

# **The Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Wrestling Association**



**2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes-DRAFT  
St. John's, NL**

**Virtual Meeting via Google Meet**

**Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020**

**DISCLAIMER: This is a draft copy of the 2020 NLAWA Annual General Meeting Minutes. These minutes have NOT yet been approved by NLAWA board members. These minutes will be up for approval at the 2021 NLAWA AGM which is scheduled for Fall of 2021.**

## **1. Welcoming and Opening Remarks**

- a) On behalf of the NLAWA and wrestling in the province I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for logging in. We are here tonight to efficiently and effectively go through many of the organizational and administrative matters that need to be attended to for the 2021 operational year with the NLAWA. We have several matters to work through, so our intentions are to work through things in an efficient manner. By all means, if anyone has anything they would like to say at any time please do not hesitate to do so. We will follow the formal Robert's rules of an official AGM but in a virtual setting. Our long-time past president, Randy Ralph took pride in making these meetings casual and relaxed. We will do the same but try to stay on topic as we progress through our agenda to make this meeting as productive as possible. As President of the NLAWA, I hear by call the 2019 AGM to Order
- b) Our past season was not what anyone expected or desired due to the world pandemic. Covid-19 and its restrictions have put our sport on the hold for a while. While we are unable to work on the mats our admin has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our sport can continue and grow once restrictions start to lift.
- c) Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions we have chosen to conduct this AGM virtually via Google Meet. The virtual setting is very convenient but we ask that all those in attendance please mute your mic when not talking and feel free to chime in at any time. Please follow all general respectful virtual meeting adequate and if any one has any issues please feel free to tell the group.

## **2. Roll Call of Delegates**

- a) Ryan Nichols – St. John's Region: NLAWA President/Secretary/Treasurer
- b) Ronald Earle - Torbay: NLAWA Vice President
- c) Peter Petipas – Whitbourn: NLAWA Coaches Development Chairperson
- d) Matthew Patey – Mount Pearl: NLAWA Technical Chairperson
- e) Nigel Collins – St. John's Region: NLAWA Officials Development Chairperson
- f) Jamie Lake – NLAWA Administrative Chairperson
- g) Eddie Penny – Carbonear: Coach of Carbonear Collegiate Wrestling Team
- h) Ian Janes – St. John's Region: Membership Development Chairperson/ Coach of St. Paul's Junior High Wrestling Team
- i) John Smith - Mount Pearl: Former Seahawks Athlete, Interested Coach

## **3. Update of NLAWA By-Laws**

- a) On November 5th Bill 51 was proclaimed into force which amends the Corporations Act, Co-operatives Act and the Condominium Act, 2009. These new amendments permit director meetings, general meetings and voting that would take place to be held using telephone, electronic means or other methods of communication.
- b) The specific changes can be found here :  
<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/HouseBusiness/Bills/ga49session1/bill2051.htm> (You will need to scroll down to the "Corporations Act" section to see the changes made to the Corporations Act.)

- c) Please note the language that says “Subject to the by-laws...” As our association falls under the Corporations Act, the NLAWA will need to make amendment to our constitution stating that our director meetings, general meetings and voting that would take place can be held using any electronic means.
- d) Peter Petipas has proposed an amendment to the NLAWA Constitution, under ARTICLE 7 – MEETINGS. Peter has proposed to add and revise ARTICLE 7 so that it reads in full:  
“ARTICLE 7  
MEETINGS
  - a) The operation of the NLAWA may be carried on throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and elsewhere in Canada.
  - b) Any NLAWA meetings, such as but not limited: Annual General Meeting, Semi Annual Meeting, Directors Meeting, Etc, as well as any association formal voting may be carried out via a virtual or electronic conferencing platform.
  - c) Annual General Meeting - Shall be held annually once per calendar year. At this meeting members will consider:
    - i. President's report
    - ii. Approval of financial statements
    - iii. Any other business concerning the NLAWA and its operations
    - iv. Election of Executive Committee”
- e) Proposal seconded by Ronald Earle.
- f) NLAWA VOTE: All (7) voting members in attendance were in favor, none (0) were opposed.
- g) With all sections of ARTICLE 8 – AMENDMENTS of the NLAWA Constitution satisfied, a move to motion can now be passed.
- h) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To amend ARTICLE 7 – MEETINGS of the NLAWA Constitution by accepting the above proposal in its entirety with note of the addition of “section b)” which reads “Any NLAWA meetings, such as but not limited: Annual General Meeting, Semi Annual Meeting, Directors Meeting, Etc, as well as any association formal voting may be carried out via a virtual or electronic conferencing platform”.
  - 2. P: Petipas/ S: Earle. Motion carried.
- i) **MOTION:**
  - 3. To instate a NLAWA Semi-Annual Meeting to happen approximately 6 months from the date of the AGM or as deemed necessary.
  - 4. P: Nichols/ S: Patey. Motion carried.

