



Texas Wrestling Officials Association

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Last Revision - September 2023



Revision History

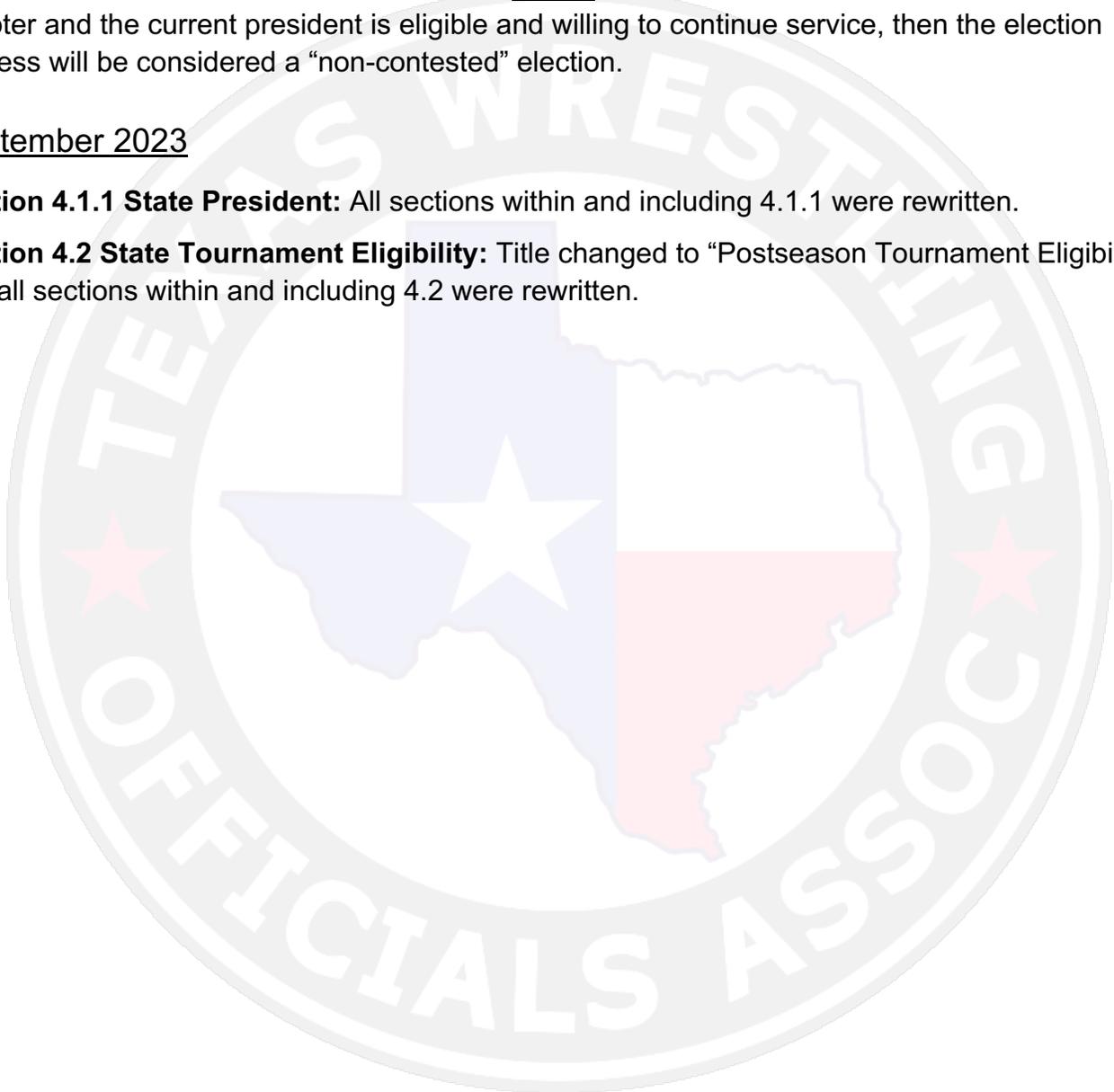
February 2021

Section 4.1.1 State President - Nominees: Added: If no nominations are submitted from any chapter and the current president is eligible and willing to continue service, then the election process will be considered a “non-contested” election.

September 2023

Section 4.1.1 State President: All sections within and including 4.1.1 were rewritten.

Section 4.2 State Tournament Eligibility: Title changed to “Postseason Tournament Eligibility” and all sections within and including 4.2 were rewritten.





