



## 2019 AGM Minutes

### Annual General Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

- **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**
  - Board of Directors
    - **Present**
      - President – Eric Ingram
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Michael Cottingham
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Daniel Curtis
      - Treasurer – Sid Christain
      - Secretary – Michael Klonowski
      - Commissioner – Dave Mengyan
  - Roll Call
    - **Present**
      - Andy Miller, USQRRR Chairperson
      - Phyllis Palma, Head of Classification
      - Steve Pate, Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson
      - Brooks Bandits – Dan Caldwell, Steve Kenny
      - Chicago Bears – Michael Klonowski
      - Dallas (Non-Voting) – Cayla Newkirk
      - Denver Harlequins – Jason Regier, Chuck Aoki
      - Grand Rapids Thunder – Nick Long
      - Kansas City Revolution – Brad Hudspeth
      - Lakeshore Demolition – Tommy Sullivan
      - Medstar NRH Punishers (DC) – Ricardo Robles, Rita Penniman
      - Minnesota WRC – Ryan Engelby, Joe Delagrave
      - NorCal Quakes – Reggie Richner
      - Northridge Knights – Mike Doom
      - Oscar Mike Foundation/Militia – Ryan Lindstrom, Rick Kolberg
      - Texas Stampede – James Gumbert, Gabriel Garcia
      - TIRR Texans – Rob Deller
      - Turnstone Flyers – James Ezell
      - University of Arizona – Brad McFadden
    - **Present via Teleconference**
      - Boise Bombers – Spencer Larimore
      - California/Reno High Fives – Debrah Olsen
      - Maryland Mayhem – Lori Patria
      - New York Warriors – Darren Templeton
      - Portland Pounders – Kip Johnson

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- San Diego Sharp – Jeff Odom
- Shepherd Smash – Sarah Leonard
- Tampa Generals – Justin Stark
- **Proxy Representative**
  - Magee Philadelphia Eagles – Justin Stark
- **Absentee Voting**
  - Ability360 Phoenix Heat
  - Akron Rhinos
  - Carolina Crash
  - Cumberland Quadcrushers
  - Dallas RISE
  - DASA St. Louis Spartans
  - Detroit WRC
  - Gaylord Jammers
  - Northern Virginia Mutiny
  - Ohio Buckeye Blitz
  - Pittsburgh Steelwheelers
  - Raleigh Sidewinders
  - Seattle Slam
  - WNY Wreckers
- Quorum Established
- Approval of 2018 Minutes
  - Brooks – Motion to discuss, Denver – 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Brooks – Motion to end discussion, Grand Rapids – 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Minutes approved by attending members via visual count**
- **REPORTS**
  - Board of Directors:
    - **President – Eric Ingram (Summary Attached)**
      - Congratulations to all teams, thanks to sponsors
      - Early in season, Board unveiled new website – is a transitional work in progress – will continue to work towards getting a fully functional website, actively seeking title sponsors for website
      - Renewed focus on outreach and development – working with VP2
      - Was representative for USQRA at 2018 World Championships and IWRF meetings
      - Board will continue on our path to modernize and streamline our operations – ex. Using PayPal for accepting digital payments

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- Creating policy documents to make operations more standardized and robust, even during transitions
- **Discussion:**
  - **Texas** – Will the information of the guidance documents be posted online?
  - **President** – Yes – It will be posted online and allow for input
  - **Texas** – What about the potential surplus in the coming years, what will be decided with that?
  - **President** – Once we formalize the numbers, we will create a policy document and share with the league for input
- **1st Vice President/Rules Committee Chair – Michael Cottingham (Summary Attached)**
  - First year running the Bylaws and Rules committee
  - Looking to develop teams, reconstitute teams
  - Will create committees for D1/D2/D3 representation during the year for increased feedback and responsiveness of the League to concerns
  - Will help teams find additional resources (ex. Creating generic sponsorship packets)
  - **Discussion:**
    - No Additional Comments or Questions
- **2nd Vice President/Fundraising Committee Chair – Daniel Curtis (Summary Attached)**
  - Working on reach out to sponsors, improving structure
  - Still looking for new sponsors and ball sponsor
  - We continue to work well with historical sponsors and have found new sponsors, such as Permobil
  - Neilsen Grant and Reeve Grants – Have applied for, and we are awaiting responses
  - Previously, there has been a Fundraising Committee – will reconstitute with new members to create more activity in this realm
  - **Discussion:**
    - **President** – We are still looking for mainstream sponsors – share [www.usqra.org/promo](http://www.usqra.org/promo) for USQRA fundraising video
    - **Texas** – How much of a sponsorship will get you on the USQRA Website?
    - **VP2** 5k to get on the website
    - **Denver** – How does the NWBA get sponsors (ex. Mainstream sponsors)
    - **VP2** – We would like to talk with the NWBA about their methods of acquiring sponsors

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- **President** – We need to work with larger, bigger name sponsors
- **Brooks** – I would reach out to Power Soccer – they raise over 200k per year in sponsors
- **Oscar Mike** – Google will be present during Nationals, creating a film
- **VP2** – We would like to discuss more with Google for potential work/sponsorship
- **Secretary – Michael Klonowski (Summary Attached)**
  - New website has been launched – improved aesthetics, can see scores from entire season, Constitution and Bylaws are accessible to everybody, increased visibility for sponsors and Hall of Fame has a new home on the webpage
  - Social Media exposure has increased significantly
  - Hall of Fame now has a visible home on the USQRA Webpage – with a new look and increased visibility, we hope that others will learn of the legends of the sport
  - **Discussion:**
    - No Additional Comments or Questions
- **Treasurer – Sid Christain - (Summary & Budget attached)**
  - Picking up where previous Treasurer left off
  - 70% of all fees were paid electronically this year
  - \$9k in international fees were collected
  - General liability insurance fees doubled – however, current insurance company offers the best price for what we get in return
  - Classification fees have increased as well
  - However, we are in a sound financial position
  - **Discussion:**
    - **Classification** – Insurance does not cover Classifiers and Referees – Recommend that both parties are covered as well
    - **President** – We are reaching out to current insurer and seeing if the addition of those two groups will change premiums
- **Commissioner – Dave Mengyan (Summary attached)**
  - Clinics and pick up events were down in number this year
  - New Post-Season Structure has been implemented this year – will be interesting to see how it plays out
  - Next year will be very important for USA with Tokyo coming up in 2020
  - Would like to revise “regions” to make sure that responsibilities are shared better between RACs

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- We've lost our developer for the registration website – we need a new interface that is athlete-centric vs. team/rep-centric – make players responsible for their own registration
- **Discussion:**
  - No Additional Comments or Questions
- **Regional Assistant Commissioners (RACs): - (Summaries Attached)**
  - Brad McFadden, Dan Caldwell, Ryan Engelby summarized reports
  - **Discussion:**
    - No Additional Comments or Questions
- **Referees - Andy Miller – Chair of USQRRRA (Summary Attached)**
  - **Referees Report**
    - No Referee Clinics this year, which is disappointing
    - Todd Jackson, Martha Smith and Johnathan Williams all moved up referee levels, domestically
    - Joe Bongiovanni moved up, internationally Mitch Carr, and Darren Roberts both have new roles with IWRF – Mitch was appointed Americas Zone Representative to the IWRF Technical Committee and Darren has been appointed the IWRF Technical Commissioner – Head of Officials for IWRF
    - We have provided more clarity via documents, as to how to become a referee and how to advance
    - Changes in the Board – Mitch Carr no longer treasurer, since he has a greater role, internationally, Bob Lopez will take over role. Joe Bongiovanni will take over as USQRRRA Chairperson
    - **Discussion:**
      - **Texas** – Is there a documented proper way of acquiring referees for tournaments?
      - **Chair of USQRRRA** – RACs are primarily used to set things up – this allows the centralization of the process and allows for improved tracking of referee activity throughout the League
- **Classifiers - Phyllis Palma – Head of Classification (Summary Attached)**
  - **Classifiers Report**
    - Able to get to 9 different tournaments and see over 132 different athletes
    - Over 38 active classifiers and 5 new classifiers with 3 classifiers being advanced this year
    - Large task was completed this year – database has been redone
    - Masterlist is up-to-date
    - **Discussion:**

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- **NorCal** – Is it public record why people are classified a certain classification?
- **Classification** - Data collected and distributed will designate their final classification and any deductions – specifics from classification will not be shared, due to HIPAA
- **DC** – Are post-season tourneys required to have classifiers?
- Classification – Yes
- **DC** - \$2700 for classification for 3 athletes to be classed – is there a way to determine a minimum number of classifications that need to happen in order for a classification panel to occur – thinking of the expense of having a classification panel, it is costly
- **President** – That needs to be an AGM Proposal
- **Commissioner** – Protests cannot happen without a panel, also you cannot compete in post-season without classification
- **Denver** – Financially, this can be a burden to have a panel, however, it is compensated by the USQRA when you decide to be a host
- **Commissioner** – A rainy day fund will be able to help in moments like this
- **Oscar Mike** – What about a grant for classifiers? There is a burden – example – at Nationals, there are 8 classifiers that need to be flown and housed
- **Texas** – That requirement to have classifiers is a part of the bid package and is made know to the hosts of Nationals
- **Denver** – What if we track who is up for classification and see if classification is necessary?
- **Commissioner** – That would be easier with an individualized registration process
- **President** – With digitization of scoresheets, we can find out who is actually playing
- **Committees:**
  - **Wheelchair/Equipment – (No Updates)**
  - **Hall of Fame – Steve Pate – Not Present (Summary Attached)**
    - We will be welcoming Kevin Orr into the Hall of Fame this year
    - Please check out the new Hall of Fame Website at [www.usqra.org/hall-of-fame](http://www.usqra.org/hall-of-fame)
    - RibGrips has continued to sponsor the Hall of Fame, however, Box Wheelchairs is no longer sponsoring the Hall of Fame
    - **Discussion**
      - No Additional Comments or Questions
  - **Competition – Steve Kenny (Summary Attached)**

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

- The rankings for post-season, during the season, went relatively well with the help of the Commissioner and RACs
- Challenges – Inconsistent teams, inaccurate scoresheet rosters, guest players and teams that play often or beyond their geographical region
- It would be beneficial to increase the size of the committee
- **Discussion**
  - **NorCal** – What rules are there about bench players?
  - **Committee Chair** – Falls back to the eligibility requirement – rosters need to be more accurate
  - **Commissioner** – IWRP Rule – How many people can be on the bench vs. additional individuals that do/do not have a team role
  - **Chair of Referees** – Individuals that are disruptive can be removed
  - **Commissioner** – How many support staff?
  - **Texas** – 6
  - **NorCal** – Should teams have to have players at sectionals, if they are going to be able to play at Nationals?
  - **Texas** – Will referees check who is on the bench?
  - **Chair of Referees** – The pregame signatures should check who is there or not
  - **Commissioner** – If not crossed off, we don't know who is there and who isn't... we can take this up at another time
  - **Committee Chair** – There is a formal procedure for uniforms, but not for dealing with folks coming and going
  - **President** – This needs to be a conversation at another time
  - **Texas** – Is there a formula you use if a team doesn't travel outside of their region?
  - **Committee Chair** – No, must rely on the RAC from that area to speak up on behalf of that team and to the other members of the committee
- **Web – (No Updates)**
- **Equipment – (No Updates)**
- **Team USA – Mandy Goff (Summary Attached) – Coach Gumbert reporting**
  - Finished with a Bronze Medal at worlds – Not happy with the result, therefore, working to improve
  - Tryouts in January – First camp at Lakeshore in April
  - Competition at Four Nations – Japan, GB, Australia
  - Couple of camps prior to Lima – can qualify for Tokyo at Lima

