

Northeast Michigan Wrestling Association

By-Laws

Article I NAME

The Name of this organization shall be the Northeast Michigan Wrestling Association (NEMWA) and will hereafter be referred to as the Association.

Article II PURPOSE

A. To advance the sport of wrestling among youth (ages 5 through 14) throughout the state of Michigan by organizing and holding tournaments for participating member clubs and associations.

- i. Age shall be determined as of December 31st prior to the start of the current wrestling year, i.e., December 31, 2005 for the 2005-06 season (1/06 – 3/06).
- ii. Proof of age must be available at all tournaments if requested by the tournament director or one of his/her representatives.
- iii. Copies of birth certificates and passports are the only acceptable proof of age.
- iv. All weigh-ins will be Home weigh-ins. Regional and Finals will be onsite or satellite weigh-in.

Article III CLUB MEMBERSHIP

A. In order for a club to be eligible to participate in regional and league finals, the club must be a Member in good standing since becoming a member.

Refer to section D in this Article

B. Membership in Good Standing will consist of those existing clubs and individuals who have paid their dues before the deadline each year.

C. Annual dues are \$150 for new clubs and \$100 for returning clubs. All annual dues will be due June 30th and must be paid by September 30th of the year prior to the season. Clubs that do not pay by this deadline will be removed from active membership for the season and must be reinstated as a new club to participate in the following season. Each year, dues must be accompanied by a NEMWA/USA Charter Club Membership Request/Renewal Form (Appendix 1) sheet with current club information.

D. In order to maintain in good standing, members must:

- i. For the upcoming season clubs must pay annual dues by June 30th. New members may not vote prior to dues payment.
- ii. Meetings are not mandatory, but your attendance is encouraged.
- iii. Members who are not in good standing will not be eligible to vote.
- iv. League dues must be paid to participate in league functions.

- E. All Club Representatives must sign in at each Membership meeting, Limit one representative per club. Each club shall have one vote in all matters brought before the membership. If votes are taken at a regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting, only those clubs present shall be represented in the vote. A board member vote shall count as a vote for that members board position, and shall not count as a club affiliated vote.

In the event of a tie, the president shall cast the tie breaking vote, regardless of his/her club affiliation. Fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the members present and voting shall constitute a majority and shall be sufficient to pass or defeat any matter.

- F. The operating year for NEWMA will begin June 1 and end May 31, effective June 1, 2025.

Article IV EXECUTIVE BOARD AND DUTIES

- A. The Executive Board of this Association will consist of the following:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasury
- Head Pairer #1
- Head Pairer #2
- Head Referee #1
- Head Referee #2

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Executive Board to aid in preparing the agenda for meetings.

The Executive Board shall be responsible for overseeing the proper operation of Association sanctioned tournaments, in accordance with the NEMWA By-Laws and Rulebook. At least one member of the Executive Board shall try to be present at all sanctioned tournaments. No member of the Executive Board shall have the authority to change any aspect of an invitational tournament; however, he/she may suggest changes and point out to the tournament director any possible conflicts with the Association rules. Any significant discrepancies in the individual tournament operations should be noted by the Executive Board members and brought out at the next meeting.

The Executive Board shall, on a case by case basis, have the authority to make exceptions to rules and By-Laws when a membership meeting is not feasible. This authority is good except where specifically prohibited. Exceptions shall not be construed as long-term changes to rules or By-Laws.

The Executive Board shall make purchases, without a vote, up to \$500. Any amount greater than \$500 shall require a vote by the Executive Board.

B. PRESIDENT

- i. The president of the Association shall preside at all Association and officers' meetings.
- ii. The president shall be permitted to attend all committee meetings, although

they will only vote on those committees where he/she is an appointed or elected member.

- iii. The president shall approve the agenda for all meetings.

- iv. The president will also be responsible to hold the EIN certificate in his/her name and social security number. At the end of his/her term the EIN certificate will be transferred to the incoming president, using the form attached in Exhibit 1.
- v. If a board vote is unable to determine the interpretation of any rule, policy, or by law, the President shall determine the final interpretation of the rule, policy, or by law in question.

C. VICE-PRESIDENT

- i. The vice-president shall act in the place of the president during his/her absence
- ii. The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in the event the president can no longer serve.
- iii. The vice-president shall perform other duties as specified by the president.

D. SECRETARY

- i. The secretary shall be responsible for taking and maintaining the minutes of Association meetings.
- ii. The secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the schedule of Association tournaments and issuing sanctions.
- iii. The secretary shall be responsible for notifying all Club representatives of Association meetings.
- iv. The secretary shall answer all correspondence directed to him/her, and shall present at the regular meetings such correspondence vital to the Association.
- v. The secretary shall prepare the agenda of all meetings for the president's approval.
- vi. The Secretary shall be compensated \$1500 per season.

