Texas USA Wrestling (TX USAW)

Statewide Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: March 8, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM CST

Location: Virtual (Google Meet)

Presiding Officer: Martin Floreani, Chairman
Secretary: Clark Forward

Attendees

- **Board Members Present:** Martin Floreani (Chairman), Clark Forward (Secretary), Matthew Gordon (Treasurer), Sam Estrada (West Region Director), Anne Yarbrough (Youth Director), Grant Leeth (Men's Freestyle/Greco Director), Richard Leal (Women's Freestyle/Greco Director).
- **Membership Present:** Approximately 71 members, exceeding the quorum requirement of 30, as confirmed via Google Meet attendance tracking.

Call to Order

Martin Floreani called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM CST on March 8, 2025.

Roll Call

Clark Forward conducted the roll call, confirming 71 members present, satisfying the quorum requirement of 30. Attendance was tracked via Google Meet.

Voting Process

Clark Forward instructed members to access voting polls via the USA Wrestling membership portal. Issues with email notifications and portal access were reported (e.g., Drake Dudley); registration closed at midnight on March 7, 2025.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the August 2024 membership meeting were approved and will be posted online by March 9, 2025.

Agenda Items

1. State of the State Update (Martin Floreani)

- **Summary:** Martin provided an overview of TX USAW's progress since August 2024, highlighting efforts to address past mismanagement, a turnover of most state positions except Gabriel (Officials), and plans to enhance events and team performance.
- **Key Points:**
    - Focus on sustainable operations, transparency, and accountability.
    - Goals to improve state championships and double the number of All-Americans on Team Texas.
- **Action Item:** Membership encouraged to participate and provide respectful, concise feedback.

2. Financial Report (Matthew Gordon)

- **Folkstyle State Tournament (February 22-23, 2025):**
    - Revenue: ~$209,000; Expenses: ~$89,000; Gross Profit: ~$120,000.
    - Success attributed to efforts by Anne Yarbrough and negotiation of sponsorships (e.g., BlueChip contract increased from $3,750 to ~$12,000).
- **Current Cash Position:**
    - Cash on hand: $267,000; Accounts Payable & Accruals: $244,000 (team hotels, team travel); Net assets balance remains low.
    - Historical context: August 2023 cash at $160,000, dropped to $2,000 by August 2024 with additional unrecorded liabilities making it ~$80,000 negative.
- **Issues Identified:**
    - Duplicate payments, unrecorded liabilities, unapproved/wasteful spending (e.g., $18,000 rent, $15,000 loan forgiveness, $6,000 Olympic trials, alcohol expenses), and lost revenues (e.g., unclaimed $10,000 Bryan grant).
    - One-year suspension punishment issued to previous Freestyle/Greco Director and Chairman.
- **Action Items:**
    - Chairman to submit financial records to a local DA's office for potential restitution.

    - Board to design financial controls (e.g., purchase orders, budgets) and formalization in bylaws or policy.
- **Questions:**
    - Terry Rich asked about recouping expenses (not feasible internally) and audits (cost-prohibitive at $50-60K).

3. Events Committee Proposal (Martin Florieani, Sam Estrada, & Matthew Gordon)

- **Proposal Voted On:**

State Championship Proposal for 2026 USA Wrestling Texas Folkstyle State

Place Rookie State Championships at the final Ironman in the schedule
Place Novice State Championships on another Ironman held in January
Amend the current qualifier system for the State Championship to add these requirements:

- ➔ *All wrestlers that place top 6 at Ironman Open and Girls division from the state of Texas qualify for State Championship*
- ➔ *Each region hosts a Regional Qualifiers that qualifies 2 spots per weight for Open and Girls divisions available to only those that have not qualified to state*

State Championship Proposal for 2026 USA Wrestling Texas Folkstyle State

Place Rookie and Novice State Championships at one of the three final Ironmans
Amend the current qualifier system for the State Championship to add these requirements:

