

**Wrestling Committee Meeting (In Person)**  
**October 7, 2021 - MINUTES**

**1. Call to order @ 10:15am**

- a. Introductions
  - i. Attendance:
- b. Conflict of interest-Reminder to complete and hand back to Phil or Katie
- c. MIAA Governance Document

**2. Introduction of new MIAA Executive Director**

**3. Election of Officers**

- a. Chair- Nomination by Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary for **Brendan Kent (approved 13-0)**
- b. Vice Chair- Nomination by Mary 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul for **Ann Palumbo (approved 13-0)**
- c. Secretary-Nomination by Brendan 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff for **Joe Bianca (approved 13-0)**

**4. Minutes of May 11, 2021**

- a. Motion to approve by Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary (**approved 13-0**)

**5. New Business**

**a. Review of the 2021 Spring Wrestling Season/Tournament**

- i. Brendan-Middlesex league had a solid season, masks were difficult however the use of outdoor space was utilized. Team tournament went well, Wakefield opted out, but the rest of the teams had positive feedback
- ii. Paul-made the best out of what we had. Schools did a great job with scheduling and outdoor meets.
- iii. Amy-had the silver lining to work with other schools, was able to help start up other wrestling interest with other Boston schools.
- iv. Brendan-Wakefield was grateful to have wrestling, many wrestlers are 1 sport athletes
- v. Steve R-all kids were still engaged, 2 sport athletes still supported the wrestling program even if they choose a different spring sport, like baseball
- vi. Jeff-tough in the West, only 8 schools participated. Made the best of it even if teams showed up with 3 wrestlers.
- vii. Phil-those that were able to participate made the best of it. Unique season but those who participated, really bought in. Principals and AD's were at almost ever meet, teams were ok with traveling. Committee did a great job advocating for a spring wrestling season.

**b. 2021-2021 Approved MIAA Rule Changes**

- i. MIAA Rule change was approved, resulting in the morning weigh-in being eliminated. Athletes will now get a +2lb allowance for meets after 3pm. MIAA handbook rule 84.4.8
- ii. Desi-nothing changes with scratch requirements
- iii. Paul-no real feedback with coaches/schools-is this happening this year?
  - 1. Phil- this took effect as of July 1, 2021.

**c. NFHS Rule Changes**

- i. NFHS Weight Classification options (3 choices for girls, 3 for mixed gender, 12, 13 or 14 weight classifications) does not take effect until July, 1, 2023.

- ii. Phil-At January meeting, we should review and take a vote on which classification sets the committee supports.
- iii. Joe-should we adopt and announce what we support so teams have enough time plan and be prepared?
- iv. Desi-it may not give other New England teams enough time to review. Maybe we need to do what's best for the state.
- v. Phil-I can reach out to the other New England states and the New England Counsel to schedule a virtual meeting and start a discussion for this.
- vi. Brendan-not just for the New England Tournament, it impacts all tournaments in general (that include out of state/NE teams).
- vii. Head Neck injury (Brian)-Update injury time explained handout. This will be posted.
  - 1. Desi-should officials watch the live score video, play around with how it works.

**d. 2021-23 Wrestling alignment updates**

- i. Brendan-been busy with appeals. Updated as of 10/4. All teams have been notified of any changes and outcomes of appeals.
- ii. Many teams wanted to opt down to D3
- iii. Co-ops have dissolved
- iv. Ann-many appeals were denied
- v. Phil-TMC set a criteria that was followed by this committee, with the exception of vocational schools only dropping down 1 (versus 2 divisions)..Alteration approved by TMC.
  - 1. If a new co-op is created/dissolved, their alignment placement may change. Keep in mind, alignments are for post season only
  - 2. Scott-Athol/Mahar were aligned together?
  - 3. Paul-can teams be moved between N/S/W/C
  - 4. Phil-these alignments were submitted back in May/June of 2020, teams have been notified and already been planning their season.
    - a. Athol-did not like where they were placed last season.
    - b. Scott-we placed Mahar and Athol together
    - c. Athol was in Central and the co-op was dissolved and they were reclassified as D3 West (which they did not ask for)
      - i. Scott motions to move Athol back to the Central D3-2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris-12 in favor, 1 abstain
      - ii. Phil-who would move from Central to West-Paul-maybe Concord Carlisle? Mary maybe Bellingham co-op?
    - d. Brendan-teams have already started scheduling, co-ops still have the opportunity to be formed, and teams still have the opportunity to pull out if they are not able to field a team.
    - e. D1 North-Essex/Masco need to be moved co-op was formed after alignments. Appropriately placed in D1 North. They can appeal placement to TMC.
    - f. Norwell will not be a co-op with Hanover-trying to find a home
    - g. Hanover will be a stand alone team
    - h. Granby/South Hadley could be a co-op, maybe no Pioneer

