

MIAA Wrestling Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Minutes

1. Call to Order

a. Introductions/Attendance- 10:03

Scott Tremlett, Brendan Kent, Ann Palumbo, Joe Bianco, Keith Poloskey, Mary Sokol, Mark Hollick, Jeff Lareau, Amy Daniels, Brian Brewer, Brian Tildsley, Paul Shvartsman, Phil Mombeleur, Jason St. Peters, Keith Crowley, Phil Napolitano, Katie Kampersal, Cam Kerry, Boston Globe

b. [Conflict of Interest](#)

c. [MIAA Governance Document](#)

2. Election of Officers

- Mark Hollick nominated Brendan Kent for chair 2nd by Joe Bianca- **Approved 13-0-0**
- Brendan Kent nominated Ann Palumbo for vice chair 2nd by Jeff Lareau- **Approved 13-0-0**
- Brendan Kent nominated Joe Bianca for secretary 2nd by Mark Hollick- **Approved 13-0-0**

3. [Minutes of April 28, 2022 meeting](#)

- Discussion and amendment offered to edit Brendan Kent's name
- Motion to approve by Jeff 2nd by Mark- **Approved 13-0-0**

4. New Business

a. [NFHS Rule Changes](#) – Paul Shvartsman

- Discussed the change in facial hair policy

b. 2023 NFHS Weight Class options – *attached*

- Paul- discussed the adjustments to the traditional weight classes in relation to the other New England States. Vt., NH, and Main are waiting on us and will follow MA/CT decisions. CT is leaning towards 14 weight classes. Coach's Poll showed that 45% of coaches in MA were in favor of 14 weight classes. Discussion around tabling until January or voting. Discussion yielded that nothing would be gained from delay

- Motion to adopt the NFHS 14 traditional weight classes beginning in 2023-24 (Mark H, 2nd by Mary Sokol) – **Approved 13-0-0**

➤ **106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, 285**

- Phil-3 options for weight classes for girls wrestling. 12 weight class was what was favored. Currently we have 10 weight classes. The 12 weight classes would be concrete for the wrestlers and would bring more uniformity for them across New England.
- Brendan-Our numbers are growing but not huge, but it makes sense to have 12 weight classes and not the 13 or 14.

- Motion to adopt the 12 weight classes for girls wrestling beginning in 2023-24 (Mark H, 2nd by Keith P.) **Approved 13-0-0**

➤ **100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235**

c. FloArena – Desi Kaplan-Phil will work with Desi to set up online training. He will send out information about the date and time.

- FloAren weigh-in form
- Virtual Training for AD's & Coaches

d. TMC Update – 2023-25 Alignments

- MIAA Associate Director Richard Pearson spoke with the committee to offer some clarity on the new alignment process
- Alignment update – multipliers are changing. Vocational no longer automatic -1 and Coop no longer automatically +1. Private schools will continue to be a +1. This will be in effect for next 2 years. All can appeal.
- Alignment will be decided using the new Competitive Equity Tool based on stable enrollment and high needs % from October 1 report of previous school year.
- Ann P. shared that they have been using this tool in her league with success and it has improved parity.
- Alignments coming out in the next few weeks.

- Opting up will automatically be approved.

5. 2022-23 Wrestling Tournament

- [2022-23 Wrestling Format](#)
- Reminder of the Wednesday cut-off – 2/8/23- Regular Season has to end by this date
- Update on sites
- Girls' Wrestling Tournament – Entry discussion
 - Discussion around allowing girls to wrestle with their teams at sectionals and state and then decide to wrestle mixed or girl's tournament at All States. Phil shared that Maine and CT allow this pathway for the female wrestlers.
 - **Motion by Joe Bianca for female wrestlers to participate sectionals and states and then decide whether they will wrestle at All states in the mixed gender or girls bracket, pending review from the Blue Ribbon Committee. 2nd by Paul S – **Approved 13-0-0****
- Search for Division 1 Tournament Director- still looking for a Tournament Director
 - Scott Connelly is back as the Tournament Director in Division 2
 - Potential Division 1 Sites – States:?, South- Brockton, West/Central-Springfield Central, North- Methuen, Central-Algonquin
 - Potential Division 2 Sites: States-? North- Salem, South- Site Needed, Central- Woburn, West- Northbridge
 - Scott Tremlett is the Division 3 Tournament Director
 - Potential Division 3 Sites: States-Wakefield, North-Tewksbury, East- Site Needed, Central- Wayland, West- Site Needed
 - Possible All-States- Reading
 - Still working with the New Balance Center for future considerations.
 - *****None of the sites above are confirmed as of this meeting**
- Update from CNESSPA meeting
 - Discussion on Recognizing 7th and 8th place finishers at New England's.
 - NE Tournament will have an updated seeding process beginning this year. Defending NE State Champs/All State placed in NE will be seeded ahead of in order to have best wrestlers in later rounds.

6. [MIAA Rule Change Proposals for 2023-2025](#) – Wrestling committee voted on proposals.

7. Coaches Input

- Paul S. recommends sectionals 5th place finisher qualify for divisional state tournament allowing 20 competitors and not have 5th place be alternates.
- Phil- needs to be more feedback from coaches association, as well as the impact on the state tournament to add those wrestlers/rounds to the tournament. Tabled until January meeting.
- Discussion that Agawam won girls states and looking for 7th/8th grade waiver to break out girl's team. Discussion yielded that Agawam would have to break their team out first then apply (have two separate teams...a boys team and a girls team). As long as they are a mixed gender team, they cannot have a waiver for 7th/8th grade girls.

8. Officials Input

- Brian T. shared that the number of refs is low. Some suggestions would be to have more freedom in scheduling to move meets off of Wednesday Nights to allow the number of refs to the flexibility to officiate.

9. Informational Items-Discussed

- [MIAA Wrestling All-State Champions 1994 through 2022](#)
- [MIAA Girls' State Champions 2019 through 2022](#)

10. Educational Athletics Initiatives-Discussed

- [MIAA 22nd Annual Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest](#) – Deadline is October 11, 2022
- [MIAA Educational Athletic Summit](#)- October 21, 2022

11. Meeting Dates to Remember: *January 19, 2023 and April 27, 2023*

12. Adjournment