

IMMAF Board Meeting.

Location: Online Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

Time: 2.00pm London GMT/ 3.00pm CET

**Agenda.**

- 1) Roll Call: 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), August Wallen (AW).

In Attendance: Densign White (DW), Nicolas Davies (ND), Gosha Malik (GM), Jas Sohal (JS).

- 2) Apologies. Vadim Finkelstein.
- 3) Conflicts of Interest. (KB) Greenhill
- 4) Presidents Opening remarks (KB).
  - a) Visited Serbia and had meetings to discuss the World championships. A deal was agreed. Date agreed to be 11 to 19 February 2023. Serbia MMA will receive government support for the event.
  - b) WA and KB made a trip to Qatar. Meetings with Iman Holdings and the owner of UFC gym. Discussion was around hosting an IMMAF worlds, Asian or Gran Prix type competition.
  - c) Tajikistan hosted the Asia championships at short notice. There were logistic and cost issues. Hospitality was second to none.
  - d) Went back to Serbia to meet the Prime Minister in November.
  - e) Left Serbia to go directly to India to support the recognition efforts of Sharif Bapu.
  - f) KB then travelled to Nigeria again to support our Federation with their recognition and was told that a letter of recognition would be sent before the year end.
  - g) Sports minister in Columbia backed recognition of our federation there.
  - h) KB gave a short update on the OCA.
  - i) We have ongoing meetings with the UFC in particular on the IMMAF financial position.

- j) Discussions happening with Saudi.
  - k) KB had discussion with Fedor Emelianenko on the situation in Russia.
- 5) Approval of the previous meeting minutes 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Proposed by BA and seconded by TM.
- 6) Actions from the previous meeting minutes. No actions. There was a question from Mr Han Juili. Asia MMA Federation (OCA) had a rule testing event. They worked with the wushu federation of China which is totally different using an open area and two types of athlete outfit. KB commented that he was aware and had spoken to Mr Tang. Mr Han wants to encourage us to be more active in the region to counter what OCA are doing. Mr Han says that what they are doing is not MMA. DW commented that IMMAF has done what we can to tackle OCA including complaints to the IOC and GAISF. KB request to move this discussion to AOB.
- 7) CEO report (DW). CEO report previously circulated to board members.
- a) Metro account in London closed. Any remaining funds are transferred to the Swiss account. We have a US, Euro and CHF account with Banca Stato.
  - b) IMMAF registration on the commercial register is completed. The share capital part returned of the 100CHF to the IMMAF account (80k).
  - c) Staffing restructure because of the cashflow issues. Not sustainable without the safety net of UFC funding. Additional support from the UFC this year already spent was allocated to our usual 2023 agreement.
  - d) Unfortunately, 3 staff had to be let go Isobel Carnwath, Mikhail Mazur, and Marc Goddard. We would still want to retain Marc services on a pay as we go basis for events attended and courses delivered. Other cost savings on marketing and branding. For example, Inside the Games and Shoot The Moon. Social media and branding gaps will be picked up by uni4mbrand led by Andreas Georgiou.
  - e) General Assembly information has been disseminated to the members. Nominations have been invited for committee positions. Two resignations were received from the ethics commission and the CEO has written in reply to thank them for their service. The annual report is completed after a few minor revisions.
  - f) GAISF met in Lausanne 29<sup>th</sup> November. 70% of members voted to dissolve GAISF and responsibility for the recognition process of Ifs will sit under SportAccord. Our expectation is that we will in the near future meet with the GAISF leadership to gain a greater understanding of the new process. The fact that the Los Angeles organising com have made their short list for sports to be included in the 2028 Games is cause for optimism that IMMAF will receive less resistance from the combat sports.

- g) On Anti-doping we have four positive tests from the European championships, three of them from the same country.
  - h) There will be some out of competition testing for Russian athletes wishing to return to play whenever it is decided to reintroduce Russia and Belarus.
  - i) Income from the worlds is important to carry the organisation for the next couple of months. IMMAF will retain 100% of participation fees and Serbia will cover all operational costs.
- 8) Governance Update (ND). In regular contact with people from the IOC and the mood there is very positive towards IMMAF. The strategic plan requires the reorganising of the communications and marketing, and this will be delivered to the next Bod meeting. France waiting for the structure within FMMAF, and they have put together a steering committee and Nick will be in touch after Christmas. US monthly meetings and things going well and there will be one more meeting before Christmas.
- 9) Finance report (JS). Apologies from Jas. CEO has forwarded management accounts to the board ahead of the meeting. The CEO gave a breakdown of the income and expenditure for the quarter including profit and loss for the period. Net losses in September, October, and November were reported, hence the reason to cut cost further and moving forward to increase our revenue.
- 10) Membership Approvals (GM) Peru and Montenegro. Applications received from Peru and Montenegro. The latter very well set up and hoping they will compete in the world championships. Peru supported by Andrew Mochanov and had good development and help from Government. TM asked if everyone had given their vote on the email request for approval. Gosha replied no reply from everyone. The vote in the meeting was unanimous for both Peru and Montenegro. 14 federations so far this year have been approved for membership. We have 61 approved by Government or NOC. We have prepared documents that can be sent to ministries to support the case for recognition. Gosha thanked the board for their support.
- 11) Technical matter (TM). Leading 32 countries get to sign up first. After a time then other countries can sign up. TM concerned that smaller countries could miss out. TM would like to see the top 32 athletes rather than country are given priority. BA agreed with TM. DW commented that we need to be careful with changes so that they achieve our objectives. There was a difference of opinion as to whether the country should have the right to select the athlete or if the athlete who has the high ranking top (32) in the WRL should be selected. TM suggested putting to a vote because we need to prepare for the future. AW commented that TM arguments sound valid but we need time for proper preparation. KB suggest reviewing the situation. All agreed that a review should happen.
- 12) Risk register (DW). No change to the risk register. The CEO has added comments to existing risk. Most serious is the ceasing of the UFC funding. TM asked if one country receiving 3 ADRV should not be a risk for the home country, the athletes and IMMAF. DW confirmed that so far there is only a consequence for the 3 athletes, but further investigations would take place into training environment, coach practice, and education. The CEO was most concerned about the UFC funding situation.

- 13) AOB. CEO asked Mr Han Juili if they wanted to continue with the OCA discussion and Mr Han replied that they did not. KB commented that the best way for IMMAF to deal with OCA is to achieve our recognition within the GAISF/SportAccord.
- 14) CEO had circulated a letter from President of the Russian MMA federation asking when Russia might be allowed to re-enter the IMMAF championships. KB had conversed with Mr Emelianenko and informed him that we are following the IOC line. TM asked what the exact policy of the IOC with regards to Russia was. KB commented that the IOC were providing guidelines. DW commented IOC is non-political and do not want athletes to suffer whilst at the same time wanting to be seen to be supporting Ukraine. IOC will probably leave the final decision to individual International Federations. TM asked if this is the policy of the IOC should IMMAF not prepare a policy. CEO replied that IMMAF is not in the same strong position as the recognised sports to deviate too far from the IOC guidance, otherwise this could work against us in the recognition effort. Ultimately a decision for the IMMAF board. ND concurred with DW summary of the situation, and we should just wait and be the last to accept Russia back. Russia will not appear soon there will be neutral athletes from Russia, no flags, National tracksuits, or emblems of Russia.
- 15) Date and Location of the next meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in Serbia on occasion of the World championships.

KB thanked the board for their work the last year and wished all a merry Christmas.

Meeting Closed 3.38pm .