



United States Quad Rugby Association

Agenda for Annual General Meeting April 21, 2016

WELCOME and Introductory Remarks and Matters
Team Roll Call
Approval of 2015 Minutes

REPORTS

Board of Directors

President – Bob Lujano
1st Vice President – Kevin Crombie
2nd Vice President – Emily Shryock
Secretary – Carolyn Odom
Treasurer – Debrah Whitehurst
Commissioner – Dave Mengyan

RACs

Atlantic North – Bill Bouffard
Atlantic South – Dan Caldwell
Heartland North – Amber Marcy
Heartland South – Gary Pate
Mountain East – Chuck French
Mountain West – Ernie Chun
Pacific North – Ed Suhr
Pacific South – Andy Cohn

Referees

Kerin Banfield – USQRRRA Chairman

Classifiers

Phyllis Palma – Classification Head

Postseason

2016 Postseason Review
Regionals
Sectionals
Nationals

Committees

Wheelchair/Equipment
Hall of Fame
Competition
Rules

Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



United States Quad Rugby Association

Web
Fundraising
Constitution and Bylaws
Team USA

PROPOSALS

Working Lunch

ELECTIONS

President
1st Vice President
Secretary



President's Report

Bob Lujano

As I conclude my first term as President of the USQRA, it has been my honor to be part of this board and proudly serve the over 500 athletes, coach, and volunteers that make up this league. When I was elected I stated that we needed to change the operation of generating money for our league. Typically, non-profits have benefitted from the kindness of others. However, in today's 501(c)3 world, it is through grants that sustain organizations and associations. This would be and is now the direction of our league.

Over the past year, the USQRA has been the recipient of the Craig H Neilsen Foundation's Quality of Life Grant, which has paved the way for us to have operational stability. A big Thanks to Emily Carolyn, Dave of our board that worked very hard to make this happen. It all started with Andy Zimmer, a special thanks to Andy.

Also, we received the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grant, which made it possible to bring representatives to the AGM, who either have never been or did not have the opportunity to attend for various reasons. Once again a big thank you to Emily, Carolyn and Dave for their efforts in this process.

After last year's Nationals, we knew that we collectively as a board had to make a better effort to reach out to membership. It was very much a priority! We started by holding a board meeting in San Diego, California in August 2015. I believe it may have the first time that a full board meeting was held face-to-face outside of the AGM. It was here that we drew up a strategic plan to address current and future issues in regards to our league. Through the help of a professional facilitator, we were able to create our own wish list for the league and prioritize what we feel needs to be addressed. Reaching out to membership was number one. What we did in immediate response was to place all our notes online in order to keep everyone who subscribes to social media aware of what we discuss. This may be a small gesture but it shows that we do work very hard to address action items and meet deadlines. Satisfying membership is always on our mind. A big thank you goes out to Carolyn for her efforts in helping us meet in San Diego at the CAF headquarters. It would be great if all future USQRA boards could meet face-to-face outside the AGM.

At the end of day, being on this board is hard work. It is a volunteer position. It is a position in which everyone here interrupts family and work time to continue to move our league forward.



There were times we had to appoint new board members because others could not continue in this capacity. A big thank you to Emily, Kevin and Carolyn, for stepping in when we had openings. I also want to thank Debrah for her continuous support of our league as our treasurer going on for seems like forever. I also want to thank Dave Mengyan. Being commissioner is basically another job that can go 40-plus hours. Dave took it all in stride. He will continue as well to be our leader. I appreciate all his efforts.

Recently, the league was asked to provide a list of athletes that would go to Russia to help facilitate people to people connections and to promote inclusion and tolerance through sports. I think rugby would be excellent in regards to make people to people connections. We have Eric Chase, Scott Hogsett, Gabe Nyrkkanen, Emily Shyrock, Jeff and Carolyn Odom, along with Coach Mitch Watkins and myself to be part of this delegation. It is our honor to represent the league in this endeavor.

Finally, the league has made some impressive steps over the last two years, but we've only just begun. With the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio and watching Team USA on TV, there will be more opportunities for our league to have financial opportunities to address all the concerns of our membership. Thank you and May God continue to bless the USQRA.

Bob Lujano,
President USQRA

1st Vice President's Report

Kevin Crombie

Not Submitted.

2nd Vice President's Report

Emily Shryock

It's been a busy and challenging 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 2015-2016 season.

Fundraising and Sponsorship Updates:

2015-2016 Sponsors

- The USQRA welcomed Blax Hand Rims as a new regular season sponsor .



- Long time postseason sponsors Fusion Medical, Melrose USA, Eagle Sports Chairs and Coloplast returned as USQRA postseason sponsors. ABC Medical also joined the USQRA as a postseason sponsor.

Thanks to all our 2015-2016 sponsors! Your support is critical to the success of the USQRA!

Grants

- **Craig H. Neilsen Quality of Life Grant (\$65,000)**
Funds from the \$65,000 Craig H. Neilson Foundation Quality of Life grant were used for the following purposes:
 - \$40,000 were distributed to four teams (Boise Bombers, Seattle Slam, South Florida Rattlers, Northeast Passage)
 - \$25,000 was used for Strategic Planning Retreat with the Board of Directors, 2016 Postseason expenses and upcoming 2016 Developmental clinic expenses
- **Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grant (\$5,000)**
The USQRA was awarded a \$5,000 Quality of Life Grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (CDRF) to provide funding for Team Representatives to attend and participate in the Annual General Meeting.
 - Ten teams applied and all ten teams received funding.

Evaluation

Sponsors and potential funders want to know the impact of their investments and the USQRA is working on ways to more clearly assess and communicate the impact of wheelchair rugby on its athletes, fans and volunteers. Tournament evaluations were developed and sent to all tournament directors in order to better understand the organization and impact of local tournaments. The USQRA is also partnering with Dr. Michael Cottingham and Hannah Richard of the University of Houston to conduct studies related to different aspects of the experience and impact of wheelchair rugby and its athletes. These results will help the USQRA demonstrate its value and impact to future funders and to better inform the USQRA about the needs, experiences and impact of the sport and its athletes.

Moving Forward

There is an urgent need to expand the USQRA sponsorship base and bring on additional regular and postseason sponsors. The USQRA is looking into restructuring sponsorship opportunities over the summer and input from members is welcome. If you would like to join the Fundraising or Marketing Committee please contact Emily Shryock, 2nd Vice President, at vp2usqra@gmail.com.



Challenges

The USQRA faces several challenges when it comes to fundraising. Individual teams and athletes are focused on fundraising for their own teams leaving fundraising to fall solely on the Board of Directors, specifically the 2nd Vice President. It takes money to get money and more time and resources need to be dedicated to fundraising, marketing and sponsorship in order to maintain funding levels that will allow the USQRA to grow and develop. It is not realistic to think a part-time volunteer can continue to bring in the funding necessary to support and grow the USQRA. It is frustrating to see the USQRA held back from growing and expanding because of limited financial resources.

