

October RIWA Meeting Minutes – October 27th, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM by Chairman Joao Vicente.

- **Financial Report.**
 - Minimal change in account balances due to small membership income.
Current balance \$71,899.13 as of September 30th, 2025.
- **Athlete Summit.**
 - Athlete summit needed to be cancelled due to a lack of registrations.
 - Discussed it is a difficult weekend, possible future discussion to reschedule for spring.
- **New website.**
 - New website was reviewed. It is expected to be online by mid November along with the posting of the RIWA tournament schedule.
- **Bylaws.**
 - Current bylaws have issue with conflict of RI law requiring them to be tweaked.
 - David Capone, Ashley Poirer, and Mike Floody are working on addressing.
 - Claro Dimen indicated during discussion that some of the issues were addressed previously, voted on, but the bylaws document never updated to include the changes.
 - Specific changes expected in upcoming new bylaws
 - Chartered clubs must attend 6 of the past 12 meetings to retain their voting eligibility.
 - Financial oversight will be approved by ensuring at least 3 people are on the account, the Treasurer, the Chairperson, and at least 1 additional individual as determined by mutual agreement of the Chairperson and Treasurer.
- **Equipment Rentals for Tournaments**
 - Rate offered by Kap for clerking and equipment rentals is reasonable based on research
 - Only increase registration an additional \$5 for tournaments.
 - Claro Dimen made a motion to approve the additional spending for the rental equipment and additional clerk fees. Total costs per week to be \$1600. The motion was seconded by Mike Floody and unanimously passed.
- **Board Elections.**
 - No positions were contested. Chairman Joao Vicente identified the board positions and individuals currently assuming those roles.

- Chairman: Joao Vincente
- Vice Chairman: Mike McClarney
- Secretary: David Capone
- National Teams Director: Geoff Poirer
- Women's Director: Currently vacant
- Mat Officials Director: Joseph Esposito
- Safe Sport Director: Walter Borden
- Treasurer: Ashley Poirer
- Motion made by Claro Dimen to approve all uncontested board members as read by Joao. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.
- **Misc.** Brief discussion on tournament venues, costs, registration, and seeding. No decisions were made, primarily tabled for discussion at future meetings.
- **501c3 status of RIWA.**
 - We were not in good standing with the state of RI or the IRS. Claro Dimen as the past Chairman helped correct everything and bring current.
 - Awaiting rubber stamp from RI that everything is now in order.
- **Coaches cards and bands**
 - After some discussion, a motion was made to require that all clubs hosting a tournament, purchase colored paper wristbands, verify coaches card at entry to the facility, and require the coach to wear the wristband to be able to coach at the tournament. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - All coaches must check in, show their coaches card, and wear the wristband at all times. Officials will verify there is a coach in each corner with wristband before starting a match. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- **Conduct towards Officials**
 - There will be a ZERO tolerance policy for aggressively badgering or yelling at high school aged mat officials. All coaches are under SafeSport jurisdiction and doing so will result in being reported for a safesport violation.
 - We now have a well-respected HS official in Joe Esposito that will be at all tournaments in addition to potentially having an additional HS certified official at each event. If there is a big match coming, or there is an issue, it should be addressed with them ONLY.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, and passed.