

UNITED STATES SUMO FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING June 12, 2009: LAPD Ahmanson Gymnasium (near LAX), Los Angeles, CA

NOTE: the USSF has already received notification from the International Sumo Federation that the Sumo World Championships, which had been scheduled to be held in Egypt, have been cancelled due to the swine flu pandemic.

Present: A sign-in sheet was passed. The following members were present (* = Life member):

Dan Kalbfleisch* (ISA) (president), Troy Collins* (CSC) (Trustee, vice-president), Jim Lowerre* (SCSK) (secretary), Andrew Freund* (CSA) (Trustee), Ernest Freund (CSA), Harry Dudrow* (SCSK), Trent Sabo* (SRSA), Art Morrow* (SCSK), Americus Abesamis (CSA), Kelly Gneiting (SRSA), Kena Heffernan (CSC), Steve Bird (ISA), Brian Kalbfleisch (ISA), Bob Engel (CSA).

Proxies were turned in as follows:

Harry Dudrow: Alexa Fairbairn, Richard Hopp (2).

Andrew Freund: Davaadorj Damdin, Mark Reiman, Vladimir Kovacevic (3).

Kelly Gneiting: Rye McAfee, Levi Kendrick, Scott Edwards, Matt Anderson, Natalie Burns, Patrick Burns, Patrick Greer, Casey Burns, Jill Kendrick (9).

Meeting opened at 7:40PM.

OPENING BUSINESS:

Introductions were made.

The time and place of the Nationals were announced.

It was announced that tight spandex shorts would be required of those competitors who choose to wear shorts.

The tournament formats were announced. Double elimination and/or round robin will be used depending on number of competitors. A competitor will have to lose twice to be eliminated. Team competition will be on a club basis.

OLD BUSINESS:

2008 minutes: not addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Future Nationals: should they be in other locations besides California? HD moved that the Nationals not be held in the same state (as a general rule) more than two years in a row. Seconded by proxy. Discussion. Motion finally passed. HD moved that the tournament director be part of a three-person committee. Seconded by TS. Discussion. Motion passed. HD moved that the Nationals be placed out for bid no later than 30 days after completion of the previous Nationals. KG seconded. An amendment was offered to say that only registered USSF clubs can bid. Amendment passed. Motion passed.

HD moved that the Federation may be the sanction holder only for the Nationals, North Americans (when revived), and World Championships. Seconded by proxy. Motion failed. Second motion: requires using one's own name and address instead of the USSF name and address (in NJ) on the sanction form. Seconded by proxy. Discussion. Motion carried.

The ISF has asked us to revive the North American Sumo Championships on an annual basis. KH related what had been discussed in Estonia regarding possible Olympic recognition. A clear set of goals is necessary, as is exposure. Volunteering (coaching) is a good idea, but it should be done with eye for proper fundamentals.

Membership: Registrar (Doug Cochran) not present. Members should make sure their contact info (especially E-mail) is current.

We wanted to change membership renewals so that all memberships will become due and renewable at the same point in calendar time. This will start in 2010, where the membership year will run from February 1 to January 31. Clubs will follow the same schedule. DK wants to try and get education materials and used mawashis from the heyas in Japan.

TS moved to eliminate USSF fees for clubs. KG seconded. Amendment that clubs who have paid the fees get their money back. TS seconded. Amendment passed. Another amendment offered and seconded to start this next year. Amendment passed. Primary motion passed.

Worlds: cancelled due to swine flu. Other committees have petitioned for the tournament's reinstatement.

World Games: Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Travel/expense money TBD after Nationals.

Code of Conduct:

ISF has one, particularly in regards to drugs. USSF does not have one at this time, but we should have one if we want Olympic recognition.

TC stated his complaint against AF, regarding personal attacks lodged via LAPD Internal Affairs. This was brought to the Trustees, then to the Executive Council. AF was given opportunity to reply, saying he was only answering questions put to him. HD repeatedly stated this matter was out of order. DK and Brian Condon had asked AF about the allegations. DK had then investigated (including calling the investigating officer).

JL offered his respects regarding the job DK has done over the past year.

Tournament time info was repeated. All competitors should be on site by 10:00AM.

Next meeting: prior to the 2010 US National Sumo Championships (location and time TBD).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Lowerre
Secretary, UNITED STATES SUMO FEDERATION