

IMMAF Board Minutes

Date: 23rd November 2016.

Time: 1.00pm GMT/ 3.00pm CET

Location: Sparta Arena Prague (Czech Republic)

On Conference Call: GS, SB, FB.

Roll call: Bertrand Amoussou (BA), George Sallfeldt (GS) Vice President, Kerrith Brown (KB) President, Stewart Brain (SB), Raymond Phillips (RP), Wissam Abinader (WA), Frank Babcock (FB), Tom Madsen (TM).

Executive staff: Densign White (DW) CEO.

AGENDA

1. Apologies	August Wallen (AW).	
2. PRESIDENT Kerrith Brown's Update	The Board of IMMAF Directors meeting is taking place in the city of Prague, IMMAF is achieving another step, and give credibility to our sponsors, Green Hill and Safejawz are both present at the Championship.	
3. CEO Report Densign White	(DW) We received a letter from Wada yesterday (22 nd November) WADA has now been informed by the IF Umbrella Organizations that IMMAF's matter was discussed with them earlier this month, including at the Sport Accord Council meeting and that their decision was that WADA should not accept IMMAF as a new signatory to the Code. As a result, unfortunately WADA is not in a position to satisfy IMMAF request. Michele Verroken was stopped from using The Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS). CEO Densign White was present in Lausanne during IF Forum but not in any meetings when the matter was discussed. Even though Densign White didn't manage to take part in the meetings, still managed to secure the talks with Michel Fillou assistant to the SportAccord president.. He was at first really negative about MMA, but altered his attitude next day and volunteered assistance. He recommended we speak to John Tibbs (JTA	Action CEO

	<p>consultancy), as he is the right person to get support for IMMAF within the Olympic family.</p> <p>Irrespective to the negative consequence, we demand to make a statement that IMMAF is complying with WADA code.</p> <p>There were suggestions about the rules change, which is not acceptable to IMMAF.</p> <p>(GS) Boxing is much more dangerous than MMA.</p> <p>We should utilize the media to use as an influence on WADA to change the decision.</p> <p>(TM) suggested to be more diplomatic.</p> <p>(DW) Is going to appeal, and ask for an explanation for a negative decision.</p> <p>IMMAF is a governing body and is focusing on establishing protection for youth coming to the play.</p> <p>Whole agreed to diplomatic approach. (DW) & (KB) are not going to give up in achieving the final ends.</p> <p>IMMAF need a tight and strategic plan for the future years.</p>	
4. SportAccord	<p>Our Application to SA is now less likely to be considered since we now cannot meet the prerequisite WADA signatory status. There was discussion on whether we should now continue to attend the SA congress in April 2017, which we have a financial commitment to. However, cancellation charges would be incurred for the Stand already booked during SportAccord Convention. The boards view was that therefore IMMAF should attend and continue to make the case for IMMAF recognition.</p> <p>(KB) IMMAF needs to be there to make an impact and challenge rivalry arguments and make our presence felt. Other sports representatives will be present and IMMAF needs to establish who blocked us. (GS)</p> <p>(TM) As the convention is hosted in Denmark, IMMAF should seek approval of the Ministry of Sport in Denmark.</p>	Action (DW) & (KB)
5. Membership	<p>(DW) Thanked the board for supporting new applicants for IMMAF membership China. Representatives from China are present at 2016 IMMAF European Open Championship. They have contact with the COSI Chinese event organizer, both organizations are working together. COSI expressed their interest in breaking into</p>	Action (DW)

	<p>MMA market.</p> <p>MyNextMatch system is a main IMMAF project for managing member relationships. We are not chasing for more members, we have most of the big countries and planning now is on maintaining and establishing strong relationships with those and delivering quality member services.</p> <p>Insurance is a new task. At the moment the Insurance company would like to test the market with the UK and Ireland initially. The IMMAF is in talks with private promoters to secure the money for the premium (£115k).</p> <p>Windy Miller (UKMMAF) is leading on Progression Scheme project at the moment. Germany is interested to utilize the scheme straight as soon as possible.</p>	
6. UFC sponsorships	<p>We are anticipating 25% cut in donation. We need to get better at income generation other than UFC sponsorship.</p> <p>One of the most effective tools for financial sustainability is to encourage every member to grow their membership and each federation to drive membership through the My Next Match portal.</p> <p>Nations around the globe have lots of unregistered practicing athletes, we need to encourage them to join the Federation and use My Next Match from the moment of affiliation with IMMAF. Using MNM as a Federation membership tool should be enforced in the Statutes for all new Federations.</p>	Action (DW)
7. Finance	<p>The final installment from UFC had been received. We are attempting to start the new contract to commence from January 2017. This will help our cash flow. KB made the suggestion to invite Courtney Braun from WME-IMG onto IMMAF board in non-executive position. The board unanimously agreed.</p> <p>The budget going forward will be tight. Some debts are</p>	

	<p>being carried forward including the Las Vegas world championships, (Hotel and Venue were very expensive). Brabners Legal bills for drafting event contracts was very high however KB/DW were able to negotiate a reduction in cost and spread payments over several months. The Czech Federation have not found any sponsors or delivered the government support that was promised.</p> <p>Carin Tylene has now left our accounts firm Additiv. The new IMMAF accountant was appointed and is UK based Ms Paula Wilson head of Governance for Sporting Equals.</p> <p>Carin will support IMMAF to complete the financial reports for our year end (31st December 2016) for the Swedish Authorities and Auditors.</p> <p>The Introduction and handover between Carin and Paula is ongoing. Due to our accountant being based in the UK and access issues to the Swedish account for non-Swedish nationals a new UK bank account had been opened with Metro Bank.</p> <p>(FB) left the meeting.</p> <p>The board gave a unanimous decision to support travel for (KB) & (DW) to secure host for the world championships and in the pursuit of other growth and recognition opportunities for IMMAF.</p>	
<p>8. Federations</p>	<p>We need greater engagement with members. IMMAF members will be doing all they can to increase membership and promote MyNextMatch.</p> <p>Bulgaria European Open event needs to be successful and at no cost to IMMAF. Bulgarian representative is present at this event working behind the scenes.</p> <p>Meeting with Bahrain is planned after this meeting to discuss the possibility of a world championship there next year.</p>	<p>Action DW</p>

	<p>UMMAF suggested running the world championships in Phoenix at little or no cost. GS thinks US is a safe option. It might be London. We need to look at lots of possibilities. Ireland is a good option with Connor McGregor big media presence.</p> <p>(TM) is indicated to hold a Championship time schedule for a year, it would facilitate planning for National Federation.</p> <p>Youth21 project. Many Federations report an upsurge of the popularity of MMA with the youth. That's why we need to concentrate on developing programmes for the kids, including modified rule sets. Sweden has already a system; GS confirms there is an age bracket. IMMAF has to prepare a statement what the plans are for Youth projects.</p>	
<p>9. Africa</p>	<p>RP Would like to suggest special offers for SA. The President of Ghana is interested; There would be a Board of Presidents of the African country. SA is much cheaper, but finances are still a problem. The Championship needs to move to more affordable states. RP will try to run African open again in 2017. The best path is to choose the cheapest state to lower the fee down.</p>	