

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2023

Next Planned Meeting: March 2, 2023

Present:

Michael Klonowski – Executive Director

Dan Caldwell – Secretary

Bob Lopez – Commissioner

Kerin Banfield – Representative for Referees

Amy Bohn – Head of Classification

Jen Allred – Lakeshore/USAWR

Daniel Curtis – VP2

Sid Christain – Treasurer

Michael Cottingham – VP1

Mary Kiolbasa – Classifier

Lakeshore/USAWR (Jen)

- Will be posting procedures for upcoming selection camp
 - Athletes who were alternates are automatically eligible
 - Applications for anyone who thinks they are worthy applicants
 - No application, just submit your name, a short video and no more than 3 paragraphs
 - Due February 14th
- Travel in on Monday, March 13th and objective is to make selections on Saturday the 18th, depart on Sunday the 19th
- Because it is a longer camp there is a provision that someone could submit video to substitute for those first couple of days

Classifiers (Amy):

- Two tourneys: Vegas & Lakeshore
 - Vegas:
 - 23 athletes to be seen, 20 scheduled
 - Only saw 14 of the athletes scheduled
 - Lakeshore
 - 17 to be seen, all scheduled, saw 13
 - One was ill, one got sick right before, and one had a large elbow issue so they did not see him
 - Compliance issue:
 - Allowed the one arm chair drive

- Really need to get tournaments sanctioned in order to help keeping everything compliant
- Got to meet with Jen at lakeshore
 - Possibly a host for a summer clinic for classifiers
 - Would like to bring the 3 and 4 level classifiers
 - There are 16 at this time
 - Possibly help to cover the cost through the Nielsen grant
- Semi-finals:
 - All East Coast qualifiers classifiers are set
- Nationals
 - 10 classifiers attending
 - Please remind teams that if they have athletes to be seen they **MUST** come in on Thursday
 - Mike K said that Amy should send Shawn an email to have him send out the reminder. She said she did that last year, and it wasn't super successful, so as many times that we can hit them with the information is better.
 - Dan said Caroline did a great job in the follow-up, sending scores and sheets to Dan in a timely manner.
 - Daniel said he agreed that letting a tournament host know what is expected is a good idea. In regards to classification, he thinks putting the responsibility for getting players to classification on time should be on the head coach. Amy pointed out that last year coaches **DID** make sure that was happening but the transportation was 4-5 hours behind.

Referees:

- Situation this weekend where a ref was supposed to land at 7:00PM but wasn't going to be picked up until 10:00PM when the other 2 refs were scheduled to be picked up. The reason given was due to the travel time to the hotel. In this instance, the hotel was 45 minutes away and could have been a 1.5 hour round trip.
 - Do we want to create some guidelines around that?
 - Mike C. said he thinks we should continue to evaluate our tournaments. If the league had a survey they could send out that asks how things went, what things could be improved, etc?
 - Amy said there is a tournament report that exists that classifiers do. The classifiers also had that happened to them this weekend with a 3.5 hour proposed wait at the airport
 - Amy will send her report to the group to be reviewed.

- Mike C asked if we thought this was a one-off or something that is happening consistently. Mike K said he thought it was best if we got something in place that every tournament could refer to
- Daniel said he thought having a post tournament survey as well as a pre-tournament checklist to make sure that everyone can be sure they are on the right path would be beneficial
 - After the post season is done, lets put together a mechanism for feedback from classifiers, referees and teams
 - Pre tournament guidelines and checklists to be sure everyone has the information they need to host a tournament
- All tickets for post season referees will be purchased by tomorrow
 - There is a discount code for United that can be used and Bob will send it to Kerin

Executive Director (Mike)

- Bob and Mike K have put together post season bid document. They will give one more look over and then post.
- Wreck the halls shirts and prizes are on the way to Mike K and then he will get them sent out. Anyone he will see soon, he will deliver personally.
- Zeromils – veteran support group that has connections in DC area, so we might have some media coverage over the next few weeks.
- Move United: Sid is awesome 😊 Was able to get the articles of incorporation and registered as a charity in the state of AL.
- Met with Kelly Brush Foundation. They Would like to come out during the postseason. Not sure what tournament they might come to, but will plan that. Would like to collaborate on some educational videos like they did with wheelchair BB. Will be a great tool to help people get connected with us!
- Spoke with NSM and Numotion. Interested in coming to the golf tournament and Nationals.
- Vesco/Equipment Committee: It hasn't taken any steps at this moment. The only thing to be addressed is the ball holder and there isn't anything that can be done about those.
 - There were 2 injuries with Shepherd this weekend. One was with the ball holder that resulted in a broken hand. Dan clarified that is the knee block that they are hitting as opposed to the ball holder.
- Golf Tournament: Mike K is currently reaching out to sponsors to get support. He asked if there are any leads that anyone has, please let him know. He has a connection with the White Sox, and is hoping they will contribute and that will lead to some other sports teams.

