

**Pairing Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Fargo, North Dakota**  
**Friday July 15th, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Members present:

USWOA Board Members - Jeff Jones, LeeAnn Johnson (Zoom), and Monica Shommer

West Reg - Debbie Kelly and Geni Johnshoy,

Southern Plains - Cassie Lowery

Central Reg - Annette Van Houten (Proxy),

SE Reg - Kelli Shuffler

Northern Plains - Mark Bullington

NE Reg - Ed Gould, Toni Black.

USAW STAFF - Pete Isais

Absent Members:

SE Reg - Eve Duncan

Central Reg - Teela Hardin, Jean Whetstone

Northern Plains - Darcie Larrieu

State Chair Rep - Chris Kallai

Additional Pairers present: Vickie Tolin, Danielle Dalton, Kera Wentzel, Heather Kerr

Meeting called to order at 12:09 by Jeff Jones

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Kelli Shuffler read minutes from the 2021 meeting. **Motion** to accept by Ed Gould; **second** by Debby Kelly **Approved** as amended.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

\*Clinic- Debby Kelly advised that the committee Updated both P1 and P2 tests online and took out all line bracketing. Darcie did a Zoom P2 clinic and it was a success. Debby mentioned possibly sending the materials ahead of time to print before the clinic.

\*OEP - Jeff advised that they completed 3 Regional OEPs this year and those were all successful. Monica advised that the SE Regional OEP had numerous people attend and test. The SE Region is low on pairers and they have to assign lower ranked pairers to the event. Updating the website to include info on rounds (TW) to help newer pairers. There will also be updates to the Flo & TW videos in September or October.

\*Pairing Officials Data - Jeff advised that he has taken that over from Sue Hesser and he has all data updated up to Fargo

\*Assignment - The assignment committee sent in their suggestions and the board members make the final decisions.

\*P&P - Ed Gould advised that there wasn't any real activity from the committee but he had read through the proposed changes and was in favor. He mentioned changing the name "Pairer" and we will revisit this in the new business. LeeAnn Johnson would like to be on that committee, Jeff would like to see Monica as well

\*Evaluation - Monica stated that the committee had one meeting this year and their 22-23 goals are to update the forms and get those ready to post for future tournaments. Monica would like to have the head pairers evaluated as well.

\*Grassroots - This committee met and sent some of the plans they had come up with and sent them to Pete where it was stalled. We need to pick that back up in September.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

-Last year we discussed ways that we can get more pairers upgraded and get new pairers on board. Need to include P2s and P3s more involved at the head table.

### **Pairing Maintenance/Upgrade/Assignment Change Proposal**

#### **5. Pairing Upgrades**

##### 5.1 Pairing Applicant for Upgrade to Category P3

5.1.1 The P3 test is available online on the USWOA website and can be done online or by hand and mailed in.

5.1.2 A minimum score of 80% is required on this examination for the official to be considered for upgrade.

5.1.3 An upgrade to Category P3 should be recommended by the Pairing Advisory Council and must be confirmed by the USWOA Executive Board.

##### 5.2 Category P3 Applicant for Upgrade to Category P2

5.2.1 ~~He or she must have participated actively as a pairing official in at least three (3) events at a USA Wrestling regional or national tournament at a minimum of two (2) sites before taking the Category 2 test. The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.~~

He or she must have participated actively as a pairing official in at least three (3) events at a USA Wrestling state championship, USA Wrestling regional or national tournaments. One event MUST be a USA Wrestling regional or national event. The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.

5.2.2 The P2 test is an open-book, timed, and proctored examination. The P2 clinic and test are available online and at the following national tournaments; US Open, Kids Freestyle and Greco-Roman Nationals, and 16U and Junior Nationals.

5.2.3 A minimum score of 85% is required on this examination for the official to be considered for upgrade.

5.2.4 An upgrade to Category P2 should be recommended by the Pairing Advisory Council and must be confirmed by the USWOA Executive Board.

5.3 Category P2 Applicant for Upgrade to Category P1 Conditional (P1C)

~~5.3.1 He or she must have participated actively as a pairing official in at least five (5) events at a USA Wrestling regional or national tournament before taking the Category 1 test. If a pairing official has not worked at a national tournament, he or she must do so at the time of taking the P1 test. The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.~~

He or she must have participated actively as a pairing official in at least five (5) events at a USA Wrestling state championship, USA Wrestling regional or national tournament before taking the Category 1 test. Two of the five events must be a USA Wrestling regional or national tournament. If a pairing official has not worked at a national tournament, he or she must do so at the time of taking the P1 test. The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.

5.3.2 Category P1C refers to a Category P1 Candidate, an official who has successfully completed the Category 1 test, but who has not completed the remaining requirements for the Category P1 rating.

5.3.3 The Category P1 test is an open-book, timed, and proctored examination that is only offered at national level clinics.

