



## 2017 AGM PROPOSALS

### A.) Executive Committee Funds Approval - **PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

**This proposal:**

Amends the Constitution

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

Adds Article VI, Section 2, Part e

**State the Language of the Proposal:**

“Any decision resulting in an exchange valued at \$1000 or greater between the USQRA and other parties requires majority approval by the Executive Committee.”

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

This provides a check on the powers of the Executive Committee. By having to get board approval for decisions that will create an exchange of more than \$1000, this allows the board to have more insights on decisions made.



## 2017 AGM PROPOSALS

### **B.) Sectional Schedule and Location - FAILED**

**Submitted by:**

Katie Smith – Pittsburgh Steelwheelers

**This proposal:**

Amends the Bylaws

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

Adds Article VI, Section 9, Part e – Sectional Schedule and Location

**State the Language of the Proposal:**

“Sectionals hosts must announce tournament competition locations, hotels and schedules more that four weeks in advance of the first day of the Tournament.”

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

To plan accordingly for travel, tournament schedules are essential and must be disseminated with enough time to allow participating teams to make arrangements in regard to work schedules and potential cost changes. (ex. as travel dates approaches flight prices increase).



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### C.) Class Deduction – 65 years old - **PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

Katie Smith – Pittsburgh Steelwheelers

**This proposal:**

Amends the Bylaws

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

Adds Article III, Section 1, Part e – Players over the age 65

**State the Language of the Proposal:**

“A player older than 65 years old, may request an age adjustment reduction of 0.5, in addition to the age adjustment for 45 years old, from the Commissioner. to allow the player’s team to play with 9 points while the player is on the court.”

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

With an additional 20 years after the initial 45-year-old deduction, a player’s muscles and joints will present with additional degenerative changes, which are significant enough when compared to those of a 45-year-old player, to justify an additional class deduction. Additionally, individuals over 65 years old will be at higher risk for other health concerns, thus justifying an additional 0.5 deduction.



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### D.) Sectionals – Two Court Proposal - **TABLED**

**Submitted by:**

Katie Smith – Pittsburgh Steelwheelers

**This proposal:**

Amends the Bylaws

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

Adds Article IV, Section 9, Part f – Two Courts for Sectionals

**State the Language of the Proposal:**

“If there are more than six teams attending a Sectional Tournament, the host must be able to provide at least two courts for competition use. “

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

If a Sectional Tournament has more than 6 teams competing, having two courts will decrease the amount of time between games. This will potentially allow for less injury and allow for more consistency and fairness among the time between games for all teams, which is crucial in a post-season tournament.



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### E.) Enforce Uniform Policy - **PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

United States Quad Rugby Referees Association

**This proposal:**

Changes a Rule

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

Adopt Article 21 of the IWRF Rules

**State the Language of the Proposal:**

“Article 21. Uniform – On each team, all uniform tops must be of the same color and shade. Anything worn under the uniform top that is visible must be of the same color and shade as the dominant color of the uniform top.

On each team, all uniform bottoms must be of the same color and shade. The uniform bottom may be a different color from the uniform top. Anything worn under the uniform bottom that is visible must be of the same color and shade as the dominant color of the uniform bottom. On each team, individual players may wear either long or short uniform bottoms.

All uniform tops shall bear a number between 1-15, 20-25, 30-35, 40-45 and 50-55 inclusive, on the front and back. Each player on a team must have a different number. The number on the front must be on the left side and must be 10 centimeters high. The number on the back must be in the center and must be between 12 and 20 centimeters high. Both numbers must be visible at all times. Numbers may also be marked on the backrest of the wheelchair. No other numbers may appear on the uniform.

For games at IWRF-sanctioned tournaments, the team listed first in the program should wear the lighter colored uniform tops. In the event of a clash of color of uniform tops, the Home team shall change. If the game is played on a neutral court, Team A shall change.”

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

In 2007 (we believe, but cannot find the AGM Results), the USQRA voted to adopt the IWRF uniform numbering system. There was a stipulation put in place that

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there would be a 2-3 year grace period for teams who had recently purchased new uniforms – in an attempt to help control their expense.

It has been ten years and we would like a decision on whether or not to enforce the numbering. While we prefer to have the rules closely aligned with the IWRP, we are not opposed to changes. We just need to know are we enforcing the numbering 1-15, 20-25, 30-35, 40-45, 50-55.

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### F.) Female Players over 45 Years Old - **PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

Katie Smith – Pittsburgh Steelwheelers

**This proposal:**

Amends the Bylaws

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

Modifies Article III, Section 1, Part c – Female Players over 45 Years Old

**State the Original Language of the Bylaw:**

“A player older than 45 years old, not subject to a gender adjustment, may request an age adjustment from the Commissioner, to allow the player’s team to play with 8.5 points while the player is on the court.

