



2018 AGM Minutes

Agenda for Annual General Meeting

April 22, 2018

- **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (8:15a)**

- Board of Directors

- **Present**

- President – Eric Ingram
 - 1st Vice-President – Kevin Crombie
 - Treasurer – Debrah Olsen
 - Secretary – Michael Klonowski
 - Commissioner – Dave Mengyan

- **Absent**

- 2nd Vice-President – Daniel Curtis

- Roll Call

- **Present**

- Andy Miller, Head of USQRRRA
 - Phyllis Palma, Head of Classification
 - Rick Kolberg – Oscar Mike Foundation
 - Nicole Verneuille – Oscar Mike Foundation
 - Mandy Goff - USAWR
 - Brooks Bandits – Dan Caldwell
 - Chicago Bears – Michael Klonowski
 - California Storm – Chris Cook
 - Denver Harlequins – Jason Regier
 - Grand Rapids Thunder – Nick Long
 - Kansas City Revolution – Tony Durham
 - Lakeshore Demolition – Bob Lujano
 - Magee Philadelphia Eagles – Mike Nacci
 - Medstar NRH Punishers (DC) – Ricardo Robles
 - Minnesota WRC – Chuck Aoki
 - Northridge Knights – Joey Mearig
 - San Diego Sharp Edge – Jeff Odom
 - Shepherd Smash – Sarah Leonard
 - Tampa Generals – Ryan Kress
 - TIRR Texans – Steve Kearley
 - Texas Stampede – Shawn Meredith
 - University of Arizona – Brad McFadden

- **Present via Teleconference**

- South Florida Rattlers - Charles Ray
 - Reno High Fives – Todd Wolff

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- Seattle Slam – Jeremy Hannaford
- RISE – Ben Andersen
- Turnstone Flyers – James Ezell
- NEP Wildcats – Billy Bouffard
- Maryland Mayhem – Lori Patria
- Portland Pounders – Kip Johnson
- Ability360 Phoenix Heat – Scott Hogsett
- Tampa Generals – Justin Stark
- Competition Committee – Steve Kenny
- RAC Heartland North – Ryan Engelby
- **Proxy Representative**
 - Orlando Smash – Dan Caldwell
- **Absentee Voting**
 - Akron Rhinos
 - Boise Bombers
 - Carolina Crash
 - Connecticut Jammers
 - Cumberland Quadcrushers
 - Detroit WRC
 - EWAFF New York Warriors
 - Milwaukee/WASA Iron
 - Nor-Cal Quake
 - Northern Virginia Mutiny
 - Ohio Buckeye Blitz
 - Pittsburgh Steelwheelers
 - Raleigh Sidewinders
 - St. Louis Spartans
 - WNY Wreckers
- Quorum Established
- Approval of 2017 Minutes
 - Brooks – Motion to discuss, Denver – 2nd
 - Brooks – Motion to end discussion, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - **Minutes approved by attending members via visual count**
- **REPORTS**
 - Board of Directors:
 - **President – Eric Ingram (Summary Attached)**
 - Congratulations to all teams, thanks to sponsors
 - Worked on improving infrastructure

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- Hired PR Specialist
- Created FCP – “Q/A with the USQRA”
- Appointing Sid Christain to Treasurer – Many thanks to Gary Pate for recommending
- Thanks to Debrah Olsen and Kevin Crombie for their service
- Texas – Motion to discuss, Shepherd – 2nd
- Lakeshore – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd

- **1st Vice President/Rules Committee Chair – Kevin Crombie (Summary Attached)**
 - Last meeting as VP1 – focused on infrastructure over past year
 - Google form for soliciting votes – Feedback, easy to use
 - Provided access to reports from google forms – good feedback
 - Encourage more support and involvement in that committee – want everybody’s opinions to be heard
 - DC – Motion to discuss, Tampa – 2nd
 - No discussion – DC – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd

- **2nd Vice President/Fundraising Committee Chair – Daniel Curtis – Absent – President reported (Summary Attached)**
 - Working on reach out to sponsors, improving structure
 - Recruiting sponsors for ball and website
 - Denver - Motion to discuss, Minnesota - 2nd
 - Texas – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd

- **Secretary – Michael Klonowski (Summary Attached)**
 - Working to use Team Drive on Google – better organized records for current and future board members
 - Setup teleconference and online voting for improved involvement during AGM with entire membership
 - Continuing to keep us visible with Social Media and Website
 - Will push for new website during offseason – Mock up created
 - Brooks – Motion to discuss, DC – 2nd
 - Denver – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd

- **Treasurer – Debrah Whitehurst - Absent (Summary & Budget attached) – Commissioner Reported**
 - Classifiers don’t generally have enough money - Did increase budget line ~1000
 - Get 10k from teams, need 15-20k to run
 - Budget is fairly similar to last year
 - Tampa – Motion to discuss – Grand Rapids – 2nd

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- Shepherd – Motion to end discussion, Grand Rapids – 2nd
- **Commissioner – Dave Mengyan (Summary attached)**
 - My role is to enforce the laws in place, interpret the grey – working on the intent of the rules
 - What would you like different – Please contact
 - Texas – Motion to discuss, Denver – 2nd
 - Texas – Motion to end discussion, Minnesota – 2nd
- **Regional Assistant Commissioners (RACs): - (Summaries Attached)**
 - Brad McFadden, Dan Caldwell, Ryan Engelby summarized reports
 - Brooks – Motion to discuss, DC – 2nd
- **Referees - Andy Miller – Chair of USQRRR (Summary Attached)**
 - **Referees Report**
 - Good year of genuine collaboration with USQRA Board
 - 3 clinics, 8 new officials
 - A level – Todd Jackson
 - 9 international events
 - DC – Motion to discuss – Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - Grand Rapids – Motion to end discussion, Tampa – 2nd
- **Classifiers - Phyllis Palma – Head of Classification (Summary Attached)**
 - **Classifiers Report**
 - Implementation of new manual
 - Need more panels on West coast
 - More tourneys are doing 2 day – harder to get all players seen – need rosters earlier, need to see players before tournaments start
 - 6 classifiers advanced, 3 new ones
 - Masterlist is updated
 - Texas – Motion to discuss, Denver – 2nd
 - Denver – Reclassed – how many are active?
 - Classifiers – Only keep have active players on reclassification list
 - Need 1 Classification tournament in each section – pre and post – 12 total
 - Have RACs coordinate which tourneys they can classify at
 - Denver - What about sending second classification panel to Beast of East?
 - Minnesota – University funding? – Research involved with classification to increase funding for panels
 - USAWR – Willing to connect with research at university level – did coordinate with USAWR
 - Denver – Motion to end discussion, Minnesota – 2nd

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- **Committees:**
 - **Wheelchair/Equipment – (No Updates)**
 - **Hall of Fame – Chris Cook – Not Present (Summary Attached)**
 - Committee of 4 and 29 members
 - Would like to report December 31st to October 31st to raise funds for travel
 - Will be creating a HoF Website with information about players/photos/videos
 - Want to increase awareness of previous generations of players
 - USAWR – Will update Wall for hall of fame – will communicate with Secretary
 - Need to increase nominations
 - **Competition – Steve Kenny (Summary Attached)**
 - **Web – (No Updates)**
 - **Equipment – (No Updates)**
- **Team USA – Mandy Goff (Summary Attached)**
 - Continuing to improve communication between USA and USQRA
 - USAWR qualified for worlds in Paraguay
 - End of year survey – every athlete and staff – feedback from all members of high performance – opens lines of communication
 - Partnerships – Lakeshore, - USOC funding goes through
 - Additional funding for Quad nations due to new ranking system
 - Weighted system vs. Winning/losing one tourney – very important to be at all tournaments
 - Went to Quad Nations, will do Canada Cup and Worlds
 - Great relationship with USA Rugby – Fan engagement at 7s at vegas
 - Connect with AB rugby team – Want engagement team – raises awareness
 - Want autobid for Tokyo from Worlds
 - Diversity survey part of registration for each team this upcoming year – collaborating with USQRA
 - Safesport – Center for Safesport – encourage us to do the same
 - Minnesota – Athletes advisory – Safesport is a big issue – Need to look at local clubs
 - If you are a Paralympic sport club – need to get background checks – involved with safesport
- **PROPOSALS**
 - Texas – Motion to consider proposals, Denver – 2nd

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- **Proposal A – Postseason Structure Revision – FAILED**
 - Brooks – Motion to discuss, DC – 2nd
 - TIRR – Most similar to current process – still have sectionals with top 4 going on - Competition committee and RACs decide next teams to participate. Add a 3rd division
 - Fewer games per team, increased transportation costs, gets more appropriate teams at nationals
 - VP1 – What is the intent of nationals – best 18 teams or represent the sections?
 - Denver – think it's the best in the nation
 - Turnstone – What about transfer rule?
 - Minnesota – Proposals B and C don't have sections
 - Brooks – could withdraw transfer rule
 - Denver – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
- **Proposal B – Postseason Structure Revision – PASSED**
 - TIRR – Motion to discuss, Brooks – 2nd
 - TIRR - Complete change from current system – top 8 and next 16 teams are able to play in top east/west – top teams from each side gets to pick which location team wants to play in
 - Brooks – Competition committee should balance out the two pools
 - TIRR – not perfect, can change
 - VP1 – May help get more people to host – to avoid having to travel
 - Brooks – instead of having to host 5, we do 3 tourney, also gets rid of regionals – share more money
 - DC – Who picks first?
 - TIRR – Highest ranked teams, needs to be public
 - Denver – Need for transparency
 - Minnesota – What would this do to classification? Dates – otherwise teams don't know, due to late post-season rankings
 - Denver – When would you know?
 - TIRR – Set for feb 15th
 - Brooks – Start with monthly rankings and extend to 30
 - KC – How does the ranking system work?
 - Brooks – Scoresheets are considered with lineups at tourneys – RACs with head of committee come up with rankings
 - Denver – Does it help when we list A and B teams
 - RISE – worried about teams being excluded from rankings
 - Steve Kenny – Need to increase number of rankings and how many teams included – will improve competition
 - KC – need to pick better tournaments to make yourself visible

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- Tampa – Rankings are much more important – is the competition committee
- Steve Kenny – Maybe we need a larger committee/more diversity
- Commissioner – don't think that one person sees all teams – that's why it is a committee
- President – RACs stay, no matter what we vote on
- TIRR – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
- **Proposal C – Postseason Structure Revision – FAILED**
 - TIRR – Motion to discuss, Brooks – 2nd
 - Minnesota - Top twelve teams auto bid, 13-20 – top 4 go
 - Simplest way of getting top 16 teams at nationals
 - Increased spread of funding
 - Treasurer – Increased dump on classifiers – More load on classifiers at nationals
 - Classifiers – need 3 panels at nationals
 - Proposal B/C – need folks seen before nationals
 - Referees – Easier for staffing tournaments – example, this year's sectionals
 - VP1 and President – Will need to work on reallocating funding
 - TIRR – Can vote for multiple proposals – very important to vote
 - Denver – If we vote in Proposal A, do we do best of the rest? But, maybe we should be able to use transfer rules
 - Minnesota – Can put A with B or C – keep this in mind
 - Denver – so what do we think about sectionals?
 - Shepherd – what about funding?
 - KC – What about developing teams – disparity between representatives at AGM
 - A and B give the most hope to lower teams
 - TIRR – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
- **PROPOSALS A-C Voting**
 - A – 22/18 – Yes
 - B – 23/16 – Yes
 - **C – 16/23 – No – Eliminated as choice**
 - Runoff between A and B – Discussion reopened
 - Shepherd - What about transfer rule?
 - Minnesota – what about geographic location – Pitt could travel and get to nationals
 - Commissioner – What about last chance to play each season?
 - Shepherd – Will that fuel more best of the rest situations?
 - Brooks – We end up being pushed into January with all tournaments, due to potential post season tournaments now

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- Denver – Sectionals are busted
- Minnesota – Prop A is just nationals, and Prob B is sectionals
- TIRR – Let's keep it simple – no mixing of A and B.
- Denver – Fair enough – sectionals and regionals are the biggest problem
- TIRR – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
- A – 11/27 – No
- **B – 24/15 – Yes – PROPOSAL B PASSES**
- **Proposal D – Eligible Impairment Criteria – PASSED**
 - DC – Motion to discuss, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - Classifiers – IWRP adopted in January, as required by IOC, determined minimal
 - Determines who plays and who doesn't
 - U of A – Does this effect anybody in league now?
 - Classifiers – No – although there is a transitional period – Grandfather clause for USQRA
 - USAWR – Does effect somebody in USA – especially track and field, will effect USAWR possibly
 - TIRR – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
 - **36/3 PROPOSAL D PASSES**
- **Proposal E – Article Submission – PASSED**
 - DC – Motion to discuss, Brooks – 2nd
 - VP1 – Not worth the administrative time and effort – there is social media that has replaced articles
 - Denver – Motion to end discussion, Minnesota – 2nd
 - **31/4 PROPOSAL E PASSES**
- **Proposal F – Classification Procedures Removal – PASSED**
 - Texas – Motion to discuss, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - Brooks – Motion to end discussion, Shepherd – 2nd
 - **35/2 PROPOSAL F PASSES**
- **Proposal G – Legal Games – PASSED**
 - Brooks – Motion to discuss, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - Commissioner - Legal games – Need to host games
 - Games are there to make sure youre an active part of the games
 - 2 refs
 - RISE – Do officials need to be paid?
 - Commissioner – Can work out pay rate
 - DC – Motion to end discussion, U of A – 2nd
 - **21/17 PROPOSAL G PASSES**