As a relatively small national association for a relatively unknown sport the USQRA struggles to make an impression on potential national sponsors. It is difficult to make a connection with large companies to even get the chance to make a pitch and discuss the benefits of becoming a sponsor. Smaller regional companies are often not interested in sponsoring the USQRA since only a portion of its membership would be part of their potential customer base.

The USQRA has had recent success in applying for and receiving Quality of Life Grants. These grants have provided the USQRA with funding for very specific uses and projects. While the USQRA is excited about the opportunity to provide these opportunities (scholarships for Team Reps, funding for teams, etc.), these funds are earmarked for specific projects and cannot be used for ongoing and administrative needs, such as a new website. The USQRA will continue to apply for relevant grants but cannot depend solely on grants as a source of funding.

The USQRA is currently lacking a professional sponsorship packet to appear attractive and competitive to potential sponsors. A priority for the coming year is to put together a sponsorship package to introduce the sport of wheelchair rugby and explain the impact it has for athletes, fans and volunteers. Pictures and videos are key pieces of an attractive sponsorship package but the USQRA lacks resources to put this together. Members who can assist in this area are encouraged to contact the 2nd Vice President at vp2usqra@gmail.com.

Secretary's Report Carolyn Odom

Thank you to everyone here at the AGM. It's been an honor to serve on this Board over the past few years with such dedicated and devoted people who volunteer so much of their time to this sport.

I would like to echo Emily's report – our biggest challenges this year involved finding postseason hosts and fundraising. We continue to struggle late in the season to secure postseason



locations, and while we are deeply grateful to those teams who step up again and again we need all of our teams to take on more responsibility. Our Strategic Retreat last summer was invaluable, and the Strategic Plan which resulted from that meeting will provide a framework for years to come.

Thank you to Dr. Cottingham and his incredible team at the University of Houston for hosting our National Championships, thank you to my fellow Board members and thank you to all of our referees, classifiers and volunteers who have made this season possible. And a warm welcome to Michael Klonowski, who has years of passion and experience to bring to the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Debrah Whitehurst

Thank you all for participating in this year's AGMs. I regret that I won't be able to participate in this year's AGM. I apologize for my absence, I am about to go on maternity leave and couldn't take time off of work to be here.

It has been a pleasure working with the Board for the 3rd season. I look forward to taking on one last season before stepping down next year.

I have attached the financials for this season, up to this point. I will have a final version posted to the website once all of the postseason income and expenses come in. We, unfortunately, are losing sponsors and it has made this year's postseason even more difficult than in past years.

Membership Dues:

We had 39 full member teams and 2 developmental teams that paid their registration fees for the 2015- 2016 seasons. There were 6 teams that each paid a \$500.00 international player fee. These international player fees are being ear-marked for future rugby development here in the United States.

As expected, the insurance surcharge in our registration fees was increased by \$79.00 per team this season. The increase was necessary due to an increase in cost of team insurance over the years. The USQRA had been covering the difference; however, it just wasn't possible. The 2016/2017 season will be the same as it was (\$129.00).



I would like to recommend to the Board to increase the Classification fee portion of the membership dues for next season by \$50.00. We are only collecting \$225.00 for classification cost per team which was a total of \$9,225.00 for the classifier budget. However, they really need about \$15,000-\$18,000 per year to cover their expenses and get to more tournaments which would benefit all teams in the league. However, if the increase does not happen, we would have to cut their budget to about \$12,000 from the \$15,000 we gave them this season, which will make it harder for them to see everyone they need to with the increase of travel expenses.

Penalties and Fines and Admin Fees:

This past season the USQRA collected \$800 in late registration fees and \$200.00 for extensions for transfer. The USQRA has a very strict policy about late fees. Dues are to be postmarked by 10/31. As a reminder to the membership, we do not accept credit cards and there is a zero tolerance policy on the late fees.

Fundraising, Sponsorship, and Grants:

This year the Board has struggled to keep sponsorships and support. I would recommend to the Board that we start approaching sponsors starting in September to hopefully fill the gaps. The BOD is always looking for people to sit on the Finance and Fundraising Committee, but can't seem to get any volunteers to do it.

Financial Reports:

Attached is the Profit and Loss for this season compared to Last Season as well as the Balance Sheet. However, since all expenses and income for postseason have not been posted, this is not a complete set of financials. Once all the postseason expenses and income have been accounted for the financials will be posted on the website for members to view.

Budget:

The 2016/17 Proposed Budget is attached.

Commissioner's Report

Dave Mengyan

Not submitted



Atlantic North RAC Report

Bill Bouffard

The 2015/2016 season had the Atlantic North Region with 8 active teams: NY Warriors, Magee Eagles, NRH Capitol Punishers, WNY Wreckers, Maryland Mayhem, Global Abilities Team and the Connecticut Jammers. Six of these eligible teams withdrew from postseason. The Magee Eagles and NRH Capitol Punishers proceeded on to Sectionals in Jacksonville. NRH Capitol Punishers placed 3rd and Magee placed 5th.

- Tournaments/clinics held:
 - Can-Am Rugby (July 31st – Aug 2nd) International/Bill Bouffard (non-sanctioned)
 - WNY Wreckers 1st Annual Wrecking Ball Tournament (Oct 3rd – 4th)
 - Kennedy Krieger Institute Rugby Scrimmage (Aug 15) – Global Abilities
 - Baltimore Introductory Quad Rugby Clinic (Sept 6th) – Maryland Mayhem
 - 9th Annual Northeast Passage Wildcats Rugby Rampage (Oct 18th-19th) – NEP Wildcats
 - 2nd Annual Maryland Crab Pot Tournament (Oct 31st – Nov 1st) – Maryland Mayhem
 - Beast of the East (Nov 20th – 22nd)– Philly - Magee Eagles.
 - Connecticut Classic 2015 (Dec 5th & 6th) - CT Jammers
 - Kennedy Krieger Invitational (Jan 17th -18th) - Global Abilities
 - Capitol Clash 2016 (Jan 30th – 31st) – NRH Capitol Punishers
- Referees
 - Bob Lopez - NY
 - Chandler Bullard – NEP
 - Josh Kearns
 - Several others (see Bob Lopez)
- Classifiers
 - Cindy Ellis- NEP
 - Several other new ones this season (see Cindy Ellis)
- Postseason Host
 - Due to the lack of teams going into postseason, there was no need for a Regional. There was a huge problem this season in the Atlantic with finding a Sectionals host. Long story short, a few teams dropped out and Dan Caldwell and Brooks Adaptive stepped up a hosted a 6 team Sectional in place of their Regional. For the 2016/2017 season the NEP Wildcats are planning to host Sectionals.
- Clinics
 - Kennedy Krieger Institute Rugby Scrimmage (Aug 15) – Global Abilities
 - Baltimore Introductory Quad Rugby Clinic (Sept 6th) – Maryland Mayhem



Items of interest:

There were no major issues in the Region this season other than a lack of postseason hosts. Lots of tournaments and clinics and our two newest team are developing nicely and the CT Jammers CAME out with a bench the size of the New England Patriots. Under the guidance of veteran rugger Wil Kornegy this team is going to develop nicely. It's great to see a long-time team redevelop.

