

COLORADO WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

Sec. 1 The name of the organization shall be the Colorado Wrestling Officials Association.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

Sec. 1 To unite in one nonprofit organization all approved and registered youth and high school wrestling officials within the State of Colorado.

Sec. 2 To collaborate with those responsible for promoting wrestling as a wholesome form of recreation for the development of health, character, good sportsmanship, and citizenship.

Sec. 3 To study and improve the techniques of officiating in wrestling and the administration and revision of rules, particularly from the standpoint of officials, through rules interpretation and demonstration meetings.

Sec. 4 To recruit, develop, and retain qualified wrestling officials.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 Members shall pay annual dues and meet all other Association and Colorado High School Activities Association requirements for membership. Members may be classified as honorary, active, provisional, student, associate, or inactive.

Sec. 2 Honorary members shall be those elected by the membership in recognition of their special contribution to wrestling. Honorary members shall not pay annual dues, officiate high school events, vote, or hold office but are welcome to attend all rules clinics.

Sec. 3 Active members in good standing shall be those who pass the annual test and attend a regional rules clinic and at least two approved work sessions or mat skill improvement opportunities during each wrestling season.

Sec. 4 Provisional members shall be those officials who are otherwise qualified to be active members but have failed to pass the annual test.

Sec. 5 Student members shall be either high school student members or college student members who are novice officials enrolled full time in high school or a four or two year college or vocational school. High school student members who attend a regional rules clinic and pass the testing requirements of active members, may officiate youth matches only. College student members are obligated to meet all the testing, regional clinic, and work session requirements of active members and may officiate youth matches or sub-varsity level matches only.

Sec. 6 Associate members shall be those who are not wrestling officials but who wish to support wrestling. Associate members shall not vote or hold office but shall be entitled to attend rules clinics and similar activities sponsored by the Association and to receive Association publications.

Sec. 7 Inactive members shall be those previously active members who desire to remain affiliated with the Association but who give up their right to officiate high school matches during the period of inactive membership. Inactive status can only be granted by the Executive Committee and only to a person who has been an active member. Inactive members shall not vote or hold office but shall be entitled to attend rules clinics and similar activities sponsored by the Association and to receive Association publications.

Sec. 8 Only active, provisional, and student members may officiate matches. Provisional and college student members may only officiate youth level and sub- varsity level matches. High school student members may only officiate youth level matches.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The officers of the Association shall be: (A) President, (B) Vice-President, (C) At-Large Representative, and (D) Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Sec. 2 The President shall call to order all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee, and shall preside at the meetings and appoint committees not otherwise provided for by the Constitution and/or By-Laws. In the event the office of Vice-President becomes vacant, the President shall perform the duties of the Vice-President until such time as the members elect a new Vice-President.

Sec. 3 The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall assume the office of the President in the event the office becomes vacant. The Vice-President shall act as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and shall select the other members of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the Executive Committee nominations for the office of Vice-President to be placed on the official ballot for election by the members.

Sec. 4 The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall: (A) Receive and disburse all money under the direction of the Executive Committee. Keep complete and accurate records of all money received and disbursed by the Association. Complete and submit a financial report at each meeting of the Executive Committee and at the Master Clinic. (B) Promptly answer all correspondence received by the Association and keep records of such correspondence. (C) Keep accurate records of all meetings of the Executive Committee. (D) Collect all dues, pay all bills authorized by the Executive Committee, have charge of all funds, and place such funds under the name of the Association in a depository as approved by the Executive Committee. (E) Prepare the official ballot as approved by the Executive Committee, which will include: (1) Candidates for the office of Vice-President, including a space for write-in candidates (2) Candidates for honorary membership, if appropriate, and (3) any other matters deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V: CHANGE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The term of office for the President is two years. The Vice-President is elected for a two-year term and then assumes the office of President for a two-year term. The President and Vice-President assume office on June 1 of odd numbered years.

Sec. 2 The Executive Committee shall annually appoint the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall set the salary of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall have the power

to dismiss the Executive Secretary-Treasurer for any valid reason, by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3 The At-Large Representative shall be an active member in good standing appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The term of office for the At-Large Representative is two years. The At-Large Representative shall assume office on June 1 of even numbered years.

Sec. 4 The Vice-President will fill a vacancy in the office of the President for the remainder of the term.

Sec. 5 A vacancy in the office of Vice-President, occurring because the Vice-President filled a vacancy in the office of the President, or otherwise, will be filled for the remainder of the term by election by the members using an official ballot. Candidates to fill the vacancy will be submitted by the Nominating Committee appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. The official ballot will also contain a space for write-in candidates.

