

IMMAF Board meeting
 Date: 15/16th February 2019
 Location: Beirut, Lebanon
 Time: 9.00am

Agenda item	Comments	Decision	Action
1.Roll Call	Kerrith Brown (president), George Sallfeldt (VP), Bertrand Amoussou, Wissam Abi Nader, Raymond Phillips, August Wallen, Stewart Brain, Frank Babcock (conf call), Tom Madsen (conf call).		
2. Apologies	Tom Madsen day 1		
3. Presidents welcome	<p>1. Presidents welcome (KB)- the President thanked the board for their attendance to the first board meeting of the year. KB thanked GS and AW for the opportunity given to him to be involved with MMA and to build the sport from the bottom up. UFC support continues with Lawrence Epstein fully behind IMMAF. He thanks the board for their trust and the CEO for his work. The president explained the many challenges ahead not least the application for membership to GAISF, France and Ireland recognition locally with authorities. The president praised the backroom</p>		

	<p>team at IMMAF and all staff for their commitment. The team continues to grow and Marc Goddard joins the team on a full time basis as head of regulatory affairs. New MMA federations have formed recently, and these could be potential threats to our GAISF membership.</p>		
3.1	<p>Events calendar 2019- The board were made aware of the 2019 calendar of events and dates. The plan includes Pan Ams in Bahamas, Asian Open in Bangkok (TBC), European Junior/Senior Open (Belfast or Rome), Youth World Championships (Rome), Africa Open (Jo-burg), Oceania (New Zealand), World Championships Junior/Senior (TBC).</p>		
3.2	<p>World Championships 2019- the President reported that BLR were no longer in the running for the 2109 WC. The WMMAA Chinese federation were a 60% possibility and further discussions and meetings are planned. There was a discussion regarding the Bahrain WC in 2018 and the experience of the board. Although board members expressed disappointment with certain aspects of the 2018 WC</p>	<p>Approval for Dialogue with China and Bahrain</p>	<p>KB</p>

	<p>in Bahrain the President was given a mandate to open dialogue with the Bahrain federation with regards to a 2019 WC.</p> <p>FB joins the meeting by Conference call.</p>		
4.	<p>Approval of board minutes 18th November 2018- AW asked that the minutes be circulated to BoD much earlier after meetings.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by GS and seconded by BA.</p> <p>GS proposed that live BoD meetings happen at least once per year.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>
5.	Declaration conflict of interest. (All)		
5.1	<p>HQ office move (DW)- The CEO informed the BoD that the IMMAF HQ would move from Birmingham to London. The CEO informed the BoD of a potential conflict of interest since the London office is the same location as his wife's charity to the Tessa Sanderson Foundation. The conflict was noted and the office move approved unanimously.</p>	Approved	DW
5.2	<p>Greenhill supplier (KB)- KB informed the BoD that his son is supporting Greenhill in the UK with branding and sales. The</p>		

	conflict was so noted and accepted by the BoD.		
5.3	<p>HOKA sponsor agreement (DW)- The CEO informs the BoD that he is related to one of the partners in HOKA that are making a business proposal later in the Agenda. The conflict was so noted and accepted by the BoD.</p> <p>The BoD members were reminded that they needed to return to the CEO asap their own conflict of interest and related parties forms previously circulated.</p>		BoD
6.	<p>GAISF update (DW)-The CEO informed the BoD that the observation application to GAISF had been unsuccessful. Members of the BoD expressed disappointment however there was a united resolve to continue to try to gain recognition and to review our methods, to deploy new tactics and strategies to make the breakthrough.</p>		DW KB
7	WADA update (DW)-		
7.1	<p>ADRV World Championships Bahrain 2018- The BoD were informed that so far we received one ADRV for a Russian male athlete. He has admitted</p>	Approved	DW

	guilt and had a 2 yrs. sanction imposed with immediate effect.		
7.2	<p>WADA defence filed with Swiss civil court- The CEO informed the BoD that WADA after asking for extensions finally made its defence January 10th, 2019 to the case IMMAF is bringing in the Civil Swiss courts. The courts had provided 18th February for hearing the case. However, our lawyers want to delay so that they can make further written evidence now that we have seen WADA's defense. The lawyers have asked for further information such as IMMAF injury statistics and any comparison studies carried out between MMA and other combat sports for safety.</p> <p>There was a discussion about whether medals should be redistributed following a positive doping case. The BoD decision was not to redistribute medals. The athlete's win should be deleted and ranking points removed.</p>	Approved unanimously	DW DW
8	Governance- Policy docs for approval (BoD)	Approved unanimously	
8.1	Anti-corruption and betting regulations		
8.2	Whistleblowing policy		
8.3	Conflict of interest policy		

