

USSF Conference Call Agenda

July 22, 2020

Agenda prepared by:

USSF Board of Trustees and Executive Officers

Minutes prepared by: Ed Suczewski

NOTE: These meeting minutes have been appropriately redacted to protect USSF members' private information.

I. Call to Order: 6:08 PM

II. Roll Call

- A. Helen Delpopolo (Trustee)
- B. Andrew Freund (Trustee)
- C. Mariah Holmes (Trustee & Vice President)
- D. Justin Kizzart (Trustee)
- E. Ed Suczewski (Trustee & President)
- ~~F. Ryan White (Secretary)~~
- G. Americus Abesamis (Treasurer)

III. Previous Meeting Minutes

- A. Already approved and released

IV. Reports

- A. Ed's report on merchandise sales and trivia
- B. Ed's report on sports psychology consultant, Dr. Jason Von Stietz
- C. Financial updates from Americus

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Ed moves to allocate \$280 to print 50 2021 USSF Calendars (\$5.60 apiece) later this year from Helen's supplier. Ed will begin to accept photo submissions from members immediately upon approval with a final deadline of November 1, 2020. Ed will conduct an email vote among trustees to determine the best 12 photos for inclusion. Calendars will be sold in person at the 2021 U.S. National Championships for \$25 each. Any remaining calendars will be sold in our online store, and Ed will handle shipping.
 - 1. We need to sell at least 15 to profit.
 - 2. If we sell all 50, we'll profit \$970.

3. Helen did receive quotes for larger quantities as well--75 units for \$375 (\$5.00 apiece) or 100 units for \$460 (\$4.60 apiece)
4. Ed recommends against purchasing more than 50 this year simply because of the uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the economy, and our ability to host events.

Motion carries with unanimous support

VI. **New business**

A. Ed moves to make all membership purchases and renewals, including lifetime memberships, exclusively online.

1. Notes on transaction fees:

- a) We had our 3% Squarespace transaction fee removed when we upgraded to the commerce plan.
- b) A Stripe fee of 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction remains.
- c) For all paypal payments, we also incur a 2.9% + \$0.30.
- d) A lifetime member paying via check would only save us \$7.55.

Motion carries with unanimous support

B. Ed moves to approve the following package of bylaw amendments to make our elections fairer and more stable:

[motion amended] Update the definition of training camp:

An event may be considered a training camp if all of the following apply: (1) it involves at least two practice sessions, each of which includes sumo training for a minimum of two hours, (2) the participants are not all members of the same USSF-chartered club, and (3) it is open to USSF members with notice given at least one month in advance.

ADD Bylaw IV.12, protecting the integrity of USSF elections

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to protect the integrity of USSF elections. The Board of Trustees must prevent members from circumventing the election process or unethically altering the outcome of any USSF election, especially by enlisting non-participating members for

the specific purpose of gaining votes. Any such unethical action may result in disciplinary action, including a possible lifetime ban from the USSF, subject to the Board's decision after a hearing.

AMEND Bylaw II.1.B.2.a.2, establishing that only Qualified members may vote

a. Only Qualified members shall have voting rights in electing the members of the Board of Trustees, Officers, or in voting on such matters as may from time to time require a vote of the Membership. Each Qualified member shall be entitled to one (1) vote in all such matters.

AMEND Bylaw IV.2.B, establishing that only Qualified members may serve as trustees

B. Eligibility

Each member of the Board of Trustees shall be a Qualified Member in good standing at the time of election.

ADD Bylaw V.1.G, establishing that only Qualified members may serve as officers and that a president must possess prior USSF leadership experience

G. Eligibility

Each member of the Executive Committee shall be a Qualified Member in good standing at the time of election. Additionally, a President must have previously served a full term on the Executive Committee or one half term on the Board of Trustees (that is, roughly 2 years) at the time of election [and must have participated in at least 80% of conference calls in that time.](#)
[motion amended]

AMEND Bylaw IV.9, establishing that only Qualified Members may overturn a decision by petition

Any decision of the Trustees may be overturned by petition, with the support of a simple majority of Qualified Members, within forty-five (45) days of the decision being announced.