Sec. 6 A recall of the President, Vice-President, At-Large Representative, or one of the two immediate Past-Presidents may be conducted in the following manner: (A) A recall petition is submitted to the Executive Committee with signatures of at least 10% of the active members in good standing. (B) An official ballot will be sent to all active members in good standing. (C) A two-thirds vote in favor of recall of those ballots returned is necessary for recall. A recall vote removes the President, Vice-President, At-Large Representative, or Past-President from office but does not remove the person from membership in the Association.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sec. 1 There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice- President, At-Large Representative, and the two immediate Past-Presidents of the Association as voting members. The Executive-Secretary shall serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. In the event a Past-President or At-Large Representative cannot serve his term of office, the President shall appoint an active member in good standing to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the term with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Commissioner of the Colorado High School Activities Association or his duly appointed representative may serve as ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2 The Executive Committee shall conduct all business of the Association. The financial administration of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be bound by the results of those items voted upon in an official ballot as long as at least one-half of the registered officials submit a ballot.

Sec. 3 The Executive Committee shall arrange for an annual audit or other independent review of the Association's financial accounts.

ARTICLE VII: AREAS AND AREA DIRECTORS

Sec. 1 The state shall be divided into Areas, with boundaries to be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2 The Executive Committee shall appoint an Area Director for each Area. The Executive Committee may appoint additional Area Directors. Each Area Director must be an Association member in good standing. All Area Directors serve at the discretion of the Executive Committee and may be removed at any time by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3 Area Directors are to meet in person or meet through the use of electronic telecommunications/video conferencing or similar communications methods at the time of the Master Clinic and at such other times as the President may call.

Sec. 4 Area Directors will be responsible for conducting a regional rules clinic in October or November and at least two approved work sessions or mat skill improvement opportunities per season, one in November/December and another in January.

ARTICLE VIII: CLINICS AND WORK SESSIONS

Sec. 1 The Master Clinic is an annual meeting of the Executive Committee and the Area Directors held on a date and site established by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2 Regional Rules Clinics and approved Work Sessions will be held in each Area on dates and at sites established by Area Directors or held through the use of electronic telecommunications/video conferencing or similar communications methods.

ARTICLE IX: FISCAL YEAR

Sec. 1 The fiscal year of the Association shall be from April 1 through March 31 of each year.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 Amendments to this Constitution must be approved first by the Executive Committee. An official ballot will then be sent to all voting members in good standing. Final approval of all amendments shall be by a two-thirds vote of those ballots returned.

COLORADO WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

BY- LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP DESCRIPTIONS

The Colorado Wrestling Officials Association (C.W.O.A.) shall be comprised of six levels of membership.

A. Active Official:

- 1) Shall pay annual dues as established by the Executive Committee.
- 2) May vote in the election of officers, honorary members and other items of business appearing on the official ballot.
- 3) Shall attend a regional rules clinic annually.
- 4) Shall take and pass at least 75% proficiency the NFHS wrestling rules test.
- 5) Shall attend at least two (2) required mat skill improvement opportunities per season, one in November/December and one in January.

B. Student Official:

- 1) Shall pay annual dues as established by the Executive Committee.
- 2) Shall be classified as high school student officials if enrolled full time in high school.
- 3) Shall be classified as college student officials if enrolled in an institution of higher education which may include trade or vocation training schools.
- 4) High school student officials need only attend a regional rules clinic and pass the testing requirements of active officials and may only officiate youth matches.
- 5) College student officials must meet all the attendance and testing requirements of active officials and may only officiate youth matches or sub-varsity level matches.

C. Provisional Official (Registered official who does not achieve the required 75% proficiency on the NFHS wrestling rules test):

- 1) Shall pay annual dues as established by the Executive Committee.
- 2) May officiate only youth matches or sub-varsity matches.
- 3) Shall attend required meetings as outlined for active members.

D. Inactive Official (Previously active official who desires to remain affiliated with the Association, but who will not be eligible to officiate matches during the period of inactive membership):

- 1) Shall pay an annual fee established by the Executive Committee.
- 2) Shall not vote or hold elective office.
- 3) Shall be permitted to receive Association publications, and attend rule clinics and other sponsored activities.

E. Associate Member (Coaches and other individuals who are not wrestling officials, but wish to support the sport of wrestling):

- 1) Shall pay an annual fee established by the Executive Committee.
- 2) Shall not vote or hold elective office.
- 3) Are welcome to attend rule clinics and other activities sponsored by the Association.

F. Honorary Member:

- 1) The Executive Committee shall review nominated individuals prior to having their name approved to be placed upon the official ballot.
- 2) Candidates must receive a positive two-thirds majority of the returned ballots before this recognition can be granted.
- 3) Suggested criteria for possible candidates include but are not limited to:

- a. Longevity in the C.W.O.A.
- b. Service given to the C.W.O.A.
- c. Leadership contributions
- d. General support of high school wrestling activities
- e. Honors and awards already earned
- f. Recommendations from fellow C.W.O.A. members
- g. Other positive impacts made for wrestlers and wrestling programs in Colorado

ARTICLE II – ATTENDANCE AND TESTING

Section 1 All active officials must attend a Regional Rules Clinic, at least two (2) approved work sessions or mat skill improvement opportunities, one in November/December and one in January of each season, and take and pass the annual written test to be classified as a registered official in good standing. The minimum passing test score shall not be lower than 75%. Other mat skill improvement opportunities approved by the Executive Committee such as attendance at a summer referee camp may also count as meeting the November/December requirement.