8.4 8.5 8.6 8.7 8.8 8.9 8.10	<p>Procurement policy</p> <p>Ethics policy</p> <p>Detection and prevention of money laundering</p> <p>Detection and prevention of bribery</p> <p>Money laundering policy</p> <p>Award of commercial contracts associated with major sporting events</p> <p>Distribution of development funds</p> <p>Comment was made that the policies should be pliable and continuously reviewed yearly.</p>		DW
9.	<p>Cadet/ Youth Rules Policy (KB)-</p> <p>The Youth rules were discussed at length. With many viewpoints put forward in favour of either no head shots, semi contact or full contact. The effective transition of athletes from youth to senior competition with or without headshots was also discussed, the possibility that member federations could lose fighters if there are no head shots, as well as the medical report citing evidence of brain trauma injury to young athletes and their vulnerability at this age.</p> <p>The decision of the board was to adopt the Youth Policy as proposed with no head shots.</p>	Agreed unanimously	DW
10.	<p>IMMAF championship Eligibility Rules change proposal (BoD)-</p> <p>The BoD considered the amendment to the championship eligibility rules</p>	Approved unanimously	DW

	<p>that disqualifies an athlete that has competed (possibly without knowledge of the fact) against an athlete with a professional record. The amendment allows for this to be decided on a case by case basis rather than an automatic disqualification as is currently the rule.</p>		
11.	<p>Finance report. (DW)</p>		
11.1	<p>UFC funding agreement 2019- The BoD informed that funding for 2019 had been secured from the UFC and the first instalment already received. The President wanted to express his thanks to UFC for their continued support and in particular Chief Operating Officer Mr. Lawrence Epstein.</p>		
11.2	<p>Year-end accounts 2017- The BoD asked for further break down of board expenses to be included in the accounts. Subject to those adjustments the accounts were approved.</p>	Approved	DW
11.3	<p>Audited accounts 2017- CEO informed the board that due to further adjustments to the accounts that they are not ready for sign off.</p>		DW
11.4	<p>Year-end accounts 2018- The BoD were informed that 2018 end of year accounts have been completed, which have previously been circulated</p>	Approved	

11.5	Audited accounts 2018- We are not yet ready for auditing until adjustments have been made to the accounts which are signed off by the BoD.		DW
11.6	2019 budget- the board requested a more detailed cashflow for 2019.		DW
12.	<p>Registration in Switzerland report. (DW)</p> <p>The CEO was tasked to bring back a report on the re-registration of the IMMAF to the board. The report was circulated prior to the meeting identifying the many benefits for International Federations located in Lausanne.</p> <p>SB asked if their were disadvantages to registering in Switzerland.</p> <p>GS was concerned about the perception of members of such a move.</p> <p>AW opinion was that we should make a clean move if we decided to make the change and not try to maintain registration in Sweden as well as Switzerland as CEO had been advised by lawyers was a possibility also. AW was also concerned that the IMMAF history in Sweden should not be lost.</p> <p>GS tasked the CEO to carry out some further explorations and analysis of any negatives and practicalities</p>		DW

	<p>An external independent consultant should be appointed to do this looking at any downsides and how these might be mitigated.</p> <p>AW informed the BoD that in Sweden there is a special law on democracy, and this is at the heart and soul of the IMMAF.</p> <p>GS- Switzerland is opening up especially in financial transaction transparency. There is infrastructure support in Switzerland whereas in Sweden there is not for IFs. It gives us a possibility to network and show our seriousness. We should aim to be centred around where the sports world is gathered.</p> <p>BA- Opinion was that we should be where the big federations are, to be considered as a big federation ourselves.</p>		
13.	<p>Risk Register (DW).</p> <p>The CEO introduced the BoD to the risk register and how the various risks to IMMAF have been rated for Likelihood of happening and Impact on the organization if they do happen. The board were invited to study the risk register further in their own time and to feedback any comments to the CEO. The risk register will be reviewed at every BoD meeting.</p>		DW
14.	HOKA proposal (KB)- A		DW