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- Money need to build up developmental side of USAWR – 1-2 camps along side USAWR camps – April and TBS
- Beth Curry has moved on from her post at Lakeshore – New leadership will be selected
- **Discussion:**
  - **Denver** – When will we find out about Beth’s replacement?
  - **Coach Gumbert** – End of April
- **PROPOSALS**
  - Texas – Motion to consider proposals, Denver – 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Proposal A – Sport Statistics – PASSED**
    - **Discussion:**
      - **Chuck Aoki** – We need something quantifiable for statistics in the sport
      - **Texas** – Chuck, you’d be willing to help with this?
      - **Chuck** – Only way to do this is manually
      - **Commissioner** – We have potential for someone to type this in online
      - **Secretary** – How do we avoid this falling to the Board to complete?
      - **Chuck** – Fair points – but tourney directors are in charge of this task
      - **Commissioner** – Should we have a friendly amendment for Chuck to take charge of this?
      - **Minnesota** – Should we trial at a tournament? Small venue?
      - **Denver** – Canada Cup has done stats. We should really work toward digital – example – fantasy football
      - **President** – How do we do this digitally? iPads shared between tournaments?
      - **Denver** – Ultimately, do we want to burden the Board?
      - **Minnesota** – Do we try this at Nationals next year?
      - **Denver** – People love baseball because of stats
      - **Brooks** – Trial this at multiple tournaments – get feedback, bring it back up next year – Southern Slam could trial
      - **U of A** – Our tournament could work
      - **Turnstone** – I can do it at Turnstone
      - **Grand Rapids** – Change language – “Requested” not “Required”
      - **Chuck** – Could we talk about who would be willing to do it? (multiple hands raised – Texas, Grand Rapids, Brooks, Turnstone)
      - **Denver** – **Motion for Friendly Amendment** – Delete penalty and make “requested” – 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Texas**
        - **Friendly Amendment Accepted**
      - **End Discussion** - 1<sup>st</sup> – **Denver**, 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Texas**
      - **Vote** – 1<sup>st</sup> – **Minnesota**, 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Brooks**

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

- 13/7 PROPOSAL A PASSES
- **Proposal B – Letter of Resignation – FAILED**
  - **Discussion:**
    - **Cayla Newkirk (Representing Proposal Author)** – Letters of resignation should be signed and dated, provided to coach and then scanned/sent to Commissioner/Secretary
    - **Commissioner** – Please no additional work with this process
    - **Denver** – I’ve transferred both with written and electronic methods, carbon copy on an email is good enough
    - **End Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> – Denver, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Texas**
    - **Vote – 1<sup>st</sup> Denver, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brooks**
  - 12/22 – PROPOSAL B FAILS
- **Proposal C – Athletes of the Year Award – PASSED**
  - **Discussion:**
    - **Chuck Aoki** – The Athlete of the Year Award is just another duty for the Board, let’s create a committee and put the onus on the players in the League
    - **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President** – How would you go about creating the committee?
    - **Chuck** – I would create an Ad Hoc Committee with a Chair
    - **Turnstone** – Replace current awards?
    - **Chuck** – Just replaces Athlete of the Year (AoY), not Spirit of Achievement (SoA)
    - **DC** – Does this devalue the low pointer since against the MVP?
    - **Minnesota** – Let’s have a Low/Mid/High – Friendly Amendment?
    - **Turnstone** – Why not just High/Low?
    - **Chuck** – We can table for now
    - **Denver** – What about Low/Mid/High?
    - **Chuck** – I can rewrite
    - **U of A** – I don’t want to dilute this award with 6 individuals
    - **Denver** – Are we really getting the best player?
    - **Commissioner** – Sometimes, no one is nominated
    - **Turnstone** – I remember when banquets were fancy and these folks were revered. Don’t the other folks just get best of class at Nationals?
    - **Minnesota – Friendly Amendment – Low/Mid/High**
      - **Friendly Amendment Accepted**
    - **End Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> – Denver, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Texas**
    - **Vote – 1<sup>st</sup> Denver, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brooks**
  - 13/10 – PROPOSAL C PASSES

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- **Proposal D – Transfer Exception Rule – PASSED**
  - **Discussion:**
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – Play with a team for 3 years, with approval by coach, 150mile rule and 2 next closest teams
    - **Minnesota** – What if the coach won't let you?
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – Then things are the way they are with the 150 rule
    - **Commissioner** – This is intended for people that don't have options
    - **Denver** – I like the 3 years, what about the 150 rule?
    - **KC** – What if the next closest team isn't very good?
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – Let's keep it narrow
    - **U of A** – Problem with transfer rules, now we are creating exceptions to the rule – I would like a trial period
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – What does the commissioner have to say?
    - **Commissioner** – If someone gets that transfer, that they are grandfathered in if the rule went away after a year
    - **U of A** – I think that if we are making so many exceptions, that it is too hard
    - **Minnesota** – What about Oscar Mike? Does this affect the 150/3years rule?
    - **Denver** – This is free agency – the best start to free agency ever – still coach and player and 3 year rule keeps players playing and not lose teams
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – If anything, this builds teams – picking up additional players – supports developing teams
    - **Denver** – Is this retroactive?
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – Yes
    - **Brooks** – What about inactive players?
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – What ever is more attractive to the league
    - **Commissioner** – Consecutive doesn't matter – this will strengthen both weaker/stronger teams
    - **Denver – Friendly Amendment** – No 150mile rule, yes 3 years trial
    - **KC** – Get rid of the 150, worry about players that want to play at D1 level
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – If we get rid of 150, only thing that changes is the Tucson/Phx situation
    - **Commissioner** – What about supporting USAWR? If the player doesn't have a window, he cannot develop
    - **Denver** – Can develop D3 – Players get time in D3 when not able at D1
    - **Friendly Amendment – no 150 mile rule, no 2 next closest**
      - **15/6 Friendly Amendment PASSES**

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- **End Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> – Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Minnesota**
- **Vote – 1<sup>st</sup> Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> – DC**
- **13/7 — PROPOSAL D PASSES**
- **Proposal E – Playoff Structure Revision – PASSED**
  - **Discussion:**
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** – Lack of clarity on post-season eligibility – If one team says that they don't want to attend, they move down in the rankings – GOES IN ORDER as to how you pick (1-30, etc)
    - **Turnstone** – Top 8 team can play in hosting tournament (semi-final)
    - **President** – Re-seeding occurs after semi-finals, anyway
    - **Brooks** – 8 teams that get the bye are not guaranteed a D1 spot, can be D2
    - **Commissioner** – There is a proposal for when the last rankings come in...
    - **DC** – Clarify – Proposal I – Gets ride of the random drawing
    - **Commissioner** – 9-24 got to pick
    - **End Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> – Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Texas**
    - **Vote – 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota, 2<sup>nd</sup> – U of A**
  - **23/10 PROPOSAL E PASSES**
  - **Proposal I Withdrawn**
- **Proposal F – Military Team Residency Rule Permanent – PASSED**
  - **Discussion:**
    - **Oscar Mike** – Probation vs. Permanent – Chicago was only team hurt by this process and we hope that no other team was hurt by the new rule. No one is recruiting. Team has competed across the country and won when expected/lost when expected
    - **Minnesota** – Love the team and the visibility
    - **Secretary** – Does not restrict new teams to create (ex. No women's team), 150 rules is only military
    - **Texas** – Only US Vets
    - **Oscar Mike** – We've turned down external vets
    - **Texas** – How many active players?
    - **Oscar Mike** – 43 with developmental team – 15 actively rostered
    - **Texas** – Injured vet – are you automatically on Oscar Mike?
    - **Oscar Mike** – All are welcome, not everyone is rostered (ex. Anthony McDaniel)
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – How many people will officially be on the roster next year?
    - **Oscar Mike** – 22
    - **DC** – Documentation about vets has been left out this year, why?

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- **Oscar Mike** – DD 214 is what makes you a vet, you must ask for those things
  - **Texas** – We are an inclusive membership – what about exclusivity?
  - **President** – However, it brings more players into the fold – ex. Guys that can't play on other teams
  - **Oscar Mike** – Jose Ortiz from Puerto Rico could not play for another team, had nowhere to play
  - **Texas** – Will Google's work translate over to the USQRA?
  - **President** – it's not up to us to take away other people's sponsors
  - **Texas** – Of your sponsors, does any of this carry over to the USQRA?
  - **Oscar Mike** – There is a synergy between the league and the Militia
  - **DC** – Question for the Board – What about proposal D?
  - **President** – This proposal does not require proposal D – not dependent
  - **Brooks** – This is permanent, if this one fails, the next proposal will be considered
  - **End Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> – Texas, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brooks**
  - **Vote – 1<sup>st</sup> Texas, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brooks**
  - **19/15 PROPOSAL F PASSES**
  - **Proposal G Withdrawn**
- **Proposal G – Military Team Residency Resolution – WITHDRAWN**
- **Proposal H – Post-Season Timelines – PASSED**
- **Discussion:**
    - **Brooks** – Eliminates hard date of February 15<sup>th</sup> and gives a min of 30 days to plan. Limits cost of travel and short timeline. This also happened in Louisville before.
    - **Denver** – What about the Board, what do you think?
    - **Commissioner** – This could screw the folks that don't get their post-December games right away
    - **Brooks** – I don't think that we should put a hard line on the hosts
    - **Commissioner** – What about the last second post season tourneys?
    - **DC** – Challenges are hotel blocks, ordering food, t-shirts, within 2 weeks. 30 Days would make a world of difference
    - **Turnstone** – In the past, post-season was to be distributed to more than one team, not just one, like DC in this case. Unless dates are established, it screws over the league, since it was beyond their control with the date changes... What about setting up post-season hosts now?
    - **Secretary** – Hosts are setup in as much advance as possible
    - **End Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> – Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Minnesota**
    - **Vote – 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Denver**

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

- **25/9 PROPOSAL H PASSES**
- **ELECTIONS**
  - Commissioner – Dave Mengyan – RE-ELECTED
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Daniel Curtis – RE-ELECTED
  - Treasurer – Sid Christain – RE-ELECTED
- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - **President** – Appointed Chuck Aoki as Awards Committee Head
  - **DC** – Discuss post-season – biggest issue – schedule at tournament – shouldn't have been changed after the first day
    - **Commissioner** – I take responsibility for that change
  - **President** – First weekend of May is Nationals for next year
  - **Commissioner** – Looking for post-season hosts now
  - **Texas** – Next year – November 19-24 – Vegas – D1 tournament
  - **Meeting Conclusion**
    - Grand Rapids – Motion to end meeting, Texas – 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Meeting Adjourned

### President's Report

Eric Ingram

Welcome to the conclusion of another great year of wheelchair rugby in the USQRA. It is an honor to make it to this level of competition, so congratulations to all those who have qualified. Thank you to the Oscar Mike organization for hosting Nationals this year. This will certainly be a great experience for both organizations as we prepare for the next two with them as our hosts.

We are also kept on the move by all the amazing sponsors who step up to fund this organization. The Association wouldn't be anywhere near our current capabilities if it weren't for those companies who believe in what we are doing. Thank you to Melrose Wheelchairs, Eagle Sportschairs, Lone Star Paralysis Foundation, Fusion Medical and ABC Medical.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

This was a year of change and transition, as we moved on to our new tournament host and our new postseason structure. As with any change, there can sometimes be hiccups and challenges, and this was certainly no exception. The Association understands the challenges of a condensed season schedule, and we have learned a great deal from this year's process. Thank you for not rioting. Having a firmer understanding of the new structure, and with some proposed modifications during this year's AGM, future years should run more smoothly. The primary goal of the Association's Board is to get better every year. We will take the lessons learned this year and apply them to future seasons. It's through dialogue we've had and the experiences through this process that we are able to grow, and evolve, into better versions of ourselves.

