

United States Quad Rugby Association's 2006 Annual General Meeting

April 6, 2006
Austin Airport Hilton, Austin, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 am.

- I. Approve minutes from 2005 AGM
Motion to approve the minutes from 2005 AGM by Lynn Nelson, seconded by Bob Crandall.
2005 AGM minutes approved.

II. Roll Call

Team	Team Rep or Proxy
Augusta Riverhawks	
Phoenix Heat	Scott Hogsett
California Quake	
Casco Bay Navigators	Proxy
Chicago Bears	Brian Munoz
Connecticut Jammers	
Denver Harlequins	Jason Regier
Great Lakes Storm	
Hoveround Gunners	Ed Hooper
Indy Quad Squad	Derek Deckman
Jackson Jags	Proxy
Kentucky TNT	John Ershek
Lakeshore Demolition	Kevin Orr
Magee Eagles	Everitt Diebler
Milwaukee Iron	
Minnesota Ice	
Northridge Knights	
Pasadena Texans	Proxy
Pittsburgh Steelwheelers	Proxy
The OGS	Paul Richardson
Portland Pounders	Lynn Nelson
Shepherd Smash	Amy Bohn
Las Vegas	Proxy
Arizona Predators	
Sharp Edge	
South Florida Rattlers	John Bishop
St. Louis Rugby Rams	Proxy
Tampa Generals	Dave Ceruti
Team Seattle	
Texas Stampede	Mike Fries
U of A Wild Chairs	Chad Cohn
Utah Extreme	

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III. President's Report - James T. Gumbert

It is with both sadness and fondness that I look back at the last two years of my position on the board. When I first got involved with the sport I always said I hope to leave it as well as I found it. When I accepted the position of President I had no idea of the shoes I would be trying to fill with Ed Suhrs. Thanks Ed for your help in putting them on – I hope the shoes don't smell too bad now.

Over the past 2 years we have seen an incredible amount of exposure to the sport. Growth in the areas of membership, international development, youth, as well as league play, have all seen numbers increase over the past two years. It would also be important to note that the movie *Murderball* has made the sport a household name.

International development has seen the USQRA reach out to Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Clinics as well as competitions were held in all these countries. While new to the game all of these countries have caught the rugby bug and are busy expanding their knowledge base to compete on the international stage.

Youth development has been a focus of this past year. With an Under 22 clinic, a division 3 resolution, and the retiring of seasoned veterans, tomorrows ruggers have taken the next step in becoming the best they can be. A under 22 clinic was held in Tucson AZ and plans are underway for an under 25 clinic and competition.

Clinics have been held featuring new ways to reach the membership. Traditional clinics i.e. beginners, intermediate, as well as advanced clinics still continue; however, youth as well as “team clinics” have been a focus over the year. All in all they are helping to excite and promote the sport to old and new players alike.

Team USA competed in and placed 1st and 2nd over the past year in the World Wheelchair Games held in Rio de Janeiro. Many of the new players from these teams are competing for spots on Team USA World Championship Christchurch. As the coach for that team many great athletes are taking the necessary steps to represent the red, white, and blue. Look for great results in the summer of 06 as well at World Championships in Christchurch.

Finally, I have no words that can describe the amount of effort, time and wisdom that has been put in over the last 2 years by this board. As stated earlier we all have had big shoes to fill in our rolls. Each of the board members has stepped up and worked tirelessly to improve, promote, represent and govern the sport that we all so dearly enjoy. As you come across them at Nationals and other tournaments – THANK THEM. They have done the work because they love it and want to see our sport succeed. I say thanks to Tom, Ed, Jason, John and Charles you have been good friends and a great group to work with.

It has been an honor to represent you over the past few years. I hope I have left the sport as well as I found it. And remember – Try on the shoes. I know they will fit you like they did me.

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IV. Commissioner's Report - Thomas Hamill

This has been a busy year for all of the USQRA. Like every other board member, the summer was busy with the marketing of Murderball, followed by marketing the DVD and attempting to stretch our recent notoriety onto television. While Murderball received generally good reviews, we responded to a negative review in Dealer/Provider Magazine with a letter to the editor. In conjunction with IPC, we selected James Gumbert as national team coach from three very strong candidates. Two developmental teams were selected and sent to Rio de Janeiro where we won gold and silver. From almost 50 trialists, twenty-four athletes were selected for the national team program, including eight members of the developmental team.

