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TO: Club Leaders

FR: Tony Black
Manager of State Services

RE: 2010-2011 Membership Year

Welcome to USA Wrestling and a new and exciting membership year! Below you will find information which will be a reminder for some and new information for others. The USAW National Headquarters is looking forward to the 2010-2011 member year and assisting club leaders with their various programs. Please read all the information below and feel free to contact your state association membership director or National Headquarters if you have questions.

1. All forms and membership cards have changed color for 2010-2011. Forms are again printed on NCR paper (No Carbon Required) and some forms have been modified for 2010-2011. Do not use any leftover supplies from a previous year, **except for individual membership roster forms**. As the rosters are being used you will notice that USA Wrestling is capturing **email addresses**. USA Wrestling is asking the state to collect email addresses for all members.

2. Concerning membership cards, be reminded that each year all cards and state associations are subject to a membership card audit. All membership cards must be accounted for prior to August 31, 2011. Contact your state association membership director for details. **Submission** of membership to USA Wrestling needs to be **submitted twice a month**. Club leaders are requested to submit membership immediately to their state association membership directors. Failure to properly submit membership may jeopardize membership benefits.

3. Sports Accident Supplemental Benefits. This provides secondary sports accident benefits for USA Wrestling members who participate in limited non-sanctioned events. Please refer to USA Wrestling's insurance pamphlet.

4. This year's membership cards are basically the same. As you will notice a Participant's Waiver and Release from Liability form is attached to the actual membership cards. The use of a waiver and release is now **mandatory** in the insurance and risk management industry. Members are **required** to complete the waiver and release form and return it to the National Headquarters or keep on file at the club. **Failure to obtain a waiver and release on members will result in a loss of insurance coverage.**

5. Suggested procedures for handling these forms are as follows: The form could be signed and dated by the member when they register (athlete, coach or official). If under 18 years of age the parent or guardian should sign the form. Then those procedures outlined by your state association should be followed for having the forms returned to the National Headquarters or keep on file at the club. No one other than the legal guardian of an individual under the age of 18 should sign the form in the appropriate place.

Having complete and valid waiver and release forms provides important information to the National Headquarters in the event of a lawsuit. **Failure to obtain a waiver and release on members will result in a loss of insurance coverage.**

This may add a step in the registration process, but on the positive side, we have put our best efforts into providing the type of insurance our organization needs to provide security for the many programs and events conducted.

If you are purchasing membership on-line for others in your club, please direct these members to the online registration website (www.usawmembership.com) and have them complete the waiver and release. It is imperative that club directors follow through on this step with their club members, as failure to sign a waiver and release will result in a loss of insurance coverage.

If you have any questions regarding the waiver and release form please contact USA Wrestling's Department of State Services or your state association membership director.

6. Separate procedures have been established for adding "Certificate Holders" and "Additional Insureds". See enclosed instructions and forms.

7. Individual membership benefits include secondary sports accident insurance coverage. Be sure to read the revised Insurance Summary for 2010-2011 which has a general overview of membership insurance benefits. This pamphlet is provided to your club once it has been registered by the National Headquarters. If you need a copy prior, please contact the USAW State Services Department at 1-719-598-8181.

Competitor, Coach and Official membership cards state on the back that sports accident insurance coverage is secondary and that a deductible applies. Other conditions also apply. A telephone number and address are provided for questions regarding potential claims.

8. Look forward to various Internet enhancements that will be provided soon to all members.

9. Other "Don't Forget" items:

- ❖ Foreign athletes competing in this country (international exchanges, etc.) are required to have a Competitor's Card. The cost for this card is \$7.50, which provides limited **secondary** sports accident insurance benefits.
- ❖ An international or cultural exchange meet does not have liability insurance coverage and is NOT ELIGIBLE for other possible benefits UNLESS it has been sanctioned, just like any other event.
- ❖ Chartered Clubs, however, can have foreign wrestler MEMBERS scrimmage at their club without an event sanction. (All members at the club site – including guests – must be individual members of USA Wrestling.) Foreign teams must also be approved through USA Wrestling before they can compete in the United States.
- ❖ All American Wrestling Supply (www.usawrestlingproducts.com) offers a 5% discount on many items to membership cardholders of the organization. This applies only to mail or telephone orders not to sales at events.
- ❖ Per United States Olympic Committee (USOC) policy, the use of the term "**Olympic**" cannot be used in the title of a club or event unless authority has been granted by the USOC.
- ❖ Additional Insured practice sites are intended for some club members from the originating club. Additional insureds are subject to approval by the insurance carrier.

We are confident more individuals will find their way to your club and experience the excitement and enjoyment of being a USA Wrestling member.

USAW would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for everything you do in promoting safe and rewarding experiences for your club members.

Mission Statement

USA Wrestling, guided by the Olympic Spirit, provides quality opportunities for its members to achieve their full human and athletic potential.