

# **Constitution of the Long Island Wrestling Official's Association Inc.**

## **Revised and Adopted January 2019**

### **Article I. Name**

**Section 1.01** The name of this organization shall be Long Island Wrestling Official's Association (Assoc.)

### **Article II. Purpose**

**Section 2.01** The Purpose of the ASSOC. Shall Be:

- (a) To certify that all members comply with the requirements of the New York Public High School Athletic Association as set forth in the Five Point Program for Approved Officials.
- (b) To establish, maintain, implement and promote the highest standards of quality and integrity in the administration, policies and scope of wrestling officiating by the members of the ASSOC.
- (c) To promote high ideals of sportsmanship in interscholastic wrestling competition.
- (d) To promote an effective working relationship between the ASSOC. and its members, all Wrestling Coaches Associations, the Office of The Executive Secretary of BOCES and the Section VIII Chair.
- (e) To adjudicate any conflicts that may arise within the ASSOC. or between its members.

### **Article III. Officers**

**Section 3.01** The Officers of the ASSOC. shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, and Recording Secretary who are to be elected at a regular or special meeting of the Association in February of each year.

**Section 3.02** The term of each office shall be one year commencing with the first day of July.

**Section 3.03** Only active members shall be eligible to hold office.

### **Article IV. Executive Committee**

**Section 4.01** Executive Committee shall consist of: The current officers, the two most recent Past Presidents, two members, elected for two year terms in alternate years, and one member appointed by the President, who, if not included in the above shall be a representative (Delegate/Alternate) to the Section VIII Official's Coordinating Council.

**Section 4.02** If either or both of the Past Presidents are not available to serve at any one of the Regular or Special meetings of the Executive Committee, the President may fill the vacancy(s) using the most recent Past President available.

### **Article V. Eligibility for Membership**

**Section 5.01** The age requirement for any individual seeking to become a member of the L.I.W.O.A. shall have reached their nineteenth birthday by the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 5.02** Nassau County Public High School Varsity of Junior Varsity level wrestling coaches may apply for membership, with the stipulation that:

- (a) They will only be eligible to referee Junior High matches.

(b) Ranking through ratings will restrict the referee to non-varsity only.

**Section 5.03** No one who has been expelled in accordance with Article VII, Section 8 of the By Laws, shall be eligible for membership in the Association.

**Section 5.04** Eligibility of membership requires giving satisfactory evidence of:

- (a) The **ability** to use the prescribed mechanics of wrestling officiating, and
- (b) Competent performance related to wrestling officiating.

Note: This evidence will be satisfactorily given for:

(From above) When, during candidate class instruction, the recruits demonstrate

- (i) Signals as shown in the current NFHS Wrestling Rulebook
- (ii) Mat diameter Shuttle run with up/down at each diameter. (3X across the diameter of the mat)

(From above) Upon being observed at the annual evaluation of candidate/probationary members.

#### **Article VI. Quorum**

**Section 6.01** A quorum to transact Association business at any regular or special meeting shall consist of one-fourth (1/4) of the active and probationary members in good standing.

**Section 6.02** A quorum to transact Executive Committee business shall consist of (1) more than one-half of the members of the Executive Board.

#### **Article VII. Amendments**

**Section 7.01** This constitution and by-laws of the ASSOC. may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the Active and Probationary members in good standing and are present at any regular or special meeting of the ASSOC.

**Section 7.02** Written notification of the proposed amendment must be sent or given to each Active or Probationary member in good standing at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting at which such amendment is to be voted upon.

# By Laws of the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association

## **Article I. Duties of the Officers**

### **Section 1.01** The President Shall:

- (a) Preside at all meetings of the ASSOC.
- (b) Appoint to fill vacancies until expiration of term.
- (c) Appoint all standing and special committees.
- (d) Act as or designate the ASSOC.'s representative to the N.Y.S.W.O.A.
- (e) Perform any additional duties usually pertaining to the office of the President.

### **Section 1.02** The First Vice President shall:

- (a) Assist the president in conducting the business of the ASSOC.
- (b) Preside in the event of the absence or inability of the President.
- (c) Act as Chairman of the Membership Committee.
- (d) Be responsible for taking attendance at all meetings.

### **Section 1.03** The Second Vice President shall:

- (a) Assist the President and First Vice President in conducting the business of the ASSOC.
- (b) Preside in the absence or inability of the President and First Vice President.
- (c) Act as the Chairman of the Instruction and Examination Committee.