The Northeast Passage Wildcats were recipients of a \$10,000 Neilsen Grant. Northeast Passage was chosen in part for their dedication to disabled sports, commitment to wheelchair rugby and participation in growing the USQRA. The team was very grateful to be chosen for this grant!

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 is entering its 43rd year and wheelchair rugby is becoming a bigger part of it. The tournament still lacks a dedicated wheelchair rugby host but I manage the team's portion of this tournament. We are hoping to do club teams this year but ultimately want this to be a fun competitive tournament for all. Rumors have it that we might be playing at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid this year. Details still yet to be worked out.

Fundraising continues to be a very big issue for teams. Travel is expensive and where each team in the Region is hosting a tournament, costs add up fast. There is a strong drive to promote our sport by getting us into colleges and communities to do exhibitions and fundraisers. We are seeing more of this all the time. Hopefully this will translate into \$\$\$ for our sport.

That's it in nutshell for the Atlantic North!

Bill Bouffard

Atlantic North RAC

Atlantic South RAC Report

Dan Caldwell

Teams

- Brooks



- Raleigh
- Carolina
- Shepherd
- South Florida
- Tampa

Tournaments held

- Fall Brawl - 7 teams in Jacksonville, FL (co-hosted by Shepherd)
- Raleigh Rumble - 7 teams in Raleigh, NC
- Southern Slam - 12 teams in Jacksonville, FL
- Knock and Roll - 8 teams in Lake Worth, FL
- Coloplast International - 8 teams in Tampa, FL
- Atlantic Sectionals - 6 teams in Jacksonville, FL (co-hosted by Carolina)
- Individual player events held in the off season
- Summer Slam in Jacksonville

Heartland North RAC Report

Amber Marcy

Not Submitted

Heartland South RAC Report

Gary Pate

The Heartland South, consisting of two teams, had a banner year. Tournaments were hosted and the teams played well.

St.Louis' blessing was also its curse.....already missing Kerri Morgan from its roster, it fought valiantly in Sectionals without Chuck Melton and Eric Newby.....elite athletes selected for the USA Paris squad. For the first time in memory, it did not advance to Nationals.

On the other hand, Lakeshore's curse was its blessing-----an injured Clay Brackett was not ready for Paris so he played at Sectionals....leading Lakeshore to the Heartland championship and a high seed for Nationals. (Irony since the Demolition went winless at its own Derby due to Brackett's absence). Lakeshore hosted a classification panel at the Derby.

The Heartland South needs reconfiguring or dismantling.....two teams do NOT make a section.

Mountain East RAC Report

Chuck French



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Not Submitted

Mountain West RAC Report

Ernie Chun

This season only 5 teams participated in mountain sectionals with Tucson opting out of nationals. No new refs or classifiers added this year. This year's active teams were only 3 Phoenix, University of Arizona and Tucson.

There has been concern on having a Sectionals when there are only 4 teams participating?

This has been a hard season on all teams due to the unusual circumstances. Let's just try to finish this season.

Thank you,
Ernie

Pacific North RAC Report

Ed Suhr

Not Submitted

Pacific South RAC Report

Andy Cohn

Both the San Diego Sharp and Northridge Knights completed successful seasons, welcomed several new players, held quality tournaments and qualified for Nationals.

Sharp continued to host the league's longest existing tournament, Best of the West, and has several team members attending national team tryouts. Follow Sharp on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SharpEdgeRugby>. The Knights had an import player from Canada and one of its strongest teams in years.

USQRRR Referee Report

Kerin Banfield

This has been another busy and successful year for the officials in the USQRRR.

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Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



1. **Clinics held during the past year** – The past year we conducted three referee clinics, in Grand Rapids, St. Louis and California. There were a total of 9 participants, and 5 certified by passing the written and court examinations
2. **Member Development** – We focused our development on our mid-level officials and hosted two advanced clinics (Lakeshore and Phoenix). The purpose is to expose mid-level officials to higher intensity games and situations while providing detailed feedback on their performance. These advanced clinics were very successful and we look forward to hosting more in the upcoming seasons. We are also providing detailed feedback and evaluations for officials who are present at Nationals 2016.
3. **USQRRRA officials at international events:**
 - America Zonal Championships: Josh Kearns (official), Bob Lopez (TD) Toronto, Canada
 - European Zonal Championships Kerin Banfield (official), Mitch Carr (official), Darren Roberts (head official) Pajulahti, Finland
 - Asia-Oceanic Zonal Championships - Kerin Banfield (official) Japan
 - Test Event – Darren Roberts (official) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
4. USQRRRA members officiated over 1150 games at 41 events (through Sectionals) during this season.
5. Our total membership stands at 43, with 40 “active” (fully certified w/ game activity in 2015-2016 season) referees:
 - 11 – “A”, 12 – “B”, 20 – “C”
 - Membership distribution by Section
 - Atlantic – 13
 - Heartland – 13
 - Mountain – 9
 - Pacific – 8
6. The USQRRRA Executive Board has not seen or reviewed any proposals or resolutions to be considered at this year’s AGM.

I am up for nomination as Chairperson of the USQRRRA and hope to be able to work with everyone building a stronger connection between USQRA and USQRRRA.

Sincerely,



Kerin Banfield
Chairperson, USQRA

USQRA Classifier Report

Phyllis Palma

This year has been a busy one for classification as well as a transition year for the USQRA Head of Classification from Paul Sawicki to Phyllis Palma. Both Paul Sawicki and Anne Hart have been tremendous mentors in the process and their guidance is much appreciated.

1. While the budget was reduced by a substantial amount, we were still able to attend the following eight tournaments. USQRA classifiers trained and certified six new classifiers and one classifier advanced in certification level, Amy Bohn to a Level 3. Even with the classification budget restrictions, classifiers were able to attend eight tournaments (including the two classification panels at Nationals) and a larger number of athletes were seen in the 2015-2016 season compared to the last several seasons. There was no classification available at the Atlantic Sectionals due to a delay of announcement of the tournament date and location and consequently, not enough classifiers were available. Please see table below for tournaments and classification data for this season.
To ensure a full and thorough athlete classification process, discussion has been taking place on several suggestions for managing classification at tournaments. These suggestions include the need to set a limit to the number of athletes who can undergo classification at each tournament, for example, setting the classification schedule to allow a longer time period to thoroughly complete all components of the physical assessment, particularly, for athletes with more complex impairments and for those who require trunk testing. In addition, athletes scheduled for classification may need to be prioritized, for example, new and review athletes having priority

Tournament	New Players	3 & 6 year Re-Checks	Not Eligible	Protests	Replacement Cards	Basic Workshop (# Trainees)	Classifier Advancement
Metal & Muscle	12	3	2	0	9	2	Bohn-3
Best of the West	9	2	0	0	1	0	
Beast of the East	8	10	1	2	8	0	



Demolition Derby	6	7	0	1(NA*)	0	1	
Pacific Sectionals	2	6	0	0	1	2	
Heartland Sectionals	8	4	1	0	1	1	
Mountain Sectionals							
Nationals (no Data to report)							
Totals	45	32	4	3	20	6	

*NA=protest lodged but not accepted

- The following 19 active classifiers were involved in classification services and/or administration this season and participated in either website development, database administration or served as panel members. See the table below for the distribution of classifiers with regards to their levels.

