

Constitution of Orange County Wrestling Officials Association 1
(O.C.W.O.A)
Founded 1968

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Association is the ORANGE COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION, (hereinafter referred to as The Association) an unincorporated, non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose and objectives of the Association shall be:

- I. To provide wrestling officials for all California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sections within the State of California.
- II. To provide an educational and instructional program in order that wrestling officials are qualified for officiating (CIF) wrestling contests.
- III. To increase the competency of wrestling officials through formal instructions which shall include the understanding of spirit and intent of rules; including mat situations, mechanics, interaction with wrestlers, coaches, tournament directors, scorers, timekeepers, and other officials. The mutual exchange of ideas to enhance the sport of wrestling.
- IV. To promote the advancement of wrestling by encouraging the spirit of sportsmanship among wrestlers, coaches, spectators, and officials.
- V. To act as a liaison between qualified member officials, the CIF Southern CA Wrestling Officials Association and the CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

Membership in The Association shall be open to any person 18 years of age or older who meets the qualifications set herein.

Section 2. Complement

The total number of active qualified members of The Association shall be determined by the board of directors on an annual basis. A waiting list with names and contact information shall be prepared and maintained by the Secretary/Treasurer. When the number of qualified members is less than the maximum, the persons on said list shall be invited to become members of The Association according to the Board of Director's determination.

Section 3. Classifications.

- I. Primary Member: A Primary member shall be one who:
 - A. Achieves at least the minimum passing grade on all qualifying exams;
 - B. Meets the financial obligations imposed by The Association;
 - C. Attends the required number of Association meetings;
 - D. Meets all other requirements of the Constitution.

A Primary member shall have the right to vote, to receive match assignments, and enjoy all other privileges and benefits of membership in The Association. Only a primary AA official can hold office. An Associate member cannot hold office.

- a. AA – A high school varsity official who has the potential to officiate Masters and the State Championship. This official receives prime assignments.

- b. A – A high school varsity official who has the potential to officiate CIF Divisionals and Duals, not including Masters and the State Championship.
 - c. B – A high school varsity official who is primarily scheduled to officiate JV and Frosh/Soph matches.
 - d. C – A novice official who is primarily scheduled to officiate Frosh/Soph and JV matches, rarely Varsity.
- II. Associate Member: This member is one who has a primary association in another association other than OCWOA. This member will receive their requirements of certification, insurance, rule books, etc. through their primary association. They cannot hold office in OCWOA, nor have voting rights. They may receive assignments, and enjoy all other privileges and benefits of membership in OCWOA. OCWOA is not required to give primary assignments to associate members.
- III. Emeritus Member: An emeritus member is an inactive member of The Association, holding a special position of honor. They must be an OCWOA member in good standing for over ten (10) years. This is a special appointment by the Board of Directors. This member receives special privileges of waived membership dues.
- IV. Inactive Member: A member who is good standing and wishes to maintain rating, but due to circumstances, is unable to maintain active membership.
- V. Prospective Member: An individual who desires to become an active member but has not fulfilled the requirement of the constitution for active membership. A prospective member shall meet the following requirements prior to becoming an active member:

- E. Attend clinics/meetings as required by the Instructional Chair;
 - F. Be observed by members of the Ratings Committee in one tournament. *The fees assessed from this tournament will be allotted to The association.
 - G. Any other requirements as determined by the Board of Directors.
- VI. Suspended Member: A member who has been suspended by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Application

New membership in The Association shall be applied for by completing and submitting an application form along with the required dues to the Secretary/Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Board of Directors

- I. The governing body of The Association shall be a Board of Directors which shall have the following powers and duties:
 - A. It shall exercise general supervision of all officers and committees of The Association.
 - B. It shall enforce the provisions of these Articles and shall make recommendations and decisions with regard to matters affecting The Association, which decisions may be reversed only by two-thirds vote of the quorum of members of The Association.
 - C. It shall adopt an annual budget and govern the expenditure of funds.

