

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**  
**AMATEUR WRESTLING**  
**ASSOCIATION**



**2017 AGM Minutes**  
**Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**St. John's, NL**

**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) Thank you to everyone for coming. We saw this weekend's tournament as a prime opportunity to have our AGM for the year as there are many coaches and interested people present. Our most previous AGM was October so we will be discussing many of the topics that were presented then. We are very excited for the 2017 Canada Games coming up this August and we have several matters to discuss regarding this event. This AGM has been called to order to confer on these events and to ensure that we have a successful year.

**2. Roll Call of Delegates: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) Ryan Nichols (St. John's): President
- b) Ronald Earle (Torbay): Vice President Administration (not in attendance)
- c) Ryan Nichols (St. John's): Secretary/Treasurer
- d) Matthew Patey (Memorial University Seahawks): Coaching Development Chairman
- e) Peter Petipas (Whitbourne Wrestling Club): Officials Chairman
- f) Steve Adams (Mount Pearl): Technical Chairman
- g) Jamie Lake (Waterford Valley High Wrestling Team): Athletic Representative
- h) Noel Strapp (Avondale) Roncalli High Wrestling Team
- i) Steve Noseworthy (St. John's): Canada Games Staff
- j) Todd Phillpot (Dildo) Crescent Collegiate Wrestling Team,
- k) Victoria Hollohan (Roncalli High Wrestling Team, Avondale)
- l) Kyla Walsh (St. John's): Provincial Draw master
- m) Brett Wheeler (Harbor Bretton) Coach/Volunteer

**3. Previous AGM Notes and Minutes: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) The 2016 AGM was held in St John's on Sat, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Minutes were electronically distributed via the NLAWA listserv on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. If anyone would like to be added to the listserv or would like a copy of the 2016 AMG minutes emailed to them they can request to do so.
- b) We are still trying to get an electronic copy of the minutes from the January 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 AGM that was held with Randy Ralph. Once we obtain this from the Ralph family we can certainly email a copy of this document to anyone who would like one.
- c) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept the 2016 NLAWA AGM minutes.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Patey/ Petipas). Motion carried.**

**4. Business Arising from Previous AGM: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) None disclosed.
- b) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept that there is no other business arising from the 2016 NLAWA AGM.**

2) **Motion: (Nichols/ Noseworthy). Motion carried.**

**5. Additions to and Acceptance of the 2017 AGM Agenda: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) Business number and taxes for the association
- b) List of current Provincial clubs
- c) Considerations for Canada Games activities
- d) NLAWA Hall of Fame
- e) **MOTION**

1) **To accept all additions to the 2017 AGM agenda.**

2) **Motion: (Petipas/Starpp). Motion carried.**

**6. Executive Reports:**

a) President: Ryan Nichols

- 1) Everyone has been busy since the last AGM in October. We have been working hard to grow and develop our sport in the province in many ways. In our last AGM it was identified that our numbers of participants across the province were low and this was mainly due to low numbers of clubs and teams province wide. We have put forth many initiatives to remedy this problem while developing Wrestling in Newfoundland comprehensively.
- 2) Much attention has been put on attracting new coaches to the sport in hope of them starting up teams. In late November we had a nationally recognized coaching facilitator come to NL to offer a Community Development Coaching Clinic to which there were many in attendance. During this time Peter Petipas was certified to become our provincial coaching facilitator. He can now offer Community Development Coaching Clinics to coaches to become certified. He has offered Part B of the Community Development Coaching clinic in December and will continue to offer clinics in the future.
- 3) To accompany more coaches, we have also put forth efforts to develop our officials in the province. In late November we had an Officials Clinician come down to put off a Officials Clinic and recommendations. Several officials took part, many of which received their official recommendation. Developing officials is necessary for competition within the province. Coaching NL also provides some funding for such endeavors. WCL expects us to maintain and advance our officials development.
- 4) We have had several new teams start up this year. Due to this we are very proud to announce that we now have participants in all 5 regions of Newfoundland and Labrador. This has been a goal of the association for several years.

5) Our membership numbers are up this year compared to last. We aspire for these numbers to grow as we have several new school and club teams starting up in the future. Wrestling is alive and well Newfoundland and Labrador thanks to dedicated coaches and passionate participants.

b) Vice President Administration: Ronald Earle

1) (Ronald was unable to attend due to work obligations. Ryan read a statement prepared by Ronald).