Classifier Numbers

Total	Active	International
55	19	11

Level 4's: 13	Level 3's: 5	Level 2's: 6	Level 1's: 31	Trainees: 32*
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*have completed basic workshop but not practical training

- The following were USQRA Classifiers participated at international events 2015-2016:

USA Classifiers at IWRF Tournaments

ParaPanAm Games	Hart	Palm a
Oceania Zonal	Sawicki	Hart
Nation's Cup	Milner	
Paralympic Games	Lanouette	Hart*



Canada Cup	Hart	
Metro Cup	Palma	

*reserve

4. The classification committee submitted two proposals, which were put back due to late submission as a result of a breakdown in communication on proposal submission timelines. These proposals will be re-submitted at the 2017 AGM.
5. At the beginning of the 2015 season the Classification page on the USQRA website was updated to include the USQRA classification Master list, which is a comprehensive list of all current and former players and their sport classes. In addition, a task force was formed to oversee the updating of the USQRA Classification Manual, so it will include the IWRF trunk and eligibility rules previously adopted by the USQRA in 2013. There will also be some additional modifications made to better align the USQRA classification rules with the IWRF classification rules to be consistent with the IWRF Classification definitions and procedures and adjusted for USQRA Policies, which was voted on at the 2008 AGM yet had not been clarified in the USQRA manual as there had been no update in the six years since this was adopted.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Palma, PT, DPT
USQRA Head of Classification

Postseason Review

2016 Atlantic Sectionals
Tournament Director – Dan Caldwell
Jacksonville, FL
Date of Sectional: February 14-16, 2014

???

2016 Pacific Sectionals



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**Tournament Director – Jeremy Hannaford
Tacoma, WA**

Date of Sectional: March 18-20, 2016

1. Seattle Slam
2. Sharp Edge
3. Northridge Knights
4. NorCal Quake
5. Portland Pounders

**2016 Mountain Sectionals
Tournament Director – Ability360
Mesa, AZ**

Date of Sectional: April 1-3, 2016

1. Tucson Renegades
2. Texas Stampede
3. TIRR Texans
4. Phoenix Heat
5. University of Arizona

**2016 Heartland Sectionals
Tournament Director – Christy VanHaver
Grand Rapids, MI**

Date of Sectional: March 18-20, 2016

1. Lakeshore Demolition
2. Great Lakes Clippers
3. Minnesota Northstars
4. Grand Rapids Thunder
5. ??????

Wheelchair Specs/Equipment Committee

James Gumbert, Troy McGuirk

Not Submitted

Hall of Fame Committee



Brad Mikkelsen

It's been a sad year for the USQRA Hall of Fame, as our newest member, Dan McCauley, was taken by cancer on March 8th. The HoF committee considered two nominees for 2016.

Kelli Kaliszewski and Dan McCauley, both received the votes needed to be members. Dan McCauley received a unanimous vote.

Kelli Kaliszewski and Rick Draney (2015 inductee) will be presented to the USQRA for HoF induction honors at this years Nationals banquet.

The HoF has developed a working committee to help with nominations, bio development and web site maintenance. Members are Chris Cook, Eddie Crouch, Cliff Chun, Bob Lopez, Steve Pate, Angelo Mongiovi, and Brad Mikkelsen

The HoF currently has funding left in the amount of \$3,288. We thank Vesco Metal Craft for their generous support of the USQRA Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Mikkelsen
Hall of Fame Chairman

Competition Committee

Rick Mason, James Gumbert, RACs

Not Submitted

Rules Committee

???

Not Submitted

Web Committee

???

Not Submitted



United States Quad Rugby Association

Fundraising Committee

???

Not Submitted

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

???

Not Submitted

Team USA

Mandy Goff

The 2015 season, while productive and successful in many ways, also had its harsh realities. We missed the opportunity to automatically qualify for the Paralympic Games at the 2014 World Championships, so the next opportunity for qualification would come in August of 2015 in Toronto at the Parapan American Games, also the debut for the sport of wheelchair rugby. Moving into the 2015 season, we adjusted the dates of tryouts from December to the spring, to allow athletes adequate time to recover before coming into tryouts. Fifteen athletes were selected to the squad, which included two rookies who came through the development ranks. The Selection Committee for 2015 was Mandy Goff, High Performance Manager; James Gumbert, Head Coach; Sue Tucker, Assistant Coach; Dave Ceruti, FORCE Assistant Coach; and Andy Cohn, Athlete Rep. USAWR held five training camps; four training camps at Lakeshore Foundation and one at Ability 360 (formerly SpoFit) in Phoenix. During one of the camps, we hosted Japan for a six game friendly, which would give us some good competition leading into our first event of the year, the Parapan Am Games. We would also attend the World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge in London, held in conjunction with the IRB World Cup.

The Parapan Games took the place of what would have been our American Zone Championships this year. Knowing one of the two spots for qualification had already been claimed by host country Brazil, there was a lot on the line. We came out strong beating Canada in our first match up, then when we faced them again in the finals, USAWR came up short leaving us in unfamiliar territory. While we still maintained our number three world ranking, for the first time since our sport was included in the Paralympic Games we hadn't automatically qualified and would be forced to attend a Rio Qualification Tournament held in the spring. As of 2014, the IWRF adopted a new qualification system and rather than the last two spots being filled by world rankings, six teams would have to compete to get to Rio. Bids to host the tournament went out in August and USAWR did place a bid to host in Houston, but the placement ended up in Paris.

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Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time



Unfortunately, the tournament would be during the same time as the USQRA National Tournament. In October of 2015, USAWR competed at the WWRC and had many strong matches including two against the number one ranked team, Australia. We then faced a familiar foe in Canada and again came up short, but were able to move up the world rankings to number two. At that moment, we again realized that while being ranked number two in the world, we still hadn't qualified for Rio. This just fueled the fire to get things done in Paris in April.

USAWR staff saw a new face on the bench in Andy Cohn, former USA athlete and Paralympic medalist. He brings a great knowledge of the game to our team and is passionate about seeing us land not only on the podium, but back at the top. Additionally, USAWR was finally able to bring on a full-time administrator to the team. As of October of 2015, Mandy Goff would maintain the role as the High Performance Manager dedicated full-time to USAWR. Lakeshore Foundation continues to serve as our managing organization under contract again with the United States Olympic Committee as our High Performance Managing Organization (HPMO). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Lakeshore, USAWR, and USA Rugby (USAR) was extended for two years in November of 2014, and will be revisited after the Rio Paralympic Games in November of 2016. USAR continues to be a great partner, including us at FanFest booths during domestic competition, social media, and continued sponsor opportunities. In 2015 with the help of USAR, we were able to land our biggest sponsorship to date through a contract with Liberty Mutual. The two-year contract aided our program in funds to help offset those costs not covered through our annual USOC allocation, and allows a huge opportunity to raise awareness on a bigger platform.