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- **Proposal H – Military Veterans (Resolution) – PASSED**
 - KC – Motion to discuss, Shepherd – 2nd
 - Oscar Mike (OM)
 - Very specific group of people, spread out throughout the league
 - Bring out best teams and can compete
 - Mileage restriction stops us from delivering something different to the league
 - Not a juggernaut of a team
 - Mitigating factors – want to contribute to the league, financially, veterans get a face of non-disabled
 - Lakeshore – Grant opportunities – where does that money go?
 - OM – Could offer grant money to league
 - Lakeshore – How long does a process last for grant?
 - OM – Sept 1 through Sept 30 of next year
 - USAWR – Marketing potential for USQRA
 - Shepherd – what about teams that you're taking from?
 - OM – Players choice, talked to coaches already
 - Denver – Does this mean post-season or full season?
 - OM – Full season
 - Minnesota – Will everybody move to Rockford?
 - OM – No
 - TIRR – what does this mean with the residency rules?
 - Commissioner – We are strengthening rules for residency, but, we are becoming more specific with rules
 - VP1 – Pros outweigh the cons
 - Tampa – What about San Diego Wolf Pack – just move
 - Secretary – money-wise makes sense – folks have families
 - Commissioner – We should impose all rules the same
 - Shepherd – More funds, more awareness, ready for 2020 in Tokyo
 - California – residency only effects post –season – slippery slope
 - DC – What about other specialty teams? Play for other teams?
 - OM – Line was made due to recommendation
 - KC – Lets do it – shirts and legal games
 - Classification - help improve number of eligible tourneys
 - Tampa – What about developing teams?
 - OM – We do not recruit
 - Denver – What's your roster size?
 - OM – 16 players
 - California – What about funding from veterans going to teams, do they lose that?
 - OM – Do not know

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- TIRR – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
- **26/10 PROPOSAL H PASSES**
- **Proposal I – Appeals Process – PASSED**
 - Brooks – Motion to discuss, KC – 2nd
 - Brooks – Motion to end discussion, KC – 2nd
 - **34/2 PROPOSAL I PASSES**
- **Proposal J – Player Reinstatement – PASSED**
 - DC – Motion to discuss, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - DC – Motion to end discussion, KC – 2nd
 - **32/4 PROPOSAL J PASSES**
- **Proposal K – Residency Rules – PASSED**
 - Texas – Motion to discuss, Brooks – 2nd
 - KC – Motion to end discussion, Brooks – 2nd
 - **34/3 PROPOSAL K PASSES**
- **Proposal L – International Classification Proposal – FAILED**
 - Minnesota – Motion to discuss, Denver – 2nd
 - Classifiers – Different amount of time to classify – Very thorough process in international
 - 2 people affected
 - What about folks that are only able to come internationally to US – and only one class
 - DC – what about NCs –
 - Classifiers – Do not know
 - TIRR – Why is the classification different?
 - Classifiers – It takes longer, but, it is not any better than USQRA
 - Minnesota – Motion to end discussion, Denver – 2nd
 - **14/24 PROPOSAL L FAILED**
 -
- **Proposal M – Timeouts Rule Change – PASSED**
 - DC – Motion to discuss, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - Minnesota – More exciting
 - Referees – Agree to add excitement
 - Lakeshore – NBA does this at the end of their games
 - Texas – Motion to end discussion, TIRR – 2nd
 - **28/9 PROPOSAL M PASSES**
- **Proposal N – Hall of Fame – PoY and SoA – PASSED**
 - TIRR – Motion to discuss, Texas – 2nd

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- TIRR – Motion to end discussion, Texas – 2nd
- **30/4 PROPOSAL N PASSES**
- **Proposal O – Hall of Fame Timeline – PASSED**
 - DC – Motion to discuss, KC – 2nd
 - KC – Motion to end discussion, DC – 2nd
 - **33/1 PROPOSAL O PASSES**
- **Proposal P – Hall of Fame Committee Nomination – PASSED**
 - Denver – Motion to discuss, U of A – 2nd
 - Texas – Motion to end discussion, Denver – 2nd
 - **33/2 PROPOSAL P PASSES**
- **Proposal Q – Transfer Rule – WITHDRAWN**
- **Proposal R – Axle Equipment Timeout Rule – FAILED**
 - Texas – Motion to discuss, Grand Rapids – 2nd
 - Referees - Nature of timeout, safety
 - Folks will find another way
 - Lakeshore – what about allowing a double to come back on
 - Phoenix – I have only had an axle popout once
 - Referees – We call it if it seems excessive
 - Shepherd – I can see how that happens – friendly amendment – how many times do you need it to be called
 - TIRR – What about a hard number
 - Sharp – sometimes axles pop out a ton at practices – takes a bit to fix
 - Phoenix – Why is it happening with the same athletes
 - Referees – Administrative difficulty keeping track of number of popped axles
 - Minnesota – what about double team – that's a stopped clock
 - TIRR – Motion to end discussion, KC – 2nd
 - **13/23 PROPOSAL R FAILED**
- **ELECTIONS**
 - President – Eric Ingram – RE-ELECTED
 - 1st Vice President – Dr. Michael Cottingham - ELECTED
 - Secretary – Michael Klonowski – RE-ELECTED
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Commissioner – Oscar Mike will be hosting Nationals for next 3 years.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM Minutes

- **Meeting Conclusion (12:50a)**
 - DC – Motion to end meeting, Brooks – 2nd
 - Meeting Adjourned

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



Agenda for Annual General Meeting
April 22, 2018

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Team Roll Call
Approval of 2017 Minutes

REPORTS

Board of Directors:

President – Eric Ingram
1st Vice President/Rules Committee Chair – Kevin Crombie
2nd Vice President/Fundraising Committee Chair – Daniel Curtis
Secretary – Michael Klonowski
Treasurer – Debrah Whitehurst [Budget attached]
Commissioner – Dave Mengyan

Regional Assistant Commissioners (RACs):

Atlantic North – Bill Bouffard
Atlantic South – Dan Caldwell
Heartland North – Ryan Engelby
Heartland South – Gary Pate
Mountain East – Chuck French
Mountain West – Brad McFadden
Pacific North – Josiah Sullivan
Pacific South – James Sa

Referees:

Andy Miller – Chair of USQRRRA

Classifiers:

Phyllis Palma – Head of Classification

Postseason:

2018 Postseason Review
Sectionals

Committees:

Wheelchair/Equipment – [No Updates]
Hall of Fame – Brad Mikkelsen
Competition – Steve Kenny
Web – [No Updates]
Team USA – Beth Curry



United States Quad Rugby Association

PROPOSALS

Working Lunch

ELECTIONS

President

1st Vice President

Secretary



President's Report

Eric Ingram

Hello everyone to the end of another great season. Congratulations to those teams that made it to nationals, and to those teams who captured the Division I and II Championships.

I think it's important to take a minute to acknowledge the fact that this is the USQRA's 30th anniversary this year. As some as you may have seen, the Association has come a long way since it's founding, with the help of countless volunteers and members who worked tirelessly to make it happen. We need to remember those who labored to bring us the sport that we all love, and use them to maintain our focus on continuing to improve wheelchair rugby for all who are involved. As we proceed into this organization's 4th decade, we should recognize that it will take the efforts of all of us, not just a few, to bring the sport to the masses. I look forward to the progress we will have made on the Association's 40th anniversary.

Also important in understanding how we got here, we have to thank the sponsors of the USQRA. Without them, none of this would be possible. Thank you to Eagle Sportschairs, Melrose, Fusion Medical, Roma Sport UK, NuMotion, and the Lonestar Paralysis Foundation for being USQRA Sponsors. They are the ones helping to keep the USQRA's lights on, and we appreciate their investment in our organization. Thank you to Healthsouth, VMI, Permobil, Haaker Equipment, Clear Channel, Sports n Spokes, Foothills Rehabilitation, Barrow Neurological Institute, Rehab Without Walls, Spokes N Motion, IFLY, and Bank of America for being Nationals sponsors, and for making this event happen. Thank you to Box Wheelchairs and Rib Grips for sponsoring the Hall of Fame Committee.

I definitely want to thank Ability 360 for being a gracious host. They are stellar in everything they do. The work they put into this event has really shown these past two years, and we are fortunate to have had them as a partner through this process.

In reflection on this past year, I realized it was really just a continuation of the great progress we started last year. The main focus areas we have been working on are all long-term projects, and as such they are still the focus I have in trying to improve the Association. What I have been working towards is really about modernizing, organizing, and publicizing the USQRA. While these focus areas overlap, here's a few things we have worked on this year:

- We have renewed our focus on public relations and outreach, with the installation of Lani Poblete as the Association's first PR Specialist. Through her planning and efforts, we



have increased our social media presence across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, garnering more likes, follows and page views every day.

- We have worked to improve the Full Court Press with more interesting and diverse articles, and have also begun exploring producing videos for outreach, such as the Q&A with the USQRA series, the 30th Anniversary video, and promotional videos.
- We transitioned away from individualized Gmail accounts to a centralized Google Suite which has a shared drive which we can all access, store and share data between.
- We have tried to incorporate digital access to the AGM, by providing the option to participate in the meeting via teleconferencing. We are also testing real time digital voting for the first time (this was written before the AGM, so hopefully it's going well).
- We have maintained or increased our interactions with other wheelchair rugby entities, including Lakeshore, USAWR, and the IWRP.

None of this could happen without the efforts of the Board and Staff members of the USQRA. I thank you all for your work over the last year. As with every AGM, there will be inevitable transitions that come out of it, and this year is no different.

After five years serving as the USQRA's Treasurer, Debrah Whitehurst is officially stepping down (for real this time). Her work for the Association has been nothing less of exemplary, even opting to remain on the board an additional year until we could find a suitable replacement. We thank Debrah for her service and will miss her on the board. Her successor, Sid Christain, has big shoes to fill, but I confident in his abilities and am sure he will smoothly transition into the role.

After three years as First Vice President, Kevin Crombie has decided not to run for reelection. Kevin was a big driver in moving the Association towards modernization. He has worked hard to ensure that we enact fairness and reason on the board. Thank you for your service to the Association.

It has been an honor to work with the board this year, and I am thankful to finish my term with the USQRA in what I think is a better place than it was at the beginning of my term. I hope to be able to serve as your President for the next two years as well, as we work to keep the momentum going. Thank you all for a wonderful season.

I am always open for discussion and to hear your opinions. I can be reached at President@usqra.org.



1st Vice President's Report/Rules Committee Chair Report

Kevin Crombie

Introduction

Rather than write a standard status report, I want to use this report as an opportunity to share my candid thoughts and experiences during my time serving as the First Vice President. This concludes my 3rd and final year of being on the USQRA Board. My biggest hope is that I leave having left the Board and our league better than when I first joined. This report is share with the entire Association my parting thoughts on topics to take this Association from great to fantastic. First off, let me explain my thought process and “political” position when it comes to serving as VP1 for the USQRA. My focus was around doing what’s “right” and bringing value to the USQRA. I wanted all members to feel that the USQRA is serving them and because of which can thrive and play the sport of wheelchair rugby. What I felt was right and best for the Association had no bounds. I didn’t care if I was being “political”, a part of the popular opinion among Board members, or if I would be met with significant resistance. I failed or was overruled on many of my stances, but it made me think. What does the USQRA do? How can the USQRA do more? What can the members do?

Background

The ugly truth is the USQRA doesn’t provide much of a service or product. Up until post-season, tournaments and games are hosted by individual teams. Those games are funded by the host or it’s participants and supported by the referees and classification Association. Both associations, are independent of the USQRA. The rules of the game can be modified by the tournament director. The USQRA doesn’t even offer a reliable, updated, aesthetically pleasing website, which members, sponsors, and fans can go to for all things wheelchair rugby. Do you want to pay for anything with a credit card like you did at the food trucks for lunch? Sorry, you can’t. That being said, the USQRA has done, big things to enhance it’s infrastructure that in return provides a product for its members; the purchase of G-Suite and a web-based voting platform, for example. These things now allow the Board to communicate more effectively, store and maintain files, host meetings with screen share, and obtain and distribute information for members. Do you find yourself asking, why are these changes, that are simple and relatively inexpensive, as slow as turning a cruise ship using a butter knife? Me too. This is the reason for my message to the Board members and the members of the Association.

The Executive Committee

Current and future Board members, I leave you with a challenge to continue making this Association better and build its infrastructure. Bring back the statement “(in the) best interests of the Association, or Quad Rugby” to your minds when hearing a protest and making decisions.



Stop treating our Constitution and Bylaws, especially the Bylaws, as an end all and be all. These are written over the course of decades, contain unforeseen consequences, and can be contrary to best interests of the Association, or Quad Rugby. I'm not advocating for you to deviate from them but rather reflect on their original purpose and intent than their specific language. For example, sectionals is meant to find the true best 4 teams from each section, not to require half of the D1 take a victory lap that they didn't want. If we take our Constitutions and Bylaws too literally, it puts too much pressure to pass amendments that may very well work most of the time but don't all of the time.