Section 2 Failure to attend the required meetings will result in the official being ineligible to be selected to work the regional and state wrestling tournament series. The following procedure will be used for violators:

A. Notice will be given to CHSAA asking that violators not be assigned to officiate in any post-season tournament series during the current season.

Section 3 Before active or student membership in the Colorado Wrestling Officials Association is extended to a prospective wrestling official, he/she must take and pass a test on the current wrestling rules as presented by the NFHS.

NOTE: ALL TESTING WILL BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1ST OF EACH YEAR. THE NEED FOR GETTING NEWLY CERTIFIED OFFICIALS NAMES TO THE ASSIGNORS NECESSITATES THIS PROVISION.

ARTICLE III – CONDUCT STATEMENT

Section 1 The C.W.O.A. does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, age, handicap, national origin or sexual orientation in the recruiting, promotion advancement, participation or retention of it's members or with regard to the high school coaches, athletes or other team personnel.

Section 2 CHSAA game officials are expected to abide by the code of ethics for their respective associations including proper accepted social conduct. Violations of this by-law will be investigated and if substantiated, the official may be suspended from the officials association and CHSAA contests for a specific period.

Section 3 Any official who has been suspended or expelled may appeal that action to an appearance before the CHSAA Executive Committee. The decision of the CHSAA Executive Committee shall be final.

Section 4 This by-law allows the Association and officials' organizations to discipline officials who have been arrested or convicted of crimes. It allows the Association and officials' organizations to remove the offending official for conduct detrimental to interscholastic athletics and activities. All officials' organizations are required to place this by-law in their organization's operations and procedures.

Section 5 At the January 21, 1999, Board of Control meeting the board voted 54 – 0 to adopt proposal S-1-Officials Conduct. Athletic By-laws, Article 27, Rule 2760 to read:

A. Any official who has been registered by his/her parent official's group may be suspended and or banned from the CHSAA registered list of officials for a specified amount of time (including a lifetime ban) by action of the officials' organization governing board when:

1. It has been shown that the official is guilty of unethical conduct; or
2. The official refuses to promptly file reports requested by the Commissioner's office and such reports are deemed pertinent to the conduct of coach, contestant, official or school competing under the jurisdiction of the CHSAA; or
3. If the official, as an adult, has been convicted of or has pleaded "guilty" or "no contest" to any criminal charge due to conduct that adversely affects the ability or appropriateness of the official to perform officiating duties in interscholastic athletics or activities; or
4. If the official has engaged in any illegal, unethical, or immoral conduct that adversely affects the ability or appropriateness of the official to perform officiating duties in interscholastic athletics or activities; or
5. It is deemed that the official's conduct is detrimental to interscholastic athletics or activities.

Section 6 Any member that has acted, in any way, unbecoming of a wrestling official will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee rules the act to be serious, they will conduct private hearings with the official involved and take appropriate action. The Executive Committee's action will be final.

Section 7 The C.W.O.A. believes that all of its members should strive to provide a healthy, safe and appropriate environment for athletic competition. This philosophy dictates that each individual involved with the interscholastic competition be treated with respect and dignity. An integral part of a contest official's role is awareness of what behaviors or practices are considered unacceptable.

The following information identifies what is considered wrongful conduct, both on and off the contest area and said conduct is hereby discouraged and prohibited.

Definitions:

A. Sexual Harassment is a form of discrimination which violates federal laws. Sexual harassment is illegal. Sexual harassment includes requests for sexual favors, sexual motivated physical contact/conduct, other verbal or physical conduct, or communication of any sexual nature.

B. Sexual Intimidation is conduct that subjects individuals of either gender to humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Sexual intimidation can be verbal or non-verbal in nature.

C. Sexual Violence is an act of physical aggression that includes a sexual act or sexual intent. Sexual violence could include, but not limited to touching, grabbing, or patting another person's intimate body parts, or coercive sexual touching and or coercive sexual intercourse. Using force or the threat of force to engage in sexual touching or sexual intercourse, also constitutes sexual violence.

Section 8 Any person not a member of the C.W.O.A. who officiates high school wrestling matches or tournaments during a wrestling season shall not be extended C.W.O.A. membership until a period of ineligibility as determined by the Executive Committee, in cooperation with the CHSAA, has been served.

ARTICLE IV – VOTING

Section 1 Active members of C.W.O.A. in good standing shall vote upon the following items by official ballot:

- A. Vice-President,
- B. Honorary Members, and

C. Any other matters deemed by the Executive Committee.

Section 2 A quorum shall consist of four (4) Executive Committee members. No official business of the Association can be conducted without a quorum being present. All members of the Executive Committee must be notified at least one week (7 calendar days) in advance of any called meeting.

Section 3 Any active member of the Association may propose, in writing, changes and amendments to the By-Laws. The written proposal must be received by the Executive Committee prior to June 1st or October 1st annually.

After a period of review not to exceed 180 calendar days, the Executive Committee shall act upon the proposed change / amendment. The results of any action taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported in written form to the person initiating the respective proposal. All members will be promptly advised of any amendments to these procedures and by-laws.