Contents

Constitution for the Texas Wrestling Officials Association Page 4

Bylaws for the Texas Wrestling Officials Association

- **Article 1:** Governing Body and Officers Page 5
- **Article 2:** Membership Page 8
- **Article 3:** Meetings, Dues, and Business of the Association Page 9
- **Article 4:** State Roles, Postseason Tournaments, and State Clinic Page 10
- **Article 5:** Addenda Page 15
- **Article 6:** Amending Bylaws Page 16



CONSTITUTION FOR THE TEXAS WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Names: The name of this Organization is the **TEXAS WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION**, herein called the Association. Each Local Chapter of the Association within the State of Texas shall be governed by these Bylaws. However, it shall be understood that each Local Chapter of the Association is a separate entity and the funds and actions of any one Local Chapter shall not impose any specific liability on any other Local Chapter.

Purpose: The Association is organized and will be operated as its own entity but in association with the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) sports officials' program. The Association is created to promote and maintain the highest ideals of sportsmanship and improve the techniques of officiating to benefit the sport of wrestling and those who participate in the sport.

Office: The Association shall have its principal and registered office at the office of its duly elected President. In addition to its principal and registered office, the Association may have offices at such places, both within and outside the State of Texas, as the Association may, from time to time, determine or as the activities of the Association may require.



BYLAWS FOR THE TEXAS WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Article 1 Governing Body and Officers

Section 1.1 Governing Body. The Association shall be governed:

- At the State level, by a State President, elected by the Association to serve as the President of the TWOA Executive Board, which acts as the liaison between the Local Chapters and the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL).
- At each Local Chapter by an Executive Board of Officer(s), consisting of at least an elected President.
 - A TWOA Executive Board Representative must also be appointed but may or may not be part of the local Chapter Executive Board.
 - In addition, each Local Chapter may also elect a Vice President, Scheduler, and a Secretary/Treasurer as deemed necessary by the Chapter Executive Board.

Section 1.2 Governing Body Qualifications. To be eligible to serve on the Executive Board of the Local Chapter, a member shall be a member of the organization as defined in Section 2 of these Bylaws.

Section 1.3 Election of Officers. The officers of the Local Chapters shall be elected to serve up to, but not more than, a two (2) year term upon election.

Section 1.3.1 Time & Place of Election. The election of Local Chapter officers shall be conducted at a designated date that is broadcast to all qualifying members at the beginning of the wrestling season.

Section 1.3.2 Nominations. These may be made from the floor by Active Members of the Association prior to the election and/or by a duly appointed nomination committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the election.



Section 1.3.3 Voting. Officers shall be elected separately by written ballot or electronic email ballot cast by an Active Member in person, or by written proxy presented at the time of the election. The President may appoint the Secretary/ Treasurer to collect votes and assist the local President in facilitation of the election. Ballots submitted via e-mail to the existing Secretary/Treasurer by the time of the election will be considered as “written proxy”.

Section 1.4 Filling of Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring for any reason shall be filled by election of the Active Members of the Association. The elected Officer shall serve the balance of the unexpired term of the official being replaced.

Section 1.5 Duties of Executive Board. The Executive Board of each Local Chapter shall have the responsibility for recommending policy and overseeing the operations of each Local Chapter in accordance with the UIL policy and these Bylaws.

Section 1.5.1 Member Sanctions. Sanctions for members shall include reprimand, censure, revocation of certain meet assignments, or revocation of membership for cause as determined by either the Local and/or State Executive Board. Cause shall include but not be limited to:

- 1) Conduct unbecoming an official.
- 2) Violation of the Officials Code of Ethics.
- 3) Gross negligence or disregard of the rules.
- 4) Acceptance of meet opportunities directly from Association services schools or associations not scheduled through a TWOA Chapter Scheduling Coordinator.
- 5) Reporting to a meet involving an Association services school while intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance whether appearing as an assigned official or spectator.
- 6) Conviction or Deferred Adjudication of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude.

Section 1.6 Duties of Officers and Members of Local Chapter Board.

Section 1.6.1 President. The Local Chapter President shall preside over meetings and serve as the official spokesperson and representative for each Local Chapter to schools and other associations. The President shall be, have responsibility for consulting with the TWOA State President regarding the interpretation of rules.



Section 1.6.2 Scheduling Coordinator. The Scheduling Coordinator shall be responsible for contacting all affiliated schools within the Area serviced by the Local Chapter to obtain season schedules and shall schedule and notify officials and related organizations of all officiating assignments within that Area.

