OAWA Registration Report 2017/18

Another season has come and gone, and we have grown slightly over last year. This year was a push for all coaches to have some current police checks no older then two years past. It also did away with the affidavit portion of the registration. These changes were decided by the executive without much consultation with the members. Although I am in favour of the police checks I feel every 2 years is a bit cumbersome for our members. I would like to make a new motion.

Motion: all coach members must have a police back ground check completed every 4 years change from 2 years. The coach must submit the original copy with the jurisdiction stamp or complete it by a reputable company such as mybackcheck.com

The next issue will be the collection of proof of age. This should be the registrar’s next focus. Although most people get them in, it has become a bit behind collecting at events. Next season we should be more diligent on this.

I do not feel there needs to be a cost increase to registration for the 2018-19 season but do predict there will need to be one the following year. I would like to make another motion to eliminate the one coach equals one club fee. I think it is best that there is a separate club fee per year. At present if you pay $85 club fee you receive the $85 coach fee free. This is confusing and not a proper representation of a club.

Motion: All clubs joining OAWA will pay a $85 club fee for 2018-19 This will not be linked to one free coach anymore. The fee will be set yearly by the AGM on a yearly basis.

There is a push to change our membership process to a new format and outsource this to a registration firm. I do not feel this is the best way to go for a few reasons. The main one is cost at present time we pay $3250 for registration. I have not found a supplier that even comes close to that plus their service charges for online payment adds even more to the cost. The next reason is WCL is talking about making a mandatory national registration and seems like a added cost if we start moving forward on a new registration and then have to switch to WCL system. The OAWA has put a directive forward to have Jay Jordon, Steve Suraci and myself to investigate other suppliers. I have checked out 2 and they were costly. I would recommend that the members direct Myself, Jay and Steve to keep looking at options, but hold off until after the WCL AGM before presenting anything to the Executive.

Our membership is up again this year slightly over last year to about 1725 members. 2016/17 we were at 1702 and 2015/16 1590 members. I have been told that our membership process could be the reason for decline or lack of growth in our membership. I think this is just speculation with no factual input. We are struggling in some areas especially female registration is declining. I am uncertain what to do about this but recommend that the OAWA have a blitz promoting wrestling and especially female wrestling. Our largest growth area surprisingly was Thunder Bay, followed by CWO and CEO. SWO stayed relatively the same with lower membership coming from EO and NEO. These two areas need to be targeted for promotion as well.

In closing I would like to than everyone again for allowing myself and the Mariposa Wrestling club the opportunity to serve the OAWA membership.

Robert Parsons