#### **4.Previous AGM Note and Minutes**

- a) The most recent AGM was held on Friday, March 22nd, 2019 in St. John’s, NL. Minutes for that meeting were electronically distributed to those who indicated that they would be in attendance tonight via email on Tuesday, Dec 1st, 2020. If anyone would like to be added to the NLAWA Email listserv or would like a copy of the 2019 AGM minutes

emailed to them they can request to do so. The 2019 AGM minutes are made available to the public on the Sport NL website via <http://www.sportnl.ca/members/wrestling>.

b) **MOTION:**

1. To approve of the 2019 NLAWA AGM minutes.
2. P: Nichols/ S: Lake. Motion carried.

## **5. Business Arising from Previous AGM**

- a) NLAWA Uniform Policy Regarding Competition Uniforms. Several teams from other provinces have a formal policy regarding their athletes' competition uniforms. During our last AGM it was decided that our admin would look into this and decide if we should follow suit. During national and Atlantic competition, teams from other provinces have worn rash guards and "MMA" style shorts instead of singlets. It was decided that during any NLAWA local or provincial events, athlete competition attire is not limited to singlets. Athletes can wear any athletic attire they are comfortable with, which is safe and does not restrict or impede movement from either athlete. The head official for each match can use their professional digression and can ask athletes to change if necessary.
- b) Adoption of a New Official Association Logo and Emblem. During the last AGM it was decided that we needed to update our association logo and our admin would work on this task. We are excited to share our new drafts later in the meeting as this item is #11 of our agenda.
- c) **MOTION:**
  3. To accept that there is no further business arising from the 2019 AGM.
  4. P: Petipas/ S: Earle. Motion carried.

## **6. Additions to and Acceptance of the 2020 AGM Agenda**

- a) No items were requested to be added to the 2020 AGM Agenda
- b) **MOTION:**
  5. To accept the 2020 NLAWA AGM agenda.
  6. P: Nichols/ S: Collins. Motion carried.

## **7. NLAWA Executive Board Member Reports**

- a) President: Ryan Nichols
  1. We thank everyone for logging into our first virtual AGM tonight. As much as we would enjoy meeting people in person, a virtual meeting is more convenient and like many things these days, it will likely be a new normal for us. This is certainly not the year anyone expected or wanted in many ways. We are grateful to see that our athletes, coaches and admin are all eager to be involved even though we are unable to train or compete.
  2. As everyone knows by now, On March 16th, 2020 the NL The Department of Health and Community Services suspended all recreational sporting events due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We were mid-season at that point with several events scheduled to happen in the upcoming weeks that were postponed and then cancelled. All other Atlantic and national events also followed suit. Wrestling across our province and nation was suspended with no training or events.

3. As the pandemic continued our PSO was in constant communication with WCI, Sport NL and different departments of Gov NL to advise of sport restrictions and best practices during the sport lockdown.
4. While our teams were inactive this spring and summer, our admin were overworked. The number of duties required by our PSO at the admin level was at an all-time high. With PSO/NSO communication, return to training policies, updating safety protocols, grant applications and normal day to day activities our admin have been operating beyond their capacity. All to ensure that our PSO remains healthy and our sport safe when we are able to resume.
5. Wrestling, along with all other close contact combative sports in NL, was only permitted to resume on October 9th, 2020 if our PSO had Return to Training Procedures in place. At that time however, our active teams/clubs were still unable to return to on mat training as the majority of our teams operate out of schools. The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District has suspended the use of schools for all outside sports organizations until further notice. It was communicated by our active team coaches that they would have to wait until schools permitted the use of outside groups again in order to have team practices. Any clubs that operate outside of schools do so with other sports. With patron numbers at daily max capacity due to changing public health protocols, most club owners were unable to include wrestling along with their other sports.
6. The NLAWA has new Return to On Mat Training Procedures and Protocols that must be followed by all teams/clubs, coaches and athletes for when we are able to return to on mat training. These procedures are in place so that we can act together to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19 while ensuring everyone's safety. All sports have new return to sport training and procedures as sport suspensions and restrictions are lifted. It is important that all of our procedures and protocols are adhered to as our sport is very different from many others. Failure to do so could result in the possibility of being unaffiliated with our PSO.
7. We look forward to returning to training when the NLESD allows outside groups to use school gymnasiums. Although it is unlikely, we hope that this is allowed in winter of 2021. In addition to this, in February we will also be looking into finding a venue that is not in a school to hold open practices for athletes in the St. John's region. If there is a venue in which this is possible in other regions we would certainly do anything possible to make it happen. At this time, we are unable to have athletes from different regions practice together.
8. As we collectively wait for a time that our teams are able to find a place to resume on mat training, we encourage all coaches to maintain and advance their coaching certification. This is the opportune time for coaches to take advantage of virtually completing their multi-sport modules through Coaching NL, as they offer them free of charge.
9. We will continue to monitor the pandemic and its prevalence in our province. As restrictions loosen over time we will be able to set dates for regional and provincial tournaments. If we are unable to preserve any of the 2020-2021 season we will focus all efforts on a safe and eventful 2021-2022 season. Eventually, out of province competitions will also resume and our training and competition regime will return with safety modifications. Until that time, we encourage all our