Section 1.6.3 TWOA Executive Board Representative. Each Local Chapter will appoint a TWOA Executive Board Representative to represent their chapter on the TWOA Board. The TWOA Executive Board Representative must be a member in good standing with the Local Chapter. The Executive Board Representative is the conduit for all Chapter communication with the TWOA. Each TWOA Executive Board Representative will have the Local Chapter's vote for all issues dealing with the TWOA. The TWOA Executive Board Representative will report directly to the State President for all matters involving TWOA decisions.

Section 1.6.4 Secretary/Treasurer. If the Local Chapter requires a Secretary/Treasurer this person shall act as the recorder for all meetings of the Local Chapter. The secretary/treasurer shall send out notices of called meetings and be responsible for all correspondence of the Local Chapter, unless otherwise provided for. The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain all records of the Local Chapter and shall receive all dues and monies. The Secretary/Treasurer may maintain a checking and/or savings account in the name of the Local Chapter from which all bills and expenses of the Local Chapter shall be paid. The Secretary/Treasurer shall also maintain an accounting of all receipts and expenditures of the Local Chapter and shall give a report to the Local Chapter regarding the status of the funds whenever requested, with a minimum of two (2) reports required each year. The records of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be subject to audit by the remainder of the Local Chapter Executive Committee or other individual/organization as directed by the Local Chapter Executive Board. Local Chapters shall have the option for the Secretary/Treasurer to be one or two positions.

Section 1.6.5 Vice President. If the Local Chapter requires a Vice President, he/she shall support the Chapter President. The Vice President will assist in the running of Chapter meetings and will fill the role of President in their absence.



Article 2

Membership

Section 2.1 Number and Qualifications. Membership in the Association shall be open to all individuals who have paid the annual registration fee as a TWOA wrestling official, who agree to abide by the purpose of the Association as outlined in Section 1.2 of these Bylaws, who have passed all required qualifications for membership as outlined in these Bylaws and who are elected to membership as outlined in Section 2.2 of these Bylaws.

Section 2.2 Eligibility Criteria for Active Status. To obtain Active status in a Local Chapter the following eligibility criterion must be met by a member. The local Chapter Executive Board can make exceptions to these criteria based on extenuating circumstances.

- **Dues and Fees:** Be current.
- **Assignments:** Must work at least five (5) events in the current season.
- **Training Clinic Attendance:** Must have attended at least one (1) training clinic at either the Local Chapter or State level.
- **Meeting Attendance:** Must have attended at least 50 percent (50%) of all scheduled Local Chapter meetings.
- **NFHS Wrestling Rules Exam – Part I:** Must have a passing score (as established by the TWOA).



Article 3

Meetings, Dues, and Business of the Association

Section 3.1 Meetings. Each Local Chapter shall hold an organizational meeting prior to the beginning of the wrestling season each year, as determined by the Local Chapter Board. There shall be a minimum of one (1) meeting each month during the months of October, November, December, January, and February of each year. The time, dates, and locations of the regular meetings of the Local Chapter shall be determined by the Local Chapter Board and the membership shall be notified by a Board Member of said meetings. The President and/or the Executive Board may call other meetings as necessary in order to conduct the business of the Local Chapter.

Section 3.2 Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Active Members of the association as certified by the Local Chapter President.

Section 3.3 Proxy Voting. Except when amending the Bylaws of the Association as outlined in Article Seven of these Bylaws or when voting for Officers of the Association as outlined in Section 1.3 of these Bylaws, proxy voting is not allowed. Electronic voting via a secure method is allowed.

Section 3.4 Conduct of Meetings. All meetings of the Association shall follow an agenda as determined by the President and/or the Executive Board. The most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be generally followed when conducting the business of the Association.

Section 3.5 Dues, Insurance and Payment of Expenses.

Section 3.5.1 Dues. Each member of the Association shall pay registration to the TWOA as a membership fee to the State Association. Additional Local Chapter annual dues will be an amount determined by the Local chapter Board prior to the annual organizational meeting of the Local Chapter.

Section 3.5.2 Insurance. The registration fee collected during registration to the TWOA provides the member insurance for the upcoming officiating season. Insurance is a requirement for every official who is a member of TWOA.



Article 4

State Roles, Postseason Tournaments, and State Clinic

Section 4.1 TWOA State Roles

4.1.1 State President. The State President shall be elected by the Active Members of each Local Chapter during the last season of the previous President's sitting term. The State President shall serve a two-year term and shall be eligible for re-election. This position will not be served by the same person for more than two consecutive terms.

