

## Minutes Taken During the NVWF Meeting Held on August 21, 2019

Notes were taken to capture facts and the general nature of the meeting. However, this is not meant to be a transcript of exact conversations during the meeting. Questions, comments, suggestions, corrections, and enhancements may be directed to the NVWF Commissioner or NVWF Secretary for further clarifications.

1. Mike Gingras promptly started the meeting at 7:00 PM. The meeting ended promptly at 9:00 PM.
2. Representatives of each club signed an attendance sheet (attached in the package).
3. Mike Gingras opened the meeting with remarks on the meeting purposes, agenda, and topics for discussions. He indicated that this meeting was mostly for the purpose of sharing suggestions, concerns, or observations made last year and how the clubs may improve overall.
4. Mr. Gingras shared two distinct proposals that were collected from email solicitations for improvements. The proposals were:
  - a. Defining age divisions and how to adjust each year, and
  - b. Plans to purchase sixteen mats for the Federation along with pros and cons
5. Mr. Gingras publicly paid respects for Gary Dennis, coach of the Hayfield club, who announced plans to turn the club over to the next generation. Mr. Dennis served as commissioner and coach for the Hayfield youth club for a very long time and contributed a great deal of positive time and energy to advancing, maintaining, and improving the youth wrestling community in northern Virginia.
6. Additional suggestions, comments, and enhancements were captured during the meeting as documented herein.
7. Eileen K. from the Bandits club asked if table assignments could be issued earlier this year rather than a weekly basis. She said it would allow parents and clubs to plan volunteer duties and commitments much easier that way. Shannon said that the registration process was related to the table assignments.
8. Several coaches said parents were very positive in terms of helping manage tables even if it was not their responsibility. Some clubs have extremely helpful parents that often jump in when asked.
9. Shannon provided the following information:
  - a. 200 kids registered during the "late" period
  - b. Kids often registered in the wrong clubs thereby requiring fixes by registrar.
  - c. Clubs are assigned tables (or the number of parents for each table) based on the volume of kids in each club for each age group. Table assignments based on club numbers in each age division was new as of last year due to some clubs having inconsistent numbers in each age division. Some clubs did not think it was fair to have table responsibilities in the Bantam/Midget group for example when those clubs did not even allow Bantams to join their clubs.
  - d. It is challenging to assign tables when some clubs don't have kids attend as registered.
10. Some clubs use the Signup Genius to solicit and assign parents to tables on any given date.

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11. USA Wrestling issues
  - a. USA Wrestling created a new process for season 2019-2020
  - b. The process was recorded on the [www.nvwf.net](http://www.nvwf.net) website tab under USA Wrestling & Cards then the subtab called USA Wrestling August 2019
  - c. The coach card is now called the coach-leader card
  - d. Background checks may begin August 21<sup>st</sup> and are good for 12 months thereafter
  - e. Clubs are required to have at least one coach with a leader card, however, it is good practice to have at least two just in case one of the coaches is absent from practice. At least one person needs to have a coach card present in the room at all times.
12. Shannon proposed the idea of having a cadre of high school wrestlers trained on a continuous basis and certified by the NVWF to conduct referee duties. In other words, a standard crew of referees that could be called upon and paid to travel to different tournaments thereby maintaining consistency for all venues. PWWC said they have state champs who are highly qualified.
13. Jake Bell of Stafford proposed the idea of having the Senior age division wrestle on full mats. Otherwise wrestlers were more prone to bump into tables, other wrestling matches, and off the mats due to their sizes, speed, and forcefulness as compared to others.
14. Shannon and Mike said bouts went fairly fast. The “turn time” on kids coming off matches was quick enough that they were right back on the mat wrestling. Clubs may adjust national high school rules as they please rather than remain stuck to the high school standard with longer wait times. Mike said the effects of this were related to a 5-man vs a 4-man bracket. Mike could run a report on which cases showed high or low turns. Mike says a tournament needs at least 2 brackets per mat to keep turn time low. High schools require 45 minute breaks in between matches but NHSCA rules allow youth clubs to adjust as needed.
15. Belvoir kids play football until late November. Thus getting kids registered for clubs tends to be later in the fall. There was a proposal to have military kids authorized a waiver for late registrations.
16. A suggestion was to propose a bylaws change on turn times. Tables can go idle according to Mike and matches can be bumped.
17. Mr. Landorff was referenced as someone from the past that discussed table management and match times extensively.
18. The Lions club wanted tables on the outside of the mats rather than in an aisle. Some suggested to rope off the edges to prevent parents to walk onto mats.
19. Mike said one coach per mat.
20. PWWC had an issue regarding kids running into tables. Some said simply move the tables back from the mat more.
21. Calendar
  - a. Discussions lead by Mike involved debates on whether or not to have one or two weekends dedicated to tournaments. Some said NVWF only had one tournament date in the past in the month of December then incorporated two dates in the past year.