Lead up to 2016

When the FORCE team dissolved in late 2014, USAWR had to come up with a solution to solve the athlete pipeline issue. We have applied for a grant and are hopeful that those funds can be used to host a development camp in the fall and continue one each season in the future. Additionally, grant funds through USOC and Disabled Sports USA (DSUSA) will be used at our August camp for a coaching clinic. More info will be released on both of these topics in the coming months.

Lakeshore, doing business with USAWR, has signed a licensing agreement with the World Rugby Shop. In the near future, USAWR will have items up on their website for purchase. This gives fans and family members the opportunity to purchase gear, which hasn't been available in the past. World Rugby Shop is the place where rugby fans around the world go to find their favorite team's gear, so this is huge for us. On top of the exposure, USAWR will also generate royalties through every item purchased.

As you all know, the Rio Games will be broadcast live for the first time ever on NBC. In preparation for the broadcast, you may see promos of Chuck Aoki on NBC and a short series



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about the team, filmed at Lakeshore during our December camp. The broadcast of the Games will be a perfect opportunity for us to capitalize on fans, new athletes, and viewership. We must feed on the momentum of all those who will be watching across the United States and be prepared to answer the call when it comes.

Go USA!!



PROPOSALS

A.1) Removal of International Players

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 3, Paragraph C State the language of the proposal: Players who play for an IWRG recognized national team besides the U.S. will not be allowed to legally roster on a USQRA team. Any team that rosters one of these players will be ineligible for postseason play.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The USQRA is a league meant to encourage the growth of U.S. players. Any “import” player who plays in the USQRA takes away a playing position for a U.S. player. The USQRA should not be developing players who are from other countries besides the U.S.

A.2) Raise the International Player Fee

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 3, Paragraph C State the language of the proposal: There will be a “team fee” of \$1,000.00 per international player for every USQRA team that rosters an international player.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Changes the fee for an international player to \$1,000.00. Teams willing to commit to bring in an international player should not have an issue paying an extra \$500. These



funds will be used by the USQRA board to improve the quality of the league. Having international players makes our league stronger, and using these funds they provide in turn makes the USQRA better, which benefits everyone.

B.1) Domestic Imports

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article III, Section 1

State the language of the proposal:

Each team shall be allowed to roster one “domestic import” player, provided the team does not also have an international player. A domestic import is defined as a USQRA player who is a member of a different team per the existing residency rules. No player will be allowed to qualify as a domestic import if leaving their current team would cause the team to disband. The cost of importing a domestic player will be \$1000, payable to the USQRA.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Allows strong teams to get stronger and promising players to develop rapidly, without requiring the player to relocate.

B.2) Domestic Free Agents

Submitted by: Eric Ingram, TIRR

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 3, adds Part f Article III, adds Section 7



State the language of the proposal:

Article I MEMBERSHIP

Section 3 Dues

f) There will be a "team fee" of \$400.00 per Domestic Free Agent player for every USQRA team that rosters a Domestic Free Agent player.

Article III PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 7 Domestic Free Agents

A Domestic Free Agent (DFA) is a player rostered to a team, that when the DFA fee is paid by that team, is exempt from the Transfer requirements of Article III, Section 3 and Residency requirements of Article III, Section 4, and

- a) A DFA is declared by a team which must notify the Commissioner and Secretary's office in writing of the proposed DFA no later than October 1.
- b) The team requesting a DFA will have to pay the fee declared in Article I, Section 3, Part f by October 15 of that season.
- c) The DFA will be exempt from transfer and residency requirements for the season (and post season) of which the fee is paid only, and will have to re-submit and re-pay the fee for each season the athlete plays with a team outside of residency.
- d) If the fee goes unpaid in subsequent seasons, the athlete (previously designated as a DFA in prior season) must meet the residency and/or transfer requirements and no longer maintains the DFA designation.
- e) The DFA must not be determined to be an international player as per definitions in Article III, Section 6.
- f) Each member team may only have one (1) DFA or one (1) international player, and may not have both.
- g) The DFA fee must be less than that of the international player fee, but must not be less than half of the international player fee.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:



The purpose of this proposed bylaw is to create a way to legally get around what some teams are already doing. We all know there are some teams who roster people who can provide paperwork to 'prove' residency that everyone knows doesn't actually meet those requirements. This proposal goes about creating that bypass and benefits the league two-fold:

- It will go a long way to decreasing animosity, increasing honesty and providing benefits to teams needing more players
- It can also help develop some players who may not receive the skill boost on their current team.
- It may help teams fill legal lineups to compete at a higher level than they can now.
- Encourages the development of domestic players as opposed to bringing in and developing an increased number of international players.
- It provides another stream of income to the ailing USQRA bank account.

C) A Player Without a Team

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Adds to the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article III, Section 2. Adding a letter "f"

State the language of the proposal:

If there is no team or a player is banned from playing with the team(s) within 150 miles of his permanent address, that player will be required to roster with one of the 2 next closest teams.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This closes the loophole that allows players to play with any team if they do not have a local team.



D) Host Team Nationals Qualification

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

The specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Sections 4 and 9

State the language of the proposal:

If a Nationals host has been selected, they may note at the time of selection that they represent or are in partnership with a local team (which must be housed within 100 miles of the proposed nationals site). If that team qualifies for post season, then the structure for nationals will remain unmodified. If that team attempts to qualify through traditional post-season mechanisms and fails, the host site team will be included in a play in game with the 8th seeded team which qualifies for nationals. Whichever team wins will be included as the 8th team for Division II.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Having a local team compete in nationals, even in a play in game, creates an opportunity for more fans to see the sport and for more local media outlets to take interest. Furthermore, few sites of late have been willing to step up and host nationals. Incentivizing these sites with a second chance to qualify may motivate more programs to bid for nationals and will allow the selection committee more options to choose from.

E) Postseason Registration Fee

Submitted By: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed: Adds language

State the language of the proposal:

Allow postseason hosts to charge a \$250 fee to all teams attending postseason tournaments.



State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Every year we have a difficult time finding postseason hosts this would help potential postseason hosts absorb some of the costs associated with hosting a tournament.

F) Bench Timeouts

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

State the language of the proposal:

The coach can call bench timeouts verbally even if the coach is playing on the court.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

We have volunteers doing tables at every tournament in the league. Most volunteers have learned the rules 10 minutes before the games start. This eliminates the need for coaches to ask the table before the official can call a bench timeout.

