

**USFL Board of Directors  
Annual Meeting 1/21/19**

Attendees/ Phone In:

Jon Frank  
Ana Eustace  
Amanda Brown,  
Christiana Taylor  
Dane McGuire  
Joe Stevenson

**I. General statistics for 2018**

a. 26 youth events with 320 bouts:

19 California (includes 2 events with just 1 bout)

5 Florida (Including event with just 1 bout)

2 Missouri

(1 Kansas 17 bouts - Not counted/ non-sanctioned/ not included for stats)

*234 Youth Athletes Licensed*

*120 Coach Licensed (plus 6 who did not complete training/ vetting)*

Gender of Athletes:

189 boys

45 girls

Athletes from 17 States and 2 foreign countries participated

Arkansas  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Missouri  
Nevada  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Wisconsin

b. Competition Statistics – 205 out of 320 matches won by stoppage  
186 Submissions  
11 Other referee stoppages (Injury default)  
6 Disqualifications  
2 wins via technical superiority (20 point advantage in a single round)

c. Total Injuries:

0 Emergency transports

9 Injuries (7 boys( M) / 2 girls (F) )

1 knee contusion from strike (M- age 14)

1 asthma attack (M- age 13)

1 blow to jaw (Illegal strike/ DQ) (M- age 16)

1 hand fracture from strike (M- age 17)

1 Arm fracture from take down (M- age 14)

3 Elbow strains from arm bar (2 F-age 13 & 14) / 1- M-age 9)

1 Lower back strain from guillotine choke (M age 13)

d. Other USFL activities:

Four Law Enforcement Seminars

Two Camp Pendleton CG Gup Grappling tournaments

Grappling portion of the U.S. Police & Fire Games

## II. **Projects**

a. Character Development Program has completed its 1<sup>st</sup> phase of development by the Kravis Leadership Institute. Phase 2 is to interview athletes and coaches. Total project may take 2 more years to complete.

b. Competition injury study: Dr. Adam Brooks presented results of 4 year study at the annual meeting of the Association of Ringside Physicians. Results tracked approximately 1.3% injury rate based on 1000 exposures. Post bout injury reports and stats will continue to be submitted.

c. Development of the My Next Match data based is still delayed. Was set to debut Jan 2019. We have been told system administrators will start to manually record results of events in the system.

d. Incorporation of federal SafeSport standards: The USFL has adopted a system to comply with this new federal law through the Sports Engine system. New coaches and officials will get a link to take an online course in prevention, detection and reporting of child abuse namely sexual abuse. The background check now includes an abbreviated concussion training and the abuse prevention course for \$25.50. The abuse prevention course is just \$5 without the background check. Due to the increased training requirements, two training modules have been created to alternate years for the Sports Engine Background check, abbreviated Concussion and Abuse Prevention Course with CDC coaches Concussion and special USFL Online Training that contains safe sport follow up, other health and safety materials and general USFL regulations. Note – Safe Sport is required for National Governing Bodies under the USOC and considered best practice

for all other organizations and clubs that contain inter-state competition. It is anticipated that state laws will follow.

### **III. Expansion of USFL**

- a. Missouri – Missouri House Bill 1388 was passed last year banning youth MMA competitions. We retained an attorney to inquire if USFL Youth Pankration Rules constitute techniques employed on a “Full Contact” basis which appears to be the threshold of a regulated activity. The Missouri department of athletics would not provide an opinion on our rules or legality of USFL rules and competitions.
- b. Michigan – USFL Youth bouts were canceled at the 2019 UMMAF National Championship tournaments. It was reported that several individuals contacted the tribal commission and complained about the youth portion of the competition.
- c. Florida - Ruben Saldana is leading efforts in Orlando Florida working with a new promoter to possibly add events in Jacksonville. UMMAF has gained a promoter in the Miami area but they have been reluctant in hosting youth bouts.
- d. Wisconsin – Duke Roufas is still determined to host a Wisconsin event. His initial date had to be changed due to a conflicting UFC event in which he will be coaching. He has proposed an new date in April.
- e. Mississippi – Christiana Taylor is working with Karate promoter Joey Perry in presenting a test event for the athletic commission in February.
- f. Other areas of interest: Iowa, South Carolina & Kansas.

### **IV. Board affirmed votes for the following actions:**

- a. Approval to purchase USFL “Champion” Rings for athletes with at least 10 bouts and recommended by coach for possessing Responsibility, Resilience and Respect. \*\* Part of the Character Development program being created.
- b. Approval to select Joe Stevenson and Duke Roufas as co-head coaches for the US World Team for IMMAF World Cadet (12-17) Championships in Rome, Italy.

### **V. IMMAF World Championships - IMMAF have launched a World Championship tournament for youth this Aug in Rome, Italy.**

- a. The USFL has been advocating for our rules to be applied internationally. The likelihood of full incorporation is slim as there are several other countries with their own version of Youth MMA advocating for their own system, however we have been told rules will not permit head strikes, something we stressed, despite the protests of several other member nations. We do not intend to modify any rules at this time.
- b. Team selection will be based on results from the National Championship tournament scheduled this June in Ontario. We want to avoid “walk on” teams and have athletes compete for their spot. We understand that 2 athletes per category will be allowed to go. The official proclamation has not been released yet.
- c. Fundraising- We will try to raise travel funds to support youth athletes travel to Rome. A Go fund me has been launched but contributions have been slow and we are seeking corporate sponsors and other fundraising ideas.

## **VI. Financial Report.**

- a. USFL showed a net loss of \$477.66 for 2018.

## **VII. Other business / committees.**

- a. Financial

Christiana Taylor has consolidated the 2018 financial report and will conduct a final review with Jon Frank in the upcoming week. Taylor spoke about fundraising efforts to support youth athletes travel to the IMMAF World Championships in Rome. The idea of approaching well known MMA fighters for autographed gloves which would be auctioned off with 100% proceeds supporting youth team members.

- b. Parental advisory

Ana Eustace indicated she plans on meeting with So Cal and Nor Cal gyms to “recruit” team parents to help other parents with the licensing process and give parents a method to communicate with the USFL. Promoters in other states will be asked for suggestions or contacts of parents who may be interested in their areas. Ana also brought up the idea of conducting 50/50 raffles at USFL events to help raise funds for U.S. Youth Team members travel to Rome.

- c. Health and Safety

Amanda Brown discussed the procedures to get research published in journals and indicated she would assist Dr. Adam Brooks if needed to help spread the word in his research on USFL Youth Pankration injuries and risk.

- d. Media

Dane McGuire indicated he completed a press release naming U.S. Youth National Team coaches as well as story about USFL East promoter and coach Ruben Saldana.

- e. Special Advisory committee

Joe Stevenson reiterated the importance of safety and advocacy of his committee against head strikes for youth competitions. He also suggested the idea of creating a belt ranking system that USFL coaches can be used for their students. Stevenson has also introduced numerous potential fundraising opportunities to support the youth world team.