

USWRA Leadership Meeting: March 3, 2025

Next Scheduled Meeting: April 7, 2025

Present:

Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Amy Bohn – Classification, Policy & Procedure
Gwen Debly – Secretary
Meagan Rowe – USAWR
Steve Kearley – President
Mary Kiolbasa – Head of Classification
Christopher Newman – Associate Head Classifier
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Keith Newerla – VP1
Kerin Banfield – Referee
Sarah Leonard – Treasurer

Absent:

Daniel Curtis – VP2

Motion to approve February minutes:

- Steve motioned to accept, Bob & Keith seconded

USAWR (Meagan Rowe):

- Had 19 of the 20 athletes at the February camp
- Next camp will be April 1 – 7
- Have an invitation to attend WWR call on March 25
 - One big topic will be the proposed rule changes
 - Steve asked if she had kept up with any of the chatter on FB
 - She has and continues to keep up with it
- Low Point joining next week for their camp

Classification (Amy Bohn, Mary Kiolbasa & Christopher Newman):

- Heard back from Jacque regarding international issues
 - Athletes that fall under the new rule:
 - You must qualify to be reseen
 - It is no different than when the trunk rule was introduced
 - Women's League:
 - They needed to have a valid US class to qualify
 - Amy appreciates that they are working to be consistent
- Steve asked about any athletes that were being reviewed and wanted to confirm that they were aware that these were being reviewed.
 - Amy offered to write something up. Steve said he would prefer to have a paper trail so that the league has documentation if there is any pushback.

- It was made clear to the athlete who is provisionally participating in camp (Anthony) – rewrite based on conversation.
- Christopher asked if there had been any thought given to video recording the conversation between the classification/coaches/player so that if there is any pushback they have something more substantial than a signature
- Meagan said that there is a plan in place and that a recording is something they can take into consideration.
- Amy said the problem has not been the athlete or the coach, it has been the questions and pushback from the league members. We would not be able to divulge that information at large.
- Christopher:
 - There has been a lot of emphasis and requests to have classification at Nationals and they stand firm on the decision that they will not be participating.
 - Steve does have a Plan B which is not optimal.
 - Rumors have been swirling.
 - One option Christopher remembers being discussed is having someone there who can get some rudimentary numbers on the board to allow new players to play. If the decision is made to ask certified classifiers to do this, it needs to be made **very clear** that these are not official classifications.
 - Christopher has put together about a dozen bullet points that spell out the possible consequences & ramifications for both the league and the classifiers. He will send this information to Steve and Bob.
 - There have been a couple of classifiers who have said they would be interested in possibly participating in this if we move forward in this way.
 - There was a suggestion to call it a Sport Class Assignment as opposed to classification. The league absolutely agrees that this is provisional and understands we must be clear with anyone participating that these are **not** binding classes and will not be valid beyond Nationals.
 - Mary thanked the league for sending out the letter for them. They have not gotten any questions or feedback, so if anyone gets anything please forward it.
 - They have officially gotten a Gmail which will be a good thing moving forward in communicating with athletes.

Referees (Marianne Duda & Kerin Banfield):

- Secured officials for semi-finals and working on Nationals.
- Steve asked about something that happened at the PVA tournament regarding a player whose wheel flew off. Bob and Marianne's feedback was slightly different on this situation. If the player had not rolled out of bounds and another player had come up and hit him, would that have been a legal hit? Marianne said if the player was unbalanced, it could have been a technical call. She didn't see the play and isn't sure how this looked, so cannot definitively say. A 2nd part to this, if the wheel is on the court and it was not in the field of play, play would have continued. Steve was just trying to find a consistent take on that.

Commissioner (Bob Lopez):

- Newest rankings were sent out 2/19

- Sent classification information to team representatives for post-season.
- Proposals are due 3/15/25
- Election nominations are due 3/24/25
- Annual awards nominations are due 3/24/25. They include:
 - Spirit of Achievement
 - Coach of the Year
 - Developing Athlete of the Year
 - Event of the year
 - We only have one nomination right now, so Bob asked Gwen to please post something reminding people to nominate people.
- There has also been nobody who has sent in anything with intent to run for any of the open board positions, so Bob asked Gwen to send an email and post on social media.
- Will be following up on the email sent out seeking 2026-2027 Nationals hosts

President (Steve Kearley):

- Low Point Season
 - Have June, July, and Sept tournament dates set
 - Currently looking for an August host
 - Keith said **if** they are hosting, it will be in August
 - He is still looking for someone to work with to help host and fund, most likely around the same time as last year
- Reached out to WWR to request a refund for the World Games, still have not received the refund so reached back out yesterday and got a response today asking for an invoice.
 - Gwen has something drafted to send, but wanted to know how the money was paid.
 - It was paid via CC.
 - Steve asked if there is a way to just refund through the CC.
 - It was paid through MALS. Meagan said if there is anything they need from that, she is happy to look through that and get it to us.
 - Bob said they never send checks, it will be a wire transfer so we will need to provide the bank information for them to do that.
 - Sarah has the email with the info that was sent and will send it to Gwen.
 - Meagan said if it is a wire, we may want to see what those fees are and ask WWR to cover those as well.
 - Gwen asked Steve to reach out to WWR and ask how they would be processing this invoice so we can determine that information.

VP2 (Daniel Curtis):

- Melrose will be at Nationals
- Oscar Mike is going to bring the remainder of the items they are holding from the Storefront to Eastern Semi-Finals
- Gwen dropped 6 very large boxes to Sara Hutchins, and 3 are still with Oscar Mike

Treasurer (Sarah Leonard):

- Needs to meet with Jacob for handover things

- We will need to extend the 990
- Emphasized again the importance of having someone local to Synovus
- Intends to add Jacob and possibly Bob to the bank account
- Acknowledges the need to take care of the gas receipts