



**IMMAF Board meeting.**

**Date: 30th March 2017.**

**Time: 15.00 Local time.**

**Location: Marinella hotel Sofia Bulgaria.**

**In attendance: President Kerrith Brown, Vice president George Sallfeldt, Bertrand Amoussou, Courtney Braun (Dial in), August Wallen, Tom Madsen, Frank Babcock (dial in), Wissam Abi Nader, Stewart Brain (dial in), Raymond Phillips, Khalid Khayyat, Densign White (CEO).**

## **1 Welcome and Introductions**

KB gave a welcome to the board and thanked them for their continued support.

## **2 Apologies.**

No apologies received.

## **3 Minutes of Previous Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

Minutes approved unanimously.

Proposed by Stewart Brain and seconded by Tom Madsen.

## **4 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **5 Finance Report/2017 Budget**

CEO presented an overview of cash flow and the European championship budget.

## **6 Chief Executive's Report – Quarter 1**

*(Papers circulated previously)*

- 1: European open update.
- 2: World c'ship update.
- 3: Progression scheme update.
- 4: Sport Accord/WADA update.
- 5: 2017 General Assembly
- 6: Directors insurance

The board were notified that subsequent to the board papers going out confirmation had come from WADA for a meeting during the SportAccord convention the following week in Aarhus Denmark.

The World Mixed Martial Arts Association (WMMAA) had also requested a follow up meeting in Denmark from the previous February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Amsterdam.

IMMAF had received a letter from SportAccord president Patrick Baumont requesting a meeting in mid June. The CEO updated the board on the new membership resolution that would be voted on by SportAccord members to introduce another tier of observation members for those applicants that are not ready for full membership. This could be viewed as an opportunity for IMMAF but the rivalry issues from the other combat sports could still be an obstacle.

## **7 Presidents Timeline Report**

KB gave a brief report on his activity in the last month (report previously circulated) and updated the board on the bi-weekly communication between IMMAF and UFC partners. The main discussion points are around the work being done for IMMAF recognition and lifting the ban on MMA in France. A detailed report from the President had been circulated prior to the meeting.

## **8 Youth Development.**

GS led the discussion stating that he was looking into youth development in the coming months and will have a proposal ready next year. This involves exploring rules sets and existing best practice. TM had the view that this needs to be addressed this year. KB expressed the opinion that youth development is already happening in different formats without direction from IMMAF. FB felt we should look at what other countries are doing and make a safe youth policy without ground and pound and at the same time look at how we promote that into an opportunity. AW agreed that good practice from all countries should be analysed collecting injury stats. Set standards from 14yrs of ages no ground and pound and find a way to build a safety ladder. KB suggested that he might consult with the medical commission for their view on the safety of this policy for youth.

## 9 Any Other business.

- i. The non-executives terms of reference were discussed and generally accepted as a good document. The issue of voting rights were discussed and the conclusion reached was that the board had no mandate to make this decision and it must be decided by the General Assembly. The decision making sentence is to be removed from the terms of reference document.
- ii. The board of directors unanimously agreed the observational membership of South Korea.
- iii. There was a discussion about the new rules introduced for the first time at this European open as amended by Marc Goddard and circulated to the board members for approval. However concern was expressed with the kidney kicks, grabbing the clavicle and up kicks (which is not new and is an existing allowed technique). The general opinion is that the Olympic movement would not allow high impact techniques without padding e.g. knees and heels. Recommendation from the board was not to introduce the kidney and clavicle ruling.
- iv. Progression scheme still needs so improvements especially the coaching section.
- v. Some general remarks from the board about the organisation of the events.
  - a) The eligibility rules for amateur tournaments specifically to do with payments to athletes
  - b) If athletes have competed with a professional
  - c) Mistakes in the draw system. Athletes from the same country were drawn on the same side of the bracket again.
  - d) Passports checks should be made
  - e) Clear rule about who can change category
  - f) One athlete was wearing a t-shirt with a swastika
  - g) Flags for every participating country should be provided by IMMAF
  - h) There should be no football team flags or political symbols of any kind.
  - i) There should be no national flags with slogans written on them.