Take past precedent as a piece of information during the decision-making process, not the decision itself. The Board seems constantly rely, either solely or heavily, on precedents to make decisions. Every decision warrants the examination of situational facts and circumstances. There is nothing wrong with learning from past precedents, but too much reliance can hinder change. Lastly, be an enabler and take risks. When someone has a question, dissention, or an idea, assume that they have the best interests in mind. Enable them to be heard, understood, and advance their topic. Even if there is a difference of opinion, understand why and keep an open mind. It's okay to disagree; the majority rules. It's not okay to have a culture where dissentions and questions aren't welcomed. Finally, take risks. If a new idea, product, or service is presented, that is even marginally better than what is currently done, do it. Failing is a by-product of growing and bettering the Association. Make mistakes, learn from them, and move onto something better.

The Members

To my fellow members: I also challenge you to continue making this Association better. First, get involved. There are 500+ members of this Association and we are lucky to get more than 30 comments on a Facebook post, people to attend the AGM, and fill our committees that exist to help you! If you want the sport advance into something mainstream or even just continue to exist for the next person, help make that happen.

Look at yourself as a source of change. If you have a problem with something also bring a solution to the table. For example, people say we low pointers are being pushed out. This topic was brought up at last year's AGM and there was overwhelming support to have and participate in low-point tournaments. Yet, in Houston, for example, who wanted to host a low-point tournament, they didn't have enough players to put together a proper tourney or even several low-point games. So if you wanted to kick those pesky amps out so bad, then why don't you start by playing without them when there's an opportunity? Really examine why low-pointers aren't playing, because there are opportunities.

Lastly, don't fear to make change or have an opinion. If there is a rule proposal that is intended to make a positive change, like post-season restructuring, having a veterans team, or allowing people to transfer; don't be afraid of it. Just because something could be detrimental to you or



your team doesn't mean it will be bad for the league. I've seen many proposals voted down simply because of the "What ifs". Let's all have faith in each other and our Board to make the right decisions. If we shift or adopt a culture of "doing what's best for everyone" these major consequences we fear won't happen. Either because the Board won't allow it, or because we can reverse or clarify the problem at future AGMs. By the same token, if there is a change that affects someone unknowingly or in a way that was unintended, speak up and allow others to speak up. All of the voices of the 500+ members can be heard. Don't know who to tell, Board@usqra.org will get it to the right person, guaranteed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my messages are to take action. Thank all of our fantastic Referees, Classifiers, Volunteers and families for the amazing job they do. This is a fantastic league and sport that has changed and shaped my life. As I take a step back, I look forward to seeing it evolve and continue to advance.

2nd Vice President's Report/Fundraising Committee Chair Report

Daniel Curtis

It's been a busy and exciting year for USQRA fundraising. Fundraising for the USQRA continues to be a challenge for an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Below are highlights of the activities that took place during the 2017-2018 season.

Fundraising and Sponsorship Updates

The USQRA Fundraising Committee drafted new sponsorship levels in 2016-2017, that were implemented at the start of last season. The goal of this sponsorship structure was to create more consistency between post-season and regular season sponsors and to provide more variety of sponsor benefits. The 2nd Vice President worked with post-season tournament hosts to implement the sponsorship levels and feedback continues to be generally positive.

2017-2018 Sponsors

The USQRA is grateful for the loyalty of our long time sponsors: Fusion Medical, Melrose USA, Eagle Sports Chairs, and NuMotion. Their continuing support throughout the years is very much appreciated!

The USQRA welcomed The Lone Star Paralysis Foundation, Roma Sport, and Permobil as new sponsors.



The Hall of Fame Committee worked with Box Wheelchairs and RibGrips as sponsors for the Hall of Fame.

Thanks to all our 2017-2018 sponsors! Your support is crucial to the success of the USQRA!

Grants

The USQRA has applied for a \$15K grant from the Reeves Foundation for which a decision is pending. Additionally, a letter of intent has been submitted for the Nielsen grant later in 2018. Other grant opportunities are in the works for the 2018-19 season.

Marketing

Thanks to the support of the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation, a very decent promotional video was been created for the USQRA. We intend to use this video in combination with an updated sponsorship packet to attract new sponsors for the coming years. We would really like to target a wider variety of sponsors including those outside of the spinal cord injury spectrum. To assist with this, a marketing and PR volunteer is also working with the association to fine-tune this for next season.

Additional opportunities for marketing include developing social media content to keep USQRA social media platforms relevant and engaging. If you have an interest in assisting with USQRA marketing and want to get involved, please contact the 2nd Vice President.

Moving Forward

There are a number of identified priorities for the 2nd Vice President/Fundraising Committee moving forward. If you have interest or expertise in any of these areas please reach out to the 2nd Vice President and find out how you can get involved!

- Establish an Endowment for long term financial support for the USQRA
- Select/implement a platform to accept donations from individuals on a recurring/one time basis
- Seek out potential funding sources for a website redesign
- Work with nonprofit academic programs through internships and project opportunities to help identify new sponsors.

Opportunities and Challenges

As more companies and individuals become aware of wheelchair rugby we want to provide opportunities to connect and invite them to become part of supporting wheelchair rugby in the



United States. A number of new companies reached out inquiring about USQRA sponsorship opportunities this season and hopefully we will be able to continue to expand our sponsorship base and financial resources.

The USQRA website continues to be a barrier of sorts when it comes to trying to attract sponsors due to its outdated homepage and our inability to update this. A lot of great work in the conversation has gone into improving this area of opportunity but there is still work to do. I

The Board of Directors puts in an incredible amount of time often without a lot of support or appreciation. I would encourage all USQRA members to consider how they might be able to get involved with growing and supporting our association.

We have members with all kinds of skills, abilities and interests and I can guarantee there is a way for each person to get plugged in to the USQRA. If not, go ahead and create one! If we want to continue to grow wheelchair rugby in the United States - not only in numbers but also in skill, recognition and reputation- it will take all of us working together.

Secretary's Report

Michael Klonowski

It was another year of learning and growth for me as your Secretary. There have been continued efforts by the Board to increase our visibility and transparency. Our main areas of work have been to improve our infrastructure, improve our social media visibility and improve our ability to reach out to our membership and potential sponsors. We have done this over this past year, and I proudly report that we are on our way with many new efforts to use new tools available to us.

Improving the infrastructure of the league was a priority this year. One improvement has been the implementation of G-Suite, which we are using for free, due to our non-profit status. Within G-Suite, we have been able to create a team drive, which allows all members of the board to share the same documents and all documents are visible, which was lacking in the past. I have also worked on improving the organization of files, to allow current and future boards to have access to current and past documents. One major area of collaborative effort during the season is in the registration process for the league. Now, the Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer will have access to the same records to eliminate duplicated work and miscommunication. We are also continuing to post all documents of value on the USQRA website on the Players Corner to improve team access to documents, which are normally hard to find.



Social Media visibility has also been improved this past year. We have demonstrated increased activity on social media and a variety in content (ex. Motivation Monday, Memory Monday, Q & A with the USQRA, Pic of the Week), with collaboration with our new Public Relations Specialist, Lani Poblete. This year, we have established a new YouTube and Instagram page. We have increased Facebook likes – 2546 (13% increase), Twitter has 631 followers and Instagram has 438 followers. We hope to use this following to improve our attractiveness to current and future sponsors and to promote an influx of improved sponsorship funding.

It has been a constant discussion amongst the membership and the Board, that we need a new website to improve our ability to interact with our membership and individuals outside of the league. While we will continue to use the current website to the extent of its current capabilities, and Social Media to supplement the webpage, work is occurring on the creation of a new website. A mockup website has been created that is being modified into a more functional and more aesthetically pleasing website, compared to our current website. In order to gain increased funding, we need a new website. This new website will not be a long-term solution, however, it will allow us to gain access to more funding to build the terminal website.

Overall, it has been a building year, without dramatic visible changes that may be apparent to the membership. It is my goal in the next year, to continue the efforts on our new website and social media, to make more visible changes. Please continue to be patient with your Board, but, realize that the energy to make bigger changes is present and we will do our best to do what is best for the league.

Treasurer's Report

Debrah Whitehurst

Thank you all for your participation in this year's AGM. I wasn't planning on being Treasurer this year, but we couldn't find a replacement, so I decided to stay on. However, I will be stepping down this year, for sure. It has been a pleasure working with so many people the last five years. I wouldn't have gotten to know so many people, otherwise. So thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as treasurer for the USQRA.

The Year-to-Date financials are posted to this report. The finals will be sent to the Board after all post season numbers have been finalized and will be posted to the website then. Once this is done the books will be turned over to the new incoming treasurer.

Membership Dues: This year we collected dues from 42 teams for this season



Penalties & Fines: \$1700.00 was collected for late fees and fines

Internationals Fees: Ten Teams rostered and paid International Player dues which generated \$7500K. Half of which is earmarked for clinics to developed Rugby in the US.

Insurance: We collected \$5418 in insurance dues from teams. However, the insurance went up this year, from \$129 per team to \$149 per team. You can expect to see an increase in that amount next year when you register and pay your dues.

Classifier Income/Expenses: We collected \$10500 in classification dues this year. The league continues to offset the cost of their budget - however, we will need to reassess the amount charged to cover the cost of the classifiers budget in the future. It's already difficult to get everyone seen on their current budget as it is.

Budget: Proposed Budget attached - a few notes

- Increase in Classifier's budget
- Increase in Meetings for IWRF General Meeting
- Increase in insurance fee and dues, because if increase in insurance rates

Commissioner's Report

Dave Mengyan

Ah, the end of another eventful season. We registered 45 teams this year and I have been talking with 2 new teams I expect to register in the fall - Oklahoma and Hershey, Pennsylvania. There are so many tournaments, some hosts are having trouble drawing the teams to play. We've added new referees and classifiers as well as advancing several of the existing officials to higher levels. And on the heels of their win in Great Britain, Team USA has a great chance to reclaim the World Championship title from Australia on their home turf.

Because of the continued growth, I expect to realign the regions early next season. Both Atlantic regions and the Heartland North are bursting at the seams, while the Mountain struggles to field enough competition that they are routinely asking to skip their sectional entirely. If you have thoughts on how you think the regions should be realigned, please send a message to the commissioner's email address. This is a difficult issue, and while not every team will be happy with the new alignment it will be done with consideration for the impact on all teams and the impact on post season.

Residence is once again at the forefront of conversations. In a split decision, the board overturned a commissioner's decision on residence because the constitution does not specifically



hold a player to additional scrutiny when being reinstated after being found guilty of declaring a fraudulent residence. Wherever you stand on this issue, you need to make your feelings known to your RAC and a board member. Either we stand behind these rules or we need to write alternatives. When we hide behind the lack of a specific clause matching every specific situation, and then use that as an excuse not to enforce the rules, it hinders our ability to enforce EVERY rule.

Additionally, post season structures are under a great deal of scrutiny. One team's belief that they deserve to be at Nationals (a belief is shared by several players throughout the league) has prompted a whirlwind of proposals and discussion. It is likely one of the proposals will pass and impact next season's post season eligibility. It is my hope that whether we make changes or make no changes, the conversation doesn't end. These conversations better our league and our sport.

Your role as a league member is critical as the league grows. Your voice determines not only what we do but how we do it. If you like something we are doing, say so. If you don't, propose an alternative. This is your league and your responsibility to it does not end after you leave the court.

The addition of a Public Relations director has given the league and its member teams an opportunity to gain new exposure. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our PR people to assist with promoting your tournament and to assemble promotional materials for the league. And if PR is your thing, I'm sure they'd love to have you help those endeavors.

Finally, I'd like to thank Kevin and Debrah for serving on the board. Debrah and I were elected in the same cycle. Neither of us truly knew what we were in for, but she found herself in an accounting nightmare. She handled it like a champ and brought us back to a well organized and accounted for organization. And despite resigning last season due to the impending birth of another child, she did the job for an extra year and continued to excel at it. Her dedication to the league is unquestionable and, while I am excited to have our new treasurer stepping into the role, she will be missed. Please take the opportunity to thank both Kevin and Debrah for their service to the league.

Atlantic North RAC Report

Bill Bouffard

The 2017/2018 season had the Atlantic North Region with 7 active teams: NY Warriors, Magee Eagles, NRH Capital Punishers, WNY Wreckers, Maryland Mayhem, the Connecticut Jammers and NEP Wildcats.. The WNY Wreckers & Connecticut Jammers withdrew from Post Season. The Magee Eagles, NEP Wildcats, NY Warriors, Maryland Mayhem and NRH Capitol Punishers



played in a 10 team Sectional tournament in DC. NRH Capital Punishers placed 3rd and Magee Eagles placed 4th and are headed onto Nationals. The Region as a whole is gaining strength. The NEP Wildcats have a new coach that is tightening things up and new, younger players are developing on several teams. The future looks bright in the Northeast!

- Tournaments/clinics held:
 - Can-Am Rugby (July 28th – July 30st) International/Bill Bouffard (non-sanctioned)
 - WNY Wreckers 3rd Annual Wrecking Ball Tournament (Oct 7th – 8th)
 - 10th Annual Rugby Rampage (Oct 21st – 22nd) – NEP Wildcats
 - Beast of the East (Nov 11th – 12th)– Philly - Magee Eagles
 - Connecticut Classic 2017 (Dec 2nd - 3rd) - CT Jammers
 - 4th Annual Maryland Crab Pot Tournament (Oct 14th – 15th) – Maryland Mayhem
 - Atlantic Sectionals 10 team tournament (Mar 3rd – 5th) - NRH Capital Punishers
- Referees
 - There was a referee clinic held in conjunction with the Beast of the East this year. Several new referees passed their level 1 tests.
- Classifiers
 - Cindy Ellis – NE Head
- Post season hosts
 - Thanks to the NRH Capitol Punishers for stepping up early and hosting a Super Sectional this year. 10 teams (5 from the North, 5 from the South) converged on DC in mid march for a well planned tournament. Some fantastic competition throughout the weekend and 4 solid teams move on to Nationals.
- Clinics
 - The NEP Wildcats are looking to host a rugby clinic in the summer of 2018

Items of interest:

There were no major issues in the Region this season and plenty of tournaments. The CT Jammers and WNY Wreckers continue to develop and the Wildcats have a new coach who is whipping them into shape.

