

# NWCA Full Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2012

Harbor Beach Marriott Resort Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Attendance: Mike Moyer, Brian Smith, Rob Koll, Mark Cody, Darrell Randall, Brian Anderson, Chris Ayers, Tricia Turley Brandenburg, Bob Colgate, Roger Crebs, Dave Crowell, Steve Garland, Craig Hanson, Jeff Jarnecke Shawn Kelley, Dave Kemmy, Pat McCormick, Ron Mirikitani, Dave Pacheco, Pat Pecora, Archie Randall, Mike Rogers, Tom Ryan, Randy Steward, Paul White, Jack Childs, John Licata, Bill Zadick (for Rich Bender), & Jim Zalesky.

Also attending via teleconference: Joe Geiger and Bob DeHaven

- I. **Opening of Meeting:** Brian Smith brought the meeting to order at 2:15 pm. Brian reviewed communication rules for time & topic discussion.

The board meeting will focus only governance items in relation to the NWCA. The process for the board meeting will be to have the action items which require a board vote completed first followed by the discussion topics. At the end, we will review any new business.

Brian does a roll call and introduction of all members in the room.

## II. Action Items:

- A. **Approve the Minutes:** Brian Smith asked if the 2011 Board minutes could be approved.

Steve Garland makes a motion to approve the 2011 Board meeting minutes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Kemmy.

No discussion.

\*On a motion by **Steve Garland** and seconded by **Dave Kemmy**, the 2011 Board Meeting minutes was approved unanimously by those present.

- B. **Approve New Board Members:**

Darrel Randall requested Board members to consider new Board members be approved Director Moyer asked Joe Geiger if Board needed to vote on each name individually or on all names simultaneously. Geiger confirms they can all be voted upon at one time.

Pat Pecora makes a motion was made to approve the following board members and seconded by Steve Garland.

- President – Elect: Mark Cody (Oklahoma)
- NCAA Division II: Kevin Ward – Quachita Baptist
- NCAA Division III – District I: Lonnie Morris – Johnson and Wales
- NCAA Division III – District II: Nathan Shearer – Washington & Lee
- Scholastic: Dennis Stromie – Georgia
- Scholastic: Alan Clinton- California
- Women: Archie Randall – Oklahoma City
- Retired Coaches: Jack Childs (Drexel, PA)
- At-Large: Tricia Turley Brandenburg

On a motion by **Pat Pecora** and seconded by **Steve Garland** the new board members and president-elect were approved unanimously by those present.

Mike Moyer thanks outgoing president Brian Smith for his leadership & dedication to the NWCA. Mike also thanks Roger Crebs, Dave Kemmy, Pat Pecora, & Paul White who were rotating off the Board.

### C. Strategic Plan and Goals

Mike Moyer provides an overview of the strategic plan and goals for the organization for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Mike pointed out three viable threats to the sport of wrestling. They were: Programs being dropped, skin infections and forfeits.

As an organization we need to commit ourselves to build new program and keep existing programs strong. In the past ten years we have added 82 new programs. The leadership academy and program revitalization initiative are cornerstone to doing this.

Skin Infections is a major threat to our sport but one that we have the most control over. We need to continue to educate the coaches on how to combat these issues.

While we have seen increase in participation the number of forfeits is increasing each year. We are going to make an all-out assault on tackling the forfeit issue over the next year. One of the ways to do this is increase the importance of the dual meet at the high school level.

Moyer also reviewed the outline of funding of initiatives that we would like to tackle. Some of these initiatives will not be able to complete unless we can secure the funding for them first. Moyer made particular attention to the automated seeding project. This project would cost in the neighborhood of 70,000.

Steve Garland made a motion to approve the 2012-13 strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Dave Pacheco.

Further Discussion: None

On a motion by **Steve Garland** and seconded by **Dave Pacheco** the 2012-13 Strategic Plan and Goals was unanimously approved by those present.

#### **D. Increased Membership Dues**

Darrell Randall gives an outline on increasing membership dues in all categories for the first time in over 10 years. The increase would only be tied to the membership and not the OPC at this time.

The outline on the membership fees would be as follows:

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Fan/Parent	30	40	10
Scholastic Coach	30	40	10
Retired Coach	30	40	10
Official	30	40	10
High School Institutional Membership	60	75	15
Affiliated Group	60	75	15
NCWA	30	40	10
Junior College	60	75	15
NAIA	125	150	25
Division III (not including DIII Dues)	125	150	25
Division II (not including DII Dues)	125	150	25
Division I	225	250	25

Mark Cody made a motion to approve the increase the membership dues. The motion was seconded by Shawn Kelley.

Further Discussion: The purpose was to help offset increases in IT support. In addition, we will look at adding the convention fee into the membership dues but that is not in this proposal.

While it is not needed under this proposal, we will also look at changing to an anniversary date versus a fiscal year date for renewal

On a motion by **Mark Cody** and seconded by **Shawn Kelley** the increase in membership dues was approved unanimously by those present.

