

USWRA Leadership Meeting: September 3, 2024

Next Planned Meeting: October 7, 2024

Present:

Bob Lopez – Commissioner
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification
Sarah Leonard – Treasurer
Marianne Duda – Head of Referees
Kerin Banfield – Referee
Keith Newerla – VP1
Steve Kearley – President
Mary Kiolbasa – Classifier

Absent:

Jen Allred – USAWR
Daniel Curtis – VP2
Gwen Debly - Secretary

Motion to accept minutes:

Steve Kearley motioned, Bob Lopez seconded

MISC:

- Steve said he knows we normally follow the agenda as it is listed, but next time he will switch things up so Sarah doesn't always go last. Everyone was in agreement.
- Steve wanted to give a shout out to USAWR. Fantastic showing and great effort. The game against GB is one of the best he has seen.

Classifiers (Amy Bohn):

- Talon – Bob & Sarah responded to the email. How do we want to proceed with the email?
 - Have a Town Hall to reiterate everything that was done 3 years ago as people do not remember.
 - Steve agrees that a Town Hall where we can invite a rep from each team to be present would be great.
 - Amy thinks if we do, she wants it to be focused on how things are done, as opposed to focusing on Talon.
 - The Town Hall needs to be general. We need to address these things in an effort to move forward.
 - Steve thinks we need to get a date on the books. Most important for it to be a date that works with Amy and Jen.
 - Steve will send an email to everyone to find a date that works for everyone.
 - Keith said there will most likely be questions about the option to retire, so we should be prepared to answer those.

- Amy said people also need to be aware that when players did retire, they agreed that they would never compete at the national, international level and that is a BIG commitment.
- Bob said we need to end the conversation with these teams **now**.
- Classifier meeting (Mary)
 - There was a meeting with the classifiers.
 - The team does want to sit out the start of the season and to dedicate that time to moving over their manual, restructuring their board, etc.
 - They will be moving to create their own organization/entity, setting up their EIN, etc.
 - They are not sure if this will be a longer-term thing (past the start of the season) or if this will continue on through post-season.
 - They will not move back into action until this is all set. At that time, they will set up a contract with the USWRA clarifying their payment structure.
 - Mary is going to take on a role of Interim Head of Classification.
- Master List:
 - As folks register, Amy will be able to pull the data and send it to her team to continue updating the master list.
- Sarah asked what their intention would be in regard to insurance: they will move forward with having the league cover the insurance, moving toward having back up insurance as well.

Referees (Marianne Duda):

- Have AGM clarifications from Bob and will be sending out most likely next week
 - Knows that we still need to follow up regarding the “hopping” rule
 - Bob & Steve will work on drafting something to have ready by next week
 - Currently, refs are instructed to “call it as they see it”
 - This is not something that comes up with great frequency, and Steve recognizes that this is subjective
- Purchased memorial patches in remembrance of Martha – will be debuted at the low point tournament.
 - May have some extras – will let the league know and how those will be handled
- Membership – currently 43 members but anticipate a handful of those not returning
 - Asked Bob to update as refs get registered

Commissioner (Bob Lopez):

- Most pressing is semi-final hosts
 - Have talked to 3 different potential hosts – still a work in progress
 - If we do NOT get hosts, the competition committee will determine who goes to Nationals
- Registration is officially open!
 - 102 athletes have registered
 - 7 teams have registered
 - 54 staff have registered
- Balls have been ordered – most likely will not be here before November

President (Steve Kearley)

- 8 applicants have applied for Low Point Equipment Manager – will have a reply out to everyone who applied by September 10th
- Rita has also stepped down as Team Manager – so will be figuring out next step for Team Manager, will be posting for that very soon
- Classification Database
 - Good news is that we can see the end line – everything seems to be working pretty well and database is pretty much complete. Just verifying that it works with Mac as well as PC
 - There will be an annual fee, broken down to about \$20 - \$25 a month
 - Steve asked if that would be coming out of the classification budget
 - Amy said we usually do it out of the classification budget and they can absorb that
 - Amy clarified that the fees we are paying is NOT for someone to administer the database, but the platform
- Low Point
 - 25 invites sent out
 - 18 will be in attendance, just after Low Point Nationals
 - Been working very closely with Rita on the sponsorship packet, just putting some finishing touches on it and will share with the board as soon as that is done.
 - Rita has done a great job on taking feedback and making it look nice and Steve is really proud of it.
- Kelly Brush Foundation
 - Due to all invitees to Low Point being SCI, reached out to Kelly Brush about possible funding
- U of A has reached out to offer help with finding funding

VP2 (Daniel Curtis) – absent, reported by Steve

- Has been reaching out to potential sponsors
 - Had a question about Trulieve – would like feedback regarding any concerns surrounding pursuing that
 - Sarah said most questions/concerns have come from USAWR and how the relation affects the national players
 - Mary said there were also questions about the fact that there are minors in the league and how that would look.
 - Keith asked if USAWR has stated what the long-term ramifications would be in terms of that relationship. There has been no mention of long-term ramifications, and Jen would be best versed to answer that.
- Updated promo video

Treasurer (Sarah Leonard)

- Classification insurance has been added – each classifier has been added by name
 - We have not done the same for referees
 - The insurer said that everyone who registers with the league is covered, but if the referees would like to have their names listed, we can also do that
- We have gone over budget with the database
- Vegas has paid all their fees from last year

- Sarah has received a question regarding insurance from someone in the league – does the member need to submit for additional COI's for additional places. Sarah said that places that are listed as practice facilities are NOT covered. Bob & Sarah think an email blast is needed to make sure that teams know that is not the case.
 - Bob can extract the facilities but Sarah said there is additional information needed in order to issue certificates
 - Steve asked what IS covered
 - League insurance covers members who register
 - Facilities that are listed are not technically covered
 - The only time a facility or an organization is covered is if the COI is expressly requested. Just listing them in your registration does not provide coverage.
 - Keith said he gets a blanket one for the year which covers his practices and the tournament he hosts
- Mary asked now that classifiers will be their own entity, she isn't sure if this will matter, but there is one classifier who was left off the list.