

**Constitution and By-Laws**  
**Of**  
**The Michigan Wrestling Association**  
(\*Revised 10/28/2017)

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of the association shall be the Michigan Wrestling Association, and will hereafter be referred to as the MWA.

**ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the association shall be:

- (A) To have as our primary concern the welfare, betterment, physical and mental well-being of the young athlete participating in wrestling.
- (B) The promotion of competitive wrestling generally and in the state of Michigan particularly.
- (C) To improve recognition for all styles of wrestling in the schools and other agencies of the state.
- (D) The promotion of correct teaching of wrestling techniques.
- (E) The dissemination of information pertaining to amateur wrestling in Michigan.
- (F) Cooperation with and recommendation to the high school representatives on the National Federation of High Schools, National Wrestling Coaches Association, and to the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- (G) To promote positive communication with the various official's associations in the state of Michigan.

**ARTICLE III – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The officers of the association shall be the PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, MEMBER AT LARGE, and six (6) REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

**ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT**

The business of the MWA shall be conducted by the Executive Board overseeing six (6) Regional boards. Voting rights shall be restricted to the elected members of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE V – CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, REPEAL**

Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative majority vote of the current association members provided:

- (A) The proposed amendment has been submitted to the members in writing, or be available on the website, at least 30 days prior to the vote, and

(B) The executive board has approved the proposed amendment, and

(C) The vote is taken at the annual fall meeting or absentee ballot, by mail or by e-mail.

## **ARTICLE VI – RATIFICATION**

Ratification of the Constitution and By-Laws shall require an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the total number of votes cast.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I – Eligible for Membership**

Membership in the association shall be granted, upon payment of dues, to all high school, junior high school, and college wrestling coaches, to wrestling officials, and to wrestling enthusiasts.

### **Section II – Kinds of Membership**

Membership in the association shall be designated as Current, Honorary and Lifetime.

### **Section III – Current Membership**

Current membership shall be extended to all high school, junior high school, and college wrestling coaches; registered wrestling officials; and wrestling enthusiasts.

### **Section IV – Honorary Membership**

Honorary membership in the association may be extended to persons deemed worthy of this distinction upon recommendation of the executive board and confirmed by an affirmative majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting:

- (A) An honorary member shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the MWA except that he shall pay no dues.
- (B) No person shall be elected to honorary membership unless he has rendered some special service to wrestling in the state of Michigan.
- (C) Past presidents of MWA shall be eligible for honorary membership upon retirement from active coaching.

### **Section V – Lifetime Membership**

A MWA member is eligible for Lifetime membership upon retirement from active coaching and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the MWA. A one-time dues fee as determined by the Executive Board shall be paid to obtain a Lifetime MWA membership.

## Section VI – Membership Year

The membership year shall begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April through the last day of March.

## **ARTICLE II – DUES**

### Section I – Current Membership

Membership dues shall be an amount to be determined by the executive board and shall be paid annually to the MWA Membership Chair. Only current members are eligible to vote in regional or general membership activities and elections, receive certificates recognizing coach or wrestler honors, such as, win/loss milestones or team and/or individual all-academic status. MWA membership dues shall also include membership in the Michigan High School Coaches Association, and provide general liability insurance as determined by the Executive Board.

### Section II – Enrollment Period

The enrollment period will be from end of the MHSAA state individual finals to the end of the MHSAA state individual finals of the next year.

## **ARTICLE III – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### Section I – Membership

Administrative control and executive authority of the association shall be vested in the executive board, which shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, Member at Large, and six (6) Regional Representatives, one (1) for each operational region.

### Section II – Meetings

The Executive Board and Regional Sub-Boards may meet once a month during the competition season to ensure smooth operation of the season. The executive and regional meeting schedule will be published on the MWA link, currently hosted on the Michigan Grappler website.

The executive board shall meet:

- (A) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May,
- (B) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in September,
- (C) prior to the fall membership meeting,
- (D) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January,
- (E) at the individual state tournament, and
- (F) at any such time and place as the President may decide.

### Section III – Duties

It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to:

- (A) Monitor the operation of MWA activities, and communicate with association members.
- (B) Develop matters of policy by working with the MHSAA administration, as well as, the wrestling committee.

- (C) Journal and communicate a summary of all discussions, communications or publications with the MHSAA and/or it's designees concerning matters that involve the MWA or the wrestling community as a whole. The journal summary shall be released to all members of the Executive Board within 48 hours of the conversation/meeting/or receiving a publication.
- (D) Approve or disapprove of proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (E) Recommend candidates for Honorary Membership in this association.
- (F) Act for the association in any emergency not covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.
- (G) Approve or disapprove recommended actions of all committees.
- (H) Select the Assistant Coach of the Year and Mr. Wrestler Award winners.

