

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: **September 1st, 2022**

Next Planned Meeting: October 6th, 2022

Present:

Michael Klonowski – Executive Director
Noah Currier – President
Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Dr. Michael Cottingham – 1st Vice President
Kerin Banfield – Representative for Referees
Dan Caldwell – Secretary
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Jen Allred – Representative: Lakeshore Foundation

Absent:

Daniel Curtis – 2nd Vice President
Sid Christain – Treasurer

For future meetings:

- Noah has requested of everyone: when you receive the agenda, please enter what things you are planning to cover **before** the meeting so it can be included when sending out to the board prior to the meeting.
- Amy asked for the agenda to be sent out earlier than the day prior in order to allow for time to add items.
- Plans will be made to send the agenda out a week prior to allow for that.

Lakeshore Foundation:

- Team USA is at their last camp before Worlds
- Jen expressed appreciation for the great collaboration there is
- Marianne has been there and has been a huge support
- Jen will post updates daily.

Classifiers:

- Amy asked what distribution lists she has access to and if there is a master list that can be distributed. Mike will share the contact list with the board.
- One day left until the deadline for retirement from the WWR master list
 - There have been about 25 reviewed and interviewed to date
 - Amy will update the master list, make sure it is correct and will forward to Dan to be posted
- Wants to make sure the board is OK with the proposed budget to staff 8 tournaments this year – Bob said it is hard to answer without Sid there to input
- Do we know any semi-final dates yet? One date is set and we are still waiting for another host to step up. Timeframe is end of March/first of April.

- Amy will send SafeSport out to her group
- Will be requesting medical records of ANY new players

Referees:

- Working on setting up refs for each posted tournament
- Working on certifying new refs
- Specs committee is not up and running yet, but the Single Anti-Tip is **NOT** legal and the two players who have that will need to be notified. She is working on clarifying the ball holders on chairs and will distribute that info to make sure it isn't an issue again and to make sure everyone is on the same page.
- Bob said that in reference to the anti-tip, one of the players is not willing to change his chair and is retiring. The second player is someone who doesn't play on the National level, only plays in his home tournament, from Pittsburgh. The ruling is that we are **not** allowing that under any circumstances.
- Marianne said it is important that we get everyone on the same page and to get the information out to everyone.
- Dan agreed that the info on both issues needs to be clear and everyone needs the info. He has a player who played all season in the same chair with no feedback and when he went to Nationals, he was told it was not legal. The rules need to be upheld across the board.

ED Report:

- Registration has launched and is currently underway
- He appreciates the conversation surrounding SafeSport
- Has met with NSM (National Seating & Mobility)/Numotion and will be meeting further with them about sponsorship and financial support
- Making connections with Permobil, Quantum, Motion Composites, RGK, Melrose and WWR
- Contacted Vesco and had a great conversation with them. They would really like to have an equipment committee created in order to set those clear guidelines in order to keep the manufacturing process streamlined. After hearing what the manufacturing process is like and how changes can affect the build timeline and cost, Noah strongly supports the creation of this committee. Dan will work on getting the wheels moving on that.
- Has reached out to Kelly Brush and CAF in order to see about streamlining the process from grant application to chair build.
- SafeSport – There is a brief, free course available for those who are volunteers working with individuals with disabilities.
- Working on grant searches
 - Application being completed for BNSF
 - Putting together a prospectus that he can present to potential donors after initial meetings.

- About 1/3 of the way through with that now
- Formative discussions taking place about a golf fundraiser in the spring (May)
 - In the Chicagoland area
 - Goal of raising \$20K – \$30K
 - Will lean on CRT (Complex Rehab Technologies) sponsors
- Noah recommended creating a Google sheet with separate tabs with ALL of this information so that anyone who may need it would be able to access it. He also clarified that if you widen the network inside of an organization that should all be included.
- Amy asked if the classifiers would automatically get an email letting them know to take SafeSport when they registered. Michael K. said no, they will receive that information AFTER registration.
- Bob asked where they would upload that information and Michael K. said it wouldn't be uploaded, it would be emailed to us. We will look into seeing if/how we can upload that.
- Bob piggybacked on Noah's comments – in order to be able to track the progress of what the ED is doing, a Google sheet of progress would be great.
- Bob thinks it should be a board member who is in contact with WWR as opposed to Michael K., but Michael K. and Noah think the ED is the best point of contact. Bob thinks that this should be a board member. There is going to be further conversation to determine what will be the best fit.
- Amy said each classifier will have an individual file that includes all of their certifications and licensures, to include SafeSport.

