

IMMAF Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 21st June 2018.

Time: 16.00 pm /2pm (GMT)

Location: Bucharest

1) Roll Call;

In attendance: President Kerrith Brown (KB), Bertrand Amoussou (BA), Wissam Abinader (WA), Tom Madsen (TM), Raymond Phillips (RP). Andrew Mochanov (AM) (Head of Development).

By conference call; Courtney Braun (CB), Stewart Brain (SB), August Wallen (AW), Frank Babcock (FB), Ryan Brueggeman (RB) (UMMAF).

2) President's Welcome and Activity Report:

KB welcomed all Directors present to the meeting and the European Championships in Bucharest. IMMAF had put another stake in the ground by the introduction here of the 1st IMMAF Under 21s European Open championships.

The President welcomed the latest appointment to the IMMAF staff team of Dr. Andrew Mochanov who comes with a wealth of experience from his time with British Judo and the International Sambo Federation. AM thanked the president and all directors for their welcome and he is looking forward to taking on this important challenge.

AM leaves the meeting.

In 2019 the plan is to find an organizer for the Pan America Championships. Discussions had reached an advanced stage with the Bahamas. These championships would take place in the month of April and complete the open series of events in all continents.

August Wallen left the meeting.

The president opens the discussion about the management of the prize money that the Chinese organisers of this years Asia open and Junior world championships are putting up for the athletes.

There was general agreement from the directors that the amateur status of all athletes must be protected. Decisions on how the money will be distributed will be taken on a case by case basis depending on the rules and regulations existing in each jurisdiction.

There would be a pause in announcing the prize money element in China until Courtney Braun had

reported back to the board on any legal ramifications.

The board made a decision on the split of the prize money between the athlete, the federation and IMMAF in the following manner;

Athlete 70%

National federation 20%

IMMAF 10%

The vote was 7 directors in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions,

FB leaves the meeting.

3) **CEO report.**

- i) Annual membership fee: The CEO raised the issue of the annual membership fee never having been collected in the five years since IMMAF's inception. The CEO proposed that this commences from January 2019. It is already a requirement within the IMMAF statutes. The only decision is how much to charge. Until now we have tried to encourage National federations to register their membership through MyNextMatch with IMMAF taking a small admin fee on each registration. This has not had the traction we had hoped for. Therefore, we need to revisit the charging of a fee. Federations, on a sliding scale, could reduce their fee payable by a predetermined number of registrations in the MyNextMatch system, which is still an important project for data gathering. The CEO proposed a fee of \$1000.

Vote result: 6 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- ii) Affiliation membership discussions: The board was informed that a number of discussions had taken place with member federations where there was no clear decision on the member federation to be adopted going forward post affiliation. Meetings had taken place during the week with Spain, Kazakhstan (federation of Anatoly Kim), GEMMAF and GAMMAF (IMMAF and WMMAA members) together. Another meeting was planned this same day with Belarus. The main message to all federations is to try to work together for the common good of the sport, which will also enhance their recognition chances on a local level.
- iii) Affiliation agreement update. The CEO informed the board that the affiliation agreement is not yet completed and is still with the lawyers being worked on. Some delay has been caused by changes made by the WMMAA. The most significant of these changes was a concession to give them one additional NED and IMMAF reducing its number from 2 to 1. This changes the votes in the board from a 9 to 5 advantage for IMMAF to 8 to 6.

The board was also informed that the statutes would need to be changed to reflect the new composition of the board with a maximum 5 non-executive positions with a vote.

Vote result: 6 directors in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- iv) WADA court hearing decision: The board was informed that the CEO had attended the mediation court hearing in Lausanne 31st May 2018. 2 lawyers and Benjamin Cohen, European WADA director, represented WADA. No agreement was reached and therefore the Judge has given approval for the case to proceed. The case file must be submitted no later than the 31st August 2018.
- v) GAISF feedback on IMMAF application: The board was informed that we had received in writing feedback from GAISF on our application for observation status submitted on the 8th May 2018. Coincidentally the feedback letter arrived the day before the WADA mediation on the 30th May and was used by the WADA lawyers in their arguments that our application to GAISF was somehow not up to scratch. In summary the GAISF reply was very superficial. They asked for IMMAF to make a statement on the ban on MMA in France. They asked for the affiliation agreement document between IMMAF and WMMAA, and they made an observation that the file presented to them in Bangkok with the 40 recognised federations, that some of the certifications were not in English.
- vi) Items 6, 7 and 8 already covered by the presidents opening remarks.

4) **Financial report**

The CEO informed the board that IMMAF had received the second and final installment from the UFC for this year. Cash flow is positive. We expect further income to come in to IMMAF from the Asian Championships and the Bahrain World Championships in November if the Bahrain Federation agrees to absorb the accommodation cost for the athletes. The board approved the Presidents remuneration increase back dated to January 2018 of £3,000. The board also approved the staff increase of 5% and the CEO increase of 8%.

CB leaves the meeting.

5) **Continental regions reports.**

SB reported to the meeting that the current arrangement with the Arnold Classic in Australia is being re-evaluated. RP reported that the Africa open in Johannesburg in May ran very well and that they have the human resources to get things done quickly and efficiently. RP reported that his Federation in South Africa is working with Flight Centre who are able to offer special flight rates for South Africa fighters and possibly international athletes as well. These discussions are in progress. WA reported to the meeting that our Japan Federation are not active and not taking care of amateur MMA. WA

has been in contact with Japan Shooto fighters who are members of the GMOC- official martial arts commission that sanction most competitions in Japan. BA informed the board that our Switzerland federation has also been inactive for a long time and we should explore other options there. There was a proposal put to the board to rescind the membership of Japan and Switzerland. The result of the vote was the following;

To rescind Japan membership; 6 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstention.

To rescind Switzerland membership; 6 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

6) AOB

- a) WA had made contact with the new Saudi sports minister. They wish to form a new MMA federation in their country. They have requested a meeting with the IMMAF president.
- b) BA informed the board of the latest developments in France as far as the ban on MMA and was hoping for good news shortly.
- c) KB reported that we would host a Pan Americas championship in 2019 possibly in the Bahamas.
- d) TM enquiry about youth events for 14/15 yrs and 16/17 yrs athletes. KB informed the board that the work has been carried out on the rule sets for this age group and we have taken advice from the medical commission and the technical commission. The expectation is that these events will start in 2019/20.
- e) KB reported to the board that a world championship team event composed of a mixed men and women team had been proposed to the UFC for an event in Vegas during UFC Fight Week 2019. The proposal for this has already been sent to Lawrence Epstein for consideration.
- f) The board members present expressed concern that a non board member was allowed uninvited to join the meeting. The board unanimously agreed that if a board member is or is not able to attend a meeting for any reason they cannot be accompanied to a meeting by a non board person, or send a substitute representative to meetings that they cannot attend.