

## MMWA Membership Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2021

Special Informational Meeting Conducted via Zoom

### Meeting Notes

The meeting was opened by President Greg Wojciechowski and Head Pairer Laretta Allen at 7 PM.

Roll Call Via Zoom – 28 Clubs Represented, 5 Board Members Present

Greg began letting the membership know the first possible tournament will be February 7 if guidelines permit. Greg will contact Jeremy at Dort Event Center to firm up additional dates. May be either Saturday or Sunday with the possibility of a split tournament Friday night and Saturday. Tonight we want to go over the tournament guidelines. With that Greg turned the meeting over to Laretta.

The tournament guidelines that Laretta will be reviewing will be posted on the MMWA webpage following the meeting.

Laretta will email the Club representatives on Friday morning to give the time schedule for age group start. Time will depend on how many there are in a group, and whether we can combine age groups. If groups are small we may combine age groups. If there are over 75 wrestlers we will not be able to accommodate both parents as limit currently for the venue is 200 people. Might be some leeway. Greg doesn't think authorities will come in and count. All session start times will be communicated to clubs once we have the number of wrestlers for each tournament.

Currently there are 155 wrestlers registered. 36 of those registered still need either birth certificates or USAW card or both. This means only 125 are eligible to wrestle and we would not be able to hold a tournament with so few.

There are thirty-five clubs registered and nineteen clubs completely registered and chartered with USAW and MMWA. Many clubs do not yet have their director registered with USAW. We understand why you want to wait, but if everyone waits to do their safe sport and background checks at the deadline the system will get bogged down as it has in the past.

Masks must be worn at all times while in the arena by all attendees, parents, wrestlers and workers. Every person entering the arena must have a USAW profile. A profile does not require you to take the safe sport or pass a background check. USAW will just issue a number.

This is done because everyone that attends the tournament will be scanned in to comply with contact tracing. You will get a temperature check before paying entrance fee. If one person in the family has a temperature the whole family has to leave.

Coaches must have a 2021 USAW Leaders Membership with a picture on it.

Wrestlers must have a 2021 USAW Membership card. Pictures would be nice but not mandatory.

Everyone entering must check in with your USAW membership card or number. Have it on hand so the person checking can readily check you in. All non wrestlers must have picture id to go with their USAW card or number. Driver's license or some form of id with picture.

Coaches must be on the list that is sent to Laretta on Thursday to receive coach's band. Check in at separate table to get a coach's band. No Event Volunteers will be accepted as coaches.

Pairing and Coaches must have a lanyard. If you do not have one, we have them for \$2.00. If you have yours from last year it can be used this year as long as your card is a leader's card and is current. Any lanyard will do, it does not have to be an MMWA one. You will still need to check in at the coach's check-in to get a wristband. Coaches will be verified from the list sent to Laretta on Thursday.

One coach on the mat per wrestler.

No parents will be allowed on the floor, no exceptions. The one exception is if they are working a table. This will be strictly upheld. If you are not coaching or working a table you MUST be in the stands. Those who do not comply will be removed from the venue.

Please read the Tournament Guidelines. These are posted on the MMWA webpage.

No siblings will be permitted. If you have more than one age group wrestler, they may come but will need to sit with the parents in the stands until they wrestle. We will check with the event center to see if we can have chairs set up down on the floor for those athletes that are actively wrestling each session.

Depending on how many wrestlers we get will depend on if one or both parents can attend. Laretta will let clubs know on Friday after she checks on the number in each session.

Concerning SafeSport; Laretta suggests that you go ahead and do the refresher for this year even if you don't intend to come to tournaments. Because next year you will have to

complete two refresher courses. Please let all your parents who have coached in the past or have volunteer cards know.

Lauretta opened the floor for questions.

Kearsley asked what is the minimum number of wrestlers needed to hold a tournament. We could run one with 250. Some may have to wrestle up an age group. 350 would be much better. Cost for venue doesn't change. MMWA is footing charge for the venue. If there is a designated club(s) working the tournament, although most that were to hold tournaments are not participating, any profit would be divided. MMWA will still need volunteers to help with set up and tear down and tables. MMWA would possibly get some money back after fees for referees pairers, and track wrestling.

Plan is to do Madison weights with four wrestlers per bracket so each would wrestle three times. Question from Harold Eastman about girls. No girls or novice wrestling this year. We can only do one tournament per weekend.

Durand asked if the season is for sure a go. No, not until February 1st guidelines are announced. We had said February 1st would be the cutoff but we were trying to get the season going. If we are unable to have the first tournament on February 7, there will be no season.

