

## **USWRA Leadership Meeting: October 7, 2024**

**Next Planned Meeting: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **Present:**

Bob Lopez – Commissioner  
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification  
Sarah Leonard – Treasurer  
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees  
Steve Kearley – President  
Mary Kiolbasa – Classifier  
Jen Allred – USAWR  
Daniel Curtis – VP2  
Gwen Debly - Secretary

### **Absent:**

Kerin Banfield – Referee  
Keith Newerla – VP1

### **Motion to accept minutes from 9/3/24:**

Steve Kearley motioned to accept, Daniel seconded

### **Secretary (Gwen Debly):**

- Sent team rosters to each team rep and coach on 9/29
  - That did result in several players registering after this was sent out
  - It did point out a few strange things that showed up in SportsEngine that will need to be looked at
- Akron DID register
- There are 34 teams registered for the season
  - Bob clarified that there are only 33 as Stampede registered twice
- Website is slowly being updated – has reached out to Angelique Hopkins to assist with some design
- High Fives are now BORP High Fives – want to be sure that we include that when we post anything in relation to them
- Got an email from Jeffrey Burroughs (helps coach Philly) and saw the list of awards from this past weekend's tournament and he would like to see who the list of players who transferred this year
  - Bob said in the past we have included the list of transfers when we send out a Full Court Press. There are still some waiting to be approved, but once they are we should sent those out.
- Marianne asked for a list of current registered referees – Bob will send tomorrow
- Social Media posts have been put out advertising the Mike Box wheelchair. Is the auction link ready to go live?
  - Daniel said the link is in his bullets in the agenda
  - It will go live on the 15<sup>th</sup>
  - A second post will go out on the 8<sup>th</sup>

- If we know anyone who has a Box chair, please ask them to send photos so we can use those pics so it is not the same photos being used each time.

**Treasurer (Sarah Leonard):**

- Hurricane season is not our friend in the case that our accountant lives in FL. Will be working to file our 990's in the next month or so.
- Need to talk as a group to see where we are in regard to the database and costs.
  - We are at about \$14,150
  - Just got another bill for \$2250
  - There was an indication that there might be an additional invoice still coming
  - The group that we are working with seems to be hard to get concrete answers from.
  - Steve just spoke with Cindy Ellis and she is going to reach out to the developer of the database. We thought that the only costs that were still forthcoming were the monthly platform costs. Once Cindy speaks to her and gets some answers we will determine how to best move forward and get that paid.
- Women's Team has reached out looking to begin their fundraising efforts. They requested the league's W9.
  - Wanted to confirm that we did not have an issue providing that to the group.
  - What is our level of support for this?
  - Daniel says the provision of the W9 is public and has no problem providing it. The larger base we can reach with the sport, the better.
  - The only downside is that at the end of the day, if there is "X" amount of money that may be available to the league, it may be split between fundraising campaigns.
  - Amy asked what our relationship with the Women's Team is. There are questions regarding players and classification. Amy has been contacted by players who are currently "NC" and would like to know how that translates to their classification internationally.
    - Bob said there will be a classification panel at the women's tournament in December.
    - We need to make sure that the athletes are representing themselves correctly, especially if they are being supported by the league.
    - Jen said that the general invitation came through the registration platform. She will forward the information. She is also curious as to how we are supporting this effort.
      - To encourage a larger number of women to participate in the women's cup, they will not follow ALL WWR classification guidelines.
      - Amy asked if the panel who was going to be at the tournament is a legal panel and if whatever classifications are set at that tournament will take precedence over the current classification in the US.
      - Amy said she sent Jen & Meagan an email with a list of issues that need to be addressed with the head of classification internationally.

- Bob thinks it is important that it be clarified, especially with the issues we have already been facing with classification.
- Amy also asked if this was falling under Team USA or USWRA? Where does the insurance coverage come from? If it is under USWRA, we need to be careful and make sure we are clear on that so that we know what is expected of us as a league.
- Amy asked how that works for Team USA? If it is an OPC event, OPC picks up the travel insurance. If not, the team picks up a travel insurance policy.
  - Daniel said that possibly we could put that on Allison or whoever is leading that charge. We could tell them that are some questions we need clarification on prior to supporting their fundraising.
  - Sarah has been talking extensively with our insurer and if she could touch base with Jen offline to gather more information, that would be great as our insurer has some concerns/questions about that.

#### **USAWR (Jen Alred):**

- Thank you to Amy for putting together the classification webinar!
- Thank you to Steve for the conversations regarding collaboration with Team USA and USA Low Point.
- The November tournament (4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>) – no new updates
- Lakeshore has a grant through the VA and Reeve for veterans. Veterans would apply directly. Gwen will pull a list of veterans from the registration and send to Jen who will send out an email to these vets with the information and the link to apply.
- Amy asked if the low point tournament was being run the same way the women's cup was being run – Bob said the players will need to have a valid domestic class if they don't have an international classification.
- There will not be a low point qualification tournament anymore. Lakeshore was planning to host. Steve asked if there was still a possibility to leave this on the calendar and possibly host an exhibition type tournament that weekend. Jen will leave it on the calendar and we will see what we can make happen.
- Sarah – asked for clarification on the wording to be used to send back regarding the women's team W9 request

#### **Classification (Amy Bohn):**

- Did do the Town Hall
- Still working on the Master List – international master list is not accurate, so will communicate with Jacque to let them know

#### **Referees (Marianna Duda):**

- Still need a concrete definition of "hopping"
  - Asked what she should be telling the referees – tell them to do the best they can
  - Steve asked Marianne how SHE would define hopping
  - Daniel said perhaps we should make a video
  - Marianne said to educate the officials, a video might be helpful – she said it does need a VERY clear written definition of this

- NY Tournament was cancelled due to loss of gym space
  - Most officials got their flights credited, one cannot
  - Many emails have been sent to the tournament official that have gone without response – is there a policy on this?
  - Marianne will send another email and copy Bob
  - Might be a good time to look at putting a policy in place
- Certified a new official in Chicago
- Has been a bit challenging on multi-tournament weekends

**Commissioner (Bob Lopez):**

- There should be only 33 teams (Stampede is registered twice)
- 393 athletes registered
- Reached out for the 3 at-large members of the competition committee, deadline is tomorrow and then will work with Steve Kenny to pick those
- Gotten an email that needs to be reviewed from a possible host for semi-finals and got a text from another – hopefully will have those finalized soon
- All tournaments should be on the website
- Updated the open RAC spots which have been added to the website

**President (Steve Kearley):**

- Officially named two equipment managers for Low Point – Rob Deller & Vince Nguyenpham
- Still working on interviewing team managers – leaning on several for feedback

**VP2 (Daniel Curtis)**

- Oscar Mike sent a monthly inventory and accounting
- Wheel the World has pulled most of their landing pages
- Auctions are all set up on GiveButter
- Closing our Nielsen Grant
- Kudos to Jen for getting funds from Reeve – has applied several times and have not been granted
- Listed people who gave money last year and that we are hopeful will give this year as well. Still need to make a decision about Trulieve – have emailed them to see if there is any interest in donating.