The 2018-2019 season brought about more growth and development for both our sport and our Association.

- Early in the season, the Board unveiled the new website. Although this isn't the final step on our digital journey, it was a great advancement over what we had. The board is working towards getting a fully functional website, and is actively seeking title sponsors for it.
- There has been a renewed focus on outreach and development, with VP2 Mike Cottingham and his team at the University of Houston putting in a ton of leg work to help grow our membership.
- In August, was able to be the USQRA's representative at the 2018 World Championships, gaining useful knowledge of the inner workings of our sport on an international level. There I was able to make valuable connections and friendships with others running their country's domestic wheelchair rugby leagues, and to gain insight from them on how to be better in my role.
- The Board has continued on our path to better modernize and streamline our operations. One example is the small, but vastly useful, ability to accept payments digitally through Paypal. It's in these minute ways the Board works to better serve our membership. We will continue working to do so.

The USQRA's Board and Staff members have worked hard this year to get the best outcome possible. It's through these efforts that we still find ourselves in such a thriving environment. I thank them all for their service to the Association and look forward to working with them the next year.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

Looking forward, the Board will continue to build, modernize, and streamline our efforts. To make our operations more standardized and robust, even during transitions, we will begin to incorporate Policy documents into what we do. While not binding, these documents will serve as a guide this Board, and future Boards, should follow in the situations the Policy is for. These Policies will also be made in an effort to enhance the likelihood of future Boards by incorporating the beneficial lessons learned by those who have experienced them.

For example, one of the first new Policy documents that will be instituted is a policy to move certain amounts of surplus funds the Association has to a reserve account. This account will be separate from our primary account and should only be access if the Association finds itself in a situation that requires it. The amount transferred at the end of each season will be dependent on the amount of surplus had, and will scale by percentage accordingly. This Policy will encourage a good financial future for our League by saving during the plentiful years to use during the lean years. Look for more information on that soon.

Its actions like those you read here I hope bring you encouragement about our direction. We welcome input. If you have suggestions, or know of better ways to go about something, we are all ears. As always, I can be contacted at [President@usqra.org](mailto:President@usqra.org).

### **1st Vice President's Report/Rules Committee Chair Report**

Michael Cottingham

I have been honored to serve my first year as the First Vice President. In addition to the responsibility of managing the competition and bylaws committee, I have worked to redefine the role of this position. I want us to better support new and developing teams while also supporting teams at different levels as they advance. I anticipate we will have at least three new or reconstituted teams next year with the possibility of two to four additional developmental teams. Perhaps most encouraging is that interested teams represent three of the four sections. These efforts have been supported by community programs that have actively donated or loaned equipment to new programs. Several of these programs are interested in

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hosting introductory camps and hopefully will be applying to the USQRA for support.

Additionally, I am putting together a generic sponsorship packet where teams can plug in their information in their efforts to find financial support. I anticipate we will have this out within a month after nationals. This will be a resource for teams but should not be the only resource we produce. If you are in need of different marketing materials or resources, please reach out to me. If several teams are in need of the same materials, we can work to develop those and provide them to the whole league.

Lastly, we are finalizing our Division I, II, and III committees. These will be new ad hoc committees that will provide guidance and address needs of teams at different levels. Instead of a one size fits all approach or a tug of war between developing and elite programs, I want to address challenges differently for teams that have different rugby goals. Currently I have a full committee for Division III (with representation from all sections), but I am in need of one to two more committee members at Division I and II. This is your chance to join a committee and impact the league. In conclusion, I want to be a resource for you, and I can promise that I will be reaching out to many of you over the next year. We are going to keep improving this league, and we have a lot of members with unique skills. I hope to bring more people in and utilize those skills. Don't be a stranger.

### **2nd Vice President's Report/Fundraising Committee Chair Report**

Daniel Curtis

It's been a busy and exciting year for USQRA fundraising. Fundraising for the USQRA continues to be a challenge for an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Below are highlights of the activities that took place during the 2018-2019 season.

#### **Fundraising and Sponsorship Updates**

The USQRA Fundraising Committee drafted new sponsorship levels in 2018-2019, that were implemented at the start of last season. The goal of this sponsorship structure was to create more consistency between post-season and regular season sponsors and to provide more variety of sponsor benefits. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President worked with post-season

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tournament hosts to implement the sponsorship levels and feedback continues to be generally positive.

### 2018-2019 Sponsors

The USQRA is grateful for the loyalty of our long time sponsors: Melrose USA, Eagle Sports Chairs, and NuMotion. Their continuing support throughout the years is very much appreciated!

The USQRA welcomed The Lone Star Paralysis Foundation, ABC Medical, and Permobil as new sponsors.

The Hall of Fame Committee worked with Box Wheelchairs and RibGrips as sponsors for the Hall of Fame.

Thanks to all our 2018-2019 sponsors! Your support is crucial to the success of the USQRA!

### Grants

The USQRA has applied for a \$15K grant from the Reeves Foundation for which a decision is pending. Furthermore, a LOI has been submitted to the Neilson Foundation for a 60K grant that would help developing teams, referees, and classifiers. Other grant opportunities are in the works for the 2018-19 season.

### Marketing

Thanks to the support of the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation, a promotional video was been created for the USQRA. We intend to use this video in combination with an updated sponsorship packet to attract new sponsors for the coming years. We would really like to target a wider variety of sponsors including those outside of the spinal cord injury spectrum. To assist with this, a marketing and PR volunteer is also working with the association to fine-tune this for next season.

Additional opportunities for marketing include developing social media content to keep USQRA social media platforms relevant and engaging. If you have an interest in assisting with USQRA marketing and want to get involved, please contact the 2nd Vice President.

### Moving Forward

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There are a number of identified priorities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Fundraising Committee moving forward. If you have interest or expertise in any of these areas please reach out to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and find out how you can get involved!

- Establish an Endowment for long term financial support for the USQRA
- Reach out to government contractors for grants related to hiring and recruitment of individuals with disabilities
- Select/implement a platform to accept donations from individuals on a recurring/one time Basis
- Seek out potential funding sources for further website redesign
- Work with nonprofit academic programs through internships and project opportunities to help identify new sponsors.

### Opportunities and Challenges

As more companies and individuals become aware of wheelchair rugby we want to provide opportunities to connect and invite them to become part of supporting wheelchair rugby in the United States. A number of new companies reached out inquiring about USQRA sponsorship opportunities this season and hopefully we will be able to continue to expand our sponsorship base and financial resources.

The Board of Directors puts in an incredible amount of time often without a lot of support or appreciation. I would encourage all USQRA members to consider how they might be able to get involved with growing and supporting our association.

We have members with all kinds of skills, abilities and interests and I can guarantee there is a way for each person to get plugged in to the USQRA. If not, go ahead and create one! If we want to continue to grow wheelchair rugby in the United States - not only in numbers but also in skill, recognition and reputation- it will take all of us working together.

### Secretary's Report

Michael Klonowski

It has been another constructive season for the USQRA. We have made a lot of visible changes in the way that the league interacts with its members and those who

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follow the sport. Several projects that have taken a lot of work to get going have finally fostered results. We have a new webpage, we continue to get increased social media exposure and the Hall of Fame has a newer, more interactive home on the USQRA webpage. It is the hope of the Board of Directors, that this year we are doing a better job of reaching more and more of you, while spreading knowledge of our sport.

The biggest news has to be the new webpage that was unveiled during this past season. What started off as a small project to do a mockup for a new website, turned into a transitional webpage that allowed us to immediately change the way people see our league. When folks come to the USQRA webpage, they can see scores from the entire season. People can come to the webpage and access resources like tournament scores from the entire season, the Constitution and Bylaws for the USQRA and the minutes from the AGM. But, very importantly, we are able to give our sponsors the exposure that they deserve, smack-dab on the home page of the USQRA website. The USQRA has seen a lot of traffic over the past several months, and we hope that this traffic is due to people realizing that we have a viable tool for interacting with members and the public. We know that the work on a new website is not done. It is a process. But, we are getting closer to our vision of how we present our league in the best way possible for years to come.

Social media exposure has increased significantly over the past year. Our Facebook page now has 2712 likes, a 7% increase from last year. Our Twitter Feed now has 696 followers, a 10% increase from last year. Our Instagram now has 926 followers, and has seen a 111% increase in this past year. This means that more people are realizing that they can see what's going on in the league, immediately, like scores and action from tournaments. Again, we are motivated to increase the exposure of our sponsors, and social media has allowed us to do this quickly and effectively.

The Hall of Fame now has a visible home on the USQRA webpage. For too long, the legends of our sport have been buried under the convoluted pathways of our old website. This was not the right way to honor those who have given so much to our league and sport. The Hall of Fame has a new image and is much more accessible to website visitors. Hall of Famers, Brad Mikkelsen and Chris Cook have hunted down members of the Hall and have gotten updated pictures and biographies on the many individuals that have been honored by the league. Hopefully, you will check out the

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new page and see the faces and read the stories of the many great folks that have led the way to today's sport of wheelchair rugby.

It should not go without note, that it has been a pleasure to be surrounded by the hard working individuals that are currently on this Board of Directors. The First and Second Vice Presidents have re-invigorated their offices and have pushed for initiatives that will not just help the league today, but, will ensure a robust future for the USQRA. The President has pushed and prodded for a modern and dynamic board that responds to and anticipates the needs of the league. The Commissioner has continued to take on a role that is thankless, but, is so necessary, and has been done well in a way that limits bias and puts the interest of the league first over everything else. I am incredibly appreciative of all of the work they have put into the league this year. I am thankful for another year of opportunities to help this league to the best of my capabilities and I hope to be as productive, if not more so, over this next year.

### **Treasurer's Report** Sid Christain

Thank you Debrah Whitehurst for the years of service you provided to the USQRA as Treasurer. The transition to interim Treasurer was efficient and problem free due in no small part to the effective way you handled the responsibilities of the office and the diligence you gave to ensuring a smooth transition. It has been an honor to serve as Treasurer for the 2018-2019 USQRA Season.

The Year-End financials and Proposed Budget for the upcoming Fiscal year (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020) are included in this report.

**Membership Dues:** We collected Dues for this season from 41 teams. We instituted electronic payment options for remitting dues and collecting other payments through Quickbooks' Electronic Invoicing System. Our current payment options include credit/debit cards, electronic ACH draft, and manual check remittance. Roughly 70% of all payments received this past season were by electronic means.

**International Player Fees:** Twelve teams rostered and paid International Player Dues which generated \$9,000.00.

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**Insurance:** We collected \$6,150.00 in Insurance Dues this season. USQRA liability insurance coverage is provided through Adaptive Sports USA. Adaptive Sports USA in prior years have been able to subsidize our USQRA premiums requiring that we pay 50% of the actual premium. This subsidy has kept our premiums from rising dramatically. As of January 1, 2019, USQRA will be required to pay the full premium for Team Liability Insurance coverage. The Insurance Fee for the 2019-2020 season will likely rise but the amount of that increase is yet to be determined.

**Classification:** Fees for Classification expenses this year will be close to twice the \$10,250.00 collected for this season in Classification Dues. The classification process is vital to quad rugby and the goal of providing a system that weighs quality evaluation and cost is an evolving one that the USQRA Membership will need to continue to assess.

