

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: **October 6th, 2022**

Next Planned Meeting: November 3rd, 2022

Present:

Michael Klonowski – Executive Director
Noah Currier – President
Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Dr. Michael Cottingham – 1st Vice President
Daniel Curtis – 2nd Vice President
Kerin Banfield – Representative for Referees
Dan Caldwell – Secretary
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Jen Allred – Representative: Lakeshore Foundation
Sid Christain - Treasurer

****In an effort to keep the meeting to an hour, Noah asked that everyone keep your items to bullets unless it is something that requires discussion****

Classifiers (Amy):

- Classifiers who have registered are having trouble taking the SafeSport class
 - Mike K. said that when someone completes the membership information, it should link them through to the SafeSport site to complete the course.
 - If they have already completed the course, it should provide them the opportunity to upload their certificate
 - Amy has provided one exception to Anne Hart. She will not be able to complete by the October 31st deadline, so Amy has asked her to complete by Thanksgiving.
- Asked for clarification – Nationals play will not begin until Friday
- Amy has submitted an updated budget, with an additional 3rd panel at Nationals due to 3 divisions.
 - Dan asked a question regarding the number of classifiers: there have been 3 classifiers traditionally, and now there are 4 (3 classifiers and a head classifier)
 - Amy explained that this was done in order to provide some flexibility and back up when needed. When there are only 3 total, if one cancels for any reason, you have to cancel the panel. It also allows that additional person to be available for anything that may be needed without compromising the classification schedule at a tournament.

- Marianne said that referees have done the same thing
- We are 3 years behind with classification, so Amy would like to double up at tournaments that are willing to host them in order to help catch up
- Dan asked for clarification regarding lodging and transportation for classifiers: tournament hosts are responsible for both
- Does not think panel will happen at KC, but they are hoping Philly
- There is an athlete the board needs to make a decision on – regarding transitioning athlete
 - Registered as a male – all legal forms are still in the female name
 - Need to determine how we handle that and make sure we are in compliance
 - He is a legitimate player, Billy reached out to Amy and they are working together
 - Mike C., Paralympic says if a transition is Female to Male, they can be considered that immediately, if it is the other way, they have to document.
 - Recommendation is to follow those guidelines.
- Retirement information is completed.
- Will continue to work on pulling registration information as it becomes available and completing the master list
- Staffed the PVA clinic and are hopeful to continue that partnership moving forward

Referees (Marianne):

- Outlined plan for clinics
 - Classroom portion will be through Zoom
 - There will be a guest lecture
 - Hopeful that this change will allow us to get more officials
- Asked for permission to use the USWRA logo on new shirts. They are modeled after soccer referee shirts. They are asking for the league to cover the cost of the first 60 patches (\$135)
 - Mike C. makes a motion to allow them to use the logo and purchase the patch with USWRA funds
 - Mike K. seconded
- Asked everyone to express their appreciation to the referees when they see them.
- Asked for the Nationals schedule layout (with the addition of more teams) so they can start laying that out

Executive Director (Mike K.):

- Just got information from the golf course he is hoping to use to host a golf tournament
 - Very nice course
 - Thinks we could charge \$250 per player
 - Looking for sponsors to cover some of the hole costs
 - Took a long time to get in contact, but feels like some traction is finally taking hold
 - Looking to host first week in June
- Thanks to Mike C. and his students for their assistance in getting some grant applications in.
 - Next targets for application are Brown Foundation, OMF, Commonwealth Foundation and Dana & Christopher Reeve Foundation
- Hoping to get something more in the way of unrestricted funds which would be helpful in funding for everything we want to do, including the extension of the contract for this position
- Clinics:
 - Have we been working on getting clinics set up? Athlete, coaches, referees?
 - Marianne is hoping to get the online portion for referees started next week. The online portion will take place over 4 weeks, then after completion they will attend their local tournament.
 - Mike K. asked if there was a way to advertise that there are clinics coming up to try to reach anyone we may not have
 - Marianne said it usually happens organically
 - Mike K said we can put on the website, social media, articles, etc.
 - Amy recommended at professional meetings as well
 - Dan asked if there was a member of the board who is supposed to be responsible for helping get clinics scheduled? Mike C. questioned that as well. Mike C. said it could be under him or Daniel. He thinks one could take on setting up clinics and one could help with building committees. Daniel agreed and asked how these clinics usually came to be. Now that we have funding, perhaps we have an application process for people who would be interested in hosting? He is happy to create that application. We have this money, and we have a little flexibility in how we spend it.
 - Amy said Classification already has an application process in place. It is set up in their bylaws how that is to be run. Daniel clarified that he was talking about a team or facility that might want to **host** a clinic to get funds
 - Daniel asked if summertime seems more practical. Mike K said if we were talking about classification and referees there has to be

practical hands on experience so needs to be in season, but athletes and coaches can happen anytime.