2) Our new staff has been making great strides to grow out association. We have managed to start new teams in different parts of the province. We have been able to provide mats and other resources for interested groups. We have also been able to develop the level of wrestling coaching here in Newfoundland and Labrador. All these things will result in athletic development as well as increased numbers in our sport. As we progress through 2017, I am excited to see the sport of wrestling grow closer to its full potential here in Newfoundland and Labrador.\

c) Secretary/ Treasurer: Ryan Nichols

1) In late December we were finally able to legally switch over the bank account name and management from past president and treasurer Randy Ralph to current board members. This has proven to be a confusing task that has had many delays. As such, we are still in the process of recovering and sorting out previous bank records and transactions of the 2016 year.

2) The association has been on top of grant and funding applications for 2016 and 2017. As such, the association as of right now is relatively financially healthy.

3) At this time, I am trying to retrieve financial documents regarding past tax refunds of the association. This information is needed to update the association's business number documents.

4) As soon as documents are regarding previous banking statements are retrieved from the Ralph family and 2016 financial statement will be completed. As we are still in the process of storing out and retrieving many financial documents, the 2017 financial statement will be presented at the next AGM.

d) Coaching Development Chairman: Matthew Patey

1) We have made many efforts to involve and train more coaches. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 we had our Part A Community Development Coaching clinic to which there were more than 20 in attendance. This has resulted in more than 3 new teams starting up due to having trained and interested coaches. In turn this means a larger number of participants across the province.

2) We are going to be holding a Competition Development Coaching clinic for those who are able to attend in March. Highly regarded, nationally ranked coaching clinician Grant Lavelle will be coming down to facilitate this clinic. This will be for our higher-level team coaches and will advance the coaching caliber in Newfoundland and Labrador.

3) We have been fortunate enough to have Peter Petipas appointed as our coaching facilitator in the province. This will allow us to offer many coaching certification components to interested coaches on a local basis without having to get facilitators from out of province to come down. Peter says he will be advancing his coaching to become a top ranked facilitator. We are constantly looking to offer coaching certification programs and resources to anyone who is interested in the Newfoundland and Labrador.

e) Officials Development Chairman: Peter Petipas

1) There are many new officials in Newfoundland and Labrador as a result of our referee's clinic that was held on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Officials clinician with The Canadian Association of Wrestling Officials, Chris Falconer was kind enough to come down and put off a clinic. This resulted in several new referees receiving different recommendations. There are now currently 12 active officials in the province.

2) Peter has received his national C official's recommendation and will be looking to continue to advance this in the future.

3) We were notified that our association fees were not paid to The Canadian Association of Wrestling Officials (CAWO) in the last 3 years. Due to this, an official's clinic that took place in Newfoundland and Labrador back in 2012 did not get approved. As a result, none of the officials that participated and received their reconditions at this clinic were approved. These fees, along with the penalty fee have been paid. We are now in good standing with the CAWO.

4) There is a need to have an increase in the number of higher level certification officials in Newfoundland and Labrador. There is also a need for us to send our high-ranking officials to national grading clinics and tournaments to advance their rating. There are various methods in which the association can obtain some funding to help in this endeavor.

f) **MOTION**

1) **To accept all information presented in the executive reports.**

2) **Motion: (Nichols/Adams). Motion carried.**

**7. Mat Rental Program: (Peter Petipas)**

a) Peter has been working hard to take provincial mat inventory. He is still going through exhaustive efforts to locate and delegate where our previous mats are currently located.

b) There are many discrepancies about several mats. One of which is the large black mat that is currently located in the 8-Limb Training Facility. This mat has been identified as NLAWA property via the 2014 AGM minutes. We would like to gain possession of this mat as there are several teams in the St. John's area who could avail of this mat for use of this school or club team.

c) A mat rental contact has been implemented to help maintain mat inventory. This has been successful and will continue to be used.

d) **MOTION**

**1) To accept all business pertaining to the mat rental program.**

**2) Motion: (Noseworthy/ Petipas). Motion carried.**

## **8. Marketing and Promotion: (Ryan Nichols)**

a) Website: The website is up and running. It constantly has many visitors but it needs to be updated and spruced up. Ryan is currently in charge of the web site however, he is finding it hard to find the time to keep the web site up along with his other NLAWA duties. If we are fortunate enough to get a summer student grant, perhaps this is something they can take on. The association's website is currently [www.nlawame.com](http://www.nlawame.com).

b) Facebook: Our current Facebook page of "NLAWA Wrestling" is very active. However, Randy Ralph was the original creator of the page. As such, his account is the only administrator. Many of the settings of the page need to be changed to become more user-friendly. Where we need to start a new Facebook page with current board members as admin. We will do so when there is a lull (during the offseason) in association activity to avoid confusion and all members of the current page will be invited to the new one which will be regularly updated.