**Stewardship:** The USQRA Balance Sheet included in this report is indicative of good financial stewardship. Our cash balances provide the means to manage the financial challenges that lie ahead without the need for hasty decision making but the available funds will also require prudent management to meet present needs and promote numerical and qualitative growth of our sport.

**Budget:** The Proposed Budget for the 2019-2020 USQRA Season is attached.

### Commissioner's Report

Dave Mengyan

As another season comes to a close, it's time to look back at what we've accomplished and where we've fallen short. My first thought is that the league has a really strong board. All 5 members from the President to the Secretary are really working hard to strengthen the league. I have enjoyed working with this board and look forward to next season if I'm asked to continue as commissioner. Fundraising has been strong, allowing us to start a rainy day fund to make sure we are prepared for a lean year and to allow us to consider some bigger things in the future if they can keep up this trend. Daniel has done an excellent job but he could really use a couple ambitious people to join the fundraising committee to make sure that happens. Please reach out to any board member (or me) if you are interested.

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Clinics and pick-up events were down this year. The league has funds allocated to clinics, so if you're thinking about hosting one (counts toward your hosting requirement if it's open), please reach out to Michael Cottingham and he'll help you start that process. There are several amazing players and coaches around the league who would be happy to help you take your game to the next level.

The new post season structure has been the hot topic all year. From it's first implementation, it seems there is plenty of room for improvement but we've got 16 great teams representing us in Rockford so I'm excited to watch the games play out. I'm anxious to hear the discussion today around new clarifications and any alternatives that might make our league better.

Phoenix was an amazing National Championships host for the past 2 years, leaving Oscar Mike a big job to try to reach the bar set by Ability360. Nikki and her team have battled many challenges to bring this together, in conjunction with your Executive Committee, so hopefully this year's event will exceed your expectations. We will have an AAR soon after the tournament to discuss successes and near misses so next year will be even better. If you have feedback about the tournament, please send it to [commissioner@usqra.org](mailto:commissioner@usqra.org) so your hosts and I can consider your opinion.

Next year is big for the USA. It's when we choose the team who will represent the Red White & Blue in Tokyo. Those athletes will pour everything into preparing. To avoid the issues we had in 2016, we've been in close contact with Lakeshore to make sure we're aware of events that will take those athletes away from the USQRA season. I think we all agree that both Team USA and the USQRA are better when participants don't have to choose between them. Potential hosts for next year's Semi-Finals will be given a date list of Team USA events that they need to avoid when scheduling their own tournaments. Of course the tentative date for next year's National championships (and any revisions while that is finalized) have and will also take this information into consideration.

Next year I'd like to revise our "regions". Since we don't need Sections and Regions as they exist, I'd like to break the country into 6 or 7 relatively equal sized Zones. This will better balance the number of teams each RAC is responsible for. I started down that path this season but ran into trouble finding RACs in a couple of zones.

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RACs are very important – they choose which teams go to the playoffs. If you're interested in being a RAC for next season, please contact the commissioner.

By now you've seen the new USQRA website – mostly the result of pressure and a great deal of effort by your Secretary, Mike Klonowski. We lost our developer for the old registration system – he was working basically for free so it's not a surprise as he's moved on to other things. I'm looking to completely reimagine the user interface to make it more intuitive and more player focused, while retaining the as much of our data structure as possible so we don't lose any of our history. The site you see is only a small piece of a bigger vision that includes migrating historical information from our 2 previous sites, more detailed scoring results, an improved registration experience, and much more. Those changes probably won't happen in the next year but we'll lay the groundwork so we're ready when we reach our fundraising goal.

Remember, this is your league. You set the rules, you determine who cares for it, and you are the primary beneficiary of everything the league does. Don't leave it to other people – get involved!

It's been an amazing season and both divisions will be hotly contested here in Rockford. Please let your friends, family, co-workers, and sponsors know about the live feed so they can see the best face off and share in your 2019 Rugby journey. Best of luck to all the teams in the tournament and to everyone as they prepare for the 19/20 season!

### **Atlantic North RAC Report**

Bill Bouffard

The 2018/2019 season had the Atlantic North Region with 7 active teams: EWAF NY Warriors, Magee Eagles, Medstar NRH Punishers, WNY Wreckers, Maryland Mayhem, the Connecticut Jammers and NEP Wildcats.. The WNY Wreckers & Connecticut Jammers withdrew from Post Season. The Magee Eagles, NEP Wildcats, NY Warriors and NRH Capitol Punishers played in the first Eastern Nationals Semi Finals in DC. Medstar hosted the tournament which was very well run. The Medstar NRH Punishers placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Magee Eagles placed 4<sup>th</sup> and are headed onto DII Nationals. The Region as a whole is gaining strength. The Region as a whole is gaining strength with 4 teams finishing in the top 24. We're all hoping to move up next season.

❖ Tournaments/clinics held:

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- Can-Am Rugby (July 28<sup>th</sup> – July 30<sup>st</sup>) International/Bill Bouffard (non-sanctioned)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rugby Rampage (Sep 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>) – NEP Wildcats
- Connecticut Classic 2017 (Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>) - CT Jammers
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland Crab Pot Tournament (Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>) – Maryland Mayhem
- Beast of the East (Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>)– Philly - Magee Eagles
- WNY Wreckers 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wrecking Ball Tournament (Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>)
- NY Warriors Tournament (Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>) NY Warriors
- Eastern National SemiFinals (Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>) - Medstar NRH Punishers
- ❖ Referees
  - No updates
- ❖ Classifiers
  - Cindy Ellis – NE Head. Classification panels were held both at the Beast of the East and ENSF Tournaments.
- ❖ Post season hosts
  - Thanks to the Medstar NRH Punishers for once again hosting a very well-run post-season tournament. Some fantastic competition throughout the weekend and 4 solid teams move on to Nationals.
- ❖ Clinics
  - The NEP Wildcats are looking to host a rugby clinic in the summer of 2019

### **Items of interest:**

There were no major issues in the Region this season and plenty of tournaments. The CT Jammers and WNY Wreckers are struggling in retaining players but continue to develop. The Wildcats & Warriors broke into the top 24 for the first time.

The Can-Am tournament mentioned above is an extension of the able-bodied CanAm International rugby tournament. The longest running able-bodied rugby tournament in the US and is entering its 45<sup>th</sup> year and wheelchair rugby is becoming a bigger part of it. The tournament still lacks a dedicated w/c rugby team host, but I manage the rugby team's portion of this tournament. 2018 may have been the last year for this tournament as we were unable to secure the Olympic Training Center for 2019 and venues are scarce in the Region. More on this next year.

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### Atlantic South RAC Report

Dan Caldwell

- Tournaments held during the 2018 – 2019 season:
  - Shepherd Classic (November 9 & 10, 2018) – 6 teams, Shepherd Smash, Atlanta, GA
  - Raleigh Rumble (December 1 & 2, 2018) – 4 teams, Raleigh Sidewinders, Raleigh, NC
  - Southern Slam (January 11 – 13, 2019) – 8 teams, Brooks Bandits, Jacksonville, FL
  - Knock & Roll (January 18 -20, 2019) – 8 teams, South Florida, Lake Worth, FL
  - Tampa International (January 18 – 20, 2019) – 8 teams, Tampa Generals, Tampa, FL
  - Queen City Collision (January 26 – 27, 2019) – 5 teams, Carolina Crash
  - Code Of Honor (February 8 -10, 2019) – 10 teams, NoVA Mutiny
- Development:
  - I have been working with the Orlando team in an effort to get them up to speed so they may be able to host tournaments and travel soon. They are having a difficult time obtaining funding. They also struggle with maintaining consistent participation from their players.
  - Miami did not register as a team this year, but I have kept in contact with Rodrigo and he is hopeful that they will be able to roster a team next year

### Heartland North RAC Report

Ryan Engelby

The Heartland North supported ten teams this season. It was Oscar Mike's first season as an official team. Grand Rapids and Detroit officially withdrew from post-season play, this year. Oscar Mike and Ohio both went to a Semifinal tournament with Oscar Mike advancing to Nationals along with

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Minnesota who received the automated advancement.

### **Tournaments held:**

- Bear Brawl 2018 (September 22-23) – Chicago Bears
- 2018 Thunderfest (October 6-7) – Grand Rapids Thunder
- 16th Annual Steel City Slam (November 3-4) – Pittsburgh Steelwheelers
- 3rd Annual Turnstone Invitational (November 17-18) – Turnstone Flyers
- 16th Annual Columbus Collision (December 1-2) – Ohio Buckeye Blitz
- 4th Annual Rhino Rumble (February 2-3) – Akron Rhinos

### **Referees**

- Martha Smith – Chicago
- Mike Woll – Chicago
- Karen Bauthier – Ft. Wayne
- Kristin Little – Louisville
- Madison Little – Louisville
- Mitch Carr – Chicago

### **Post season hosts**

- Oscar Mike will host Nationals in Rockford, IL.

### **Items of interest:**

Minnesota's tournament was cancelled due to being unable to get any teams to attend. Oscar Mike held the Militia Summer Mayhem in Rockford, IL.

## **Heartland South RAC Report**

Gary Pate

### **Tennessee**

For the 2018-2019 season, this team continued to build on last year's surprising success and lay the groundwork for the future. They competed in 5 tournaments : St.Louis, Atlanta, West Palm, Birmingham, and Dallas. With a strong 2d place finish in West Palm, the Quadcrushers cracked rugby's Top 25.

They rostered 2 new players....one returning to play after 7 years in retirement. Several players had debilitating injuries which limited roster flexibility but this

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Tennessee team continues to improve under the leadership of Hall of Famer, Eddie Crouch.

### **Kansas City**

You would think KC would have trouble improving on its hot run to Nationals last year but that was simply a warm-up.

Playing in tournaments at home, Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Houston, KC's Tom Knaus and Brad Hudspeth were repeatedly recognized as Best in Class. Hudspeth also became the first KC player invited to the Team USA tryouts.

This team topped off the year by flawlessly hosting the western semi-finals and as a 7 seed, advancing once again to Nationals. The teams' balance was demonstrated by all for starters receiving awards.

### **Lakeshore**

The Demolition returned to form this year, winning the Shepherd tournament and finishing second in Dallas and at its own Derby. The team also played in Houston and Phoenix. The success is reflected in a 5th seed for Nationals as well as the numerous tournament awards received by Ike Yukinobu, Bob Lujano, Clay Brackett, Del McMillian, Aimee Bruder, and Sid Christian (USQRA treasurer).

Yukinobu not only added dynamic play to the Lakeshore lineup but led by example and demonstrated constant integrity and kindness.

### **St. Louis**

An always tough team, St. Louis continued building for the future with a good mix of veterans and younger players. Not until post-season did this squad have a full roster at a tournament. Competing short-handed at its home tourney, Turnstone, Ohio, and Kansas City, St. Louis always gave its opponents a hard-fought lesson in how to play rugby. Though falling short of dreams at the semi finals, St. Louis and Coach Sue Tucker look well equipped for next season.

## **Mountain East RAC Report**

Chuck French

Once again the Mountain Section has some serious competition with 3 of the top 7 teams in the country fighting in the Division 1 championships. The Mountain East region had 5

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active teams during the 2018/19 season. This region holds the Denver Harlequins, RISE, San Antonio Ruff Ruff Ryders, Texas Stampede and the TIRR Texans. Denver is heading into the USQRA National Championships as the #2 seed with the Texas Stampede #3 and TIRR Texans first ever bid into the Division 1 tournament as the 7<sup>th</sup> seed. The San Antonio Ruff Ryders and Dallas RISE, along with the TIRR developmental team will be competing in Houston at the Best of the Rest tournament at the end of April.

