

USSF Conference Call Agenda

March 15, 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: 6:05 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. Reading and Approval of National Meeting Minutes

- A. Minutes prepared by Ryan White

IV. Reports of Officers

- A. Helen Delpopolo's report on nationals revenue
 - 1. Total revenue was \$5020, which will be sent to USSF on Monday.
- B. Helen Delpopolo's report on nationals results
 - 1. Our nationals results are mostly complete. Remaining details will be added shortly.
- C. Ed Suczewski's report on merchandise inventory
 - 1. 2 USSF Polo Shirts (XL)
 - 2. 1 USSF Jacket (XL)
 - 3. 11 Spandex T-shirts (various sizes)
 - 4. 8 Spandex Shorts (various sizes)
 - 5. Helen has some duffel bags as well
- D. Americus Abesamis's updated financial report
 - 1. \$4904.94 in account

V. Unfinished Business

- A. MOTION: Open an online store to sell off existing merchandise.
 - 1. Passed by unanimous vote
- B. Should we open a print-to-order online store that can handle all future merchandise sales?
 - 1. Tabled until next meeting.
 - a) Helen/Justin will report in more detail on purchasing more merchandise and running a traditional online store.
 - b) Ed will report in more detail on running a print-to-order online store.
- C. MOTION: Read and vote on the two 2021 National Championship bids we received.
 - 1. John Mouser's bid for Columbus, OH
 - 2. Justin Kizzart's bid for Austin, TX
 - a) Justin has since revised his bid and plans to host nationals on February 20, 2021 so as not to interfere with the Arnold Classic
 - b) Justin's bid selected by unanimous vote
 - c) Trustees agree that we'd like to see sumo at the Arnold Classic, and we encourage John Mouser to host a sumo event there.
- D. The Board of Trustees will take appropriate measures to recoup prize money that was promised but not delivered to athletes at USSF-sanctioned events.
- E. MOTION: Distribute Kelly Gneiting's recent Snake River Sumo Association newsletter to the USSF mailing list
 - 1. The newsletter covers a lot of important federation history, which would be beneficial for our many new members. Distributing this unique newsletter would not set precedent for future club newsletters.
 - a) Passed by unanimous vote
- F. The Board of Trustees will take appropriate measures to recoup outstanding Women's Sports Foundation grant money.
- G. Rather than relying on precedent in the future, the Board of Trustees will consider establishing an official policy for athletes who fail to compete at the World Championships (or equivalent event) after accepting a position on the team.

- H. MOTION: Distribute the remaining funds from the Women's Sports Foundation grant evenly among the five athletes whose applications were approved by the women's committee.
1. MOTION AMENDED: Disburse \$150 to each of the 5 national travel grant recipients. Distribute remaining funds evenly amount the five world team
 2. Amended motion passed by unanimous vote.
- I. There are five new registered clubs:
1. Jade Tiger Stable in Canandaigua, NY
 2. Southern Indiana Sumo in Newburgh, IN
 3. Appalachia Sumo in Morgantown, WV
 4. Dirty South Sumo in New Orleans, LA
 5. Northwest Sumo Association in McMinnville, Oregon
 6. Philadelphia Sumo Association in Philadelphia, PA
 7. The Board of Trustees notes that new club registration forms can be processed by the registrar without a formal review process or vote among trustees (similar to new member applications).

VI. New business

- A. It is USSF policy that all official communications should come from president@ussumo.org on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Trustees and officers should never respond directly to USSF emails. The new email forwarding system works differently from the old one. In forwarded emails:
1. The FROM line will now display the original sender.
 2. The TO line will display president@ussumo.org.
 3. The subject will be prefaced with [USSF:]
 4. REPLY used to only reply to the president, but now it will automatically reply to the original sender.
 5. We need to be mindful of that so as not to accidentally send personal emails to USSF contacts.
- B. While Ed was changing the email system from Office 365 to GSuite, some emails were not automatically forwarded. Ed will manually forward any important emails from that time period to all trustees.