Lake Orion asked what club does a wrestler say they are associated with if their club is not chartered for 2021? How is an unruly wrestler handled if the club director/coach is not in attendance? Athletes must be supervised by their parents. A wrestler would either be marked as unaffiliated if they did not designate a club. If they designate Lake Orion, they would be registered as from Lake Orion. Athletes from a club that is not chartered will pay the \$20 fee. If the parent has a coach's card they can coach their child. This is again for this year only. It is up to the clubs who they designate at club coaches. Might suggest sending an email to all your club members telling them that since the club is not participating this year sign your athlete up as unaffiliated. The parent, with a coach's card, will only be permitted to coach that one wrestler.

The only clubs receiving track passwords are those that have been chartered. There are several clubs that have not yet paid their dues. We understand you are waiting to see if there is a season.

Durand commented that there is no way they would be able to participate as they are unable to practice. It will only be a four week season. If we do not get the participation then we will be unable to hold a final at the end, which would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in March. MMWA would

not be able to afford the cost at that point with all the money that will be put out for the regular tournaments.

We do have four new clubs this year. Dundee, Genesee Vandals, Mid-Michigan Vandals, and Savage Wrestling Athletic Team. There are also a couple of others that have shown interest but have not finished paperwork yet.

Harold Eastman had brought up earlier about wrestlers wearing masks during matches. Some discussion followed. This will have to be confirmed and a follow-up email with directives will be sent out.

Whitmore Lake asked if there are not enough wrestlers to participate will the season be canceled. Answer was yes. Please get athlete rosters to Laretta even if they do not currently have their USAW card so they can at least be entered in to the system. There will probably be a huge influx of information if we are going to be permitted to wrestle that first week of February.

SWAT asked how long would season be? Four weeks, not including finals, if we are able to have finals. Finals would be second weekend of March. No regionals. Any athlete that wrestled twice would be eligible to wrestle the finals. We will check to see if we can extend time at Dort to include date for finals. Greg will check into this.

SWAT also asked about masks. As of now athletes will be required to wear a mask when wrestling. This, as everything, is subject to change.

Lake Orion asked if there is any consideration to extending our season or moving it to spring/summer? Probably not. Freestyle and Greco wrestling start at USAW immediately following our season. Also, since spring and summer sports will probably be okay because they are outdoors, i.e. baseball, cross country, tennis, we would lose athletes to those sports.

Additional discussion followed regarding wrestlers wearing masks. Currently required indoors. Unless that changes in the near future, masks will be mandatory to wrestle. Referees will be instructed to follow MHSAA high school rules regarding masks. Suggestion brought up by Fenton and conveyed by Sara Allen that wrestlers have two masks, one strictly for wrestling and the other for regular wear.

Remember if your club is not chartered and dues not paid, wrestlers associated with your club will pay the \$20 fee and registration will need to be done through Laretta. MMWA clubs, whether chartered or not, will have preference over non-member clubs or unaffiliated individuals.

Discussion followed regarding temperature. It was decided during the course of the discussion that anyone with a temperature above 99.8 degrees would not be permitted in the building. Temperatures should be taken at weigh-ins also. New Lothrop made a note that waiting outside will make temperature be much lower than it actually is. Greg suggests that we should be able to have the line form, with a distance of 6 feet between families, within the lobby area to help alleviate false readings.

If anyone attending the tournaments find they have covid-19 after wrestling or attending a tournament. Please contact a board member so that emails can go out everyone who attended the tournament.

Lauretta thanked everyone for their patience this year. It's going to be a lot of work but we are really trying to get some tournaments in this year for the athletes. So as soon as we hear things are a go we will let everyone know.

Fenton noted that everyone is appreciative of what MMWA is trying to do. Also, need to figure out wearing of masks, as he thinks numbers will drop significantly if masks are required.

New Lothrop knows they will not be having a season as the practice area is unavailable. Questioned paying dues. If you pay dues and club does not participate, the dues can be refunded or held over to apply to next season. We understand that the majority of our clubs are affiliated with their school and will not be able to practice or participate this year. However, club registrations are important to send in so that we know we are contacting the correct people with updates.

Additional discussion regarding athletes that have practiced wrestling against those that have not and novice athletes against seasoned wrestlers. Many athletes traveling to other states, but it is expensive. We want to be able to let them wrestle locally. And there are some organizations that are basically running tournaments in Michigan underground. We cannot afford to break the rules. Our organization is too large to do things underhandedly and we do not want to be fined and neither does Dort Event Center.

First tournament will be tough, organized chaos as we say each year at the first tournaments.

If nothing else, we are signing off. 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Taylor

MMWA Secretary

