

USWRA Leadership Meeting: November 4th, 2024

Next Planned Meeting: December 2nd, 2024

Present:

Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Keith Newerla – VP1
Mary Kiolbasa – Classifier
Jen Allred – USAWR
Gwen Debly - Secretary

Absent:

Kerin Banfield – Referee
Sarah Leonard – Treasurer
Steve Kearley – President
Daniel Curtis – VP2

Secretary (Gwen Debly):

- Something Gwen has noticed is the uptick in people wanting to participate in posting photos but a concern she has before it becomes a problem is whether there is a photo release for children?
 - We have had parents sending in photos of their kids, and we just want to make sure that they are protected.
 - Amy thinks it is a good idea. When the classifiers rewrite their policies they will have minor specific policies.
 - Keith said that other than additional work, it is always a good idea to be safe in those regards.
 - Marianne agrees.
 - Gwen has a form that requests the parent/s and or partner both signs, unless it is a single parent situation.
 - Amy will send the photo release that her organization uses.
 - Jen also said that it would be a good idea to ask tournament directors to post a sign we could provide them that says, “By entering these premises, you consent to photos being published.”
- Would love to collaborate with Team USA content for the development camp happening this week at Lakeshore.
 - Jen has sent the info to the Comms team to include Gwen as a collaborator.
- Has been working with SportsEngine, actively working out each bug that continues to come up.
 - There is no way for classifications to be added to the area where rosters are.
 - Currently team pages have players and staff.
 - One thought is to add a PDF to each page with all that information, but with each document that is on a website, it slows it down.

- Amy said that she and Bob are working on updating the Master List and teams should be able to use that and it will be updated as classes change.
- Working on putting practice information for teams on their home pages. Most of it can be pulled from registration, with the exception of practice days and times.
- Has given Administrative Access to the site to team reps
- Gwen said Steve asked for a post recognizing the TIRR player who recently passed, and we know that has been something we have not done when families' have asked us not. There is also a player who passed from NEP. We would love to recognize them – Amy suggested that Steve reach out to the family from TIRR and Sarah to reach out to the family from NEP and with approval, we will post something about both.

USAWR (Jen Allred):

- Thank you for helping send out the notification for 2025 High Performance Squad!
- Development tournament is kicking off today with arrivals, classification, etc.
 - Tournament itself is Thur, Fri & Sat
- Another talent ID camp in December, invites have gone out (12/18 – 12/21)
 - Marianne asked if they need ref assistance for this – Yes, would love an official as well as at selection camp (she will send dates for that)
 - Gwen will send out a blast to the league with the link for this
 - There is funding available and Jen will confirm what this is – up to \$450 travel for that (has not been communicated yet)
 - Low Point will also be there at the same time
- WWR Assembly is in Prague in December, will report back at December meeting, mostly focused on elections at this time

Classifiers (Amy Bohn & Mary Kiolbasa):

- Rough timeline of February to be able to get back into things
- At Metal & Muscle, there was a lot of conversation regarding classification, and it was obvious that the Town Hall did not reach everyone.
 - Is it possible that the board send out a statement reiterating the points that were made in the Town Hall?
 - Gwen said she thought it would be more impactful coming from Bob. Bob said he is happy to send it, but asked Mary to draft what it is they would like said and he may tweak it a little, but that way he hits all the points that were missed.
- Women's League:
 - Amy has received many emails and there is confusion about the classification process.
 - The emails are asking Amy to enter them in the system, which puts them in the international database.
 - If they are in the system, does that then make them legal and also vice versa?
 - Amy has heard they are going to have a Level B panel, but she is not sure if it is a legal panel or not.
 - It is concerning that athletes are getting more information than the US classification.
 - Jen said we want to be sure we are supporting these women in the best way we can without providing misinformation.

- Bob said that the other thing that is important is that USWRA is **not** sponsoring them and that needs to be made clear to them as well.
- Does anyone know who is planning to compete from the US?
- Amy said if Jen can get a list, she can start pulling information.
- Lots of questions, but if anyone hears anything, please make sure to pass that information along.
- Gwen spoke to Martha at Grand Rapids and for several of the players who were new they had put “NC” as their classification and she let her know that is not the proper thing to put. It might be a good idea to remind team reps of the terminology as well so they put the correct thing – New players are “N.” If we are putting out a statement, we also might want to include this information as well.
- Went through the account, currently have about \$21,000 in their account. They got a final bill for \$2250 which will come out of this account. Amy is happy to pay that amount out of this account, but she doesn’t have the invoice to process it.
 - She also was happy to talk about getting the wording on the contract changed, but she doesn’t have that information either.
 - Keith said that they got the contract updated, and it had to do with the notification the company would have to give if they wanted to change the monthly platform costs.
 - Bob said they made the changes when they signed the contract and sent it back.
 - Gwen found the email with the invoice and has forwarded to Amy

Referees (Marianne Duda):

- Has typed out a response on how the referees are chosen for a tournament
 - Level of play
 - Local refs if available
 - Opportunity to officiate – if costs are similar, they are going to give someone who hasn’t had as many chances to ref
 - This question came up in response to a question that came up regarding a west coast official being sent to Metal & Muscle
 - They were trying to understand how that comes to be
 - In that instance, there were 3 tournaments that weekend
 - Some of the staffing wasn’t ideal, but costs were taken into consideration in all of this
 - The question came from Reno, and Keith said the info needs to be given to that representative directly. Marianne said please give her email address and she will be happy to answer any questions that come up.
 - The question was posted in a public FB page, and Gwen is happy to respond with that information.
 - Gwen said there were some reports of mistreatment of volunteers at the Slippery Rock tournament.
 - Bob asked that information be sent to him so he can follow up with those who were involved.
- Some challenges trying to get last minute tournaments staffed
 - Have had to use some of our Canadian referees to assist

Commissioner (Bob Lopez):

- Named the 3 at-large members of the Competition Committee
- Hope to have the first rankings out soon
- Waiting for the signed post-season agreement before publishing the West-Coast Semi-Finals
 - Mary asked if the agreement includes costs
 - Bob said it doesn't include dollars, but does include what needs to be covered
 - Keith said he also gave Ryan a breakdown of costs from the last two years he hosted semi-finals.
- Once that is nailed down, Bob will begin the search for new Nationals hosts
- Will write the "hopping" definition for referees while he is at Lakeshore this week

VP1 (Keith Newerla):

- In the process of trying to get a new storefront for league items
 - It is the same company that has done all the giveaway items for Keith's tournaments for years
 - He and Daniel had a good call with them recently.
 - Looking at creating a low point logo as well

VP2 (Daniel Curtis, not present, listed from agenda):

- Has been reaching out to past sponsors to garner more support
- Bob said that in regard to the FB giving, last year Daniel wanted us to be part of Giving Tuesday but were meeting resistance due to another post that had been made and he is not sure how or if that was resolved.

Treasurer (Sarah Leonard, not present, listed from agenda):

- Submitted check for database hosting payment – was unable to process ACH payment and unsure why
 - Gwen said she thinks that they figured out that it had something to do with an out of country payment for the World Games and thinks it is resolved
- Working on 990 with accountant – due 11/15. Ideally will find a firm willing to file on time without extension moving forward.
- Sarah does not think that she is going to be able to complete her term due to other commitments, and she wants to get a plan in place to find a replacement.
 - Jen asked if there was anything in the By-laws about someone who may have run against her? Debrah Olsen did run as well, but nothing in the bylaws are there for any provisions.
 - Keith thinks accountant should be an appointed position
 - Bob said for that to happen, the constitution would need to be updated.