

Minutes IMMAF board meeting

Date: Wednesday 27th July 2022

Time: 2pm London GMT

Location: Video via Microsoft Teams

Item No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>Roll Call</p> <p>Wissam Abinader (WA), Bertrand Amoussou (BA), Denitza Batchvarova (DB), Stewart Brain (SB), Kerrith Brown (KB), Vadim Finkelstein (VF), Viktor Frolov (VF), Han Jiuli (HJ), Iskander Karim (IK), Tatiana Klimenko (TK), Tom Madsen(TM), Svetlana Odintsova (SO), Raymond Phillips (RP), George Sallfeldt (GS).</p> <p>In Attendance: Densign White (DW), Gosha Malik (GM), Nick Davies (ND), Jas Sohal (JS).</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies / Absent</p> <p>Apologies: August Wallen</p> <p>Absentees: None</p>	
3.	<p>Conflicts of Interests</p> <p>KB - Greenhill</p>	
4.	<p>Presidents Opening remarks (KB)</p> <p>Hosting rights agents agreement (Zuhher Avdovic).</p> <p>Conducted a meeting on the basis that we carried out an LOI and MOU.</p> <p>KB is currently presenting the final contract. It's been passed by the lawyers before finalising. There's currently no final agreement. We continue to negotiate. KB is speaking with TM and WA who have been instrumental in driving the information as well as ensuring it does go through. We are more than happy about what's been discussed at the meetings.</p>	

A payment is due no later than next week. This will be ongoing with a view we are happy with everything discussed at meetings. The board will be contacted for a final decision once the papers are signed.

Saudi.

Ongoing discussions continue with Saudi with regards to a five year deal for the worlds. WA is again driving this with the president of the Saudi Federation.

Iran

We have had conversations with Iran to host an Asian championships the end of October. We are looking to finalize details with Iran. Hosting rights fees are currently at half a million and then additions to cover running cost. The event has been scoped out on Kish Island as certain countries will not go into Iran. Andrew has visited the island and has reported it would be a good space. Looking at exchanging a deposit and agreement although it has been challenging due to the issues in Iran.

KB suggested a meeting in Abu Dhabi on the 15th to finalize arrangements. GM is sending information across in order for details to be confirmed.

METRO Bank

Some of you are aware an issue occurred with metro bank with regards to closing our account within 60 days, based on the information that we are dealing with Iran. DW to update during CEO section.

Singapore

UFC event was held in Singapore. KB and WA attended primarily to meet Gordon Tan, the VP of the Olympic Council of Asia. There was interest shown in investing in an Asian event or to have some input into Asia and the possibility to come onto a commission or set up a National Federation. It later transpired plans had gone ahead for setting up their own Asia MMA structure.

Letters were sent out to 45 of their members in the Olympic National Federations for setting up a new structure.

GAISF

KB has been having dialogue with WAKO due to the on-going situation with GAISF with regards to being dissolved sometime in August 2022.

Oceania Championship

Oceania discussions revealed issues with the event. KB stopped the event half way through the day, due to no ambulance support. There was the facility to make a phone call. A small incident took place in which it took thirty five minutes before an ambulance arrived (participant had a dislocated elbow).

Richie Cranny the president of the Australian Federation had flagged this up the night before. The medical commission gave assurance it was dealt with for the event.

There were also other issues such as an athlete fighting twice in one day. We were reassured this would be resolved for day two, it was not resolved.

The New Zealand federation and French Polynesia had a meeting with Richie Cranny and subsequently changed the event to a national South Pacific Championship of which we were not part of.

KB left the arena as not to endorse the event due to unresolved issues. The event however had medical staff on site but no ambulance at the time of KB's departure. DW currently writing a report.

Some issues under our procedures were also flagged, for example, we should have had a representative present at the event. However our representative in Malaysia did not have his visa come through in time.

One of the request from the event is to allow athletes to be ranked for the world championships. DW is in the process of reviewing this.

The federations have been contacted by email. A response came from Richie who was also expressing disappointment. KB commented it would have been a good event and was a sad situation however lessons have been learnt.