c) Twitter: The NLAWA twitter account was started in the fall and has acquired many followers. @NL\_AWA is our Twitter handle. Several board members have access to this account so it is kept up to date regularly as a group effort. Board members, partners, athletes and coaches are all encouraged to include the NLAWA in any tweets that are appropriate.

d) Suggestions: We are always looking for suggestions to become more involved in social media. Having an athlete of the week section on the web site was an excellent suggestion that will be implemented. The use of Hootsuite was suggested to manage social media in an efficient way. This will also be implemented in the future.

e) **MOTION**

**1) To accept all business pertaining in Marketing and Promotion.**

**2) Motion: (Petipas/Phillpot). Motion Carried**

## **9. Marketing and Promotion: (Ryan Nichols)**

a) In previous AGM the NLAWA decided to consider appropriate organizational, operational and fiscal resources that would be required to form The Newfoundland and Labrador Grapplers Association under the NLAWA. The sport of grappling has been dropped by WLC in the past, however due to the cross promotion, similarities and comparable interests between grappling and wrestling, the NLAWA has chosen to continue to work with and help advance the sport of grappling. Athletes, coaches and sporting organizations can benefit from forming a mutually valuable relationship with grappling as a whole in the province and wrestling.

- b) There has been much interest in the idea of forming The Newfoundland and Labrador Grapplers Association from different disciplines and clubs of the grappling community in both Newfoundland and Labrador. Many have stated they would be more than happy to participate in this initiative as there is a need for such an association.
- c) Specific organizational information and logistics must be put in place before this can start to happen. As such, it has been decided that the NLGA program will be put on hold until fall of 2017, following the Canada Games competition.
- d) There has been much interest expressed in including a grappling tournament in the next Randy Ralph Memorial Provincial Open as grappling was another great interest and passion that Randy had.
- e) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to grappling.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Patey/Nichols). Motion carried.**

## **10. Tournament Reports**

- a) School Sport Newfoundland and Labrador High School Provincial Wrestling Tournament; Sat, Feb 18th, 2017 – Crescent Collegiate, South Dildo, NL:  
This tournament will be held tomorrow and we have athletes from various teams representing many regions of Newfoundland and Labrador attending and competing in this provincial championship tournament.
- b) Atlantic Wrestling Championships; Sat. March 25th – Summerside, PEI:  
As of right now there is close to 45 athletes interested in going on this trip which Peter Petipas will be organizing. Coaches for this trip will be Matthew Patey, Noel Strapp, Victoria Hollohan, Jamie Lake, Steve Noseworthy and Nigel Collins. The team will travel via bus and ferry to PEI for competition. Due to the interest in this trip by many of our Canada Games team hopefuls, The NLAWA has put measures in place to make travel for this trip as cost effective for the athletes as possible to ensure they get valuable competition experience.
- c) Randy Ralph Memorial Provincial Open; Sat, Nov. 26th, 2016 – Roncolli High, Avonldale, NL:  
This turned out to be a big tournament with more than 120 participants of all ages from many different parts of our province. Our official's clinician was present for this tournament to evaluate officials for that were involved in the official's training clinic that was also taking place that weekend. This tournament was put in place to honor our past long time President Randy Ralph in his memory. As such, much interest has been expressed in making this tournament more of a relaxed, fun-oriented event that is centered around community development. The next Randy Ralph Memorial Provincial Open will be more aimed at involving younger wrestlers training camp style activities. Competition for all ages will be second to community involvement and celebration events. This tournament will also include grappling, which was another passion of Randy's and can offer great cross-promotion and participation between sport organizations and athletes. It was also expressed that the tournament should be held later in the wrestling season so that more athletes are comfortable participating. This would

also allow for more schools, clubs and participants to schedule accordingly rather than having to deal with scheduling early in the season when teams are just starting up. A drum circle and Randy Ralph memorandum will also be added. An athlete of the tournament and prize draw awards would also be welcome as well as any other community and athlete development initiatives.

