

Canadian Armwrestling Federation
DRAFT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday, June 26, 2026 7:00 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Moncton Downtown
1005 Main Street, Moncton, NB E1C 1G9

AGENDA

Tracey Arnold called the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

1. Roll Call
 - a. Tracey Arnold, Vice-President
 - b. Vivian Santos, Secretary-Treasurer
 - c. Dave Knox, Referee in Chief, ON
 - d. Earl Wilson, ON
 - e. Marc-Andre Campeau, QB
 - f. Ryan Heron, MB
 - g. Jamie Leblanc, NB
 - h. Rick Pinkney, Assistant Referee in Chief, NS
 - i. Solomon Latimer, SK
 - j. Marc Macphail, NS
 - k. Joedy Harper, PEI
 - l. Jason Tibook, AB

Observer: Douglas Beherns, ON

BC and Yukon send regrets.

Anthony Dall'Antonio, Dir of Communications, regrets

Motion to approve Vivian Santos to attend online through google meets.

Moved by Tracey Arnold, seconded by Earl Wilso - Carried.

2. Approval of Draft Agenda: moved the election of executive before new business.
Moved by Tracey Arnold, seconded by Vivian Santos - Carried.
3. Motion to approve minutes of the annual general meeting July 4 2025.
Moved by Dave Knox, seconded by Marc MacPhail - Carried.
4. For information, review of minutes of the bi-annual meeting January 21, 2026. No questions.
5. Motion to approve Financial Statements year ended February 28, 2026.
Moved by Rick Pinkney, seconded by Marc-Andre Campeau - Carried.
6. 2028 Canadian National Armwrestling Championships Bids, if any. Manitoba verbal proposal. Done preliminary work. Viscount Gort Hotel. Pool, hot tub and restaurant is being revitalized by 2028. Shuttle service. Close to restaurants and major shopping centre Polo Park. Front runner for capacity. No other bids. Pending motion as we need a more written proposal. Gave a deadline to be provided by July 10 2026. It'll be circulated to the board and executives, then email vote for the proposal. Tracey to review the

template national hosting guidelines document and update to be reloaded to CAWF website.

7. E.A.C Report. Had a few incidents, one suspension for sure and that is still pending investigations. Reports coming back have been positive. The EAC has been very good for the sport and empowering people to stop bad people. Every sport has it and uses it and we need to have it. The last AGM created an advisory committee to review the information. Ryan is looking through and becoming part of Sport Canada and how that will impact the EAC. Possibly use their resources. Once collected the information will bring it back to the CAWF. One option can be kept internal. Has a whole document and sends it to everyone. Another option we could partner with Safe Sport Advisory Committees and they have committees that can do review and it's impartial. Abuse would go to the police. Code of Conduct and sport matters can stay in house. Partnering with a provincial sport body, issues with this is which province would assist since each one could have different rules.

8. Referee-in-Chief Report.

Total Certified Referees: 36. Written report provided by Dave Knox regarding certifications and level upgrades. Over the past year, the Canadian Armwrestling Federation has continued to expand and strengthen its referee program through education, certification, and standardized training across the country. Program Development. The referee program continues to evolve with clear pathways for advancement:

- Level 3 Certification: Referees are required to officiate 10 sanctioned tournaments before becoming eligible for Level 3 certification.
- Master Referee Certification: Candidates must complete and receive approval through a Master Referee Approval Form before being chosen to test for Master status, ensuring consistent national standards.

In addition to training and certification, I have also begun compiling a comprehensive national database of all certified referees in Canada. This registry will help track certification levels, experience, tournament assignments, and referee development, providing the CAWF with an accurate and up-to-date record of officials across the country.

These initiatives continue to strengthen officiating standards, improve consistency between provinces, and support the long-term growth of armwrestling in Canada.

9. Provincial Reports.

- a. British Columbia.

Terry Palashak gave a quick update for Patrick Callahan. 50th anniversary this year, numbers down slightly. More tournaments this year and venues are stepping up to assist. Anthony and his wife had a baby named Leonardo.

- b. Alberta.

Provincial numbers are over 200. Amateurs are up and women are on the lower end. Switching focus on juniors, the by-product came out of that women starting earlier in the sport. Parents have questions, do we have anything that enforces age check, allegedly in the past not competing in their age category. Adding bylaws to deal with that. Wanted to know if nationals will modify the junior weight classes for 12 years, confirming

there are weight classes for under 12 and under 10. Parents would need to approve if the weights are combined. There are min requirements for classes and the host can increase the classes.

c. Saskatchewan.

Decent year in SK. around 940 entries, the youth didn't really grow. The women grew this year. We had a lack of tournaments this year which is hard to get people to run tournaments in a small populated province. Trying to look forward to building and prob one of the hardest to build due to the lack of people. Last year was way better at provincials. Don't have a lot of referees too. I would like to have a referees clinic.

d. Manitoba.

This Manitoba was a little smaller then normal 120 entries. Time of the tournament may have come, so we chose another venue outside of Winnipeg could be why low attendance. Good portion of the attendance was youth 48. Last year, the MAWA focused a lot on fundraising and bring money and give back to the community. Purchased two new armwrestling tables, and raffling off other tables to encourage and support. Worked closely with SK and assist with their tournaments. And vice versa SK helping MB. North Dakota has reached out the 2026 North Dakota State Fair, and have been asked for help to their state fair. Man/Sask will be in Saskatchewan will be the 15th year. New clubs in the Pas.

e. Ontario.

Provincials was a smaller only 240 entries. Northern qualifiers had provincials to allow them to attend the nationals with 140. VP stepped down, Doug stepped in interim. Lost our jenn radford and was voted out, new fellow. Start a different style of bank account for non profit organizations. CAWF can offer a letter of support. Letter of intent, signing executives which require two names. Three ppl will have access to the account. Trying to do this to protect the money and create transparency. There are some controversy. Try to do ID cards. Success are with tshirts and hoodies. Try to get a merch store online to sell them. Looking at the provincial bye system and changing the voting system. Financial statements and lottery are good.

f. Quebec.

Another big year at provincials 659 entries. Runned in two days. Friday night with everyone registering, going really fast this year. Shared with four computers and all ppl can see their names. Working on a new program for Allan Blanchard , with WAF system , have cards showing more information. run with three tables. Sat ran with seniors. Masters, GM and juniors. Run to the finals and give medals, people can go home. Next year want to improve all that and make two registration on fri and sat and sunday. We can finish by 4 pm. Dont have enough promoters. Need a promotor program, and they lack information and will train them. Once ready will present to CAWF and other provinces can use. Coaching program and courses, and willing share with CAWF and other provinces.

Marc reelected for another term, and has been President for 15 years.
Province does have id cards for 19 years old.

- g. Newfoundland. No representative.
- h. New Brunswick.

This year did have a significant growth, provinces doubled in our numbers over 210 registrations, compared to other large provinces. Youth is good, significant attendance and huge potential. Competed in the atlantic and trophy to be awarded for top team and second year winning senior and first year winning junior trophy. Working closely with NS and they are good mentors. Had more teams, three more new and now have 8 teams in the province. Some known names myself and Sam Belveau and making a nice attraction for her views and putting some eyes on armwrestling. Her team at her gym just win provincial team with her. Building more funds for the province and give back to the athletes, better prizes, bigger trophies. State of Main, had four different competitors and cross over and practice with us. Participating at local tournaments and atlantic championships. Offered thru Scott mcInner to take over his channel, and able to now record the Atlantics. Merchandise sale is going well always sold out immediately.

Thanks everyone for coming and excited to host the nationals. A few more added more referees, going to level 3 upgrades. More level 1 so it will be easier to host in other areas of the province. Quite the fun and definitely a handful. Hire Mattias and do the mac videos, live stream with four different tables at once and incl commentary. Drone footage. Screens will have live feed. Main staples is Stefan Cormier, good help, IT guy and tremendous work for pre registration. Working on the side for a new bracket, so that when ppl register they will be in the bracket. Main thing was different provinces will adjust on their categories. Still need to be continually updated. Lots of questions regarding ppl are why CAWF is not member of the IFA when the TFAC is connected with WAF.

- i. Nova Scotia.

Provincials were up slightly, still strong numbers 130 entries. Not solely NS. With Atlantics there were 230 entries. A new club developed last year and staying very active. 9 recognized clubs. People can find a local club easier. ID Cards warm reception to that idea. Possibly doing that in the future. Juniors and ID, if you were getting a new ID system for registration, scanning after you win, it'll be great. Still need a document, previous having issues where parents are lying to get into a particular class. Is it happening in Masters. Should be some proof like a driver's license. Provide proof and should be kept in a data centre. Referees a seminar in the fall and working on a ranking tournament. When you run challenge matches and make it more competitive.

- j. PEI.

Don't have a lot of pullers, only 40. Did have two clubs for a long while and now have 4 clubs. New pullers but haven't done competing. I went to Atlantics and have 20 out of the 40 ppl. Surrey had patents on the

provincials. Even though they haven't run that for 15 years and they have the rights to host. Create new championships and different name.

- k. Yukon. No representative.

Ryan Espey arrives at 8:42 and resumes as Chair.

10. Eliminating position of Assistant Referee-in-Chief (Rick Pinkney)

Had the position for 15 years, there is no need to have. Maybe have a back up not official and don't need terms or be on executive. Maybe put it in the description that the referee in chief can choose their proxy.

MOTION to eliminate the executive position of Assistant Referee-in-Chief and amend the job description of the Referee-In-Chief whereby they can choose a proxy to attend Canadian National Championships if not available. Delete all references to Assistant Referee-in-Chief in constitution.

Motion by Rick Pinkney, seconded by Dave Knox - Carried.