	<p>Recognition of points</p> <p>Athletes paid their own travel accommodation etc. to get to the competition. If points are awarded they only get half the point plus if the event has less than 20 nations participating. KB pointed out, it's also not the same level of competition as the Europeans.</p> <p>Board decision: To allow points to the athletes who participated in the Oceania event.</p> <p>Europeans</p> <p>Europeans will be held at the end of September.</p> <p>Youths</p> <p>Over 500 athletes in the system from over 40 countries. Although it was a late announcement for the event we have seen an incredible 40% increase from our last event in Bulgaria. This has created a few challenges to be addressed e.g. we require another cage and of course expenses will increase to cater for the unexpected increase in numbers attending.</p> <p>With 509 athletes from 40 countries will participate in Abu Dhabi, we can see from this where the development of youth is heading with regards to growth.</p> <p>KB attending events this week in Portugal and Kosovo and will continue to push for a development and keep the network going in terms of recognition.</p>	
5.	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings (26th January 2022)</p> <p>APPROVED: Proposed by DB and seconded by WA</p>	
6.	<p>Actions from the previous meeting minutes</p> <p>Kerrith earlier spoke about the meetings with ISMM represented by Mr Advocic of which continue and are ongoing.</p> <p>DW has also spent time with the lawyer. She's in the process of writing a license agreements, a regents agreements and a tripartite agreement which was the last</p>	

	<p>document I had shared with DB,WA and TM. A meeting was held on Friday to review the tripartite agreement. The tripartite agreement is between IMMAF and ISMM Company.</p> <p>We also need to have a tripartite agreement between IMMAF, ISMM Company and the host federation i.e. a three way deal. There are obviously rights and obligations within the agreement. DW will need to get back to the lawyer to agree the document.</p> <p>ACTION: DB to review the documents and get back to DW by the end of the week.</p>	DB
7.	<p>CEO Report (DW)</p> <p>Iran</p> <p>Discussions continue regarding hosting an Asian championship. The request is Kish Island. It's an independent Island from Iran, visas are not required and rules are a lot more relaxed. A conducive location for sports, especially international sport. Andrew has visited the island to conduct a coaching course and carried out a RECCE e.g. venue hotel. He has reported it's an excellent place to hold an event. DW also spoke to some of the federation's within the region. The feedback was positive. No objections.</p> <p>Also in Iran at the end of April we met with Federations such as Morocco, Libya, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Scotland, Canada, a very busy period.</p> <p>Met with Donato, some of you met with him he was at the World championships as a representative of the new GAISF President. We continue to have dialogue with him, meeting held on 28th April. Next meeting will be on 5th July for a catchup. Things are moving along slowly. We are waiting to see what will happen with GAISF and what will be the replacement and especially what will be the recognition process. It's possible that sport accord will be taking over with input from the IOC.</p> <p>I went to an event called 'Host and Federations Summit'. It was an opportunity to meet representatives from other international federations and also host cities</p>	

that may want to bid for an IMMAF events. Also had good conversations with the commonwealth games (Birmingham) representatives. DW will be attending the opening ceremony tomorrow night.

Also attended the WADA symposium in Lausanne. It was an interesting two days where DW met Sebastian Gilot, the WADA Director and Michele Verroken represented us. There were lots of interesting presentations including new developments around the testing from blood which could have a positive impact and be cheaper than collecting urine. Currently in the development stage.

Michele has communicated via email about her concerns around our compliance with WADA, especially in the area of out of competition testing. When we submitted our documents to WADA we did say we would allocate a budget around US\$220K for the IMMAF anti-doping programme. We have not been able to start our out of competition testing, however we have been testing at all other events.

We are trying to meet the bar set of 10% of participation for testing. We have hit that target for some of our events but not all. It was reached in some of the smaller events held in Africa and Pan America. A little more difficult when you have entrants of 400 plus. 40 test is a lot and very expensive. We need to do more out of competition testing including RTP, and ensure we allocate a budget to cover this. DW setting up a meeting with Michele to look at addressing this issue.

Sophie carried out an exercise with the out of competition testing program which is estimated at an annual cost of \$70,000. That equates to US\$16-\$17,000 per quarter. That is, in addition to in-competition testing. Our financial position should improve therefore cannot see why we shouldn't be able to meet our target.

