

## **Williamstown Youth Mighty Braves Wrestling Open Member Board Meeting**

**December 8, 2019.**

### **Board Members**

Craig Masterson-President

Mike Fulbrook-Vice President

Kerri Pierson-Secretary

Jaimie Armstrong-Treasurer

Jessica Jones-Director of Concessions

Ashley Accoglio-Director of Fundraising

Chenzo Visceglia-Director at Large (parents representative)

Tom Accoglio-Director of Coaches

Matt Pontano-Tots Head Coach

Steve Morgan-Bantam Head Coach

Keristan Lowe-Midget Head Coach

### **Introduction**

1. An introduction to the new board was made and also stated that there are new bylaws that were made over the summer. You can request to see the bylaws from anyone on the board, at parks and rec and they will also be available on our website soon.
2. We posted a video on our facebook page. Please check it out. It is pinned to the top of the page. It is a short video going over wrestling basics and fundamentals. It is a great resource to those parents and kids new to the sport of wrestling.
3. The sport of wrestling is takes a lot of hard work. We spend a lot of time on conditioning because this sport takes a lot of energy. If you put the time in, good things will come. Wrestling builds character, determination and self-confidence, but it can also be very humbling. We are a team, but we are also a family. We are there to support one another as friends, family and teammates.
4. There are private board meetings once a month. If there is anything you would like the board to discuss please bring it up to one of the members so it can be discussed at the next meeting. There are 2 open member board meetings a year. The first one this one in December, the next will be the end of the season in April. You can request meeting minutes from any of the board meetings.
5. Each parent/guardian signed a code of conduct at registration. We are asking that you follow that code of conduct. There are measures put in place for any parents, wrestler or spectator that does not follow that code. If you would like a copy of your signed code of conduct please

send an email to request that. A copy of the code of conduct will also be available on the website soon.

6. In our bylaws there is also a grievance policy if you have a problem with any of the coaches, board members, other parents, children, etc.
7. Everything we do is for the kids and all the money we make is for the kids, not just in our youth team, but the middle and high teams as well. We were able to raise enough money to supply the older teams with a mat. They let us use their mats and gym for practice and matches. They have sent kids to help with our tournaments and matches, and even practices. Your children will eventually be moving up to those teams. We help them and they help us. You will receive various emails throughout the season asking for volunteers for those teams and you will also see their teammates around at our matches and practices.

### **Coaching**

We welcome any help for coaching. Please see any board member or coach if you are interested. In order to help on the mat you need a Megan's Law Card. This is a requirement from Parks and Rec and they issue the cards. You simply go to the parks and rec department and say you wish to get a badge for coaching. They will give you paperwork, take your picture and issue you a temporary badge. You then have to schedule and go get fingerprints (the paper work they give you will have instructions on how to do that). You pay for the fingerprints and once approved parks and rec will issue you a refund. Please give a board member a copy of your card to have on file.

### **Practices**

1. Please sign your child in at every practice. There will be a sign in sheet when you come in the door. As most have seen they are separated in division and in alphabetical order.
2. Monday and Thursday will be dedicated Tots practice, Tuesday and Wednesday will be Bantams and up. You can bring your child to other days (not just their assigned).

### **Matches**

1. Our schedule for matches is on our website. It is subject to change.
2. We have 4 home matches this year. They will take place at the high school on Friday nights at 6:30.
3. Matches are a team effort and we need everyone to pitch in. This includes volunteering for concession and table workers (will be addressed later in the meeting) and set up and clean up.
4. Head Gear and Singlets are required for each match. If you have not received a singlet, do not worry you will. We had to order more and they will be in soon.
5. Nails must be trimmed short and any long hair must be covered in a covering attached to the headgear (league rules). Refs will also perform a skin check prior to all matches/ tournaments. They are looking for anything that can spread to another wrestler (ringworm, etc). If you are unsure about something on your child's skin get a doctor's note to give to the ref.
6. We have a very large team (with a lot of tots). Most teams in our league do not have teams this large or this many younger kids. The coaches will work with the coaches of the other teams the best they can to set up matches for your kids. It is sometimes difficult to get matches for every single child. Every child is ranked according to skill. Sometimes your child might have to wrestle

someone heavier or lighter than them but with a different skill level. Please trust the coaches judgement when it comes to setting up matches. If you do not feel comfortable having your child wrestle someone please let the coaches know. You will be informed before the match if we are not able to match your child up with anyone.