There were 30 member teams and two developmental teams this year, with Connecticut and Indiana returning and the Arizona Predators starting play. The real Murderball bounce is still in development as New York and Columbus should be playing again next year and we know of teams developing in Upstate New York, DC, Eastern Virginia, Raleigh, South Carolina, Omaha, Billings, Loma Linda and Santa Barbara. Most of our existing teams experienced growth this year as well. 26 teams played postseason with 4 making a timely withdrawal from postseason. Minnesota withdrew from postseason after Regionals for a second time in four years; therefore, they are subject to a \$500 fine for this year and a suspended fine from 2003.

A regional tournament was held in the Heartland North in Milwaukee.

Four Sectional tournaments were held in West Palm Beach, Florida; two in Montgomery, Alabama; and Loma Linda California. We are expecting that Kelly Gumbert has put together an awesome National Championship in Austin. The Sectionals in West Palm and Montgomery were put together at the last minute and helped us out tremendously, but finding postseason hosts has become a major issue. To remedy this, the board will propose that unbid postseason tournaments will be assigned on a rotating basis. Denver and Atlanta transferred Sections this year, with Denver winning the Atlantic Section. Phoenix earned their first #1 seed, Portland won their first Pacific championship, Northridge returned to Nationals for the first time in nine years and Michigan qualified for their first Nationals.

Seven players transferred teams this year, while three transferred up, they were postseason eligible because they hadn't played the 2005 postseason. No players requested relief from the transfer up rule. Four players were granted medical exemptions from the games played requirement. Ten international players were rostered. No players were protested under the 150 mile rule. Only one team required a hosting exemption. One player was declared ineligible for failing to play required games and one was declared ineligible for failing to file a transfer request. Two conduct policy complaints were filed: one is pending; and one was resolved by internal discipline by the player's team.

Rulings were made on a number of front ends in conjunction with the IWRF and our equipment committee and the referee's committee made a ruling on players grasping the ball with their legs. The RACs were asked in November to advise teams that legal chairs are a player's responsibility. Still, several illegal chairs were identified at a number of the Sectionals. We will need to address the role of referees in equipment checks for the future.

Overall, the league and sport are strong and poised to get stronger. Several club teams have wins over major international powers and competition was strong all year. Keys to success in the future will be keeping our enthusiasm up and taking responsibility for our sport.

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V. Vice President's Report - Ed Hooper

My report is tied with Jason Regier's report as we – along with John Ershek – worked closely over the past 12 months. We developed a marketing plan. The list of what we accomplished with that plan is detailed in Jason's report. In addition, we wrote a series of flyers with the help of John Bishop and Kevin Orr. These flyers can be found online and help with frequently asked questions, to starting a team, to drills, to fundraising, and to joining the USQRA and what that means to you. These can be found on quadrugby.com under Team Resources, or go to Murderball.quadrugby.com and check out the outreach to players, sponsors, and volunteers. We are in the process of producing a new brochure for the league and posters that teams can give out and post in hospitals, rehab centers, centers for independent living, etc., etc. We also hope to update the web site's look and ease of use. A video is also on the burner and could get done by 2007 if we can get people interested in helping. As a board, we have started a partnership with Disney. On November 10-12, 2006 we will host the first North American Wheelchair Rugby Challenge at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando. We are excited about this opportunity to showcase the best quad rugby in North America. Disney is also excited, and even sent a representative over to watch the Sectionals in South Florida. As Jason mentions, we also have worked very hard to get quad rugby on TV as a reality series. Let me conclude by saying that it has been a pleasure working with all the current board members. It's been a great year and I hope 2006 and 2007 keep that momentum going.