athletes to work on their own off mat training. We encourage our coaches to maintain communication with their athletes and use this sport down time productively. Finally, we ask for everyone's patience while we wait for a time when we can all safely return to on mat training. We also applaud our members' enthusiasm and perseverance for our sport. We are all excited to return and we will, in a safe manner. When that happens, it will not take long for our sport to grow and thrive in a province that has deep wrestling roots. Until then, if any one has any questions, concerns or needs anything in any way, please do not hesitate to contact our association. Please stay safe, on and off the mats.

b) Vice President Administration: Ronald Earle

1. This has obviously not been the year we all wanted but I hope everyone is making the best of the off time. I hope athletes are staying in shape and taking advantage of the WCI at home training resources. I hope our coaches are enjoying some down time but always working on continuing their coach education and training. Coaches should be working on their multisport modules during this time if they need or want to. These modules are offered virtually and are free of charge through Coaching NL. This is an excellent way for coaches to keep their skills sharp while advancing their certification. Finally, our board members have been using this time to update our policies as well as work on our return to training and safety procedures for when we are able to return to the mats. We appreciate everyone's patience as we know athletes, coaches and volunteers alike are all eager to return to training. We will do so when we are able and when it is safe. When we do, our new protocols and policies will ensure that all our participants can enjoy our sport in a safe environment. We look forward to when we are able to resume wrestling in 2021 while having a safe and prosperous season.

c) Secretary/ Treasurer: Ryan Nichols

1. The 2019-2020 NLAWA Financial Report has been distributed and is available upon request for anyone who is not present. It dates back to our last AGM that was held in July of 2018 when the last financial report was presented. Please review for later in the meeting.
2. It has been a very quiet year with low financial activity due to the pandemic sport suspension. Resources that were not spent on tournaments and events for this year will be used for the same events for next season
3. There was a small loss of revenue due to cancelling the athlete membership fees for the 2020-2021 season. However, this has been slightly offset due to our WCL and BFL insurance premiums for the year being reduced and prorated because of the pandemic. These fees continue to be our biggest annual cost and athlete's membership fees will be needed to cover them for next season.
4. In 2019 NLAWA has received a grant with the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development within the provincial government to assist in purchasing a new mat. We would like to purchase a 40'X 40' sized wrestling mat which

meets competition standard requirements put forward by WCL. We would like to source a mat from Canada as the cost of shipping and duties from out of country is extremely expensive. Our plans on purchasing a mat have been postponed for the time being. The pandemic has caused all costs associated with this purchase to more than double. We also currently have no means of storing mat as schools are not permitting outside groups to use them. The money from this grant will have to stay in our account until we are able to source and purchase a mat. The money from this grant will be used in full to go towards the purchase of a new mat as soon as we are able.

5. All financial matters are currently attended to and we are in good standing with WCL, CAWO, Sport NL and the NL Registry of Companies and Deeds.

