

# Bylaws

## Lansing Wrestling Officials Association

### Article 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be designated and known as:

Lansing Wrestling Officials Association (herein referred to as the LWOA). The LWOA is an Association approved by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

In 1969, the LWOA was founded with the purpose of developing outstanding officials. These officials would be trained to be consistent, competent and have a deep understanding of the rules governing the sport of wrestling

### Article 2: Goals

LWOA goals include:

1. Improve the officiating skills of all members.
2. Build consistency of officiating by members through informational meetings, which involve the membership in general discussions.
3. Gain respect from peers, area coaches and Athletic Directors.
4. Enroll new members, either registered officials or individuals who would like to become officials.
5. Keep the association in the highest standing with the M.H.S.A.A., and maintain the status as an Approved Association.
6. Consistently apply all rules and regulations of the M.H.S.A.A. and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSA).

### Article 3: Membership

A. All active members will:

1. Be registered according to the M.H.S.A.A. guidelines.
2. Pay dues on a yearly basis as set by the officers and voted on by the membership.
3. Attend meetings/or events required by the LWOA.
4. Be entitled to vote on Association business and hold office.
5. Be entitled to voting on matters pertaining to the Association.

B. The general membership shall:

1. Abide by all decisions rendered by the Association.
2. Be involved in setting the policy of the Association.
3. Follow the rules of conduct for officials outlined in the MHSAA Officials Guidebook.
4. Maintain professionalism in all matters involving the LWOA.
5. Work to improve their officiating skills and rules knowledge.
6. Pay Dues as required.
7. Attend at least the minimum numbers of meetings or events (one more than half) in order to be “in good standing” with the LWOA.
8. Fulfill obligations of officiating contracts.

## Article 4: Organizational Structure

The Association will consist of the general membership, assignors, and trainers and the following officers: President, Vice President (2), Secretary, and Treasurer.

## Article 5: Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

A. The President shall:

1. Be the Association's representative at all meetings involving Athletic Directors, School Administrators, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS).
2. Act as lead negotiator on all fees for official services.
3. Act as liaison to resolve payment and other administrative issues between the general membership and the schools that the LWOA services.
4. Coordinate assignments, as needed, between the general membership, the assignors, and the schools to assure that all wrestling contest dates are covered with appropriate level official(s).
5. Hold an initial meeting at the beginning of the season with the assignors to schedule all available contest dates.
6. Schedule and chair Association meetings.

B. The Vice President(s) shall:

1. Prepare, in conjunction with the President, an agenda outlining topics to be discussed prior to each Association Meeting.
2. Make available the agenda to the general membership prior to the scheduled Association meeting.
3. Lead discussions during the meeting.
4. Perform the above mentioned duties of the President when the President is absent or when delegated by the President.
5. Keep meetings on task in accordance with scheduled agenda items.

C. The Secretary shall:

1. Record member attendance at all Association meetings.
2. Record and distribute minutes outlining all decisions made by the membership during all association meetings; past and present.
3. Maintain names, addresses, e-mail addresses and current phone numbers of the membership.

D. The Treasurer shall:

1. Be responsible for a financial report to the Association Members twice a year, once at the beginning of the season and once at the end. This report shall be made available to all members.
2. Collect dues.
3. Pay all approved expenditures of the Association.
4. Approve, with the approval of the officers, all expenditures under \$100.00. Expenditures over this amount shall be approved by the general membership.

## Article 6: Resignation

Any member who asks to resign their membership from the LWOA will be granted immediate release.

## Article 7: Disciplinary Action

A. Any member shall be subject to disciplinary action if that member:

1. Violates the Code of Conduct for Officials as set forth in the MHSAA official's guidebook.
2. Fails to pay or defaults upon their dues.
3. Fails to attend the required number of Association meetings.
4. Fails to fulfill their contract obligations.
5. Acts unprofessionally while under contract- such as, but not limited to:
  - a. Refusing to work exhibition or JV matches at assigned contests.
  - b. Leaving early or arriving late to a contest.
  - c. Refusing to work or delaying the scheduled contest while attempting to re-negotiate a contract.

B. Disciplinary Action will be progressive in nature and can result in suspension and/or dismissal from the Association and forfeiture of assigned contests.

C. The Officers or a designated committee will be responsible for deciding upon the appropriate disciplinary action by a majority vote.

## Article 8: Suspension + Dismissal

- A. Any member who fails to meet the requirements of the Association, including but not limited to default of dues or fails to meet the requirements to be a “member in good standing” may be subject to suspension and/or dismissal.
- B. Any member who violates the MHSAA Code of Conduct for Officials shall be considered for suspension and/or dismissal from the LWOA.
- C. An official who fails to fulfill the obligation of a contract may be subject to suspension and/or membership revocation from the LWOA.
- D. Reinstatement shall be considered after the individual remedies the cause of any suspension.
- E. Suspensions and Dismissals from the LWOA will be voted on by all members present at the meeting of the discussed suspension and/or dismissal. A decision will be reached by a majority vote.
- F. Revocations shall last for a minimum of one calendar year and shall require a revoked member to apply for membership and be re-admitted to the association by vote of the majority of members at any association meeting following the minimum revocation period.
- G. Any official who is under current or past suspension/revocation from another association shall be required to submit to a vote of the Association for admittance into the LWOA.

## Article 9: Elections

- A. Candidates for an officer position are nominated for a two (2) year term and voted on by the general membership at the February association meeting.
- B. An individual can hold only one officer position during their term.
- C. Voting shall be by secret ballot and the vote shall be determined by a majority.
- D. Special elections can take place when necessary and brought to the members for a majority vote.
- E. During the elected officer’s term, the general membership can, at any time vote the officer out. It requires a 2/3 vote of the membership to relieve an existing officer from his currently held position. Nominations for the now vacant position will be then be put forth and a vote taken.

## Article 10: Meetings

- A. There will normally be five meetings between the months of October and March.
- B. The meeting dates will be determined by the President and e-mailed to members in September. Meetings shall be subject to change if a majority of members have a conflict due to a wrestling schedule. A new date shall be voted on by all members present at the meeting.
- C. Besides five general meetings, there shall be, at least, one instructional meeting and one official's mechanics classroom discussion seminar.
- D. Veteran officials will aid in the development of new officials through observation, teaching and modeling expected behaviors

## Article 11: Amendment of Bylaws

**Adoption, Amendment + Repeal** The members of the association may amend or repeal the bylaws or adopt new by-laws so long as the by-laws, as amended or adopted, are not inconsistent with the articles of association or with the law. Any bylaws adopted by the members may not be altered or repealed by the Officers. These bylaws have been adopted as the bylaws of the association by a validly and separately convened meeting of the board of directors and the members.

**Inspection of Records by Members** All books, records, and lists of members of the association shall be open to inspection and examination upon reasonable request for all proper purposes by any member of the association.

**Compensation** The compensation of all officers of the association shall be fixed by the membership. No officer shall be ineligible to receive the compensation by reason of the fact that he or she is also a member of the association.

**Quorum** A quorum at any meeting shall exist when 51% of the "members in good standing" are present.