## **E. Budget Approval**

Bob DeHaven reviews the current fiscal year financials and reports that we are projecting at a small profit after depreciation and capitalization is complete. Bob expressed concern in that the organization is relying extremely heavily on donations to stay on track. The organization did over 650,000 in donations and grants this past fiscal year. We cannot continue to expect to do this in the future.

DeHaven then reviewed the 2013 budget with the board. DeHaven reports that he believes this to be a conservative budget.

Jim Zalesky made a motion to approve the 2013 budget. The motion was seconded by Dave Kemmy.

Further Discussion: The NWCA needs sustained income & cannot be dependent upon donations to operate as an organization. We can gain sustained income through our standardized scoring system that allows accurate measurability, information retention, & unbiased seeding. We need to sell it at all H.S. levels for NWCA sustained income & comprehensive sport measurements.

On a motion by **Jim Zalesky** and seconded by **Dave Kemmy** the 2013 Fiscal Year budget was approved unanimously by those present. .

## **III. Discussion Items:**

### **A. Best Practice Standards for College Programs (Mike Moyer)**

- Over \$800,000 has been invested into the NWCA leadership academy development.
- The idea would be to create minimum standards for each program to achieve. We could have minimum and gold standard.
- Programs could be measured on 13 standards
- Darrell Randall expressed concerned if the NWCA is ready to hold wrestling to this standard.
- Mike Moyer mentioned that the NWCA has consultants to stabilize programs below minimum standards.
- Tricia Brandenburg brought up the concern about using the word minimum versus best practices. We do not want to put a bulls eye on certain programs.

- Mike Moyer also makes mention that competitiveness is a tough standard to measure.
- Rob Koll believes the principles need to be vetted more. More research is needed to show an accurate graphic of where programs are.
- Brian Anderson expressed some concerns that this could hurt some programs.
- Mike Moyer recommended forming a committee to study this further. The committee will be comprised of coaches from all levels.
- Committee will report back at the next board meeting their findings and recommendations.

**B. Wildcat Organizations: (Rob Koll)**

- Rob Koll talks about how we can work with all the other wrestling organizations to help grow wrestling.
- Bill Zadick said USA Wrestling has a vested interest in growing our sport. They have rolled out a \$15 freestyle only card. USA Wrestling spent \$50,000 to send top-flight wrestlers to speak to grass-root programs to encourage involvement.
- Rob Koll talked about the cost of USA Wrestling cards in New York and how the NUWAY card is more affordable.
- Archie Randall said states add cost to the cards to gain money. He said grass roots organizations are desperately trying to find money to fund their Cadet competition.
- Roger Crebs asked if the NWCA has talked with the AAU and NUWAY about their missions.
- Tom Ryan added it makes sense that we needed everyone in the same room to talk.

- Mike Moyer proposed (based on a Hershey's Chocolate model), we get all wildcat groups to join with us to gain funding, and then weave in Best Practice standards.
- Board members all agree that we need to find ways to work together to improve the sport.

**C. National Letter of Intent (NLI): (Tom Ryan)**

- Bill Zadick distributed copies of a USAW form (still in revision stage) which a high school wrestler with a signed NLI must sign before being accepted at the OTC. It states wrestler must return \$25,000 to the college, if he breaks his signed NLI.
- Board members said it would be highly unlikely to hold an athlete to this and where they would have that kind of money.
- Brian Smith said he signed a high school wrestler in November. Smith stopped recruiting that weight. MU Compliance Officer said Smith could not give that money away for the entire year the wrestler was at the OTC. Smith recommends a wrestler who breaks his signed NLI should lose a year of eligibility.
- Zadick said USAW would prefer kids who haven't signed a NLI fracture the relationship between USAW & the signing college. He added that USAW committed to taking their OTC kids to open folk-style meets to better prepare them for collegiate wrestling.
- Rob Koll felt more resources should be available to RTCs and more recruits train there.
- Jim Zalesky feels if a wrestler signs the NLI, you should go to school.
- Tricia Brandenburg reports that is very difficult to alter the provisions of a NLI.
- Bill Zadick said the USAW OTC is a skill-driven unique window not competing with college wrestling programs.

- Board members feel we need to continue to work with USA Wrestling to work out the issues.

#### **D. Regional Training Centers (RTCs): Tom Ryan**

- Tom Ryan outlines the need to develop an infrastructure to establish best practices for RTC's.
- RTC's must conduct not circumvent NCAA rules such as contact, dead period and try outs.
- RTC's raise the potential for rules violations.
- Mike Moyer raises the question about high school wrestlers training at an RTC during an official visit or during the dead period. In addition, Mike talks about the concern of injuries when someone is training at a RTC.
- Brandenburg said every college has a policy for visiting athlete injuries. Program is responsible for what happens on their campus.
- Pat Pecora believes that the Division I RTCs have elite opportunities for recruiting over other level college programs.
- Tom Ryan believes that the RTC can provide additional beds for training athletes.
- Tom Ryan wants the 200 mile radius rule on RTCs lifted.
- Additional board members feel an athlete should be allowed to choose any RTC in the U.S.
- Mike Moyer and Brian Smith will put together a committee for reviewing RTC structure & best practice recommendations.