d) Coaching Development Chairman: Peter Petipas

1. We had a competition introduction clinic in late February and early January of 2020 before the pandemic shut everything down. Several were in attendance and we were looking forward to getting these coaches involved. The pandemic has forced many coaches to pause their intentions to become involved in current teams or start their own. Many teams are unable to get into the venue where they train like schools due to covid restrictions. Some coaches are involved in multisport clubs and are already at capacity from new public health restrictions and cannot take on new sports. We look forward to helping these coaches become involved in wrestling as restrictions loosen in 2021.
2. We were in the process of scheduling a coaching facilitator to come to NL to conduct a competition development education clinic and evaluation for our Canada Games coaches when the pandemic hit. Of course, now that travel is restricted to NL, we are unable to currently do this and our clinic has been postponed. We will reschedule this coaching education clinic for whenever we are able. Other than that, like most sports here, we have had very low coaching activity due to the pandemic and sport shutdown.
3. Peter encourages all coaches or anyone who is interested to complete their multisport modules for NCCP wrestling coaching certification during this downtime. These modules can be completed by any coach or aspiring coach as no pre-request certification is required. These modules are offered completely free of charge for anyone in our province through Coaching NL. We are the only province that does this and everyone should take advantage of that. Big thank you to Coaching NL for this.
4. Peter wanted to remind all Canada Games coaches to complete their multisport modules to obtain the certification they need to coach at the 2022 Canada Games. The Canada Games board has repeatedly said they will not grant any certification exemptions for any coaches with no exceptions. Failure for coaches to complete certification could result in them not being permitted to coach at/be involved with the 2022 Canada Games Wrestling Team.



e) Officials Development Chairman: Nigel Collins

1. Nigel was able to officiate at the PEI open and Atlantic Championship before the pandemic hit. He is the only active official who is certified beyond the community level. He is looking for more officials to become certified to travel out of province to officiate.
2. All official's certification clinics have been canceled due to the pandemic and there has been very little officials' activity at the provincial and national level.
3. There is a dire need for more officials in our province. We struggle to attract and maintain officials for many reasons. We have a very low number of active officials when compared to other provinces with similar membership size. If anyone would like to become trained as a community or provincial level referee, The NLAWA offers officials certification clinics at these levels completely free of charge. If you are interested, please reach out. Also, if you have any officials training and would like to advance it, we are in a critical need of active wrestling officials at all levels.

## **8. NLAWA 2019-2020 Financial Report**

- a) The 2019-2020 NLAWA Financial Report has been distributed to those in attendance prior to this meeting and is available upon request for anyone who is not present. It dates back to our last AGM that was held in March of 2019 when the last financial report was presented.
- b) **MOTION:**
  1. To approve the 2019-2018 NLAWA Financial Report.
  2. P: Patey/ S: Lake. Motion carried.

## **9. Change of NLAWA Board Members**

- a) Matthew Patey has voiced some concerns regarding his position as Technical Chairperson with the NLAWA. Matthew is currently living in The United States which he has been for a few years while finishing his PHD. He says that unless something changes with his work he will continue to live in the USA. As such, he feels it is hard to stay connected with the provincial wrestling scene in NL. He does not want to leave his position as he still highly enjoys being involved. He feels that with many large events coming up in the coming years that it would be more efficient to have someone else in addition to him in his position. He has proposed that he would like to split the position of NLAWA Technical Chairperson with Jon Smith. He and Jon would both work as co-chairs for the Technical Chairperson position. Jon lives in Mount Pearl and would be able to attend all events. He would then work with Matthew remotely to fulfill all the responsibilities of the NLAWA Technical Chairperson.
- b) The group decided that this is an excellent idea. Jon is a veteran varsity wrestler and is working on his Comp Intro Wrestling coach certification. He is eager to help out and will be an asset to our association. We are proud to welcome John to the NLAWA and thank him for his commitment.
- c) **MOTION:**

1. To appoint John Smith as the Technical Cochairperson in addition to Matthew Patey. Going forward Jon and Matthew will share the responsibilities and duties of the NLAWA Technical Chairperson position. They will both be recognized as the NLAWA Technical Cochairperson.
  2. P: Petipas/ S: Earle. Motion carried.
- d) No other members were interested in changing positions at this time.
- e) **MOTION:**
1. To accept all business pertaining The Change of NLAWA Board Members.
  2. P: Nichols/ S: Lake. Motion carried.