	<p> sponsorship agreement had been circulated with BoD papers ahead of the meeting. The HOKA team joined the board meeting by conference call; Mark Harding, Fred Kukendall (attorney), Eric (MarCom's), Cedric Cromwell (Chair of Mashpanoag tribe), Rob White (CEO). The HOKA team presented their offer by PowerPoint. The President of IMMAF thanked the HOKA team for their presentation and a BoD discussion followed on the merits of the plan. </p> <p> AW-Expressed his concern that there was no money upfront but HOKA were expecting a lot. </p> <p> KB- Unhappy there is no money upfront for using IMMAF assets to raise investment, and potentially IMMAF having to wait for 3 yrs to see any money. </p> <p> GS- The National Governing Body should have a strong relationship with this entity. HOKA should bid for a world championships separately to this proposal. </p> <p> FB- communicated that UMMAF had had a meeting with HOKA but communications had broken off. FB would like to have a working relationship with them. They were offered a position on the UMMAF board. A co-branding proposal was sent to HOKA but there was no response. UMMAF has been circumvented by HOKA. UMMAF </p>		
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	<p>does have a project working with various communities. HOKA offered to help politically in the US for recognition. There is only one Indian casino that works with the ABC. HOKA had stated that they would never give up control where they operate. UMMAF is licensed to operate in many states. FB stated that his door is never closed but concerned about the offer and what they want to do.</p> <p>GS- commented that it was a complicated set up because HOKA is a for profit organization.</p> <p>SB- commented on the fundamental problem of an entity using the IMMAF brand to raise money. GS suggested drafting a proposal for a counter offer to them. They should bid for the Worlds separately and commit finance to that.</p> <p>TM-commented that there should be no problem to continue talks with them. Their offer of 3/5% to IMMAF before we know all of their costs is concerning</p> <p>TM also expressed concern over their proposal in the agreement to cover the whole of Pan America. However, they are motivated so we should continue to talk.</p> <p>GS commented that the CEO should draft a letter of appreciation thanking HOKA for their enthusiasm and make a counter offer.</p>		
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15.	<p>App Launch (DW) There was a detailed discussion about the various IMMAF digital platforms each holding IMMAF data. The board were united in their view that the IMMAF should hold and control its own data on its own CRM and server. The CEO was tasked to commission a report into how this scope of work should be carried out with costings. Further to that, two Directors should oversee the scope of the work. It was proposed that Wissam Abi Nader and George Sallfeldt should be the two Directors for this task.</p> <p>There was a vote taken on whether the Smart Intelligence App should be adopted for the IMMAF progression.</p>	<p>Unanimously Agreed</p> <p>Unanimously Agreed.</p>	<p>WA GS DW</p>
16.	<p>Ordinary General Assembly 2019 (KB)-The board discussed the OGM forthcoming in November where all Directors' terms expire and, in accordance with the statutes, the board, President and Vice President should be up for re-election. It was agreed that candidates for the must be vetted by the Nominations Committee before being presented to the General Assembly. It was also agreed the General Assembly could be asked to elect all positions by acclamation. The board were not able to agree on the term that the new merged board should</p>		<p>DW, KB, AW, GS</p>

	<p>serve. There were proposals for 6 years and 8 years. The board also explored the idea of rotation whereby some Directors would serve, for example, 4yrs and others 6yrs, the idea being to reduce the risk of losing the whole board in one election year. With no agreement reached on the term issue it was agreed that the CEO and President would meet with AW and GS in Sweden before the next board meeting in June to find a solution and to invite a lawyer to assist.</p>		
17.	<p>AOB- RP- Informed the board that MMA South Africa is partnering with a company called Flight Centre who arrange flights and Hotels at discount. Flight Centre have been in talks with the IMMAF with a view to partnering with the International Federation.</p> <p>AW- Instruction and assignment to Marc Goddard.</p> <p>AW raised the issue of the grapplers spoiling the excitement for spectators and media for the sport. He wants to see more striking and the referees should intervene, talk to fighters to be more active and to finish; more quickly to stand up fighters. He added that taking someone down should not be given too much credit in the scoring of the match.</p>		

	<p>TM- agreed adding that the fighters should be made to move and attack and that if we do not have that it will be a danger.</p> <p>GS- commented that the stand-up should come from back and side control, because wrestlers avoid stand-up by going into side control.</p> <p>GS- suggests we have more of these type of board meetings rather than conference call, which maybe even more complicated to do once we have the WMMAA Directors in the new board.</p>	<p>Unanimously agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>
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