The Can-Am tournament mentioned above is an extension of the able-bodied CanAm International rugby tournament. The longest running able-bodied rugby tournament in the US and is entering its 44th year and wheelchair rugby us becoming a bigger part of it. The tournament still lacks a dedicated w/c rugby host but I manage the team's portion of this tournament. We are limited to 4 teams and there is no local airport so we have been keeping it to the North Atlantic & Canadian teams. The 2018 CanAm may be officially sanctioned (legit refs/scoresheets) this year. We are working on it.

That's it in nutshell for the Atlantic North!



Atlantic South RAC Report

Dan Caldwell

- Tournaments held during the 2017 – 2018 season:
 - Fall Brawl (October 14 & 15, 2017) – 4 teams, Brooks Bandits, Jacksonville, FL
 - Queen City Collision (October 28, 2017) – 2 teams, Carolina Crash
 - Shepherd Classic (November 10 - 12, 2017) – 5 teams, Shepherd Smash, Atlanta, GA
 - Raleigh Rumble (December 2 & 3, 2017) – 6 teams, Raleigh Sidewinders, Raleigh, NC
 - Southern Slam (January 12 – 14, 2018) – 8 teams, Brooks Bandits, Jacksonville, FL
 - Knock & Roll (January 12 - 14, 2018) – 8 teams, South Florida, Lake Worth, FL
 - Tampa International (January 19 – 21, 2018) – 10 teams, Tampa Generals, Tampa, FL
 - NoVA Mutiny Invitational (February 25 – 26, 2018) – 6 teams, NoVA Mutiny
- Upcoming Events:
 - The Brooks Bandits will be hosting the Summer Slam (July 7th & 8th), a pick up tournament for individual players to attend and have the opportunity to play with players from other teams. Oscar Mike has also collaborated with the Bandits to present a one day clinic the day before for their members.
- Development:
 - I have been working with the Orlando team in an effort to get them up to speed so they may be able to host tournaments and travel soon. They are having a difficult time obtaining funding. They also struggle with maintaining consistent participation from their players.
 - Miami did not register as a team this year, but I have kept in contact with Rodrigo and he is hopeful that they will be able to roster a team next year.

Heartland North RAC Report

Ryan Engelby

The Heartland North supported nine teams, this season, with five teams going to Heartland Sectionals. Akron, Milwaukee, Turnstone, and Pittsburgh declined post-season play, this year. Minnesota, Grand Rapids and Chicago advanced to Nationals.

- Tournaments/clinics held:
 - Chicago Bears Player Clinic (September 9-10)



- Bear Brawl 2017 (September 23-24) – Chicago Bears
- 2017 Thunderfest (October 7-8) – Grand Rapids Thunder
- 2nd Annual Turnstone Invitational (November 4-5) – Turnstone Flyers
- 15th Annual Steel City Slam (November 4-5) – Pittsburgh Steelwheelers
- 15th Annual Columbus Collision (December 2-3) – Ohio Buckeye Blitz
- 3rd Annual Rhino Rumble (February 10-11) – Akron Rhinos
- Detroit Wheelchair Rugby Invitational (February 18-19)
- Referees
 - Martha Smith - Chicago
 - Mike Woll – Chicago
 - Karen Bauthier – Ft. Wayne
 - Kristin Little – Louisville
 - Madison Little – Louisville
 - Mitch Carr – Chicago
- Classifiers
 - New – Burns, Gallachio, Anastasopoulos, Struhar
- Post season hosts
 - Sectionals were held in Heartland South.

Items of interest:

Minnesota's tournament was cancelled due to being unable to get any teams to attend. The Chicago Bears hosted a USQRA Clinic and the Oscar Mike Foundation held the Militia Summer Mayhem in Rockford, IL.

Heartland South RAC Report

Gary Pate

CUMBERLAND QUADCRUSHERS:

In this its first full season, the Crushers took tremendous strides in developing players and becoming competitive. An interesting blend of veterans and rookies, it could at one time field the oldest lineup in the association or start an eleven year old. Practicing at Middle Tennessee State University, this team has provided a home for several players who formerly played for the old TNT squad or for Lakeshore. In fact, beating Lakeshore twice this season gave this team particular pride.

KANSAS CITY REVOLUTION:

WOW! And it needs saying again, WOW!



In only its second full year of competition, the Revolution advanced to the National Championships in Phoenix by surprising nearly everyone at the Heartland Sectionals. Under its parent organization, Midwest Adaptive Sports, this team has flourished beyond anyone's expectation----except for maybe its head coach Tony Durham. He is proud of the opportunities provided to the players and the hard work put in. He pointed with particular pride to Scott Mendenhall who had no background in adaptive sports but who has worked diligently to become an exceptional part of the team....at an age when many were quitting, Scott was starting!

LAKESHORE DEMOLITION:

Coming off a successful D-2 Championship year, the Demolition was a team in transition. At the start of the year it was missing three starters from last year's squad, in addition to serious health issues by the remaining starter. This was followed by the resignation of the head coach only weeks before the start of the second half of the season. In face of such extreme adversity, no team worked harder or pulled tighter than this year's Demolition. The return of Clay Brackett to the starting lineup and the exceptional coaching job by the former assistant coach, Tommy Sullivan, led this team to an unexpected second place finish in the Heartland Sectionals.

ST.LOUIS SPARTANS:

Much like Lakeshore, this St. Louis team spent the year transitioning. A perennial powerhouse, the Spartans lost several starters to transfers, several stalwarts to job and life pressures.....yet still remained a competitive force in the association. It hosted its annual Crazy 8's tournament and went to Ohio and captured first place...a great achievement. With a solid core of remaining players and a history of developing outstanding players, St. Louis will quickly be back on top again.

Mountain East RAC Report

Chuck French

No report provided



Mountain West RAC Report

Brad McFadden

The 2017/2018 season had the Mountain West Region with only 2 active teams: University of Arizona Wildcats and Ability360 Phoenix Heat.

- Tournaments/clinics held:
 - Duel in the Desert Oct. 20-21
 - Wildcat Clash Dec. 1-3
 - Ability 360 Rugby Rave Feb. 8-10
 - 2018 Mountain Sectionals Mar. 17-18
 - Nationals Apr. 19-21
- Referees
 - Mike Lowe-Tucson
 - Todd Jackson
 - Nate Skotak
 - Andy Miller
- Classifiers
 - Cindy Ellis- NEP
 - Petra Williams
 - Katie Milner
 - Angela Link
- Postseason Host - The University of Arizona hosted 2018 Mountain Sectionals. The U of A Wildcats, Ability360 Phoenix Heat, Denver Harlequins, and Texas Stampede competed at this tournament.
- Clinics - University of Arizona is considering hosting a summer camp/event with exhibition games with modified rules. Date TBA



Pacific North RAC Report

Josiah Sullivan

The Pacific North is comprised of six teams: Boise Bombers, California Storm, Nor-Cal Quake, Portland Pounders, Reno High Fives, and Seattle Slam. Boise had the Utah merge with them this season and picked up Boise's first 1st place tournament finish. Cal and Nor-Cal co-hosted a tournament in January and both teams qualified for Nationals. Reno hosted one of the best tournaments in late October where the first three games were decided by one point and finished with a 3-way tie for 1st place. Seattle had quite the change this year without Paul or an import but they still had a successful year developing the rest of the team.

Portland hosted Sectionals and as always put on a great tournament with even better food. Six of the eight teams from the section participated in Sectionals. Portland finished 1st, Northridge 2nd, Nor-Cal 3rd, Cal 4th, Boise 5th, and Seattle 6th.

Pacific South RAC Report

James Sa

The Pacific South had a huge start to the season with Best of the West in November, hosting not only the best teams in the nation, but internationally as well with cameos from the London Annihilators and Team Australia. Although plagued by injury and player turnover, Sharp has managed to give respectable showings at several tournaments and show promise in newer players stepping up to fill some veteran shoes. Mid pointer Brandon Petrucci has shown to be a reliable difference maker on the court. Unfortunately, due to injury and financial reasons, Sharp has decided to pull out of post season play. We hope to return with a strong showing in the following seasons to come.

Northridge has continued on an upward trend, bringing in Austrian import Rene Hernesz, who has made a significant impact on the team and a good compliment to the strong combo of Mike DeYoung and Lee Mercado. Expectations for them are high at Nationals this year in division II.



USQRRR Referee Report

Andy Miller

It has been my honor to serve the sport of wheelchair rugby and our referee's association during this past year. It has been a very busy, and productive year; one that has seen our membership grow and develop their craft. It has also been another year of genuine collaboration with the USQRA towards the common objective of advancing the sport we love.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the wisdom and teamwork I have received from the USQRRR Executive Team, as well as from our association RACs. They do an awesome job of keeping me on the straight and narrow. I am truly grateful and blessed to be surrounded by this great team.

Clinics held during the past year – This season we held 3 referee clinics (one more than last year) and certified 8 new officials, which I believe may be a high water mark.

1. Beast of the East – Philadelphia
 - Dan Plaxe
 - Natalie Bylinsky (certified @ Connecticut)
2. Metal and Muscle – Houston
 - Christopher Moreno
 - Keana Madrinan (certified @ RISE)
3. Demolition Derby – Birmingham
 - Jonathan Williams
 - Corey Skelton
 - Callie Martin
 - Jakhalia Stone (certified @ Heartland Sectional)

Congratulations to all, and heartfelt thanks to those who taught the clinics, evaluated the candidates and continue to mentor them. I am particularly pleased that several of the new officials were able to get meaningful court experience after certification at some of the late season events, having the opportunity to practice their skills before the summer break. The influx of enthusiastic new officials bodes well for the future of our sport!

Member Development – The USQRRR leadership recognized that several of our officials have demonstrated the potential to move to the A level of certification. In February, in conjunction with the Ability360 Heat rave, we invited 3 of those officials to participate as referees, and provided evaluations to each official immediately after their games. The A level written examination was administered and all 3 candidates passed! These three, will join a 4th candidate



to take the next steps towards advancing, at the National Championship tournament in Phoenix this month. Through this process, we are building a foundation, structure and transparent process that will standardize how candidates can advance.

We will once again be providing detailed feedback and evaluations for officials who are present at Nationals 2018.

For the 2nd year in a row, we partnered with Kevin Bowie, the Canadian Head of Officials, to further our exchange of officials between the US and Canada. This season Ryan Gaudet officiated at Best of the West in San Diego, and Madison Little served at the Vancouver tournament in March. By all accounts, this exchange was successful, and we look forward to expanding the program moving forward.

USQRA officials at international and special events

- Japan Wheelchair Rugby Friendly - May, 2017, Tokyo, Japan - Joe Bongiovanni, Referee
- European Division A Championship - June, 2017, Koblenz, Germany - Kerin Banfield, Referee
- National Veterans Wheelchair Games – July, 2017, Cincinnati, OH – Kelli Kaliszewski and Travis Adkins, Referees
- North America Zonal Championship – September, 2017, Asuncion, Paraguay – Joe Bongiovanni, Josh Kearns, Referees; Martha Rust, Donna Sebok, Technical Commissioners, Bob Lopez, Technical Delegate.
- Andrews AFB Wheelchair Rugby Exhibition – November, 2017, Joint Base Andrews, MD – Kerin Banfield, Joe Bongiovanni, Referees
- European Division C Championship – November, 2017, Grosswallstadt, Germany – Mitch Carr, Evaluator
- Ability360 Heat v. Australian National Team – November, 2017, Phoenix, AZ – Travis Adkins, Todd Jackson, Madison Little, Referees
- Vancouver Invitational – March, 2018, Vancouver, BC - Madison Little, Referee
- Ability360 Heat v. Canadian National Team – April, 2018, Phoenix, AZ – Mike Lowe, Kent Sullivan, Referees

2017 – 2018 Season Metrics

USQRA members officiated 1269 games at 53 events (prior to Nationals) during this season. Both December and January featured weekends with 4 tournaments each, with 18 and 16 officials, respectively, supporting those events. Additionally, it was all hands on deck for the Mountain, Heartland and Pacific Sectionals, all held on the same weekend in mid – March!



Our total membership stands at 50, with 41 “active” (fully certified w/ game activity in 2017-2018 season) referees:

- 12 – “A”, 13 – “B”, 25 – “C”
- Membership distribution by Section
 - Atlantic – 15
 - Heartland – 14
 - Mountain – 13
 - Pacific – 8



USQRA Classifier Report

Phyllis Palma

USQRA Classifier Report-2018

Phyllis Palma, USQRA Head of Classification

This year has been a busy one not only for the classification of players at record numbers, but also for the successful implementation of the new USQRA Classification Manual, 4th ed., 2017.

