Sunday, May 19, 2019

Team Georgia Spring Meeting

Diversified, 2975 Northwood Parkway, Norcross, Georgia 30071

The Team Georgia Spring Meeting was held on Sunday, May 19th, at 11 AM at Diversified, 2975 Northwoods Pkwy Norcross, Georgia. The following board members were present: Mr. Rob Horton- Chairman, Mr. Jason Griner – First Vice Chair, Mrs. Jessica Parent – Treasurer, Mrs. Letricia Denson-Registration Chair, Mrs. Leah Thomas-Secretary, Mr. Shawn Dover, Mr. Donavan Panone-Kids Director, Mr. Ben Mount-Women’s Director, Mr. Sean Moistner-AlX, Mr. Scott Brown-Peachtree Ridge, Heather Payton – Etowah, Donell Bradley – Columbia County Mat, Joe Hulen – Grizzly Wrestling Club, Nate Ethridge – Collins Hill, Chris Fenchak – Brookwood, Cody Parker – Collins Hill, Kurt Hennek – Roswell, Michael Jira – Apalachee, Brooks Gayton-Cartersville/Raisin Canes, Jared Harris – Peachtree Ridge, Chris Powell, Jeff Ragan, Marcus Fletcher, Joey Kusky – Lovett, Smyth – Lovett, John Stulak – River Ridge.

1. Call to Order: 11:54
2. Vision: Vision: to be the premier organization enabling Georgia to be a “top tier” wrestling state. Mission: Expanding participation and promoting excellence in Georgia Wrestling
3. Executive Board and Director Introductions
4. Executive Board Elections (GAWA)

Rob read directly from the bylaws the guidelines for Elections, Terms and Nominations. Mark Moore will step down and not seek re-election.

Rob asked to vote as a group. He asked coaches to discuss individually as needed. The vote for all was unanimous - - yes elect all.

Chairman Robert Horton (Seeking re-election)

Second Vice Chair Darren Bankston (Seeking re-election)

Secretary Leah Thomas (Seeking re-election)

Official’s Liaison Kenny Cook (Seeking election)

Incoming/Outgoing Phil Arnold (Seeking re-election)

1. Chairman’s report-Rob Horton

Southern Grind was up 200 registrations. Letricia asked for status of Grind trophies. Leah will once again reach out to Christina Hargrove to find out. Sherry asked how do we make sure this doesn’t happen again. Letricia stated that she spoke to Hasty and they weren’t aware and said they would reach out to USA.

Middle School Duals – Record year of 47 teams. The event continues to grow.

Kids Folkstyle State – 780 registrations (399 BK and 381 LK) – Reeves was awesome. Numbers are down. Panone will review later in the meeting.

Freshman State – 202 Registrations

Girls State – 91 Registrations

Battle for the Belt was a success

Team Georgia Mat and Equipment Rentals

Beginning this fall, we will start enforcing our fee schedule for our mats and clocks.

$100 per mat, 100 per clock/computer combo, Delivery Fees

Fees can be deducted from Registration Fees

Inventory will be conducted after each rental. Missing or broken items will be deducted from registration fees. Invoices will be sent out by TGA Treasurer.

We are currently looking to replace the 6 Tiffin mats.

1. Treasurer’s report – Jessica Parent

ES/MS State Duals Total Revenues – 21,489.29

ES/MS Expenses (Food, Supplies, Hotels, Tshirts, Medals, Bags, Officials, Set up/Tear Down) $19,866.74

Difference - $1622.55

Kids State – Registrations, Gate and Coaches cards all went down. We were down 16.82%

We discussed the difference in cost of Lake Point versus Perry. Food and Hotel went up. We added championship tshirts. Jessica discussed rings versus tshirts. They are half the cost. We had more expenses and less revenue. Chris Powell asked questions about cost of officials. They were much less this year. We discussed that we pay per day not per match. Chris asked if we had enough officials? Yes, officials are based on mats not numbers. We discussed that Reeves was cleaner this time around. Scott Brown asked if we had to pay to have dirt removed. Rob advised that we did pay $5000 to have the dirt removed. Chris Powell asked if it would be double next year. Rob said that we have to negotiate it. Jessica brought up that there is a qualifier proposal on the table. If we go back to qualifier, we may go to small venue. Sherry asked to show how many preferred Perry vs Lakepoint.