**e. 2021-2022 wrestling season outlook**

- i. Phil-as it stands today there are no restrictions for most fall sports, expect for indoor sports needing to wear masks. Looking ahead I am expecting that all indoor sports will have to wear masks. Plan to have your teams wear masks for wrestling. EEA no longer overseeing athletics and as of right now there are no other modifications or talks about modifications.
- ii. Chris- is there any talk about no masks if we up contact tracing methods
- iii. Brian-we should have plenty of officials-have 70 ready to go
- iv. Phil I can bring that up and have a conversation about this with sports medicine.

**f. 2021-22 Wrestling Format**

- i. Important dates
  1. Transferring away from MIAA members only as an association. No need to enter any wrestling specific requirements in MIAA members only and will only make it **mandatory in FloArena. This is for wrestling only.**
  2. Tournament format will be the same. Tournament Directors should start to reaching out to schools for hosting
    - a. All-States/Girls States – consideration to be held at a neutral larger professional site-Tsongus Arena/ Shriners Auditorium/New Balance Track/DCU Center. Maybe find a sponsor for the wrestling tournaments. National Guard/Air force Combat Division
    - b. Ann-Should we consider an entry fee for each team to offset the cost of the larger venues?

**g. Growth of Girls wrestling**

- i. Coaching Girl Wrestlers: Best Practices – Handout provided to committee
- ii. In June 2020, Central Catholic had a girl who place and won the Pan Ams in Mexico
- iii. Desi-coaches must try to find a way to have girls have a match even when they are competing against boys-scrambles when they are in the gym together. Make matches happen when there are opportunities. Need to become more creative for the girls to have head to head competitions.
- iv. Ann-push the sport for girls. Boys are starting to refuse wrestling females. This sets back the progress-these girls wrestle boys daily in their training/practices. Are boys uncomfortable with wrestling a girl or are they uncomfortable with the possibility of losing to a girl?
- v. Stigma needs to change-conversation needs to be had with coaches and teams.
- vi. Communication needs to be made with parents of both athlete, regardless of gender.

**h. FloArena Update-Desi**

- i. Virtual Training for all MIAA ADs and Coaches - Monday October 18, 2021
  1. Desi and Phil will run the training at night. This training will include seasonal record entry, set-up, tracking process from start to finish on in-season set-up and stats will be offered. Track Wrestling and FloArena have merged after FloArena bought Track Wrestling. Flo Arena will be the base platform for the future. Optimal performance calculator manages in-seasons stats, and outcome still uncertain as to what that

will look like. Major changes will come in the next few years, with little change in the short term expected.

2. Creating meets in the system, making sure matches do happen, weigh-ins
3. In season record keeping to help with post season
4. Need to figure out what to do with seeding criteria this year. There is no post season last year to refer to. How are we doing to manager this?
  - a. Phil-should we put together a subcommittee to address this concern?
  - b. Desi-this should be communicated out before the season begins so teams are prepared
  - c. Phil-Maybe strike criteria 2 due to the pandemic?
  - d. **Paul-motion to suspend criteria 2 for one year/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff (approved 13-0)**
    - i. When did the criteria come into play, and what did you do if an athlete didn't wrestle the previous year.
    - ii. Paul-it was put into place to "power rank" the wrestler.
  - e. Phil-update format, website and preseason communication

**i. TMC Update**

- i. Phil-Putting together tournament structure subcommittee
- ii. Will meet virtually and report back to this committee before meeting with TMC

**j. Other**

- i. Injury time-explained

**6. Coaches Input**

- a. Paul-When will realignment be posted?  
Phil informed that it should be next week as they are almost ready to post.
- b. Brendan-will those schools that we need to move have an opportunity to appeal?  
Phil- Yes

**7. Officials Input**

- a. Brian-met Monday night. Really good board, spring season showed everyone that they can adapt. Numbers look good. Living with the mask, officials know that they are going to be looking at that this season. Would like to know if they can use real whistles, and would like to shake the winner hands/raise winners hand.
- b. Working on getting the right guys in the post season. Will look for coaches input, the right guys need to be utilized for the last few matches.
- c. Coach Donovan Shawsheen Tech- stage 4 cancer, but are not in the last stages. Please reach out, he is always up for a good text/letter. There is a FB group as well.

**8. Informational Items**

**9. Educational Athletics Initiatives**

**10. Meeting Dates to Remember**

**11. Adjournment Motion by Jeff/2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary (approved 13-0) - 11:45am**