1. Given our budget, we were able to attend ten tournaments across the nation. There were five Pre-Season tournaments attended. However, there still seems to be a bit of a challenge to get West Coast tournament organizers' involvement to host classification. All Sectionals were attended, and two classification panels were present at Nationals.

Overview of Classification								
Tournament	New Players	Re-Checks	Ineligible/NC	Protests	Cards/Age &	Workshop (#)	Advancement	yers due, but
Bear Brawl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Classification requested but unable to fill a panel
2017 Wrecking Ball, Rochester, NY	16	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
Beast of the East, West Deptford, NJ	7	6	1	2	1	0	0	7 athletes with review status and 1 athlete with protest under exceptional circumstances could not be seen due to time constraints
Metal & Muscle, Houston, TX	11	10	1	0	4	0	0	11 reviews not completed due to athlete failure to attend, last-minute athlete health issue, and panel cancellation due to weather
Rumble,	9	8	2	0	2	0	Katie Powell-2	completed due
Demolition Derby, Birmingham, AL	6	6	1	1	3	Ryan Schaller-1 Katie Megahee-1	Jaclyn Raab-2	
Atlantic Section	2	15	0	0	0	0	Michael Burns-2	
Heartland Section	2	9	1	2	0	0	0	
Pacific Sectional	6	7	1	0	3	Beth Blackford-1	Jelena Svircev-2 Nava Hymowitz-2	1 PUE lodged for NAT18, 3 reviews not seen due to time restraints/panel strength
Mountain Section	2	5	0	0	4	0	0	
Nationals*	4	13	7	2	0	0	0	
Totals	65	82	14	8	18	3	6	30

This allowed us to accommodate 65 new athletes and 82 Re-Checks (yet another 29% increase over last year in these two categories alone). Please see table below for tournaments and classification data for this season. USQRA classifiers also trained and certified three new classifiers and five classifiers advanced in certification level. In addition, to the typical training, an education tool was created by, Tina Stoeckmann, Phyllis Palma and Anne Hart to train all classifiers in the changes and updates of the new manual to allow for a successful transition to the use of the revised classification manual.

2. The following 36 active classifiers were involved in classification services and/or administration over the last three seasons and participated in either website development, database administration, manual revision task-force, education implementation or served as panel members. There was an emphasis this season on the advancement of previous Level 1 Classifiers who had limited opportunities in hopes to increase active involvement. We were able to not only increase our number active classifiers over last year, but also increase our numbers in higher certification levels in hopes to allow for stronger panels. See the table below for the distribution of classifiers with regards to their levels.

Classifiers Totals		
Total	Active*	International
65	36	10

*Participated last 3 yrs.

Level 4's: 15	Level 3's: 4	Level 2's: 13	Level 1's: 33
----------------------	---------------------	----------------------	----------------------

3. The following USQRA Classifiers participated at international events 2017-2018. Phyllis Palma and Anne Hart also serve on the IWRF Classification Committee. In addition, Anne Hart is the appointed chair of the IPC Classification Committee, a member of the Steering Group for IPC Classification Research Centers, chaired the annual IPC meeting and educational conference for the International Federation Heads of Classification for all Para Sports. In October, she was a part of the group that conducted the first classifier recertification workshop in a role to develop a Classifier Recertification Training Model of Best Practice for all sport use and in January, Anne presented to the IPC Governing board on the state of code compliance in the Paralympic Movement.



<i>USQRA Classifier IWRF Involvement</i>		
USA Invitational	Palma	
VISTA Conference	Hart	Palma
American Zonal Championship 2017	Palma	
IWRF European Zonal Championships 2017	Hart	
Metro Cup 2017	Palma	
Asia/Oceania Zonals	Lanouette	
Canada Cup 2018	Hart	
IWRF World Championships 2018	Hart	Palma

4. The classification committee submitted one proposal for 2018 AGM. 1) The proposal is to outline Eligible Impairments for wheelchair rugby in accordance with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code which states all International Federations governing Paralympic sports are required to clearly define which impairment types may be eligible for participation in the sports that they govern, which includes the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation, whose classification rules the USQRA uses.
5. The USQRA classification Masterlist, which is a comprehensive list of all current and former players with sport class and sport class status remains updated on the USQRA website under the Classification page. In addition, the classification page is up to date on the USQRA website which can be found by clicking the Classifiers tab listed at the bottom on the left of the page under the Sponsors & Volunteers link from the main page.
6. The age adjustments: C: Class Deduction-65 years old, 2017 and F: Female Players Over 45, 2017 were implemented per the passed proposals from AGM 2017 and all athletes are steadily being reviewed, with the majority of them completed in accordance with H: Classification Hands, 2017 (To change the maximum point value of a hand in classification from a 4.0 to a 3.5 point value and update the way the hand is assessed during the classification process for Wheelchair Rugby to be consistent with the IWRF rules.)
7. The database form has been updated to better represent the updated manual and the database is scheduled to begin updated to mirror the new form and more accurately capture all information being tracked as required in the USQRA Classification Manual, 4th ed., 2017. The classification cards have been updated to reflect the change in language to Confirmed sport class status from the previous Permanent status. New cards have also been created and will gradually be phased in as we exhaust the supplies of the older cards. Finally, the small stipend for our database administrator was implemented per G: Stipend – USQRA Classification Database, 2017.



Postseason Review

2016 Pacific Sectionals

**Tournament Director – Gordy Johnson
Portland, OR**

Date of Sectional: March 16-18, 2018

1. Portland Pounders
2. Northridge Knights
3. Nor-Cal Quake
4. California Storm
5. Boise Bombers

2017 Heartland Sectionals

**Tournament Director – Meagan Rowe
Birmingham, AL**

Date of Sectional: March 16-18, 2018

1. Minnesota WRC
2. Lakeshore Demolition*
3. Grand Rapids Thunder
4. Chicago Bears
5. Kansas City Revolution

2017 Mountain Sectionals

**Tournament Director – Brad McFadden
Tucson, AZ**

Date of Sectional: March 17-18, 2018

1. University of Arizona Wildcats
2. Ability360 Phoenix Heat
3. Texas Stampede
4. Denver Harlequins

2018 Atlantic Sectionals

**Tournament Director – Kevin Crombie
Washington D.C.**

Date of Sectional: March 23-25, 2018

1. Shepherd Smash
2. Tampa Generals
3. Medstar NRH Punishers
4. Magee Eagles
5. Brooks Bandits



Wheelchair Specs/Equipment Committee

James Gumbert, Troy McGuirk

No changes or modifications were requested, this year.

Hall of Fame Committee

Brad Mikkelsen

2018 USQRA Hall of Fame Report

Two new Hall Members will be inducted this year. We welcome the distinguished Anne Hart and David Ceruti!

25 members voted

1 abstention was requested

A discussion is ongoing on how to account for nominees that some voting members may have no first hand knowledge of.

Chris Cook has been designated to represent the Hall at the Awards Banquet and AGM. We are grateful to the Hall of Fame sponsors Box Chairs and RibGrips!

The Hall is asking for your support to pass the following changes to bylaws that will help improve the functioning of the Hall.

Article VII: Committees Section 3 – Committee Descriptions -b. Hall of Fame Committee

The Board of Directors will handle nominations for the Athlete of the Year and Spirit of Achievement Award

Change the Nomination deadline to October 31

The Hall of Fame committee shall appoint a chairperson. That appointee shall have served as a Hall of Fame member for a minimum of three years prior to appointment. This process will take place once every four years beginning in 2018.

In closing, We are looking forward to working with a new and improved web site.

Competition Committee

Steve Kenny

The Competition Committee is comprised of the eight RAC's, the league commissioner and a chairperson (Steve Kenny). Once again this year, the committee fulfilled its responsibilities of three seasonal Top 20 team rankings (Start of Season, Mid-Season, and End of Season) along with seeding recommendations for postseason. The committee worked closely with the league secretary, so the release of the rankings and seeding would coincide with the board's wishes. Beyond the aforementioned responsibilities the committee would like to insure that the league remains competitive and that all teams feel they all have the same opportunities and believe there's a level playing field for everyone. The true health of any competitive sports league relies on a sense of fair play and equal treatment for all. That being said, the committee believes our post season structure is not perfect if the goal of our national tournament is to include the top 16 teams in our league. There are several proposals to change our post season structure and all of them improve the chances of fulfilling our national tournament's goal. Each of these amendments would increase the Competition Committees responsibilities, but they all appear to be better options than league wide territory realignment.

Web Committee

Did not meet this year.

USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR)

Mandy Goff/Beth Curry



2017 Snapshot

USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) made 2017 a great year with positive finishes in all three tournaments we competed in, particularly the Americas Championships where we automatically



qualified for World Championships with our gold medal finish. We were able to host an international competition with Canada and Japan early in the season at Lakeshore and look to make that a biennial event that includes the top teams in the world. USAWR and Lakeshore feel it is extremely important to keep top level tournament opportunities stateside in an effort to support our competitive success as well as leverage sponsorships and build awareness; not only of the U.S. team but the sport as a whole. In an effort to continue increased communication with those outside of the USAWR program, we included a “Did You Know” section in the newsletter and have used that to address “hot item” questions or topics (such as governance, or how the team is selected). At the conclusion of 2017 we conducted a survey with every member of the team and staff, which gave everyone the opportunity to provide feedback about the year. The hope is to yield good insight for Lakeshore moving forward pertaining to the next season. Additionally, the High Performance Manager created an annual review tool for each member of the program and those reviews were completed with her and the Chief Program Officer on an individual basis. These reviews are used to help increase communication, improve areas of deficiency, build upon strengths, work towards goals for the following year, and increase the overall team dynamic, helping the program reach the next level.

2017-18 Partnerships

The most important partnership for USAWR remains with Lakeshore Foundation as the High Performance Management Organization (HPMO). For those new to the league, Lakeshore Foundation is under contract with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to manage the national team program and all funds received from the USOC flow through Lakeshore to the program. This relationship has been in place for close to 20 years and contractually since 2004-2005. Lakeshore continues to support the program by providing a full time staff member to run the program operations. Mandy Goff, High Performance Manager, has been in this role since 2011, but full time since 2016. Additionally, Lakeshore has made a concerted effort to increase the fundraising goals through the creation of a SWELL page, <https://usawr.swellgives.com/> and through the work of the Lakeshore development department.

USAWR and USA Rugby (USAR) continue to strengthen their relationship by participating in ongoing engagement opportunities at USAR events and through the USA Rugby Trust. Lakeshore remains dedicated in their role as our HPMO, however discussions about how to work together for the future good of the sport on a national level continue. Right now, moving in a direction of overlap and support at each other’s events is priority and USAR continues a steadfast message of support for all rugby, regardless of how it’s played. We continue to receive in kind product from Gatorade through the contract USAR holds with them, and while we weren’t included in the new Adidas contract they established with Adidas for team kit, we are



purchasing that through World Rugby Shop (WRS) via a relationship sparked by USAR. Fans can purchase USAWR gear through the WRS online store and the royalties are given back to the USAWR program.

Our relationship with the USQRA continues to improve each year and it's extremely important to us that both organizations are working together to make the sport the very best it can be in the U.S. Lakeshore Foundation's Chief Program Officer, Beth Curry, sits in on the monthly board meeting calls and for the second year, a USQRA board member participated on the selection committee in an ex-officio role.

The most recent partnership we established in 2017-18 is with Crossover Symmetry, a company out of Denver, Colorado. Their product is a medically designed rotator cuff and scapular strengthening system engineered to enhance shoulder health and performance. We have been testing the product since 2017 and seen tremendous result in the recovery and performance of our athletes. This year we entered into a written partnership and they will be providing systems for each athlete to have at home, in addition to a system permanently in place at Lakeshore and one for travel. Crossover Symmetry is just another high performance factor that is helping keep us at the peak of performance.

2018 Forecast

As mentioned in the report last year, we continue to keep the first weekend of January reserved for National Team Selection Camp. This is an effort to allow athletes a consistent weekend for planning and also trying to coordinate with the USQRA calendar. We recognize that it's always hard to travel right after the new year, but if we do it any earlier it cuts into the holidays, there is potential for overlap with USQRA tournaments, and we also have to consider the Lakeshore facility availability. We explored a later option a few years ago and it didn't allow time for any training camps prior to competition and it really created issues with the USQRA weekends. The 2018 Selection Committee was comprised of six members; Mandy Goff, High Performance Manager (admin role/no vote); James Gumbert, Head Coach; Sue Tucker, Assistant Coach; Dave Ceruti, development coach; Will Groulx, Athlete Rep (no vote); and Eric Ingram, USQRA Ex-Officio (no vote). Sixteen athletes were selected, two brand new to the program, and will train together up through world championships. They will attend four training camps and three competitions; the first competition was held in Leicester England this past March and USA claimed a 3-1 record and brought home the gold in an exciting match against the reigning Paralympic Champions and number one team in the world, Australia. Our June camp will take place in Colorado Springs at the Olympic Training Center, just prior to our attendance at the 2018 Canada Cup (June 12-18), and we are excited to announce that we'll have a series with



Australia while we are there. All of this will lead up to our final and most important competition, the 2018 GIO IWRF World Championships in Sydney, Australia (Aug 5-10). As most are aware, this is our first chance for automatic qualification into the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and it is time to take our World Championship title back. We were just notified that we'll be receiving additional grant dollars from the USOC to bring in some development athletes this season to participate alongside our national team. Details will be released in the coming weeks.