Section IV – Quorum

A quorum of the executive board shall consist of a minimum of three (3) Officers and three (3) Regional Representatives plus one (1) from either category totaling seven (7) of its members in accordance with the provisions hereinafter stated.

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES**

Section I – Election

The Executive Board of the association shall be elected by current members of the association. Elected persons shall hold no more than one elected position at any given point in time and must be a current member of the MWA prior to the election.

- (A) If an Executive Board member is unable to fulfill his term, the position shall be filled by board appointment until the next annual fall meeting. At that time, an election will be held to complete the rest of the individual's term.
- (B) A schedule of the elected board positions and terms shall be maintained by the Secretary.

(C) OFFICERS

- 1) Officers of the Executive Board shall serve a 2-year term which starts at the fall membership meeting and will end 2 years later at the annual fall membership meeting.
- 2) Three (3) officers will be elected to the Executive Board in the odd years and three (3) officers in the even years.
- 3) Nominations for elected officer positions of the MWA shall be submitted on the MWA website for two (2) weeks, starting three (3) weeks prior to the fall general membership meeting. Nominees must be current members of the MWA.
- 4) The MEMBERSHIP CHAIR shall close the nomination process and open the OFFICER election process one (1) week prior to the fall general membership meeting by notifying current MWA members via email and posting the information on the MWA website.

- 5) The election of the OFFICERS shall occur on the MWA website and last for one (1) week ending at the start of the fall general membership meeting. Election results shall be verified by members of the Executive Board not involved in the election and will be released at the end of the fall general membership meeting.
- 6) All OFFICER positions are vacated at the end of the fall general membership meeting and the Executive Board, including Regional Representatives, shall determine the officer positions from the elected OFFICERS only, which include: 1) PRESIDENT, 2) VICE PRESIDENT, 3) SECRETARY, 4) TREASURER, 5) MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, and 6) MEMBER AT LARGE.
- 7) In order to be selected as the PRESIDENT of the Executive Board must have been on the board at least one (1) year prior to qualify for the position.
- 8) The office of PRESIDENT has a two (2) consecutive term limitation. All other offices have no term limitations.
- 9) Regional Representatives shall not eligible for an Officer's positions, unless the Representative was elected for one of the open positions.

#### (D) REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- 1) Regional Representatives shall serve a 2-year simultaneous term on the Executive Board and Regional Sub-Board which starts at the annual spring regional membership meeting and will end 2 years later at the annual spring membership meeting.
- 2) The North, West and Central Regional Directors shall be elected in even years and the Metro, Tri-Cities and East shall be elected in odd years. The Regional Directors that are elected in 2018 will serve an initial three-year term, after which they shall be elected for two year terms. A schedule of the Regional Director positions and terms shall be maintained by the Executive Secretary.
- 3) The Regional Representative must be located, either by school or home, within the region.
- 4) Nominations for elected representative positions shall be submitted on the MWA website for two (2) weeks, starting three (3) weeks prior to the spring membership meeting. Nominees must designate the region they will represent and be current members of the MWA.
- 5) The MEMBERSHIP CHAIR shall close the nomination process and open the Regional Representative's election process one (1) week prior to the spring regional membership meeting by notifying current MWA members via email and posting the information on the MWA website.
- 6) The election of the Regional Representative shall occur on the MWA website and last for one (1) week ending at the start of the spring regional membership meeting. Voting members must designate their represented region prior to casting their vote.
- 7) Election results shall be verified by members of the Executive Board not involved in the election and will be released at the end of the spring regional membership meeting. The election schedule shall occur during odd years and voting process will be determined by each region.

## Section II – Individual Responsibilities

### (A) The President shall:

- 1) Preside at all regular and special meetings except as provided for under duties of the Vice-President.
- 2) Be an advisor to all committees.
- 3) Perform other specific duties as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws:
  - i. Arrange time, place and agenda for all meetings at least 2 weeks in advance.
  - ii. Arrange for the conduct of elections.
- 4) The President shall carry out policies and decisions of the Executive Board and perform other duties described or implied in this Constitution and By-Laws.
- 5) Cast the tie-breaking vote for the Executive Board

### (B) The Vice President shall:

- 1) Coordinate the association's Awards and Recognition processes as established through the Standing Committees, and
- 2) Preside over any meetings in the event of the absence of the President.

### (C) The Secretary shall:

- 1) Keep an accurate record of the minutes of all Executive Board and general membership meetings.
- 2) Complete the pertinent correspondence of the association as directed by the President and/or the Executive Board.
- 3) Provide minutes to the Executive Board in a timely manner after each executive board/general membership meeting.
- 4) Arrange for the posting of Executive Board and Regional Sub-Board minutes on the website.

### (D) The Treasurer shall:

- 1) Receive and disburse all association funds and keeps accurate records of such transactions.
- 2) Oversee the accuracy of the membership account.
- 3) Make a written report to the members at the annual fall general membership meeting, showing all business transactions of the association for the previous year.