G) Registration Due Dates

Submitted By: Constitution and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 3(b)

Membership dues and team rosters are to be submitted after September 1 of each year. Dues and rosters will be considered delinquent "after" September 30, and a fine of \$100.00 will be levied. This fine will be waived for new teams. Any team whose registration fees are not paid by November 1 will not be eligible for postseason. Failure to pay membership dues by December 15 shall result in the team's removal from membership in the USQRA.

State the language of the proposal:

Membership dues and team rosters are to be submitted after September 1 of each year.



Dues and rosters will be considered delinquent "if not post marked by" September 30, and a fine of \$100.00 will be levied. This fine will be waived for new teams. Any team whose registration fees "and/or fines" are not "post marked" by November 1 will not be eligible for postseason. Failure to pay membership dues by December 15 shall result in the team's removal from membership in the USQRA.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Gives teams more clarity of when their team's dues and fines must be postmarked by.

H) Roster Cap Removal

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article II, Section 1

State the language of the proposal:

At the beginning of each season each member team shall present to the Commissioner a roster of team players. The roster shall contain a minimum of four active players. Rosters may contain more than 15 players, but only 15 post season eligible players will be allowed to play post season.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Removes the capped amount of players (15) from verbiage. Currently the USQRA only allows 15 players per team. However, removing that cap allows teams with larger rosters to roster all team members (competitive and recreational). This will allow all members of the team coverage under the league's insurance. This will also keep those teams' games legal when the "recreational" players play in local games and tournaments.

I) Staff Positions

Submitted by: Eric Ingram, TIRR

This proposal: Amends the Constitution



Specific provision that will be changed:

State the language of the proposal: Section 11 Staff Positions

Article VI, adds Section 11

The Executive Committee may appoint and elect staff members to serve in roles to directly benefit the USQRA as a whole, fulfilling specific duties and requirements not detailed in the Constitution and/or Bylaws, or to duties the Executive Committee seems fit, and

a) The staff positions are 1.

b) The staff position appointee may be proposed by any member of the Executive Committee and must be confirmed by simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

c) The staff position appointments should last for one (1) calendar year from the date of confirmation and must be renewed each year following by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

d) The staff position appointee should meet necessary basic requirements of staff position as agreed upon and declared by the President and First Vice President.

e) The staff members can be removed by 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee providing evidence is shown for the reason of removal.

f) New staff positions must be declared and follow the typical constitutional amendment procedure and shall be approved with a simple majority of the voting membership.

g) The Executive Committee shall establish compensation structures and compensations (if any) for each individual staff position.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

It is no secret that the positions established by the constitutions and bylaws do not adequately fill all of the needs of this organization.

This proposal seeks to help the USQRA in many areas. It will give the Executive Committee (EC) the power to make positions to help better the organization, with the approval of the teams' votes. It would be used to make the USQRA run more streamlined, more effectively, and better operate as a [nonprofit] business. It may also bring more



legitimacy to our league.

This proposal will go a long way to ensure that the USQRA will still be in existence 25 years from now.

J) Establish Fundraising Position

Submitted by: Eric Ingram, TIRR

This proposal: Amends the Constitution

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, hypothetical Section 11, Part A adds Area 1 (Pending approval of Staff Member proposal)

State the language of the proposal:

1. Fundraiser

- The Fundraiser shall be appointed to seek funds for the USQRA.
- The Fundraiser shall keep adequate paperwork documenting processes and keep a paper trail detailing all fundraising activities.
- The Fundraiser may serve as an official 'internship' position.
- The Fundraiser may opt to not receive a commission if they so choose.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

It is no secret that the USQRA needs more money to function properly.

The fundraiser position will be established to raise money for the USQRA by applying to grants, attracting new sponsors, attracting donations or by any other legal means.

As an example, a typical payment structure for a professional fundraiser is

- 20% commission for the first time an organization or individual has donated/contributed



to the USQRA.

- 15% commission if the organization or individual has donated to the USQRA in the last two (2) years and it was attributed to that particular fundraiser.
- 5% commission if the fundraiser acquires funding from sources that have previously donated before (not initially attributed to that particular fundraiser).

In this example, the fundraiser would get a 5%-20% commission on whatever money they bring in. While it may sound like we're taking 5%-20% of the money away from the USQRA, we are actually gaining 80%-95% of the money brought in by the fundraiser that we would have not gotten in the first place. These particular numbers are standard for the fundraising industry and will make for a competitive and enticing position to interested parties.

This is an organization that needs more money and needs to function more like a business. This proposal will go a long way to ensure that the USQRA will still be in existence 25 years from now.

K) Establish PR Specialist

Submitted by: Eric Ingram, TIRR

This proposal: Amends the Constitution

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, hypothetical Section 11, Part A adds Area 1 (Pending approval of Staff Member proposal)

State the language of the proposal:

1. Public Relations Specialist will,
 - i. Have the sole focus of maintain the growth and public awareness of the USQRA and the sport,
 - ii. Maintain the public-facing front of the organization with the goal of enriching the organization's position within the public eye.
 - iii. Create marketing and promotional materials, both print and electronic,



- iv. Copyedit, proofread, and revise communications, Develop marketing communications campaigns,
- v. Conduct extensive media outreach.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The public image of every organization is important. Having someone who specializes in this field will help legitimize the USQRA and get its name out to the public more frequently. We can't expect the Executive Committee members to take up this task while they already have so much on their plates. This takes that burden off of them and gives it to someone who can effectively do the job. At this time the position will be unpaid and can be treated as an internship, hopefully it will one day be a full time, paid position.

L) Definition of International Player

Submitted by: Nick Long, Grand Rapids

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article III Section 6

Language to be changed:

An international player/coach shall be defined as:

b) Any player/coach that is currently or has ever played on an international "national" team, or **BYLAWS and INTERPRETATIONS**

State the language of the proposal:

b) Any player/coach that is currently or has played on an international "national" team within the last 2 years, or

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This addition is necessary in order to avoid penalizing teams with players who no longer



play internationally or with a National Team. This also prevents exclusion of players who are in transition to permanent residency in the United States and are no longer residents in the another country and wish to play rugby solely in the United States. Including into the rule a period of time for which players have not played with an International National Team will help to prevent players and teams from finding loop holes in the rules while still allowing the sport within the USA to grow. Having a definition in writing to ensure that all international players are legal while not excluding players who no longer live in their home country nor play for their National Team.

M) Committee Participation

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article I MEMBERSHIP

State the language of the proposal:

Add the following to Section 1

(h) Each team shall appoint at least one representative to serve on a committee. The appointee shall be actively involved in the committee he/she is serving.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Filling the committee positions has been a challenge in the past when just soliciting for volunteers. Making it a requirement will ensure each position is filled and the committee is functioning.

N) 100% AGM Participation

Submitted by: ?

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article I MEMBERSHIP



State the language of the proposal: Section 1

(g) Each team must participate in the AGM (Annual General Meeting) or is subject to a fine up to \$200.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

To make it mandatory teams participate in the AGM and development of the league. Nothing can be accomplished without the entire membership's participation.

