OAWOA Chair Report – 2018-9

To start I wish to thank the executive members. They worked diligently and efficiently within their portfolios. Their quick responses to the various issues brought forth to them this year have made my term easier. I can assure our members that all issues have been discussed thoroughly, in a timely manner and with many viewpoints and resolutions presented. The executive decisions have been debated and eventually supported by the group fully. Congratulations to our members for working extremely well at all three provincial championships and OFSAA. We have shown that our province still has an excellent level of officiating and that is the result of the work the area chairs put in each year.

This year there were many small issues that required lots of time and stress throughout the year. Here is a point summary of last season as I experienced it.

* Bargained for 4-6 weeks with OAWA President over payment of Police Checks – reached an agreement on payment which has not been received yet.
* Spent a couple of weeks over various emails discussing Police Check issues with OAWA over flagged checks. They were sent to a separate, established review committee which determined the validity of the claims. The checks were determined acceptable. However, WCL has a separate process which is independent of the provincial level.
* Participated in the OAWA Governance Committee – spent approximately 2 hours each week for 4 weeks discussing creation of new governance model for OAWA.
* OAWA President Jay Jordan resigned.
* Attended the OAWA AGM in Thorold. Summary of meeting are included in a separate report for any member to read. Short summary was there was no acceptance of Governance proposal as it was sent back to committee. I learned a lot in the process which I hope to apply to OAWOA when we begin to deal with our governance changes to comply with Not For Profit Act in Ontario.
* Currently in negotiations with OAWA on a new pay structure for provincial championships and mileage recouperation. Our proposal was taken and will be discussed at the OAWA Executive meeting at the Super Weekend. We are awaiting their answers. One thing that was clear was OAWA plans on increasing our fees to $70.

On a separate but important note, at the WCL AGM, further requirements were placed upon National officials. All officials must have a passed VSS, Making Ethical Decisions course through NCCP ($55-75), Making Headway (free online from NCCP) and Respect in Sport which includes Power of Two training ($33.90 online course). All requirements must be met be individuals in order to register for any National competitions

These courses must be completed by January 2020 and be renewed every 4 or 5 years. All costs are to be absorbed by the individual, unless you are a coach and OAWA will pay for the MED course if completed by January 2020. Our issue is clear. More requirements means more specialization which is supposed to translate into more value. That value should transfer into increased fees to recover our costs.

WCL also restructured the quota requirements for the National Championships. Uncertain as to how this will impact our association as the new requirements have not been released.

Challenges moving forward are establishing the value of our services with OAWA and determining whether the provincial cadet/juveniles will be a one or two day event.

Regards in wrestling,

Ed Zinger

OAWOA Chair