

## USSF Conference Call Agenda

September 6, 2020

Agenda Prepared by:

USSF Board of Trustees and Executive Officers

Minutes prepared by: Ryan White

**NOTE: These meeting minutes are suitable for public release and contain no USSF members' private information.**

**I. Call to Order: 7:05 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. Financial report from Americus
- B. Ed's update on sports psychology consultant, Dr. Jason Von Stietz

**V. Unfinished Business**

- A. Ed moves to revise the March plan to sell existing merchandise through the online store.
  - 1. Women's gear: We will wait for a plan from the women's committee on how best to use it. Any profits belong specifically to the women of the USSF, as the equipment was purchased with the women's fund.
    - a) 8 spandex shorts
    - b) 11 spandex tops
  - 2. Other gear: Only two 2XL polo shirts remain. Let's sell these or raffle them off on-site at nationals.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- B.** Ed moves to offer a \$10 USSF Store Gift Card as the prize for October's Sumo Trivia Night and all future trivia events (if applicable).

Motion carries with unanimous support.

## **VI. New business**

- A.** Ed moves to make John Jacques Trustee Emeritus

- Some of John's qualifications:
  - USSF Trustee 1992-1996 and initial USSF Trustee beginning in 1999
    - Helped to create the original bylaws in 1999 alongside Yone and Manny
  - Helped organize the first two North American Championships (1996, 1997)
  - Holds the rank of yodan/yondan
  - Was a pioneer of American sumo and a successful athlete in the early days of American sumo, pre-USSF:
    - 6-time Hawaii Champion, 4-time Hawaii Silver medalist, 7-time Hawaii Outstanding Sumotori Award, All Tokyo Newcomers Champion (1976), 3rd at the World Amateur Tournament held at Kokugikan (1977), 4-time Champion in Hawaii vs Japan local club tournaments (held in Japan) from 1976-1986

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- B.** Ed moves to make all event sanctions and club applications online-only. (Trustee oversight and transparency is the main objective, as well as searchability.)

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- C.** Ed moves to remove Event Organizer Address from the Event Sanction Form.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- D.** Ed moves to remove Practice Facility Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email from the Club Registration Form.

Motion defeated with a unanimous “no” vote.

- E.** Ed moves to add the following agreement to the Event Sanction form: “I understand that in-person weigh-ins are mandatory for any tournament. (Non-standard weight classes are acceptable as well as additional allowances beyond the standard weight limits, but all athletes must be weighed in.)”

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- F.** Ed moves to add the following item to the Event Sanction form and adopt the policy expressed therein:

Is this event closed to any individual members or any class of members? If yes, please provide a thorough explanation, which the Board of Trustees will review. (e.g. “This is a women-only tournament” or “This tournament is only open to heavyweights”)

Note: Any attempt to exclude a member or class of members not listed below must be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and may be subject to disciplinary action if deemed inappropriate.

Additionally, we agree to allow tournament directors broad discretion in who they disallow from their tournaments, provided that it is not discriminatory **and notice is given at the time of sanction [amended]**. The U.S. National Championships and North American Championships must always be open to all members.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- G.** Ed moves to add Mariah Holmes to the IFS Board of Directors.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

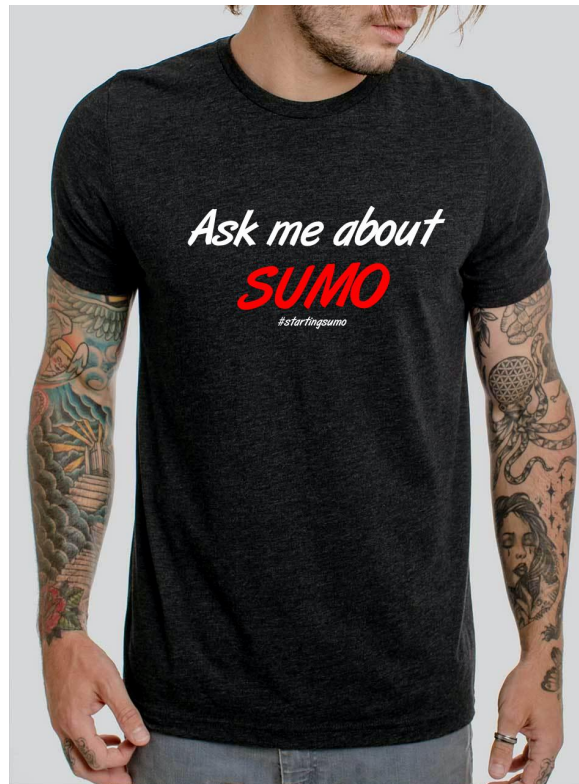
- H.** Ed moves to use [president@ussumo.org](mailto:president@ussumo.org) for all persons holding IFS positions attained through the USSF (i.e. IFS Vice President, IFS Board Member) rather than personal emails.

Motion carries with 3 votes in favor, 1 opposed.

- I. Ed moves to adopt the policy that all Event Reports are public. They must be emailed to all USSF members within a reasonable time period after the completion of an event, ensuring transparency.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- J. Ed moves to approve the following unisex premium t-shirts [and ordinary t-shirt \[amended\]](#) for sale in our USSF merch store:



Motion carries with unanimous support.

- K. Ed moves to prevent members of the same club from facing off in the first round of the U.S. National Championships whenever possible. (We decided this prior to 2020 Nationals, but this motion would add it to the “Hosting Nationals” policy letter.)

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- L. The board moves to seed the U.S. National Championships and the North American Championships based on the top four finishers from the previous year in each weight class.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

- M. Ed moves to determine that U.S. National and North American Championships must hold all world qualifying events first. Currently, these are men's and women's individual lightweight, middleweight, light heavyweight, heavyweight, and openweight divisions. Additional events (e.g. masters, novice, team) may be held after these qualifying events at the tournament director's discretion.

Motion carries with unanimous support.

## VII. Announcements and Reminders

- A. Ed: We're going to need to be very mindful of timing at nationals. With growing numbers, the schedule will be tight. Download the [attached table](#) for reference.
- B. Ed: If time permits, I recommend trying to include a team tournament. Benefits:
  1. Promoting the growth of the sport more than other extra divisions
  2. It's a good recruiting tool for those who run clubs
  3. It's a way to motivate wrestlers who may not have a strong chance of winning their individual weight class
  4. It promotes club camaraderie
- C. Ed: We may get more info from the IFS about the 2021 World Combat Games at the IFS Board of Directors meeting at the end of September. It's on the agenda. If U.S. Nationals takes place later in the spring, as planned, and WCG takes place in May, then we'll have to use 2020 U.S. Nationals as the qualifying event. Not all weight classes will be represented. We can make an official decision once we have more information.

## VIII. Adjournment: **8:30PM**

