

## USFL Board of Directors Semi Annual Meeting

Teleconference

Date: 6/09/2019

Time: 2:50 – 5:10PM

Board Members: Jon Frank, Amanda Tortorici, Christina Taylor, Dane McGuire, Joe Stevenson, Ana Eustace and Ayna Siplin Cruz

Guests: Ruben Saldana, Logan Santchi. (USFL official and promoters were invited to conference)

### **I. Introduction to new Board position:**

Creation of At Risk Outreach committee and introduction to new board member Ayana Siplin Cruz to assist in both the at-risk youth and returning citizen/ credible messenger coaches program under development by Ruben Saldana.

### **II. Status of National Championship Tournament June 21 and 22:**

- a. Jon Frank discussed how the National Championships will help with selection process for the US youth national team scheduled to compete in Rome, Italy this August and how USFL funds will be disbursed to team members. Board members discussed earlier dates for nationals in the future and options in hosting world team selection tournaments.
- b. Christina Taylor informed the board of the various fundraising efforts for Team USA. Board members discussed plans on how to get better community engagement for future fundraisers. Logan Santchi introduced Amazon Smile. Ana Eustace suggested making videos introducing individuals youth athletes. Ruban Saldana indicate he may have someone to film interviews during the national championships.

### **III. Website issues / Recording of past results**

USFL website required expert support to fix results the page. Approximate cost is \$300.

### **IV. USFL Logo Trademark Application**

USFL filed to federally trademark logo. Cost is approximately \$500. Board members suggested copywriting rulebook.

### **V. Current and new areas of operation**

- a. So Cal – Potential new promoter in El Centro. Joe Stevenson indicate the CFL will start supporting Youth competition opportunities in their events.
- b. Nor Cal – Only one active promoter in Northern California is Panda Cup at this time.
- c. Florida – Florida is experiencing a skill level gap making recruitment of newer fighters difficult and limiting competition opportunities for their higher-level kids. Sport MMA events are very popular but do not have strict guidelines in age/ weight pairings and no vetting or training requirement for coaches. Ruben Saldana suggested adding adult bouts to help support youth USFL events in Florida.
- d. Wisconsin – Wisconsin event was a great success with unprecedented support by “major league” MMA fighters and coaches.
- e. Mississippi – Possible new promoter in Biloxi. Memphis Open was a success.

- f. Tennessee – Inaugural event coming up on July 20. Event combined with Pro / Am MMA.
- g. New Mexico – Prospective promoter is currently in contact with commission on feasibility of holding events.

**VI. Injury statistics**

To date - 921 bout/ 1,842 exposures – 29 injuries

**VII. Character Building Program status**

Development will resume August/ September with the Kravis Leadership Institute. First batch of rings were presented to kids. Development of coaches program for returning citizens was discussed. This will be part of the waiver process.

**VIII. Current Finances**

Jan 1 to May 31 financials were reviewed with Christina Taylor. USFL is approximately \$700 in the red (not counting the approximate \$2200 in savings for youth World Team). More than usual spending this year due to travel for new region support and other USFL needs. .

**IX. Possibility of adding an “Officials oversight” position to the board.**

- a. Jon Frank discussed the need to more lead official and promoter interaction. Both parties should have access to sharedrive licensing spreadsheet. The sport cannot be dependent on any one individual.
- b. Importance of recruitment and retention of skilled officials for each region.

**X. Other Board Members comments**

- a. Parental Advisory Board – Ana Eustace. Discussed how some coaches were not receptive to having parents involved resulting on limited participation of parents.
- b. Financial – Christina Taylor. Six month finical report is completed.
- c. Media- Dane McGuire. Working on a project with ESPN.
- d. Health and Safety – Amanda Brown Tortorici. Discussed how the injury report should be published by now and will explore submitting results on her own.
- e. Special Advisory Committee – Joe Stevenson is continuously introducing the mainstream MMA industry to the USFL an continues to be a great advocate.
- f. At Risk outreach – Ayana Siplin Cruz. Will look into the feasibility in copywriting the USFL rules.
- g. So Cal Lead official David Denkin, phoned in late and wanted to propose reaching out to local PAL’s to add USFL Pankration to existing sports programs.