

MTWOA Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2025

Time: 7:03 PM – 8:23 PM CST

Location: Virtual (Google Meet)

Presiding Officer: President David Davenport

Recording Secretary: Eric Ward

Note-Taking Support: Automated AI (Gemini)

I. Call to Order

President David Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM CST and outlined expectations for an open but board-governed meeting structure.

II. Roll Call (Attendance)

Present:

- David Davenport (President)
- Ben Smitherman (Vice President)
- Eric Ward (Secretary)
- Mike Arnold (Assigner)
- Wes McGaffin (Treasurer)

Guests:

- Jack Faircloth
- Adam Jaeckel
- Ryan Simmons

Not Present:

- Barry Clark (Excused – Anniversary)
- Stephen Petricca

A quorum was declared.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the September 14, 2025 Board Meeting were reviewed.

- Motion to approve: Ben Smitherman
- Second: Mike Arnold
- Vote: Approved unanimously

IV. Reports of Officers

A. President's Report (David Davenport)

- Addressed recent tournament conditions and their negative impact on officials, athletes, and public perception. (West Creek on 12/6/25 did not end until 1130 PM)
- Emphasized the importance of improving tournament experiences to support recruitment and retention of officials.

B. Vice President's Report (Ben Smitherman)

- Provided detailed feedback on a recent 16-hour tournament day, citing excessive entries, lack of certified athletic trainers, delayed start times, and negative fan experiences.
- Noted concerns with safety, nutrition availability, and overall sustainability of current tournament models.

C. Assigner's Report (Mike Arnold)

- Reported 76 officials on roster; 44 varsity-capable, 6 JV/MS only, 13 new officials this year.
- Identified 22 inactive officials.
- Reported staffing shortfall: 46 officials needed, 41 available, requiring borrowing from Chattanooga.
- Emphasized the need for mat time and minimum experience thresholds for varsity readiness.
- Raised issue of no-call/no-show officials and lack of policy in bylaws.

D. Secretary's Report (Eric Ward)

- Provided update on challenge coin inventory and distribution tracking.
- Confirmed no additional coins are required at this time.

E. Treasurer's Report (Wes McGaffin)

- Reported current balance of approximately \$15,850.
- Reviewed expenditures since May 1 totaling \$9,619.74.
- Confirmed budget capacity for additional shoe program orders.

V. Old Business

- Continued discussion on improving tournament operations and official working conditions.
- Follow-up on challenge coin distribution.
- Review of training session attendance requirements and enforcement.

VI. New Business

- No-Show Policy: Board discussed tiered disciplinary action including written warnings, probation, schedule removal, and potential financial accountability when events are impacted.
- Grand Championships: Discussed limiting divisions to mitigate staffing shortages due to girls' sectionals.
- Grant Opportunities: Adam Jaeckel presented Dick's Sporting Goods Sports Matters grant program concept for school support.

- Shoe Program: Motion made by Mike Arnold to approve purchase of \$1,000 in additional shoes; seconded by Eric Ward; motion passed unanimously.
- Community Giving: Board approved \$1,000 donation (\$500 each) to Ryan Simmons' TSB and DCA programs.
- Fundraiser: Proposed partnership with Ryan Simmons for summer golf tournament (May/June timeframe).

VII. Announcements

- Mid-year association meeting scheduled for the following Sunday.
- Grand Championships planning ongoing.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM CST.

- Motion: Ben Smitherman
- Second: Mike Arnold
- Vote: Approved unanimously

IX. Action Items Summary

- Mike Arnold & David Davenport: Draft formal no-show policy for association vote.
- Ben Smitherman: Finalize Grand Championships flyer and coordinate staffing.
- Wes McGaffin: Order additional shoes and follow up on beanie pricing.
- Eric Ward: Continue challenge coin tracking and assist with policy documentation.
- Adam Jaeckel: Provide grant information when available.
- David Davenport & Ryan Simmons: Develop golf tournament plan.