

**Minutes of the  
Commonwealth Wrestling Committee  
General Assembly, 4 August 2022**

**Birmingham, England**

**Present**

Don Ryan CAN - President  
Daniel Igali NGR – Vice President  
Ian Wiggett WAL – Secretary General  
Craig Anthony ENG  
Vasile Jornea SCO  
Kevin Wallen JAM  
Gerard Lim SGP  
Prince Soualley SLE  
Pete Pouri-Lane NZL  
Sarat H SRI  
Leofah Warwick TGA  
Clement Tsounui CMR  
Shamim Hakayenga UGA  
Linus Mashete KEN  
Josh O’Brien AUS  
Orestis Leonidis CYP  
Charles Villet RSA

**Attending**

Pedro Silva UWW  
Carlos Roy UWW  
Tristan Morard UWW

**Online**

Mr Lalovic UWW President  
Abraham Vassalo MLT  
Norbert Amefu GHA  
Gabriel NAM  
Marlene Pouri-Lane NZL

**Apologies**

Sakkie Bosse RSA  
John Saul AUS  
Marlene Pouri-Lane NZL, (will attend online)

**1. Opening, Welcome**

Don Ryan welcomed everyone to the assembly.

**2. Welcome from the President of UWW, Mr Nena Lalovic**

Mr Lalovic addressed the assembly online. He highlighted the challenge ahead to retain the sport as part of the next Commonwealth games in Australia. UWW had already started to negotiate with the organisers. Our main goal is to remain a core sport, alongside this to develop wrestling in more Commonwealth countries, including Australia.

Mr Lalovic recognised the improvements in the Commonwealth Wrestling Committee since 2018. He noted that India was very keen to keep wrestling within the Games and work together as a team to retain core status.

Don Ryan thanked Mr Lalovic for his contribution and support of Commonwealth wrestling.

The register of attendance was taken.

### **3. Agenda and approval of quorum**

The agenda has been circulated in advance. Proposed NZL, seconded AUS. Approved.

20 nations in attendance.

### **4. Minutes of 2018 Assembly**

Minutes had been circulated. Proposed ENG, seconded SCO. Approved.

### **5. President's Report**

Don Ryan outlined the activity of the committee over the past four years. It was disappointing that the last championships had to be cancelled. He had participated in a workshop for the 2026 CWG in Victoria. We would now be submitting an expression of interest for wrestling to be included in the next Games.

### **6. Adoption of new constitution**

Don Ryan outlined the proposed changes to the constitution adopted in 2028. The changes related to the committee structure by removing the separate executive body of 5 members. The 7-member committee was already operating as a single group and there was no desire to maintain a separate executive body. Proposed ENG, seconded SCO, approved unanimously.

### **7. Calendar of events, 2022-26**

### **8. Commonwealth Games 2026**

Don Ryan outlined the proposals for Victoria 2026. We would continue to work with UWW to present a strong case for inclusion. There was a requirement to submit an expression of interest, explaining how wrestling would support and promote inclusion, equality, legacy, local participation, and global interest.

The committee had suggested Beach Wrestling as a new sport within the Games. Beach Wrestling provided advantages which may appeal to the Victoria organising committee. In addition, the committee was proposing that entries would be capped for Freestyle at 120, and at 80 for beach wrestling. This would require a qualifying process.

Pedro da Silva explained the opportunities from beach wrestling. It was fast and easy to understand. It was cheap for hosts and competing countries, while appealing and attractive for new and younger audiences.

The World Beach Games will be held in Bali in 2023, and there are options for invitation places. It is the second biggest sport in the World Beach Games. Recent winners have come from a broad range of countries, showing that it is open and exciting.

Beach Wrestling is being evaluated by the IOC, with a view to inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games. Inclusion of beach wrestling in the 2026 games will be significant for the 2028 Olympic games.

ENG and SCO stated they fully supported the proposals. SCO said that inclusion in the 2026 Games would make it easier to gain funding for Bali.

SLE pointed out the general European focus, whereas beach wrestling was closer to wrestling styles in Africa, such as the Senegal tradition. Travel restrictions had been a problem when setting the calendar, while funding for non-Olympic sports is a challenge.

JAM suggested the Caribbean would be a good location for beach wrestling.

Pedro da Silva said that the UWW Instagram was in the top 5 for global and youth engagement.

NAM highlighted the challenge for developing countries vs developed countries. There was a challenge securing funding.

Beach wrestling qualifications would be in Romania, dates to be confirmed.

SGP offered to host a commonwealth beach wrestling competition.

There was a recognition that there would need to be ongoing Commonwealth wrestling activity. This would include at least one championship before 2026 with probably a camp as well, and also an U17 and U20 competition. The committee would issue a call for events. A qualification event would be required in 2025. AUS was keen to hold an event. TGA was keen to be involved in the beach games.

## **9. Election of officers**

John Saul AUS wished to stand down from the committee. All other members were willing to stand again.

The president of IND wished to stand for election. AUS proposed Josh O'Brien for election. Kevin Wallen JAM initially wished to stand for election but then withdrew.

This left 8 nominations for 7 positions. Pedro da Silva explained the voting process and that at least one position must be held by a woman – the only woman candidate is Marlene Pouri-Lane NZL.

Ballot forms were printed and distributed. Counting of ballots was conducted by the UWW representatives.

Elected:

Don Ryan CAN – 15 votes

Daniel Igali- NGR – 17 votes

Sakkie Bosse RSA – 13 votes  
Ian Wiggett WAL – 14 votes  
Marlene Pouri-Lane NZL – 15 votes  
Josh O’Brien AUS – 14 votes  
Brijbhushan Singh IND – 10 votes

Not elected:  
Ilai Manu TOK – 6 votes

Don Ryan thanked Ilai Manu for his contribution to Commonwealth wrestling over the past four years.

The committee retired briefly and confirmed the following the appointments:

<a href="#"><u>Don Ryan</u></a>	Canada	President
<a href="#"><u>Brijbhushan SHARAN SINGH</u></a>	India	Vice-President
<a href="#"><u>Hon. Baraladei Daniel IGALI</u></a>	Nigeria	Vice-President
<a href="#"><u>Ian Wiggett</u></a>	United Kingdom	Secretary General
<a href="#"><u>Sakkie BOSSE</u></a>	South Africa	Treasurer
<a href="#"><u>Marlene POURI-LANE</u></a>	New Zealand	Member
<a href="#"><u>Josh O’Brien</u></a>	Australia	Member

Meeting concluded.