O) Require Nationals Participants at AGM

Submitted by: Stephen Kenny, Brooks

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 1

State the language of the proposal:

h) All National Member Teams competing at the National Tournament must send a representative to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Teams who do not comply will forfeit their first game of the tournament. The Commissioner may waive this requirement if an unexpected circumstance prevents attendance

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Membership comes with the responsibility of taking an active role in all association business. Many proposals and elections held at the AGM require discussions and some can only be passed as "friendly amendments" if there are physically enough representatives to vote. Every competing team should be able to find one person on their team who can make the AGM. The Commissioner can grant excusals if needed.

P) 100% AGM voting

Submitted by: Stephen Kenny, Brooks

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws



Specific provision that will be changed:

Article I, Section 1, adds a new Part “g”

State the language of the proposal:

g) All National Member Teams must submit votes for all elections and amendments being held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Teams who do not comply will be assessed a \$100.00 fine.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Membership comes with the responsibility of taking an active role in all association business. There is no hardship imposed by requiring teams to vote because it can be done by attending the meeting, assigning someone as a proxy, or by filling out a ballot.

Q) Allow present members to amend bylaws

Submitted by: ?

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article X AMENDMENTS

State the language of the proposal:

These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present and voting.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

To make the requirement more performance based to allow for alternative methods of voting during the AGM if not attended in person.

R) Regional Alignment

Submitted by: Gary Pate, Lakeshore

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:



Adds language

State the language of the proposal:

No later than 1 October of each year, the commissioner shall designate the Regions and team members of each, taking due regard of the geographical location of each team, the number of teams in each region, the need to mathematically balance the composition of the regions, and such other factors as may be relevant to creating a balanced and competitive league. Any team dissatisfied with its regional assignment may, by 15 October, appeal the Commissioner's decision to the board as a whole. In case of recusals by Board members from hearing the appeal, the President may appoint individuals to assist in the appeal so that at least 5 people consider the request.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

Regions are unbalanced geographically; Regions no longer reflect current memberships.

S) 40 → 30 Second Rule

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Changes a Rule

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article 85 40 Second Violation

State the language of the proposal: article 85 30 second violation

A team that has possession of the ball has 30 seconds to score a goal. This time shall be measured by the 30 second clock. (Article 53). Failure to score before the expiration of time on the 30 second clock is a violation.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This would remove some of the downtime during the game. Players of the game understand stalling however spectators are often confused by the stalling of the offense to run down the score clock/shot clock. This would make our game even more exciting from a spectator standpoint.



T) Remove Meter Rule

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Removes a rule

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article 99. One-meter foul

No player is permitted to enter the area within a one-meter radius from the point on the sideline or end line where a throw-in is taking place. This one-meter radius is in effect from the time the referee blows his whistle to indicate that the ball is live until the ball is released by the in-bounder.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

This will allow for more space for the offense to receive the ball and less space for the defense to defend the in-bounder. This will also create more defensive strategies in a game that is often considered an offensive game.

U) Remove Contact Before the Whistle Rule

Submitted by: Rules and Bylaws Committee

This proposal: Changes a Rule

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article 92 in Section 11 Contact Before the Whistle foul: Delete this article from the rulebook

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The purpose of this proposal would be to remove some ambiguity from the rules. We have come to expect some contact prior to the whistle and often I hear referees telling players be careful with your contact. They are stating this prior to the whistle being blown and yet they are not giving a penalty or warning. There still would be rules on allowable contact that would be in place. A couple of examples would be spinning or excessive force resulting in a flagrant foul.



V) EC Information Merger

Submitted by: Eric Ingram, TIRR

This proposal: Amends the Constitution

Specific provision that will be changed:

Article VI, Section 1, Part E - More of a merger of language as opposed to any removal

State the language of the proposal:

The description of Executive Committee positions located in the "USQRA Job Description" file should be merged into the Executive Committee "Duties of Officers" area of the constitution, located at Article VI, Section 1, Part e.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

There shouldn't be two separate documents detailing the descriptions of the Executive Committee (EC) positions. The EC descriptions in the Constitution are incomplete and the document referencing the description and duties of those positions is not an official governing document. The constitution should absorb the descriptions of the EC positions in the "USQRA Job Description" file as to not create uncertainty or confusion and to increase clarity.

W) Classification Card Priority

Submitted by: Steve Kenny, Brooks

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

State the language of the proposal:

Article III PLAYER ELIGIBILITY Section 1 Player Classification

Article III, Section 1, remove Part C

"c) All international players rostered on a member team must have a USQRA or IWRF classification card. All International Players with a previous international classification that was issued at a Level A or Level B international tournament will play with their



International Classification card.”

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The reason this part of the Player Classification Section should be removed is that all players including international ones should be playing under the same classification process. It’s impossible to have all the players classified via the IWRG process, but we can have international players classified using the USQRA process. There are varying opinions amongst players regarding differences between the USQRA and IWRG classification processes, so in order to establish a level playing field in relation to classifications we need to remove the International Classification card exception. Removing this exception would also allow international player’s classifications to be protested just like everyone else.

X) Residence Challenge

Submitted by: Eric Ingram, TIRR

This proposal: Amends the Bylaws

Specific provision that will be changed:

State the language of the proposal:

Section 5 Player Residency Protest Article III, adds a new Section 5

- a) Any team or player may protest an individual player’s residency any time before the start of post season.
- b) Completed residency protest forms (available on the USQRA website and from the Commissioner) along with a \$50 check made payable to the USQRA shall be sent to the Commissioner.
- c) The Executive Committee shall assemble the residency protest panel which will include the Commissioner, the Second Vice President and the Secretary.
- d) The residency protest panel will assess the residency status of the athlete with evidence that is reasonably ascertainable and by examining the information provided by the protesting party (who shall remain anonymous).
- e) If the residency decision is in favor of the protesting party, the Executive Committee



will refund the fee to the protesting party. If the residency decision is in favor of the protested player, the fee will be forwarded to the USQRA Treasurer.

f) The protest panel shall review the protest and submit a determination within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the protest was submitted.

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

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

There is a gaping loophole in our bylaws that allows new players to compete for any team in the country with no checks on their actual residency. There are new athletes competing this very season that do not live in the state of the team which they play for (even though there are teams within 150 miles of their respective homes). This takes players away from their local teams and creates an unfair advantage to some teams and an unfair disadvantage to others. Adding a specified protest procedure for challenging players' residency can help clear up confusion and ambiguities. This proposal looks to close that loophole and stop these abuses. This proposal also provides an additional source of income to the USQRA.

Y) Spinning Foul

Submitted by: Gabe Nyrkkanen, Tucson Renegades

This proposal: Changes a rule

Specific provision that will be changed:

Rules, Sec 11, Art 98: Spinning foul Check here if the proposal only adds language

The current language describing a spinning foul shall be removed from the common fouls section and replaced in the technical foul section with added language. Article 98 as follows shall be removed:

Article 98. Spinning foul A player is not permitted to make contact with an opposing player's wheelchair at any point behind either axle of the rear wheels such that the wheelchair is made to rotate in the horizontal or vertical plane in a way that places the opposing player's safety at risk.



