

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – **March 2, 2023**

Next Planned Meeting – Thursday, April 6, 2023

Present:

Michael Klonowski – Executive Director
Noah Currier – President
Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Mike Cottingham – 1st Vice President
Daniel Curtis – 2nd Vice President
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Kerin Banfield – Referee Representative
Dan Caldwell – Secretary

Absent:

Jen Allred – USWRA/Lakeshore
Sid Christain - Treasurer

Approval of 2/9/23 Minutes:

- Motion to approve: Mike Cottingham
- Second: Dan Caldwell

Amy Bohn (Classification):

- Will update master list and send to tournament directors
- Received a proposal for database - \$10,000
 - Will review and send to board

Marianne Duda (Referee):

- Asked about Full Court Press. Dan apologized as he pushed this one out very quickly to share the rankings.
 - Wants to add something to the next one regarding the moving metre for clarification.
- When you are trying to figure out who is the Home Team, when you are looking at the scoring table, the home team should be on your **left**. If you are sitting at the scoring table, the home team should be on your **right**.
- Portland – tournament was cancelled due to weather. All refs got credits for their flights except one. What is the league policy on reimbursement/crediting them? In this instance it is a \$600 ticket. Bob said that in the past we have talked about

it should be the tournament host's responsibility to make the person (ref, classifier, etc.) whole.

- This should be codified and recorded somewhere. Should this be a bylaw? Bob and Mike K. said we should have a competition document which would record that.
- Flagrant Fouls at PVA:
 - 3 during the Saturday games
 - 2 of the players who were spun out of their chairs ended up getting cuts on their heads and needed stitches. One also needed a hospital stay and was concussed.
 - What is the process for when this happens? Who fills out what (incident reports, insurance forms) in order to protect the league?
 - Bob said his opinion is that the player should fill it out.
 - Bob has spoken to the PVA and they are getting the incident reports that were completed at the Convention Center.
 - All of the players who were there signed a waiver.
 - If we feel that an action is outside the traditional scope of what happens in the sport, then we can be held liable. We should have a process in order to deal with situations like this in the future.
 - Bob said one of the players who committed the foul was not a first time offender.
 - 6 members of the Comp Committee were at the tournament and they did have a brief conversation about this. Moving forward, when we hear there is a flagrant foul someone will reach out to the violator and reinforce the expectations.
 - Bob did draft a short note, at the request of the tournament director, that was sent out to all teams who attended.
 - There should be a protocol in place so that if we do see a pattern we can address it. Marianne said there was a form that refs used to report a flagrant and that seemed to discourage refs from calling them due to the additional paperwork. If it is a simple matter of reporting to the head official and tournament director, that would be doable.
 - Dan said he thinks the report should come from the head official to either himself or Bob, or both. Then we can keep a spreadsheet.
 - Bob said until we get something written and codified, it should come to him.
 - Mike C asked if there should be two levels of this...flagrant foul and something worse. Bob said we have that already, a flagrant foul and a disqualifying foul.

- There is already a rule when one player has 2 flagrant in one game or day that they are not able to play in the next game.
- Back to incident reports, what is our process going to be?
 - Who should fill it out?
 - Where should it go?
 - Bob first
 - Filtered to Sid if it needs to be reported to insurance
- Amy said general injury reports should be tracked, especially with the movement from the Covid Committee to the Safety & Wellness Committee.
- Daniel will update the form to have the bottom read to report to Bob.
- Daniel thinks if, as we track these, we notice a behavioral trend, we can begin to create some guidelines for consequences
- Amy asked if we had done anything else with the concussion protocol - no
- Amy told Marianne that if she is going to put something in FCP, to remind that the asterisk needs to be next to the player's **name** as opposed to their **classification** on the score sheets (in regards to point adjustments)
- Bob said we will be sending out a fillable score sheet that will allow for plenty of space for the asterisks.
- Sid and Joe talked about putting the USWRA under the umbrella, but wanted to vote on the call. This would be for financial reasons (changing bank to one that has more branches).
- Mike C put forth the motion. Dan seconded the motion.
 - All voted in agreement

Michael Klonowski (Executive Director)

- Email regarding nominations for Annual awards went out along with social media blasts
- Grant applications are closed, but looks like we got lots of folks to apply
- Grant proposal for OM Foundation has been drafted and then he will send along to have it looked over to get feedback
- NuMotion Foundation – reapplied and we are two weeks away from the board meeting and should hear something back
- KBF – put in a proposal for a clinic
 - Possibly after nationals
 - Joe Delagrave will run
 - Possibly some filming of some fundamental stuff that could be posted on our site and the KBF hub
- Will connect with the CEO of Canada Wheelchair Rugby