ADD Bylaw II.1.B.2.f, defining Qualified Member

f. Qualified Member

Only a Senior USSF member with continuous membership in the three previous consecutive years may be a Qualified Member. Annual memberships expire at the end of each calendar year and must be renewed by the end of January in order to be considered continuous. The first year's duration may be less than a full year provided that the member enrolled prior to the end of that calendar year.

Prior to achieving the rank of shodan, during each year of membership leading up to Qualified Member status, and also thereafter (to retain continued Qualified Member status), the member must participate in at least one USSF-sanctioned event or recognized training camp—as a competitor, an official, or as essential staff, confirmed by the Tournament Director. Essential staff are persons serving an official and essential function in running the event, such as scorekeeper, registration coordinator, or announcer. This annual requirement is waived upon achieving shodan, per below. (Nevertheless, all USSF members are encouraged to participate in and support USSF-sanctioned tournaments and other events, on a regular basis. USSF members are also encouraged to participate in sumo training, to deepen their knowledge and ability.)

Upon achieving the rank of shodan, a Qualified Member whose membership lapses will, upon becoming a member again, retain Qualified Member status, without the standard three years of consecutive membership prerequisite. Further, upon achieving the rank of shodan (and becoming a Qualified Member), the requirement to participate in at least one USSF-sanctioned event or recognized training camp annually is waived.

[motion amended] Lifetime members are subject to the same standards as annual members regarding eligibility.

All current USSF members, as of July 21, 2020, are Qualified Members as long as their membership does not lapse and they participate in at least one USSF-sanctioned event or recognized training camp annually beginning in 2021—as a competitor, an official, or as essential staff, confirmed by the Tournament Director. Members who have previously achieved the rank of shodan are not required to participate in at least one USSF-sanctioned event or recognized training camp annually.

New members who are interested in contributing to the development of the federation but who are not yet qualified to vote or hold office are encouraged to contribute and learn more about federation leadership by serving on USSF committees.

Amended motion carries with unanimous support

- C. Ed moves to adopt the following guidelines regarding the 2021 North American and U.S. National Championships in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic:
1. Advise athletes now not to book their flights for nationals until an official decision is announced on **no later than** January 4th and provide frequent reminders as the date approaches. (~~The tournament is currently scheduled for February 20th.~~)
 2. ~~If conditions are still uncertain on January 4th and if~~ **When** Justin is able to select a later date, we should reschedule nationals and postpone our official announcement until 6-7 weeks prior to that date.
 - a) We could do this prior to January 4th, but I think it would be best if we wait until we have a definitive date for SWC 2021.
 - b) If SWC 2021 is in September, we could potentially push nationals back as late as June. Ideally, Justin could put a hold on possible rescheduled dates in April and in June.
 3. (after all possible rescheduling) If local regulations in Austin allow the event to run and if Justin is capable of running the event, taking into account pandemic-related budgetary constraints, then the tournament should take place. If we announce on January 4th or on a rescheduled announcement date that the event will run, Justin will be 100% committed to hosting it. However, changes in local regulations could still force a last-minute cancellation. Members will be notified that the USSF will not be liable for travel expenses or any personal losses incurred because of a last-minute cancellation.
 4. We will also make a separate but simultaneous determination, based on conditions throughout the country, as to whether the tournament will serve as the qualifying event for the 2021 SWC. If at all possible, the

tournament should be the qualifying event, but if pandemic-related conditions will substantially impact the competition or athletes, we may opt to retain the qualifying athletes from 2020 for the 2021 SWC

Motion carries with unanimous support

VII. **Announcements and Reminders**

VIII. **Adjournment: 7:40 PM**