- 5.3.4 A minimum score of 85% on the Category P1 test is required for the official to be considered for upgrade to P1C.
- 5.3.5 An upgrade to Category P1C should be recommended by the Pairing Advisory Council and must be confirmed by the USWOA Executive Board.
- 5.4 Category P1C Applicant for Upgrade to Category P1
  - 5.4.1 Before a Category P1C can be upgraded to P1, he or she must participate actively as a pairing official in at least ten (10) events at [USA Wrestling state championships](#), USA Wrestling regional or national tournaments and must direct the operation of at least three (3) of the events as a Category P1C pairing official with full responsibility for planning, scheduling, and administering the pairing operations at such events or assigned as a TSO as P1C. The applicant must have satisfactory evaluations from the Tournament Evaluation Teams at those tournaments. The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.
  - 5.4.2 An upgrade to Category P1 should be recommended by the Pairing Advisory Council and must be confirmed by the USWOA Executive Board.
- 5.5 Category P1 Applicant for Upgrade to Category P1E
  - 5.5.1 To be considered for upgrade to P1E, the pairing official must have been an assigned official as a Category P1 pairing official or TSO as a P1 at a minimum of three (3) [regional or](#) national tournaments and must have satisfactory evaluations from the Tournament Evaluation Teams at those tournaments. The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.
    - 5.5.1.1 To be considered for an upgrade to P1E, the pairing official must have successfully completed a Trackwrestling and/or FloWrestling certification.
  - 5.5.2 An upgrade to Category P1E should be recommended by the Pairing Advisory Council and must be confirmed by the USWOA Executive Board.
- 5.6 The addition of Tournament Systems Operator Certification (TSO-Trackwrestling and/or TSO-Flo) to the existing pairing category of a

pairing official should be recommended by the Pairing Advisory Council and must be confirmed by the USWOA Executive Board.

## **6. National and Regional Upgrade Qualifying Tournaments for Upgrade**

- 6.1 Regional and national upgrade qualifying tournaments are listed in Appendix A. **A USA Wrestling sanctioned state championship tournament will be considered as a qualifying tournament for upgrade.**
- 6.2 At each site, Greco-Roman and Freestyle together is considered one (1) event for upgrade. The 16U and Junior National combined tournaments will be considered two (2) events for upgrade.
- 6.3 The official may not receive credit as both a mat official and a pairing official at the same event.

## **7. Maintenance of Categories and Certifications**

- 7.1 No maintenance is required for P1C, P2, P3, and PA officials.
- 7.2 Maintenance of Category P1
  - 7.2.1 The Category P1 official must work at least one (1) USA Wrestling **regional or** national tournament every year. ~~in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle. Greco-Roman and Freestyle do not have to be at the same national, but they do have to be in the same year.~~ The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.
  - 7.2.2 The P1 official must attend or conduct a national clinic once every year.
  - 7.2.3 Failure to fulfill the officiating requirements for the assigned category will be basis for demotion.
- 7.3 Maintenance of Category P1E
  - 7.3.1 The Category P1E official must work one (1) USA Wrestling **regional or** national championship tournament every year. ~~in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle. Greco-Roman and Freestyle do not have to be at the same national, but they do have to be in the same year. The Category P1E official must work one (1) USA Wrestling regional tournament every two (2) years.~~ The regional and national tournaments are listed in Appendix A.
  - 7.3.2 The P1E official must attend or conduct a national clinic once every year.
  - 7.3.3 Failure to fulfill the officiating requirements for the assigned category will be basis for demotion.

- 7.4 Maintenance of TSO Certification
  - 7.4.1 The TSO certified pairing Official must accept and complete a TSO assignment at least once every other year.
- 7.5 Waivers of maintenance requirements shall be considered by the Pairing Advisory Committee (PAC) for the following reasons: a. personal health, b. family, c. job, d. financial, e. other reasons may be taken into consideration.
  - 7.5.1 To be considered for a waiver, written notice must be received by the National Pairing Director prior to the annual PAC meeting.
  - 7.5.2 Multiple waivers shall be considered.
  - 7.5.3 The official must maintain a USWOA license.
  - 7.5.4 All cases shall be considered on an individual basis.
- 7.6 Upon leaving office, any past or present National Pairing Director shall retain his or her category for life. If actively working at tournaments, he or she must renew his or her USWOA license. Maintenance requirements shall be waived.