#### **10. NLAWA Covid-19 Update and NLAWA Covid-19 Return to On Mat Training Policies & Procedures**

- a) On March 16th, 2020 the NL The Department of Health and Community Services suspended all recreational sporting events due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Wrestling, along with all other close contact combative sports in NL, was only permitted to resume on October 9th, 2020 if our PSO had Return to Training Procedures in place. At that time however, our active teams/clubs were still unable to return to on mat training as the majority of our teams operate out of schools. The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District has suspended the use of schools for all outside sports organizations until further notice. It was communicated by our active team coaches that they would have to wait until schools permitted the use of outside groups again in order to have team practices.
- b) New Covid-19 safety protocols and procedures need to be put in place to ensure the safety of all our participants for when we are able to return to on the mat training.
- c) During the shutdown, our President Ryan Nichols has been working heavily with WCL, Sport NL and the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation in Gov NL to ensure our safety procedures were sufficient for returning to training. It has been an arduous procedure but The NLAWA Return to On Mat Training Policies and Procedures have been approved by The Department of Health and Community Services.
- d) The NLAWA COVID-19 Return to On Mat Training Policies and Procedures have been developed in accordance with recommendations from The Department of Health and Community Services of NL, Wrestling Canada Lutte, and Sport NL. Our guidelines and procedures for returning to on mat training are necessary for ensuring the utmost safety of all the people who are involved in our sport while minimizing the potential to spread COVID-19. These procedures were sent electronically to all those in attendance prior to this meeting to be reviewed. No one in attendance had any issues or concerns with the documents.
- e) The NLAWA will require all wrestling teams and/or clubs in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador that are sanctioned with the NLAWA, follow our COVID-19 Return To On Mat Training Policies and Procedures when returning to any on the mat training. We ask that all coaches, team managers, athletes, and volunteers please adhere to our guidelines and procedures when resuming on mat training with their wrestling teams or clubs.

- f) It is important to note that The Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Wrestling Association reserves the right to revise these guidelines and procedures according to the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic in Newfoundland and Labrador and corresponding recommendations and guidelines.
- g) All the information regarding the NLAWA COVID-19 Return To On Mat Training Policies and Procedures along with its accompanying wavers is outlined in the document. This document will be emailed to all active coaches via the NLAWA email listserv. We have asked all active coaches to inform our admin of when they can or are able to resume on mat training via email. These coaches will then receive a brief tutorial on how to efficiently apply these procedures. This document will also be posted on the NLAWA website once it is updated. Finally, these documents will also be advertised on our social media outlets in the near future.
- h) NLAWA president Ryan Nichols urges everyone to abide by these procedures and asks that if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the NLAWA COVID-19 Return to On Mat Training Policies and Procedures to contact him.
- i) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To accept all business pertaining to the NLAWA Covid-19 Update and for all members of the NLAWA to adhere to the NLAWA Covid-19 Return to On Mat Training Policies & Procedures going forward.
  - 2. P: Earle/ S: Collins. Motion carried.

## **10. Changes to NLAWA Contact Information**

- a) The NLAWA has a new email address that it will be primarily using going forward. It is [info.wrestlingnl@gmail.com](mailto:info.wrestlingnl@gmail.com)
- b) Our old email can still be used while we transition over. We ask that people please use email as a primary form of communication with us.
- c) The NLAWA also has a new mailing address which is:  
NLAWA  
17 Brad Gushue Crescent  
St. John's, NL  
A1H 0A3
- d) The telephone number for the NLAWA remains the same and is 709-631-1919.
- e) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To accept all business pertaining to the Changes to NLAWA Contact Information.
  - 2. P: Nichols/ S: Patey. Motion carried.

## **11. New NLAWA Logo and Association Rebranding**

- a) Our Administrative Chairperson Jamie Lake has been working hard at designing a new logo for the NLAWA. She has done an amazing job using the feedback from our last AGM and had made a draft of a new logo for our association. The draft logo was submitted to everyone in attendance via email prior to this meeting and was officially named "NLAWA Draft Logo". Attendees were asked to take a look at the draft logo and provide feedback.

- b) The “NLAWA Draft Logo” can be found at Appendix A.
- c) Everyone in attendance approved of the logo and praised Jamie for her work. It was unanimously voted to be used as our official association logo and emblem going forward.
- d) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To officially adopt the “NLAWA Draft Logo” image as the Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Wrestling Association official logo and emblem. The NLAWA will be using this image as our official logo going forward as of today. This image will now be renamed and known as “NLAWA Official Logo”.
  - 2. P: Petipas/ S: Patey. Motion carried.
- e) Over the last two years we have been working on re-branding our association from “The Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Wrestling Association” or “NLAWA” as “Wrestling Newfoundland and Labrador” or “Wrestling NL”. We have been making headway with this but it is a complicated task. Our banking information, registered business name and corporation name are all under the NLAWA. Officially changing these would be very complicated. We also have a long-standing heritage and many assets with our NLAWA name that we do not want to lose.
- f) After much discussion it was decided that it would be best for the NLAWA to continue the rebranding process to Wrestling NL while keeping the NLAWA business, corporation and financial name the same “The Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Wrestling Association” or “NLAWA”.
- g) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To continue to completely rebrand the name of our PSO from The “Newfoundland and Labrador Amateur Wrestling Association (NLAWA)” to “Wrestling Newfoundland and Labrador (Wrestling NL)” while leaving the NLAWA business and corporation and therefore financial name the same.
  - 2. P: Nichols/ S: Collins. Motion carried.
- h) Ryan Nichols would look into what exactly would be needed to change all official NLAWA names to Wrestling NL. We will assess this process at the next AGM.
- i) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To accept all business pertaining to the New NLAWA Logo and Association Rebranding.
  - 2. P: Patey/ S: Smith. Motion Carried.