- D. It shall set the amount of fees paid, if any, to officers and/or instructors of The Association.
 - E. It shall obtain the necessary Liability Insurance for members of The Association.
 - F. It shall oversee the scheduling of officials.
 - G. It shall provide to the Instructional Chair a list of qualified members of The Association who may be selected by said Instructional Chair as members of the Instructional Committee.
 - H. It shall meet at least twice annually. Said meetings shall be:
 - 1. In the spring, and;
 - 2. No later than two weeks prior to the first meeting of the members of The Association.Thereafter, it shall meet at the discretion of the President or a majority of the directors themselves.
- II. The authorized number of directors of The Association shall be eight (8) including the following (and their respective terms):
- A. President (two years)
 - B. President-elect (two years)
 - C. Past President (two years)
 - D. Secretary/Treasurer (two years)
 - E. Instructional Chair (two years)
 - F. Ratings Chair (two years)
 - G. Assignor (two years)
 - H. Liaison to SCWOA (six years)
- III. Except as otherwise provided herein, each director shall be elected bi-annually by the members to serve until a successor is elected.
- IV. Excepting the office of President (which shall be filled by the President-elect) and Past President (which shall be filled by the President), vacancies in the Board of Directors may be filled by a

vote of the remaining directors, and each director so elected shall hold office until a successor is elected at a bi-annual meeting of the members. A vacancy or vacancies shall be deemed to exist in the case of resignation, death, disability, or the inability to fulfill their duties.

- V. The Board of Directors must achieve a quorum to conduct business, and any business conducted shall be valid so long as reasonable notice of any said meeting has been given to all directors.
- VI. To constitute a quorum for the Board of Directors, the number shall be five (5) or greater if all eight (8) director positions are filled by eight (8) separate members. The number will be four (4) if all eight (8) director positions are filled by (7) separate members. The Liaison to SCWOA may simultaneously hold another OCWOA board position. The holder of this position may only cast one (1) vote even if holding two (2) offices. The President may only cast one (1) vote, and only in the case of a tie.

Section 2. Officers

- I. President: The President with an AA rating shall preside at all meetings of the members of The Association and the Board of Directors. The President shall call meetings of the Board of Directors and may establish committees to further the purpose of The Association. The President may request that these Articles be revised or amended as deemed necessary and shall, in general, supervise and oversee the affairs of The Association. The President votes only in case of a tie. If the President simultaneously holds the Liaison to SCWOA position, they still may cast only one (1) vote, and only in the case of a tie.
- II. President-Elect: The President-elect with AA rating shall serve in the place of the President in the event of the latter's absence or

inability to act. The President-elect shall succeed to the office of President two (2) years following their election to the office.

- III. Past President: The Past President shall serve in this position for (2) years following serving as President of The Association.
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer: The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep a record of all business transacted by the Association and shall:

- A. Give notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors and members of The Association.
- B. Maintain a current roster of all members of The Association and waiting list of prospective members.
- C. Deposit or hold in trust all funds received on behalf of The Association.
- D. Disburse such funds for the benefit of The Association as may be directed by the Board of Directors, accounting for such funds to The Association no less than annually.
- E. Oversee the counting of votes at all elections and the tabulations of votes on all motions made.
- F. Issue correspondence and notices on behalf of the Board of Directors and The Association itself.

*All dispersed funds shall have two (2) signatures: the President's and the Secretary/Treasurer's. The President shall have the discretion to waive this requirement.

- V. Instructional Chair: The Instructional Chair shall:
 - A. Directly supervise the program of instruction for members of The Association.
 - B. Preside over all meetings of the members of The Association relating to wrestling rules and officiating mechanics.
 - C. Organize educational forums via classroom, mat situations, and live wrestling.
 - D. Act as a liaison between the SCWOA Instructional Chair and the CA state Rules Interpreter.

- VI. Ratings Chair: The Ratings Chair shall:

- A. Devise a fair and equitable system of rating and grading member officials.
 - B. Preside over all rating tournaments and examinations.
 - C. Maintain and update a list of qualified member officials with their classification and provide such when requested by a qualified member or to the CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics.
 - D. Evaluate any new members transferring to The Association with prior officiating experience other than in Orange County and determine in which classification to place said member.
- VII. Assignor: The Assignor shall:
- A. Maintain and make adjustments to official assignments.
 - B. Maintain and keep Arbiter current.
 - C. Maintain ongoing relationships with Assignor/Presidents of other associations within SCWOA for assignment swapping.
- VIII. Liaison to SCWOA: The Liaison is a six (6) year appointed position, voted by the majority of the general membership. The purpose of this position is to create continuity of OCWOA with SCWOA. This person shall represent OCWOA at all SCWOA meetings including all postseason assignment meetings. The Liaison is a board member and will attend all OCWOA board meetings. The Liaison may simultaneously hold another board position, such as President, but may only cast one (1) vote even holding two offices.

Section 3. Elections

- I. Elections shall be held at the January meeting with officers taking office after the conclusion of the wrestling season which is the day after the State Tournament.
- II. Notice of meetings will be e-mailed to all members currently active in The Association.