VI. 2nd Vice President's Report - Jason Regier

It's been a busy year on the board. 2200 e-mails later I finished my first year as USQRA vice president. My primary focus for the last year has been marketing. With Murderball's theatrical debut in July 2005 and DVD release in November we really tried focusing on marketing our sport with the movie. Our goals from the beginning were to help increase awareness about our sport to gain new players, volunteers, sponsors and fans. We formed a marketing committee which included Ed Hooper, John Ershek, and Gumby advising. We have met every week since last May in an effort to capitalize on this unique opportunity with the movie. We partnered with ThinkFilms, Murderball's owner/distributor on a coordinated marketing campaign to utilize all the teams across the US to promote the movie and our sport. We developed an extra web page to target people who had seen the movie and would be interested in finding more out about the sport. <http://www.murderball.quadrugby.com/> was visited thousands of times and generated a lot of interest in our sport from new fans and volunteers. The marketing committee also helped the Team Rio raise funds by helping to design a T-shirt and wristband. Both sold very well and helped raise team funds. With the release of the Murderball DVD, we were able to do a fundraiser by pre-selling the DVDs to our membership. We sold over a thousand DVD is in the first offering. We have talked with various networks like ESPN, HBO, MTV... about doing a reality series. A production company out of Austin called Action Figure is currently pitching the reality series to other networks. We've spent the last three months working on a deal for a potential reality series. It's been an exciting year and I look forward to helping our organization and sport grow even more in 2006!

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VII Treasurer's Report - John Ershek

- The marketing committee continues to work with Action Figure and At It production companies to find a new home for a reality television series based on our sport, as A&E has decided not to pursue this project any longer due to low ratings of the premiere of the film on their network.
- Thank you to the post season hosts this year, Dan Lehman, John Bishop, Coratio Vinson, RJ Bunnell and Kelly Gumbert. We couldn't have done it without all of you.
- Post season sponsorship was good once again. Returning sponsors were the PVA, Coloplast, Eagle (chair donation), Vesco (chair donation) and Spinergy (wheels). New sponsors are CCS Medical, Therapeutic Alliances Inc., Fusion Medical (wheels, tubes, tires, push rims) and THINKFilm (DVD donation). Please make sure to visit them at Nationals and to check out their websites for information and great deals. We need to support those organizations that support us. Also make sure to bid on the equipment you want and need.
- DVD, apparel, caps and bracelet sales have been great. We have raised an unprecedented amount of revenue this year for the organization. The Christopher Reeve Foundation also awarded us a grant to be used to conduct clinics next year. We should all take a moment to say a prayer for Dana Reeve, who has recently passed away. This foundation is her legacy.
- Rugby Store items continue to be on sale. We will have new items available for Nationals.
- Discussion ensued regarding budget for funding of clinics. No grant received for \$25k budget item.
- Specific budget line items reviewed. James Gumbert donated phone costs for Board conference calls. No requests for use on international player fees were received this season. Discussion ensued regarding application process. Better web site posting needed.
- Motion to accept old budget discussion approved.
- 2006 proposed budget discussion opened.
- May have 35 teams in 2006-2007 season.
- Executive director position not in proposed budget. Bank balance approximately \$45k but includes post season funding. Sold 1800 DVDs to State of Florida.
- Motion to accept proposed budget approved.

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VIII. RAC Reports

Atlantic – Presented by Dave Cerutti and Bill Bouffard

South: Dave Cerutti

Five teams rostered in the current season. Only 3 were active. Lost the Carolina Crash.

Current season tournaments:

The Valdosta Cup - the longest standing tournament.

Coloplast in Tampa

Knock & Roll in West Palm Beach

Have one level 4 classifier and 2 referees. Lost 2 referees – Aaron Banefield and Tres Smith.

North: Bill Bouffard

3 teams officially rostered this season, Maine, Philly, Connecticut although New York attended 2 tournaments as a team.

Three tournaments held in the region:

Beast of the East

Connecticut Classic

The Brockton Brawl.

First 6 point tournament held in Brockton which appeared to be a success. Lot's of new players in the region that got more court time then at other tournaments.

I think the Murderball movie brought a lot of old ruggers and new quads back out on the court. There was an influx of veteran players coming back out to practice in Brockton and Connecticut.

Only two teams went to Sectionals, Maine & Philly, although CT showed a late interest in attending. Philly went on to DII Nationals.

New league (NQRL) is forming within the region. Details are not worked out yet but the league is basically going to consist of monthly one day tournaments within the region which will allow new players and bench players a better chance to get court time. One day events will make it less expensive and more viable for those that can travel 3-4 hours. Teams will be balanced by shuffling players around to make the best teams for that day. You don't have to attend these tournaments as an entire team (although teams are allowed to sign up) which will make it easier for the dedicated player that doesn't mind to travel a bit a chance for more court time. Lots of details are still in the process of being worked out. We had our first meeting on 3/28 with reps from 3 teams attending as well as Bob Lopez representing the referees. Lots more coming on this in the months ahead.