- Mike K. said that historically when there is a “developmental” clinic it is done with a pipeline in line with the Paralympic team.
 - Mike C. would like to see clinics that help spark interest in teams
 - Mike K. said there should be standardization in regards to these clinics
 - Bob said having a pool of instructors who are able to lead these clinics with a pathway to elite play
 - Pulling coaches and players, or former coaches and players, from Team USA will help strengthen that
 - Daniel and Mike C. will take the lead on this and get a process in place.
 - Mike K. said this is a huge opportunity to collaborate with Team USA. He said having conversations with Joe and Jen would be helpful with that.
 - Dan said in relation to player clinics, it would be great to see them in places where there is interest but not as much structure to assist with getting a team in a market where there isn’t one now. He said perhaps we could talk to facilities and rehab centers in those markets to help with funding those as well.
 - Amy said also to reach out to PVA as they are hoping to host a clinic like they just hosted this year and expand it to a full classification panel and clinic.
- Mike C. asked if there was a timeline on when we would hear back from the grants we have applied for. Mike K. said that currently, there is no movement on any . Many are smaller and don’t have a “set” timeline. He did say that spring of next year is the latest
 - Looking at a run/walk/push 10K that we could do during the season that would be done virtually and can be done by those throughout the league. Mike is working with Noah on a medal, shirt and a swag bag for that. He thinks pushing that out in December to get some traction on some fundraising would be great. There is an app that would help manage a large portion of this. Getting people to buy into this will be key. Explaining the “why” will be important. It will take some planning before anything is put out.
 - SafeSport – currently coaches have to pay for their membership.
 - Bob asked about the question regarding St. Louis and their tournament and Mike K. said he has that on his list to talk about, but no decision was made.

USAWR (Jen):

- Hosted a development camp a few weeks ago. She thinks there was some confusion about the intent of that camp. Their intention was to have players come and train and then players would be chosen to participate in an event in November. It was not naming a team, such as Team Force from the past, that would be chosen and play throughout the season.
- Team USA is traveling beginning tomorrow to Denmark in order to play in the WWR World Championships.

Commissioner (Bob):

- 50 player transfers – mostly resolved at this point
- 14 teams have an international player
- Email sent to solicit members for the competition committee – deadline to submit name for consideration is Friday, October 14th. Once all names are in, Bob will work with Steve Kenny to select the 3 at-large committee members.
- Philly will host one semi-final and 2 teams from the west are interested in hosting the second but nobody has committed
- Will submit a draft schedule for Nationals in the week or so
- Guest players and teams not registered – need to have a policy/strategy in place that we can communicate with the league. In the past, discussion has taken place that guest players should be paying into the insurance. It is important that these players and teams should be covered by the insurance.
 - Dan didn't know if we could charge a "per tournament" fee for non-registered teams. OR because they are non-sanctioned tournaments, does it matter?
 - At a minimum we want to get waivers and Code of Conduct signed by these players
 - Mike C said we definitely have ways we can incentivize teams to get covered.
 - Sid said there was once a decision made to charge an amount of \$35 for US players and \$65 for International players to be paid to cover insurance.
 - Bob thinks asking a team to pay a per player fee in addition to a tournament fee is a lot
 - Asking them to sign the waiver and code of conduct SHOULD be a minimum
 - Amy asked about players that come in late in the season – most people don't worry about that once the season is almost over. Bob said players can register all year long and if they do not register, they are **not** covered under our insurance. ANY player who is playing, regardless of the timeline, should register with the league.

