



AYWO
2022-23 SPRING BOARD MEETING
May 16, 2022



Roll Call

1. Ken Clark / Director
2. Jason Brons / Asst. Director
3. Nick Meyer
4. Ben Wanagat / Tournament Operations Director
5. Ron Unger / State Youth Director
6. Shad Rissler / National Teams Coordinator
7. Ray Galyean / Region 1 Director
8. Seth Garvin / Region 2 Director

Invocation / Explanation of ZOOM Particulars / Suspension of Rules of Order / Reports

- Director's Report (*Ken Clark*)

Post-Season Review

The board reviewed the past season—assessing the productivity of changes that were instituted—and discussing improvements that could be made moving forward.

Two of the major issues impacting brand and product were (1) the need for more referees (especially in Regions 3 &4), and (2) the necessity of better website and digital communications.

Old Business / Past Proposals

Proposal #1: Designate a time frame from the end of current season (Feb) through May 31 for submission of tournament host applications.

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #2: Review and finalize tournament host selection by June 30th

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #3: Publish current AYWO Rules & Procedures Handbook on Website and disseminate information to AYWO clubs by July 31. (Tasked to Jason Brons)

Second: Jason Brons

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #4: Publish current AYWO Constitution & Bylaws on Website and disseminate information to AYWO clubs by July 31. (Tasked to Jason Brons)

Second: Jason Brons

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #5: Publish AYWO Season Schedule on Website and disseminate information to AYWO clubs by August 31.

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #6: Publish AYWO Club List on Website and disseminate information to AYWO clubs by September 30. (Tasked to Clem Tanaka)

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

New Business / Proposals

Proposal #1: Eliminate ALL satellite weigh-ins and provide for onsite weigh-ins only on Friday night and Saturday. [**Brian Barrett / River Rats**]

Second: Ken Clark

Discussion: Brian Barrett presented his proposal in person.

Vote: **The vote DID NOT pass.** There were six nays and one abstaining vote.

Proposal #2: Eliminate early satellite weigh-ins for TOT and BANTAM Divisions, requiring both to utilize sanctioned satellite locations with all other divisions on Friday night or onsite weigh-ins on Saturday.

Second: Shad Rissler

Discussion: This is an attempt to increase weigh-in integrity and uniformity throughout the organization.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #3: Approve Ray Galyean as Region 1 Director replacing Matt Sweatman for the remainder of this 2021-22 AAU-AYWO Board Session.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: Matt has faithfully served the board and is deserving of our thanks and appreciation.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #4: Approve Clem Tanaka as Communications Director replacing John Massey for the remainder of this 2021-22 AAU-AYWO Board Session.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: The board should consider compensating Erica Unger for tremendous work rendered.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #5: Remunerate Erica Unger in the amount of \$500 for the work she did in transitioning our domain, website, and content for www.aywo.org, and preparing the hand-off of the site and its particulars to Clem Tanaka.

Second: Ray Gaylean

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #6: Approve Nick Myer to shadow our AYWO Director, Ken Clark, for the remainder of this 2021-22 AAU-AYWO Board Session—as a non-voting member.

Second: Jason Brons

Discussion: Nick has expressed an interest in serving on the board in any capacity needed.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #7: Conduct upcoming AYWO Board Elections electronically

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: We would need to create a form in which we could ensure that tallied votes are from valid AYWO Clubs (1 Club / 1 Vote)

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #8: Research Relocating the AYWO State Championship to the Montgomery area so as to be as centrally-accessible as possible.

Second: Ben Wanagat

Discussion: We would need to move our State Championship a week earlier should we decide to use the Montgomery Multi-Plex.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #9: Have AYWO host the 2022-23 AYWO State Individual Championship and pay clubs to help staff and work the event.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: We would need to form a committee to execute this plan. Perhaps even paying a club or individual to head a State Championship committee and coordinate all the details.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #10: State Dual Championships will transition to actual **CLUB DUALS** ...

1. K-3rd Grade Team
2. 4th- 6th Grade Team
3. 7 weight classes and 1 alternate
4. Conducted the day after the Individual State Championships.

Second: Jason Brons

Discussion: There was a desire to separate Middle School wrestlers to provide a more balanced opportunity for younger, less developed wrestlers.

Vote: Six “Yay” votes and 1 abstaining vote

Proposal #11: Host an AYWO Middle School State Championship Tournament the day after the AYWO Individual State Championship concurrent with the AYWO Dual State Championship.

Second: Shad Rissler

Vote: Passed with 6 “Yays” and 1 abstaining vote

Proposal #12: Conduct a Girls Freestyle Division during the 2022-23 AYWO Season Events coinciding with Novice competition for the intent purpose of growing girls wrestling and developing Freestyle at the grass root level.