## **12. Additions to New NLAWA Policies and Procedures:**

- a) Club/Team Affiliation - We have been working the affiliation process for interested clubs/teams. We have been working on making a package of resources and documents that clearly outlines what being affiliated with our association provides. We would provide this resource package to all clubs and teams that become affiliated with us. We would also promote this package as an incentive to become affiliated. Our technical chairs have agreed to assist with this task. All clubs and teams must be officially affiliated with us via our online registration system starting in 2021.
- b) 2020 & 2021 Membership Fees - in our last AGM it was decided that members would pay a modest \$20 registration fee per season. This fee would be paid upon registration for

the season using the online registration platform Trackie. When all sports were suspended due to the pandemic in mid-March, we decided to postpone these plans. Mid-June when it became apparent that we would not be able to salvage the season due to COVID, we decided to cancel the payment of athlete membership fees for 2020-2021 as it would be unfair to athletes to have them pay fees for such a short season. We have also canceled the use of Trackie as our online registration system as WCL will be using their own private online registration system for PSO's in 2021. The athlete membership fee is scheduled to resume for the 2021-2022 season.

- c) New Online WCL/NLAWA Membership Tracking System - Wrestling Canada Lutte will be utilizing their own online registration and tracking system in 2021. It is a new platform that allows PSO's to customize membership criteria, track fee payment, register for tournaments and track team/athlete info. The platform does have a small fee that is automatically built into athlete membership payments the same way Trackie did. This fee is marginal and not far off what Trackie would charge. The NLAWA will be using the WCL online registration system for our PSO membership registration and membership fee payments going forward. We will have this platform set up for when teams are able to train again and must register to be covered under our sport insurance.

**d) MOTION:**

1. To accept all business pertaining to Additions to New NLAWA Policies and Procedures.
2. P: Earle/ S: Patey. Motion Carried.

### **13. Designation of NLAWA Special Project Groups**

- a) We have several different projects that need to be attended to. We would like to designate these tasks to members of our board to get them done efficiently and efficiently. Our president will schedule a virtual meeting with all groups to further provide detail and assistance with the project at a later date. We ask members who are interested in these projects to commit to working on them and express their interest.
- b) COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Sport Application - Due Dec 31st, 2020 - Ryan Nichols, Ronald Earle.
- c) Canada Games Fiscal Year Grant Application - DUE DEC 9TH, 2020 - Ryan Nichols, Peter Petipas.
- d) Canada Games Planning - Ryan Nichols, Peter Petipas, Ronald Earle, Eddie Penny.
- e) Hall of Fame - Nigel Collins, Ryan Nichols.
- f) Review and Update of NLAWA By-laws - Ryan Nichols, Peter Petipas, Ronald Earle.
- g) Official's Recruitment - Nigel Collins.

**h) MOTION:**

1. To accept all business pertaining to Designation of NLAWA Special Project Groups.
2. P: Peter/ S: Collins. Motion carried.

