

# MIAA Wrestling Committee Meeting (*Virtual*)

Friday, January 21, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

Phil called the meeting to order at 10:07 and turned it over to chair, Brendan Kent.

Present on the call were Brendan Kent, Ann Palumbo, Joe Bianca, Jeff Lareau, Mark Hollick, Mary Sokol, Brian Brewer, Keith Crowley, Jon Longley, Keith Poloskey, Steve Rotondi, Paul Shvartsman, Brian Tildsley, Jason St. Peter, Robert Pritchett, Amy Daniels, Scott Tremlett and Desi Kaplan. MEDIA- Danny Ventura

2. **Minutes** – Motion to approve (Mark H, seconded by Brian B) – APPROVED 12-0

### 3. New Business

#### A. 2021-22 Individual Tournament

- Update on site search – Phil reported that we have sites for most tournaments. Thank you to all who have volunteered. Working with Game On in Fitchburg to host all three divisional State Tournaments, All State and Girls State. Grateful for their partnership. Plenty of room for spectators and competitors and supports streaming. Desi Kaplan will make a map of layout for the committee.
- Question raised on start time of tournaments as the location is off school campus. Committee fully supported an earlier start time for tournament on a school day, if event is not at a high school venue.
- Status of entries on FloArena
  - Phil stated that some schools are entering reports on only one season. Entries may need to be separated by boys, girls, mixed gender. Phil is reviewing with Desi and contact will be made with those who need to make adjustments to where data is enter. Desi Kaplan stated that most are making genuine effort, but there are areas that need to be cleaned up.
- Tournament entry reminders through FloArena
  - Will be communicated out to schools. Female athletes at this time cannot participate in both tournaments, must choose. This is in compliance with Title IX.
- Site Directors Meeting update
  - Will be held, virtually, on Thursday, January 27, 2022.
- Discussion around Girl's Weight Classes for current season
  - Discussion around Girl's Weight Classes for current end of season tournament, question the need for a 100lb weight class and how that would affect the other existing weight classes. Committee open to the idea, but question timing of this year or next.
  - Data showed in year one we had 14 wrestlers compete at 106lb weight class, five (5) weighed under 100lbs.
  - Brendan- Pro's and Con's to adding this. In the past, we got strong feedback to have set weight classes so girls to maintain weight throughout the season. Changing this now would be going against what coaches wanted. Concern about being watered down 106. Timeline is tight for this year.
  - Joe- understands consistency question but wants to be sure we are flexible. If we feel coaches are in support, we should consider.

- *Motion by Paul Shvartsman to add a 100lb girls weight class for this current season. Seconded by Mark Hollick. Amended by Phil to have the competitor recertify the MIAA Minimum Weight Control Form in order to compete at that weight class. Paul proposed new motion with the amendment suggested by Phil.*
- **Motion by Paul to add 100lb girls weight class for this (seconded by Mark), with condition that they are recertified for that weight. Approved 15-0-0**
- Discussion on cut off for recertification of weight by Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

#### **B. NFHS Weight Classification options (effective July 1, 2023)**

- Mixed Gender and Girls weight classes
  - Phil reported that no action has been taken by the NE Council at this time.
  - Bordering states that participate in New England's should have consistency. Discussion around whether or not Massachusetts Wrestling Committee should have a recommendation. Paul Shvartsman reported that the consensus feeling among coaches is that less weight classes would be optimum, but no official consensus position currently.
  - Desi Kaplan reported that across the country weight classes are not aligned state to state. Preliminary reporting is that the forfeit level is relatively unchanged across the country, which was the rationale for the national changes.
  - Phil will reach out for more information.

#### **C. TMC Update**

- Subcommittee reviewing current tournament structure and proposals
  - Met on January 5<sup>th</sup> - Reviewed different proposals looking to expand divisions and perhaps eliminating sectionals, while expanding All State, or keep as is. Any change would line up with the next alignment cycle.

#### **D. MIAA Award Recognition Program**

- MIAA Wrestling Coach of the Year – Steve Sentes, New Bedford High School
- MIAA Wrestling Official of the Year – Donald McNeil

#### **E. Other**

- Update – July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, voted to reduce 60% to 50% and was pushed to working group for review. Feedback is that the group was not in favor of the change as a handbook change at this time.
- Team Sportsmanship Award reminder to nominate.

4. **Coaches Input** – Paul Shvartsman point of information request, wrestling matches within a week – clarification. If there is need for a change, contact Phil for guidance.

5. **Officials Input** – Brian Tildsley officials working to cover the tournament weekends as a possible concern. Team working hard to make sure that this is supported.

6. Through 8 – Reviewed informational items, educational athletics initiatives and next meeting date.

9. **Adjournment** – Brendan Kent expressed gratitude and extra time/effort spent by committee. Desi expressed gratitude for professionalism and thoughtfulness of committee.