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- b. Some debated on whether or not the first weekend in December was viable as an event date due to the close of registrations around Thanksgiving being so close to the tournament thereby placing a burden on the logistics of being prepared.
  - c. Jake Bell of Stafford said his event last year in December 9<sup>th</sup> was crowded.
  - d. Mike said he could run a report to show how many kids attended the December events so to decide whether or not it was worth have one or two calendar dates for tournaments or if one of those dates simply should have one venue rather than two on the same date.
  - e. Jake Bell proposed starting earlier in the season regarding tournaments and also ending earlier in February.
  - f. December dates for further discussion included December 1, 8, 15, 22. Some proposed having a normal NVWF event only on December 8<sup>th</sup> with the other dates for specialty events or only one venue as possibilities.
22. Shannon and Scott said the NVWF should remain a novice league so to maintain its identity. Jake Bell said NVWF could support both novice and advanced kids. This debate revolved around the decision of whether or not to end the season early in February or if the calendar should be adjusted to accommodate VAWA states.
23. Many said it was difficult to place an NVWF event on the same weekend as the high school states in the middle of February due to the availability of referees. Some argued that the same logic applied to HS districts and regionals.
24. High school sports start the week after HS states, and if Athletic Directors need the gym for spring HS sports to practice, there are risks of losing gym space for tournaments. In contrast, county parks and recreation offices require outside clubs to file facility use requests and sometimes contracts to agree to scheduled events.
25. A vote was take to decide on whether or not to have two events in December or just one. The result was as follows given a show of hands that were publicly counted:
- a. Fifteen clubs were in favor of two event dates in December.
  - b. Eight clubs were against having two dates in December.
26. A vote was take to decide on whether to move the final season end tournament to March. The result was as follows given a show of hands that were publicly counted:
- a. Four clubs were in favor of moving it to March.
  - b. Sixteen clubs were against moving it to March.
27. If the NVWF stays with the traditional schedule, the season end finals would be the weekend of February 29 through March 1 (which is the same weekend as VAWA states).
28. The VAWA annual meeting is scheduled for September 22, VAWA General Membership Meeting-Spotsylvania HS, 10am-noon.

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29. Shannon said some clubs would need to identify if they would be attending the December 7/8 tournament so that logistics could be addressed and table assignments properly. Belvoir said they most likely would not be attending.
30. Nominations, elections, and appointments to NVWF leadership roles:
  - a. Mike Gingras said clubs are required to nominate leaders per bylaws.
  - b. He was soliciting names for each of the current positions.
31. Although no votes were taken, notional names were identified as follows for NVWF positions:
  - a. Commissioner – none
  - b. Vice commissioner – Shannon Jackson of the Ft Belvoir club
  - c. Treasurer – Judy Smarr of the Prince William club
  - d. Secretary – none
  - e. Equipment manager – Jake Bell of the Stafford club
32. Two proposals were distributed by email prior to the meeting. Both were discussed to identify strengths and weaknesses, pros and cons. The proposals were as follows:
  - a. Defining the age divisions
  - b. Purchase of mats for NVWF tournaments
33. The first proposal involved defining the age divisions.
  - a. This proposal maintained the structure of “histogram leveling” whereby age divisions were based on start and stop birth dates so to maintain roughly equal amounts of kids in each age division. The benefits of this allows parents, coaches, clubs, and tournament coordinators to more consistently plan tournament weigh times, and predict start times for each age division based on numbers of kids and matches/bouts. No one had any cons to this approach. And, although some tournaments use calendar years or grades, the NVWF league does not feed into other state qualifying events to be concerned about inconsistency in age division definitions including USA Wrestling definitions that use calendar year.
  - b. Typically NVWF adjusts the age division birth date ranges after the early registration period closes. The problem with this approach is that clubs some times assign coaches to practice rooms based on age divisions so to not have to stay in a gym all day. Late adjustments causes confusion and further adjustments for parents.
  - c. As a result, some proposed the idea of freezing the age divisions based on the previous year numbers and birth date ranges. This would allow clubs to plan long in advance and solicit coaches that may only be willing to coach during their specified times. Some asserted that the number of kids that would otherwise be adjusted after Thanksgiving are small and insignificant and having little effect on tournament start/stop times. Observations were made that adjustments in birth date starts when comparing season 2017-2018 and season 2018-2019 were only by one month at most.