#### **14. Mat Rental Program**

- a) The mat rental program has been going well and serves as a great way of keeping inventory of our mats in the province. Ian Janes, our Membership Development Chairperson has been working with Peter Petipas to manage this.
- b) There is a running up to date inventory of mats. Right now, there are two mats in question that the NLAWA is looking to locate. One is the mat located in Lourds, NL. The other was previously in Mount Pearl Senior High in Mount Pearl, NL. These mats are currently not being used and the NLAWA would like to reclaim and relocate them immediately. At our last AGM, Ronald Earle has agreed to enquire about both mats and determine the best process of locating/retrieving them. The pandemic has hindered his progress with this task and he will look to resume it as soon as possible.
- c) We are having trouble finding a place to put mats. Many schools and teachers are excited at the idea of getting a mat to start up a team when approached about it but when it comes time to move the mat into their school, they are unwilling as they have no room to store it. We have mats that are not being used and coaches who want to start teams with them. All we need are school/teachers/teacher sponsors to agree to adopt them. The NLAWA will transport mats free of charge for schools and mat storage seems possible for most schools. If you are interested in starting a team and would like a wrestling mat. Please contact a member of the NLAWA.
- d) Our mat rental contact has been implemented to help maintain mat inventory. This has been successful and will continue to be used.
- e) We have been asked to update our mat inventory in preparation of the possibility of the 2025 Canada Summer Games being held here. We will be asking all clubs/teams who currently use NLAWA owned mats to submit an updated mat rental contract. Failure to do so could result in the removal of NLAWA mats.
- f) The NLAWA has received a grant with the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development within the provincial government to assist in purchasing a new mat. We would like to purchase a 40'X 40' sized wrestling mat which meets competition standard requirements put forward by WCL. With a mat this size we would be better equipped to host Atlantic and national events. With talks of NL hosting the 2025 Canada Summer Games, we figure that now would be a good time to purchase a national competition standard mat in preparation. The cost of shipping a new mat to NL is very high. It is even higher if we purchase and ship one from outside of Canada, which can cost upwards of \$10,000 which is not financially feasible for us. We will be looking to source a mat from inside Canada to make use of our funds as efficiently as possible. We have been forced to put this purchase on hold due to the pandemic. Currently, the cost and shipping of mats has increased significantly due to the pandemic. We also have nowhere to store a new mat as the NLESD is not allowing outside sports teams to use or store new gear in schools for public health policies. We will look at purchasing a new mat as schools reopen to outside groups or we are able to find storage for one.
- g) **MOTION**
  - 1. To accept all business pertaining to the mat rental program.
  - 2. P: Earle/ S: Penny. Motion carried.

## **15. Marketing and Promotion**

- a. Our website is up and running. It does need to be updated and reformatted slightly. It had been getting steady traffic despite the sport shut down. At our last AGM it was determined that our Administrative Chairperson would be in charge of maintaining the website and social media. In July of 2019 at our semiannual meeting Jamike Lake took on the role of our Administrative Chairperson and had been doing a great job of maintaining the website and all of our social media outlets.
- b. The new Facebook page seems to be an efficient way of corresponding with people in addition to our website. Our Facebook page falls in line with our rebranding. Our Twitter handle is @NL\_AWA which we try to keep up to date with. 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. We will look into renaming our twitter handle to Wrestling NL this year.
- c. Our website and social media do receive a lot of traffic and serve as excellent media promotion tools. We also need to have many resources made available via the website such as our online registration platform and covid-19 protocols. As such, we do have some funding to allocate to maintaining our website and social medias.
- d. **MOTION:**
  - 1. To accept all business pertaining to marketing and promotion.
  - 2. P: Penny/ S: Smith. Motion carried.

## **16. 2019-2020 Tournament Reports**

- a) 2020 Atlantic Wrestling Championships and 2020 PEI Open - Feb 14-16th, 2019: Wrestlers from NL had a strong showing at this event. Close to 20 athletes went and almost all brought home a medal at the Open as well as Atlantics. A complete list of the athletes who competed and their placement can be found on the events page of our website. The coaches who attended said all NL athletes were on par with other athletic teams and wrestled well.
- b) U17/19 National Wrestling Championships - April 4th, 2019 - Currently still postponed due to COVID. WCL will likely have to cancel this event.
- c) Randy Ralph Memorial Provincial Open Tournament - Was scheduled for late March 28th, 2019 but was cancelled due to COVID.
- d) Trinity Bay Open - Scheduled for late April 21st, 2019 but was cancelled due to COVID.
- e) Canada Games Training Camp/ Selection Tournament - Scheduled for May 22nd, 2019 but canceled due to COVID.
- f) Games Prep Canada Games Training Camp - Scheduled for Aug 4th, 2019, canceled due to COVID.
- g) All other local, provincial and atlantic and national tournaments for the 2019-2020 season have been canceled.