### (E) The Membership Chair shall:

- 1) Administer all membership drives and keep an accurate record of all current and past memberships, including tracking 20-year members and arranging for their recognition/awards.
- 2) Provide an accurate, current membership roster to the Coach of the Year Committee Chair as of February 1<sup>st</sup> for election purposes.
- 3) Coordinate MHSCA Membership and arrange for payment to the MHSCA Treasurer.
- 4) Oversee the accuracy of the Treasury.

### (F) The Member At Large shall work with the Clinic Chair, as well as, fulfilling such duties as determined by the Executive Board.

(G) The Regional Director shall:

- 1) Represent the coaches of their individual regions as a voting member of the Executive Board.
- 2) Direct the activities of the Regional Sub-Boards

## **ARTICLE V – REGIONAL SUB-BOARDS**

The state of Michigan shall be geographically divided into six (6) regions as established by the Executive Board. In the event that it is determined that a new region should be established, the Executive Board is granted the power to appoint the initial board. Each region shall have a Regional Sub-Board which shall be made up of an elected Regional Representative and an appointed Regional Secretary of whom are elected by their respective regions.

There shall be two regional meetings, annually, one during the spring (prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May) and the other during the fall (prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in September)

(A) The Regional Representative shall:

- 1) Appoint the Regional Secretary.
- 2) Direct the activities of the region by overseeing the proper operation of MWA regional meetings.
- 3) Coordinate communications between the Executive Board and the members of the region.
- 4) Assist the Membership Chair with membership drives within the represented region.
- 5) Represent the region through providing nominations for the MWA Special Awards (Middle School Coach of the Year, Media Person of the Year, Athletic Director of the Year, and Official of the Year).

(B) The Regional Secretary shall:

- 1) Keep an accurate record of the minutes of all Regional Sub-Board meetings.
- 2) Complete the pertinent correspondence of the association as directed by the Regional Representative and/or the Sub-Board.
- 3) Provide minutes to the Executive Board Secretary in a timely manner after each regional sub-board meeting for the purpose of posting on the website.

## **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

### **Section I – Standing Committees**

Standing Committees shall consist of current MWA members with a Committee Chair appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board. Within 2 months after a new Presidential term begins, Committee chairs will officially be either re-appointed or dismissed.

Appointed Committee Chairs shall include: 1) COACH OF THE YEAR, 2) FALL CLINIC, 3) CERTIFICATES/HISTORIAN, 4) HALL OF FAME, 5) MHSCA, 6) NWCA, 7) TECHNOLOGY (WEBSITE) & SOCIAL MEDIA, 8) THE FORMAT (newsletter) and 9) ACADEMIC ALL-STATE.

## Section II – Responsibilities

(A) The Coach of the Year Chair shall:

- 1) Conduct the Coach of the Year process.
- 2) Arrange for the purchase and distribution of Coach of the Year plaques and awards
- 3) Arrange for the purchase and distribution of plaques and awards for the Mr. Wrestler program.

(B) The Fall Clinic shall organize all aspects of the Fall Clinic which shall include the Hall of Fame banquet and Awards recognition.

(C) The Certificates/Historian shall:

- 1) Coordinate the purchase and distribution of all certificates (All-State, wrestler win-loss, coach win-loss) associated with the MWA.
- 2) Maintain a central data base of MWA history for all the activities associated with this association and coordinate the information with the MWA website.

(D) The Hall of Fame Chair shall:

- 1) Select the Hall of Fame selection committee
  - (a) The Hall of Fame committee shall:
    1. Be composed of past MWA Hall of Fame inductees,
    2. Review credentials of all nominees, and make recommendations for induction,
    3. Establish a Hall of Fame induction class to be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.
- 2) Maintain and update the Hall of Fame nomination list,
- 3) Arrange for the inductee awards to be presented at the Hall of Fame Banquet,
- 4) Communicate with the inductees concerning notification, banquet details and ticket purchase,
- 5) Arrange for the Hall of Fame booklet (program) by coordinating information for the other awards presented at banquet to be included in booklet.
- 6) Submit to the Executive Board the Hall of Fame inductees for board approval at the Spring meeting.
- 7) Create a press release for Hall of Fame inductees.

(E) MHSCA:

- 1) Attend all meetings of the Michigan High School Coaches Association, and represent the MWA through active involvement and act as a liaison between the two associations.
- 2) Carry out the nomination process for the MHSCA, NHSACA and NHFS Coach of the Year.
- 3) The MWA shall designate a single wrestling Coach of the Year to be honored at the Michigan High School Coaches Association at their annual banquet. According to MWA policy, an individual may be so honored only once in his career.

