beating someone lower rated.
- Lose to someone lower rated, you lose more points than losing to someone higher rated.
- Forfeits are not factored in.

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State Seeding

Applied to the 2023 Kids state tournament, at 14u:

- If we used PIN, 16 of 22 top seeds were predicted as champs, two 2 seeds, three 3 seeds and one unranked (no data).
- Compare that to our seeding last year: 7 champs were not seeded, Nine 2nd placers were not seeded
- At 12u, we did better at predicting champs, but seven 2nd placers were not seeded

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Tournament Operations

- Consistent communication re: number of mats, setting up network properly, etc. OR have a tournament team from TGA
- Use more mats (even set up an extra one just in case)
- Taping mats in half for 6u (and possibly 8u) age group at smaller schools to create more mats - HS kids can ref 6u if needed
- 3 sessions - Adjust to 6u/8u 8am; 10u 11am, 12u/14u 2pm (need to confirm these are the times)
- Reduce number of weight classes to align with USAW weights (with a few adjustments in the heavier weights)

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Reduce Weight Classes

- Progression
- Placing is an accomplishment - Bigger brackets mean you have to fight to medal
- Goal for next tournament - Getting deeper in the bracket or placing.
- Participation - Bigger brackets entice more people to sign up
- Competition - More former state champs/placers wrestling each other since not separated as much.

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Qualifiers

Purpose of qualifiers

- Progression - stepping stone for newer wrestlers
- Retention - Qualifying validates your hard work and makes you want to come back next year; not qualifying makes you hungry and gives you a goal
- Participation - need to validate this year but a higher % participate at the end of the season with qualifiers vs. an open state
- Competition - If volume issue is fixed, it makes the state tournament tougher

Problems we faced this year:

- Participation numbers
- People qualifying but not showing up to state
- Signing up for multiple qualifiers
- Geography (was Ridgeland too far north?)

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Qualifiers - Solutions

- 2nd year wrestlers in opens will increase numbers (278 just from novice championship + shorter novice season will encourage others to try)
- Weight class changes will increase numbers
- Must declare if attending state AT the qualifier when getting medal/golden ticket so alternates can be pulled in immediately
- Policy will be stated that you can only sign up for one qualifier or both registrations will be remove

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Communication

Consistency & Clarity

- All decisions communicated immediately
- i.e. Changes voted on at spring meeting, tournament changes
- Not just what, but why (i.e. no one knew why we were doing qualifiers so they assumed “money grab”)
- Website - all new changes, policies and everything else immediately on the website
- Emails - early & reminders

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Proposals

The following will require votes from the clubs

1. Novice to 1st year only
2. Weight class changes
3. State seeding

Other actions:

1. Create a scheduling committee
2. Add a duals director role and possibly with a committee

Everything else is an operational change and can be implemented immediately.

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Team Georgia Wrestling

Proposal by Ryan Cooley

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The problem:

Currently Team GA's youth season runs from November through early March, 4+ months - and longer than the HS season. Other sports typically run for 3 months. The last month of the season, youth clubs battle winter breaks and the start of baseball practice (early-mid Feb). At our club, we see declining participation numbers once February hits, and it is a battle to keep kids involved through youth states. We lose significant momentum as we end the season because in addition to battling other sports, there weren't as many tournaments in the month or so leading up to youth states as many high schools and refs are busy with the 7 week HS postseason process.

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The solution:

Shorten the season running youth states as a 1 day tournament (open only). Ideally we would do this in the same venue as the GHSA states - this works in Macon if we also get the ballroom GHSA used as a warmup area. If we cannot get the same venue we use a nearby venue (ie states are in Macon and youth states are in Perry), and keep all of the refs in town for an extra day to do the youth states.

Novice wrestlers can do a championship event earlier in the season, and then move on to participate in the open qualifier

All of this depends on the GHSA, according to Bud, it is possible the HS Season sees some changes including moving the state tournament away from Macon. If this happens Team GA would obviously have to adjust, but here is how the schedule could have looked if we did it this year

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Weekend (Saturday date)	High School	Youth
Jan 7	Area duals	
Jan 14	Sectional duals	Novice Championships event possibly paired with youth state duals (Sunday/Monday-MLK Day)
Jan 21	State duals	
Jan 28	off	Youth State Qualifiers (open only)
Feb 4	Area	
Feb 11	Sectionals	
Feb 18	GHSA States	Youth States (Sunday only)

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Logistics of the one day tournament:

85 weights * 28 matches per weight = 2380
total matches max

This would require a venue of similar size to
what we already use for youth states.

If we have 20 mats and estimate the
tournament would run at 15 matches per hour
per mat

$2380 / (15 * 20) = 7.93$ hours of wrestling

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New Business

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ADJOURN!!

Thank you for attending!!