- Spoke with Joe Delagrave: needs to be some more education further than just rugby at our clinics. Examples would be Steve Kearley, successful businessman, family man, etc. Would be helpful to have someone who can talk about success in life beyond just rugby as well as things to be watching for in their health.
 - He said this will also be helpful when applying for grants. It will show that we are helping the whole person in health and wellness, not just in sport.
 - Daniel said he totally agrees, but thinks that perhaps we could have that as a tab under our resources.
 - Amy added in shoulder health and wound health.
- Annual award applications: needs to talk to Dan as he thinks it is hidden on the secretary drive.
- Would like to start collecting testimonials for the website, brochures, etc. Also, bringing on advisory board members.
- Hall of Fame – need more athlete nominations. Mike K thinks he can help by continuing to post on Social Media
 - Can anyone nominate for HOF?
 - Bob said that there will be a total of 4 athletes this year inducted. He has a list of about half a dozen players he thinks will be coming in the next couple of years. He would like to keep the focus more on the athletes, not to say the other roles don't have a place in the HOF, but would like to center on athletes first and foremost.
- Residency Rules Enforcement:
 - Bob would like to do something about it. He would like to have a longer conversation with Mike C and then propose some long term solutions.
- Fusion is going to give us 3 sets of Spinerig wheels for the auction. Looking at ways to give them more exposure. Nick at Fusion isn't seeing the ROI so brainstorming ways to get more return on that.
- Mike K and Daniel will look at past auction items and then work on this year.

Commissioner (Bob)

- Released rankings earlier this week. Final rankings will come out 2/15/23. Comp committee will meet Monday evening. Once final rankings come out on Wednesday, Bob will reach out to teams 9-24 to see where they would like to attend qualifiers. He will send out an email to all team reps to ask for the best name and number of who to contact.
- Selection Camp in March: Always have a board member there. Bob thinks he is the person who makes best sense to be there. There were no objections. The question then was who pays for that ticket? Team USA pays for that ticket and will be happy to help pay for that up front.

- Found out at Lakeshore that a player who was at the Southern Slam tested positive for Covid on Wednesday after and didn't attend Lakeshore the next weekend. Bob thinks it would be a good idea to remind the teams what their obligation is if a player tests positive after an event. Everyone agreed that sending a reminder out would be a good idea. Then there was a conversation about sending an email out to teams prior to an event. Dan thinks the email should come from the Safety Committee. There was conversation about how that should come through, and it was decided that Safety Committee will send the email to the Tournament Director and they will send it to the teams.
- Lakeshore posted a photo of a player who has been deemed ineligible and there were comments from a past Team USA player that were inappropriate and should not have been there. We would like to send a reminder to the league about social media etiquette. Mike asked if he should take the comments down. The consensus was that Mike had the discretion to take down anything that was harmful to the league and that he would take these down.
- HOF: Should be 3 inductees this year. He is waiting for final agreement from them. We will pay for their flights and room. If they bring someone, it is on them to get themselves there.
- What will the cost of the banquet be?
- Last year we had the PPT, and have been asked if we can share video.
- The plan with post season bids is that if teams are interested in hosting Nationals, they need to bid no later than end of March. He would like to make a determination in April and announce the host at this year's National.
- They are working on the promo video now. Did a lot of interviews in Jax and trying to get videos of lots of different teams playing.

VP 1 (Michael Cottingham):

- Health & Wellness Component: thought about combining that with safety. Thinks there are lots of people on the committee who would be interested in that. If there are no objections, he will reach out to everyone to figure that out.
- How often does everyone think this committee should meet? He is thinking 3 times a year, with ad hoc as needed. Amy said quarterly to keep everyone engaged. Everyone agreed and so will move to quarterly.
- Will have the rules and bylaws committee together by next week.

VP2 (Daniel Curtis)

- Grant applications:
 - Space for 5 teams and 5 teams have applied

- He isn't sure of the budgets of some of the applicants but pointed out that these grants are for teams who **need** them.
 - Amy asked if these teams were repeats of teams we had given to before and there is only 1. The rest are new applicants.
- 5 have applied for clinics and there are some dates applied to those. One is for referees and he thinks we could blend that with a clinic with players since it is symbiotic.
- The deadline we put out was February 28th. Bob would like us to stick with that.

Treasurer (Sid Christain)

- Last meeting Daniel initiated a conversation about some of the funds that would be in the account for a while and purchasing a CD for those. He thinks early next week he will have that process completed.
- For convenience, he would also like to move the checking account to the same bank.
 - Sid motioned moving the checking account to the same bank.
 - Mike Cottingham seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Amy asked if the league was changing banks, should the classifiers also move. Sid and Amy will talk further about that.
- Sent out financial report. Fairly light month. If you have any questions, please feel free to let Sid know.
- Bob asked if Sid had gotten an email from SportsEngine for a charge of \$40. He will check on it tomorrow and let him know.

Secretary (Dan Caldwell)

- Qualifiers/Nationals:
 - Are the hosts ready to publish everything next week?
 - Hotels, transportation, when flights can come in, etc?
 - Bob said he spoke to Keith at Magee and he said they didn't specifically talk about it but he says he is sure he will be ready
 - Bradley Boe also reached out and he and Bob are going to talk after this meeting tonight
- Bob would like to get together with Shawn, Karole, Noah & Mike to see how the courts are going to be set up
- Noah has asked that anything in regards to Nationals, please send to Noah, Karole & Shawn.
- Low Point:

- Last night was a kick off call with the people who have expressed interest in hosting a team
- Looks like there will be 8-10 teams.
- Registration will open middle of March.
- When Low Point teams are looking for refs, should they use their typical RACs, or should Kerin talk to her team and set up a Low Point RAC who can organize that?
 - Kerin will talk to Marianne.
- Will be trying to keep each tournament to 1 court and no more than 6 teams.