#### **14. Assignments**

- 14.1 To receive a nontechnical assignment, a pairing official must be **TW/Flo certified and** Category P1E, P1, or P1C. In rare instances, a P2 official may be assigned to a regional tournament.
- 14.2 To receive a technical assignment, a pairing official must have a TSO certification and must be of category P3 or higher.
- 14.3 Most assignments are made based upon availability and geographic location.
- 14.4 For regional tournaments, most pairing officials are assigned within their region. States in regions are as follows:
  - Northeast Region: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania
  - Central Region: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
  - Southeast Region: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee
  - Southern Plains Region: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico

Northern Plains Region: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois

Western Region: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Hawaii

- 14.5 If a pairing official from a different region is close in distance to a site, that pairing official may be assigned.
- 14.6 Consideration for an assignment is given to those pairing officials specifically requested by the LOC to conduct the tournament.
- 14.7 Proximity to the site is of importance for all regional tournament assignments, and travel costs are a factor when making assignments for national tournaments.
- 14.8 A pairing official who is assigned to a tournament must attend the clinic and work every session of all tournaments at that site unless released by the Chief Pairing Official. A pairing official who fails to fulfill this obligation may not receive an assignment the next year.
- 14.9 A pairing official should be notified that he or she is assigned to give the clinic at least two weeks prior to any regional or national tournament.
- 14.10 All USA Wrestling regional and national tournaments will have a TW/Flo certified P1E, P1, and P1C officials assigned if possible.
- 14.11 More than one P1E or P1 official may be assigned to national tournaments.
- 14.12 More than one P1E or P1 official may be assigned to regional tournaments depending on the number of other qualified pairing personnel in the area.
- 14.13 If there are no P1C officials in the area, two P1 officials may be assigned.
- 14.14 For a small tournament, if the P1E officials in the area decline the assignment or no P1E officials live in the immediate area, a combination of P1 and P1C officials may be assigned.
- 14.15 ~~Assignments shall be given to a P1C or P1 official before a P1C or P1 mat/pairing official.~~

There was a motion to accept all proposed changes as written, **motion** was made by Ed Gould and **second** by Cassie Lowrey. **Approved.**

## NEW BUSINESS

-There was an issue with LOCs allowing newer, unassigned pairers to attend Regional and National events for testing and maintenance. Monica recommends using the membership system to assist in maintaining records by using the check in feature. Pete said that the goal of USAW is to get state tournaments to a place where they are run consistently with Regional and National events. Kera recommended meeting with Regional LOCs to work to allow more pairers to attend and work the events. Monica mentioned getting this on the schedule for State Leaders Summit and getting these options in front of some of these LOCs. Kelli has some ideas to help, coming from a state that hosts a Regional event.

Change the name Pairer - Ed has proposed changing the name "Pairer" and Pete mentioned that he thought "Tournament Operations" was decided on. Ed said nothing was formally agreed on. **Event Operations Official** was brought up and well received by the committee, except for Mark. Ed Gould made a motion to put that before the USWOA board, second by Kelli Shuffler. Approved. Ed withdrew the motion to use a specific name. Pete recommended Bracketing Operations Specialist. Monica and Cassie think it needs to have official in the name. Bracketing Official Specialist, Specialist of Bracketing.

New State Chair Rep - Does it have to come from JOWC? Need to talk to Tony. Does Chris still want to do it? Would it be better to have someone pro pairer, against pairers or in between? Pete and Jeff will look at some options.

If you are hired by Flo for an event you can't take an assignment. No double dipping. Kelli asked if there was some type of repercussion for withdrawing from an assignment within a month prior to the event? This would only be for instances where it is your choice, not death, sickness, etc. Mark Bullington made a **motion** to admit a point in the policies and procedures where you can't . **Second** by Monica Shommer. **Approved**

## AWARDS

2022 Award Winners

Alice Riggle Award - Paula Rider

Bernie Norris Award - LeeAnn Johnson

## Upgrade/Downgrade/Waiver/Scholarship/Emeritus

- Emeritus'

Joe Downing - INDIANA - **Approved**

- Waivers

Ed Bernhausen – Work - **Approved**

- Upgrades

#### P1 to P1E

1. Danielle Dalton - US Open, Jr Duals: Jeannie said she has grown a lot and she did a great job. Jeff also gave her a great eval from the Open. Motion made by LeeAnn, Second by Jeannie. **Approved.**
2. Paula Rider - Fantastic TSO, needs to be more confident. Motion made by Kelli Shuffler, second by Monica Shommer. **Approved**
3. Celena Call - Did not pass TW cert so she can not upgrade.

\*\*\*Kera should have been added to this list but due to a travel issue she did not get her 3rd assignment. She is assigned to Fargo but this will only be her second event.

#### P1C to P1

1. Melinda Watkins - **Fargo will be her 3rd event. Upgrade pending evaluation here.** It was voted by email at the end of Fargo that she should be upgraded to P1
2. Annette VanHouten - Has done 5 events as a P1C. Not a strong pairer but works very hard. Debby suggested that we don't upgrade just to upgrade. Monica disagreed, she does work hard so we should encourage pairers for a 1 to a C but not a C to an E. LeeAnn made a motion to upgrade, second by Monica. **Approved**

**Motion** to adjourn by Jeannie; **Second** by Cassie.**Approved** at 2:24pm