Southern MN Wrestling Officials Association — Bylaws

Preamble

These bylaws govern the day-to-day operation of the Southern MN Wrestling Officials Association (SMWOA). They put the Association's Constitution into practice; where the two conflict, the Constitution controls. All members are subject to the rules of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) and its officiating guidelines in addition to these bylaws.

Article I – Membership

Section 1. Classes of Membership

Class	Who qualifies	Voting	Eligible for office
Active	Registered MSHSL wrestling official who meets all Section 3 requirements	Yes	Yes
Apprentice	First- or second-year official, or a candidate working toward MSHSL registration	No	No
Honorary/Life Members	Retired officials recognized for distinguished service to the Association.	No	No

Section 2. Admission

A. Applicants submit a membership form and dues to the Secretary.

B. Membership becomes effective once dues are paid and, for Active members, proof of current MSHSL registration is on file.

C. Membership runs for one fiscal year and must be renewed annually.

D. The Secretary shall review each applicant's prior membership record before admission. A former member who was not in good standing when their membership ended, including for unpaid dues or fees or a suspension or expulsion under Article VI, is not eligible to rejoin the Association.

Section 3. Requirements for Active Members

Each season, an Active member shall:

1. Hold current MSHSL registration as a wrestling official.
2. Meet all MSHSL eligibility requirements for officials for the current school year.
3. Attend the Annual Association Meeting.
4. Be current on dues.

Section 4. Ratings and Evaluation

A. The Board may establish a rating system for apprentice members

B. Ratings shall consider peer and coach evaluations, years of experience, and observed mechanics.

C. Ratings criteria shall be published to the membership before the start of each season.

Section 5. Training and Mentoring

A. Each Apprentice member shall be paired with Active member mentor(s) for at least the first season.

B. The Association shall offer at least one mechanics or rules interpretation session each season.

Section 6. Good Standing

A member is in good standing when dues are paid, Section 3 requirements are met, and no suspension is in effect. Only members in good standing may vote, hold office, or receive Association assignments.

Article II – Duties of Officers

Section 1. President

A. Presides over all meetings of the Association and the Board.

B. Acts as the official representative of the Association to the MSHSL, member schools, conferences, and other officials' associations.

C. Authorizes payment of bills as submitted by the Treasurer; co-signs any single expenditure over $500.

D. Appoints standing and special committees and serves as an ex-officio member of each.

E. Designates the Annual Meeting date at least 30 days in advance.

F. Excuses a member's absence from the Annual Meeting (Article I, Section 3) for illness, family emergency, or officiating conflicts.

Section 2. Secretary

A. Records and distributes minutes of all Association and Board meetings within 14 days.

B. Maintains the membership roster, including contact information, MSHSL registration, rules-test completion, clinic attendance, and meeting attendance.

C. Sends meeting notices and handles Association correspondence.

D. Keeps the official copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, with all amendments and their adoption dates.

E. The Secretary and Treasurer roles can be combined and served by a single individual

Section 3. Treasurer

A. Receives and deposits all Association funds in an account in the Association's name.

B. Pays bills as authorized by the President.

C. Keeps accurate financial records and gives a written financial report at each regular meeting.

D. Prepares the proposed annual budget for approval by the Executive Board.

E. Notifies members of unpaid dues and reports delinquent members to the Board.

F. Turns over all records for review by an audit committee of two members (not officers) at the end of each fiscal year.

Section 4. At-Large Members

A. Up to five At-Large members serve on the Executive Board with full voting rights.

B. Represent the views and concerns of the membership to the Board.

C. Carry out duties and committee assignments given by the President or the Board.

Section 5. Executive Board

A. The Executive Board consists of the officers, up to five At-Large members, and the immediate Past President.

B. The Board manages Association business between meetings, sets ratings policy, and hears disciplinary matters under Article VI.

C. The Board sets the officiating fees for the Association.

D. A majority of the Board is a quorum. Board decisions are by majority vote.

Article III – Dues

Section 1. Setting Dues

A. Dues for each membership class shall be set by the Executive Board by majority vote.

B. The Treasurer shall present a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, and the Executive Board shall approve the budget before setting dues.

C. Dues remain at the prior year's rate until changed under this Section.

Section 2. Payment

A. Dues are payable to the Treasurer by October 15 of each year.

B. Dues paid after October 15 carry a $10 late fee.

C. A member whose dues are unpaid by November 15 is not in good standing and may not vote, hold office, or receive Association assignments until dues and fees are paid.

D. The Board may waive dues or late fees for hardship by majority vote.

E. Honorary / Life members pay no dues.

Section 3. Use of Funds

Association funds may be spent only for Association purposes, such as training materials, clinic fees, meeting costs, awards, and scholarships, within the approved budget. Expenditures outside the budget over $250 require Board approval.

Article IV – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall align with the MSHSL school year.

Article V – Meetings and Elections

Section 1. Regular Meetings

A. The Association shall hold an annual meeting during the wrestling season (typically November through February).

B. The President sets the meeting schedule and the Secretary distributes it to members before the season begins.

Section 2. Special Meetings

The President, a majority of the Board, or 20% of Active members by written request may call a special meeting with at least 7 days' notice. Only business named in the notice may be acted on.

Section 3. Elections

A. Officers and At-Large members hold office until they resign or are removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

B. When an office or At-Large seat is vacant, or a new position is created, the Executive Board nominates candidates and fills the position by majority vote.

C. Elections are by secret ballot when more than one candidate is nominated for an office.

Section 4. Vacancies

The Executive Board fills a vacancy under Section 3.B.

Article VI – Discipline and Removal

Section 1. Grounds

A member may be disciplined for conduct that harms the Association or the profession, including: violating the MSHSL Code of Conduct policy, failing to honor accepted assignments without notice, unsportsmanlike or abusive conduct, or misuse of Association funds.

Section 2. Procedure

1. A written complaint is submitted to the President (or to the Secretary if it concerns the President).
2. The Board notifies the member in writing of the complaint within 14 days.
3. The member may respond in writing and appear before the Board.
4. The Board decides by majority vote and notifies the member in writing. Possible actions: no action, written warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Section 3. Removal of Officers

An officer may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board under Article V, Section 3.

Section 4. Relationship to MSHSL

Association discipline does not affect a member's MSHSL registration. The Board may refer serious matters to the MSHSL.

Adoption

Adopted by the membership of the Southern MN Wrestling Officials Association on __Oct 8, 2026_____ (date).

President: _____Matt Sogla_____

Secretary: _____Bill Olson_____