4 teams are hoped to be rostered within the USQRA next season.

2 new Level I classifiers in the region. Kim Gorham & Louise Sarofeen.

Referee clinic planned for late summer.

Hopes for a beginners/intermediate player clinic within the region.

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Heartland Bob Eyler and Eddie Crouch

North: Bob Eyler

I am pleased to report that the Heartland North is one of the strongest regions in the USQRA.

- * There were 6 teams registered with the welcomed return of Indianapolis. In addition, Columbus has reformed its team and, while they did not officially register this year, they did host a clinic and compete in Pittsburgh's Steel City Slam and will hopefully be ready to register next season.
- * Pittsburgh, Chicago and Michigan each participated in at least two functions centered around the showing of "Murderball". I am not sure about Indy, Milwaukee or Minnesota.
- * The following tournaments were held in the region: Great Lakes Rugby Rage (Michigan), Steel City Slam (Pittsburgh & Indy), Iron Horse Rumble (Milwaukee), Bears Heartland Challenge (Chicago) and Minnesota Mini Tournament. Milwaukee hosted the 6 team regional.
- * Heartland North Teams were found at the following non Heartland North tournaments: Beast of the East (Philly), Halloween Havoc (St Louis), Andy Beck Classic (San Antonio), Pasadena Quad Rugby Open and Knock & Roll (West Palm Beach).
- * This year marks the first time in quite some time that the two teams from the Heartland were not seeded 7 and 8 in D-II. Congratulations to Chicago and Michigan for their great improvement.
- * Pittsburgh added a new referee, Mike Berwick, at the Chicago tournament, ensuring that the Heartland North remains stacked with referees. Mike has already refereed many games and will gain his first nationals level experience this year.

South: Eddie Crouch

Trying to get a new team in Louisville. Louisville is a potential host for Heartland sectionals next year.

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Mountain - Mark Hansen and Steve Kearly

West: Mark Hansen

- Phoenix Heat - advanced to nationals as #1 seed after strong regular season. Hosted a 6 team D1 tourney in February and added 2 rookie players to roster.
- Arizona Predators - combination of former Heat players with several new players. Traveled to Chicago and Portland tourneys, but withdrew from postseason due to player injuries.
- U of A Wildcats - advanced to Nationals after #3 finish at sectionals. Hosted 22 and under camp in July 2005, plan to repeat in July 2006. Hosted Phoenix players for round robin tourney in December. Added 4 new players and also rostered a D3 team.
- Denver Harlequins - advanced to nationals as #4 seed, via transfer to Atlantic sectional. Strong regular season, including hosting February tourney.
- Utah Scorpions - traveled to 5 events, fulfilled host requirement by sharing costs for Denver tourney, have own tournament on schedule for October 2006. Continued improvement through season, including first postseason win over Atlanta at sectionals.
- Las Vegas Gamblers - hosted own tourney in October, traveled to San Jose tourney but withdrew from post season play.
- Continuing issues in Mountain west - need to develop additional officials, need to plan for hosting of regional/sectional playoffs.

Texas: Steve Kearly

- Texas Stampede - advance to nationals as #3 seed in D1 after an up and down season. During the season, Austin hosted several scrimmage sessions with Pasadena. Big thanks to Kelly Gumbert for her hard work related to the 2006 USQRA Nationals. Also, James Gumbert deserves recognition for his continued efforts in building a stronger and better USQRA.
- Pasadena Texans – advance to nationals as the #8 seed in D2. Hosted an 8 team D1-2 Tournament in Dec. 2005. The Texans are in a rebuilding phase as 5 rookies have joined the veteran players. The Texans continue to focus on developing players in the Houston/surrounding areas in hopes of returning as D2 contenders in the near future and ultimately a top 8 team nationally with “homegrown” talent.
- San Antonio – Although no longer a member of the USQRA, they did host a tournament in November 2005. Furthermore, they will host a 6-team low-pointers tournament the weekend prior to the Defi’ in Montreal.
- Continuing issues in Mountain Texas – merging teams (Dallas and S.A. with the other teams), increased support of rugby by rehabilitation hospitals, need for more officials, and player development.

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Pacific:

North Lynn Nelson

The Pacific North Region is comprised of four teams, Portland, Seattle, Cal Quake, and Reno.

