

Minutes Emergency IMMAF board meeting

Date: 1st March 2022.

Time: 2pm GMT

Location: Online Microsoft Teams Meeting.

| Item No. | Item | Action |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| 1. | <p>Roll Call Directors Present: Kerrith Brown (president), George Sallfeldt (VP), Wissam Abinader (WA), Bertrand Amoussou (BA), Denitza Batchvarova (DB), Han Jiuli (HJ), Tatiana Klimenko (TK), Tom Madsen (TM), Raymond Phillips (RP), Stewart Brain (SB).</p> <p>Honorary Presidents: Vadim Finkelstein (VF), August Wallen (AW).</p> <p>Staff In Attendance: Densign White (DW) CEO, Gosha Malik (GM) Membership, Nick Davies (ND) CSO, Isobel Carnwath (IC) Marcoms, Alistair Pettitt (AP) Events.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Apologies / Absent Absentees: Svetlana Odintsova (SO), Iskander Karim (IK), Galimzhan Yessenov (GY). Victor Frolov (VF).</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ukraine conflict and impact on the IMMAF calendar 2022. 2. Board actions and decisions | |
| 4. | <p>DW informed the board that the conflict in Ukraine was impacting on the participation of teams in the Super World Cup scheduled to start in Bahrain 9th March 2022. The team from Ukraine has had to withdraw as their government is not allowing men aged 18 to 60 to leave as they are needed to defend the country, and now we need to consider whether Russia can or should be allowed to participate. Since this meeting has been scheduled the IOC yesterday have already recommended that IF's should suspend Russian and Belarus athletes from all competition. This also includes competition officials e.g., referees and judges. Mexico have agreed to step in as a replacement team for Ukraine. Should Russia be suspended we have other options. The escalation of this situation will only cause more challenges for our calendar of events. Europe is closing its airspace to Russian carriers and vice versa. Russian and Ukraine teams are usually the biggest participating teams and so their absence will have a significant financial impact.</p> | |

We hope for a fast solution to this conflict, but we need to be prepared that this could continue for months or years. CEO informed the board that he had received correspondence representing the Nordic countries and others asking for action against Russia and Belarus. Given these circumstances the board should consider whether it wants to follow the recommendation of the IOC and the consequences of not doing so. There is the possibility that some national teams will refuse to participate as long as Russia and Belarus are included.

KB also raised the risk of our membership application to GAISF should IMMAF choose not to comply with the IOC recommendations.

The Bahrain Super world cup is under control, and we have teams on standby to replace Russia. The Bahrain federation had a meeting recently with KB and DW and they agreed to follow whatever instructions were given from IMMAF on this matter.

The president expressed his regret that politics has entered the sports arena and whatever decision reached by the board is not personal against any Russian members or Directors. KB has had a good relationship with the Russian Union president, and we had plans to hold events in Russia next year.

Admiration and respect for the Russian members within the board and honorary president Vadim Finkelstein were expressed by all present.

However, the president was of the opinion that doing nothing was not a good option for IMMAF. Therefore, it is necessary to ask for a vote on the suspension of the Russian and Belarus membership and participation of athletes from all IMMAF events.

The vote was carried unanimously with one abstention.

The board was asked to approve the following statement for the media and IMMAF members drafted by IC:

Dear Members,

re. IMMAF suspends the Russian MMA Union & Federation of Hand to Hand Fighting & MMA of Belarus

It is with a heavy heart that we write to inform you that the IMMAF Board or Directors has reached the decision to suspend the membership of the Russian MMA Union (RMMAU) and the Federation of Hand-to-Hand Fighting & MMA of Belarus.

In doing so IMMAF unites with international sport in boycotting Russia and Belarus in response to the nations' attack on Ukraine.

The suspension will bar the Russian and Belarusian federations from participating in all IMMAF Championships for the time-being, affecting their athletes, coaches, technical officials and other national federation representatives. This will include

the MMA Super Cup taking place next week from 8 to 12 March 2022, organised by BRAVE but sanctioned by the IMMAF under IMMAF rules and regulations.

The move also prevents the organisation of IMMAF events in Russia or Belarus for the foreseeable future.

IMMAF strongly believes in the power of sport to unite people beyond politics. However, the homeland of our friends and colleagues in the MMA League of Ukraine is under attack and they have been forced from competing in next week's Super Cup as they take to defending their country. We are compelled therefore to unite with global sport in showing solidarity with Ukraine, while expressing our sorrow to RMMAU and Belarusian members who have no part in this conflict.

We hope and pray for a fast and peaceful resolution to this war.

The IMMAF team.

The statement was approved, and IC instructed to release to the media asap and GM instructed to notify the membership of IMMAF asap.

The meeting ended with KB and DW thanking the board for attending at such short notice.