### **Section 1.04** The Secretary Treasurer shall:

- (a) Maintain records of the proceedings of all regular and special meetings of the ASSOC. and of the Executive Board.
- (b) Maintain a directory of the membership.
- (c) Receive and disburse all ASSOC. funds and keep an accurate account of such transactions.
- (d) Receive, initiate and file all ASSOC. correspondence.
- (e) Prepare an annual financial report for presentation to the ASSOC. and Executive Committee.
- (f) Receive an Honorarium to be determined by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 1.05** The Recording Secretary shall:

- (a) Record and disperse the proceedings of all regular and special meetings of the ASSOC. and of the Executive Board.
- (b) Provide copies of the minutes for the membership and present them for action.
- (c) Receive an honorarium to be determined by the Executive Committee.

## **Article II. Committees and Their Duties**

### **Section 2.01** The Executive Committee Shall

- (a) Consider all matters pertaining to and effecting the welfare of the ASSOC. including but not limited to:
  - (i) Act as grievance committee when necessary and as such hear, determine and make recommendations upon all charges against members of the ASSOC.
  - (ii) Participate individually, or as a body, in meetings of protest conducted by any other committee or body concerning members of the ASSOC.

- (iii) Shall annually appoint an instructor to run the applicant school.
  - (iv) Have the power and duty to direct the affairs and policies of the ASSOC. to bring into effect and maintain the provisions as set forth in the Constitution and these By Laws and be directed by act of the members taken at any regular or special meeting thereof. It may exercise these powers and duties by itself or through the supervision of the activities of the President. Between meetings of the ASSOC., in the exercise of these delegated powers, it shall have the full authority and power of the ASSOC. However, the Executive Committee's authority shall never include the right to elect or expel members nor the right to execute agreements with affiliated organizations.
- (b) A report of all actions and discussions of the Executive Committee at its meetings shall be given to the full membership of the ASSOC.

**Section 2.02** The Membership Committee shall keep attendance records for all regular and special meetings of the ASSOC. and make an annual report to the Executive Committee for recommendations regarding membership status.

**Section 2.03** The instruction and Examination Committee will recruit new members to set course requirements, conduct training programs, administer examinations to applicants and members and make recommendations to the Membership Committee regarding applicants for membership.

**Section 2.04** The Rules Committee shall:

- (a) Conduct an annual rules interpretation clinic which shall be mandatory for all members.
- (b) Promote uniform interpretation of the rules of wrestling and standardization of officiating techniques by providing commentary on rule changes, leading rules discussions and by giving interpretations and actual demonstration of the rules.
- (c) The chairman of the committee shall be a member of the State Interpretation Committee and shall represent the ASSOC. at the State Interpretation meeting.

**Section 2.05** The Ethics / Sportsmanship Committee shall:

- (a) Be appointed each year by the President.
- (b) Investigate any allegations of misconduct by Participants, Coaches, spectators, Officials and school representatives during or connected with contests officiated by members of the ASSOC.
  - (i) *Make recommendations to the Executive Committee for action on such allegations.*
- (c) The Audit Committee shall make an annual audit of the financial records and report its finding to the Executive Committee and the membership.

### **Article III. Classification of Membership**

**Section 3.01** Membership of the LIWOA shall consist of candidate, probationary, active, inactive and honorary life members according to requirements for the respective classification of membership.

- (a) **Candidate** – any applicant who:
  - (i) *Has paid the school and examination fee.*
  - (ii) *Has successfully completed the course requirements as determined by the Instruction and Examination Committee.*
  - (iii) *Has paid fees set by the Executive Committee.*
  - (iv) *Has been recommended by Membership Committee.*
  - (v) *Been elected by majority vote of membership.*

- (b) **Probationary** – upon completion of two years as a Candidate, a member shall be eligible for probationary status when he has given satisfactory evidence of his proficiency in the mechanics of officiating and upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee may also recommend that an active member be placed on probationary status if he is deficient in any of the requirements of the ASSOC.
- (c) **Active** – upon completion of one, but not more than two years as a Probationary member, the Membership Committee shall recommend that a member be elected to Active membership or be dropped from membership.
- (d) **Inactive** – those members in good standing who desire to continue their affiliation with the ASSOC. while unable to officiate interscholastic wrestling, may request Inactive status subject to the approval of the Membership Committee.
- (e) **Honorary Life** – any person who has rendered outstanding service to the sport of wrestling as an official, coach or participant, may upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee and the approval of not less than two-thirds of the voting membership at a regular or special meeting, be elected to Honorary Life membership in a ASSOC.

**Section 3.02** Names of Candidates, Probationary and Active members shall be submitted for certification as approved officials and shall therefore be eligible for assignments.