#### **E. National Duals: (Mike Moyer)**

- Mike Moyer reports that the NWCA wants more emphasis on regular dual meets to increase attendance & support for our sport.

- The NWCA cannot financially afford to continue sponsoring the national duals in its current structure.
- Tom Ryan reports that the Big Ten coaches voted if team is invited to national duals the team must go. Two schools voted against it.
- Jeff Jarnecke (NCAA rep) reviewed that the NCAA Championship Cabinet agreed to hear a more formal proposal on having the National Duals be a NCAA Championship.
- The NCAA is recommending a two weekend (late February, 2014) 16-team championship based on statistical criteria, & crowning a national team championship.
- Each conference dual meet champion would be given an automatic bid to the tournament and the rest of the field would be given at-large bids.
- Statistical criteria would be used to select the At-large which would consist of RPI, overall record, head to head matches, coaches ranking and etc.
- NCAA would pay all travel and per diem to the team that make the final round of 8.
- First week of duals would be at the site of the eight top seeded teams.
- Away teams would incur costs of travel to site location
- Home teams would incur all costs associated with running event but would keep any revenue generated.
- Host school could do a revenue share with the away team to help offset costs.
- ESPN is extremely interested in carrying the National Duals final.
- The major issue is that team score would no longer be kept at the individual tournament. The team champion would be crowned at the duals portion.

- NCAA would continue to keep the same level of support for the individual tournament. The only thing that will change will be the fact no team trophies will be given by the NCAA.
- The NWCA would be able to provide team awards.
- Steve Garland believes this is great for the sport.
- Coaches do express some concern how this might impact the individual tournament with no team scoring.
- This would be only for Division I at the time. We want to see if a viable business model can be developed that would show this can be successful.
- Mike Rogers asks what will happen if the NCAA does not take over the duals.
- Mike Moyer mentions that the duals will most likely be folded. He believes that is becoming increasingly difficult to keep the event viable.
- A Board consensus vote was taken to support the NCAA process of sponsoring the NDs. The consensus vote was unanimous.
- Will be presented to the general membership on Saturday that this has the NWCA BOD support.

**F. Wrestling Conferences Re-alignment:** (Moyer)

- We currently have three (3) Division I conferences with less than 6 teams.
- There is a concern that the smaller conferences makes wrestling as a sport look weak which makes it easier to drop.
- Missouri and Old Dominion are currently orphaned teams.
- We want strong intact conferences. EIWA has a good model. We must form new alliances with other schools.
- Jeff Jarnecke reports that if the NCAA takes over organizing schools into conferences, it's assumed the NCAA has to pay for conference championships. The NCAA is not prepared to do that at this time.

- Jeff Jarnecke also reports that the qualifying tournaments for existing conferences would not be automatic conferences.
- Brian Smith asks if there was a consensus among the coaches on the conference situation.
- There was no consensus among the coaches.
- Mike Moyer concludes discussion in that we continue to monitor and look at conference alignment throughout the year.

IV. **Old Business:** None to report

V. **New business:**

- A. **Engaging Retired Coaches:** Jack Childs addressed the board about the need for the board of directors to help get the retired coaches off the ground. This is an area that could really help increase the membership of the association.

The retired coaches could assist in staffing booths at the state tournaments and serving as mentors to younger coaches.

Childs would like to create a directory of retired coaches and would appreciate any names and contacts each board member has. We would like to look at having an event at the NCAA Championships to really promote this area of the organization.

John Licata mentioned that the NWCA has state ambassadors; we could find out retiree goals for supporting the sport, coaches, & programs.

Tom Ryan suggested that we look at the state chapter information of the hall of fame.

Childs thanks everyone for their assistance on this.

**B. NFHS:**

Bob Colgate gives a short update on the NFHS. He reported that the NFHS would not look at the weight classes for at least another year. Skin infections are still a major issue with high school wrestling. We are also seeing big changes in the structure of high school programs such as co-ops.

In addition, we are still tracking on forfeit trends. Pat Tocci reported that the forfeit data has been steadily increasing over the past five years.

**C. All-Star Match:**

Mike Moyer reported that the All-Star Classic will be either November 3 or 4 at George Mason University. If George Mason cannot host the event, one of the other schools from the area has expressed interest in hosting.

We are looking at way to make the event more attractive to the student-athletes.

Jim Zalesky expressed that the old East/ West format would bring more visibility for the event.

**D. 2013 NWCA Convention Sites:**

Pat Tocci gives a quick update that we are finalizing three site locations for the 2013 convention: Fort Lauderdale, Nashville and Colorado Springs.

Nashville is not downtown which many felt was a concern. However, Shawn Kelly felt that Nashville would be attractive to the NAIA Coaches.

Mike Moyer mentioned that he will poll the coaches for their opinion.

**VI. Next Meeting:** August 2, 2013

Brian Smith adjourns the board meeting 5:50pm