(F) NWCA:

- 1) Attend the required meetings of the National Wrestling Coaches Association, and represent the MWA through active involvement and act as a liaison between the two associations.
- 2) Carry out the nomination process for the NWCA Head Coach and Assistant Coach of the Year.



- (G) The Technology & Social Media chair shall maintain the MWA website and coordinate communication between the board and the membership.
- (H) The Format editor shall write and publish an official newsletter of the association called “TheFormat.
- (I) The Academic All-State Chair shall coordinate the process of Academic All-State for teams and individuals, which includes the distribution of certificates.

### Section III – President’s Committees

The President may appoint such committees as he deems necessary to properly carry out the business and programs of the association. President’s Committees are appointed by the President and shall terminate with his term of office.

## **ARTICLE VI – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

### Section I – Fall Meeting

The annual fall meeting of the association shall occur on the first or second weekend in November as selected by the executive board. The meeting shall include a clinic on wrestling techniques.

### Section II – Special Meetings

The President may call special meetings as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

### Section III – Time, Site, Notification

The President shall set the exact site and time of all meetings. He shall inform the membership at least two weeks in advance of all meetings.

### Section IV – Quorum

A quorum of the general membership shall consist of members present, provided that membership as a whole was provided proper notification.

## **ARTICLE VII – AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

### Section I – Regional Coach of the Year

- (A) MWA shall annually recognize two (and only two) member coaches from each individual MHSAA Regional tournament.
- (B) A Regional Coach of the Year shall be voted on by secret written ballot by MWA members at each Regional tournament. (If a tie occurs, then a flip of the coin shall determine the recipient.)
- (C) An appropriate plaque shall be awarded each Regional Coach of the Year.
- (D) Head varsity coaches are eligible for this award provided their dues are paid by the end of the District tournament.

## Section II – Coach of the Year

- (A) The MWA shall annually recognize a member for the Coach of the Year Award for each MHSAA division.
- (B) Only Regional Coach of the Year members shall qualify for Coach of the Year.
- (C) Current MWA members shall select each division Coach of the Year by e-mail ballot by end of the Individual State Final Tournament. The Coach of the Year Chairman or designee shall complete the balloting process. A typewritten statement by each candidate will be available on the website with each ballot.
- (D) An appropriate plaque shall be awarded each Coach of the Year.

## Section III – Regional Assistant Coach of the Year

- (A) The MWA shall annually recognize one (and only one) member coach from each Individual Region in each division as Assistant Coach of the Year for their respective Region. (If a tie occurs, then a flip of the coin shall determine the recipient.)
- (B) A Regional Assistant Coach of the Year shall be voted on by secret written ballot by MWA members at each Regional Tournament.
- (C) An appropriate plaque shall be awarded each Regional Assistant Coach of the Year.
- (D) Assistant Varsity Coaches are eligible for this award provided their dues are paid by the end of the District tournament.

## Section IV – Assistant Coach of the Year

- (A) The MWA shall annually recognize a member for the Assistant Coach of the Year Award for each division.
- (B) Only Regional Assistant Coach of the Year members shall qualify for Assistant Coach of the Year.
- (C) The MWA Executive Board shall select the Assistant Coach of the Year.
- (D) An appropriate plaque shall be awarded each Assistant Coach of the Year.

## Section V – Hall of Fame

The association shall induct at its annual Hall of Fame banquet, held in conjunction with the annual fall clinic, individuals to the Hall of Fame. Active coaches with 25+ years, retired coaches, elite athletes, and other wrestling contributors shall be considered for Hall of Fame induction.

## Section VI – Service Award

Each MWA member who has a minimum of twenty (20) years as an active member will receive a MWA Jacket or its equivalent to express the association's appreciation for the dedication shown to the MWA.

Section VII – Special Awards

The association will recognize at the Hall of Fame banquet the following special awards: 1) Middle School Coach of the Year, 2) Media Person of the Year, 3) Athletic Director of the Year, and 4) Official of the Year. These awards will be under the jurisdiction of the Regional Representatives, and will be approved by the Executive Board.

Section VIII – Academic All-State

Teams and individuals shall be recognized for their academic status and shall be provided certificates from the MWA.

Section IX – Mr. Wrestler Award

The association shall recognize the overall best wrestler for the state of Michigan as the “Mr. Wrestler”, as well as, one wrestler from each wrestling division as “Mr. Wrestler Finalist.”

**ARTICLE VIII – RULES OF ORDER**

Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of the association and the Executive Board. The presiding officer may appoint a parliamentarian.

**ARTICLE X – PROXY**

A proxy shall be a member of the association. The Secretary of the association shall be notified in writing at least one week before the date of any meeting by any member who wishes to vote by proxy. This notice shall also name the current member who will act as proxy.

**ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION OF ASSOCIATION**

If the MWA officially dissolves, its assets will be equally distributed to the existing collegiate wrestling programs in the State of Michigan.