- Speaking with WWR about rugby balls – conversation about Vesco being able to sell balls which undercuts our ability to get ball sponsors but we also are trying to woo Vesco
- Auction items – Fusion is in, continuing to work on other donors
- Wreck the Halls items are complete – medals are shipping, will collaborate with Oscar Mike to get those all sent out
- Still looking at more companies and sponsors to get out to Nationals. Has been meeting with Mike C. on how to get more people there.
- New series of grant applications will be sent out. Thanks to Mike C's students for collaborating to provide a list of options.
- D2 trophy is kind of rough looking. Believes D1 is probably in the same boat.
 - Daniel said there are lots of welders in the league who might gift or provide something at low cost. It would be a cool different thing and also a great promo for them. Maybe we put something out to see if anyone is willing? Mike K said that the trophies we have now have the last 15 – 20 years of history on the sides of those trophies. We should look to move in the same direction for the D3 trophy.
- Still working on sponsors for Nationals
- Reminder that there is no 0.0 class and that the Best in Class will be their “true” class
- Clinics
 - ADP – 10 step program that follows an athlete to starting to the sport all the way to competing at the highest level
 - There are several things that are in this plan and Mike K. thinks it is something that the leadership needs to see to better understand why he pushes for clinics led by Elite athletes/coaches
 - Quarterly meetings with USAWR. He said it is great when we have Jen at our meetings, but if we could meet quarterly with the leadership we can be more on the same page
- Constitutions/Bylaws Review:
 - Would like to get a group together to look at what we have and start working on redrafting the document. There is conflict with some of the verbiage and gaps that need to be addressed.
 - We could get things going in a 4 day start.
 - Marianne said they did that about 4 years ago. Worked on 2 – 3 sections at a time, and then sent it out for approval. If you put too much out at one time, people won't read it.
 - Mike spoke to Jen (Lakeshore) earlier today, and it sounds like she is on board with getting something set up for us. More to come.
 - Marianne would be willing to step up from the refs' point of view.

- What was talked about this weekend was getting people together at Lakeshore to spend 2 or 3 days looking at to get started.
- Amy said that the classifiers are looking at meeting and if we could wait until after that is complete we could make sure none of the new rules conflicted.
- Refs, classifiers and USAWR – would like to get a rep from each group as a vote
 - Mike C said there are a few challenges:
 - The board members are selected by the association and he would be OK with saying there are 2 non-elected members
 - He has more of an issue with members of the National team having a say in our doings
 - Dan thinks we should look at how some other organizations are structured before we make any decision.
 - Daniel agrees with both Mike C and Dan. The structure of the USWRA and USAWR is almost inverted from how other organizations are
 - This would allow them access to our financials. Daniel would want to see TEAM USA's financials going back at least 2 or 3 years before he would be willing to think about that.
 - Amy said she wasn't sure that classifiers needed to have a vote.
- Will be sending out size requests and showing different shirts for the leadership.

Bob Lopez (Commissioner):

- Teams for Semis are set
- Had to go through all the teams to get to 16 teams
- 3 teams who will have to pay fines for withdrawing after the deadline
 - 1 team asked if they could appeal it
 - Reason they asked for waiver was due to injury to their best player
 - We will not approve the waiver
- Thanks to Mike K. for presenting the award for Event of the Year to the PVA Tournament Director at this year's tournament
- HOF – thought there would be 3 people there, but will only be 2
- Safety: Wanted to send a reminder to teams about the requirements when someone tests positive for Covid. Has anything been done with that?
- Finalized post-season documents. Mike reviewed and sent some feedback and it will go out tomorrow.

Mike Cottingham (1st Vice President)

- Reached out to bylaws and also to the Safety committee confirming everyone was OK with the change of name for that committee

Daniel Curtis (2nd Vice President)

- Got several applicants for grants
- Clinics – will award 2 this year and 2 next year, all for \$10,000
- Team – will award 5 this year and 5 next year, all for \$5,000
- Steve Kearley approached Daniel and asked if the Low Point team could apply for the team grant. Daniel told him to apply, but wanted to talk about it with the board prior to saying a final yes. Mike K's only opposition is that he would like to do more for the team as a whole and will continue to try to find funding to help them. Daniel said he thinks Steve is poised to gather some funding on his end.
- He thinks we are ready to cut some checks, at least for the team grants. He would like some feedback regarding the clinic grants.
 - Mike K asked if we could send the applicants and the justifications to the board and then we could send something out for the board to vote on them.
 - Marianne said she knew a team who applied last year and did not get any response. Are there others like that? If so, should they be prioritized this year?
- Mike K will create a Google form for voting and will send out.
- Regarding auction – the British chairmaker
 - Daniel asked them for spoke guards and they ended up donating a chair.
 - Can also try Eagle, but they haven't really responded in the last couple of years. They are focusing more on racing chairs now, but everyone agreed that even something like that would be great to get the word out about other things. The players/teams of the league are supporters of Eagle, so it would be great if they supported the league.
 - Reckless is another great contact. Dan will send the contact information to Mike K so he can reach out.
- Daniel said the more people we can get to Nationals in order to get exposure and get word of their products out to the league, the better. Mike K said there really does need to be some equity in order to allow them to be there and advertising.

Dan Caldwell (Secretary)

- Questions about how logistics and arrangements are shaping up regarding Nationals
 - Dan, Noah & Shawn will connect tomorrow to touch base on all aspects regarding Nationals.
 - Transportation is always a question due to past issues. Mike K. said the primary reason that things got backed up last year was because one team

didn't commit to needing transportation when they did, and then it backed up and trickled down.

- Mike K also said that when people badmouth our hosts, it isn't a good look. It also makes it harder for us to get hosts in the future because nobody will want to take the beating.
- Mike C said as we reflect on this, perhaps we have a caveat in the postseason bid package that states no more than _____ miles from the airport to venue.
- Bob asked if we have a better sense of distance between courts in Rockford. Mike K has not been out there since Bob asked about it, but will try in the next week. Dan said he will ask Shawn, but asked Mike not to take it off his list until he was able to check.