For the third year we worked with the USOC on a Diversity and Inclusion Plan and reported data to them specifically as it relates to the national team demographics. We didn't request that USQRA members complete the survey this year, but we'd like to suggest that become an annual ask of members as teams are registering for the season. While that information won't be shared with the USOC, it allows both the USQRA and USAWR to get a better picture of the overall sport.

As always, we are looking to be as transparent and informative as possible and we request that if you have questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out to us.

Mandy Goff
High Performance Manager
mandyg@lakeshore.org

Beth Curry
Chief Program Officer
bethc@lakeshore.org

USQRA
Balance Sheet
As of April 16, 2018

Apr 16, 18

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

10101 · Wells Fargo Checking

10102G · Classifier Budgeted Amount 4,327.69

10101 · Wells Fargo Checking - Other 34,595.24

Total 10101 · Wells Fargo Checking 38,922.93

10102 · Wells Fargo Savings

10102A · Hall of Fame Funds 1,999.19

10102C · Developmental Rugby (clinics) 8,822.23

10102D · Web Development 446.00

10102F · Minnesota Rugby Team Fundraisin 500.00

10102 · Wells Fargo Savings - Other 625.12

Total 10102 · Wells Fargo Savings 12,392.54

Total Checking/Savings 51,315.47

Accounts Receivable

11001 · Accounts Receivable 730.00

Total Accounts Receivable 730.00

Other Current Assets

12100 · Inventory Asset 2,153.28

Total Other Current Assets 2,153.28

Total Current Assets 54,198.75

Fixed Assets

15000 · Equipment 7,506.00

Total Fixed Assets 7,506.00

TOTAL ASSETS 61,704.75

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets 10,421.20

32000 · Retained Earnings 53,394.13

Net Income -2,110.58

Total Equity 61,704.75

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 61,704.75

USQRA
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018

	Jul 1, '17 - Apr 16, 18	Jul 1, '16 - Apr 16, 17
Income		
43400 · Direct Public Support		
43410 · Corporate Contributions	6,005.78	2,948.55
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	2,688.50	0.00
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	8,694.28	2,948.55
45000 · Investments		
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	1.49	2.35
Total 45000 · Investments	1.49	2.35
46400 · Other Types of Income		
46420 · Rugby Merchandise Sales	7,415.00	2,565.00
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	7,415.00	2,565.00
47200 · Program Income		
47230 · Membership Dues	14,700.00	15,000.00
47235 · Classification Fees	10,500.00	11,000.00
47245 · Insurance Surcharge	5,418.00	5,676.00
47250 · Penalties & Fines		
47240 · International Player Fee	7,500.00	6,000.00
47250 · Penalties & Fines - Other	1,700.00	800.00
Total 47250 · Penalties & Fines	9,200.00	6,800.00
47255 · Residency Protest Income	50.00	0.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	39,868.00	38,476.00
Total Income	55,978.77	43,991.90
Cost of Goods Sold		
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold		
50700 · Cost of Sales - Rugby Stuff	3,795.53	2,289.83
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold - Other	195.79	0.00
Total 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold	3,991.32	2,289.83
Total COGS	3,991.32	2,289.83
Gross Profit	51,987.45	41,702.07
Expense		
60900 · Business Expenses		
60910 · Bank Fees	93.00	45.00
60920 · Business Registration Fees	61.25	61.25
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	154.25	106.25

USQRA
Proposed Budget
July 2018 through June 2019

Jul '18 - Jun 19

Income

43300 · Direct Public Grants

43310 · Corporate and Business Grants 0.00

Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants 0.00

43400 · Direct Public Support

43410 · Corporate Contributions 400.00

43440 · Gifts in Kind - Goods 8,000.00

43450 · Individ, Business Contributions 9,500.00

Total 43400 · Direct Public Support 17,900.00

44800 · Indirect Public Support

44810 · Fundraising- Teams 0.00

Total 44800 · Indirect Public Support 0.00

45000 · Investments

45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD 10.00

Total 45000 · Investments 10.00

46400 · Other Types of Income

46420 · Rugby Merchandise Sales 3,500.00

Total 46400 · Other Types of Income 3,500.00

47200 · Program Income

47230 · Membership Dues 15,000.00

47235 · Classification Fees 11,000.00

47245 · Insurance Surcharge 6,556.00

47250 · Penalties & Fines

47240 · International Player Fee 6,000.00

47250 · Penalties & Fines - Other 800.00

Total 47250 · Penalties & Fines 6,800.00

Total 47200 · Program Income 39,356.00

Total Income 60,766.00

Cost of Goods Sold

50000 · Cost of Goods Sold

50700 · Cost of Sales - Rugby Stuff 3,000.00

50000 · Cost of Goods Sold - Other 200.00

Total 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold 3,200.00

USQRA
Proposed Budget
July 2018 through June 2019

	<u>Jul '18 - Jun 19</u>
Total COGS	<u>3,200.00</u>
Gross Profit	57,566.00
Expense	
60900 · Business Expenses	
60910 · Bank Fees	45.00
60920 · Business Registration Fees	<u>61.25</u>
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	106.25
 62100 · Contract Services	
62110 · Accounting Fees	<u>450.00</u>
Total 62100 · Contract Services	450.00
 63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses	
63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense	
63103 · Team USA / IWRP Dues	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total 63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense	1,000.00
 63200 · Rugby Clinic Expense	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total 63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses	3,000.00
 64000 · Competition Expenses	
64100 · Classifiers Expense	17,000.00
64200 · Post Season Competition Expense	<u>15,000.00</u>
Total 64000 · Competition Expenses	32,000.00
 65000 · Operations	
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	0.00
65060 · Quadrugby.com Website Expense	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total 65000 · Operations	2,000.00
 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	7,926.00
65140 · HOF expense	0.00
65160 · Other Costs/legal fees	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	17,926.00
68300 · Travel and Meetings	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>57,482.25</u>
 Net Income	<u><u>83.75</u></u>

USQRA

Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison

July 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018

	Jul 1, '17 - Apr 16, 18	Jul 1, '16 - Apr 16, 17
62100 · Contract Services		
62110 · Accounting Fees	450.00	450.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	450.00	450.00
 63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses		
63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense		
63103 · Team USA / IWRF Dues	0.00	1,000.00
Total 63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense	0.00	1,000.00
63200 · Rugby Clinic Expense	3,000.00	2,000.00
Total 63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00
 64000 · Competition Expenses		
64100 · Classifiers Expense	8,659.08	8,947.07
64200 · Post Season Competition Expense	8,479.22	5,079.99
64300 · Post Season Referee Expenses	327.60	0.00
Total 64000 · Competition Expenses	17,465.90	14,027.06
 65000 · Operations		
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	37.70	0.00
65060 · Quadrugby.com Website Expense	339.75	299.88
Total 65000 · Operations	377.45	299.88
 65100 · Other Types of Expenses		
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	7,737.00	7,026.00
65140 · HOF expense	0.00	268.00
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	7,737.00	7,294.00
 68300 · Travel and Meetings	338.26	1,400.00
Total Expense	29,522.86	26,577.19
 Net Income	22,464.59	15,124.88



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal A – Postseason Structure Revision

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Mike Cottingham (presented by Steve Kearley) - TIRR

This proposal

- ☐ amends the constitution;
- ☒ amends the bylaws;
- ☐ changes a rule;
- ☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI. Section 4 d.

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

The top four teams from each Section will advance to Nationals, which will be seeded by the Executive Committee and the RACs. Seeds one through eight will advance to Division I, and seeds nine through sixteen will advance to Division II for National Championships.

State the language of the proposal:

The top four teams from each Section will advance to Nationals. In addition, the next two highest ranked teams, as determined by the Executive Committee and the RACs, will be selected. The top 18 teams will then be ranked. Seeds one through six will compete in Division I; seeds Seven through 12 will compete in Division II; and seeds 13-18 will compete in Division III at the National Championships. Day one will have two pools of three, per division – played in round robin. Day two converts to bracket play with top seeds getting a first round bye. Winner of the 2/3 plays winner of 2/3 on the other side of the bracket. Loser of the 2/3 plays the loser of the 2/3 on the other side of the bracket. Winner of the 5/6 plays the winner of the 5/6 on the other side of the bracket and the loser of the 5/6 plays the loser of the 5/6 on the other side. The 5/6 teams are done after completing their crossover games. Day three consists of the Championship games and 3/4 games of each division.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This is a compromise amendment. No section wants to lose spots at nationals, but we also do not highly ranked teams to not qualify for the postseason. So, 16 teams qualify with four per section. Then, the RACs vote and select the two highest ranked at large teams. This allows for an 18-team Nationals. Instead of a traditional DI/DII model with 8 teams, we will have DI/DII/DIII with six teams in each division. Usually the bottom of DI gets crushed, and the bottom of DII isn't competitive with the top of DII. The compromise amendment will allow teams with closer skill to play each other. The format for the tournament is not outlined in the bylaws, but people want to know what this would look like. This is the layout for each division.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Day 1

Two pools of three teams play a round-robin. That is three games per pool. There will be two games on the first day for each team, so six games per division.

Day 2

At this point the tournament becomes a bracket. If you finished top in your pool, you get a bye. If you finish second, you play third from the other pool, and vice versa. These are quarterfinal games.

Then, the winner of each 2/3 game plays a top pool finisher. If you lose the 2/3 game, you just play the loser of the other 2/3 game. This is the 5/6 game and can be played on day two or day three. I would recommend day two. So teams 5-6 are done on day two (having played 4 games)

If so, you would have a total of five games per division on day two. If you finished top in your bracket on day one, you would have one game on day two, a nice reward if you are trying to win a national championship.

Day 3

You have two games per division: the championship game and the 3/4 game. This is a total of two games per division.

The total number of games would be:

Day 1 = 18

Day 2 = 15

Day 3 = 6

Total number of games = 39

The only downside is some teams may only play four games. That being said, the quality of games should be good, the games should be competitive, and every game should be closer. Examine the score differential between the top of DI to the bottom of DI the last few years. In DII, the games between the top and bottom of the division, while closer, have still been blow-outs.

This does not add to the number of games, so you would not need additional courts or refs. Every section is still represented and strong teams are not left out due to geography. It is a win/win. The only downside is some teams would get four games at nationals rather than five, but you get closer, more competitive games at nationals.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

The only additional consideration on the tournament host is potentially transporting two more teams, but Houston hosted a successful nationals recently, and we believe that the difference in transporting 16 or 18 teams is really not significant.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal B – Postseason Structure Revision

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Steve Kearley, TIRR Texans

This proposal

- ☐ amends the constitution;
- ☒ amends the bylaws;
- ☐ changes a rule;
- ☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Section 1-5

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

Article VI – POST-SEASON COMPETITION

Section 1 – Regional Playoffs

- a. All national member teams, in good standing, shall be eligible to compete at a Regional Tournament, and enter into qualification for the National Championship, governed by the USQRA.
- b. A Regional Tournament will be held only if more than eight teams compete in a Section (unless the section as a whole agrees to a larger Sectional Tournament at a site that can hold such a tournament, up to 12 teams).
- c. Sections will now be set, no later than November 15th of each season.

Section 2 – Structure of Regional Playoffs

- a. Six teams or less, will compete in a “Round Robin” format. Teams will play no more than two games in one day, unless, every participating team, from the Region, agrees to play in a two-day format, with three games, maximum, in one day. No team shall play games back-to-back.
- b. If there are more than six teams then a pool play and crossover format will be followed. Teams will play no more than two games in one day unless every participating team from the Region agrees to pay a two-day format, with three games maximum in one day. No team shall play games back-to-back.

Section 3 – Number of Regional Playoffs

- a. The Commissioner shall determine the number of Regional tournaments appropriate and shall receive approval from the Executive Committee.

Section 4 – Structure of Sectional Playoffs

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

- a. Six teams, or less, will compete in a round robin format. Teams will play no more than two games in one day unless every participating team from the Section agrees to play a two-day format, with three games maximum in one day. No team shall play games back-to-back.
- b. If there are more than six teams then a pool play and crossover format will be followed. Teams will play no more than two games in one day unless every participating team from the Section agrees to play a two-day format, with three games maximum in one day. No team shall play games back-to-back.
- c. The top four finishers in the Regional tournaments of that Section will qualify for Sectional play (unless it has been determined to have a larger sectional tournament up to 12 teams).
- d. The top four teams from each Section will advance to Nationals, which will be seeded by the Executive Committee and the RACs. Seeds one through eight will advance to Division I, and seeds nine through sixteen will advance to Division II for National Championships.
- e. When a seven or eight team tournament is needed for Sectionals and pool play is used, the crossovers will be in two stages. Second place of each pool will play the third place of the other pool and first place will play fourth place of the opposite pool. The four winners of these matches move on to Nationals. The winners and losers will then play in the crossover again with losers of the second/third match playing the losers of the first/fourth match, and winners of the second/third match will play the winners of the first/fourth match. The final games will determine the tournament final standings.

Section 5 – Seedings

The seeding of teams, in each Regional and Sectional tournament, shall be determined by the Competition Committee, which includes the Committee Chair, the Commissioner and the RACs, and be based upon rules, established by the USQRA. Final seedings will be set twenty days prior to the start of Regionals and Sectionals, subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

State the language of the proposal:

Article VI – POST-SEASON COMPETITION

Section 1 – Playoff Tournaments

- a.) All national member teams, in good standing, shall be eligible to enter into qualification for the National Championship governed by the USQRA
- b.) Late-Season USQRA Top 24 will be set no later than February 15th of each season and will directly correlate to playoff seeds.