E. TREASURER

- i. The treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the Association treasury.
- ii. The treasurer shall be responsible for giving a treasurer's report at each membership meeting and at any other time requested by the president.

F. HEAD PAIRER'S

- i. The Head Pairer's shall be responsible for overseeing all functions of each Pairing room.
- ii. The Head Pairer's shall be present in the pairing room unless a designee is appointed.
- iii. The Head Pairer's will be responsible for scheduling all certified Pairer's for each pairing room at each tournament.

G. HEAD REFEREE'S

- i. The Head Referee's shall be responsible for overseeing all referees.
- ii. The Head Referee's shall be present at all tournaments unless a designee is appointed.
- iii. The Head Referee's will be responsible for scheduling all trained referees for each tournament.

Article V

TERM OF OFFICERS

- A. President: The president shall serve in his/her office for a two (2) year term (odd years). There are no term limits, therefore, he/she may serve any number of consecutive terms.
- B. Vice-President: The vice-president shall serve in his/her office for a two (2) year term (even years). There are no term limits, therefore, he/she may serve any number of consecutive terms.
- C. Secretary: The secretary shall serve in his/her office for a two (2) year term (even years). There are no term limits, therefore, he/she may serve any number of consecutive terms.
- D. Treasurer: The treasurer shall serve in his/her office for a two (2) year term (odd years). There are no term limits, therefore, he/she may serve any number of consecutive terms.
- E. Head Pairer's: The head pairer shall serve in his/her office for a two (2) year term (pairer A in odd years and pairer B in even years). There are no term limits, therefore, he/she may serve any number of consecutive terms.
- F. Head Referee: The head referee shall serve in his/her office for a two (2) year term (head referee A in odd years and head referee B in even years). There are no term limits, therefore, he/she may serve any number of consecutive terms.

Article VI

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. Election of officers will be done at the annual meeting.
- B. Vacancies in Office: In case of a vacancy in an office, the President may appoint someone to fill the position until the next membership meeting, at which time an election shall be held to fill the vacancy.
- C. Removal of Officer: Any officer elected by the membership may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership in attendance at any meeting, whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the NEMWA would be served, provided that a statement of reason/reasons shall be communicated to the officer proposed for removal thirty (30) days before any action is taken, and the officer given, at the removal meeting, the opportunity to be heard and the matter considered by the membership prior to his/her removal.

Article VII

MEETINGS

- A. The Secretary shall prepare the agenda for each meeting, and as nearly as possible, include it in the announcement. An adjustment to the scheduled meeting dates may need to be made depending on the winter or holiday breaks for building availability.

Those who wish to have a voice in the operation of the NEMWA must attend Meetings.

- B. Length of Meetings: There shall be a two-hour limit on each meeting. Normally, meetings shall be scheduled to start at 2:00 pm. The President may call the meeting to order any time after the scheduled meeting time when he/she thinks there are enough representatives present, however, he/she may not delay it more than 30 minutes.

C. Conduct of Meetings: Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order. Normal order of business shall be;

- i. Opening by President
- ii. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes
- iii. Treasurer Report
- iv. Committee Reports
- v. Agenda Items
- vi. Close Meeting

D. Attendance will be taken at all membership meetings.

In the event of a roll call vote, only signed-in member per club shall be eligible to vote, regardless of the total members present from that club.

Article VIII WRESTLER AND COACH REQUIREMENTS

- A. All wrestlers and all coaches must be active USA card member holders in the sport of wrestling prior to their first practice. Coaches must obtain a "Wrestling Leader" membership. Coaches can direct parents to register for USA cards directly (preferred), or coaches can do so on behalf of the club, however this is strictly up to each club within NEMWA to allow coaches/parents to obtain additional USA cards. In either case NEMWA clubs are responsible for verifying that the online USA registration has been completed for all participants and coaches before the first practice in order to qualify for USA insurance.
- B. To be eligible for official NEMWA league meets the wrestler's club must:
 - i. Provide the NEMWA secretary with a copy of the spreadsheet roster of the club that includes USA information, and notification that each club has a hard copy of each wrestlers (these can be a simple check mark beside each name) player's agreement, birth certificate and concussion form
 - ii. Have approval to participate by NEMWA. If a wrestler has not turned in the required forms by the applicable deadline, the wrestler is ruled ineligible for the event and removed from the tournament. Rather than redrawing the weight class the wrestler defaults his or her matches. His or her opponent advances uncontested.
- C. Wrestlers may only register and represent one club in NEMWA per complete season. Once a wrestler enters a NEMWA tournament under a club name, that wrestler cannot enter other NEMWA tournaments under any other club name during the same season unless all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. The wrestler has physically moved and has taken up residency outside of the area represented by the club.
 - ii. The wrestler must live near full time in a new household as evidenced by changed schools, etc.
 - iii. Wrestlers with separated parents cannot bounce between homes and clubs.
 - iv. The new club is willing to accept this wrestler into their club and represent his/her case to NEMWA to gain approval if necessary.
 - v. The wrestler gains permission through NEMWA.

