A meeting of the MPA Wrestling Committee was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Rich Buzzell (Chair), Gerald Hutchinson, and Phil St. Onge.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Roy Pelotte and Charlie Swan.

LIAISONS PRESENT:  Patrick Casten, John Martin, and Scott Lewia.

MEET/SITE DIRECTORS PRESENT:  Sean Keenan, Bill McCarthy (Mattanawcook), Aaron Moore (Noble), Kevin Ryan (Oxford Hills), Marty Ryan, Bob Stedt, Sue Thurston (Fryeburg), and Paul Vachon (Cony).

STAFF PRESENT:  Michael Bisson.

CALL TO ORDER:  The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair Rich Buzzell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  On a MOTION by St. ONGE/HUTCHINSON, the minutes of September 26, 2018 were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE:  Michael Bisson shared several pieces of correspondence that will be placed on file. No official action was taken on any of the correspondence.

OFFICIALS’ REPORT:

- Patrick Casten shared the official’s assignments for all of the championship tournaments.
- One concern was making sure that there are thorough skin checks for the female wrestlers as part of the weigh-in process.

COACHES’ REPORT:

- One coach would like the mandatory meeting moved off Sunday due to religious reasons.
- The officials are asking to do the meeting electronically.
CAMDEN HILLS COACHING INCIDENT AT SANFORD:

The committee discussed the coaching violation at the pre-season Spartan Invitational at Sanford. The factors in the situation of the coach, Pat Kelly, trying to enter a wrestler that was not eligible were concerning to the committee.

- The coach sent an assistant to the head table when specifically called for “Pat Kelly to the head table.”
- Concern that Camden Hills administration has not held Coach Kelly accountable for his actions to date.
- The committee is concerned about the liability to the host school, the school, the officials, and the MPA.
- There was definite wrong doing and errors by the coach and the head table.
- The coach was overheard saying, “I don’t like this rule and I will get him in”. This was overheard by an official new to Maine that doesn’t know the coach.
- On a MOTION by HUTCHINSON/St. ONGE the committee recommends that this situation be forwarded to the Interscholastic Management Committee following a hearing with the wrestling committee for “knowingly entering an ineligible wrestler into a tournament”, and voted UNANIMOUSLY.

2019 SITE PACKET AND CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The committee reviewed the 2019 Site Packet with the Meet and Site Directors:

**Regionals:**

- **A North**  
  Camden Hills Regional High School  
  Electronic seeding.
- **B North**  
  Ellsworth High School 3 mats.  
  Seeding meeting will be Friday at Ellsworth 7:00.
- **A South**  
  Noble High School 3 mats.  
  Seeding meeting will be Thursday at Noble 6:00
- **B South**  
  Fryeburg Academy 3 mats.  
  Electronic seeding.

**States:** Class A - Cony High School 3 mats.  
Class B – Mattanawcook Academy 3 mats.

**Girls:** Held at Penobscot Valley High School. There is a concern that there may only be two wrestlers in the 220-pound weight class.

**New England Qualifier:** Held at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School.

Officials: Patrick Casten and John Martin presented the assignments for the championship.
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Wrestling Committee
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On a MOTION by St. Onge/Hutchinson the committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to accept the tournament officials as presented by MAWO.

RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS FOR 2019-2020:

The Noble coach Kevin Gray would like to see the weigh-ins opened up to allow the coaches to be able to run the weigh-ins.

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES: The committee tabled the development of a list of potential nominees for the New England Wrestling Hall of Fame until the March 8 meeting.

OTHER: None.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS:

- New England Hall of Fame nomination list.
- Sites for 2020, including the Augusta Civic Center
- Team Dual Tournament
- Maine National Official of the Year for Wrestling USA magazine

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION from St. ONGE and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bisson
Assistant Executive Director