Section 2 – Automatic qualification

- a.) The top 8 teams, according to the Late-Season USQRA Top 24, will receive an automatic bid to compete at Nationals

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Section 3 – Structure of Playoff Tournaments

- a.) The playoff tournament hosts will be split geographically (East & West, centrally located team hosts can fill the need for either)
- b.) The remaining 16 teams, ranked 9-24, according to the Late Season USQRA Top 24, will be invited to compete in the two playoff tournaments. The USQRA Competition Committee will offer the top 8 teams the choice of which Playoff Tournament they would like to compete. From the remaining 8 teams, the USQRA Competition Committee will select who attends each tournament based on rank and geography.
- c.) During the 8 team setup, pool play and crossover format will be followed. Teams will play no more than two games in one day unless every participating team from the region agrees to play a two-day format, with three games maximum in one day. No team shall play games back-to-back.
- d.) When a seven or eight team tournament is needed for playoffs and pool play is used, the crossovers will be in two stages. Second place of each pool will play the third place of the other pool and first place will play fourth place of the opposite pool. The winners and losers will then play in the crossover again with losers of the second/third match playing the losers of the first/fourth match, and winners of the second/third match will play the winners of the first/fourth match. The final games will determine the tournament final standings.
- e.) The top 4 placing teams from each playoff tournament will advance to Nationals.

Section 4 – Seeding

- a.) The seeding of teams, advancing to Nationals, shall be determined by the Competition Committee, which includes the Committee Chair, the Commissioner and the RACs, and be based upon rules, established by the USQRA. Final seedings will be set twenty days prior to the start of Nationals, subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
Seeds 1-8 will advance to Division I, and seeds 9-16 will advance to Division II for National Championship

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

1. The top 16 teams in the country should be represented at nationals. This proposal gives fair consideration based on rank and geography
2. Teams should be rewarded for success in the regular season. Automatic bids for the top 8 seeded teams, and eligibility for the top 24 will encourage athletes to compete in quality tournaments and not to simply “get their games in” as required for postseason eligibility.
3. The current postseason structure is expensive for the league, tournament hosts, teams, and athletes. This proposal eliminates unnecessary, and often uncompetitive sectional tournaments.
4. The addition of playoff tournaments to fill the remaining spots will create a competitive and exciting atmosphere where any team in the top 24 could earn their way into nationals.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal C - Postseason Structure Revision

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Ryan Engelby, Minnesota Steelheads

This proposal _____ amends the constitution;
_____ ☒ amends the bylaws;
_____ changes a rule;
_____ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:
Article VI – Post-Season Competition

Check here if the proposal only adds language __ __;

If current language will be removed, state it here:
Article VI – Post-Season Competition

State the language of the proposal:
Section 1 – Playoffs

- a. All national member teams, in good standing, shall be eligible to enter into qualification for the National Championship, governed by the USQRA.
- b. The top 12 teams from the USQRA ranking as of mid-February or no later than one month before the playoff tournament date will be selected for Nationals. Teams ranked 13-20 will compete in a playoff tournament with the top four teams advancing to the Nationals.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:
Easiest way to ensure we get the best competition at Nationals. Also saves time and money for teams to go to competitive tourneys of choice and not Sectionals.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal D - Minimum Impairment Criteria

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Phyllis Palma, USQRA Head of Classification and the USQRA Classification Committee

This proposal

- ☒ **amends the constitution;**
☒ **amends the bylaws;**
☒ **changes a rule;**
☐ **is a resolution (sets a short-term policy.)**

The proposal is to outline the Minimum Eligible Impairment Types in accordance with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code which states all International Federations governing Paralympic sports are required to clearly define which impairment types may be eligible for participation in the sports that they govern, which includes Wheelchair Rugby. The classification rules are considered part of the sport rules. So, this proposal may affect the bylaws and rules.

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

To include define the eligible impairment types that may be eligible to participate in Wheelchair Rugby.

Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

State the language of the proposal:

1. Include the following: Athletes with any of the following impairment types may be eligible to participate in Wheelchair Rugby:

Impaired muscle power

Impairments in this category have in common that there is reduced force generated by the contraction of a muscle or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb, one side of the body or the lower half of the body. Examples of conditions included in this category are paraplegia and quadriplegia, muscular dystrophy, post poliomyelitis and spina bifida.

Impaired passive range of movement

The range of movement in one or more joint is reduced in a systematic way, for example due to arthrogyposis. However, hypermobility of joints, joint instability, and acute conditions causing reduced range of movement, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Limb deficiency

There is a total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. traumatic amputation), illness (e.g. bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia)

Hypertonia

Hypertonia is a condition marked by an abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch. Hypertonia may result from injury, illness, or conditions that involve damage to the central nervous system. When the condition occurs in children under the age of two, the term cerebral palsy is often used, but it also can be due to brain injury (e.g. stroke, trauma) or multiple sclerosis. *Ataxia*

Ataxia is a neurological sign and symptom that consists of a lack of co-ordination of muscle movements. When the condition occurs in children under the age of two, the term cerebral palsy is often used, but it also can be due to brain injury (e.g. stroke, trauma) or multiple sclerosis.

Athetosis

Athetosis can vary from mild to severe motor dysfunction. It is generally characterised by unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture. When the condition occurs in children under the age of two, the term cerebral palsy is often used, but it also can be due to brain injury (e.g. stroke, trauma).

The simple presence of an eligible impairment type does not mean that an individual will be eligible to participate in Wheelchair Rugby. The individual must also meet the minimum eligibility requirements as defined in the IWRF Classification Rules, and must be evaluated and given an eligible IWRF Sport Class and Status.

Ineligible Impairment Types

Athletes with the following impairment types are **not** eligible for Wheelchair Rugby, unless they also have one of the eligible impairment types:

Leg length difference

Due to congenital deficiency or trauma, bone shortening occurs in one leg.

Short stature

The standing height is reduced due to aberrant dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to Achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.

Vision impairment

Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Intellectual impairment

An intellectual impairment is characterised by a limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This impairment originates before the age of 18.

In addition to the above, athletes with impairment types that are considered non-eligible impairments by the IPC are not eligible for Wheelchair Rugby. Examples of such non-eligible impairments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pain
- Hearing impairment
- Low muscle tone
- Hypermobility of joints
- Joint instability, e.g. unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint
- Impaired muscle endurance
- Impaired motor reflex functions
- Impaired cardiovascular functions
- Impaired respiratory functions
- Impaired metabolic functions
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

Classification Process

As part of the classification process, individuals may be asked to provide evidence that they possess one of the eligible impairment types. This may include evidence of any or all of the following:

- the Eligible Impairment;
- that the Eligible Impairment is Permanent; and/or
- an Underlying Health Condition that is the cause of the Eligible Impairment

Appeals

Appeals of a decision that an individual is not eligible to participate in Wheelchair Rugby because they do not possess an eligible impairment type will only be accepted if the appeal presents evidence that the individual actually possesses one of the eligible impairment types. No appeal will be accepted on the basis that an athlete with only an ineligible impairment type should nevertheless be eligible for Wheelchair Rugby for reasons that do not relate to the actual presence of an eligible impairment type.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Transitional Provision

Any athlete who has an eligible USQRA Sport Class and Status on April 22, 2018, and who does not possess one of the six eligible impairment types, will remain eligible to participate in the sport of Wheelchair Rugby with that sport class and status.

Any such athlete will still be subject to the USQRA Classification Rules and may still be subject to appeal or ineligibility based on those rules.

This provision applies to only to competitions governed by USQRA.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

1. By implementing these rules and procedures for minimum impairment criteria, there will be consistency and standardization applied to all athletes playing wheelchair rugby in the US and internationally. In addition, the USQRA classification system will move further toward IPC Classification Code compliance.
2. The MIC was developed by the IWRF and adopted January 1, 2018 as required by the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal E - Article Submission

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal _____ **amends the constitution;**
_____ **amends the bylaws;**
_____ **changes a rule;**
_____ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:
Article I, Section 3, Subsection e

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

Each team in the USQRA must submit at least one article per season to Sports & Spokes, www.quadrugby.com and/or other magazines for publication. Articles should be four or more paragraphs long, and include worthy information that promotes our sport to others (photographs are a plus.) Copies of each article must be submitted to the Commissioner within a week of being submitted for publication to verify that team's compliance. Teams not in compliance two weeks before the beginning of postseason or two weeks after hosting a postseason event will be assessed a fine of \$100. If fines are not paid by the beginning of postseason those teams will be disqualified from postseason and will not be eligible for postseason in later years until all fines/fees have been paid.

State the language of the proposal:

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The article writing requirement rarely produces substantive articles and many teams rush to patch an article, lacking substance, to avoid financial penalties.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal F – Classification Procedures Removal

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal ☐ amends the constitution;
 ☒ amends the bylaws;
 ☐ changes a rule;
 ☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:
Article V - USQRA Classification Procedures

Check here if the proposal only adds language ☐ **;**

If current language will be removed, state it here:
Article V - USQRA Classification Procedures

State the language of the proposal:

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Classification has requested that we should remove this article

This article is not appropriately placed in our Bylaws - Just like we do not have all of the rules and regulations of the referees in the Bylaws, the classification procedures should only be located in their documents - the revised classification manual (Ver 4)

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal G – Legal Games

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal:

- ☐ amends the constitution;
- ☒ amends the bylaws;
- ☐ changes a rule;
- ☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Change Article I, Section 1. e. i.

Change Article I, Section 2. e. i.

Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

N/A

State the language of the proposal:

All National Member Teams shall host at least four registered games which all occur over a 5 or less consecutive day span prior to postseason tournaments to be eligible. This requirement shall be considered met upon the granting of a Team's bid to host a postseason tournament. Two teams, but no more, may combine their resources to meet their hosting requirements, provided that the total number of games hosted equals the sum of each team's individual hosting requirement.

For purposes of determining the eligibility of a player to participate in postseason, an official game is defined as follows: 1. A player must play on his or her officially rostered USQRA team. A legal game shall be defined as play between two officially USQRA rostered teams. The game must consist of four eight minute quarters, must be officiated by at least two certified USQRA officials, must have a scorekeeper, and a penalty box keeper. Score sheets from the game must be submitted to the Secretary within fourteen days. The games must be with at least one other officially rostered USQRA team. Teams that have guest players will not be considered as legal games for the non-compliant team(s).

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The point of the hosting requirement is to give teams playing opportunities. There are some teams that never host an actual tournament, shirking the responsibility of bearing their small part

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

of the league's burden. The Commissioner's exception still applies so this is not a hard and fast, no other option change.

This is the easiest way for teams to avoid the intent of the per/post Dec 1 rule. If a team only plays in a 2-game scrimmage with one referee, are they truly participating? Should they be eligible for post season? This rule does not exclude a team from play in any tournaments other than post season. It just sets the bar slightly higher for post season eligibility.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal H – Military Veterans

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal. Chris Hull – Chicago Bears - chris@oscarmike.org

This proposal _____ amends the constitution;
_____A_____ amends the bylaws;
_____ changes a rule;
_____B_____ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:
Section 4 – Player Residence

Check here if the proposal only adds language x ;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

State the language of the proposal:

- A. With regards to development of one all United States military injured Veteran team, suspension of the 150 mile rule.
- i. As stated in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38, the definition of ***Veteran*** means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Proof will be a DD 214 Form.
 - ii. The term ***injured Veteran*** is not limited to just service connected injuries.
 - iii. This rule does not allow for any other specialty team to be developed.
 - iv. If a player registers with this injured Veteran team, they cannot register with any other USQRA team .
 - v. All other terms and conditions of USQRA apply.

OR

- B. With regards to development of one all United States military injured Veteran team, suspension of the 150 mile rule, **for one year, with review yearly at AGM.**
- i. As stated in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38, the definition of ***Veteran*** means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Proof will be a DD 214 Form.
 - ii. The term ***injured Veteran*** is not limited to just service connected injuries.
 - iii. This rule does not allow for any other specialty team to be developed.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

- iv. If a player registers with this injured Veteran team, they cannot register with any other USQRA team .
- v. All other terms and conditions of USQRA apply.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

- This will add another USQRA team who will pay team dues, the Oscar Mike Militia.
- As a USQRA team, the Oscar Mike Militia will host regular and post season tournaments, to include bids for hosting Sectionals and Nationals 2019/2020.
- The Oscar Mike Militia strives to develop athletes from the beginner to the highest level of competitor in the USQRA league.
- Having more Veterans recruited to the league could present possible grant opportunities.
- This will present exposure for USQRA supporting veterans.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal I – Appeals Process

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal _____ **amends the constitution;**
_____ **__x__ amends the bylaws;**
_____ **changes a rule;**
_____ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:
Create Article XI, Section 1-6 - Process for Appeals

Check here if the proposal only adds language __x__;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

State the language of the proposal:

Section 1. An appeal may be lodged concerning residency protest decisions, board or commissioner decisions that may possibly deviate from the Constitution and Bylaws, previous precedents, decisions contrary to the best interests of the Association or when a player wishes to be become reinstated.

Section 2. An appeal may be presented to the Board, via a written request to the President.

Section 3. The Board will provide a written response to the appealing party within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal.

Section 4. During consideration of the appeal, the Board of Directors will be able to request additional information from the appealing party that is deemed to be a reasonable request in their investigatory efforts.

