



December 11, 2007

Dear IJSBA International Affiliates, OEM Representatives, Aftermarket Community and Racers,

The following letter is being sent to make a public statement that the American Power Boat Association (APBA) and its Committee members are very upset and appalled with the current handling of the IJSBA rules and election of the IJSBA Board of Directors that control the destiny of our sport. Before Scott Frazier took over as Managing Director the rules for our sport were developed by a Technical Committee with final rule changes approved by the Board of Directors. Once Scott Frazier took over as Managing Director of the IJSBA, the process of developing the rules for our sport changed. Currently all rules for the sport is made by the IJSBA Board voting on rule changes put together by the Managing Director. An organized IJSBA Technical Committee does not exist that we are aware of. Because the IJSBA rules are now controlled by the vote of the Board of Directors it is extremely important that right people with the proper technical knowledge are elected to the IJSBA Board and a fair election process takes place.

In a recent conversation with Scott Frazier, I asked Scott if and when the election for the Board of Directors will take place. I was very shocked by his response. His answer was that the Board was already in place. When asked when the election took place for the International Affiliates his response was that "only three Affiliates contacted him and said that they want to be on the Board so they are the new Board members by default." I then asked who the OEM representative was and he said "Joe Heim at Kawasaki is because he is the only person that would probably be interested in the position". I then asked who the Aftermarket Representative was and he said "Dave Bamdas at Riva because he probably is the only person interested in the position." I then asked who the Rider Representative was and he said "Josh Blum from Wisconsin as he was the only racer that contacted him about being the Rider Representative". What happened to the electoral process? The IJSBA Bylaws (http://www.ijsba.com/ijsba/corporate/Bylaws_IJSBA_2005.pdf) clearly states that an election will take place to elect the three (3) International Affiliate representatives, the one (1) OEM representative, the one (1) Aftermarket representative as well as the one (1) rider representative.

International Affiliates – Is there really no International Affiliates that have an interest in sitting on the IJSBA Board of Directors? Have any of you been notified and informed that it was election time and asked to submit your name as a nomination to sit on the IJSBA Board? I can tell you right now that the APBA has repeatedly contacted Scott Frazier about the opportunity to have their name on the nomination list to sit on the Board yet we were passed over. We were not given the opportunity to participate in the Board and know of others as well.

OEM Representatives – Is there really no manufacturer except Kawasaki that has an interest in sitting on the IJSBA Board? Have you even been contacted and asked if you would like to be nominated to sit on the Board? I would expect that every manufacturer that has paid Scott Frazier its yearly homologation money has the right to put their name on the nomination list to sit on the Board. We know that at least some of the OEM's have not even been asked.

Aftermarket Community – Is there really no other aftermarket company or person in this industry except Dave Bamdas at Riva that has an interest in sitting on the Board and voting on rule changes for our sport? Have any of the Aftermarket Affiliates listed as IJSBA website as Associate members been contacted and asked to submit their name to be nominated to sit on the Board?

Racers – Is there really only one person in the entire world that has an interest in shaping the future of our sport and being the IJSBA Rider Representative?

We find this very hard to believe. If we are wrong and there is really no interest from anybody in this industry throughout the world to want to work to better the sport and vote on the rules that shape it, our sport is in deep trouble. Please note that we in no way feel that the people Scott Frazier has appointed to be his Board are not qualified to be on the Board – our issue is that the process of fairly choosing the Board has not been done in a fair and professional way as outlined in the IJSBA Bylaws. If there are others that feel the same we must demand that the IJSBA do what is right and properly elect a Board of Directors and actually hold an election for these positions.

The APBA has and always will have a strong desire to sit on the IJSBA Board of Directors and any Committee that is developed to advance the sport and shape its future. We want to participate and a vote. The APBA was not given an opportunity for a position on the Board even though we have repeatedly informed Scott Frazier of our desire to sit on the Board. The APBA would not care if it was not elected for an International Affiliate position, as long as the process for choosing the people to sit on Board is done properly and fairly according to the IJSBA bylaws. It is more important to us that a democratic electoral process takes place where the best and most qualified individuals that will work the hardest for the advancement of our sport are given the opportunity to serve on the Board.

It is now almost the middle of December and we know nothing about the IJSBA Board and possible rule changes. Most International Affiliates have organized committees, meetings, forums and surveys to collect information from their members. The APBA has been collecting information from its members and promoters for months through an annual online survey and phone calls in preparation of its Annual Meeting that is open to all OEM's, promoters, racers and the aftermarket community. What has the IJSBA done to ask the International Affiliates and the racers throughout the world what changes do they feel need to be made to the rules that govern our sport? Are we not important? Technical rules play a very important factor to the success of each organization. The Technical rules play a huge role in determining if current racing member's boats will be competitive and the cost of racing – which overall determines the number of entries/racers at a race and the financial outcome of a race to the club or promoter that is organizing the race. Technical rules can make or break our sport apart. Repeated consecutive years of not getting rules finalized and a rulebook printed by almost the middle of the year is unacceptable.

Three years ago most countries all followed the IJSBA rulebook. Now a large number of International Affiliates have different rules that the IJSBA and all have a class structure that is much different than what is offered at the World Finals. As I follow links to other IJSBA International Affiliates websites there is one thing that I notice. Almost every affiliate has organized groups and technical committees set up to work on technical rules. They have meetings and vote on rules in their country. Why is it that nearly every country has an organized process to develop rules except the IJSBA?

The APBA believes in the IJSBA and what it stands for. There must continue to be an organization that exists that looks out for the best interest of racing throughout the World. It is sacred that so many countries throughout the world are affiliated with the one organization for our sport. However, we do not feel that the IJSBA is listening to its International Affiliates or the racers. As more and more affiliates get the attitude that "we do not care what the IJSBA does" the value and meaning of IJSBA as a worldwide sanctioning body will continue to drop – and this is not good for the sport.

The APBA has offered the past two years to host an International Affiliates meeting and pay any costs associated with holding this important meeting. The APBA will once again make the offer. We as a group must make this meeting take place in 2008 at the World Finals, if not sooner. It is now time that we as a group take control of the destiny of the sport we love and care about and begin the process of making positive change that will affect the future of the sport throughout the world. We can no longer just sit back and watch it fall apart.

I truly love this sport and the people involved with it and hope to be involved for a very long time with it. I ask that those that care about the sport and want to be more involved we ask that you speak up. If you feel that you have also not been given an opportunity to participate or be nominated to sit on the IJSBA Board or please let us know.

Best Regards,

Patrick Mell
APBA PWR Director of Marketing and Events