

USWRA Leadership Meeting: January 6, 2025

Next Planned Meeting: February 3, 2025

Present:

Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification
Jen Allred – USAWR
Gwen Debly – Secretary
Meagan Rowe – USAWR
Kerin Banfield – Referee
Sarah Leonard – Treasurer
Steve Kearley – President
Mary Kiolbasa – Classifier

Absent:

Daniel Curtis – VP2
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Keith Newerla – VP1

Motion to approve December minutes:

- Steve motioned to accept, Bob seconded

Treasurer (Sarah Leonard):

- Bob and Sarah have spoken and would like to start the discussion surrounding reimbursement for post-season – Bob would like to reserve that for board only
- Updated COI's have been sent
- Insurance has been paid in full for the year
- Have disbursed funds for the women's tournament
- There was a check that was deposited to our account mistakenly and it was for USWRRRA. A check has been sent to them to cover the funds.
- Reimbursement has been sent to Dan Caldwell for the shipping for rugby balls he has sent

Secretary (Gwen Debly):

- Social media posts have been well received
- Behind on updating the website due to illness

USAWR (Meagan Rowe and Jen Allred):

- USAWR hosted a talent ID camp in December in conjunction with USLPT
- Had good feedback so something they would like to pursue again in the future
- There is a current selection camp kicking off today
- Hosted 9 veterans for a military camp in conjunction with the sports science dept which also had lots of good feedback

- There are some additional funds that they will look to be spending
- Jen thanked everyone for being so welcome to her over the last few years as Meagan now is stepping in. She will be on when Meagan is not able but will no longer regularly be attending.
- Steve piggybacked and said the collaboration on the camp they hosted together was really cool and he looks forward to doing that more in the future

Classifiers (Amy Bohn & Mary Kiolbasa):

- Have completed their 501c3 and registered in Ohio
- Have hit some roadblocks with some of the things like banking and such, but are meeting to get those things squared away
- Have a meeting scheduled with the 23 classifiers who are still planning to participate
 - Steve asked how that compared to past years
 - It is about the same (lost some and gained some). There were 24 the year prior.
- Still finalizing all their documents (bylaws, constitution, etc.)
- Will circle back with the league in February once they have had their meeting
- Still running into some issues internationally and have been working with Jen and Meagan. They have crafted an email to send to the international representatives to try to resolve this issue.
- At this point it is very difficult to create a master list as there is so much inaccurate information that is being shared. We are caught in the middle of the situation and can't make any final decisions without any response from Jacques.
- Amy feels that whatever decision is made needs to be written and the policy needs to be fairly enforced across the board.
- Amy is frustrated with being held to rules and standards that WWR sets for us when they do not follow those rules that they set. We as a league have no standing to be able to vote on anything so she doesn't know if there eventually comes a point where the league encourages Team USA to file against IPC to initiate some change.
- Steve said that he spoke to Jasmine regarding the Women's team, and she indicated that she was aware that the classification she was given was a provisional classification for that tournament only. But Amy reiterated that there are several who say they were told that those are valid classifications.
- It is especially difficult as we head into post-season.
- Sarah asked if there was a possibility to hold on making a decision until we have more information to make things less "gray."
 - Amy said the only way anything is going to change is if USA files something against IPC.
 - Sarah said she understood what Amy was saying, but what she meant was to follow the rules as we understand them to be written as opposed to having Bob make a decision that we may have to go back on.
 - Amy's question is: do we follow what is written or what they are doing?
 - Amy's suggestion would be that USA file a petition stating that we have 3 instances where WWR is not following their own policy.
 - Jen looked back at the email they sent prior to Christmas. Because of the way the email was written, Jen is happy to draft an email that she can send as follow up.

Referees (Kerin Banfield):

- Many thanks for the “hopping” definition presented to the referees.
- PVA is fully staffed. Gave much thanks to Bob for all his help in planning such a large tournament. Work begins on it about a year before to make it a success!

Commissioner (Bob Lopez):

- New rankings went out 12/22/24
- Reminder on dates have been sent to teams which prompted some response
- Got the signed contract back from Portland so that information has been shared with the league
- Need to put out additional dates soon (this month):
 - AGM (6/7/2025?)
 - Nominations & proposals (due by 3/15/2025?)
 - Send above to teams by 4/7/2025? (Needs to be 2 months prior to AGM)
- Hopes to be sending the “hopping” definition out to the teams this week.

President (Steve Kearley):

- Have a new USWRA storefront that should be live by the end of January. Should be fully customizable attire.
- Thank you again to Lakeshore for their hospitality to the USLPT.
- Have March dates picked and would like to cement those with Meagan and Jen so they can be sent to the team
- Fundraising continues for USLPT. Melrose chair brought in \$5000.
- U of H has offered to host a Walk & Roll A Thon to raise money for USLPT.
 - If anyone wants to help out, you can sign up to walk and get sponsors as well.
- Have raised \$2900 through Give Butter. Many thanks to Rita Penniman for her help in putting the sponsorship packet together.
- If anyone whose teams are purchasing anything from Wreckless wheelchairs, there is a link where they are donating funds back to USLPT.
- Will be designing a USLPT logo and creating some items around that as well.
 - If anyone knows any graphic designers who might be interested in volunteering some time to help with that, direct them to Steve
- Sarah asked if the league had gotten any further communication around the World Games yet. We don't want to be in a last-minute situation like we were last time.
 - Bob said the last thing that went out was a bulletin in November.