



# USWOA NEWS



12/18/12

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Presidents Letter and FILA Report by Rick Tucci

### Special points of interest:

- Notes from Rick Tucci
- Consider Your Health



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Fellow Officials:

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving and is looking anxiously towards the Christmas and Hanukkah seasons. 2012 was a wonderful wrestling year even as we dealt with the adjusted schedule to accommodate the Olympics. The addition of the Minnesota Storm Cup at the end of 2012 closes our season with great promise. This competition will alternate every other year with the Sunkist Open that is held in Phoenix.

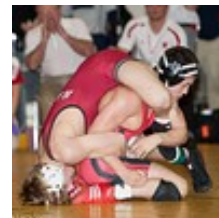
Our participation in many competitions in 2012 was up but, as I have said before, we need to look towards the future and improve on our goals. As you look at the upcoming schedule for 2013 you can see it proposes challenges both in size of some competitions and length (in days) of some other competitions. As you view the U.S. Open, for example, you can see that we start a day earlier than usual to help accommodate the different levels of competitions.

Our total membership is rising and we are seeing more and more member-

ships renewed from one year to the next. This shows stability in both our mat and pairing officials for the future. I look forward to seeing a lot of you in the coming year and I hope that your holiday season is happy and healthy.

My FILA report is one that is written with no rule changes for 2013 at this time. Recommendations will be analyzed by the FILA rules committee and then approved by the FILA Bureau. As soon as any rules changes are made, I will post them via this newsletter or email.

I attended the FILA Officiating Department meeting in Bulgaria the weekend before Thanksgiving and I, along with Ender Buyukersen of Turkey and Marianne Nobs of Switzerland, have unfortunately been aged out of the FILA Officiating Department. I can say of my two colleagues that they were the best and most knowledgeable instructors in the world. FILA and all of those officials that were fortunate to have been in clinics directed by either of them know what a great loss



the world of wrestling has in 2013 and beyond. I will continue to help officials become better; as USWOA President, nothing will change with my plans for officials and pairers—I will continue to contribute to FILA and our international communities, with my intentions to have our officials stay the best in the world. I do not know who will be the next instructor for our hemisphere but I will work with whoever it is to continue our training in the USA and the rest of our hemisphere. In closing, I must inform everyone that there will not be a FILA clinic in Fargo this year but there will be a Type I clinic (new candidate) at the Schultz Tournament in late January. FILA I officials must attend 2 FILA clinics in 2013, not necessarily a Type IV.

Yours in wrestling,  
Rick

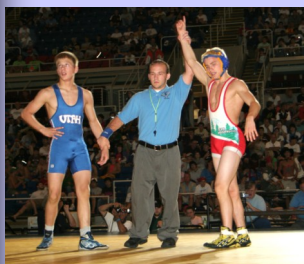
## Be a Better Official "Consider Your Health" by Casey Brennan-Goessl

In a sports culture dominated by American Football, every week NFL officials are tasked with the primary responsibility of creating an atmosphere of safety; thereby penalizing players for illegal tackles, spearing, and other acts considered "unnecessary." This requires officials to not only

have a strong grasp of the rules, but to be able to put themselves in the proper positions to make sure to get the call correct. To accomplish this, NFL officials are required to meet specific fitness standards prior to the beginning of every NFL season in order to meet the physical demands of officiat-

ing. Although the officials are nowhere near the athletic ability of the athletes they are charged with managing every week, it is rare to see an official that does not look fit. In fact, people might be surprised to note that two of the most senior (and well recognized) NFL

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The USWOA BOD has a waiver process in place for those who have special circumstances and are not able to fulfill their duties because of:

1. Personal Health
2. Family
3. Job Commitments
4. Financial
5. Other reasons may be taken into consideration

Multiple waivers will be considered. Waiver request must be received prior to the Annual USWOA Board meeting held in October each year.



