

IMMAF Board Meeting.

Location: Online Microsoft Teams

Date: April 11th, 2024.

Time: 8.30am London GMT

Minutes.

- 1)** Roll Call: Wissam Abinader (WA), Bertrand Amoussou (BA), Kerrith Brown (KB), Han Jiuli (HJ), Tatiana Klimenko (TK), Tom Madsen (TM), Raymond Phillips (RP), Irman Smajic (IS).

In Attendance: CEO Densign White (DW)

2) President's Opening remarks

Africa (KB) Africa championship will be hosted by Namibia in June. RP has been supporting the Namibia Federation with their planning and has been monitoring the progress of all details.

Asia-KB reported a setback with the Asia championship planned in India which is now cancelled. Conversations are now taking place with Tajikistan and Pakistan. KB might be doing a recce on the former, but they cannot do youth. Could be in August after the Youth World Championships.

Pan Ams-The Pan Ams could also move. The plan is to schedule these continentals before the Youth Worlds in August.

World championships-Uzbekistan already confirmed and had a scoping meeting. After the Africa event, there will be planning meetings every fortnight and their team to put all logistics together.

UFC in Abu Dhabi the week before the Youth Worlds, registration is due to open on smoothcomp in the next week once the handbook is ready. Towards the end of April Wissam (WA) and KB will go back to Abu Dhabi to renew for another three years for the Youth World championships and then we will go to press. We have signed the contract from our side, and this will give us more financial stability with the hosting rights fee in the contract. Talks with other potential partners, RDX is in discussion for 2025 they are sponsoring the youth, and they did the Europeans and looking to do Africa and Asia as well.

The general feedback has been very positive with announcing our calendar.

An amazing event in Serbia in terms of performance, production and the youth's level. The new safeguarding process is having a positive impact. Referee and judges' new process is bedding in and 95% of decisions were good and fewer split decisions. We still need more training. Training weekend in Serbia for 2025 and to do another 3 years of European championships from 2025.

The next thing is a recommendation for today for the board.

3) SportAccord application

DW- to give an update on the process for recognition. We were invited by Stefan Fox to the membership meeting to explain the process.

DW- we attended the membership AIMS meeting. A long meeting they walked us through the process and this morning we had a meeting with Davide Delfini, and we hope that all the info provided over the past 8 years can be exported onto the new application platform. It will be a more in-depth process copy and paste of the WADA process that looks not only at the IF but its members, the bar was raised for recognised members to 60. Discussion as to what was acceptable which was NOC or ministry, but they could accept members with good governance and 3 years membership. My main concern is the length the process will take which was 2 years however today it was confirmed that it was up to 2 years. There is no observer status any longer. It's a full member or nothing. The other concern is that existing members still have Vito on new applications on rivalry grounds. MMA is uniquely different. There is an appeal if the decision goes against you. The SportAccord executive makes the decision. You can take a case to CAS. We understand a panel will be set up to evaluate applications from combat sports. You need to be a signatory of WADA. The application will open in two weeks and a decision could be made in a year from now. There is no news on the application fee. It is rumoured that the fee could be up to 25k We hope to have clarity when we speak to Delphini this morning.

4) Non-Executive appointments

KB housekeeping introduces athlete reps.

DW –We have invited Irman Smajic to this meeting, he is chair of the Athletes Commission. He recently attended the European Champs. It is an IOC requirement to have athlete representation on the board, so we invite Smajic as well as a female athlete Amanda Ribas.

KB recommends a two-year term.

Decision: The board accepted unanimously the athlete representatives onto the IMMAF board.

Irman commented that he was glad to be in Serbia to see how the championships work from that perspective. Thank you, I have been competing since 2018 in IMMAF championships.

KB welcomed Irman again to the board and valued his input on behalf of the athletes.

Irman- knowing the language of what they think in their language some small complaints from the athlete but nothing big

KB Good time to discuss some new members to the board to add strength and backfill. We have a female candidate Ms Valentina David a lawyer by profession, marketing and branding expert and this is a skill we could use on the board. The second invitee is Mohammed Qamber who has supported us a lot in recent times in Belgrade and

managing the Asia and the world championships in Albania. Without his support, the success we had recently would not have been possible.

KB any objections? None received.

Decision: The board unanimously agreed to the appointments of MQ and VD.

(KB)The VP recommendation is for Wissam Abinader appointed temporarily. Wissam has been instrumental in the deals initiated in the Middle East and been very active with national federations to develop the sport and working closely with KB over the past 12 months and this would be supported by the members when the time comes for the elected position. There were no objections.

(TM) commented it would be unfair with the work Wissam has put in so far. I am grateful for the work you have done.

(WA)- Thank every one of you for the support.

(KB)- commented that it was not just the work of Wissam in Africa and European champs but understanding the vision and strategy. I can only thank you for the support given to me. We have to do our best and get the recognition and I applaud the work Wissam has done.

(KB) asked if there were any questions from the floor. No questions asked.

Decision: Wissam Abinader was unanimously appointed as interim Vice President.

KB suggested early starts for future meetings. We have had a busy schedule in Birmingham at the SportAccord. It's important to meet all the stakeholders.

5) Financial report

(DW)- The financial position is still challenging. We picked up a new sponsorship deal Bit Delta. We have cut down on staff salaries. Nick Davies has left us and Andreas of uni4 media who did our social media. The Brave social media team has stepped in and done a great job led by Joao Xavier. We have been approached by Fox Entertainment creators of The Masked Singer to do a documentary piece featuring youth athletes. David Green has a new streaming deal on the table. Gradually we are getting new revenue coming in and the IMMAF TV revenue income is improving particularly during youth champs. The only setback from the Albania, Bahrain and Angola championships was unpaid invoices for drug testing. Bahrain and Angola have now settled their bill. However, Albania has not which is disappointing since the Tirana municipality was supposed to pick this cost up with other operational costs.

TM asked how much the Clearidium bill was.

DW replies it is 20k Euro.

We need to tighten up contracts on host obligations and have those in writing.

ITA cost is covered by the UFC. Outgoings on staff brought down to a more manageable level.

PwC is ready to work in May on the audit of the IMMAF accounts. Accounts are being done by a Swiss accountancy. CEO had hoped to have numbers ready for this meeting but there was no time between UK accountants and Swiss exchange of all of the information required.



We are going through the WADA compliance audit. ITA is supporting that. The registered testing pool needs to be sorted out. The top 2 from WRL have about 30 athletes for out-of-competition testing and must be tested 3 times each year which is 90 tests. Free education is provided by ITA and members can access it for free.

DW there are lots of moving parts, but we are making good progress.

KB any questions? None asked. KB thanked all for their attendance and will notify of the next meeting in due course.

Meeting ends.