DW visited Amsterdam on 5th July to meet with the VA, the body who recognizes combat sport in the Netherlands. It's a delegated branch of the Olympic committee. They have been in existence for 5 years, specifically to regulate combat sports in the Netherlands. Our federation is under that umbrella, maybe working with the kickboxing Federation. DW had a good

meeting with the Director. They are very happy with what we are doing at IMMAF level and would like to see MMA expand in the Netherlands. They have created some rules for MMA. Very similar to ours.

We are also in a good place with Canada, we have signed the MOU. Recently had a strategic meeting with them on the 15th July about how they will grow the sport. Please note this is also with the kick boxing association and well connected politically within Canada. This will allow us to have amateur MMA and practice championships in at least four or five of the provinces. We were previously practically locked out of doing amateur events. Professional MMA is allowed however amateur was not. Hopefully we have found a way around this situation.

The board may remember the suspension of CCA Federation. We have had a correspondence from the new president who is not happy about the decision. DW has responded, informing IMMAF have complied according to statutes and there next step is to follow the complaint procedure.

Metro Bank

Metrobank gave us 60 days notice (expires the end of August). In the meantime we have been researching a new bank in Switzerland. This has not been done contrary to what you may have read in the financial audit minutes. We are still in the process. DW thanked all for signing the agreement.

DW also mentioned that IMMAF are also looking at switching over to a limited company. This is likely to happen simultaneously with the change of bank within the next few days.

The CEO responded to a question from the board on the Banking matter.

Metro Bank - are not allowed to do business with Iran because of the sanctions. DW has talked to the bank and tried to explain that IMMAF is an international sports federation etc etc. they had asked many questions, drilling down into our activities. It's not a negative to be looking at a bank in Switzerland who can provide us with the services IMMAF require.

	<p>Kish Island - Visa's are not required, no one can be barred from entering the competition or refused a visa.</p> <p>Testing To a certain extent we need to be in control of competition testing and not totally rely upon the national federations, however if carried out by some of the federations would financially assist. The main pressure currently is, we are still financing the test at a lot of the events. Outside of the world championships, we paid for all the cost in Africa, Mexico and covered all the cost for the Europeans, estimated at 40 test. On the expectation of a large number of entrants, especially because it is to be held in Italy.</p> <p>We are totally responsible for testing in terms of 'out of competition' and the 'registered testing pool'. The people in the testing pool should be tested at least three times a year, so far no testing done. If we obtain sponsorship, the savings could be allocated to testing and/or get host countries to meet these cost. When WADA come looking at what we have done in 2022, we need to ensure we meet the targets. This will need to be picked up in quarter three and four.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Governance Update (DW & ND).</p> <p>SIRVS Audit SIRVS is the SIGA independent rating and verification system. They outsourced to the 'British Standards Institute' (BSI), who conduct independently. BSI have global clients and work with many different businesses. Our last audit was two years ago. We now require another audit which will be much more detailed. The cost is estimated at US\$10,000.</p> <p>APPROVED - The cost of audit of US\$10,000</p> <p>APPROVED - Board compensation of \$150 per day.</p> <p>APPROVED – To register IMMAF SA on the to a Swiss commercial register.</p>	

	<p>French Federation</p> <p>It's currently a struggle to get the communication and development within the French MMA federation. Progress has been slow and resources promised by the last administration of the government/sports minister has not materialized so far.</p>	
9.	<p>Finance report (JS)</p> <p>a) Management accounts, quarter 2 2022</p> <p>b) Year End 2021 Report</p> <p>c) PwC Audited accounts 2021</p> <p>The above reports were accepted and approved by the board.</p>	
10.	<p>Membership (GM): Canada, costa rica and sri Lanka all approved by the board for membership.</p>	
11.	<p>Risk register (DW)</p> <p>DW presented the risk register. Most risk had not changed since the last meeting. The big issue that still needs to be resolved and has been outstanding for some time is the IMMAF is without insurance cover.</p>	
12.	<p>AOB</p> <p>MEETING END</p>	
13.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Date: Wednesday 28th September 2022 Time: 2.00pm London GMT</p> <p>Location: Video via Microsoft Teams</p>	