

# Athlete Commission Meeting of the International Cheer Union

Date: Tuesday 22 April 2014

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort

## **1. Welcome and Call to Order- Secretary General Karl Olson**

Secretary General called the meeting to order, welcomed the ICU Athlete Commission members, ICU Athlete Commission Advisor and invited guests. ICU Athlete Commission objectives, purpose of meeting and commission election process reviewed

## **2. Roll Call/Introduction of ICU Athlete Commission Members - Secretary General Karl Olson**

- Africa- Levi Martin (South Africa)
- Americas- Katie Kovacs (Canada)
- Asia- Mayuko Yagi (Japan)
- Europe- Guri Aunan (Norway)  
-apologies, attending National Team practice
- Oceania- Kenny La (Oceania)
- At Large Europe- Rob Tonnaer (Netherlands)
- At Large ParaCheer- Rick Rodgers (Great Britain)
- At Large Americas- Martin Carmona (Costa Rica)
- At Large Asia- Chong Leng (China)  
-apologies, unable to attend
- ICA Athlete Commission Advisor/Governing Councilmember- Pamela Chang (Ecuador)

## **3. Introduction of invited guests- Secretary General Karl Olson**

- Mike Jacki-ICU Senior Advisor
- Alfredo La Mont-ICU Senior Advisor
- Tony Sparby -ICU Vice President
- Shiny Fang Ya – ICU Vice President
- Wayne Oberem-ICU Africa Councilmember

- Doug Martin-Canada National Team Coach
- Takako Hashiba- Japan National Cheer Federation
- Technical assistance: Matt McDonough-ICU Website development, Liz Rifino-ICU CheerDance Technical Director, Cristen Marzula and Catherine Morris-ICU logistics, Robert Torres- Spanish translation, Yurika Hori-Japanese translation

#### **4. ICU Athlete Commission background- ICU Athlete Commission**

- Europe: Rob Tonnaer (Netherlands)- From Holland, 3<sup>rd</sup> time to World Cheerleading Championships, excited to be here and to serve on the commission. Competing this week in 2014 World Championships Partner Stunt Division.
- Oceania: Kenny La (Australia) –From Sydney, Australia, 6<sup>th</sup> year as a cheerleading athlete, 23 years old. 3<sup>rd</sup> time at Worlds Cheerleading Championships, not competing in this year’s World Championships
- Asia: Mayuko Yagi (Japan)- From Tokyo, high school cheerleading coach for 3 years, currently compete with the Lake Star cheerleading program, 14 years as an athlete. Very excited to be here
- Americas: Katie Kovacs -19 years old, 4<sup>th</sup> year on Team Canada, competing in the World Championships Premier Division this year. 5 years as a cheerleading athlete
- Paracheer: Rick Rodgers (Great Britain) -starting cheering in 2009. Excited to be here and get to know other athletes
- Americas: Martin Carmona (Costa Rica)-very excited to be a part of Athlete Commission. 2013 World Champion Partner Stunt Division
- Commission Advisor: Pamela Chang (Ecuador)-Advisor for Athlete Commission, ICU Councilmember. Former Athlete. Competed with and also coordinated Ecuador National Teams since 2009

#### **5. New Business-Open Discussion/Suggestions- Secretary General Karl Olson**

- Rob Tonnaer (Netherlands)- World Championships request, a locker room and area for athletes to place their bags and personal belongings during the championships

- Pamela Chang (Advisor-Ecuador)-Athletes request- to have continental placings, individual certificates for athletes, perhaps participation medals for athletes
- Rick Rodgers (Great Britain)-Suggests a spring floor
- Martin Carmona (Costa Rica)-Recommends that athlete warm up to the actual performance is too long; need to shorten time between warm up and competition time
- Alfredo LaMont (ICU Advisor)- Suggests that the role of athlete commission is to not only review need for the World Championships, but in addition -what are all athletes talking about, what about safety; all feedback from the athletes is important
- Mike Jacki (ICU Advisor)- Recommends the commission spend time requesting more information from athlete, and provide these suggestions to the Governing Council and General Assembly as well, providing an excellent opportunity to give the athletes a voice
- Shiny Fang Ya (ICU Vice President)-Fully agrees, requests more feedback from athletes
- Tone Sparby (ICU Vice President) – Suggests feedback, and also more involvement from athletes in decision making for our sport
- Rick Rodgers (Great Britain)- Mentions more involvement at the National Federation level- will be helpful
- Katie Kovacs (Canada)- Mentions that it's important for the Commission to know that Cheer is slightly different in all countries- in Canada, All Star Cheerleading is more popular than University Cheer, and ideas will be different
- Martin (Costa Rica)- Agrees and discusses specific problems in his country- only 2 competitions exist a year , and would be more beneficial to athletes in his country to more local competitions
- Mike Jacki (ICU Advisor)-Commends the Commission on their valuable feedback and adds that on-going communication – to all athletes- is imperative for the Commission and its objectives. ICU's website will provide a place for athletes to communication and provide

suggestions. ICU Athlete Commission Advisor Pamela Chang (Ecuador) will also be helpful in this process

- Pamela Chang (ICU Athlete Commission Advisor)- Adds that she will provide her information to the Commission as an addition resource and Athlete Commission meetings will be coordinated throughout the year.

#### **6. Proposals/Resolutions- ICU Secretary General Karl Olson**

Thanks the ICU Athlete Commission for wonderful comments and asks for any addition comments, proposals or resolutions. No further comments, proposals or resolutions

#### **7. Elections- ICU Athlete Commission**

- Karl Olson (ICU Secretary General)- discusses the need for the ICU Athlete Commission to elect its own Chairperson from the ICU Athlete Commission members.
- Tone Sparby (ICU Vice President)- suggests all non-Commission members leave the room to allow the ICU Athlete Commission to discuss among themselves and vote for their Chairperson. Non-commission members leave the room
- ICU Athlete Commission members hold meeting, select nominees, and vote for the ICU Athlete Commission Chairperson
- Africa Commission Representative Levi Martin (South Africa) is elected as ICU Athlete Commission Chairperson

#### **8. Next Meeting**

- Pamela Chang (ICU Athlete Commission Advisor) – Thanks everyone for the meeting, and confirms further communication will be sent to affirm dates and times to hold the next ICU Athlete Commission meeting. Contact information is circulated for all Commission Members

#### **9. Adjournment**