We get a royalty from Rudis on all online gear as well as state.

The date is set to be the 1st weekend in March.

Our balance as of 5/17/2019 was $114,861.79 (does not include FS/GR state)

Estimate of all National Team Trips: $100,000 to $110,000 (This is Team Georgia’s portion)

We then will be on a shoe string budget. Scott Brown asked about Kids Nationals and SER. We didn’t make money on Kid’s Nationals but made a small amount on SER.

1. Registration report – Robert Horton

We are down about 100 of Wrestling Leaders (new terminology for coach and official’s cards). Club Charters were down 4 compared to last year. The drop seems to be coming to a plateau. Event sanctions are down about 8.

1. Safe Sport Director Report – Jason Griner

Jason is a trauma therapist for women. In the past, he has worked with men and women. Prior to that, he investigated child abuse cases. Rob introduced Jason and said that Jason is perfect for this position based on his background. Jason spoke with us and he will be the primary contact between our members and USA Wrestling. There are new guidelines that are coming out that will be more stringent than in the past. Minor athletes who are 17 turning 18 before August or they will not be able to participate in Junior Duals or Fargo. All 18 year olds have to have this training before they can participate. Anyone who works with wrestlers must have training. There will be new training for ALL chartered clubs. Phil asked if we have considered having the training as a group session. June 23rd is when the compliance date is set. Need to let all club directors be aware of this. All current safe sport certified people will have to renew starting next year. There will be continued training. Question was asked about parents asking for their child to travel with other parents and staying in a hotel with a different parent. Jason said you have to have a written consent signed by parents for each event. Jason reiterated that everyone who is in charge of a child has to have safe sport certifications. If on a trip, a wrestler is to stay with his/her team but at the last minute wants to stay with another parent. The answer is no. The team is responsible for that wrestler. Marcus Fletcher asked about the timing of background checks, card renewal and new training not renewing at the same time. It was discussed that the card becomes invalid until everything is completed. Jason reiterated that everyone with a Wrestling Leader card is a mandated reporter. Jason will work directly with Safe Sport/USA Wrestling.

Rob - showed Team Georgia website to the room. He pointed out where to report or to research Safe Sport. You can also go to the USA Membership site to report misconduct.

No questions.

1. Kid’s Director Report – Donovan Panone

Reviewed Goals of Last year:

Original Goal – Attain 5% growth of total wrestlers year over year

Recruiting – Free trials at local clubs and continue social media push

Retention – Increase participation

Results: 2016 – 4192 kids, 2017 – 3651 kids, 2018-3600 kids and 2019 – 3483 kids

Social Media Campaign – Facebook and You tube – people were reached

Recruiting Tips sent out to all coaches

Net Takeaway: We need more awareness and promote sign up campaign. Growth is coming from grass roots efforts. Need to put focus on growing clothes. Look at private schools, Middle Schools and AAU.

Sean Moistner asked if USA Wrestling has been used as a resource? They are doing the same thing that we are doing because they are seeing the same trend. USA will send someone immediately to areas where we have hotbeds. We need to use them. Dave Matthews can help, Moistner told Panone to contact Dave Matthews. We just need to call and get their help.

Nate Ethridge spoke up about regional memberships. They were able to grow using these regions in Michigan. Jason brought up AAU and there isn’t a comparison between the AAU / USA experience. Chris Powell talked about the transitions over the year. He does not thin the high schools are doing what they used to do. They are letting kids come in and not getting their cards and they are not competing. We need to get with the high school coaches to help promote. Chris sent out emails to everyone in their area. The coaches didn’t share it. Several came back to say they did not know what we were doing. We are missing the connection with the coaches. Scott Brown said that most of the high school coaches are only around 3 months of the year. They don’t care like they used to. Kusky brought up the middle school scene. He is taking their group to Mega tournaments this year. This way both novice and experienced can wrestle on the same day. We are discussing having a program with the middle school kids similar to that of the high school. Darren said the middle school group has reached out and we may be able to bridge the two.