- The Portland Pounders coming off their first trip to D1 participated in 3 tournaments outside of post season and hosted one. Portland was a participant at Best of the West where they took 4th place, hosted the Portland Invitational taking 1st, visited Phoenix taking 5th place and most recently participated in the Vancouver BC Invitational taking 4th place. Portland won their first Pacific Sectional Championship. Portland looks to be in good shape for the future. Their drive to stay locally based has been a success, with 4 players participating in the USQRA HTPT, and five new players joining the team.
- Seattle continues to plug along. Seattle hosted games versus Portland in December, and then participated in the Portland Invitational in January, and most recently in Vancouver, BC. Seattle has found some great new players that will help keep rugby alive in the future.
- San Jose is coming off their D-2 championship last season. San Jose decided to work towards making it back to D-1 by adding World Class 2.0 Dave Wilsie to its line-up. San Jose participated at the City of Las Vegas Helter Skelter Tournament in October where they placed 1st, Best of the West, without Wilsie, taking 6th, they hosted a tournament in January taking 1st, and finished the regular season in Phoenix taking 6th. San Jose has some questions looking towards the future. They are 50/50 on if they will have a team next year. The lack of new players, veteran players contemplating retirement, and funding are big obstacles facing San Jose's future.
- Reno's only games this year came at The City of Las Vegas Helter Skelter Tournament in October. Reno is facing many of the same issues that San Jose is seeing, lack of new players, veteran players contemplating retirement or retiring, and funding.

Looking at possible new teams in the Region rumor has it that some former players from San Francisco are looking to return to rugby with some new blood. Spokane also has a former player playing traveling to play with Seattle, with some wishful thinking we can hope he takes the game back to Spokane with him.

As a whole the teams from the Region site the cost of equipment as a big deterrent from expanding. With some players playing in the same chairs they used 7-8 years ago this is a major problem. Chairs that new players are starting out in are in poor condition. The lack of competition for chair manufacturers in the states is hurting the sport. With only 2 manufactures the cost of chairs is out of site. When a manufacture raises the price of a chair \$500 in a year with no signs of raw materials increasing this is alarming. Yet if you still want a chair you will have to wait 6 months. For this sport to continue to grow we need competition in the manufacturing of chairs. I believe we, as an organization (USQRA), need to look into giving grants out to companies willing to get involved in building chairs.

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South

Current season teams – Sharp, The OG's, Northridge.

Sharp lost two high pointers to Loma Linda. The OG's are a combination of players from the Bushwackers/Plan B.

Loma Linda may host National's in 2007.

Meeting breaks at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

IX. Committee Reports

A. **Officials: Bob Lopez**

24 active referees and 1 new referee

320 games

25 tournaments

Need more clinics for referees

Motion to accept report approved.

Discussion:

Should referees get a raise? Tournament hosts are trying to lower costs..

Need to develop recruiting plan. The Marketing committee will assist in the development of tools/flyers.

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B. Classification: Trish Suhr

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- Classification at 6 regular season tournaments
 ~4 post season tournaments
- Completed 2 level I classification workshops which yielded 4 new classifiers (64 PTs/OTs)
- Began clarification/updating of administrative policies and procedures

CLASSIFICATION CLINICS 2005-06 season:

- Houston.....2 attendees
- Boston.....2 attendees

CLASSIFICATION HELD AT THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENTS:

• BOW	8 new athletes	3 re-checks	2 permanents	
• Pasadena	6 new athletes	3 re-checks	3 permanent	
• Lakeshore	5 new athletes	4 re-checks	1 permanent	
• Brockton	5 new athletes	4 re-checks	1 permanent	2 ineligible
• Milwaukee	13 new athletes	8 re-checks	3 permanents	2 ineligible
• Portland	8 new athletes	3 re-checks	2 permanent	1 ineligible
• Atlantic Sectional	3 new athletes	1 re-checks	1 permanent	
• Pacific Sectional	3 new	2 re-checks	1 permanent	
• Heartland Sectional	6 new	7 re-checks		
• Mountain Sectional	5 new	4 re-checks		

21 teams went to tournaments with panels prior to post season (or a clinic where a panel gave classes (temporary or official classes).

8 teams did not get to a tournament with a panel (of these 3 teams did not attend post season).