- **Duties.** In addition to those duties enumerated in Section 1.1 of these Bylaws, the State President shall coordinate training for Association members, the selection of officials for the state tournament, and shall serve as the Ex-Officio Head Official for the State Tournament.
- **Nomination of the State President.** By October 15th of each odd numbered year, Local Chapters may submit the name of one Active Member from their Chapter in nomination for State President. Chapter nominations shall be forwarded to the TWOA Executive Board Member representing their chapter who will then submit Chapter nomination to the TWOA Treasurer and current President.
- **Nominees.** The TWOA Treasurer shall compile the candidate list and forward the list to the full TWOA Executive Board. The Executive Board will validate the eligibility of each candidate and certify the ballot. The current President will distribute a draft ballot to all active members via email with instructions and the timeline of the election process. If no nominations are submitted from any chapter and the current president is eligible and willing to continue service, then the election process will be considered a "non-contested" election.
- **Voting.** Active members as of Dec 1st of the current year from each Local Chapter shall be eligible to vote for the State President. Voting period will be between Dec 2nd and Dec 14th. Ballots will be electronically distributed to the member's email addresses registered with the TWOA.
- **Tabulation.** The TWOA Treasurer and a designated electronic voting administrator (must be two separate people, preferably from separate chapters) shall formally distribute ballots via email to eligible members. Results will be certified by both the TWOA Treasurer and designated electronic voting administrator and sent to the TWOA current President and courtesy copied to the full TWOA Executive Board.
- **Notification.** The current TWOA President shall promptly notify all members of the Association upon certification notification.

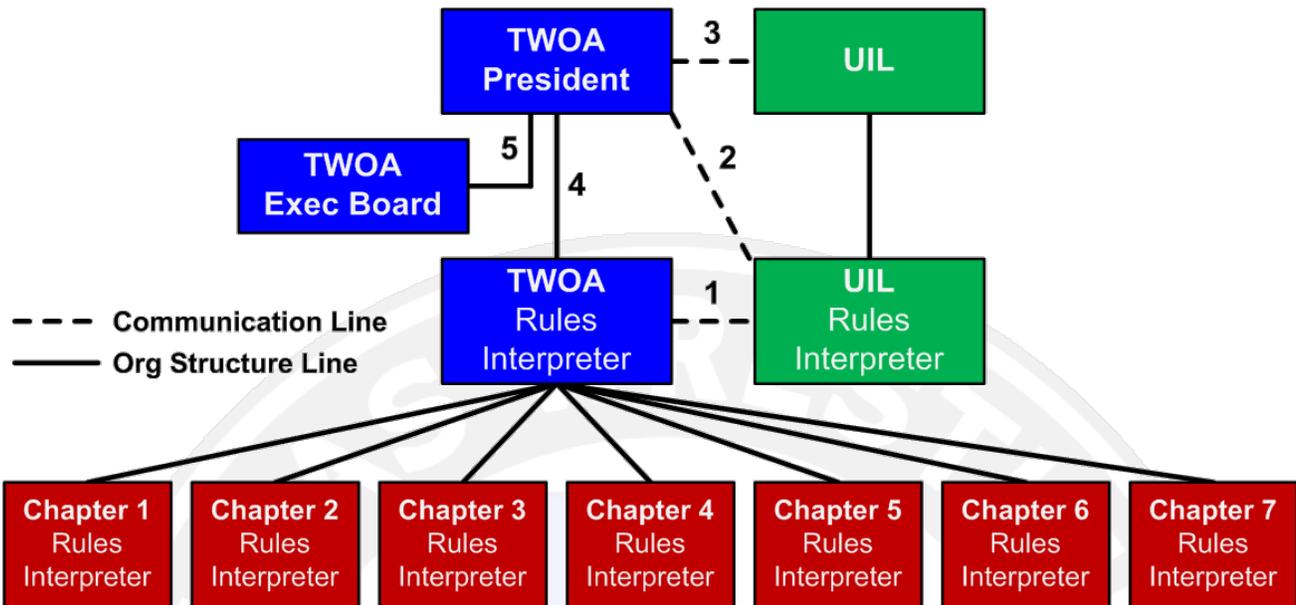


Section 4.1.2 State Treasurer. The State Treasurer functions as the independent auditor and co-authorized payer of funds maintained by TWOA. State Treasurer answers directly to State President and reports to Executive Board Members with review of funds maintained by TWOA. State Treasurer does not have a vote in Executive Board matters. State Treasurer duties can be held in addition with local chapter officer duties.