Jeff defended the high school coaches not being around. He said part of the issue is GHSA rules. Yesterday, he literally had coaches taking pictures of him coaching. He thinks that when a parent sees a coach present, they feel better. Coach Ethridge said he runs into the same issue. He can’t be in the building while others are working during this time of year. Afraid of what will be said/done.

Participation:

Riverside 533

Pope 841 (39 kids did both novice and open)

North Atlanta 718

Michael Gay 440 (last year was 112 on the same day)

Megas were up over last year.

Novice Championship 489 last year and 544 this year.

Research shows that the Novice did not hurt state numbers.

More kids did participate when there was a qualifier.

Tournament participation was up but state was down by 4%. Could it be Perry location?

Dillon asked about location when numbers were up in 2016. It was at Perry and the numbers were up. Perry may not be the reason. Rob asked, how does the novice championship and state qualifier match up with Perry and the numbers being up? Panone said if you qualify, you want to go to see how you match up. The kids have goals to make it to state. Sean said that state scares parents but it doesn’t scare them to go to qualifiers. They think the wrestler is not “ready”. It was asked if we get rid of the novice championship. Panone said he agrees with Sean. It is important for both. Trish said the coaches have to encourage the kids to continue. Darren asked about middle school schedule. Middle school starts late October and ends mid January. Dillon thinks the logical progression takes the fear away. It gives the coaches a chance to push the progression.

6U was moved to open

Novice division at Megas

Scheduled megas not to conflict with nationals

Tournament operations lead

Tournament Early Discount – several took advantage of it

Team Bulk registrations

Preseason tournaments on Sundays

What was the effect of moving 6U to Saturday? Panone will look up. Fenchak discussed that the megas were mini states. The 6U didn’t have good experiences. Panone said we can’t protect them from a hard match.

Scott asked about novice tournaments maxing out early. We did have some of those. Jessica will look at numbers of who took advantage of the early bird discount.

1. National Team – Rob Horton

Schoolboy Duals: Kris Martin, Steven Flournoy, Alec Noa, Jake Britt, Jeremy Paradice, Eric Bacon

Cadet Duals:

Junior: Terry Allison, Andrel Durden, Brooks Gayton, Nick White

Womens:

National Team Trip Fees will all need to be paid Prior to athletes departing for the trips. Jessica will be handling with Trip Leads.

1. Womens Report: Ben Mount

Number of girls that wrestled in GHSA – 137

Number of girls that wrestled in Girls State – 87

FSNationals: 54 Girls competed – 29AA

Body Bar/Not Body Bar 12AA and UWW – 35 Girls competed – 20AA

2019-2020 – Oklahoma City in March and Freestyle Nationals in Texas in May. They plan to go to Indiana to the War of Roses, Gotham City. They will go back to Tulsa and Fargo. Question from Kusky – how many of these are supplemented by TGA. Rob said as of now, we are supplementing about 50/50 split.

1. Officials Report – Email from Mark Moore See email –
2. Schedule – Folkstyle Tournament Selection Process
3. Items of Business:
4. 2019-2020 Tournament Requests Selection request
5. Proposals

Stacey Davis – See attachment - Rob read the proposal submitted by Stacey Davis

Panone said the board never says “we are accepting applications”. Scott Brown disagreed. SB stated that due to the qualifications needed to be a member, they should know how to apply.

Robert Horton – See attachment – Rob read and discussed the proposal

He was asked to define “immediately”. Panone asked questions about limiting our pool. It was confirmed that it is not the executive board only. Scott Brown asked could we make a chairman in training. Panone went into further discussion. Kusky asked if they would train in between the election not before the election. Moistner questioned timing of needing to work with Team Georgia before they can take over. Phil discussed the need for them to put in the ground work. Moistner asked if we disregard previous experience because they had taken time off. Darren referred back to his notes from council. Thinks it is too restrictive.

Donovan Panone – See attachment – Bring back Qualifiers

Went to the membership for discussion. Talked about repeating history. Good discussion as to why it is good and bad to show names vs numbers. Discussed 4 vs 5 qualifiers. Discussed what we have done in the past – why it worked and why it did not.

1. Adjourn 3:33

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Robert Horton, Chairman Leah Thomas, Secretary