Section 5. The Board will determine the outcome of the appeal by a simple majority vote.

Section 6. The determination of an appeal by the Board cannot be appealed.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Up to this point in the history of the USQRA, an appeals process has been merely anecdotal. During recent years, this anecdotal nature of the process has led to an ambiguous understanding of the appeals process and unclear conclusions. It is vital for the organization to describe the

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

appeals process to eliminate potential variations in the appeals process and to lead to fair treatment of appeals brought forward by the membership.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal J – Player Reinstatement

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal _____ **amends the constitution;**
 x **amends the bylaws;**
 _____ **changes a rule;**
 _____ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:
Change Article III, Section 5. g.

If the residency decision is in favor of the protesting party, that player will no longer be eligible to play for that team for the duration of that season/post-season. The player will have to meet residency requirements for any team he or she will play on in the future.

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

The player will have to meet residency requirements for any team he or she will play on in the future.

State the language of the proposal:

The player will have to meet requirements of maintained permanent/primary residency as indicated by federal income taxes and/or state voter registration. The burden of proof is on the individual attempting to be reinstated to demonstrate maintained residency as previously defined.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The current language needs a clear description of how one becomes reinstated after losing eligibility to play due to a residency protest. This wording will hopefully close up loopholes in current residency rules that have been created to enforce “play where you live”.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal K – Residency Rules

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal

☐ amends the constitution;

☒ amends the bylaws;

☐ changes a rule;

☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Change Article III, Section 3. a. iv

The transferring player must take up permanent residence within 150 miles of the city, in which the team they are transferring to, is located. Further, more, the transferring player must obtain, and maintain, a valid driver's license or State ID from the state, to which they are transferring.

Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

The transferring player must take up permanent residence within 150 miles of the city, in which the team they are transferring to, is located. Further, more, the transferring player must obtain, and maintain, a valid driver's license or State ID from the state, to which they are transferring.

State the language of the proposal:

The transferring player must maintain a permanent residence, as defined as the primary residence of the player. The primary residence of the player is defined as the domicile where the player is a legally registered voter and/or files as their residence in their federal income taxes.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The current language needs a clear description of permanent residency and creates a more clear-cut method of verifying maintained residency. This wording will hopefully close up loopholes in current residency rules that have been created to enforce "play where you live".

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal L – International Classification Proposal

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Chuck Aoki, Minnesota Steelheads

This proposal

- ☐ amends the constitution;
☒ amends the bylaws;
☐ changes a rule;
☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article V, Section I, subsection B., point v.

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

I=International Class – Athlete has been seen at an international event, by 3 countries.

State the language of the proposal:

Replace point v. with “IP=International Permanent-Athletes who have a permanent IWRF classification shall have this classification supersede their USQRA classification.”

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This rule change is needed to ensure that players in the USQRA are receiving the most accurate classification possible. The classification system is intended to put players at the most accurate classification possible. The IWRF classification process is a more thorough and comprehensive process than the USQRA process. This is no fault of the USQRA classifiers, it is simply a reflection of the reality of the process. IWRF classifiers take as long as a week in classifying athletes, allowing for a far more detailed process. While not everyone can receive an IWRF classification, the point of classification is to give players their most accurate classifications possible. Players who have IWRF classifications should be using them, so that they have the most accurate classification possible.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal M – Timeouts Rule Change

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Chuck Aoki, Minnesota Steelheads

This proposal

- ☐ amends the constitution;
- ☐ amends the bylaws;
- ☒ changes a rule;
- ☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article 70, point e.

Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

State the language of the proposal: Add point e, subpoint iii:

“iii. if a bench or court timeout was called with less than a minute remaining in the quarter or overtime period, in the backcourt, prior to the inbound, the following inbound will be advanced to the front court, opposite the side of the bench.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This proposal would provide an exciting aspect to the end of quarters and overtimes that is currently missing. As a relatively small change, it could potentially add an interesting strategic element to the game without completely changing the game. This is similar to the end of game scenario in the NBA, which adds to the excitement and drama of many games.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal N – Hall of Fame – Athlete of the Year and Spirit of Achievement Award

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Brad Mikkelsen, HoF

This proposal

- ☐ amends the constitution;
☒ amends the bylaws;
☐ changes a rule;
☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VII: Committees Section 3 – Committee Descriptions - b. Hall of Fame Committee

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

vii. The Hall of Fame Committee will handle nominations for Athlete of the Year and the Spirit of Achievement Award.

State the language of the proposal:

Delete entire vii. The Board of Directors will handle nominations for the Athlete of the Year and Spirit of Achievement Award

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

HoF Committee does not have the nessessary exposure to current affairs in order to make that call.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal O – Hall of Fame Timeline

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Brad Mikkelsen, HoF

This proposal

- ☐ amends the constitution;
- ☒ amends the bylaws;
- ☐ changes a rule;
- ☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VII: Committees Section 3 – Committee Descriptions - b. Hall of Fame Committee

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

December 31

State the language of the proposal:

October 31

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

To give new inductees more time to make the proper arrangements before being presented at National Championships.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal P – HoF Committee Nomination

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.

Brad Mikkelsen, HoF

This proposal _____ amends the constitution;
 ___x___ amends the bylaws;
 ___ ___ changes a rule;
 ___ ___ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Article VII: Committees Section 3 – Committee Descriptions -b. Hall of Fame Committee

Check here if the proposal only adds language _____;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

The President appoints the Hall of Fame Chairperson, for a four-year term. The first induction coincided with the USQRA ten-year anniversary in 1998.

State the language of the proposal:

The Hall of Fame committee shall appoint a chairperson. That appointee shall have served as a Hall of Fame member for a minimum of three years prior to appointment. This process will take place once every four years beginning in 2018.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Hall of Fame should remain separate from USQRA Board and always strive for an unbiased position of autonomy . The Hall of Fame Chairperson should have minimum of three years experience. The USQRA Hall of Fame should be chaired by someone that is a standing member of the Hall of Fame, and is familiar with how its important business is conducted.

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



2018 AGM PROPOSAL

Proposal R – Axle Equipment Timeout Rule

Deadlines for submission are: **March 1 for constitutional amendments**
 March 1 for all other proposals

State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.
Scott Hogsett, Ability360 Phoenix Heat

This proposal ☐ **amends the constitution;**
 ☐ **amends the bylaws;**
 ☒ **changes a rule;**
 ☐ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

Identify the specific provision that will be changed:

Equipment timeout

Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒;

If current language will be removed, state it here:

State the language of the proposal:

My proposal is in reference to an equipment timeout. A player will no longer be able to create a clock stoppage/equipment timeout due to a popped axle that has released from from his or her's receiver.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

My reasoning is that players are intentionally playing the game with released axles in order to call false equipment timeouts. These stoppages in time allow individuals to get out of double teams and allow teammates to transition. Plus, it slows the game down with repeated false equipment timeouts.

President's Letter of Intent

April 2018

Dear Membership:

My name is Eric Ingram and I am running for the position of President in the USQRA. I was fortunate enough to be elected to this position two years ago, and would appreciate your consideration to be elected for a second term. In my first term, I worked to help modernize the way the Association operates and to make better all we do. There have been many achievements by the board in the last two years in the last two years such as acquiring a Public Relations Specialist, centralizing all of our internal documentation, improving the way we interact with members and fans, and bringing more transparency to what we do.

Even with all those accomplishments, there is still so many more things to work on, and so many more goals to achieve. Over the next two years I hope to work towards expanding the number of teams and athletes, increasing the number and type of sponsors the Association has, getting a new website, and working to continue modernizing our operations.

I have worked hard to try to improve the USQRA, and hope to continue working hard as your next President. Thank you for your consideration for this position. Please feel free to reach out to me at President@usqra.org if you have any suggestions on how myself, and the rest of the Board might be able to improve the work we do for you and the Association.

Eric Ingram
President, USQRA

First Vice-President's Letter of Intent

April 2018

Dear Membership:

I am not at nationals this year as I will be attending an academic conference. I have been around the sport of wheelchair rugby for over 15 years. However, some of you may not know me, so I would like to introduce myself.

My name is Mike Cottingham and I am a professor at the University of Houston. I coached at the University of Arizona in the early to mid 2000's. I became a fan of the game and have been a fan ever since. I have been around the game again for the last five years as we have hosted summer camps, tournaments, and nationals several years ago. You may have seen me around with my students asking you to fill out surveys. I conduct academic research on disability sport and rugby is a primary focus of my research.

I am running for second VP on a platform. If elected, I plan to meet my responsibilities on the board, but I want to set three additional goals. My first goal is to develop 2-3 new teams per year. Second, I want to provide support for teams that currently need some assistance to becoming more stable. Third, I want to find some data on who is actually participating in the league. I will discuss each of these briefly. It should be noted, I will work on these goals with the support of our University of Houston students. I take students in an Adaptive Athletics class every semester and these students often do the heavy lifting on projects.

The reality is, the league will be healthier with more teams. More teams means more people being introduced to the sport, it means more athletes in the sport, and it means more teams for yall to play. Right now there are major geographic areas where teams simply don't exist. There are areas where we could support two teams, but one team is combined. There are established veteran teams which are not looking to expand but a new team could be established in an area. More teams might also mean less travel, but more likely it would at least mean more teams at every level of the sport.

This goal will probably benefit developmental teams the most. Clearly, new teams and reconstituted teams will be starting at a lower level, and that is fine. The reality is, strong teams still benefit from developmental teams because they often recruit their strongest players. In short, this effort will have a trickle up effect.

I would propose examining the largest population points where teams do not exist, looking at areas with large rehab hospitals that do not currently have teams, and reaching out to teams in large population areas to see if a two team option would be viable. Then I will reach out to the rugby community to try to identify old rugby players, coaches, and supporters in or near those communities who might help support the team on the ground. I would determine the 2-3 most viable new projects and commit some serious time into it.

Second, there are a handful of teams that are on the margins with the league. Some could use some support to get to a more stable point. I believe that we the league can assist with this. I would like to see us support these teams in key, direct, but non-financial ways. I could for example have my students develop a sponsorship packet for the organization, flyers to recruit athletes in their communities that

can be posted on social media, facilitate moving equipment to the community so they have used chairs, and providing direct advising on how to host a tournament.

Third, I would like us to really examine the health of the league and the amount of participation. For example, there are a number of athletes rostered on teams, but how long is the average player playing for? How many players do we have playing? Are some classifications simply not getting playing time? What percentage of our players do we lose every year and how many new players are we gaining? We should know if teams are rostering 6 players that never play in games. What percentage of players are only playing home games? Having this information will then give us a model to grow. With this information we can set a goal of growing the league by a determined number of players. We can see if we need to be offering more developmental opportunities or if we need to incentivize larger teams to split into two teams.

An astute reader will quickly realize that my goals are focused on grass roots development. I love watching elite wheelchair rugby, and ill be honest, I spend a lot more time watching D1 than D2. That being said, we can't have a league predicated on just elite rugby. Developing more teams will provide the league with more resources. Furthermore, developing more teams and players will still benefit elite teams as they are the teams often recruiting and poaching players. In short, by focusing on new and developmental rugby, we will get more athletes in the game, and we will still be supporting high performance rugby as a larger pool is likely to produce more star players.

So, those would be my interests if elected. These are my goals, and I would be making a commitment to the league. If elected, I want you to know I will be accessible, and more importantly, I may reach out to you, members the rugby community for assistance. I want to have a league with many of us working to address challenges where we can. With that I ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Cottingham

Michael Klonowski – Secretary's Letter of Intent

April 2018

Dear Membership:

Over the past two years, there has been a lot to learn about the position of Secretary. There has been a steep learning curve at times, but I think that I have gotten to a point where I can actively contribute consistently in my role. I am excited about what I can finally do now, and what I can do in the future as Secretary of the USQRA.

The first goals that the board had for my role were to increase transparency for the board and increasing our communication to the league on a consistent basis. Monthly meeting minutes have been delivered each month via website and social media. The Full Court Press has also been a more consistent presence, especially during the season, with improved content.

Our social media presence has also increased significantly over the past two years with more consistent material being released for the membership and external viewers. We now also have an Instagram presence to match our Facebook and Twitter accounts. There is still room for improvement, and we have started to work with our new Public Relations expert, Lani Poblete, to improve the content of our posts and to improve methods of outreach.

An additional goal that has been apparent to the board and the membership, is the need for improved infrastructure for the organization. There has been a need to improve the accessibility to information for the league both internal to the board and externally. To deal with the external accessibility, we have attempted to work within the confines of our current website's restrictions. Consistently, postings for important documents on the website and have been placed in the Player's Corner.

Internally, the Board has converted over to G-Suite to improve our internal storage methods and email system. We now, (for free, due to our non-profit status) use G-Suite to have a universal site of storage that all board members can access documents in one place, instead of having multiple copies of similar documents. I also continue to work on organizing the documents in a fashion that will be helpful to the current and future board. We now have up-to-date email addresses that reflect the organization's name and there are new email addresses can be shared with other vital members of the USQRA. We have also started work on a mockup of a new website, with collaboration from the President, Commissioner and Public Relations Specialist.

Goals for the future, include continuing improving upon current communication methods. I will continue to work on improving accessibility to information. I will also continue to work on building the infrastructure of the league, including working on a new website, which is beyond the initial planning stages. I would be honored to serve the league for an additional two-year term. Thank you!

Michael Klonowski
Secretary, USQRA
secretary@usqra.org