Second: Shad Rissler

Discussion: This would (1) initiate a focus on developing girls wrestling across the AYWO landscape; (2) introduce Freestyle competition on a “grass roots” level in an attempt to strengthen overall off-season Olympic wrestling; (3) provide AYWO Officials with an opportunity to train and develop in the style; and (4) introduce parents/spectators to the different style. Girls would still compete in Folkstyle, but rest periods would be waived if competing in both styles.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #13: Host a Girls Freestyle Championship Tournament the day after the AYWO Individual State Championship concurrent with the AYWO Dual State Championship.

Second: Shad Rissler

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #14: Host (AYWO) a Girls Freestyle Clinic in the Birmingham area in November for the purpose of introducing girls to Freestyle wrestling and providing opportunities that are unique to girls’ competition.

Second: Shad Rissler

Discussion: At this point, Girls wrestling in Alabama is not restricted by AHSAA rules, allow us to encourage High School Coaches to encourage MS & HS Girls to compete throughout our season getting valuable competition.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #15: Move Schoolboy Division to align with TOT Division in 2022-23 Season in order to balance registration numbers throughout.

Second: Ben Wanagat

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #16: Establish participation in Regional Championships as QUALIFIERS for participation in AYWO State Championship in 2022-23 Season.

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #17: Require that Wrestlers compete at the same weight for both AYWO Region Championships and AYWO State Individual Championships.

Second: Ben Wanagat

Discussion: Theoretically, this should help in the seeding for the State Championship and allow Track Wrestling algorithms to do most of the selection process.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #18: Allow for medical exemptions for inability to compete in Regions—requiring (1) a doctor’s note stating the reason, and (2) mandating that the weight class entered at the State Championship be the same as the weight in which the wrestler last competed at in his last AYWO Sanctioned Tournament.

Second: Jason Brons

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #19: Restrict AYWO territory again to State Lines and limit Region and State Championships to Alabama residents.

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #20: Limit Gladiator Tournaments to 3 per season in the AYWO Season Schedule (North, Central, South) and prioritize them over competing tournaments.

Second: Ben Wanagat

Vote: Tabled for further discussion

Proposal #21: Implement an After-Action Review that can be sent to parents as a tournament survey directly after each AYWO Tournament. (Task to Ben Wanagat and Nick Meyer)

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #22: Change payment of AYWO referees to \$30 per hour with time starting at advertised division start time for regular season tournaments and AYWO State Dual & Girls Championship.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: Increased travel costs for our referees and competing with AHSAA for officials mandates that we increase our payment to referees in the upcoming season.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #23: Change payment of AYWO referees to \$50 per hour for the AYWO Individual State Championship with time starting at advertised division start time.

Second: Ron Unger

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #24: Require tournament hosts to provide lodging for officials having to travel more than 100 miles to referee a tournament.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: Recruitment of referees in Regions 3 & 4 needs to increase to meet tournament demand. Officials that drive long distances incur expenses which are not compensated by level of remuneration.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #25: Allocate \$1500 from AYWO resources to be awarded to Head Referee at the conclusion of the regular AYWO season.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: Rather than request that tournament hosts incur the added cost of a Head Official, AYWO should compensate the Head Official doing the yeoman's work for the organization.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #26: Allocate funds from AYWO--equal to one tournament of pay (\$300)--for referees who attend more than 75% of regular AYWO Season Tournaments and mandatory participation in both AYWO Regionals and State Championships.

Second: Ron Unger

Discussion: Referee retention and continuity are problematic throughout the season. This should incentivize both.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Proposal #27: Conduct exploration concerning a “AYWO FEEDER WEEK” July 27-30, 2022 in two or more locations in the Mobile Bay area for the purpose of helping the 20 or more Alabama high school wrestling programs coordinate and develop youth feeder programs for their respective communities.

Second: Shad Rissler

Discussion: The concept would be to pay for a team of clinicians to spend four days/nights in July 2022 at strategic locations in the Mobile Bay Area wherein we could (1) conduct low-cost or free clinics for beginner wrestlers, and (2) provide high school coaches and/or community volunteers with the information, training, and support they need to start up youth clubs in the 2022-23 season. My thoughts would be for AYWO to pay for fuel, lodging, and per diem meal cost (e.g., \$30 per day) for 7-8 people willing to take the time to conduct the clinics over a 3-day period with a concluding tournament (approximately \$5k range).

Vote: Passed Unanimously

ADJORNMENT @ 10:35 p.m.