



# WWCA Regular Meeting

## March Agenda

Sunday, March 6, 2022  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
9:00 AM



### 1. Call to order/Welcome (Bean); Attendance (Gerber)

[WWCA Constitution](#) - 11/2020

**In Attendance:** Wendall Bean (President; Convention Co-Chair), Jason Lulloff (President-elect), Pete Moe (Past President), Ryan Gerber (Secretary; Social Media), Chris Hansen (1), Pat Ratkovich (2), Jake Rebhan (3), Curtis Fiedler (5), John Schimming (6), Craig Austin (7), Randy Ferrell (Convention Co-Chair), Tim Potratz (Awards), Tom McGarvie (HOF; *Alumni-NV*), Mike Arendt (Officials), Doug Forsythe (*Web Director-NV*), Matt Verbeten (WWF)

**Not in Attendance:** Bob Empey (Treasurer), Justin Lancaster (4), Kevin Koch (8), Jason Stromberg (Publicity)

### 2. Reports

#### a. President's report/updates (Bean)

- i. Current membership at 566
  1. Updated district contact information will sent this week
  2. Reach out to District 8 coaches/programs
- ii. Quarterly meeting with Mel - Going well and very informative!
- iii. Executive Board social/meeting at the Individual State Tournament - went well, opportunity to speak directly with Mel
- iv. Concern over recent email to Division 2 & 3 coaches
  1. Received via email Thursday by Presidents and select Executive Board Members (not directly from the authors of the 'letter')
  2. Presidents will be addressing this email.
  3. **Rebhan** reached out to coaches from his district - many coaches that were behind the letter were from his District (District 2)
  4. **Moe** suggested to **Rebhan** that we should emphasize that the WWCA isn't a roadblock but a partner. **Rebhan** agreed. **Moe** emphasized that making changes to the sport in Wisconsin is a process. Mentioned that past emphasis was on girls wrestling and then we hit the pandemic (which took considerable time and focus). It's a process to get changes made but we're looking at things and working for what's best for wrestling in Wisconsin.
  5. Discussion was had regarding recognizing people across the state having concerns over how things are currently being done in Wisconsin,

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



WISCONSIN WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION



@WI\_WR\_COACHES



WI\_WR\_COACHES

specifically, in how the postseason works, warm-up time at the state tournament

6. **Verbeten** - we need to make sure that we take a look at equal divisions. There is a push for this from our membership currently. D1 coaches didn't seem to care for the super regional/sectional that was imposed by the WIAA last year, why would they think D2/3 coaches would like that. **Verbeten** also acknowledged that getting things done with the WIAA is a process and may take time. **Verbeten** added: We also need equal divisions for us to get things improved for everyone at the same time for postseasons. There's too much difference between divisions and it's hard for one to vote or understand the difference between D1 and D2&3 when it doesn't pertain to the other.
7. **Moe** - emphasis on transparency needs to come from multiple sources - WWCA, WIAA, etc
8. **Gerber** - desire to work on education pieces coming from WWCA to better educate the state of Wisconsin on initiatives and adjustments occurring in wrestling in the state (**REMINDER: all WWCA notes are posted on [www.wwca.org](http://www.wwca.org) under 'Meeting Minutes' for viewing by all, not just members. All policies, initiatives, conversations are recorded in those notes**)
9. **Hansen** mentioned that D1 is dealing with issues regarding seeding, just like D2/D3. Added that D1 coaches aren't holding up equal divisions, D1 coaches want what's best for wrestling in the sport.
10. **Bean** - nothing has 'officially' been received by the authors of the 'letter'. Emails have been forwarded to the Presidents. He noted that he plans to address the 'letter' formally with the Presidents. Will plan to meet in a small group to discuss the issues brought up in the 'letter'.
11. From the zoom chat - **McGarvie** reminded the group that Division allocation of teams is based on proportionality determined by the WIAA.
12. **Hansen** brought up the history of proportionality that was put in place by the WIAA for divisions (early 1980s). It's based on school populations, not based on wrestling rosters. He brought this up to inform the group on the 'why' we have unequal divisions. Emphasized that this didn't happen because D1 coaches wanted this a certain way - not the case - this was a WIAA decision.
13. **Ferrell** mentioned that **Mel** brought up great points in the social on Saturday during State. **Mel** is open to adjustments to the postseason such as 8 mats. Emphasized patience when it comes to state seeding - it was our first year doing this, other states have done this, let's not throw it completely out before we analyze and consider tweaks first.