11. Election (every 3rd year using 2014 as a reference)

- a. Vice-President. Nomination: Tracey Arnold (accepted). Acclaimed.
- b. Secretary-Treasurer. Nomination: CJ Latimer (accepted). Vivian Santos (does not accept). CJ Latimer elected and to start after draft minutes of agm and work is completed.
- c. Assistant Referee-in-Chief [position deleted]

12. New Business

- a. Ladies Grand Masters class at Nationals, 2 classes right and left 154 and 154+ (Rick Pinkney)

Had it a few years ago and got discontinued. Suggested but not mandatory. How we can have consistent classes brought forward. Do the numbers support it, we can't know unless we continue it. If we introduce a new class and keep it for three years to get the data. Missing some classes and not on the list on the CAWF. Suggestion and table this. Take a look at previous years and review and create mandatory classes for the board to vote on in the January bi-annual meeting.

- b. Membership proposal (Ryan Espey)

Based on getting us closer to sport canada recognition. Alluded to the ID cards, but we need to track our membership somehow. Sending a nationals list doesn't really show the full membership. A small fee of \$10 to CAWF and \$5 goes to the province and it's a way to track membership. Every year to purchase membership. To get further ahead we need to implement a way of tracking membership. Iron out some details and bring back during bi-annual meeting. Scanning capabilities or membership cards to be shown at Nationals. Maybe have two cards, one for local and one for nationals. Cost of the cards, how do we discuss the provinces who don't have funds to purchase cards and may need to help. Provinces will be needed to manage.

- c. Doping control proposal (Ryan Espey)

Received two days ago, a proposal thru Sport Integrity Canada that I asked for just to explore the options of doping control on national level. 12 random tests 19,910\$ per year. Put into the real whatta anti doping code, there are very strict rules and criteria. The tests are very random and travel. Worlds fees are high which offsets the doping fee. They don't advertise if all the 12 random tests are done. If CAWF takes this one, there needs to be a funding mechanism to support it. Table it until find a way to fund it. This is the only way to get into sport canada.

MOTION that the CAWF supports exploring and investigating options in the anti-doping protocols for the Federation.

Moved by Marc McPhail, seconded by Joedy Harper - Carried.

d. Video / livestream proposal (Ryan Espey)

How much did you pay Mathais to do the video? \$2,000 for 4k steaming. Can do sponsors on the videos. Offering the streaming equipment. And who owns the footage, the province would. But he charges more for editing. Scott does want to edit and add categories. Addition to do categories.

Sport events conference, found someone and the cheapest option \$800 per day per table. Editing included and live stream and CAWF owns it, and he would put it up on his socials. Could we look at it for one year. Maybe do BIDS and have ppl show what they can do. Maybe have eastern and western contacts. Provincials looks after the nationals and take care of their own streaming. Table in January to take a look at the footage Matthias creates.

e. What classifies someone as a para athlete to compete in the para classes (Tracey Arnold)

Brought up a few times. We offer para classes. Maybe tie into memberships. Need medical documents to show and it's fine if you are offering para classes. Caveat is that we need to determine what types of disabilities to be in the para classes. At true para you choose to use your prosthetics. There are different classifications. Moving in that direction and a lot more para athletes. Currently we are still eliminating the population. WAF and TCAF goals are going into the Para Olympics. Falls in line with sport canada. Can we make it the same as Canada does and need to clarify classification. I don't want to open it completely. Tracey to come back with suggestions in the January meeting. Any change has to consider who are preparing for next year's Nationals.

f. WAF Statement (Rick Pinkney)

Saw what happened with Ryan Boewen, and he took it to court and he won. Only affects India. WAF came out with a statement that if you have a tournament with a banned athlete, you will be banned. The second we commit to IFA, any of those athletes who are interested with TCAF, would not be able to compete in WAF. Meetings were held with TCAF and there were several criterias and unfortunately CAWF could not meet the

demands. Hold off until the WAF in 2027 Ottawa. Afterwards, maybe we can consider.

- g. Change the wording for purchasing a Bye to Nationals. (Douglas Beherns)
Ontario has to purchase bye of \$300, the CAWF has \$200 and is contrary to the province. Do not get rid of it because people were skirting provincials and attending nationals. Suggestions that provinces have the sole power over by passing the provincials, province should be telling who is competing, the reason it was brought in, submitting lists and someone shows up and didn't go to provincials and so we don't turn away athletes, are we now turning away athletes who did not purchase the by at provincials.

MOTION to amend the Constitution ARTICLE 18: PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS, add new after section 4 a new number 5 and the rest renumbered. That the CAWF will not administer the byes to Nationals and it will be the sole responsibility of the Provinces to administer the byes. Should an athlete attend Nationals and is not on the provincial competitor list, they will be denied registration into the Canadian National Championships.

Moved by Dave Knox, seconded by Earl Wilson - Carried.

- h. Add a 70 kg class to the Senior Grand masters (Douglas Beherns)
 - i. Need an established list. And do it during the class review

Adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Moved by Earl Wilson and seconded by Solomon Latimer. Carried.