Commissioner:

- Two RAC replacements:
 - Chris Hull for Dan Caldwell (Southeast Region)
 - Kip Johnson for Todd Wolfe (Pacific Coast Region)
- Competition Committee:
 - Will be sending an email to see who is interested in filling the 3 at-large positions
- Received a request from one of the D1 teams, asking if we would make an exception to count the games that would be played through the 1st weekend of December toward the games requirement. Bob asked for input. Dan said he thought that was fine as long as we send out a communication. The board agreed. Dan will send out a communication that all games played through December 4th will count toward the 1st half of the season and any games played after will count toward the 2nd half of the season closer to the start of the season.
- Post – Season:
 - One Semi-Final is set for the weekend of March 17th – 19th
 - Philadelphia/South Jersey

- Bob is going to post that in the hopes it might spur some other teams to offer to host and send another email soliciting hosts
- He is going to have conversations with two other teams who were interested in hosting the other semi-final
- It would be nice if it was not an east coast team that hosted the second
- Noah asked if WASA reached out, and they did but Bob said they don't have a facility
- Michael C. asked if Vegas is an option and they are but they won't know about funding until December
- WWR Structure – tabled until Executive Session

President's Report:

- Noah thinks it would be helpful if everyone could help make a connection for Michael K. with a potential donor/sponsor if they have one
- He thinks having a tab on the tracking sheet that people can access and add to in relation to that would be nice

VP1:

- Asked if everyone knows what Triggering/Boosting Autonomic Dysreflexia – yes
- His university would like to do some research on how often people are using this across the league
- He needs the board to send an email saying that if the information leaks and it is found that someone IS doing that they won't be penalized, because if not, they won't be able to gather honest data
- Amy said at the ASIA a few years ago, there was research done on this and it might be a good point for him to look at and it was all a blind study
- He asked if anyone had concerns about providing immunity for that and Bob said he has none
- Dan didn't have large concerns but he did feel that we might be educating people on HOW to do it and it might increase that in the league
- It will be published as an academic paper and then there will be a report shared with the board
- Amy said if it is a large finding, it would be great to provide that to the safety committee as well
- There are University students working to create a database of all sorts of grants to provide to Michael K. They will then meet weekly/biweekly in order to help support him in his grant endeavors.
- Safety Committee Updates:
 - Guest player strategy – very much on board and with having them covered by insurance
 - The league needs to understand what insurance does and does not cover

- Perhaps ask Sid to create something that lays out what is and isn't covered
- Background Checks
 - Understand that it is an added expense
 - Understand that some people may have records
 - If these costs all get passed along to teams, we will begin to lose players because they can't cover the cost
 - Possibly in the future, we add questions about whether they have ever been convicted of a felony (with examples) and if they HAVE, we will then require a background check. Then we could discuss what that would look like. What might disqualify someone from the league?
 - Bob said that before we do anything, we need to set forth some criteria as to what would trigger exclusion
 - Michael K. agreed and said we could lay out timelines and certain discretions and what the red, yellow and green flags would look like
 - Transparency is critical prior to putting the information out They plan to have a legal expert join them to help flesh that out.
 - Amy said when we look at the tiers, remember that many probation officers encourage those on probation to participate in sport
 - Ask Sid how much background checks would cost
 - Should tournaments have a point person or consult the safety committee in case of severe weather to make decisions regarding cancelling?
 - Could be a RAC
 - Could be head official
 - It was felt that tournament directors had too much leeway in moving forward with tournaments when safety is at issue in regards to weather
 - This was in relation to tournament directors putting teams and players in danger by not wanting to pull the plug when dangerous weather is imminent
 - Bob thinks it should be a joint decision with the tournament director, head official (or head of referees) and either the RAC or commissioner.
 - Noah asked who was able to make the "complaint." Anyone can come forth if they have a true concern about the safety of an event. First POC would be Bob. If found to be valid, he would initiate the conversation with the other parties.

- Dan asked if we can make this decision without consulting the membership, and it was determined we can.
- Most important thing is that once it is drafted and agreed upon, it needs to be shared with the membership so that everyone is aware and on the same page.
- Michael Cottingham will draft a communication and Dan will send it out to membership.
- The committee will continue to meet once a month.

Secretary:

- Minutes were sent from last meeting – got some comments back but never received approval to post them yet. He wants to make sure they are OK and there isn't anything to be taken out?
 - They were sent to the board but not leadership, but will send to leadership moving forward
 - Approved to post
- SafeSport:
 - We want to send a follow up regarding more details
 - We will send an email letting everyone know the link will be coming once registration closes
 - Deadline for coaches will be 30 days from the day we send out the link
 - Amy gave her group a deadline of November 18th
 - Dan asked if that was flexible
 - We will send out one email with the October 31st deadline and Amy will continue to communicate with her group separately.
- Registration as of today:
 - 77 athletes
 - 31 staff/rebs/classifiers/coaches/leadership
 - 6 teams