GOALS FOR 2005-06

- Run an advanced workshop to increase level 1's and 2's to level 3
- Re-develop educational materials for workshops
- Re-visit classification educational video
- Put together and finalize a USQRA addendum to the classification manual, whether it is the US or International manual

CLASSIFIER BREAKDOWN

- Pacific Section: 9 classifiers (3-level 4s, 1-level 2, 5-level 1s)
- Mountain Section: 12 classifiers (3-level 4s, 1-level 2, 8-level 1s)
- Heartland Section: 11 classifiers (4-level 4s, 3-level 2, 4-level 1s)
- Atlantic Section: 9 classifiers (3-level 4s, 3-level 2s, 3-level 1s)

Discussion on classification issues:

- Advanced workshop requirements
- European team classing females down
- Level A and level B requirements on IWRF web site

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Break for lunch 12:45 pm.

Reconvene 1:30 pm.

C. Wheelchair Specification Committee Report: Eddie Crouch

- No submissions needed for review
- All chairs to be reviewed at National's
- Committee would like referees to review chairs again

Discussion:

Should chair manufacturers be on spec's committee? Spec's committee sends drafts to builders prior to final document being published.

Proposed new business vote to have a spec's committee member at each tournament. Motion passed 16-0.

D. Hall of Fame Committee: Brad Mikkelson

- Experiencing a major period of apathy. No nominations received from membership.
- Adopting changes to program. Reviewing what other HOF's are doing in wheelchair sports.

Discussion:

Nominations will still be accepted from members. Committee is made up of Hall of Famers. Once nominated, you're always on the list. Need 50% of votes to stay on list.

Motion to accept report approved.

E. Clinics

Wendy Gumbert gave update on 2005-2006 clinics

F. Team USA update

- Team USA will participate in World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- November tryout was held and two camps in December and February. May's camp will include cuts to 12 athletes.
- North America Cup two weeks after Canada Cup.
- Another camp will be held in July.
- Team re-evaluation to be done after World's.

G. Marketing Committee

Action Figure is still pursuing a reality series. A&E TV not interested after low ratings on *Murderball*.

H. Developmental Committee

U of A ran a 22 and under camp this season with good results.

FAQ section added to website

Need to work on women's clinic.

Wendy Gumbert added to committee.

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X. Constitution and Bylaws

) Developing International Players

A team may roster one international player from a developing country without paying the international player fee. A player from a developing country may play three seasons in the USQRA before becoming a developed international player, at that time any team that rosters a developing international player with three seasons of USQRA experience will be charged the international player fee. A team may roster one international player and one developing international player.

A country will be considered a developing country if they are not one of the top twelve teams in the IWRF world rankings. We will use the world rankings that are most up to date on October 15th.

Motion failed 9-9

2) International Membership to USQRA.

1. Allow any number of International players per team to play without fee in the USQRA, provided they meet the following standards:
 - a. They live within 150 miles of the team they roster with either year around; or, part-time during Rugby season (November thru National Championships).
 - i. Part-time is defined as living in that community year-after-year during the season.
 - ii. Year around is defined as that player's permanent address is within the 150 miles.
 - b. They roster with that local team and meet all other USQRA membership requirements.
2. International restrictions and fees would apply to anyone not meeting those guidelines, and would be subject to fees and number of players allowed as currently outlined.

Rationale:

- To grow and expand teams and players.
- To save teams the large \$500 fee for players who live, either full or half-time, in these communities.
- To reach out to players who spend the whole year or part of the year in these communities, and allow them to play USQRA rugby.
- To make more local teams competitive in regular and post season.

To allow team's local players, like in South Florida, to compete in the USQRA without traveling to teams outside their communities. Teams like Maine, Carolina, Great Lakes region, North, Northwest, and many others might also benefit.

Motion failed 2-17

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3) Proposal to have trunk measured as .5, 1.0, 1.5.

With all the non-SCIs playing, we need to give more weight to trunk. In our game, trunk is much more important than hands. So they should be weighed differently, with more weight given to trunk. An example would be polios or quads classed as 3.0s because of hands, but having weak shoulders that could be guarded solo by a quad amp.

Motion failed 3-16

Proposal to discuss at World Championships to study or propose at IWRF AGM.

Passed 11-3

4) Proposal that All International Players with a Previous International Classification that was issued at a Level A or Level B International Tournament will play with their International Classification Card.