**Officials category maintenance requirements are on the USAWOA website:**

[www.uswoawrestlingofficials.com/](http://www.uswoawrestlingofficials.com/)  
[uswoa\\_home.htm](http://uswoa_home.htm)

## 2012 Mat Official Upgrades

Congratulations to the following Mat Officials who received upgrades at the USWOA Executive Board meeting held on 10/23-24/12

### To Category M1:

History of recent upgrades: 12 in 2012, 18 in 2011, 8 in 2010

Kevin Bauers (WA), Bagher (Bob) Behzadnejad (VA), Chris Call (ID), Steven Extract (AZ), John Kelly (FL), Mia Kruggel (OH), Trenton Larriau (WI), Carl Dean Lee (AK), Jared Nabors (MI), Clifford Ramos (IL), Hildo Rodriguez (WA), Dennis Seino (HI)

### Category M2 to M1C

History: 19 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 11 in 2010

Tod Blank (CA), Ronnie Caughran (CA), Jerry Dolan (WA), Shawn Fields (GA), Mark Hall (ID), Brandon Harrison (NC), John J. Heyman (FL), Gary Hobbs (MO), Andy Johnson (ID), Miles Long (OR), Jordan Mathews (CA), Todd Milhoan (AZ), Mark Moore (GA), Cynthia Mosconi (IN), Jon Silver (CA), Joseph E. Silvestri (PA), Rod Stevens (MN), Robyn Van-Houten (MI), Clinton Slyter (KS)

### Category M3 to M2

History: 34 in 2012, 39 in 2011, 50 in 2010,

Richard Becker (CO), Nikenson Bazelais (NY), Danny Choate, (OK), Jonathan Dennis (MI), Lane Depriest (MO), Caroline Desantos (TX), Julian Finley (KY), Leslie Fuenffinger (MN),

Matthew Gochberg (TX), Esteban Gonzales (MI), Matthew Goodman (NC), Dalton Halbig (IN), Joseph Hulen (GA), Brian Jones (TX), William Maxson (AZ), Michael Mendoza (CA), John Moore (CA), David Moses (NC), Mark Quirk (OK), Timothy Raymes (ID), Vonirwin Reed (GA), Marcus Requa (WA), Chandler Rodriguez (WA), William Rudick (PA), Richard Ryan (AZ), Jeffrey Schildroth (MI), Paul Smith (NC), Avery Souders (TX), Wolfgang Timbs (GA), Adam Venegas (KS), Jeff Vesta (KS), Darrell Vogel (WI), Josh Warner (ID), Bentley Weigel (WA)

## 2012 Pairing Officials Upgrades

Congratulations to the following Pairing Officials who received upgrades at the USWOA Executive Board meeting held on 10/23-24/12.

**P1 to P1E:** Jon Hayden (MI), LeeAnn Johnson (WA)

**P1C to P1:** Jeannine Johnshoy (ID), Jeff Jones (WI), Stephanie Berringe (FL)

**P1C:** Theresa Melosci (FL), Rene McElhany (CO), Celena Call (ID), Sharon Hall (NY), Donita Flodeen (MN), Dawn Haase (MI),

**P2 Test:** Terri Hopkins (WA), Catherine Jordan (DE), Nickomy Carter (ID), Audrey Van Lewen (CA), Deborah Watson (CO)

**P3 Test:** Chasity Agbulos (CA), Annette Van Houten (MI), Stephanie Farruggia (WA), Erika

Rhue (WA), Alicia Brimmer (WY), Brenda Coons Houser (ID), Belinda Gomez (CA), Blanca Lydia Mendoza (CA), Ashley Gardner (ID), Makaila Wilson (ID), Virginia Torres (CA), Desiree Hahn (CA), Wendy Haake (MN), Tammy Nelson (MT), Tawnya Granger (WY), Pete Hady (WI), Lloyd Larriau (WI), Tina Salminen (MT)

## Folkstyle Sports Committee by Tom Kuisle

Anthony Flatt of USA Georgia along with Les Gutches and Tony Black of USAW are heading up a committee to discuss how to make Folkstyle wrestling a better fit with the USAW model. Rusty Davidson and myself represent the USWOA part of the committee. While the committee is just gaining traction, most of the conversation so far has centered around "Best Practices" to

improve event operations within states.

Other topics up for discussion within the committee are:

- Increase novice/beginner Folkstyle wrestling programming.
- Recruit, retain, educate, and certify Folkstyle officials.
- Currently there is too much completion for kids.
- Kids should get proper level of competition.

- TrackWrestling should keep records of competitors' matches.
- There should be an officials protocol and policies for Folkstyle officiating.

Please send Rusty or myself (Tom Kuisle) any folkstyle ideas you would like discussed by the committee.

[uswoanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uswoanewsletter@gmail.com)

## Renew USWOA membership

### New and renewal USWOA 2013 and 2014 memberships can be obtained

at: [usawmembership.com](http://usawmembership.com)

Updated instructions are on the USWOA website. Follow this link: [http://uswoawrestlingofficials.com/uswoa\\_home.htm](http://uswoawrestlingofficials.com/uswoa_home.htm)

You will be mailed your stamp and control card when you have paid and background has been cleared. USWOA office is not able to access your background check. If you have questions re-

garding any delay in receiving your clearance, please contact Tony Black:

[TBlack@USAWrestling.org](mailto:TBlack@USAWrestling.org)

**Contact De Heyman, USWOA Administrative Assistant office email [uswoaoffice@verizon.net](mailto:uswoaoffice@verizon.net) if you have any questions or problems.**

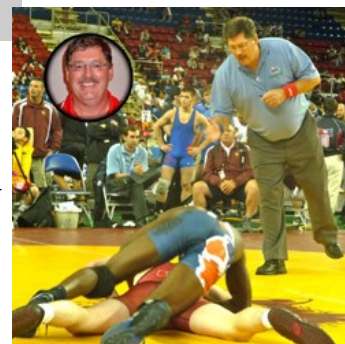
**Please be sure not to start a new account in the USAW membership page unless you are registering for the first time as an official in 2013.**

### WHERE ARE YOU GOING:

The tournament request site is ready. Log in to <http://www.themat.com/uswoa>

Sign up for the Regional and National tournaments you will be officiating in 2013.

**Everyone will register as new.** Log in and "click here to register". All you need is your license number and email address. You can edit and update your address and phone number information. Click on the top tab "Update Contact Information".



**Tom Kuisle  
USWOA 2012  
Mat Official Of the Year**

## 2012 Awards

### Lifetime Achievement Awards

- Jerry Reicks (IA)
- Ed Gould (NY)
- Pat Cadwallader (CA)
- Dave Sormo (NM)
- Bab Ballarelli (OH)
- Joe Russo (NY)
- Glen Blackman Award:

Josh Grube (OK)

- Phil Portuese Award: John Heyman (FL)
- Mort Goeller Award: Jerry Kuntz (OK)
- Official of the Year Award: Tom Kuisle (MN)
- Dick Riggle Award: Kevin Jensen (MN)

### Pairing Awards

- Ivan Olsen Award: Carrie Learn (MN)
- Bernie Norris Award: Lorraine Smith (WI)

Nominations for these awards are collected at the US Open and placed on the ballot for the Executive Boards vote. Committee members are: Chairman Tom Clark, Zack Errett, Ginger Lile, Charlotte Owen, Toby Tobiasson, Al Billings, Mike Garvey, Casey Brennan-Goessl

### Pairing "From the Stage" Sue Hesser

### How Pairing Assignments Are Made

Each fall, in preparation for the upcoming season, pairing assignments are determined. The recommendations for assignment are the work of the Assignment Committee of the Pairing Advisory Committee of USWOA. The committee consists of 12 members representing all USA Wrestling regions. All members of this committee hold the P1E pairing category.

In the early fall, lists of tournaments scheduled for the next season and pairers eligible for assignment are sent to each committee member. To be eligible for assignment, a pairer must be a current member of USWOA, have a current background check, and hold the pairing category of P1C, P1, or P1E. Each member submits to the National Pairing Director his or her recommendations for each tournament. There are several factors that are considered in making the recommendations. For national tournament assignments, the pairers can be from anywhere in the country. For regional assignments, the pairers should be from that region. Travel distance and cost are considered even for national tournaments. Consideration of how many tournaments an individual needs for upgrade will also come into play. Most tournaments have three people assigned. There will be a P1E as the chief pairer, and a P1 and P1C as the additional assignees. For the Cadet and Junior national championships, only P1E and P1 pairers are assigned.

Committee members' recommendations are sent to the National Pairing Director. They are then tallied and a final list of recommended assignments is compiled. The final list is presented to the USWOA Board of Directors at the fall board meeting for approval. Upon approval, notification is sent to each assignee. Assignments that are declined are then offered to an alternate based upon the committee recommendations.

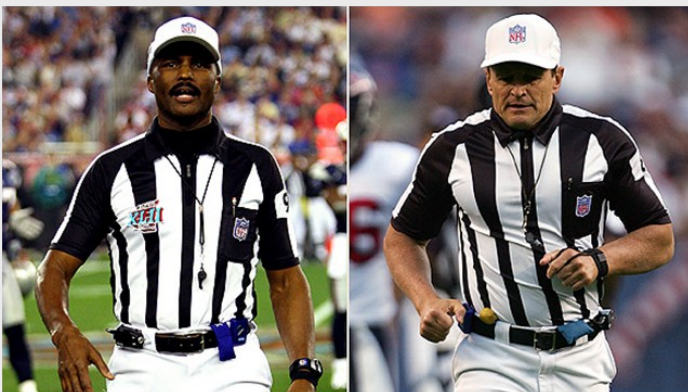
### Other Officials

receiving awards in 2012 were:

**Sue Hesser (IN) named USAW "FILA Junior Person of the Year"**  
**Rob Wiggs (SC) named USAW "Junior Person of the Year"**

### Health cont.

officials—Mike Carey (left) and Ed Hochuli (right)—are 63 and 62 years old, respectively. They take care of themselves, and it shows.



Officiating wrestling is no different. Safety is and always will be the primary responsibility of the wrestling official. However, if your physical health starts to decline and your presence on the mat becomes a distraction, you are not only putting the wrestlers' health at risk, you also are taking away from the match at hand. First impressions are critical as a wrestling official—if you are overweight, out-of-shape, or cannot change your levels and positions without struggling, coaches and fans will start to take advantage of you, whether the calls you make are right or wrong. My point is this—as the wrestling season heats up and the holidays come and go, take a look in the mirror and realize that your health is critical to how good of an official you are and how good you can be.

**USWOA Administrative  
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USWOA Website: [http://  
www.uswoawrestlingofficials.com/  
uswoa\\_home.htm](http://www.uswoawrestlingofficials.com/uswoa_home.htm)

**Email newsletter suggestions and  
news to: Tom Kuisle**  
[uswoanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uswoanewsletter@gmail.com)

**USAW Events Calendar link:**

[http://www.themat.com/section.php?  
section\\_id=4&page=olympicstyle](http://www.themat.com/section.php?section_id=4&page=olympicstyle)

**Code of Conduct of the USWOA**

- Members of the USWOA shall work with each other in a fair and cooperative manner.
- Members of the USWOA shall master the rules, mechanics, and pairings necessary to exercise its authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner in its events.
- Members of the USWOA shall prepare themselves physically and mentally, dress appropriately, and handle themselves in a manner that is consistent with in the Goals of USA Wrestling.
- Members of the USWOA shall be mindful that their conduct influences the respect of USA Wrestling members, coaches, and the public as they hold it to their decisions.
- Members of the USWOA shall remain aware that there is inherent risk of injury that competition poses and were appropriate informed by the event management of conditions that are hazardous.
- Members of the USWOA shall hold themselves to a higher standard in dealing with the general public and act in a professional manner at all times.

**Commitment to Ethics and Excellence** By Jerry Kuntz, USWOA Ethics Committee Chairman

**Code of Conduct: Part 4**

This article discusses the fourth facet of the USWOA Code of Conduct which reads: **“Members of the USWOA shall be mindful that their conduct influences the respect of USA Wrestling members, coaches, and the public.”**

As members of USWOA we are constantly scrutinized by coaches, athletes, and the public as to our true intentions and involvement in this great sport. We are known internationally for our honesty, fairness, and sincerity in the way we officiate. It should be our goal to achieve the same perception with our own USA Wrestling crowd. We all entered the USWOA with the intention of helping the sport and achieving a sense of pride in the good job we do for our athletes and coaches. We need to always

remember that when we make a tough call we are always going to be looked at favorably by half the people and unfavorably by the other half. But it is how we make that call and the confidence we show that wins the approval and reputation of being a good official.

There is a fine line between being considered a fair, confident official or an official who competitors dread seeing walk onto their mat. Sometimes we must have thick skin in order to survive criticism, warranted or not. How we are perceived by USA Wrestling and the general public will go a long way in our longevity as an official.

Recently the Ethics Committee of the USWOA has dealt with situations pertaining to personal conduct of our members. As volunteers we should be cognizant of the fact we are constantly under the micro-

scope. Our actions are being thoroughly watched by others, on the mat and off.

If you believe something you are doing may be construed as inappropriate, take a minute to do a little introspection. Consider your actions before you have to explain them. As an official we get the best seat in the house and we get to work with remarkable athletes, coaches, and officials. If we wish to continue doing what we love we need to know we are doing it for the right reasons.

The friendships, camaraderie, and enjoyment of the sport of wrestling are the real reasons we do what we do. After you have called the last match of your career, I hope you can honestly say you left wrestling better than you found it.