- C. MOTION: No later than March 17, Ed will reach out to [the top four qualifying athletes in each weight division](#) to create the team for the 2020 World Sumo Championships, [with the following deadlines](#):
1. [Deadline for first qualifier to commit: April 7](#)
 2. [Deadline for second qualifier to commit: April 14](#)
 3. [Deadline for third qualifier to commit: April 21](#)
 4. [Deadline for fourth qualifier to commit: April 28](#)
 5. [Athletes will be expected to submit their room and board fees to the USSF with reasonable notice after the IFS announces](#)
 6. [In the event that the top four qualifying athletes decline, Ed will notify further qualifying athletes, as per the relevant policy letter.](#)
 - a) [Motion passed by unanimous vote](#)
- D. MOTION: Make it official USSF policy to appoint a three-person National Championship Committee annually, as per the [attached charter](#).
1. [Approved by unanimous vote.](#)
 2. [MOTION: Appoint Tom Zabel to the National Championship Committee and seek his guidance in appointing the other two members.](#)
- E. MOTION: Agree to appoint a Webmaster to assist in updating the website and growing our social media accounts.
1. [Approved by unanimous vote.](#)
- F. MOTION: Agree to create an Ethics Committee composed of Joshua Clements (Chair), Darius Campbell, and Danny Avila as outlined in the [attached letter](#).
1. [Approved by unanimous vote.](#)
- G. MOTION: Adopt the following position on COVID-19 as it relates to potential USSF event cancellations: The USSF Board of Trustees recommends that all clubs and event organizers exercise extreme caution and follow the advice of local, state, and national health officials with regard to COVID-19.
1. [Approved by unanimous vote.](#)
- H. MOTION: With regard to selecting U.S. national team coaches, adopt the following policies:
1. Any coach for the Sumo World Championships or an equivalent competition (e.g. World Games or World Combat Games) must have previously served as coach at the Sumo World Championships or an

equivalent competition OR must have attended the Sumo World Championships as a delegation member or athlete and successfully completed the [Coach Training Program](#) OR must have demonstrated a comparable level of administrative experience at World Championships prior to 2020.

2. Each year, the trustees may select up to two individuals to complete the Coach Training Program. A Coach Trainee must attend the Sumo World Championships as an unpaid delegation member or athlete and shadow that year's coach. Coach Trainees are expected to closely observe all aspects of the coaching process (aside from handling athletes' sensitive medical information). With careful oversight, the team coach should delegate certain responsibilities to the Coach Trainee.

a) [Tabled until next meeting.](#)

- I. MOTION: Agree to the following sponsorship deal with Impact Mouthguards:
 1. Year 1 - \$600, Year 2 - \$800
 2. Impact will pay the USSF for the privilege of being named the "Official Mouthguard of the USSF."
 3. Impact will provide exactly 10 custom mouthguards exclusively for members of the 2020 U.S. National team.
 4. Impact will provide additional special offers throughout the year to USSF Members.
 5. Impact will host an online poll to determine the male and female Impact athletes of the year.
 6. USSF will allow Impact to offer a specially designed USSF Logo (which we recommend for release at the 2021 National Championships but which may be released at Impact's discretion).
 7. USSF will include a hot-linked Impact logo on its website.
 8. USSF will promote Impact via email list bimonthly and on all social media channels once per month (content can be created by U.S. National Team athletes and/or provided by Impact).
 9. USSF will allow Impact to be on site at USSF Events to promote/sell mouthguards (with the exception of the U.S. Sumo Open and any events where we do not control the gate)

- a) Approved by unanimous vote.
- J. MOTION: Each U.S. National Team athlete who qualifies for a travel stipend will receive an equal share of the Impact funds, while the “Impact Athlete of the Year” will receive roughly two times what the other athletes receive.
 - 1. Tabled until next meeting.
- K. MOTION: Reimburse Helen \$270.55 for GoDaddy payments.
 - 1. 21 additional months of Office 365 will go unused (\$83.83 value) if we switch to GSuite
 - 2. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - a) Ed will send receipts to Americus.
- L. MOTION: Reimburse Ed \$53.96 for GoDaddy payments.
 - 1. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - a) Ed will send receipts to Americus.
- M. MOTION: Use a USSF Credit/Debit Card for all future web-related payments
 - 1. GSuite Basic - \$6 monthly (due next 3/24/19)
 - a) Provides email service and 30GB google drive
 - b) Ed will pay this himself for the next 21 months as it was his decision to switch from Office 365, which was pre-paid by Helen
 - 2. SquareSpace Business - \$216 annually (due next 5/28/20)
 - a) Provides web site including ecommerce
 - 3. GoDaddy Domain Renewal - \$20.99 annually (due next 3/10/21)
 - 4. GoDaddy Domain Protection and Security - \$27.98 annually (due next 3/10/21)
 - 5. GoDaddy Website Security Basic - \$4.99 annually (due next 3/9/21)
 - 6. Total annual cost to USSF is \$269.96 going up to \$275.96 after 21 months
 - a) Approved by unanimous vote.
- N. MOTION: Release appropriately redacted meeting minutes to the membership after submission to trustees
 - 1. Approved by unanimous vote
- O. The trustees agree to reconvene some time around April 7. An official call time will be scheduled as the date gets closer.

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment: 9:00 PM