Reasoning: Last year, the USQRA adopted the International Classification System. Consequently, a player's classification in the US should not be different than the one assigned by the International Classification Panel at a Level A or Level B International Tournament.

Wheelchair rugby is an international sport with full Paralympics medal status and increasing exposure and growth throughout the world. We feel it is important to uphold and respect the international classification process. We believe international classifiers are well qualified to make objective and accurate decisions regarding class. The classifiers involved at the international level average a minimum of six years involvement in wheelchair rugby and have ample experience at international tournaments (i.e. tournaments where more than one zone is present). The current IWRF classifiers are very skilled at both bench testing and court observations, which are imperative to performing the current rugby classification system properly.

In the past few years, players from other countries have gotten classifications under the US system that has been different than their International Classification. When performing a classification, classifiers must remain objective and give the classification that they feel is appropriate, even if that differs from a classification previously given to a player by another panel. This happens with US athletes within the USQRA.

This changing of classification has caused problems both in the US and Internationally. The US Classifiers do not want to be seen as second-guessing the International Classifiers. This is certainly not the case.

It is possible that the athlete's function has changed since the previous classification, which has resulted in these changes. If this has occurred, the international athlete can address his/her concerns with an International Classification Panel rather than with a US panel.

By requiring the international player to play with his/her international classification, the issue of different results from classification will be eliminated.

This rule would only affect athletes who are playing in the USQRA as an International Player. US players would still be required to play with their USQRA class even if given a different international classification.

Motion passed 17-4

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5) Proposal to require that a Classification Panel shall consist of one player and two medical professional (i.e. physical therapists).

Rationale: I'm concerned with the direction classification has gone in over the past five years. In short, I just don't think we have enough medical professionals out there anymore who really understand rugby. We hear all the time about players "sandbagging" or "gimping up". So you have situations where class 1.5s can guard/beat 2.5s; and 2s can guard/beat 3s, etc. etc. In the 90s, much more so than now, it seemed like guys were classed correctly.

So someone at the high functional end of his class could guard an average player in the next class up, but that was it. Maybe there was the rare exception in the case of a Cliffy or Kirkland, but not to the degree I see it now. But now, you have those players at the high end of their functional level that can guard players two classes, or more, higher.

Most of my thinking goes back top the end of last season. Vi Vorsane, is polio with weak shoulders, was classed as a 2.5 because of his hands even though he's slower than a good 1.0; while Troy Collins was bumped down to a 2.0-- even though he's been classed as a 2.5 internationally for years. When we asked a prominent classifier the reasoning, she stated, "Vi has significant advantages over Troy, and Troy is just a better athlete." To me, this underscores a fundamental lack of understanding of our sport. You can fool classifiers, but you can't fool players. Implement a 40-second rule

Motion failed 4-13

Committee formed to develop proposal to IWRF to add technical person as part of classification.

Committee members:

Trish Suhr – Lead
Kevin Orr
Amy Bohn
Dave Cerutti

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6) 40 SECOND RULE

The Technical Commissioner shall be the clock operator.

- a) The clock starts when team control is established. A team is considered to be in control when holding, dribbling, or passing a live ball. After gaining possession of a live ball, the team has 40 seconds to score.
- b) Timing control will come from a separate timing device which will count down from 40 seconds to zero, whose horn has a distinct sound different from the game clock.
- c) If the game is resumed by a throw-in, the clock starts when the ball touches a player on the court. If there is no change of possession, the clock will not reset.
- d) The starting and stopping of the "shot" clock shall be the same as the game clock.
- e) This clock shall be used the entire game including all overtime periods.
- f) The referee shall have the authority to reset the clock to cover any unusual situations not specifically covered by the rule.

Situations to reset:

- a) Penalties and Technical Fouls.
- b) When opponent secures control.
- c) Held ball, when the defensive team has the alternating possession arrow.
- d) After made goal.
- e) Beginning of each quarter

Situations not to reset:

- a) Defensive team touches the ball but does not gain control.
- b) Time out
- c) Injury or loss of contact lens
- d) Defensive team causes a held ball but does not have the alternating possession arrow.
- e) Penalty/infraction by the offensive team that does not result in a turnover.

Penalty: - loss of possession. A team has 40 seconds to score after gaining possession of a live ball.

