

January RIWA Meeting Minutes – February 2nd, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:09PM by Secretary David Capone.

- **Roll Call.** Secretary took roll call. Middletown, BTS, Mayo Quanchi, Warwick PAL, North Providence, South County Waves, Warren, Westerly, Mat Officials Director, SafeSport Director, and National Team Director present.
- **Reading of minutes.** Posted on RIWA website.
- **Financial Report.**
 - Tournaments have lost money.
 - Reviewed current balance of \$81,448.04, \$74,791.64 after outstanding checks clear.
- **Copper Certifications.**
 - A lot of discussion took place around who should be required to have copper certification. Final decision on the topic is to maintain policy previously voted on. RI coaches must have copper certification, out of state coaches only wrestler leader card.
 - Pushed to future meeting to discuss revised policy for next season.
- **State Tournament Updates**
 - West Warwick convention center deposit check issued and outstanding.
 - Minimal seating for spectators. 2 bleacher rentals holding 40 people each for \$300 per set. 150 banquet chairs, staging, 16x20 stage, \$2200.
 - Discussion about fire issues with capacity of building. Meet with fire marshal ahead of event to discuss layout and maximum number of mats.
 - Motion by Walter Borden to approve spending for Quality Rental fees for chairs, staging, bleachers up to a maximum of \$2243. Motion seconded by David Capone. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Table workers for state tournament. Walter Borden will assign to clubs and distribute via email.
 - Concessions run by older fargo kids and their parents. All net proceeds to team RI. Contingency plans is potentially asking a booster club to run the concessions and splitting profits. Maybe food trucks. Ashley Poirier will handle figuring out concessions.
 - DJ/PA system for state tournament assigned to Warwick PAL. Motion made by David Capone to approve \$550 for DJ/PA system for state tournament. Walter Borden seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - State qualification requirement. Sticking to 1 event for this season and 2 for next season.

- Discussion took place about entrant eligibility for the state tournament. Competitors cannot compete in a different states state tournament AND the RI state tournament. Motion made by David Capone to have an official policy that reads, Any competitor that registers for the RI state tournament that has competed in another state's state tournament is subject to immediate disqualification from the RI states WITHOUT REFUND. Motion seconded by Walter Borden. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Conduct Policy**
 - Discussion of prior issues of parent or other adult behavior at events being unacceptable. Individuals asked to be removed by the officials, MUST be removed if confirmed by the head official. It is not at the discretion of the tournament director if an official ejects an individual from an event.
 - Ashley will chair a committee to developer a conduct policy for our events.
 - Additionally all coaches MUST have a copper or bronze coaches certification to coach in the corner.
 - A list of coaches will be emailed to tournament director ahead of RIWA events to help with verifying credentialed coaches at the door.
- **Budget Discussion**
 - There was a lengthy discussion about budgeting and the finances of the RIWA. The current tournament revenue and expenses split is not generating any income for RIWA. The result is that without changes to the structure, RIWA will be much more limited in its ability to provide financial support to 14U national teams and Fargo. Will also impact new initiatives that were discussed this year that RIWA was hoping to finance. Coaches summit, Mason Dixon duals, etc all potentially impacted.
 - Tournaments operators voiced concerns that increasing RIWA share would make it not worth it for them to run tournaments as they are operating on thin margins. Increasing participation seems vital for financial viability.
 - Addition of 6U division vs mighty mites has potential to bring in 30+ new entries to tournaments as feedback given that certain out of state teams would come to our events vs others if this was offered.
 - Other discussion for cost cutting included eliminating metals. This is a \$1000 cost. Do participants actually keep them? Discussion both ways on this.
 - Do we increase state tournament entry fees? Cut trophies / awards expenses?

- All lively discussion without any specific motions to change anything for now. Everything will proceed for the state tournament for awards as in the past.
- Current situation is NOT sustainable and decisions MUST be made. It is IMPORTANT for clubs to attend the SPRING AND SUMMER meetings to get to a consensus on this for the RIWA to be able to finance Fargo and other events.
- **6U Age Addition**
 - Motion made by Walter Borden to eliminate mighty mites and replace it with a 6U division at the state tournament. Motion seconded by Peter Deloge. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion made by David Capone to permit remaining tournament directors to decide to run a mighty mites division or a 6U division at their discretion. Motion seconded by Peter Deloge. Motion carried unanimously.
- **15U – Restriction removal for 15U**
 - Motion made by Joe Regnault to remove the restriction preventing 9th graders from competing in the 15U age division provided that they have no high school varsity experience. Motion seconded by David Capone. Motion withdrawn and tabled for future meeting and further discussion.
- **Exemption for Anna Babenko for RI States**
 - Motion made by Joe Regnault to permit Anna Babenko, birthday 3/26/2011 to participate in RI states despite being in 9th grade because she does not participate at all in high school wrestling. Motion seconded by Claro Dimen. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Adjournment.** Motion to Adjourn at 10:57PM by Peter Deloge. Motion seconded by Walter Borden. Motion carried unanimously.