- III. A majority of the number of qualified members of The Association attending the meetings shall constitute a quorum.
- IV. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot and counted immediately thereafter. The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee the voting and counting. Two members of The Association will be selected by the Secretary/Treasurer to assist in the counting and verification of the results.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1. General

The term meeting of The Association as used throughout these Articles shall include general meetings, clinics, classroom discussions, or instructional group meetings.

Section 2. Attendance

All members shall be required to attend the OCWOA meetings. There are no excused absences; however, the member may make up the mandatory meetings by attending another OCWOA meeting and/or incur fines as set forth in Article VII. The board will set the meeting schedule annually and determine the appropriate fines.

Section 3. Assignments

All assignments for officials are contingent upon: attendance at all scheduled association meetings, payment of dues, and achieving the minimum passing grade on the qualifying exams.

Section 4. Quorum

A majority of the number of qualified members in attendance of The association meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Reasonable notification must be given to all members.

ARTICLE VI - DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Definition

The matter of discipline of members shall be vested in the Board of Directors and will be as follows:

- I. Warning: An official notice that inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanlike action is a matter of record and that such action must not reoccur.
- II. Suspension: A more severe type of discipline, which may be combined with a fine. A suspended member will not be permitted to work during their suspension. A suspended member will not be considered a member in good standing and as such, will not take part in the running of The Association.
- III. The Board of Directors may impose discipline other than warnings and suspensions as they deem appropriate. These actions may include discipline which results up to and expulsion from The Association based upon the situation.

Section 2. Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary actions which may be considered by the Board of Directors for disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:

- I. Violations of the provisions of this Constitution.
- II. Failure to cooperate with any officers or any committee appointed by them.
- III. Knowingly work with a suspended member or work with any official not a member of the Association without the approval of the Board of Directors.
- IV. Inexcusable failure to attend two (2) consecutive member meetings.
- V. Failure to show for a scheduled assignment, or to be late to an assigned match without prior approval by the head referee.
- VI. Failure to wear the proper uniform and/or equipment.

- VII. Drinking alcohol or partaking of illegal drugs or intoxicants during the day of a scheduled tournament or dual meet prior to completion of the assignment.
- VIII. Failure to notify the Assignor or CIF Assignment Director of the inability to work an assignment prior to the assigned match.
- IX. Any discourtesy by an official which might reflect unfavorably upon The Association or its member(s).

Section 3. Due Process

Any member that is disciplined has the right to appeal if he/she feels the discipline is unjust. They may request a meeting of the Board of Directors. The disciplined member has a right to select a member-at-large to serve as liaison with the Board of Directors. The member-at-large shall be a member of The Association and shall not be a member of the Board of Directors. The Board will meet within 7 days of the appeal via in-person or by internet/media to render a decision in the matter. Their decision will be final.

Section 4. Grievances

A member in good standing, may request a hearing to submit a grievance. The request must be in writing detailing the grievance and the proposed solution. The Board of Directors will be required to meet within 7 days of receipt of the grievance, via in-person or by internet/media to discuss and render a decision. Their decision will be final.

Section 5. Obligation

Any member who has information which reflects adversely upon The Association or another member of the Association will make a report to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII - DUES, FEES, AND FINES

Section 1. Dues

Dues will be determined on an annual basis by the Board of Directors. Dues are required to be paid in full prior to a member receiving any assignments.

Section 2. Officials Compensation

Compensation is determined on an annual basis by CIF. All members will be provided a copy of the current CIF Southern Section fee structure for wrestling events. All members are required to comply with the CIF fee structure per article IX of the constitution.

Section 3. Fines

Any member missing an assignment will be assessed the full fee of the contest unless a valid reason is presented to the Assignor. A nominal fee may be assessed for each assignment that had been accepted by a member and subsequently turned back unless a valid reason is presented to the Assignor. Fines for missing required meetings will be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Instructional Committee

The Instructional Committee shall assist the Instructional Chair in providing an educational program to increase the competency of wrestling officials. It shall consist of members who are AA and selected by the Instructional Chair.

Section 2. Ratings Committee

The Ratings Committee shall consist of all active, qualified AA officials and shall assist the Ratings Chair in providing ratings to the Board of Directors. The Ratings Committee shall meet at the discretion of the Ratings Chair.

Section 3. Assignment Committee

The Assignment Committee shall consist of all members of the Board of Directors. The Assignor shall prepare a draft (Arbiter) of proposed prime assignments to the Board of Directors of review and approval. Only the Assignor will make changes and/or adjustments.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended in the following described manner: The proposed amendment shall be presented in writing for discussion to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall present the proposed amendment for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting of The Association or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The proposed amendment shall be voted upon by the Association members. A two-thirds vote of the quorum shall be required to pass the proposed amendment.