- Dan said he would like to move forward in the direction of sanctioning tournaments, which will help ensure that we are doing everything we can do to make sure teams are doing what they should be.
 - Dan and Bob will work together at drafting something regarding this.
- Nationals discussion:
 - Mike C. asked if there was a deadline to submit bids. There is not. Bob has been focused on securing semifinals locations before putting significant effort into soliciting Nationals bids.
 - Dan does not like a 3 year bid, and would love to see it go back to year to year
 - Mike C. said having a multi year bid allows the host to fix the bugs the second year. Bob agreed that it should be at least a 2 year bid.
 - Noah said that some of the sponsors that Oscar Mike has been working with also helped provide funding for the Executive Director position. He believes that Oscar Mike will also put in a bid for Nationals again, although he doesn't believe it should technically be called a bid, due to the fund OMF has donated. He thinks those donations should be able to be used as leverage in that process.
 - Oscar Mike had 3 huge meetings today, one being with Google. The conversations get big. One of the people there who is interested in supporting is one of the highest executives there. Another was with Amazon. There are some great conversations happening about tech and things that they can do to help with livestreaming.
 - Noah would like to see us able to livestream everything.
 - Mike C said there is a lot to discuss and he would like to have that conversation later.
 - Bob said he will get back to WWAR and let them know there are other people interested in hosting and there is more conversation to be had.

President (Noah):

- Shared the store report for USWRA merchandise, but couldn't remember the agreement regarding the proceeds. Would like to have a conversation about those and how they should be split. Oscar Mike invested in all the inventory, and would like to recoup their initial output, and then do a 50/50 split after cost of goods. We are about \$2,800 from that point. This would then allow Oscar Mike to reprint anything that needs to be without additional approval of the board.

- Should we introduce any additional items? Currently the majority of the items are “logo” items. Would we want to do something more fun?
- External support – Every time there are conversations with supporters of Oscar Mike, he has been pulling Mike K into the conversation so he can build those relationships

VP1 (Mike C.):

- Had a safety meeting about a week ago
 - There was some confusion about when the meeting was supposed to be, so Mike C. will get the notes from the meeting and update once those are received.
- Bylaws Committee – fine reaching out to the same old folks. Also asked Bob if he would send him anyone who applied for Competition Committee and isn't chosen as they might be a good fit.
 - Do we want to send out something to membership?
 - Marianne said Todd Jackson will volunteer for referees
 - Amy will find someone from classifiers
 - Dan – traditionally that committee has met after proposals have been submitted for the AGM. The job is not to “set the rules” but to help those who submit ideas write their proposals correctly and support that.
 - Mike C. said when Mike K. put forth this idea, he thinks the idea was to meet 4 times a year and see what things have come up
 - Now that Dan has heard that, he does think that would work
 - Dan & Bob have spoken and said Suzy is willing to work through and take a first stab at it.
 - Dan & Mike C. will work together to create an email to solicit new members

VP2 (Daniel):

- Nielsen grant is good to go
- Daniel will create applications for teams to apply for funding
- Has shared a document with Mike K. around previous sponsors

Treasurer (Sid):

- Distributed financial report prior to meeting. Registration and ED expenses are the only outlying activity that is new.

- Daniel asked if we could run a report that shows which checks have been written and which ones have been received. Sid said yes, and it is not just checks, but also ACH. He will run a line item report for next month.

Secretary (Dan):

- Registration
 - Teams: 36 registered, 32 paid (still waiting for some offline)
 - 397 athletes
 - 169 staff
 - 27 refs
 - 24 classifiers
 - 3 leadership
 - 34 head coaches registered so 2 missing – will work to figure out who those are in order to ensure their SafeSport is done
 - Amy asked for Dan to let her know if anyone else registers as soon as they register.
 - Feels that we should open registration earlier next year. Opening in August and making it a 2 month period. It would alleviate some of the time crunch.
- Communication
 - There have been constant requests to solicit from the membership (sent emails 8 consecutive days in a row)
 - Need to try to spread that information out so we don't hammer them. If we communicate too much, we run the risk of losing them and they will then not get the important things.
 - Noah asked if we had a regular news feature on the website that we can send out an email and it would tie back to that.
 - The off-season doesn't need to be "off." We can try to plan better and have a system in place for the beginning of the season next year.
- Low Point Team
 - What do we want to do to support that to make sure it succeeds?
 - Would like to send out a communication next month to gauge interest. Does he have the board's blessing? Bob said he thinks that would be a great idea.
 - Noah likes this approach, and thinks it is great to see the level of interest.
 - Dan would like to be able to connect players who are interested with teams who are interested.