Motion passed 14-8

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7) Out of Area Player

A player wishing to play for a team that is not one of the two closest teams (150-Mile Rule), may roster with any team they wish. To do so the team wishing to roster them will be charged an out of area player fee, of \$500 per season. Any player or team that knowingly rosters a player that is not within one of two teams closest to the players primary residents will be subject to a one year suspension from post season play. A team may only roster one out of area player, not including international players. The \$500 fee will be designated to the player development fund.

Rational: Players and teams have found ways around the 150-mile rule for years. This will give teams and payers options and penalties for avoiding the 150-mle rule.

Motion failed 2-16

8) Insert a new Bylaw IX regarding marketing, fundraising or development

Pursuant to its powers to transact the business and administer the affairs of the Association, the Executive Committee shall actively participate in any project that involves regional, national or international marketing, fundraising or development of the sport of quad rugby. The Executive Committee shall conduct business on behalf of the member teams and rostered players to the extent that they are involved in quad rugby or related activities, except that such power shall not extend over individual rostered players where the business is only tangentially related to quad rugby. The Executive Committee shall report on any such business at the Annual General Meeting and at the request of any member team.

Motion passed 20-0

9) Amend bylaw VI to add a Section 10:

Member teams or other interested parties may submit a bid to host a postseason tournament to the Second Vice President and Commissioner prior to November 1. Any tournament where the Board did not receive an acceptable bid will then be assigned to member teams. Primary consideration for assigning postseason tournaments will be the length of time since that member team hosted a postseason tournament.

Motion passed 13-4

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10) Establish Executive Director Position

To allow the establishment of an Executive Director position – provided that funds become available to hire said director. The director would run day-to-day operations of the USQRA under the direct supervision of the BOD, and would be responsible for raising funds for the operation and growth of our sport. The director would become a non-voting member of the BOD and implement operational policy and procedure as defined by the BOD and USQRA membership.

Motion passed 20-1

11) Proposal to adopt 2005 AGM resolution to allow a player to transfer to a higher ranked team

2005 AGM Transfer Resolution:

If a player transfers to a higher ranked team, the transferring player may submit a rationale for the transfer to petition for the ability to be eligible for post season play to the Commissioner and the Board. A majority vote must be gained by this Committee to allow the player to be eligible for play.

USQRA Board has discretion to allow an exception to the player transfer rule after reviewing the transfer request. The request must state a clear and convincing rationale for the Board to allow an exception to the rule. The USQRA Board will make the final decision.

Motion passed 14-0

12) Proposal to adopt 2005 AGM Resolution submitted to protest a player transferring to a team outside of the 150 mile rule:

By January 15, a team may submit a \$50 protest fee challenging a player's residency by asking for proof of residency consisting of four of the following:

1. Address of employment/school/disability check
2. Vehicle registration
3. Address on lease/utility bill/home
4. Credit card or bank statement activity
5. Drivers license

If the protest is upheld, the \$50 fee is reimbursed.

Motion passed 21-0

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Break 3:40 pm
Reconvene 3:55 pm

XI. Old Business:

- Division 3 – two tournaments held – U of A, and Brockton.
 - No teams registered as D3
 - Discussion held regarding point levels – 7.5 vs. 6.0
 - Development committee to re-evaluate
- Women's League discussion held
- Murderball Trademark
 - John Ershek received acceptance of trademark application.
 - Proposal for vote needed from members to reimburse cost of \$1,000

XII. New Business

- Sponsor women's training camp. Passed 15-0.
- Proposal for female class reduction. Passed 14-0-1.
- Proposal that at least one member of wheelchair spec committee be at post season tournaments. Bob Crandall added to committee. Passed 15-0.
- Host teams that allow a non-rostered U.S. team to play at a tournament will be immediately subject to a \$300 fine. Passed 8-3-3.

XIII. Elections – President, Vice President, Secretary

President – Ed Hooper 15-0
Vice President – Jason Regier 15-0
Secretary – Bob Crandall 15-0

Special election for 1st vice president – Lynn Nelson 16-0

XIV. Regional, Sectional, and National Bids

Potential sites for 2006-07 post season:
Sectionals – Portland, Philadelphia, Louisville
Nationals – Michigan, Loma Linda

**It was moved and seconded that the Annual General Meeting 2006 be adjourned.
Vote taken and passed.**

Meeting adjourned 5:20 p.m.