- ➔ *All wrestlers that place top 6 at Ironman Open and Girls division from the state of Texas qualify for State Championship*
- ➔ *Each region hosts a Regional Qualifiers that qualifies 2 spots per weight for Open and Girls divisions available to only those that have not qualified to state*

- **Summary of Concept:** Reimagine the state championship with a qualifying system using Iron Man events and regional last-chance qualifiers, focusing on Open and Girls divisions (Rookie/Novice separated), aiming for a competitive, special experience (e.g., stadium seating, parade of champions).
- **Data:** D2 example showed 355 potential qualifiers, 174 attended (2025); projected 213 for 2026 (+22%).
- **Financial Projections:**
    - 2025 Revenue: $119,000 (2,000+ entries at $55).
    - 2026 Projection: $140,000 (2,400 entries, including regionals), growing to $200,000 by 2029 (20% annual increase).

- **Discussion:**
    - Jack Mueller supported qualifier events for retention and prestige.
    - Concerns raised about no-shows and accessibility; countered by regional events and increased participation goals (targeting 5,000-6,000 of 7,487 members).
- **Vote:** 41 in favor, 31 opposed; proposal passed. Results made public via USA Wrestling portal.

4. Team Texas Update (Grant Leeth & Richard Leal)

- **Men's Freestyle/Greco (Grant Leeth):**
    - Goal to improve from one freestyle All-American (2024) by recruiting top athletes and coaches regionally.
    - Plans for regional training camps and a simplified à la carte travel process.
- **Women's Freestyle/Greco (Richard Leal):**
    - Focus on untapped talent via coach applications (open for all duals/Fargo).
- **Questions:**
    - Matthew Gochberg sought training camp dates (TBD, optional at Tarleton State) and duals costs (state-funded, parent costs TBD).
    - Jose Delgado noted USA Wrestling allows 4 Fargo qualifiers per weight (currently budgeted for 3).
- **Action Item:** Board to finalize camp dates, costs, and explore adding 4th Fargo qualifiers.

5. West Region Pilot Program (Sam Estrada)

- **Initiative:** Home weigh-ins on last practice day for local tournaments, eliminating Friday weigh-ins.
- **Results:** No challenges; positive feedback from parents/coaches for time savings; brackets completed Friday.
- **Discussion:**
    - Nick Janowitz supported after seeing success in JV events.
    - Jared Bleiler raised no-show concerns; random checks suggested.
- **Outcome:** No formal action; feedback to inform future consideration.

6. Youth National Team (Anne Yarbrough)

- **Plan:** 90 athletes (2 elementary, 1 middle school, 2 women's teams) to Iowa via charter bus; cost reduced from $818 to $731 per wrestler (state subsidizes $432, parents pay $300 for gear).

- **Challenges:** Gear inconsistencies due to prior mismanagement; budget limits; additional teams.
- **Results (2024):** Elementary (2nd/3rd), Middle School (3rd), Women's (1st/4th).
- **Question:** Matthew Gochberg confirmed gear alignment with 14U/16U (mostly, pending inventory).

7. Middle School Outreach (Chip Lowery)

- **Objective:** Bridge school-based middle school wrestling with club based TX-USAW via informational outreach.
- **Action Item:** Chip Lowery to collaborate with regional directors for input on a one-pager.

8. Rules Committee Update (Sam Estrada)

- **Process:** Rules Committee vetted submissions for August 9, 2025, vote.
- **Proposals:**
    1. Eliminate minimum tournament requirements for folkstyle state (per Joe Forsman).
    2. Adopt USA Wrestling rule: injury time on back is a fall (per Sam Estrada).
    3. Open/Girls grade format (per Courtney Laird).
- **Action Item:** Rules to be published online; Lloyd Smith flagged potential conflict with qualifier vote (to be reconciled).

9. Fall Meeting Announcement

- **Date:** August 9, 2025, 3:00 PM CDT

Adjournment

Martin Floreani, Chairman moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 PM CST; no objections raised..