- d) Nova Scotia Open: Feb, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Sackville High School, Lower Sackville, NS:  
We had 7 participants attend who performed very well under the guidance of veteran wrestling coach Noel Strapp. They brought home 1 gold medal and 2 bronze. It was a great opportunity for wrestlers to get some quality, out of province competition experience
- e) WLC National Championships; Fri, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – St. Catharines, ON:  
There are several wrestlers who are interested in going. Peter Petipas has volunteered to coach athletes traveling to this event and will be organizing travel. It was agreed logistics regarding the 2017 WCL would be discussed and sorted out at a later date when interested athletes were better ranked proceeding the upcoming School Sport Newfoundland and Labrador High School Provincial Wrestling Tournament and when other interested coaches could confirm availability to attend.
- f) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to the Tournament Reports.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Patey/Nichols). Motion carried.**

#### **11. Canada/Cuba Cultural Sports Exchange: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) As discussed by Noel Strapp in the previous 2016 AGM, this program has been an amazing experience for athletes and coaches alike in the past. In the previous AGM it was been decided to put this program on the back burner for the next couple of years to concentrate on provincial development and national competition. Next purposed date to implement the program will be 2020.
- b) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to The Canada/Cuba Cultural Sports Exchange**
  - 2) **Motion: (Noel/Patey). Motion carried.**

#### **12. Memorial University Sea Hawks Wrestling Team: (Matthew Patey)**

- a) Due to a new individual sports teams ruling by CIS (now known as U-Sport), Dennis Sutton is the only athlete able to compete in as a Memorial University Varsity Wrestling athlete in the 2017-2018 season. Several appeals have been made by Matthew Patey to allow other athletes to compete with no avail. There have been proposals to have 3 more funded athletes, making Memorial University a small club competition team. Memorial Athletics have turned down such proposals and have cut a large majority of funding to the wrestling team. They have not given the team any scheduled practice times, resources and have been very hard to communicate with.



- b) Dennis has had continued success at all the tournament he has participated in so far this season and will be traveling to U-Sport nationals in Winnipeg at the end of February where he is predicted to do well. Matthew believes that the Seahawks Wrestling program is still active because of Dennis's success.
- c) There has been talks of a new Atlantic conference for individual sports which pertains to wrestling. This would involve Memorial University, University of New Brunswick and Concordia University in Quebec. There seems to be several logistical problems in making this happen. If this happened it would most likely allow a pathway for competition for new athletes in the future.
- d) Matthew will be traveling to the United States this fall for some time to complete his PHD. As such, Ryan Nichols will be taking over the role as Seahawks Wrestling coach. Ryan is excited to become the coach and will look to expand the team for future seasons with the help of Memorial Athletics while ensuring that Dennis can perform at his full potential in his last year of competition.
- e) NLAWA has started the Memorial University Wrestling Club that has received its ratification through The Memorial University Student Union. We are looking to use this club to work with the Memorial Seahawks Wrestling team to develop athletes and make practice times available on campus. Booking the MUN gym has proven to be a challenge due to its crowded schedule of varsity sports and classes. Years ago Memorial University has been designated as the provincial training facility with WCL. As such they can receive annual funding for this. Paperwork for such funding has never been submitted by Memorial. Ryan will look into this matter as it would be ideal in order to help obtain on-campus practice times.
- f) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to The memorial University Seahawks Wrestling Team.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Nichols/Adams). Motion carried.**

### **13. Canada Games 2017:**

- a) Games Specifics: The games are being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Wrestling will take place on August 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. More information on exact rules, accommodations, travel and athlete selection will become available by the Team NL Canada Games Mission staff in the new future.
- b) Coaching Staff:
  - Head Female Team Coach: Noel Strapp.
  - Assistant Female Team Coach: Victoria Hollohan.
  - Head Male Team Coach: Matthew Patey.
  - Assistant Male team Coach: Peter Petipas
  - Team Manager: Ryan Nichols
- c) Athlete Selection: As determined in the last AGM, athletes will be selected a rankings system and if necessary a wrestle off at the athlete selection/training camp on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- d) Training Camps: There will be a training camp with for all Canada Games interested athletes on the weekend of May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> with a creatable technical clinician. We



#### 10. Makenzie Stone

- b) Dr. Denis Szeto Memorial Scholarship. This award was not awarded in last year. This is an honorable award which would help a well deserving wrestling athlete. The NLAWA would like to ensure that this award is presented annually as it should be. Ryan will look into the status of this award through Recreation and Sport Division at Government. Memorial University Seahawks athlete Dennis Sutton will receive this award for this year.
- c) Athletic Excellence Fund. There are two awards that fall under this category. One of which is the Premiers Athletic Awards. This year's nominees are Jamie Lake and Jessica Fagen. The Team Gushue Award nomination is Dennis Sutton.
- d) Coach of the Year. This year the NLAWA has put forward a nomination of our long time valued coach of Noel Strapp.
- e) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to Awards and Scholarships.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Patey/Nichols). Motion carried.**