**b. WWCA Sectional Survey (Bean/WWCA Officers)**

- i. Background information
- ii. **Review and analyze results**
- iii. Open discussion
  1. **Fiedler** asked about making changes based on the results of the survey and how that will be affected by the impending decision on weight

classes. Are we making a change for next year and then needing to change in a year again?

2. **Fiedler** asked if there was a correlation between division and opinion on weight class numbers (based on a summary of data presented by **Gerber**). **Gerber** responded that there was a correlation between larger schools advocating for staying at 14 and smaller schools advocating cutting weight classes. **Gerber** acknowledged there was also a correlation between 'traditionally' successful schools versus everyone else. The schools that consistently compete for championships pushed for staying at 14. **Fiedler** responded that teams need to consider the weight class discussion based on what's best for the sport, not necessarily what's best for an individual's team. He cited his own team as benefitting from 14 weight classes but acknowledged that dropping below 14 may be what's best for the sport in Wisconsin.

iv. Sharing results with membership

v. Next step?

1. **Fiedler** asked that the group take double elimination at Sectionals to the Coach Advisory Committee - eliminating 'Win by Rule'.
  - a. **Arendt** brought up that if you add double elimination to Sectionals, you'd be adding matches at D2/D3 yes, but you'd guarantee 14 additional matches at D1. You'd be adding a lot of additional matches/time. Sectionals is about qualifying the best kids to the state tournament. Currently in D1, wrestlers that lose round 1, they're out. Adding this proposal, that would add an entire consolidation bracket.
  - b. **Lulloff** asked if what is being asked for is actually what people want? This proposal would add 56 matches. Does this proposal create a situation where you defeat a wrestler early in the tournament, and lose later in a double elimination wrestleback, does that possibly keep a kid from state.
  - c. **Schimming** asked if this is something we should get feedback from caucuses?

**Have double elimination at the Sectional Tournament, all divisions, with true wrestlebacks to 2nd and 'By Rule Win' only apply to 2nd place matches.**

**Motion** by Curtis Fiedler.

**Seconded** by xx.

**Motion Passed/Failed** - No second - motion not taken to vote

2. **Lulloff** brought up putting on the WIAA radar what happens if a wrestler is disqualified from competing at state - do we redraw/reseed, direct

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



WISCONSIN WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION



@WI\_WR\_COACHES



WI\_WR\_COACHES

replace. This year, an athlete was removed from the tournament on the day of - no replacement. What happens if it's beyond 24 hours before the tournament?

3. **Lulloff** brought up adjusting Team State seeding language. Brought up removing coaches input based on what happened this year in seeding.
4. **Verbeten/Fiedler**: Bringing the Girls State Tournament to the Kohl Center as well as putting 8 mats on the Kohl Center floor. Discussion by Arendt and Lulloff that bringing 8 mats to the Kohl Center would require restructuring of the State Tournament; time being one issue.

<b>Motion: Bring 8 mats to the Kohl Center.</b>			
<b>Motion</b> by <b>Curtis Fielder</b> .			
<b>Seconded</b> by <b>Matt Verbeten</b> .			
<b>Motion</b> <b>Passed/Failed</b> - 11 yes; 0 no; 1 Abstention			
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>			
<b>Yes (Y), No (N), Abstain (A)</b>			
<b>Arendt</b>	y	<b>Lulloff</b>	y
<b>Austin</b>	y	<b>Potratz</b>	y
<b>Bean</b>	y	<b>Ratkovich</b>	y
<b>Fiedler</b>	y	<b>Rebhan</b>	y
<b>Gerber</b>	y	<b>Schimming</b>	y
<b>Hansen</b>	a	<b>Verbeten</b>	y