**Section 3.03** Bona fide members of other chapters of the NYSWOA and other wrestling officials' organizations desiring to transfer to the ASSOC. shall be accepted as Probationary members upon receipt of a letter(s) of certification of previous affiliation.

**Section 3.04** Requirements for reinstatement to Active membership shall be set by the Executive Committee and such request shall be subject to its approval.

#### **Article IV. Fees and Dues**

**Section 4.01** Annual dues for each classification of membership shall be set by the Executive Committee and shall be payable not later than 2<sup>nd</sup> LIWOA Meeting of each year for the present scholastic year.

**Section 4.02** A fine of twenty dollars (\$20.00) will be assessed any member for dues not paid by 2<sup>nd</sup> LIWOA Meeting of each year for the present scholastic year.

**Section 4.03** Any member whose dues (and fines) are not paid by April 1<sup>st</sup> will be dropped from membership.

**Section 4.04** Inactive membership dues shall be one-half the amount for active membership.

**Section 4.05** There shall be no dues for Honorary Life Members.

#### **Article V. Meetings**

**Section 5.01** Regular business and interpretation meetings shall be held during the months of October through March of each year.

**Section 5.02** Upon receipt of a written request for a special meeting signed by ten members, the President shall call for said special meeting within ten days.

**Section 5.03** The business portion of all regular meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order (revised) unless otherwise specified in the Constitution and By Laws.

**Section 5.04** Candidates, Probationary and Active members shall attend a minimum of five (5) meetings, except those members with ten (10) or more years of membership, who shall attend four (4) meetings or more. All regular or special business and interpretation meetings shall be considered in order for a member to be certified as an approved official.

**Section 5.05** All Candidates, Probationary and Active members shall attend the annual rule interpretation clinic. Members unable to attend shall notify the Membership Chairman in writing prior to the meeting date. In the event of last minute problems, member shall contact the Membership chairman by phone no later than 24 hours after the meeting. Failure to comply with above procedures will result in a twenty five (\$25.00) fine and possible loss of officiating schedule.

## **Article VI. Voting Procedures and Privileges**

**Section 6.01** Active and Probationary members in good standing shall be entitled to vote on all pending matters.

**Section 6.02** Voting shall be conducted by a show of hands unless secret ballot is requested and approved (by majority vote).

**Section 6.03** The Executive Committee may by majority request that all members vote by mail, providing proper notification of all members be carried out.

**Section 6.04** Those individuals in the Association who are empowered with the right to vote shall be allowed to vote via PROXY. The individual assigning proxy must indicate in writing to whom the proxy is assigned, on what date the proxy is to be used, and the assigner must sign and date the proxy.

## **Article VII. Discipline**

**Section 7.01** Any member who fails to pay annual dues, as specified in Article IV of these By Laws, shall be deemed delinquent and shall be cited by the Executive Committee.

**Section 7.02** Any member who fails to attend the required number of meetings as specified in Article V, Section 4 of these By Laws shall be deemed deficient and shall be cited by the Membership Committee.

**Section 7.03** Any member who fails to attend the annual rules interpretation clinic shall be subject to a penalty to be determined by the Executive Committee including the possible loss of his officiating schedule (suspension).

**Section 7.04** Any member who fails to achieve a passing grade, as established by the Instruction and Examination Committee on the National Federation Part II Exam shall be deemed deficient and cited by the membership Committee.

**Section 7.05** Any member who fails to give satisfactory evidence of proficiency in the mechanics of officiating, and/or competent performance related to wrestling, after observation and review by the Membership Committee shall be deemed deficient and cited by the Membership Committee.

**Section 7.06** Any member may be cited by the Ethics Committee for conduct unbecoming to an official or for conduct which may bring discredit or disgrace to the ASSOC.

**Section 7.07** The cited member shall be summoned before the Executive Committee to defend himself. Action taken by Executive Committee may include but not limited to acquittal, fine, probation, suspension or recommendation for expulsion, all by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section 7.08** A member may not be expelled except by two-thirds vote of the membership at a regular or special meeting of the ASSOC.

**Section 7.09** All discipline under this article shall not be deemed final unless and until written specifications of the charges are delivered to the members, and not until the member charged has been given an opportunity to make a written answer to the charges. With his answer the member charged may include a demand to be heard at a regular or special meeting of the membership, the demand to be accepted and the member heard.

**Section 7.10** Approval, modification, or overturning of Executive Committee action by the voting membership shall be determined by majority vote except in Section 7.08 above.