- **Nomination and Election of State Treasurer.** By March 15th of each odd numbered year, each Executive Board Member may submit nomination of name of one Active Member in nomination for State Treasurer.

Section 4.1.3 Rules Interpreter.

<u>Chapter</u> Rules Interpreter	<u>TWOA</u> Rules Interpreter	<u>UIL</u> Rules Interpreter
Local chapter rules interpreter. Empowered to ensure standardization of NFHS, UIL and TWOA rules interpretations within the Chapters. A main goal of Chapter RIs is to collaborate with other chapter RIs to achieve standardization/agreements and work with the TWOA RI in matters of interpretation or consistency concerns.	Anything related to standardization across the chapters for application and interpretation based on rule/case book and continuing interpretations. Anything wrestling related not specifically interpreted by the UIL as a deviation from the NFHS rules. All matters of competition judgement, rules interpretation and decisions for the sport that is not specific to the state of Texas.	Anything wrestling related that is a direct addition, modification, deletion, or deviation from the NFHS rules. Anything specifically UIL determined that is external to the NFHS rules. Facilitate and delivery of communications to and from the NFHS level any/all interpretations and rule changes/clarifications to the TWOA President and TWOA RI as a courtesy copy.
First point of contact for local event head officials for unique circumstances that require immediate interpretation.	Circumstance review (post event from head official and/or Chapter RI. Equipment modifications, padding, function ability.	Containment options, penalty sequence.
Facilitates, articulates, and collaborates with to the TWOA and other chapter rules interpreters on matters of rule application and/or gaps.	Wrestling scoring, judgment, legality of holds and moves, according to NFHS.	Weight certification Wrestler classification and eligibility.
Appointed By: Chapter Assigning. Governance: NFHS rule book and interpretations, UIL Wrestling Manual, TWOA Rules Interpretations.	Appointed By: TWOA Exec Board. Governance: NFHS rule book and interpretations, UIL Wrestling Manual, TWOA By-laws.	Appointed By: UIL. Governance: NFHS rule book and interpretations, UIL Wrestling Manual.



1. Communication is a functional discussion only and not the primary communication line for Rules Interpreters (RI). Intent is to show communication is allowed but is not directive.
2. TWOA RI to UIL RI is for discussion and characterization purposes related to RI function and needs.
3. TWOA RI to UIL communication is standard for the positions.
4. TWOA RI to TWOA President communication is the primary path of communication for the TWOA RI above chapter engagement. The TWOA RI will rise to the President all matters determined as related to rules interpretations (needs, emphasis, gaps) in a documented and objective template (issue, rule references, considerations).
5. TWOA President will serve as the facilitator of engagement on matters that require board action or situational awareness and if needed, invite the TWOA RI in to discuss.

Section 4.2 Postseason Tournament Eligibility. Eligibility to officiate postseason events (District, Regional, and State Tournament) shall be based on criteria established by the Association subject to the process described in Section 4.2 of these Bylaws.

Section 4.2.1 Member Status. Only Active Members of the Association, as defined by these Bylaws, will be eligible to officiate postseason events (District, Regional, and State Tournament).

Section 4.2.2 NFHS Test Minimum Scores. In order to be eligible to officiate postseason events (District, Regional, and State Tournament), each Active Member must score a minimum of 76% on Part I, and 90% on Part II of the NFHS test.

Section 4.2.3 District Tournament Assignment. Each Active Member must have officiated at least five (5) varsity events in the current regular season to be eligible for a district assignment prior to postseason.



Section 4.2.4 Regional Tournament Assignment. Each Active Member must have officiated at least two District Tournaments in the past 5 years and at least 5 varsity events in the current regular season prior to postseason events in order to be eligible to officiate any regional championships. All assignments to regional tournaments shall be certified by the TWOA Executive Board. Reciprocity considerations for out of state transfers may be considered by the TWOA Executive Board.

Section 4.2.5 State Tournament Nomination Eligibility. Each Active member must be in good standing and meet the following criteria to be eligible for State Tournament Nomination by respective Local Chapter Board.

Section 4.2.5.1 Regional Tournament Experience. Each Active Member must have officiated at least two varsity Regional Tournaments or equivalent as determined by the TWOA Executive Board in the past 5 years in order to be eligible to officiate the UIL State Wrestling Championships. Reciprocity considerations for out of state transfers may be considered by the TWOA Executive Board.

