

USWRA Leadership Meeting: May 7, 2025, 2025

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 2, 2025

Present:

Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Amy Bohn – Classification, Policy & Procedure
Gwen Debly – Secretary
Meagan Rowe – USAWR
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Jacob Couch – Treasurer
Steve Kearley – President
Keith Newerla – VP1

Absent:

Mary Kiolbasa – Head of Classification
Kerin Banfield – Referee
Daniel Curtis – VP2
Christopher Newman – Associate Head Classifier

Motion to approve April minutes:

- Steve motioned to approve, Keith seconded

USAWR

- Started with training camp and then went to Japan
- The trip was smooth, had 7 athletes classed. All came out the same as they went in.
- Switching focus to Zonals. Holding a camp with Low Point next month. They are hoping to choose the team for Zonals at the end of that camp. Will not announce the team until the roster is submitted.
- Meagan has noted the possible dates for semi-finals so they can keep those in mind.
- NO update on player who is seeking reclassification. Have followed up with Jacque but have not gotten a reply.
 - Question for classification folks: is there a reason we would need to share the US classification to get seen internationally?
 - Amy said that if Meagan would like to add her to the conversation, she is happy to provide some information.
 - Meagan's confusion is that she can't seem to get clarification on how to get the player seen by an international panel.
 - The player did reach out to Amy when she was at Nationals and asked if she would be able to provide the information needed and she told him that she has been working with Meagan behind the scenes and that she was happy to assist however she could.

Classification (Amy Bohn):

- A player called before Nationals and was asking about the manual and things that are posted online.
 - She asked if we might want to put something on the website that if anyone had questions, please see the 2019 AGM as that is where the updated information is.
- The team who went to do sport class assignments at Nationals said everything went really well.
- Mary has reached out and they have a lawyer who is going to look at their bylaws to make sure everything looks good and that all their documents are in order.
- They will need to see next season who needs to be pulled to be looked at for the new amputee rules.
- They currently have a new Gmail account where all classification information can be sent and it will all be kept confidential and protected.
- Next season meeting planning – any thoughts on when that might be?
- They are looking at turning their budget around and were asking about flights and possible costs. They were \$350 before, and then last year was \$400 and now they are thinking it may need to be bumped up to \$475. Marianne said the average this year for officials for Nationals was \$475.
 - Steve said that listening to this, the budget may need to be increased.

Referees (Marianne Duda):

- Nationals went really well! The officials were very appreciative of the board's availability whenever they needed anything.

Commissioner:

- Announced Nationals location – Lakeshore for the next 2 years
- Sent out an email for bids for post-season
 - 3 people have mentioned being interested and he is planning to reach out to them next week
 - Marianne said that the last date offered seemed a little too close. Bob said yes, they will try to avoid that, but thought late February was too early.
- There will be a new team in South Florida. Looking for a practice facility and will need insurance. Asked Jacob to speak to Sarah about how that would work.

President:

- LPT registration has opened
- The Houston tournament will be very no-frills, so they would appreciate having local officials if possible. Anything to help minimize the costs. Keith said the same for his tournament!
- Mary from classification reached out. They would like to have a meeting with the Board. Steve would like to loop Amy in for that, too.
- There is an AGM proposal that if you have a US class and class out internationally you should still be able to play in the USWRA. He wants to avoid any flip flopping as we adopt the international classification rules. He thinks someone should speak up about that this year.
 - Amy will not be available.

- Meagan said she thinks it gets to be a compliance issue with WWR. If it IS something that we are going to vote in, we need to make sure that the higher organizations are in support.
 - Amy said it is not WWR, it is IPC and USOPC that need to be in agreement.
 - Meagan would like to bring Jen in on that since she is familiar with the things that happened in earlier years had us in hot water.
 - Steve said he thinks that there needs to be a meeting sooner rather than later.
 - Amy's question to Bob is, is there anything in there that talks of sanctioned VS non-sanctioned?
 - Bob said ideally everything would be sanctioned, but that would need to be written up before it can be implemented.
 - Meagan asked Steve if a good next step would be to connect next week while he is at Lakeshore next week? Looping in Bob, Amy, and whomever may be needed. Bob thought that was a great start and is happy to jump on.
- Has mini-camps following each of the tournaments this summer.
- Still looking for a mini-camp/camp host for August/September. Has not spoken to the Nationals host yet to see if that is an option like last year.
- Please have AGM reports in to Gwen by May 15th.

VP2:

- Looking to send out the proposals this week
- Check out the new storefront if you have not!

VP1:

- Chris Hull is interested in position
- Make sure to check out the auction
- Working on a Move United grant. There is specific information he needs from veteran players.
 - Bob said there were 49 veterans on last year's registration.
- Had a raffle at Nationals. It was a success for the time and money that was invested.
- Liked what the host did with the other basket

Secretary:

- Reports for AGM are currently due May 15th, but if you have a problem meeting that, reach out. Please send to Gwen!