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

“not subject to a gender adjustment”

**Modified Language of the Proposal:**

“A player older than 45 years old may request an age adjustment from the Commissioner, to allow the player’s team to play with 8.5 or 9 (if the player is female) points while the player is on the court. “

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

The USQRA always starts female players with a half-point adjustment. When female players reach 45 years old, they should be subject to the same age adjustment as male players.



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### **G.) Stipend – USQRA Classification Database - PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

Phyllis Palma, USQRA Head of Classification and the USQRA Classification Committee

**This proposal:**

Creates a Resolution – Sets a Short-Term Policy

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

Provide a monetary stipend to be administered from the budget of the USQRA board to support the Database Administrator in updating and maintaining the USQRA Classification Database.

**State the Language of the Proposal:**

“There will be a 500 USD stipend allocated per season for the USQRA Classification Database Administrator.”

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

There are a large number of athletes competing in the USQRA that require classification. An increasing amount of time is needed in order to maintain the accuracy and consistency of the data collected on each USQRA athlete every time a classification panel evaluates the athlete in a season. The manual entry of the comprehensive data on all athletes, including all components of the physical, technical and observation assessments is an involved and time-consuming task. This small stipend would assist in compensating the classifier who serves as the database administrator for the amount of time required to manage this task in the pre-season, during the season, and at the completion of the season.

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### H.) Classification – Hands – **PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

Phyllis Palma, USQRA Head of Classification and the USQRA Classification Committee

**This proposal:**

Changes a Rule within Classification Manual

The proposal is to change the maximum score possible for hand classification, which is currently 4.0. A 4.0 hand is considered to function as an ordinary hand without impairment. A hand with a minimum impairment is scored at 3.0. This 1.0-point difference between a hand with minimum impairment and a hand without impairment is inconsistent with the 0.5 point differences between all other classes in wheelchair rugby. The classification rules are considered part of the sport rules. So, this proposal may affect the bylaws and rules.

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

To change the maximum point value of a hand in classification from a 4.0 to a 3.5 point value and to update the way the hand is assessed during the classification process for Wheelchair Rugby.

**State the language of the proposal:**

1. The current muscles for the hand evaluated in the manual muscle test will be completed by the addition of the muscle test for the small muscles in the hand called the lumbricals. These muscles flex the finger at the knuckle while keeping the end of the finger extended [metacarpal phalangeal (MCP) flexion combined with interphalangeal joint (IP) extension].
2. The description of the hand muscle testing will be revised so that consistency between classifiers can be improved by referencing to relevant specific sections of the textbook that provides the standards for muscle testing used in wheelchair rugby (Daniels and Worthingham – the reference specifics are in the current USQRA classification manual).

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3. The cut-off score for manual muscle testing grades of the intrinsic muscles shall remain 1-2 vs. 3-5 as is written in the class profiles. This will correct a discrepancy in the current rules.
4. The hand function tests that are not specific to Wheelchair Rugby activities will be removed and the two tests that are specific to sport will be moved to the technical assessment.
5. The description of sport-specific activities related to hand function will be improved; especially by expanding and clarifying the specific explanations regarding quality of movement and compensations relevant to wheelchair rugby.
6. Adjust the maximum value for the hand to 3.5 from 4.0.
7. Highlight the current description of eligibility to put emphasis on the principle that athletes with paraplegia and no hand impairment continue to remain ineligible for Wheelchair Rugby.

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

1. Hand function is important for wheelchair propulsion and chair control; and ball handling and ball security in wheelchair rugby. Extrinsic muscle function (larger hand and wrist muscles) has been shown as the most important for controlling the chair. Extrinsic function of the hand and wrist muscles and intrinsic muscle function (smaller muscles contained entirely in the hand) of both the thumb and the fingers have been shown to be important for ball handling. The main difference between a 4.0 and a 3.0 hand is observed in ball handling, especially ball security. Ball security is a specific and distinctive feature for high-point athletes in wheelchair rugby.
2. The smaller “gap” between the highest two hand scores (3.0 – 3.5) will be more logical and give a better reflection of the sport-specific advantages of intrinsic hand function.
3. By implementing these rules and procedures for hand testing, there will be consistency and standardization applied to all athletes playing wheelchair rugby in the US and internationally. In addition, the USQRA classification system will move further toward IPC Classification Code compliance because there will be a clearly written procedure that makes a distinction between impairment testing (MMT), sport-specific activities testing, and observation assessment.

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## 2017 AGM PROPOSALS

### I.) Bylaw Relocation - **PASSED**

**Submitted by:**

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

**This proposal:**

Amends the Bylaws

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

Relocates Article VI, Section 10 to Article IX, Section 2

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

This Section is more appropriately located in the Article named "Fundraising, Marketing and Development" opposed to the Article named "Post-Season Competition"



## **2017 AGM PROPOSALS**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS**

**Commissioner – Dave Mengyan**

**Second Vice President – Daniel Curtis**

**Treasurer - Unfilled**

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