Section 4.2.5.2 Minimum Number of Events. Each Active Member must have worked a minimum of five (5) varsity events in the current regular season prior to postseason events in order to officiate the State Tournament.

Section 4.2.6 State Tournament Automatic Bid and Exemptions. Officials may receive first right of refusal or denied nomination for UIL State Wrestling Championships based on previous year ranking.

Section 4.2.6.1 Automatic Selection and First Right of Refusal. The top 15 evaluated officials as determined by evaluators at the most recent state tournament will be offered first right of refusal to officiate the coming year's state tournament. Should one of the top 15 evaluated officials not desire or be able to participate or are not eligible there will be no movement up, below the top 15, to fill the void(s). Fifteen is predicated on one half of the total on-mat officials assigned to the event. Adjustments may be made based on UIL directed total head-count changes.

Section 4.2.6.2 Denied Nominations. The bottom five evaluated officials from the previous year's tournament shall not be considered for selection for the next year's tournament.



Section 4.2.7 Local Chapter TWOA Board Members Selection of State Tournament Officials. The selection of qualified officials for the state tournament will be as follows. A minimum number of officials will be chosen under the guidelines established by the TWOA Executive Board with UIL approval. The UIL, with the input of the TWOA State President, shall determine the number of Officials required for the Regional and State Tournaments.

- Each Local Chapter President shall provide a list of nominated Officials to the State President for vote by the third Sunday of December.
- The State President will compile a ballot of all nominated officials from the individual Local Chapter nominations.
- Each TWOA Executive Board Representative will participate in the voting procedures to determine selection with alternates.
- The State President will submit the State Tournament Officials to the UIL no later than the third Friday of January of each year.

Section 4.3 State Wrestling Clinic. A Saturday in September or October of the current year will be designated for the assemblage of representatives from all Local Chapters belonging to the Texas Wrestling Officials Association. This clinic will include current year rule changes, demonstrations, media presentations (if applicable), and business discussions affecting the Texas Wrestling Officials Association. The TWOA State President and Local Chapter Representatives will facilitate the program. All current members of the Texas Wrestling Officials Association will be invited to attend the annual TWOA State Wrestling Clinic. At least one (1) Local Chapter Representative should attend the State Clinic. If applicable, future TWOA State Wrestling Clinic sites will be discussed at the annual meeting.



Article 5

Addenda

Section 5.1 Regional Addenda Authorized. Each Local Chapter is authorized to develop addenda to these Bylaws, which pertain to issues specific to a Local Chapter. No addendum shall be authorized which alters the scope and intent of the Bylaws of the State Association as adopted herein.

Section 5.2 Adoption of Addenda. Addenda proposed by each Local Chapter shall be adopted in the same manner as an amendment to these Bylaws as described in Article Seven of these Bylaws, except that said addendum shall not be subject to review by each Local Chapter President and shall only be subject to the approval of the membership of the Local Chapter to be affected by the Addendum.

Section 5.3 Captioning of Addendums. Each adopted addendum shall be captioned "Addenda to Bylaws of the Texas Wrestling Officials Association - _____ Chapter" followed by the number of the addendum. All addenda for each Local Chapter shall be numbered consecutively, beginning with number "1".

Section 5.4 Filing of Addendums. All addenda adopted by a Local Chapter shall be forwarded to the State President upon their adoption.



Article 6

Amending Bylaws

Section 6.1 Eligibility for Amending Bylaws. Any Active Member of the Association may propose changes to the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 6.2 Presentation of Amendments. All proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Association shall be presented in writing to the Local Chapter TOWA Executive Board Member. The Local Chapter TOWA Executive Board Member shall forward the proposed changes to the State President, who will contact each Local Chapter TOWA Executive Board Members for review.

Following the review by the State President and each Local Chapter TOWA Executive Board Member, each Local Chapter TOWA Executive Board Member will forward the proposed changes to all Active Members of the Association seven (7) days prior to any formal consideration for change by the Active Members.

Section 6.3 Changing Bylaw. All proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Association shall be considered at a regular or called meeting of the TOWA Executive Board. The Bylaws may be changed by a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of a quorum of the TOWA Executive Board.

Section 6.4 Effective Date of Amendments. Unless specified otherwise in the amendment, all adopted amendments to the Bylaws of the Association shall take effect immediately upon their adoption by the TOWA Executive Board Members of the Association.