- **Tournaments held:**

- ◆ Texas Cup –Austin – October 20, 2018. TIRR vs. Stampede; two games.
- ◆ Texas Hold 'Em – Las Vegas – Hosted the Tx Stampede – Nov. 10, 11, 12, 2018.
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Australia 2<sup>nd</sup> U of A 3<sup>rd</sup> Denver
- ◆ Texas Cup – Dallas – December 1, 2018. TIRR vs. Dallas; two games.
- ◆ Texas Cup – Austin – December 2, 2018. TIRR vs. Stampede; two games.
- ◆ Metal & Muscle Expo 2018 – Co-Hosted by TIRR and Texas Stampede – December 6, 7, 8, 2018 – Houston. 16 teams; two divisions.
  - 1. D1 – 1<sup>st</sup> – Denver 2<sup>nd</sup> U of A 3<sup>rd</sup> Phoenix
  - 2. D2 – 1<sup>st</sup> – Brooks 2<sup>nd</sup> Northridge 3<sup>rd</sup> Oscar Mike
- ◆ RISE Invitational – February 15-17, 2019.
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Las Vegas 2<sup>nd</sup> Lakeshore 3<sup>rd</sup> San Antonio
- ◆ Mile High Mayhem – Denver – February 15-17, 2019
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Denver Red 2<sup>nd</sup> Denver Blue 3<sup>rd</sup> Denmark

- **Mountain East Referees**

- ◆ Genny Gomez – San Antonio
- ◆ Chuck French - Houston
- ◆ Travis Adkins – Houston (semi-retired this season)
- ◆ Henry Cochran – San Antonio
- ◆ Christopher Moreno – Houston
- ◆ Keana Madrinan – Houston
- ◆ Alyshia Anderson - Dallas

- **Classifiers**

- ◆ Christopher Newman - Austin

- Post season host

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- ◆ The University of Houston will host their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Best of the Rest tournament the weekend of April 26-28, 2019 at the UH Campus Recreation Center.
- **Clinics**
  - ◆ A wheelchair rugby clinic was held during the 2018 Metal & Muscle Expo led by USAWR Head Coach James Gumbert.
- **Future**
  - ◆ It is the goal of the Mountain East to have representation from all members in the National Tournament. Dallas RISE is taking steps to grow as a team and program this summer with several high-performance camps scheduled in Dallas this off-season.
  - ◆ Houston Parks and Recreation Department will host its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Rugby League. This league is open for anyone to play. Rules are the same except there must be at least 2-USQRA legal players on the court at all times, the other two players can be any value (AB, Amputee, Para, etc).
  - ◆ The Mountain East plans to bring all four Texas teams back together in 2019/20 for monthly TX Cup tournaments in a rotating fashion.
- **Notice**
  - ◆ To Date, Roma Wheelchairs has NOT honored their 2017/18 wheelchair auction sponsorship.

### Mountain West RAC Report

Josh Wheeler

The 2018/2019 season the Mountain section had the following teams:  
Mountain West – Ability 360 Phoenix Heat, and University of Arizona Wildcats  
UA and Phoenix qualified for nationals this year and all made Division 1.

#### Tournaments Held

- Duel in the Desert October 19-21, Phoenix
- Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, November 9-11, Hosted by Texas Stampede
- Rugby Rave, February 7-9, Ability 360 Phoenix Heat
- Wildcat Clash, February 22-24, UA Wildcats

#### Items of Interest:

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In years past we (the Mountain Section) would only have 4 teams at nationals. If you go farther back in time we would only have two in D1 and two in D2. This year we will have the top 4 teams from one section and a fifth team from that same section in D1. It is great to see the progress of our League and the strength of our section. On a different note I would love to see some development outside of the core teams from this section. I would like to see the Utah team come back. It was great to see the San Antonio team playing again however I would like to see them go to more tournaments next season.

### **Pacific North RAC Report**

Josiah Sullivan

The Pacific North was comprised of five teams this season as the Cal Storm and Reno High Fives combined: Boise Bombers, Nor-Cal Quake, Portland Pounders, High Fives Storm, and Seattle Slam. Seattle hosted the Slam on the Sound to kick the season off and did not disappoint. There were a lot of close games with the High Fives Storm taking 1<sup>st</sup>, Seattle 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Boise 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next tournament for the Pacific North was the Reno Rumble. This tournament fills up faster than any other tournament I've seen, it was full in less than 10 minutes from the tournament info being sent out. Who doesn't want to spend Halloween weekend in Reno?! As always it was a fun tournament. Nor-Cal finished in 1<sup>st</sup>, High Fives 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Seattle 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was also a tournament in Sacramento in January where Phoenix came in 1<sup>st</sup>, Nor-Cal 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sharp 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our region had three teams qualify for the postseason tournaments, all played in the West Semifinals; Nor-Cal, High Fives, and Seattle.

### **Pacific South RAC Report**

James Sa

The Pacific South kicked off with the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Best of the West in November, this time a local D2 tournament, true to its name and the geographical skill level. Sharp took home a close first place finish over Ability360's B team with help of import Travis Murao. Unfortunately, due to issues and obligations outside of rugby for James Sa and National Team obligations for Murao, both had to step down before

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post season, resulting in an Iron Man lineup during sectionals. Although a great experience for newer players on the roster, Sharp ultimately was unable to qualify for Nationals.

Northridge continued their relationship with Austrian import Rene Hernesz and qualified for Nationals as a 6<sup>th</sup> seed. The team will continue to look to Mercado and DeYoung for leadership and experience.

### USQRRR Referee Report

Andy Miller

It has been my honor to serve the sport of wheelchair rugby and our referee's association during this past year. It has been a very busy, and productive year; one that has seen our membership grow and develop their craft. It has also been another year of genuine collaboration with the USQRA towards the common objective of advancing the sport we love.

**Clinics held during the past year** – There were no clinics held during this season. Metal and Muscle was interested in hosting a clinic in December, but with such a large field of teams, as well as scrambling to staff the tournament with officials, our Executive team felt that candidates would not get the best possible clinic experience, so we declined to hold a clinic in conjunction with that event.

An advanced referee clinic was planned in conjunction with the Ability360 Rugby Rave in February. Unfortunately, our instructor was unable to attend due to a death in the family.

An entry level clinic is being planned in conjunction with the "Best of the Rest" tournament being hosted by University of Houston in April. We anticipate between 3 and 5 candidates will participate in the clinic.

We hope to pick up the pace with beginning and advanced clinics during the coming season.

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**Member Development** – The USQRRR leadership recognized that two of our officials have demonstrated the potential to move to the A level of certification. These two officials will be evaluated for advancement to the A level during this year's Nationals tournament.

Todd Jackson earned is "A" level certification.

Martha Smith and Jonathan Williams earned their "B" level certifications.

The USQRRR Executive team has developed a matrix that describes certification levels for our officials. The document defines certification requirements, jurisdiction, relevant experience, certification maintenance and conditions for advancement for the existing C (Regional), B (Sectional), and A (National) levels of certification. The document also defines the same criteria for a proposed new level; International Zone level. Having this criteria written down and understood by our member officials will illuminate a clear path an official will follow to advance from one level to another, should he or she aspire to move up. Thanks to Mitch Carr and Joe Bongiovanni for driving this effort!

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, we partnered with Kevin Bowie, Canada's Head of Officials, to further our exchange of officials between the US and Canada. This season Kevin Caldwell officiated at the Ability360 Rugby Rave in Phoenix, and Joe Bongiovanni served at the Vancouver tournament in March. By all accounts, this exchange was successful, and we look forward to expanding the program moving forward.

### **USQRRR officials at international and special events**

- 2018 Canada Cup – June, 2018 – Richmond, BC, Canada – Mitch Carr, Referee
- National Veterans Wheelchair Games – July, 2018, Cincinnati, OH – Kelli Kaliszewski and Travis Adkins, Referees.
- IWRF World Championships – August, 2018, Sydney, Australia – Darren Roberts, Assistant Head Official, Mitch Carr, Referee, Josh Kearns, Referee.
- European B Championships – October, 2018 – Lahti, Finland – Joe Bongiovanni, Referee, Bob Lopez, Technical Delegate, Kerin Banfield, Evaluator.
- Ability360 Heat v. Canadian National Team – February, 2019, Phoenix, AZ – Andy Miller, Todd Jackson, Referees.
- Vancouver Invitational – March, 2010, Richmond, BC, Canada – Joe Bongiovanni, Referee.

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We are extremely proud to report the appointment of two of our top officials to important roles within the IWRP.

- Darren Roberts has been appointed as the IWRP Technical Commissioner, replacing Stan Battock as head of officials for the IWRP.
- Mitch Carr has been appointed as Americas Zone Representative to the IWRP Technical Committee, replacing Gilles Briere.

Congratulations to Darren and Mitch for well-earned new roles at the IWRP level. We know they will carry out their new responsibilities very capably and with a high degree of professionalism!

### 2017 – 2018 Season Metrics

USQRA members officiated 1,303 games (up 34 from last season) at 47 events (prior to Nationals) during this season. The weekend of November 9-11 saw 4 tournaments supported by 21 officials, and the weekend that spanned the last week of November and first week of December featured 5 events supported by our 30 of our officials. The new post season format of an Eastern and Western Semifinal tournaments held on the same weekend was supported by 14 referees.

Our total membership stands at 51 (28 male; 23 female), with 41 “active” (fully certified w/ game activity in 2018-2019 season) referees:

- 13 – “A”, 14 – “B”, 24 – “C”
- Membership distribution by Section
  - Atlantic – 13
  - Heartland – 15
  - Mountain – 14
  - Pacific – 9

With Mitch Carr’s new responsibilities as head of the Americas Zone, he has stepped away from his role of Treasurer of our organization, and Bob Lopez has been elected as the new Treasurer. Many thanks to Mitch for his outstanding service, and congratulations to Bob, who will begin his 2<sup>nd</sup> stint as the association Treasurer.

Finally, this will be my last AGM report as Chairperson of the USQRA. Joe Bongiovanni is the incoming Chairperson, and he will assume this new role after Nationals. Please congratulate Joe and provide the same outstanding support to him

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as you have provided to me over the years I served in that role. It has been an absolute privilege and honor to represent the officials of the USQRA for 9 of the past 12 years. Going forward, I will continue to serve in various capacities supporting the sport we all love!

### USQRA Classifier Report

Phyllis Palma

This year has been a tremendous year of growth for the sport of wheelchair rugby with the classification of huge numbers of new players, but also within our classifier team, with several new classifiers coming on board and other developing their skills to advance. In addition, we have had system improvements to allow data to be more readily accessible and efficient to track with the update of our USQRA database.

1. We were able to attend 9 tournaments across the nation. There were six Pre-Season tournaments attended. We welcomed the invitation to a newer tournament, Code of Honor, this year, as well as, continued appreciated support in Heartland All Sectionals were attended, and two classification panels were present at Nationals. This allowed us to accommodate 35 new athletes and 63 Review/FRD dates. Please see table below for tournaments and classification data for this season. USQRA classifiers also trained and certified five new classifiers and three classifiers advanced in certification level. In addition, to the typical training, the USQRA Basic Workshop was revised by Denise Anderson and Phyllis Palma to better reflect our recently updated manual. Additional trainings took place at tournaments regarding limb length measurements to promote consistency and standardization for measuring and assignments of sport classes.