After a player makes legal contact in front of the axle of the rear wheel of an opposing player's wheelchair, the continuing motion of the wheelchairs may cause the point of contact to move behind the axle, resulting in a spin. If the initial contact was legal and the contact was unbroken from that point until the spin occurred, the player will not be charged with a foul.

State the language of the proposal:

A player is not permitted to make contact with an opposing player's wheelchair at any point behind either axle of the rear wheels such that the wheelchair is made to rotate in the horizontal or vertical plane in a way that places the opposing player's safety at risk.

A player who commits a Spinning foul shall be charged with one technical foul in addition to a common foul. The penalties are served consecutively, beginning with the common foul. If the

sanction for the common foul is a loss of possession or a penalty goal, the player will begin serving the one-minute penalty for the first technical foul immediately.

After a player makes legal contact in front of the axle of the rear wheel of an opposing player's wheelchair, the continuing motion of the wheelchairs may cause the point of contact to move behind the axle, resulting in a spin. If the initial contact was legal and the contact was unbroken from that point until the spin occurred, the player will not be charged with a foul.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

One of the most dangerous plays during the course of our sport is a spinning penalty. Currently, there is very little deterrent for a player to avoid causing a spin. It is very common to see a player spin and offensive player as a goal is about to be scored and only a penalty goal being the sanction imposed on a team. Essentially, the defense has gotten away with a dangerous play with no serious sanction. Issuing a common foul as a result of a dangerous spin does not significantly or equitably penalize a team or player for committing such an act. In the interest of safety and protecting our players, a more severe sanction for a spinning call is warranted. This proposal adds the sanction of a technical foul to be served by the individual committing the spin in addition to the common foul already issued.

Z) 40 Second Clock Stoppage



Submitted by: Gabe Nyrkkanen, Tucson Renegades

This proposal: Changes a rule

Specific provision that will be changed:

Rules, Sec 7, Art 53: 40 sec clock operations

Language to be removed:

“The game is stopped because of an action connected with the team not in possession of the ball.”

“The forty second clock shall be stopped and reset to fifteen (15) seconds when a team in possession of a live ball requests, and is awarded a timeout, and time remaining on the forty second clock is less than 15 seconds.”

State the language of the proposal:

The 40 second clock shall be stopped and reset to fifteen (15) seconds when time remaining on the 40 second clock is less than 15 seconds, or not reset to 40 if more than 15 seconds remain when: - a team in possession of a live ball requests, and is awarded a timeout.

- play is stopped due to a fallen defensive player. - play is stopped due to an equipment timeout granted by the referee to a defensive player. - the game is stopped because of any other action connected with the team not in possession of the ball that does not include a foul or violation. - the referee blows his whistle inadvertently. - the referee blows his whistle to stop play due to circumstances not related to normal play of the game on the court including, but not limited to, external influences on the game.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The purpose of this rule proposal change is to limit situations that penalize the defense for reasons that are not actually penalties, fouls or violations. Specific situations that have led to this proposal include referees blowing inadvertent whistles as the 40 second clock is almost expired, or stopping play because a ball rolls on the court, but then reset to 40 at the expense of the defense. Also, defensive situations that include fallen players or equipment timeouts should not be considered in the same light as other violations that result in reset of the 40 second clock. Especially since a fallen defensive player or equipment time-out are often related to a strong defensive effort.



a) 15 Second Clock Reset

Submitted by: Gabe Nyrkkanen, Tucson Renegades
This proposal: Changes a rule

Specific provision that will be changed:

Rules, Sec 7, Art 53: 40 sec clock operations

Language to be amended:

All references to the shot clock resetting to 15 seconds, shall be changed to 10 seconds.

State the reason the proposal should be passed:

The purpose of this proposal is to add additional pressure to the offense to score after a stoppage late in the 40 second clock in which the defense made a strong effort to prevent the offensive team from scoring.

President – Bob Lujano
Incumbent, unopposed

1st Vice President – Kevin Crombie
Incumbent, unopposed

Secretary – Michael Klonowski

I would appreciate being considered for placement on the ballot for this year's elections. I have been involved with Wheelchair Rugby over the past 10 years, and by running for Executive Board Secretary, I hope to become more involved with the USQRA, to facilitate its continued development and to help guide the direction of the organization's future.

I became involved with Wheelchair Rugby, while studying Physical Therapy, at Ohio University (OU), in Athens, Ohio. During my time at OU, I became involved with the Ohio Buckeye Blitz Wheelchair Rugby Team. Along with a few of my fellow students, we created a pay-to-play fundraising event. This event raised money for the team, while exposing the entire OU community to Wheelchair Rugby. We handed this event off to the classes that have followed us, and it will now be celebrating its 10-year anniversary. After graduating OU, I began work at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), as a Physical Therapist. Immediately, I worked to



establish myself at RIC, and, then, I began to volunteer with the RIC Chicago Bears Wheelchair Rugby Team. In 2012, I became the Head Coach for the Bears. During the last four seasons, as Head Coach, I have worked to create an organizational structure for the support staff for the team (equipment, player preparation, practices/gameplay/strategy). I have also worked to create an off-season training program, organized annual USQRA Clinics and created an 8-10 team annual home tournament - all of which our team has lacked, in the past. As we continue to grow our program, in Chicago, I want to also help promote the sport of Wheelchair Rugby, at a higher level, specifically, within the Executive Board of the USQRA.

Over the past several years, it has become apparent, that the sport of Wheelchair Rugby is at a crossroads, and that strong leadership will be needed to help guide the sport towards a successful future. There has been significant turnover in the Executive Board, over the past several years. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2015 was regarded as unsuccessful, due to failure to quorum. The evolution of the game, as well as its athletes, has changed Wheelchair Rugby, domestically and internationally. I believe, that without a consistently strong, well-organized and focused Executive Board, the sport of Wheelchair Rugby will falter within the United States. In response to these challenges, that have appeared over the past several years, it is necessary to re-assess and analyze the values and structure of the USQRA. We need to change, to adapt and to build an improved organization, for the future of the sport in the United States.

I believe, that I can help promote a stronger and an improved USQRA, as Secretary on the Executive Board. I will help provide organization and focus to our efforts. I will help re-establish team and player faith in the USQRA by improving consistent and visible forms of communication between the Executive Board and Teams/Players, facilitating improvements with the USQRA Website, and improving communication about upcoming events and ways for individuals to become involved with USQRA organizational efforts. We need to promote more Player Clinics, improve outreach, to market ourselves better and to build the USQRA into a beacon for the sport, domestically and internationally. Within the challenges of the last several years, we have been given an opportunity to look at our previous efforts, to step back and see that improvements are most necessary. As the potential future Secretary of the Executive Board of the USQRA, I am excited about this opportunity to help guide Wheelchair Rugby towards a promising future.

Sincerely,

Michael Klonowski, PT, DPT, PCS
Head Coach - RIC Chicago Bears



United States Quad Rugby Association