**2019 OAWA AGM**

**VP of Coaching Report**

I would like to start by thanking all the OAWA Executive Members, Board of Directors, Provincial Director, Officials, our members and most importantly our Coaches. You all give an enormous amount of time, sacrifices away from family, tireless hours (many thankless) to this amazing sport trying to make a difference in our youth not only in sport but also the life lessons they learn along the way.

For this I Thank all of YOU.

Over the last year yes, we have had many speed bumps, that have taken many resources financially and yes extensive time has been allocated to these issues. Unfortunately, at times it did take the focus from the ultimate goal of bettering the sport of wrestling for not only our athletes but our coaches as well.

We did however try to offer as many opportunities in our power to coaches through clinics, seminars and courses. It has been a troubling year for all our coaches dealing with changes to the NCCP requirements and the lack of proper resources being offered by WCL. We understand that obtaining the proper certification can be difficult at times and hoping that moving forward we can open more opportunities not only for veteran coaches but new and upcoming coaches.

Our sport is built around the coaches and without them there is no wrestling, we must push for more opportunities for our coaches. The more coaches we have the more athletes we have and greater the sport and product of wrestling will be.

We must continue the path we are taking for Safe Sport and yes this means continuous police background checks, upgrading certification and continuing to learn and educate ourselves to be the best coaches we can, obtaining our PD points etc.

In conclusion again, I want to thank all of our coaches for a great year under considerably stressful situations at times you all just keep powering through.

**Thank you**

Jay O’Neil