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Tournament	New Players	Re-Checks /FRD Athletes	Ineligible	NC	Protests	Replacement Cards/ Age & Gender Adjustments	Basic Workshop (# Trainees)	Classifier Advancement	Comments /Players due, but unable to be seen

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Grand Rapids Tournament; Grand Rapids, MI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Shepherd Smash Rugby Tournament; Atlanta, GA	13	6	1	1	0	3	0	Angela Link-3; Joann Gallichi o-2	Unable to fill 21 athletes due, but unable to be seen due to time constraints; 1 did not attend 14 unable to be seen due to time constraints and 6 did not attend 2 Panels, however 1 classifier unable to attend making chief duties challenging
Beast of the East; West Deptford, NJ	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	Danielle Morton -Level 2	
Metal and Muscle; Houston, TX	8	16	1	1	1	7	Arturo Vela-1	0	

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Portland Tournament; Portland, OR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Tournament cancelled panel, however initially able to fill with all local classifiers
Demolition Derby; Birmingham, AL	1	9	2	0	0	1	Megan Demott-1; Julie Gallagher-1	0	
Code of Honor Invitational; Springfield, VA	4	7	1	0	1	2	Mary Kiolbasa-1	0	
U of A; Tucson, AZ	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Eastern National Semifinal ; Washington, DC	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	20 slots available, 3 filled; 1 PUE lodged by chief which class was upheld
Western National Semifinal ; Kansas City	4	7	0	0	0	3	Shelly Wilson -1	0	

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*2019 USQRA National Championships; Rockford, IL	2	4	0	1	1	0	Advanced Workshop and Annual Classification Meeting	0	2 Panels
Totals *scheduled but not finalized when report submitted	37	67	5	3	4	16	5	3	132 (Athletes)

2. The following 38 active classifiers were involved in classification services and/or administration over the last three seasons and participated in either website development, database administration, manual revision task-force, education implementation or served as panel members which is an increase over the last couple years. There was an emphasis this season on the growth of (appropriate-need a word) level classifiers undergoing training to become chief classifiers with four newer classifiers in this role. There of course was continued efforts to bring on new classifiers with five new classifiers joining our team this year and receiving their Level 1 Certifications. In addition, three classifiers advanced in their levels this year. See the table below for the distribution of classifiers with regards to their levels.

<b>Classifiers Totals</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>Active*</b>	<b>International</b>	
70	38	8**	

\*Participated last 3 yrs.

\*\*Christopher Newman selected to train IWRF

<b>Level 4's:</b> 15	<b>Level 3's:</b> 6	<b>Level 2's:</b> 9	<b>Level 1's:</b> 40
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3. The following USQRA Classifiers participated at international events 2018-2019. Phyllis Palma and Anne Hart also serve on the IWRF Classification Committee. In addition, Anne Hart is the Chair of the IPC Classification Committee, a standing committee appointed by the IPC Governing Board, a member of the Steering Group for IPC Classification Research Centers, chaired the January and July 2018 IPC classification committee meetings and the July 2018 IPC educational conference for the International Federation Heads of Classification and National classification experts for all Para Sports, and is serving on the scientific committee for the 2019 VISTA Conference in Amsterdam in September 2019. In January 2019, Anne presented to the IPC Governing board in London on the state of code compliance in the Paralympic Movement, future directions for research in evidence-based classification and on the future of classification in Para sport.

<i><b>USQRA Classifier IWRF Involvement</b></i>		
IWRF World Championships 2018-Sydney	Hart	Palma
IWRF European B Zonal Championships 2018	Palma	
Vancouver Invitational	Lanouette	
Four Nations 2019	Hart	

4. The USQRA classification Masterlist, which is a comprehensive list of all current and former players with sport class and sport class status remains updated on the USQRA website under the Classification page. In addition, the classification page is up to date on the USQRA website. There are also links to important documents that may be needed, including protest form and the most current manual, USQRA Classification Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 2017.
5. The age adjustments: this is a growing area amongst classification with younger athletes joining the teams. They are three athletes receiving their 0.5 deduction for <16 which expires on their 16th birthday with review sport status remaining until age 18. In addition, we have continued to implement the female deduction, female age deduction and >65 deduction. Among these in the current database, there are 50 females and of those two female athletes receiving an additional <45 deduction. Also, two athletes are receiving the <65 deduction.
6. The new version of the manual, USQRA Classification Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 2017 has been in effect and upcoming minor edits will be added for clarifications, etc. Also, the new IWRF rules were just approved by the IWRF board and will go into effect immediately post-Tokyo 2020, so the USQRA should be looking at those new rules when they come out next year, in preparation for what will need

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to be updated for the US. The major ones will be for limb deficiency and coordination. The classification cards are continuing to be updated to reflect the change in language to Confirmed sport class status from the previous Permanent status. New cards have also been created and will gradually be phased in as we exhaust the supplies of the older cards. Finally, to ensure accuracy of all classification cards, please bring all team cards to the classification panel when panels are present to allow them to be checked and updated as needed.

### Postseason Review

**2019 Western National Semifinals**  
**Tournament Director – Tony Durham**  
**Kansas City, MO**  
**Dates of Tournament: March 1-3, 2019**

1. Oscar Mike Militia
2. NorCal Quake
3. Northridge
4. Kansas City

**2019 Eastern National Semifinals**  
**Tournament Director – Rita Penniman**  
**Fort Washington, MD**  
**Dates of Tournament: March 1-3, 2019**

1. Shepherd Smash
2. Brooks Bandits
3. NRH Punishers
4. Philly Magee Eagles

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## **2019 AGM Minutes**

### **Wheelchair Specs/Equipment Committee**

James Gumbert, Troy McGuirk

No changes or modifications were requested this year.

### **Hall of Fame Committee**

Brad Mikkelsen/Steve Pate

We will be welcoming Kevin Orr as the newest member to the USQRA Hall of Fame! Kevin will be inducted in Rockford IL, very near his hometown, at the 2019 Nationals Banquet.

Steve Pate is appointed the Chairperson to the Hall of Fame Committee. For those who don't follow Team USA and World WC Rugby, Steve is strength and conditioning coach for National teams/players the last 6 years.

Check out the relatively new HoF website at [usqra.org/hall-of-fame](http://usqra.org/hall-of-fame). The nominations committee (Angelo, Bob, Chris, Cliff, Steve, & Troy) is working on this, with some work still to be done. Plans to be caught up soon.

Mike Klonowski has been helping with the site and has been a great to work with!

We are grateful to Box Chairs for Sponsorship of an Everyday chair auctioned at Nationals the last two years however, very recently Box canceled their sponsorship. We don't know why as of yet. Once again funding the Hall of Fame comes into question.

The Hall thanks RibGrip hand rims for their donation of 2 pair of RibGrip covers. The current balance in account is \$2,848.61, without accounting for this year's expenses.

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### Competition Committee

Steve Kenny

The Competition Committee is made up of an appointed chairperson, the USQRA Commissioner and all of the Regional Assistant Commissioners (RAC's). It is responsible for recommending team rankings and postseason seeding to the USQRA Board. With this year's new postseason structure, the committee committed to and delivered a monthly top 30 team rankings and an end of the season ranking. For each ranking, the committee discusses rosters, tournament results, and special circumstances, then each member submits their personal top 30 ranking and those are discussed and tabulated, (each #1 ranking = 30pts, #2 rank = 29pts, #3 rank = 28pts,...#29 rank = 2pts, #30 rank = 1pt.) resulting in one combined top 30 ranking with occasional ties. The committee must then approve that combined top 30 ranking before submitting it to the board for final approval. Seeding for postseason semifinals utilizes the rankings for teams 9-24 and Nationals seeding follows the usual top 30 ranking procedure with D2 relying heavily on semifinal results.

Some of our challenges are inconsistent teams, inaccurate score-sheet rosters, guest players, and teams that don't play often or only play within their area (geographically-driven). Do we need rule changes to address some of these challenges? It may also be beneficial to increase the size of the committee now that rankings carry more weight towards post season.

If there are any questions, concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact me directly.

Steve Kenny - Chairperson ([sakenny@comcast.net](mailto:sakenny@comcast.net))

### Web Committee

Did not meet this year.

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## **2019 AGM Minutes**

### **USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR)**

Mandy Goff/Beth Curry



#### **2018 Snapshot**

USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) was fortunate enough to compete in three top sanctioned events in 2018 and finished on top at Quad Nations in England and Canada Cup in Vancouver. While World Championships fared a bit different with a Bronze medal finish, we as a program feel that we are in the most positive place as a team as we have been in quite some time. The team itself has focused a lot on mental training with our sports psychologist over the last two years and we feel this has impacted us greatly in the most positive of ways. It has allowed us to evaluate competitions in a different manner, making a plan of action after each win or loss.

#### **Continued Partnerships**

The most important partnerships for USAWR remains with Lakeshore Foundation as the High Performance Management Organization (HPMO) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) for funding and oversight. For those new to the league, Lakeshore Foundation is under contract with the USOC to manage the national team program and all funds received from the USOC flow through Lakeshore to the program. This relationship has been in place for close to 20 years and contractually since 2004-2005. While our primary source of funding comes from the USOC, Lakeshore has continuously committed funds to the program offsetting costs not covered by the allocation; specifically in the last season for additional competition expenses and the development program. Lakeshore continues to support the program by providing a full time staff member to run the program operations. Mandy Goff, High Performance Manager, has been in this role since 2011, but full time since 2016. Lakeshore is sad to announce the retirement of Beth Curry, Chief Program Officer as of March 31st. Beth has been closely

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involved in the program and has participated in the growth of the USAWR/USQRA relationship. While we hate to see her go, we wish her the best and trust that Lakeshore will take great steps when considering her replacement.

USAWR and USA Rugby (USAR) continue to engage in different partnership opportunities through tournaments and USA Rugby Trust events and while there is no formal agreement between the two, USAR remain committed to including USAWR in conversations when it comes to new sponsorship and engagement opportunities. USAWR continues to encourage those USQRA teams with local USAR clubs in their area to build upon those relationships. Lakeshore Foundation and USAWR are extremely pleased with the relationship that has been built with the USQRA over the last two years. Our Chief Program Officer, Beth Curry, continued to be involved on board calls and we will continue to include a member of the board on our Selection Committee each year. We feel that these two specific roles have contributed to transparency and continued important communication between the organizations.

### 2019 Forecast

USAWR Selection Camp will continue the first weekend of January each season, with the exception of 2020 (based on where New Years Day falls). For 2020, the camp will be hosted December 11-15, 2019 and be followed by a tremendously busy lead up to Tokyo. We continue to reserve these dates to allow athletes a consistent weekend for planning and also trying to coordinate with the USQRA calendar. We recognize that it's always hard to travel right after the new year, but if we do it any earlier it cuts into the holidays, there is potential for overlap with USQRA tournaments, and we also have to consider the Lakeshore facility availability. We explored a later option a few years ago and it didn't allow time for any training camps prior to competition and it really created issues with the USQRA weekends. The 2019 Selection Committee was comprised of six members; Mandy Goff, High Performance Manager (admin role/no vote); James Gumbert, Head Coach; Sue Tucker, Assistant Coach; Dave Ceruti, development coach; Will Groulx, Athlete Rep (no vote); and Mike Klonowski, USQRA Ex-Officio (no vote). Sixteen athletes were selected, two brand new to the program, and will train together up through the end of our season in October. All sixteen athletes will attend five training camps and three competitions; four being hosted at Lakeshore and one at the USOC Training Center in Colorado Springs. The first competition of the season is being held at Lakeshore Foundation and will be one of the top IWRP sanctioned events this year. We will play host to Australia, Great

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Britain, and Japan, May 22-25. The tournament will provide an “A” level classification panel giving team their only opportunity for classification prior to Parapan American Games in August. The Parapan Am Games team will be announced at the conclusion of the May camp (on or before May 31) and the team will travel to Lima, Peru for the Games August 17-28. This competition will be our final opportunity for automatic qualification into the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games with only the top team from the Americas Zone moving on. The culmination of our seasons will take place at the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships (WWRC) being held in Tokyo in October. This is the same event that was held in 2015 in collaboration with World Rugby (the international federation for rugby) and the Rugby World Cup. It will be a tremendous opportunity for our sport to leverage the relationship with our able bodied counterparts and to bring new fans into the fold. Finally, we will be receiving grant dollars from the USOC for continued development of our emerging athlete pipeline and we plan on bringing in athletes this season to participate alongside our national team. Those camps will take place in April, July and then a stand alone camp with USAWR athlete mentors in the fall. Athletes for the camps are submitted and selected by a committee comprised of USAWR coaching staff (both national team and development) in addition to four USAWR athlete representatives.

Part of our responsibility as an HPMO is work with the USOC on a Diversity and Inclusion Plan and reporting data to them specifically as it relates to the national team demographics. We asked for the survey to be included with the USQRA team registration and hope to continue that in the coming years so that we can include the data with our report. While we don't have direct governance over the USQRA we feel it's important to share our best practices like D&I and SafeSport with them as in an effort to bring the sport to the forefront as a leader in the Paralympic movement. Count on us to continue pushing for accountability and transparency between our two organizations and as we move forward working together we request that if you have questions or feedback, please reach out.

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### **Proposal A – Sport Statistics**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**  
Chuck Aoki, Denver Harlequins

**This proposal** \_\_\_\_\_ **amends the constitution;**  
                                  \_\_\_x\_\_\_ **amends the bylaws;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **changes a rule;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Adds subpoint ii. to Article I, section I, point e.

**Check here if the proposal only adds language** \_\_\_x\_\_\_;

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

“Teams are required to submit an itemized list of every goal scorer from their hosted games. This list shall include the player’s name, and the total amount of goals scored at the tournament by each player, and shall be submitted within 14 days of the end of the tournament. Penalties for not providing these statistics and requirements for reporting this are consistent with not providing score sheets. All statistics will be provided to the USQRA commissioner and secretary.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

I believe we should pass this proposal in order to continue to make our sport more accessible to fans. Right now, there is very little quantifiable information about our sport, and this proposal would provide concrete data for casual observers to understand. Being able to present statistics about our sport makes it more attractive for all involved. The burden is shared by all teams with this proposal, as teams are only responsible for uploading the scores for their tournament. The manpower required to do this is only a few hours, which is a reasonable amount of time, and more than worth it.

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### **Proposal B – Letter of Resignation**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**  
Benjamin Andersen, Dallas RISE

**This proposal** \_\_\_\_\_ **amends the constitution;**  
                                  \_\_\_x\_\_\_ **amends the bylaws;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **changes a rule;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**  
Article III, Section 3.a.iii

**Check here if the proposal only adds language \_\_\_\_\_;**  
**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

A written resignation letter must be given to the current team's coach or representative by September 15. Written copies of that resignation letter must also be sent to the Commissioner and Secretary's office, and be received no later than October 1.

**State the language of the proposal:**

A written resignation in the form of a business letter shall be signed and dated by the player resigning from their current team, and must be provided to the current team's coach or representative by September 15 (electronically or in person). A scanned copy of the resignation letter must also be sent to the Commissioner and Secretary's office, and be received no later than October 1. For the purposes of this proposal a business letter will include the following; the author's name, address, and a date, the recipient's name, title, team name, and address. Additionally, the letter should have a hand written signature (which can be scanned in after being signed). Additionally, this letter should note that the author has requested a transfer pursuant to the bylaws of the USQRA.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

An example of the letter has been attached to this submission. The members of the USQRA are all adults, and the request of providing a formal letter of resignation should be considered. This proposal would help to clarify and enforce a professional process for the letter of resignation. Formal professional processes should be adhered to, and would give a more transparent professional image of the organization for potential sponsors.

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### **Proposal C – Athletes of the Year Award**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**  
Chuck Aoki, Denver Harlequins

**This proposal** \_\_\_\_\_ **amends the constitution;**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **amends the bylaws;**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **changes a rule;**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

add point i to Article VII, Section 3

**Check here if the proposal only adds language**   x   **;**

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

Article VII, Section 3, point b, subpoint vii - The Board of Directors will handle nominations for Athlete of the Year and the Spirit of Achievement Award.

Article VI, section 6, point b, subpoint vii - The Governing Board will handle nominations for Athlete of the Year and the Spirit of Achievement Award

**State the language of the proposal:**

- i. Awards Committee
  - i. The Awards Committee shall be a standing committee that handles the postseason athlete awards for the USQRA. The following rules shall serve as the procedures for the Division I and II League MVP Award, and Division I and II Low Pointer of the Year Award.
  - ii. The Low Pointer of the Year winner shall have an original sport class between 0.5 and 1.5.
- iii. Award Procedures
  1. This award shall be given out during the USQRA National Championship Tournament.
  2. Players eligible for this award must be in good standing as to all other USQRA bylaws and regulations.
  3. Voting structure of award
    - (a) By February 15th, a list of ten nominees for each award shall be generated by the Awards Committee. This list shall be generated from the committee itself, from inputs from athletes and coaches in the Association, and other interested parties.
    - (b) The Committee shall strive for the list to best reflect the contributions of the Association and its members in equal standing with the committee's opinions.

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- (c) Players may receive multiple nominations for this award.
- (d) If a member of the Awards Committee is nominated, they shall recuse themselves from the committee for the award process for this award.
- (e) This list of ten names will be made publicly available.
- (f) One ballot shall be distributed to each team representative for teams ranked #1-#8 according to the Late Season USQRA Top 30 for voting on the Division I awards. One ballot shall be distributed to each team representative for teams ranked #9-#24 according to the Late Season USQRA Top 30 for voting on the Division II awards.
- (g) Representatives shall rank the players, 1-10, and submit it back to the Awards Committee no later than February 28th.
- (h) Players receive ten points for a 1st place vote, 9 points for a 2nd place vote, and so on, all the way down to 1 point for a 10th place vote. The winner shall be the player with the most total points.
- (i) In the event of a tie, the player with the most first place votes shall be declared the winner. If there is a tie in 1st place votes, the player with the most 2nd place votes shall be declared the winner. This process will continue down to 10th place. If players remain tied after this process, the winner shall be decided by a coin flip.
- (j) The Awards Committee shall secretly count the ballots, and keep the name of the award winner secret until it is announced at the national tournament.
- (k) After the award is announced, the Awards Committee shall release a list of the top 5 athletes who received votes.

### **State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

This new committee and process for selecting both a DI and DII MVP and Low Pointer of the Year would be more engaging for the league as a whole, and generate interest and excitement around this process. Our league should seek to recognize the top players in our sport year in and year out, and this would be a concrete way to do so. By having teams vote on the process, it places the winner of the awards in the hands of the teams playing, rather than forcing another duty on the board.

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### **Proposal D – Transfer Exception Rule**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**

Michael Cottingham, TIRR

**This proposal**

☐ amends the constitution;

☒ amends the bylaws;

☐ changes a rule;

☐ is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Adds Article III, Section 3, subsection b

**Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒;**

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

b. Transfer Exception Rule

i. If a player has legally rostered with a team for three seasons and only has a single team within 150 miles he or she may transfer to one of the two next closest teams provided the following conditions are met by the transfer deadline.

1. The player requests a transfer from his or her team.
2. The team coach and team representative must agree they grant the transfer (the team can block the transfer if they choose)
3. Documentation is provided in the same fashion that transfer requests are provided.
4. Addresses of the athlete and the team locations are applied in a consistent fashion noted in the bylaws.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

We gave it our best shot now it's time to move on rule - There are times that a player is simply not a good fit for a team. This might be because the player wants to be more competitive and the team is recreational, or the player doesn't want to take practices so seriously and the team is highly competitive. Maybe the team only takes 7 players to tournaments and the player is the 4<sup>th</sup> best class 1.0 on the team and never makes road trips. The player may not be able to move simply for rugby. Often coaches even acknowledge that other teams may be a better fit for the player due to level of play, position on the team, or team dynamics. This rule keeps elite teams from picking off great players, it also keeps players from wanting to check out after just half a season. By having to have been rostered with a team for three seasons there is clearly an investment that all parties have tried to make it work. By requiring both the team coach and the player to agree that it's in the best interest for the player to move on, we are addressing

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## **2019 AGM Minutes**

the issue of cherry picking players or players not trying to fit in with teams. In short, all parties will make efforts and there is probably just a better team for a player. We want more players in the league and more active players. However, a cursory view of players and classification shows that players leave the sport when they can't find a good match. This will allow larger teams to allow players to leak out to smaller surrounding teams and keep players invested for longer while still honoring geography. Because all parties must agree, this is unlikely to cause numerous transfers which will be disruptive and will still mean that teams are almost exclusively comprised based on geographical location.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

### **Proposal E – Playoff Structure Revision**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**  
Rules and Bylaws Committee

**This proposal** \_\_\_\_\_ **amends the constitution;**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **amends the bylaws;**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **changes a rule;**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Adds Article VI, Section 3, subsection f

**Check here if the proposal only adds language \_\_\_\_\_;**

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

f. Teams ranked 9-24 will receive an invitation to compete in a playoff tournament. They must commit by a determined deadline. If a team declines, then the next highest team will be invited until 24 spots are filled or no additional teams remain.

g. If a playoff host team is ranked in the top 8 (therefore qualifying for an automatic bid to Nationals), they may elect to move to position 9 in order to compete in their playoff tournament. At that time, the 9<sup>th</sup> ranked team will move into the top 8, occupying the spot vacated by the host team, earning an automatic bid to Nationals. . If that team declines, the invite would pass to the next highest ranking team until the spot is filled. If a playoff host team is among the teams listed as playoff qualified (i.e. 9-24) they will play in their own tournament, regardless of their position in the rankings. .

h. The remaining teams will choose their location in the order of their ranking (9 – 24). Once one of the tournaments has filled all 8 of its spots, the teams who have not chosen will be assigned to the other tournament location.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

This rule provides clarity on where teams will play in the post season. While we likely have a system that worked well enough for 2019 (this is unknown at the time of this proposal) it would be nice to have a more formalized process for future years. This system would allow clarity and transparency and give teams some level of agency in terms of where they compete. The order of draft would favor competitive balance but the author would consider a friendly amendment where teams at the top choose first.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

### **Proposal F: Military Team Residency Rule Permanent Status**

**State who you are, and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal:**  
Rick Kolberg, Oscar Mike Foundation/Oscar Mike Militia Wheelchair Rugby Team  
Coach rick@oscarmike.org , 240-507-6953

*This proposal*              x   *amends the constitution;*  
                                            *amends the bylaws;*  
                                            *changes a rule;*  
                                            *is a resolution (sets a short-term policy.)*

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Section 4 - Player Residence

**Check here if the proposal only adds language**   X   **;**

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

A. With regards to development of an all United States Military Injured Veteran team, **permanent suspension of the 150-mile rule.**

- i. As stated in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38, the definition of Veteran means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
- ii. The term injured Veteran is not limited to just service-connected injuries.
- iii. This rule does not allow for any other specialty team to be developed.
- iv. If a player registers with this injured Veteran team, they cannot roster with any other USQRA team.
- v. All other terms and conditions of USQRA apply.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

This provides another USQRA team who continues to pay team dues. In its first year as a team, the Oscar Mike Militia have attended tournaments all over the country to compete and filling in at other tournaments that need more participation. As a USQRA team, the Oscar Mike Militia will host regular and postseason tournaments, which includes hosting Nationals for 2019, 2020, and 2021, with flexibility for improvements. The Oscar Mike Militia strives to develop athletes from the beginner to the highest level of competitor in the USQRA league, providing developmental and elite clinics and health/training support. Having more Veterans recruited to the league could present possible grant opportunities. This will present exposure for USQRA supporting veterans.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

### **Proposal G: Military Team Residency Resolution**

**State who you are, and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal:**

Rick Kolberg, Oscar Mike Foundation/Oscar Mike Militia Wheelchair Rugby Team

Coach rick@oscarmike.org , 240-507-6953

**This proposal**

☐ amends the constitution;

☐ amends the bylaws;

☐ changes a rule;

☒ is a resolution (sets a short-term policy.)