#### 16. NLAWA Business Number and Taxes: (Ryan Nichols)

- a) In the process of trying to obtain the association's business number for accounting purposes it has come to apparent that the association has not filed it tax returns sense around 2005. The reason for this is currently unknown. There are currently no members on the NLAWA board who were present at this time which is making this problem hard to gather information on as well as rectify. This issue has not affected day to day financial operation of the association at all however; it has caused some problems in obtaining the association's business number. This issue needs to be solved in order to keep the NLAWA's records up to date for all stakeholders.
- b) This summer the NLAWA will be applying for two work placement grants from the federal and provincial government to employ a post-secondary and or high school student to assist the NLAWA in its development and operations. This could prove especially helpful this summer with the 2017 Canada Games taking place and the preparation needed to send athletes to this event. Peter Petipas has volunteered to take the lead on these grant applications and operations.
- c) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to NLAWA Business Number and Taxes, which is an addition to the 2017 AGM Agenda.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Petipas/Hollohan). Motion carried.**

#### 17. List of Current Provincial Clubs and Teams: (Ryan Nichols)

- a) The following is a list of current active clubs and school teams in the province. Some locations have large teams of different age levels. Others may have only a few athletes. Clubs are in no particular order.
  - 1. Memorial University Seahawks – St. John's
  - 2. Prince of Wales Collegiate High School - St. John's
  - 3. Crescent Collegiate – South Dildo
  - 4. St. John's Jujitsu – St. John's
  - 5. Conne River Wrestling Club – Conne River
  - 6. St. James Regional High School – Port a Basque

7. King Academy - Harbour Breton
8. Waterford Valley High School – St. John’s
9. St. Kevin’s High School – Goulds
10. Roncalli Central High School – Avondale
11. Avoca Collegiate - Badger
12. Exploits Valley Intermediate School – Grand Falls – Windsor
13. Trinity Bay Wrestling Club - Trinity Bay
14. Piccadilly Central High School – Piccadilly
15. Sheshatshiu Innu School – North West River
16. Mealy Mountain Collegiate – Happy Valley-Goose Bay

b) **MOTION**

- 1) **To accept all entries to the List of Current Provincial Clubs and Teams, which is an addition to the 2017 AGM Agenda.**
- 2) **Motion: (Nichols/Lake). Motion carried.**

**18. Considerations for Canada Games activities: (Noel Strapp)**

- a) Every summer before a Canada Games, Sport Newfoundland and Labrador has a Team NL Canada Games Rally. This year the rally is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In the last rally, athletes from all other sports besides wrestling had matching team cloths in accordance for their sports. Wrestlers have said they felt underdressed and out of place. This also makes our program seem unorganized. It would be nice if wrestlers could get some matching swag that they could wear to the rally and then use for training.
- b) It was agreed that Canada Games Team Wrestlers need matching clothes for this event and for team training as there is room in the budget for this. Ryan Nichols volunteered to price training clothing options such as hoodies and athletic shirts that would be printed with a custom Wrestling Newfoundland and Labrador Logo. Options would then be distributed among the coaching staff and the most feasible option would be chosen and given to athletes to wear for the rally and to train in after.
- c) Rooms at a student residence at Memorial University will be booked for a training camp the week before the Canada Games. Practice times, workout schedule and camp activities will be decided and scheduled in future meeting.
- d) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept all business pertaining to Considerations for Canada Games activities, which is an addition to the 2017 AGM Agenda.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Strapp/Nichols). Motion carried.**

**19. NLAWA Hall of Fame: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) In accordance to Sports NI policies, we need to maintain our association’s hall of fame. This has not been done in several years. We would like to make an effort to update and improve The NLAWA hall of fame in the upcoming year.
- b) As such, it was agreed among everyone present that the following people be inducted to our hall of fame this year:
  1. Brian Gale
  2. Gerard Bennett

3. Randy Ralph

c) **MOTION**

- 1) **To accept all inductees to the NLAWA Hall of Fame, which is an addition to the 2017 AGM Agenda.**
- 2) **Motion: (Nichols/Wheeler). Motion carried**

**20. Date of next AGM: (Ryan Nichols)**

- a) It would be best to have the date of the next AGM in coordination with a provincial tournament so that many coaches can attend. It would also be ideal to move the AGM to a different region to give interested parties an opportunity to attend. The date and location of the 2018 AGM will be decided as dates and locations of provincial tournaments become decided. The date, location will then be sent out to members via the listserv and made public via our website as well as Facebook page.
- b) **MOTION**
  - 1) **To accept that the 2018 AGM date and location will be determined and announced at later date.**
  - 2) **Motion: (Petipas/Strapp). Motion carried**

**21. Adjournment of Meeting: (Ryan Nichols)**

a) **MOTION**

- 1) **To adjourn the 2017 NLAWA Annual General Meeting.**
- 2) **Motion: (Petipas/Strapp). Motion carried**