

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: **December 1, 2022**

Next Planned Meeting: January 7, 2023

Present:

Michael Klonowski – Executive Director

Noah Currier – President

Bob Lopez – Commissioner

Dr. Michael Cottingham – 1st Vice President

Daniel Curtis – 2nd Vice President

Kerin Banfield – Representative for Referees

Dan Caldwell – Secretary

Amy Bohn – Head of Classification

Marianne Duda – Head of Referees

Jen Allred – Representative: Lakeshore Foundation/Team USA

Sid Christain – Treasurer

Cyndy Bates – Guest, Classifier

Classifiers (Amy):

- Master List has been updated
- Cyndy spoke about the new database:
 - She has been administering the database for about 15 years
 - The current system is not a great one – we need to find a better system
 - She has been talking to a database designer
 - We would like it to be consistent with the WWR database
 - Does USWRA have their own server? No
 - It was highly recommended by the designer that we have our own to eliminate some of the issues we have had – lost data, corrupted data, etc.
 - The designer has a server that people can buy into
 - Currently it takes a lot of work to get all the needed information to the head classifier of each tournament
 - Daniel said he would like for Cyndy to get some numbers
 - While Sid is not on the call, Daniel felt comfortable saying that \$3,000 - \$5,000 yearly might be a doable amount, being cognizant that the set up might be a little more
 - Cyndy meets with the designer on the 10th and will talk to them about getting numbers to propose to the board
 - Amy will also send Cyndy the contact information for Greg who is the head classifier for WWR so she can talk to him and see how they manage since they don't seem to have the same issues we do
 - Amy mentioned the need for it to be HIPAA
 - Dan said not being a medical institution, he isn't sure that we need to follow HIPAA to the law
 - Amy said she herself isn't comfortable with sending all of the information that they are now (with all of the medical information of each player) to classifiers' personal emails

- Amy asked if each of the classifiers could get a USWRA email and Mike K. said yes and they can be HIPAA compliant
- 2 panels at the Beast of the East
 - Saw 21 of the 39 athletes who needed to be classified
 - 8 were brand new athletes
 - 2 classifiers advanced to Level 3
- This upcoming weekend there are 33 athletes that need to be seen, but the big goal is to see the 13 new athletes who are there
- Currently trying to staff the January tournaments
- Amy thinks she has 3 full panels for Nationals
 - Classification will begin Thursday at noon
 - Will need 3 rooms, 3 mats, 3 clean bins & 3 dirty bins
- International classifiers reached out and invited them to a webinar on the 10th
 - Classifiers would be very excited if the league could provide funding for a live training
 - Can have further conversation later but would like to get that moving and on the calendar
 - Needs to be before next August
 - Jen said that they could look at doing it during a developmental camp at Lakeshore – will send dates to Amy
 - Daniel said that on paper we have \$40,000 to spend on development of classifiers, referees and athletes – said he is sure we could cover flights for this

Team USA (Jen):

- WWR had their AGM last Saturday – was supposed to last 4 hours and at 4 hours they lost countries and quorum so are hosting a 2nd AGM in December
- Inclusion of Russia and bylaw changes were big topics of discussion
- Development tournament with Great Britain went great
- Working on 2023 dates – submitted a proposal today for funding for coaching education through the OPC
- Tournament on the schedule to go to Japan at the end of January – has not selected the team yet but expect it will include some international athletes.

Referees (Marianne):

- Conducted first virtual clinic – got one person certified and another getting certified in the next two weeks
- If we can keep all the low point tournaments to one court, that would be great.
 - If we can get these new refs certified, these tournaments might be a great place for them to get some practice
 - Need to make sure we don't need more than 3 or 4 refs at each as the summer is typically their time off
- Will try to get pics of the ball holders (both legal and illegal) to send to the team, and will also try to get pics of the international ball holders

Executive Director (Mike K.)

- Move United app has 3 documents needed and then will submit

- Golf tournament:
 - May need an executive session to discuss spending those funds
- Wreck the Halls:
 - About 40 participants signed up
 - Oscar Mike has done a great job of getting their athletes signed up
 - Has reached out to the teams with a tepid response
 - He expected that everyone on the leadership team to be signed up by now – there are 5 signed up. He encouraged everyone to please sign up. It is hard to convince the others in the league to sign up if the leadership is not behind it.
 - Have gotten a donation from Vesco – a repair kit with t-shirts and balls that we can use as a prize
 - Asked if anyone else had ideas
 - Dan asked Noah if they could donate something and he said he would be happy to
 - Daniel said if there were any USA things left over, those are usually big draws for people
 - Daniel asked if someone signed up and they didn't raise the money – are they then responsible for the \$200 and Mike K. said yes. Daniel didn't realize that before he went to sign up. He said even as a board member that turned him off. To spend \$55 to sign up, then have to check a box to say that you are on the hook for the \$200 if you don't raise it was a lot, especially at the holidays.
 - Bob said when it was first presented, that is the way Mike K. put it out so thought it was understood.
 - Mike C. said he has spoken to Mike K. about this and thinks there is some tweaking that can take place next year.
 - Noah thinks if we can get some teams to sign up to show that it was a good time and showcase some of the prizes, we will build momentum for next year,
- Really need to nail a date down for a 4-hour block of time that we can spend with dedicated time to knock some things out:
 - Mike C. asked about early January.
 - Mike K. asked about the 7th or 14th. The 7th seemed to work for everyone. Will talk to Sid.
- USAWR:
 - Would like to some clinic dates solidified that do not conflict with USAWR dates so we can have USA athletes assist.

Commissioner (Bob):

- Sent out a revised Nationals schedule – any feedback is welcome
- High Rollers in Las Vegas are going to host the west semi-finals: March 31st – April 2nd
 - The league has committed \$7,000 to them
 - What amount would we would like to commit to the east coast hosts?
 - Dan said he thinks we should keep it fair across the board and offer the same amount
- Peter Hughes – international players:

- Everyone agreed that the two players he has are international players. One is rostered and one is not. The rule is currently one international player per team. This rule came about because the league is intended to develop US players.
- Trying to get everything in line for the summer Low Point League
- Comp committee voted on rankings and sent those out last month
 - The 3 new members were very thoughtful in their choices and reasoning.
- Hall of Fame:
 - 3 people nominated, 2 people will be voted in
 - Will induct 4 people total (the other 2 will be the ones from the last 2 years that had not been inducted yet)
 - There was a question about which night we can host the banquet – Noah will ask his team and let Bob know
 - The schedule was made with the thought that the banquet will be on Friday night, but if that changes, Bob will update the schedule

1st Vice President (Mike C.)

- Will put a bylaws committee together based on who we have previously had
 - 5 or 6 players & coaches, a ref and a classifier
- Will get safety back together. Is there anything that the board would like to have discussed? Originally was planning for every month but now leaning toward every other month.

Secretary (Dan):

- Met with the low point staff:
 - Talked about going to Switzerland next year
 - Feel they probably need to do their own fundraising
 - Needs to reach out to Sid to see if they can use the USWRA as an umbrella to set up a separate account for Low Point rugby
- FCP – intend to send out in the next few days:
 - Need info for late December/early January
 - Bob thinks in this one or the next one needs to have all the deadlines
 - We will put that in this one
 - Marianne will send an article in for that issue
 - Jen will contribute something from the national team
 - Daniel said he thinks we should have a link to register for the Wreck the Halls and to purchase merchandise
- Bob said we also have members of the board who have not registered as their staff board member position. Please do that as soon as possible.
- Amy mentioned that when someone clicked on the donate button in her email, there were no active campaigns. Mike K. said he can set something up for that.