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Section 4 - Player Residence

**Check here if the proposal only adds language ☒**

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

A. With regards to development of an all United States Military Injured Veteran team, suspension of the 150-mile rule, **for one year, with review yearly at AGM.**

- i. As stated in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38, the definition of Veteran means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.
- ii. The term injured Veteran is not limited to just service-connected injuries.
- iii. This rule does not allow for any other specialty team to be developed.
- iv. If a player registers with this injured Veteran team, they cannot roster with any other USQRA team.
- v. All other terms and conditions of USQRA apply.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

This provides another USQRA team who continues to pay team dues. In its first year as a team, the Oscar Mike Militia have attended tournaments all over the country to compete and filling in at other tournaments that need more participation. As a USQRA team, the Oscar Mike Militia will host regular and postseason tournaments, which includes hosting Nationals for 2019, 2020, and 2021, with flexibility for improvements. The Oscar Mike Militia strives to develop athletes from the beginner to the highest level of competitor in the USQRA league, providing developmental and elite clinics and health/training support. Having more Veterans recruited to the league could present possible grant opportunities. This will present exposure for USQRA supporting veterans.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

### **Proposal H: Post-Season Timelines**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**  
Rules and Bylaws Committee

**This proposal** \_\_\_\_\_ **amends the constitution;**  
                                  \_\_\_x\_\_\_ **amends the bylaws;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **changes a rule;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Article VI, Section 1, Subsection B

**Check here if the proposal only adds language \_\_\_x\_\_\_;**

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

Late season USQRA top 24 will be set no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> of each season, OR no less than 30 days prior to the first scheduled playoff tournament.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

This season posed challenges related to the very short timeline in between the Top 24 rankings and the date of the playoff tournaments. The proposed change would allow teams more time to plan and make travel arrangements.

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## 2019 AGM Minutes

### **Proposal I: Post-Season Qualification**

**State who you are and any organization(s) or team(s) associated with the proposal.**  
Rules and Bylaws Committee

**This proposal** \_\_\_\_\_ **amends the constitution;**  
                                  \_\_\_x\_\_\_ **amends the bylaws;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **changes a rule;**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **is a resolution (sets a short term policy.)**

**Identify the specific provision that will be changed:**

Article VI, Section 3, Subsection B

**Check here if the proposal only adds language** \_\_\_x\_\_\_;

**If current language will be removed, state it here:**

**State the language of the proposal:**

b.) The remaining 16 teams, ranked 9-24, according to the Late Season USQRA Top 24, will be invited to compete in the two playoff tournaments. The USQRA Competition Committee will offer the top 8 teams the choice of which Playoff Tournament they would like to compete, picking in ranking order from 9 to 16. From the remaining 8 teams, the USQRA Competition Committee will select who attends each tournament based on rank and geography.

**State the reason the proposal should be passed:**

The change in language clarifies the method of teams 9-16 picking their post-season destination. This avoids any ambiguity and future randomized drawings. Teams have earned their rankings and therefore deserve the right to pick based on that.

# USQRA Profit & Loss

Accrual Basis

April 2018 through March 2019

	Apr '18 - Mar 19	Apr '17 - Mar 18
<b>Income</b>		
43400 · Direct Public Support		
43410 · Corporate Contributions	2,513.36	6,421.43
43440 · Gifts in Kind - Goods	10,565.20	9,710.55
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	13,499.52	7,688.50
<b>Total 43400 · Direct Public Support</b>	26,578.08	23,820.48
45000 · Investments		
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	11.82	4.28
<b>Total 45000 · Investments</b>	11.82	4.28
46400 · Other Types of Income		
46420 · Rugby Merchandise Sales	5,119.00	6,910.00
<b>Total 46400 · Other Types of Income</b>	5,119.00	6,910.00
47200 · Program Income		
47230 · Membership Dues	14,150.00	14,700.00
47235 · Classification Fees	10,250.00	10,500.00
47245 · Insurance Surcharge	6,150.00	5,418.00
47250 · Penalties & Fines		
47240 · International Player Fee	9,000.00	7,500.00
47250 · Penalties & Fines - Other	0.00	1,600.00
<b>Total 47250 · Penalties &amp; Fines</b>	9,000.00	9,100.00
47255 · Residency Protest Income	0.00	50.00
47270 · Registration Extension Fee	400.00	0.00
<b>Total 47200 · Program Income</b>	39,950.00	39,768.00
47260 · Convenience Fees	1,043.47	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	72,702.37	70,502.76
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>		
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold		
50700 · Cost of Sales - Rugby Stuff	3,222.27	3,490.53
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold - Other	0.00	195.79
<b>Total 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold</b>	3,222.27	3,686.32
<b>Total COGS</b>	3,222.27	3,686.32
<b>Gross Profit</b>	69,480.10	66,816.44
<b>Expense</b>		
60300 · Awards and Grants	208.83	334.24
60900 · Business Expenses		
60910 · Bank and Merchant Svcs Fees	755.95	96.00
60920 · Business Registration Fees	61.25	61.25
<b>Total 60900 · Business Expenses</b>	817.20	157.25
62100 · Contract Services		
62110 · Accounting Fees	475.00	450.00
<b>Total 62100 · Contract Services</b>	475.00	450.00
63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses		
63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense		
63103 · Team USA / IWRF Dues	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Total 63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense</b>	1,000.00	1,000.00
63200 · Rugby Clinic Expense	0.00	4,000.00
<b>Total 63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses</b>	1,000.00	5,000.00

# USQRA Profit & Loss

Accrual Basis

April 2018 through March 2019

	Apr '18 - Mar 19	Apr '17 - Mar 18
<b>64000 · Competition Expenses</b>		
64100 · Classifiers Expense	15,414.77	14,273.10
64200 · Post Season Competition Expense	17,315.26	21,736.74
64300 · Post Season Referee Expenses	4,743.18	327.60
<b>Total 64000 · Competition Expenses</b>	<b>37,473.21</b>	<b>36,337.44</b>
<b>65000 · Operations</b>		
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Reference	50.00	0.00
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	331.27	27.70
65060 · Quadrugby.com Website Expense	315.87	339.75
65070 · Marketing Expense	3,120.37	90.96
<b>Total 65000 · Operations</b>	<b>3,817.51</b>	<b>458.41</b>
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>		
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	11,754.40	8,442.00
65140 · HOF expense	959.28	1,955.15
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>12,713.68</b>	<b>10,397.15</b>
<b>65200 · Craig Neilson Grant Expenses</b>		
65201 · Meetings and Travel	1,174.68	0.00
<b>Total 65200 · Craig Neilson Grant Expenses</b>	<b>1,174.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>68300 · Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>2,827.11</b>	<b>1,262.47</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>60,507.22</b>	<b>54,396.96</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>8,972.88</b>	<b>12,419.48</b>



**USQRA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of March 31, 2019

Accrual Basis

	Mar 31, 19
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10102 · Wells Fargo Savings	
10102A · Hall of Fame Funds	2,848.61
10102C · Developmental Rugby (clinics)	8,722.23
10102D · Web Development	3,446.00
10102F · Minnesota Rugby Team Fundraisin	500.00
10102 · Wells Fargo Savings - Other	0.71
<b>Total 10102 · Wells Fargo Savings</b>	15,517.55
10104 · Wells Fargo Account (6916)	46,714.51
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	62,232.06
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12100 · Inventory Asset	3,195.18
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	3,195.18
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	65,427.24
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
15000 · Equipment	7,506.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	7,506.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>72,933.24</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	10,421.20
32000 · Retained Earnings	53,539.16
Net Income	8,972.88
<b>Total Equity</b>	72,933.24
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>72,933.24</b>

# USQRA

## Profit & Loss Budget Overview

Accrual Basis

April 2019 through March 2020

	Apr '19 - Mar 20
<b>Income</b>	
43300 · Direct Public Grants	
43310 · Corporate and Business Grants	0.00
<b>Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants</b>	0.00
43400 · Direct Public Support	
43410 · Corporate Contributions	3,000.00
43440 · Gifts in Kind - Goods	12,000.00
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	15,000.00
<b>Total 43400 · Direct Public Support</b>	30,000.00
45000 · Investments	
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	100.00
<b>Total 45000 · Investments</b>	100.00
46400 · Other Types of Income	
46420 · Rugby Merchandise Sales	5,400.00
<b>Total 46400 · Other Types of Income</b>	5,400.00
47200 · Program Income	
47230 · Membership Dues	15,200.00
47235 · Classification Fees	10,750.00
47245 · Insurance Surcharge	6,450.00
47250 · Penalties & Fines	
47240 · International Player Fee	9,000.00
47250 · Penalties & Fines - Other	0.00
<b>Total 47250 · Penalties &amp; Fines</b>	9,000.00
47255 · Residency Protest Income	0.00
<b>Total 47200 · Program Income</b>	41,400.00
47260 · Convenience Fees	1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	77,900.00
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold	
50700 · Cost of Sales - Rugby Stuff	3,400.00
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold - Other	0.00
<b>Total 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold</b>	3,400.00
<b>Total COGS</b>	3,400.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	74,500.00
<b>Expense</b>	
60300 · Awards and Grants	200.00
60900 · Business Expenses	
60910 · Bank and Merchant Svcs Fees	800.00
60920 · Business Registration Fees	75.00
<b>Total 60900 · Business Expenses</b>	875.00
62100 · Contract Services	
62110 · Accounting Fees	500.00
<b>Total 62100 · Contract Services</b>	500.00
63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses	
63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense	
63103 · Team USA / IWRF Dues	1,000.00
<b>Total 63100 · Team USA/USQRA Expense</b>	1,000.00

**USQRA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget Overview**  
April 2019 through March 2020

Accrual Basis

	Apr '19 - Mar 20
63200 · Rugby Clinic Expense	2,000.00
<b>Total 63000 · Developmental Rugby Expenses</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>
64000 · Competition Expenses	
64100 · Classifiers Expense	19,500.00
64200 · Post Season Competition Expense	17,500.00
64300 · Post Season Referee Expenses	6,000.00
<b>Total 64000 · Competition Expenses</b>	<b>43,000.00</b>
65000 · Operations	
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Reference	400.00
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	0.00
65060 · Quadrugby.com Website Expense	5,000.00
65070 · Marketing Expense	1,500.00
<b>Total 65000 · Operations</b>	<b>6,900.00</b>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	16,000.00
65140 · HOF expense	1,500.00
65160 · Other Costs	10,000.00
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>27,500.00</b>
68300 · Travel and Meetings	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>81,975.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-7,475.00</b>