7. There is a charge to enter all matches (at home and away). It is a price set up by the league and it is used to pay the refs. ( it is around \$3 per adult \$1 per child-wrestlers are free)

### **Tournaments**

1. Tournaments are hosted on weekends throughout the season at various schools. They are not required. We will advertise some tournaments and have a sign in sheet. Others, we may not but you are welcome to take your child to any tournament.
2. On December 22, we will be going to Vineland Tournament as a team. There will be a signup sheet next to the sign in sheet at practice. There are 70 kids on the team, we can't personally ask every child's parent if they are going. Please use the sign in sheet to get on the list to attend a tournament.
3. Most tournaments cost between \$20-\$30. The team will be paying for a portion of the cost for your child to go to the Vineland tournament if you wish to go.
4. Some tournaments have a NOVICE division, which is a first year wrestler. If your child has never wrestled before look for tournaments that have this division as they will be wrestling kids with their same skill level. ( Vineland has novice divisions)
5. Tournaments give trophies or medals for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some tournaments will give out participation awards (usually a small medal) to tots and novices.
6. Singlets and head gear are required. Along with nails, hair covers and skin check.
7. Tournaments are very chaotic. There is a lot of teams, kids, coaches, parents, and mats. There are usually brackets posted in the hallway or wall of the school. Please find your child's name and be aware of their number or name when it is called. There are too many kids and not a lot of coaches. The coaches will do their best to try to keep you informed of when your child will wrestle, but please keep them close and watch when they will be up and on what mat. This way when their name is called the coach can turn around and they will be right there. The same goes for matches as well.
8. Tournaments charge a price for the wrestler, but also charge a price for the spectator. Most are \$5 per adult and \$2-\$3 per child.

### **End of Year Tournaments**

1. There are two End of Season Tournaments- One for the Tots and one for Bantams and Older.
2. Tot-o-Rama- This is a simple tournament for all the tots. It will be held in Clayton in February. All participants will receive a little trophy or medal. Last year it was a round robin tournament. There's no 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Everyone just wrestles and has fun.
3. Qualifiers and Championships
  - a. For the older kids there is a Qualifier and Championship in Buena and Pennsville. Each team in our division sends 2 kids from each weight class to the qualifier. The top 4 placers will go to the Championship the next week in Pennsville to compete with the top 4 placers from the other division in our league.

- b. If we have more than 2 kids for a weight it will go by attendance at practices and a wrestle off. The top 2 of the wrestle off will go on to compete.

### **End of Season Party**

We have an end of season party for all the wrestlers and their families. There's pizza and ice cream. We hand out trophies. Last year the whole team received a gift of a wrestling backpack (I'm sure you've seen them around the practice room). It is a lot of fun for the whole team.

### **Concessions**

1. We used to do a buyout every year. This year we have decided to do a donation only.
2. A sign up genius will be sent out to everyone to sign up for donations before each match. Please bring these donations to practice. Instructions on when to bring them in will be attached to the sign up.
3. Volunteers are also needed to work concessions during our home matches. They will be in 45 minute increments and a signup sheet will be emailed out to everyone prior to the match. You will not miss your kid wrestle if you volunteer! We will make sure we have a list and someone will come and get you when it is your kids turn.
4. Like all fundraisers, all money raised in concessions goes back to the kids!

### **Volunteering**

1. Volunteers are needed for all matches. There is a need at concessions, front door and table workers.
2. Front door will collect money for all matches.
3. Table workers help keep time and score for the matches. We usually have 3 mats set up and need 2 people at each table. We will teach you how to work the scoreboards. Refs usually are very good about making sure the score is correct as well.
4. An email will be sent out a few days prior to all matches for volunteers. Again, you will not miss your kids matches! We make sure of it!

### **Fundraising**

1. Thank you to everyone who purchased Thirty-One.
2. Our next Fundraiser is **APPAREL**. I know a lot have been asking about this one. There are forms available at practice if you were not able to receive one at the meeting. They will also be available to purchase online in the next couple days. We will send out an email when that is open. They are due Monday, December 16, 2019. A portion of all sales goes back to the team.
3. **PICTURES**- team and individual pictures will be January 14, 2019 and 6pm. They will take place in the middle school aux gym where we practice. Please try your hardest to be there and be on time. There is 70 kids-that's a lot of pictures and a lot of pictures for our photographer. She will usually start with the team picture and then do individuals. Order forms will come out closer to the date.

4. Park Clean Up-We do a park clean up every year. Years past it has been Owens Park. The township gives us money for helping pick up trash around the park. A date has not been set for this. It will be when it is warmer out.
5. **Beef and Beer** – This is our mandatory fundraiser. We will be hosting a Beef and Beer at StarCross Fire Hall on March 28, 2020 from 7pm-11pm. It is required that each child sell 2 tickets. Tickets will be around \$30. It is 21 and older. It is such a fun night and a great fundraiser!
6. We will have a basket auction at the Beef and Beer. If you know anyone, or if you'd like, to donate a basket that would be great. In years past we've had about 50 baskets. They range from amusement parks, car washes, nail salons, photography, a wrestling mom basket and even skydiving!
7. We are always looking for sponsors for the team. Right now we are sponsored by Hennessy Funeral Home and Antonio's Pizza (whose pizza we will be selling at matches). If you own a business, or know someone who does, and would like to sponsor our team please let us know. We are a 501c3 and any donation is tax deductible.

### **Conclusion**

We are always looking for help, ideas and constructive criticism. Please do not hesitate to approach any of the coaches or board members with any ideas.

Also, if you have any questions (I know this amount of information is overwhelming!) please ask any board member or coach.

Email is our main form of communication, but also an app called Group Me. An invite should have been sent out to everyone already. This is great last minute, fast communications (last minute practice changes, communicating at matches and tournaments, etc). All announcements will try to be made on both email and group me.

Again, this is a lot of information. Please ask a board member or coach anything!

Thank you.