***\*Many agreed that they would vote 'yes' but acknowledge that a restructuring of the tournament sessions is necessary to make it work.***

**c. Individual State Tournament Seeding (Bean/Lulloff)**

- i. **WIAA data** - this data came from **Mel Dow** (WIAA)
- ii. **Ryan Gerber's data**
- iii. Addressing concerns
  1. **Hansen** brought up concerns regarding final data - where you're seeded informs finishes - looking at data after the fact can have a flaw
  2. **Lulloff** countered this point. In the past, he agreed 100% w/ Hansen's point but that opinion has changed over time. He cited running the Bi-State Tournament as evidence. Discussed that regarding data and seeds, there needs to be some understanding that things won't be 100% perfect (~7% error).
  3. **Bean** asked how we address concerns people have, for example, people from the same qualifier in the same quadrant.

- a. **Hansen** brought up that this was discussed in committees and we agreed at the time that it may happen. It's most important to seed 1-16; 1-12.
- b. **Gerber** brought up issues related to why certain teams are placed in their qualifier - can we look at this and does this change how seeding occurs at the state tournament? Geography and Division play a role but there are some definite quirks that have huge impacts on the results in qualifiers. Used the Mineral Point and Milton Regionals as examples.
- c. **Lulloff** brought up criteria - no matter what you look at and what you make for criteria, there will never be a perfect scenario, there will always be a small level of error. What is it that we want? Brought up looking at seeding and considering tweaks. Has already reached out to Iowa - gathered some information regarding how they seed their tournament (uses trackwrestling). Said he believes that the results this year were reasonable in his estimation if you realize that there will be a 7% error rate under every circumstance.
- d. **Hanson** believes going back to the Sectional tournament and adjusting criteria based on beaten opponents at Sectionals would fix things.
- e. **Forsythe** added that he believes that most people would understand the 7% error rate if double elimination would be in place.
- f. **Fiedler** brought up a couple unknowns that will affect things: 8 mats, girls wrestling, # of weight classes.
- g. **Lulloff** - common opponent criteria - trackwrestling has limited ways to handle this criteria - "win/loss", "win/loss and by how". When/if the common opponent criteria is used, it is highly recommended to use "how a win/loss happened" rather than just "win/loss". Based on recommendation from Shane Benetiz, it's important to keep the win/loss with the how rather than simply just win/loss.  
Mentioned that in conversations with Shane Benetiz, the data entry this year was messy but in the coming years, this will be cleaned up.
- h. **Moe** brought up asking the WIAA to create an ad-hoc committee to look at the seeding criteria and make tweaks/adjustments based on the committee findings and input from coaches.
- i. **Bean** will bring up **Moe's** suggestion to **Mel**. Also added that he has received many notices from coaches regarding seeding saying that their position may be different if double elimination was a reality. Mentioned that he learned a lot about the realities of the state tournament from **Mel** at the Saturday social. Added that he (**Bean**) is in support of double elimination. Brought up that the

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



WISCONSIN WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION



@WI\_WR\_COACHES



WI\_WR\_COACHES

state tournament sessions and times are strongly tied to time restraints by the Kohl Center and what that staff need in regards to turning the facility over from session to session.

- j. **Fiedler** brought up possibly seeding only Sectional Champs. There was discussion on this and basically, the group felt that seeding all members of the bracket was best. Fiedler then asked about making Sectionals double elimination. **Schimming** agreed regarding double elimination at Sectionals.