- vi. There may be special cases that warrant NEMWA to allow a wrestler to change clubs even if the statements above are not met. These special cases will require at least 2/3 of the clubs in NEMWA to approve of the “Hardship case”. Should any concern or issue arise, the tournament director and NEMWA will contact the proper club representative and resolve the issue.
- D. Wrestlers must compete in three regular season NEMWA tournaments in order to be eligible to compete in the regional tournament.
- E. If a wrestler qualifies for NEMWA State Tournament, and chooses not to attend and wrestle somewhere else that weekend, they will be banned from NEMWA for the next season. *(voted in May 15, 2016)*

Article IX CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENTS

A. Length of Season

- i. The tournament season for this Association shall be scheduled to run for 8 weeks including regionals and league finals, beginning in January.
- ii. Clubs may sanction tournaments at any time between these dates, except for the 7th and 8th weekends of the schedule (Saturday). These are reserved for regionals and league final tournaments.
- iii. Doubling up of tournaments will be allowed provided: No other member club has applied for the tournament.

B. Regionals and League Finals:

- i. The Regional meets for this Association shall be held the 7th weekend of the schedule. The league finals shall be held the 8th weekend of the schedule.
- ii. To be eligible for participation in Regional and League Final Tournaments, participants must have wrestled as a member of an Association Member Club in at least three (3) complete invitational tournaments during the season. The preseason tournament may count towards the three tournament requirements to be eligible to participate at the Regional Tournament.

C. Invitational Tournaments

- i. All Clubs hosting invitational tournaments sanctioned by this Association shall abide by Association Rules and By-Laws. Penalties for infractions may be considered.
- ii. Wrestling rules and rules for conducting tournaments shall be reviewed annually by the respective committees. Recommendations for changes, if any, shall be made by these committees to the membership. The membership shall adopt these rules annually. In order for any of these rules to be changed during the season they must be reviewed and recommendations made to the membership by the respective committee. The committee may or may not require a petition from members to review rules. If the committee agrees to review a rule during the wrestling season, it must make its recommendation to the membership at the next regular membership meeting.
- iii. All clubs shall pay for the number of wrestlers registered and weighed-in. All pre-registration will be submitted online via track wrestling by 10:00 p.m. each Thursday for the upcoming weekend’s tournaments.

- iv. All weigh-ins will be done as “Home Weigh-ins”. All Home/honor weigh- ins will be entered into Track Wrestling by 10:00pm Thursday before the weekend tournament. There will be checks or challenges as outlined in the Modified Rules. Weigh- ins for Regional and Finals will be done onsite or at an approved satellite location.
- v. The registration fee per wrestler per tournament will be \$15, and \$20 for Regionals, and \$25 for the state tournament.
- vi. \$2.00 will be sent to NEMWA for each wrestler at every regular season tournament by each hosting club, to offset development cost.
- vii. The hosting club shall be responsible for fees paid to Trackwrestling and determined by Trackwrestling.

D. Operation of Tournaments

- i. Each tournament must have a MHSAA certified head official.
- ii. The tournament director is responsible for coordinating with the NEMWA head official to assure that enough mat officials are obtained.
- iii. Each tournament must have a minimum of 8 qualified officials plus one head official.
- iv. Officials may not referee matches of their relatives.
- v. Rates for tournament help are paid by host club and are as follows:
 - 1. Head official - \$225
 - 2. Qualified official - \$175
 - 3. Head Pairer’s - \$400, the head Pairer’s are responsible for paying support staff from the Head Pairer’s fee.
- vi. NEMWA door fees for all tournaments are as follows: \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students, \$10.00 for families and 5 years old and younger are free. Full family is defined as: father, mother and immediate children 18 years or younger.
- vii. All coaches will be required to pay admission the same as any general tournament attendee unless the hosting club waives coaches admission fee.

E. Medical Exception

- i. Any injury that will impact a wrestler’s ability to compete in required tournaments shall petition the board immediately if they wish to ask for an exception to the requirement.

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