

USFL BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING (Teleconference)

MINUTES

DATE; 03/25/2018

TIME: 2:30 PM

Board members: Jon Frank, Mario Mendez, Amanda Tortorici, Christina Taylor, Ana Eustace

FINANCIAL:

1. Financial report for the period of January 1st to December, 31 2017 will be posted in the USFL Board of directors page.
2. USFL had a total income of \$14,630.90 and total expenses of \$ 14,890.77 leaving our account in the red for about \$259.87.
3. The biggest expenses for 2017 was the new web site and the travel costs to Florida and Missouri and the purchase of the Championship Belts for MO event.
4. Organizing the Police & Fire Grappling Championships brought in nominal funds for the USFL, however, Camp Pendleton events are supported on a volunteer basis and do not bring any revenue to the USFL.
5. CSG, now IE fight night ran concessions for the USFL during the adult portion of their MMA event raising receiving \$500.00.
6. All the board member unanimously voted Yes to increase the USFL athletes license fee an extra \$6.00 (\$3 for coaches) to cover the operating expenses of My Next Match, once the system is registration operational.

DONATIONS:

1. Board members discussed how to handle donations earmarked for specific purposes such as the Church who donated \$500.00 to help the Florida team travel to Missouri.
2. The board agreed that it is appropriate to honor donations earmarked for teams or athletes, otherwise all the donation will go to a specific Donation account with the sole purpose to help the youth athletes and their teams but not to be used for USFL operating expenses.
3. Board members voted to use USFL funds of \$70 for a one-time special award belt.
4. Donations will be handle by Parents Advisory Committee (PAC).

RULE CHANGES:

1. All the board members voted Yes, to amend the following USFL Rules:
2. The proposed changes were already presented to CSAC where they were approved.

Article II

Section 3

(Proposal to remove this rule and declare the uninjured athlete winner via injury default.)

· If the bout ending injury was caused by no fault of either fighter, the bout will be declared a Draw. A "No fault" injury is defined as an injury that does not involve the contest

itself or an injury where both athletes are equally at fault. If a "no fault" injury occurs in a tournament the uninjured athlete will advance in the bracket.

Section 4

· *(Proposal to add this rule which has been the practice of referees to protect an injured athlete from being "finished off" during a state of distress)* Athletes hurt by a legal technique should be afforded a short recovery period and not be "finished off" while injured. Referees should halt the bout and conduct a short evaluation to determine if the athlete is fit to continue. The medical official may be summoned to help in the evaluation.

Article III

Section 5: Re-Start Positions

· *(Proposal to add this rule, which has been the practice of referees to protect both athletes from intentional or unintentional slamming.)* Elevating opponent fully above hips is considered an effective escape of attempted submission or guard. Referee should break the hold to prevent an unintentional slam.

MISSOURI:

1. USFL board members discussed Missouri House Bill HB 1388, already in the Senate, banning MMA for anyone under the age of 18. It is unclear if this would affect competitions utilizing USFL Class B rules (No head strikes or knock outs).
2. Jon Frank tried to communicate with Missouri Representatives on multiple occasions without any response. He has also asked that they to speak to CSAC executive officer Andy Foster and/or physicians conducting a multi-year injury study on Youth Pankration before making conclusions on the sport
3. Mario Mendez will try to communicate with Tim Lueckenhoff, Missouri Athletic Commission, who has not responded to Jon Frank's email.
4. Ana Eustace attempted phone calls to the MO Athletic Commission and MO Representatives with negative results.
5. A Facebook campaign to notify Missouri based stakeholders to contact their legislators has not been successful.
6. It would be beneficial if someone could meet with legislators or attend open hearings on this matter. Cristina Taylor will try to do so.
7. Jon Frank has asked and awaiting a response from Dr. Don Muzzi of the Association of Ringside Physicians to review USFL rules and/or consult with the independent physicians who have been monitoring injury data from all USFL events since 2014 in hopes that Missouri is open for recommendations.

NEW PROGRAMS

1. **Character Development course**

The Kravis Leadership Institute, KLI, have indicated willingness to work on the development of a character building program for USFL youth athletes with a future research element.

2. Safe Sport

Sports currently supervised under the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) require coaches to complete 90 minutes of training in prevention of inappropriate conduct and relations between coach and athlete. USOC sports receive this service for free but USFL coaches would have to pay \$20.00 for the online course. USFL will make this optional training for coaches but provide free training and information for parents / athletes once available later this year.

3. My Next Match

This is a new database designed for athletes, coaches and officials to securely apply for licenses, track certifications, results, medical data and issue certificates. The developers are currently customizing features to accommodate the legal requirements when dealing with youth and to make the system more accommodating for parents and coaches to use. The PAC will look for parents who want to represent their gyms in making this transition easier. The USFL hopes to have 100% of 2019 licensees use this system.

NEW BUSINESS (Parental Advisory Committee)

1. Members of PAC (Parents Advisory Committee) have requested that, to better serve our future athletes into the transition of kids Pankration to adult MMA, Pankration Class "A" Rules be available to junior competitors (16 & 17 yrs).

Although, not all the board members agree with head strikes for any youth under 18 years, the USFL does have an existing set of rules to accommodate this if and when a promoter requests to host such bouts and a jurisdiction allows/ approves these rules. The USFL will assist a promoter who wishes to petition for these rules to a state athletic/ boxing commission.

2. Under current regulations, fighters can compete a maximum of 5 periods of "combat" per event. This could be utilized in multi-bout single round matches as in tournaments, multiple rounds during a single bout in a fight card or a combination of the two in where fighters may compete twice on a fight card event. Members of the PAC have indicated that that this rule is unfair for some fighters who could only fight 2 rounds if their opponent had a previous bout of 3 rounds on the same card. Members of the PAC requested that either the USFL modify the existing rule by adding one more round to allow 6 periods of combat per day, or do not allow a fighter to fight twice in the same show. Members of the PAC believe this practice only benefits the "promoter" not the fighter.

Board members cautioned against removing any option that may prohibit a fighter for competing as long as the parent or coach can decline taking advantage of such option on their own accord. Jon Frank advised that a maximum of 5 periods of combat were approved by the state committee tasked with developing USFL regulations which is generally exceeds other forms of regulated combat sports.

3. Members of the PAC have received complaints of unfair scoring. Others brought up the suggestion of scoring bouts under the 10 point must system.

USFL rules are designed to be educational and technical. The current scoring system utilizes a point system where each properly applied technique earns a specific point value as opposed to the 10

point must system used by the unified rules of MMA where each round is evaluated and scored by punishment and damage. It was also noted that many professional MMA judges working at the highest level including the UFC and Bellator World Title bouts have submitted had very controversial scores under the 10 point must system. The USFL system has the option to review judges scores under the technical scoring criteria where the 10 point must system is solely evaluated on interpretation. Jon Frank indicated that numerical discrepancies of scores sometimes exist in bouts with a lot of strikes but in reviewing the cards, judges almost always have the same winner and in bouts with split decisions or draws the scores are generally very close. An additional benefit of the point system is that bouts are scored in totality and not by round which allows single round and 2 round bouts to be judged. The board suggested that some parents may not understand the scoring and will ask officials to invite the parents to attend pre-event rules meetings and continue to suggest they review video of rules available on line.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm