

USQRA Members,

I am submitting my name for the position of USQRA First Vice-President. I became involved in Quad Rugby after a career in spinal cord injury clinical research. My duties as a researcher correspond closely to the responsibilities stated in the Vice-President's job description, and I am confident that I would be a valuable member of the USQRA board. I am eager to see the Board of Directors grow and I have the skills, the time and the drive to accomplish our goals for the next two years and beyond. I am applying for this position because I love this sport and I want to be a part of the leadership to carry our organization to the next level and beyond. I am passionate about furthering the development and reputation of our sport and the individuals involved.

Quad rugby has been introduced to the mainstream through films and television shows like *Murderball*, *30 Days* and *Friday Night Lights*. We need to capitalize on this publicity and build on it further. We have just over 40 rostered teams across the United States, representing roughly 25 states. This leaves us with players who travel incredible distances to attend practices, and people who are interested in playing but do not have a team within a reasonable distance. We need to help foster new teams and nurture those that are newly developing. The creation and growth of new teams and players will only strengthen our organization as a whole. Quad rugby has grown exponentially in the thirty-four years since its creation, and there is still much to be done. The internet broadcasting of the Vancouver Invitational and of the 2010 National Championships are an excellent example of taking the initiative on available media to bring rugby to a larger audience. Quad rugby is first and foremost a competitive sport, but it is remarkable in that it is also a life-changing event for those who get involved. The bystander who has no experience with wheelchairs in general and happens to catch part of a practice at the gym, and is curious to learn more. The staff members who realize that their concept of the weekend now revolves around rugby practice and who can change a tire the fastest. The newly injured person who is dealing with a traumatic event and finds a support network of people who demonstrate everything from hard hits to the daily tricks they did not learn in rehab. Classifiers, referees, coaches, family members... some of the many people whose lives are touched and forever changed by their participation in rugby. The Board is in a unique position to continue to create and coordinate outreach programs in our communities, and we have a duty to do so while maintaining our current standards.

As Vice-President I will work to promote our sport and reach new players while listening to the concerns of our current membership. We are a close-knit community and I welcome any suggestions or grievances to help the Board better serve you as a member of the USQRA. We need to construct and maintain coherent and stable policies and procedures to prevent miscommunication and to ensure that we are able to run our seasons and tournaments without incident. I started in rugby as a staff member with the Seattle Slam, and was part of the committee planning the 2009 Pacific Sectionals. While in Seattle I became a certified official, officiating in both the US and Canada. My travel and experience as a referee has broadened my knowledge of the sport and introduced me to a wide spectrum of players and staff. I am a staff member for Team USQRA and this position has shown me the impact of rugby on the national and international scale. I am

now a staff member on the Texas Stampede, running several tournaments as tournament director and fundraiser.

In my professional life I run my own massage therapy practice. I feel that the attention to detail and organizational skills essential to running a successful business have given me the tools to be an effective Vice-President for our association. In addition, my work gives me the flexibility to invest the necessary time to ensure that my responsibilities are executed smoothly and efficiently. I also have extensive experience as a fundraiser, having worked in the development departments of the Cleveland Museum of Art during their \$350 million renovation and expansion project and with Cleveland's Playhouse Square, the second-largest theater complex in the United States.

I welcome the opportunity to work for you, and I thank you for your consideration.  
Carolyn Boebinger