

M.M.W.A. Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Special Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Meeting Notes

The meeting was opened by President Greg Wojciechowski and Head Paired Laretta Allen at 7:03 PM.

Roll Call Via Zoom : 19 Clubs Present, 5 Board Members Present

Plan for 2021, if we are able to hold tournaments, is for a season of eight tournaments, no regionals or state finals. As a league the MMWA would like to rent a facility to give our wrestlers some chance to compete. We have spoken with both the Dort Federal Event Center and Mundy Sportsplex. It is understood that those clubs that practice within their school systems are unable to do so at this time. If a hosting club does have the availability to hold their tournament, we will do so as scheduled. Right now most high schools are unavailable. Not having regionals or state finals is due to cost and the spectator capacity at the venue. Under current guidelines only 500 people, wrestlers included, would be permitted in the event center. Facility is only available on Sunday which would not be feasible for the time it takes to run the finals. We would most certainly be shut down under current guidelines. High schools are currently on a three week delay. Some schools have already pushed opening back in to January. Mt. Morris will be closed through January 22 and Grand Blanc will not reopen until January 26. Some discussion followed.

The Dort Event Center would charge MMWA \$2500 plus one security guard during the actual wrestling which would run approximately \$150. MMWA would pay the cost of the rental. Clubs that were scheduled to hold tournaments that weekend would help run the tournament and split the gate and concession profits. Will have to confirm with Dort Federal Event Center that we would be able to sell prepackaged snacks and drinks. We would be using the auxiliary ice arena. If there is no hockey season, the main arena may become available.

The Mundy Sportsplex is cheaper, \$2200 for the day. Drawback is that this facility has no seating. Spectators can bring own seating, camp chair, etc. Spectators would have to remain at one end of the arena with one parent and one coach being permitted at the mat when their child is wrestling. Probably could accommodate 2 parents per wrestler at Dort to larger capacity. Parent would have to stay back from the mat behind designated line. Drinks and prepackaged snacks are permitted to be sold here.

Obviously seating at Dort is a plus, but would save \$450 using the Mundy Sportsplex. Probably utilize 1 ½ hour sessions per age group with ½ hour in between to sanitize equipment.

The three clubs scheduled for that weekend would be responsible for helping to run the tournament, unless they are not participating this year. Then there would be a place open for other clubs to opt into the available space(s). Mats would be set up the night before. Would that permit us to have wrestling on Saturday evening for say the old age groups? Dort Federal was open to this suggestion, however, there would certainly be a charge. Some discussion followed regarding time and money constraints.

How many clubs are currently practicing or do we have any indication how many clubs will not be participating this year? As of this evening there are five that will not be participating or hosting tournaments. There are clubs that are using alternative practice facilities and there are several which have their own facility.

To help us determine what the level of participation will be for this season a questionnaire with yes or no answers will be sent out to all clubs. Watch your email for this survey, it will go out before the weekend. Examples of questions were presented. Information from the survey will be compiled and presented at the December 14 meeting. Forms need to be returned by December 13. We would like to get a feeling of participation prior to signing any contract with either facility. Part of the contract would state that if we are unable to use the facility, there would be no charge. Again, MMWA would pay the facility fee. Whatever three clubs work/run the tournament will split the registration fee, gate admissions, and concession profits, minus the referee and pairing fees.

What is the possibility of postponing the season until later in the year? Probably not feasible. More discussion followed. Although there are some athletes that only wrestle, the majority of athletes play more than one sport. Postponing the season would conflict with spring and summer sports programs. These programs are mostly held outside, so will probably run as scheduled. This is why the MMWA season was set up as it is to run the months of January and February, ending in early March. The season would not interfere with the freestyle wrestling season or spring sports.

MMWA will continue to work towards the possibility of having a season but will not make any firm commitment. Both facilities are aware that a final decision will probably not be made until after the December meeting. The guidelines sent out previously will be followed for tournaments and age groups split into sessions as previously discussed. We are just trying to get some mat time for our wrestlers and we understand there are going to be clubs that are not going to be able to participate due to their school restrictions. More discussion followed. We understand that if the current restrictions are extended past the December 8 current shutdown we will probably have to cancel for the year. Most likely this decision can be made at the regularly scheduled December 14 membership meeting.

Greg brought up that he has been talking with USA Michigan about the possibility of sharing the cost of five mats. The mats would be stored by USA Michigan. If we do move forward with renting a facility for our season, the mats could be stored at the facility to be used each weekend. The mats would also be used for our state finals and would alleviate having to collect and transport them from so many schools. Our league along with USA Michigan would each put in \$15,000. Cost of the five mats is right around \$30,000 and we have three different quotes. These would be the new style lightweight mats and there would be a total of 30 sections (5 full mats). The mats would also be available to clubs needing additional mats for their tournaments at a nominal fee. They would need to be picked up and returned by the club. We are looking at a five year program and we would be paid back \$3000 a year. At that time the mats would belong to USA Michigan, but we would have the option to use, especially for our state finals, again for a fee. Need to get them ordered so would like to have it voted on this evening. Discussion among membership followed. Some members are able to use the mats which clubs have purchased even though they are used by the high school wrestling teams. Others are unable to use the mats as their school is claiming them as school property. This is going to vary from district to district.

Motion by Jeremy Clontz of Frankenmuth to enter a contract with USA Michigan to loan them \$15,000 to purchase 5 mats (30 sections) to be repaid to MMWA at the rate of \$3000 per year for 5 years. Motion seconded by Ray Metcalf of Howell.

Membership vote was taken. Motion passed 17 for, 2 against.

The board also discussed raising the entry fee for unaffiliated wrestlers to \$20. We have in the past charged the same fee as MMWA members. Unaffiliated wrestlers must have a USA card and are only admitted if there is room available, MMWA members comes first.

Lauretta Allen motioned that we charge any unaffiliated wrestlers \$20 for this year. Motion seconded by Jessica Gray of Grand Blanc. To be voted on at the December 14 membership meeting.

Harold Eastman brought up the masks being worn by wrestlers. The AD at Mt. Morris located a brand of mask that stays on securely during wrestling. Band that goes around back of head and work well. Masks are by Case Mate and called Safe Mate. Come in adult and kid sizes. MHSAA official start date for high school is not before January 4.

Some additional discussion went on covering points already made but needed clarification.

If there is anything someone would like to add to the December 14 meeting agenda, please contact secretary, Donna Taylor.

Motion to adjourn by Jamie Honiss of Matcats. Seconded by Lauretta Allen. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Taylor

MMWA Secretary