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- d. Mike said he could run a report to identify how many kids were in each group last year.
  - e. Bill Marck said he would rewrite the proposal to accommodate the idea of freezing age divisions based on prior year birth date ranges. Then each year the new birth date ranges would be defined in March every year thereafter.
34. The second proposal involved the purchase of mats for NVWF:
- a. Mike Gingras constructed a proposal for NVWF to purchase sixteen custom mats based on a specified dimension in length and width while having a full circle outlined on the mat to introduce the spirit of a big mat experience.
  - b. There were many reasons for the proposal but the main one was to establish safety for wrestlers to prevent matches from bumping into tables or other wrestlers.
  - c. The second reason is because several NVWF teams left the league to seek out alternative competition opportunities that involved a big mat experience similar to high school events.
  - d. The third reason is because high school referee officials would be willing to referee NVWF events under the conditions that there were defined boundaries for matches, albeit smaller circles.
  - e. The fourth reason is because NVWF would be able to select tournament host dates at schools independent of when high schools had the availability of three mats at their sites due to large high school tournaments on Saturdays. Typically high schools have only two mats at each school. NVWF tournaments require the square footage that one gets from three mats (or actually two and two thirds mats). Therefore, rather than awaiting for high schools to acknowledge when they had three mats available, NVWF would be able to select almost any date early in the calendar year.
  - f. Mike suggested the creation of a committee to evaluate the logistics and details to develop a plan of action for this.
  - g. Several people said it was a great idea but were only willing to spend time constructing a plan if the NVWF voted to firmly pursue the initiative with funds set aside in escrow for that purpose to guarantee time would not be wasted only to be over turned at a later date by new board members etc.
  - h. Although a vote was not taken, a show of hands overwhelming displays favorable support by club leaders.
35. Other details regarding the purchase of mats included the following:
- a. Large gyms are favorable when possible.
  - b. A gym with two basketball courts was favorable.
  - c. A committee would have to be established and measurements of various gyms would have to be taken to identify and confirm sizes of mats.

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- d. Potential sources of man-power to move mats before and after tournaments may come from landscaping companies especially in the winter when such companies are idle for work.
  - e. One way to store mats would be in sealed trailers parked permanently at two schools (yet to be determined).
  - f. Another way to store mats would be in sealed trailers that were parked at designated locations upon which could be towed to tournament sites. Doug White offered to store trailers at his Manassas business location.
  - g. Challenges that would have to be worked out included:
    - i. Getting large schools like Hayfield every week
    - ii. Wrestling the same kids each week unless clubs were assigned and shuffled
    - iii. Gyms could be bumped due to high priority HS events
    - iv. Destruction or mishandling of mats that may be mitigated by the use of covers
  - h. Gary proposed warehouse space to store mates.
  - i. Concession stands may not be authorized for use by outside clubs.
  - j. Shannon mentioned that some counties require an indication of whether or not monies are to be made at an event. If so, some counties require sharing of those monies.
  - k. Mat sizes are typically 6 feet tall otherwise great expense is incurred for custom sizes.
    - l. Circles can be virtually any size.
  - m. Velcro is possible but has some negative aspects too.
  - n. Shannon said partnerships could be made with high school administrators in order to encourage joint use of mats to inspire a higher likelihood of accepting the idea.
  - o. Joint fund raisers could be a method of encouraging extra mats at schools.
36. The next meeting was scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>.

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37. Action Items:

- a. Mike Gingras indicated that he could run a report to show cases on whether or not kids in a 5-man or 4-man bracket had to report back to the mat sooner.
- b. Mike said he could run a report to show how many kids attended the December events so to decide whether or not it was worth have one or two calendar dates for tournaments or if one of those dates simply should have one venue rather than two on the same date.

38. Votes Taken:

- a. A vote was take to decide on whether or not to have two events in December or just one. The result was as follows given a show of hands that were publicly counted:
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