**iv. Moving forward**

**d. Committees Updates** (*Informational only, limited/no discussion*)

- i. Spring nomination, voting and election process (**Forsythe/Bean**)
  - 1. Election year for District 5 and 6
    - a. District 5 - **Curtis Fiedler**
    - b. District 6 - **John Schimming**
- ii. Academic All-State (**Schimming**)
  - 1. Anyone that would like to participate in this committee, please let **John Schimming** know!
  - 2. One major issue is the weighted GPAs that some schools use.
- iii. Hall of Fame (**McGarvie**) - no report, needed to leave the meeting
- iv. Officials' request for NFHS/WIAA rules/protocols changes (**Arendt**)
  - 1. Received rules proposals for NFHS from WI and other states
  - 2. WI
    - a. Transition from a 45-30 min wait time between matches - data supports 30 min wait period
    - b. One supporting point for out of bounds
    - c. Adding feet/foot to supporting points definition on the mat (would expand the wrestling area and improve clarity)
  - 3. NV
    - a. Bring video review in to the state tournament - not likely to pass - requires a lot more man power to do it, operate it, training
  - 4. 8 different states that submitted rule changes to rule about shoes coming off - make it stalling and out of technical violation
  - 5. 1 state wants to go back to penalize coaches for kids not reporting to table properly - not likely to pass
  - 6. Allow some Facial Hair
  - 7. **Fiedler** cited the NFHS survey question regarding the 4 point Nearfall. **Arendt** responded that no state submitted a rule change on this.
  - 8. WI currently doesn't penalize for lower straps while on the mat - this is an NFHS rule and needs to begin penalizing in order to stay in compliance.
  - 9. **Arendt** asked the group if WI would be interested in being a "guinea pig" in regards to the 30 minute wait time ***IF*** the NFHS doesn't pass the rule change (to collect data).
  - 10. **Arendt** brought up the possibility of super-regionals
    - a. **Low participation numbers** (5 D3 regionals had less than 50 kids)
    - b. Low numbers of officials

- c. Lack of schools willing to host
- 11. **Arendt** finished by talking about the WIAA looking at a few things related to the postseason in the future: super-regional in d2/d3 and reorganization of postseason assignments for d1
- 12. **Arendt** brought up that in D3 there was a regional that had 39 wrestlers that competed in it. **Gerber** clarified, after looking at the data, that there were in fact 5 D3 regionals that had less than 50 wrestlers that competed. (Chequamegon - 38, Coleman - 45, Kenosha Christian Life - 45, Lena - 43, Shiocton - 40)
- v. Girls State Tournament recap (**Lulloff**)
  - 1. Lots of positive feedback on the event
- vi. NWCA (**Moe**) - no report, needed to leave the meeting
- e. Coaches Advisory Meeting (**Presidents**)
  - i. Wednesday, March 16, Stevens Point
  - ii. [WIAA Flow Chart](#)
  - iii. [Current Members of the Wrestling Coaches Advisory](#)  
(WIAA selects the board members and creates the agenda items to be discussed)
  - iv. Recommendations to be taken forward by the WWCA
- f. April District Caucuses (**Bean**)
  - i. District Reps - meeting date to organize agenda?
    - 1. **Gerber** - communicate when your meetings are so I can put things up on Social Media
    - 2. **Verbeten** - include discussion on equal division since this is an important meeting at the time.
    - 3. **Hansen** - Educate caucuses on what equal divisions means.
  - ii. Agenda recommendations
    - 1. 14/50 response and education
    - 2. Seeding response
    - 3. Better job of submitting results into Trackwrestling
    - 4. Survey review
    - 5. 2023-2024 NFHS Weight Class Proposals
      - a. [Gerber's Regional Participation Data](#)
    - 6. Recommendations not limited to these items:
      - a. Girls relocate to Kohls Center
      - b. Increase the number of mats to 8 at the Kohl Center
      - c. Double elimination
      - d. Warm-up time for D2/D3
      - e. Revisit seeding criteria - ad hoc committee
      - f. Reduce wait time between matches
      - g. Review survey results for additional items
- g. Next Meeting
  - i. 9:00 AM - May 22, 2022 - Virtual (In-person?)
  - ii. Agenda Items to be included (but not limited to)

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



WISCONSIN WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION



@WI\_WR\_COACHES



WI\_WR\_COACHES

1. Executive Director Selection Process
2. Committee Reports
3. Nicholas Suite Discussion
4. District Caucus Reports
5. Review of Challenge Series

### **3. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Hansen to adjourn. **Seconded** by Verbeten.

**Motion Passed** - unanimous

### **Next Meeting**

Sunday, May 22, 2022 - 9:00 AM  
Business Meeting; Zoom Virtual Meeting

Notes Approved: 15 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain, 1 vote indicating not being present