h) **MOTION:**

1. To accept all business pertaining to the 2019-2020 Tournament reports.
2. P: Nichols/ S: Patey. Motion Carried.

### **17. Canada Games 2021 Update**

- a) The 2021 Canada Games in Niagara has been postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic. The game committee will be releasing more information in regards to age qualification, new games schedule, etc in the common weeks. As such, all our provincial events that are preparation for the games have also been postponed. This extra time will be used to ensure all coaches are fully certified and our athletes are prepared.
- b) Our Canada Games Coaching staff has been named and will not change for the new date of the games. Our 2022 Canada games Staff are:
  - 1) Peter Petipas - Female Head coach
  - 2) Jamie Lake - Female Assistant Coach
  - 3) Ryan Nichols - Male head Coach
  - 4) Eddie Penny - Male Assistant Coach
  - 5) Emily Temple - Team Manager
- c) All coaches are reminded to complete their Multisport Modules for their certification. These will need to be completed promptly and are offered free of charge through Coaching NL. All other provinces charge a standard fee to coaches. We are very fortunate and grateful that Coaching NL offers these modules at no cost and through a virtual platform. We will also be bringing a clinician to NL when we are able to offer a Competition Development coaching clinic and evaluation for our game's coaches. All coaches need to be Comp. Dev. certified as the Canada Games Board has stated that they will not be issuing any exemptions to any coaches who do to meet certification requirements.
- d) Athlete eligibility, event technical package and all other important games info can be found on the Team NL website at <https://www.teamnl.ca/sports-athletes>. These documents will be updated in the coming weeks to in line with the new games dates.
- e) We would like more teams to be involved across the province as we would like to have a larger pool of athletes to train with. Many coaches say they do not think their athletes are Team NL level even though they are interested. Any interested athlete that is or will be in the age bracket for the games can attend training camps and selection tournaments. We strongly encourage all athletes of games age and coaches to take part in the games training and selection. Please reach out to the NLAWA if you are interested or have questions.
- f) **MOTION:**
  1. To accept all business pertaining to the Canada Games 2021 Update.
  2. P: Petipas/ S: Collins. Motion carried.

### **18. Tournament Bids/ Schedule for 2021-2022**

- a) Given the current sport restrictions due to the pandemic, we will decide the 2020-2022 NLAWA tournament schedule at a later date when we have a better idea on how we can resume competition. We will revisit this item at our Semi-Annual Meeting this summer.
- b) **MOTION:**
  1. To accept all business pertaining to Tournament Bids/ Schedule for 2021-2022.



2. P: Penny/ S: Earle. Motion carried.

### **19. Awards and Scholarships for 2019-2020**

- a) Applications for the 2019-2020 Athletic Excellence Fund/ Premier Athletic Awards will be made available via the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development later this month. As usual when they become available we will distribute via the NLAWA email listserv, web site and can be found on the Sport NL/gov website as well. Coaches and athletes are reminded of application procedures, eligibility as well as the deadlines for applying in each year.
- b) Despite the pandemic, these awards are eligible for any athlete that competed in 2019/2020. All applications are ranked by our board members and submitted to the provincial government to be considered for recognition, which is standard operating procedure.
- c) The recipients of these awards are usually announced in May. We wish all our applicants the best of luck and we look forward to seeing our athletes receive the recognition they deserve for being dedicated to their sport.
- d) We would like to remind all coaches and athletes that the Athletic Excellence Fund/ Premier Athletic Awards are open to any athlete that competed in the previous season. There are different athlete criteria for different awards. Any athlete of a designated age or coach from any active club can submit an athlete application to be considered. For more information regarding this please feel free to contact Ryan Nichols.
- e) Hall of Fame: We have been struggling to properly implement a NLAWA Hall of Fame which would feature both coaches and athletes. Each year we designate tasks regarding this initiative to members who cannot complete them because they have to tend on the day to day operations of the association. We would like to formally implement our Hall of Fame and will worked to do so for the upcoming season.
- f) There were no other awards or scholarships that were applicable this year. There were also no other nominations for upcoming awards to discuss.
- g) **MOTION:**
  - 1. To accept all business pertaining to Awards and Scholarships for 2019-2020.
  - 2. P: Collins/ S: Nichols. Motion carried.

### **20. Date of Next NLAWA Annual General Meeting**

- a) It has been decided that our association would have a semi-annual meeting sometime in the summer to prepare for the upcoming season and inform about new sport guidance procedures in relation to returning to training. This meeting will be virtual and its exact date will be decided as we get closer to the summer. Its date and other info will be sent to all NLAWA board members as well as publicly posted for anyone to attend.
- b) It was decided that our 2021 Annual General Meeting should take place around this same time next year. It was also decided that a virtual format is much more safe, convenient and desired by all members. The date of the 2021 AGM will be decided in the fall of 2021 and will be tentatively set for the first week of December. The exact date, location and time will then be sent out to members via the NLAWA email listserv as well as made public via our website, Sport NL website, and our social media channels.
- c) **MOTION:**

1. To Accept all business pertaining to the Date of Next NLAWA Annual General Meeting.
2. P: Earle/ S: Smith. Motion carried.

## **21. Adjournment of Meeting**

### **a) MOTION:**

1. To adjourn the 2020 NLAWA Annual General Meeting.
2. P: Patey/ S: Penny. Motion carried.

Appendix A: NLAWA Draft Logo

