

Open letter to the IFBB Caribbean Vice President

By: **Christine Williams**
Executive Assistant to the IFBB Vice President

Re: **39th Central American & Caribbean Championships in Aruba**
23rd – 26th September 2010

As the Central American & Caribbean Championships was hosted in Aruba, I had hoped for a much better working relationship with the CAC President and his wife. Aruba being the host country, I have always believed that **intelligent hosts normally show courtesy to visitors in their country.**



On arrival into the weigh-in area I proceeded to greet executives and friends, including the CAC President. At the tables, while greeting people whom I had worked with for approximately 15 years, it was brought to my attention by the CAC treasurer that there were federations that wanted to pay their IFBB fees. He then brought them over to me. I collected a check from one federation and made arrangements with the others. The Sazo sisters, whom I also greeted, asked me a question. Before I could reply to them, the CAC President's wife asked me to speak with her. She told me not to interfere with the people at the table. I mentioned to her that part of my work as a staff member of the IFBB Vice President was to help, if I could. She told me that there was a President and a Vice President of the IFBB and I was not part of their organization. I then reminded her that **mutual respect was needed. It was sad to see that she was not on the same page as the CAC Treasurer,** who has just asked me to assist with the IFBB fees collection and I did not refuse.

There was a chair next to another where Miss Shirley Garnes (Acting was sitting, along with a delegate moved over to greet them and sat to Shirley. At the same time an showed the trunks he had on and Shirley then opened it up and I are smaller". At that time, the the table and said to Shirley "you He then told me **he would have I interfered.** I replied: "excuse himself. I told him "go ahead". He was that if he did not want me at all to disrespect me in front of me to leave. I don't have any issues anything against him. I feel very sorry for him and his wife for the childish and aggressive attitudes that were displayed.



table (not behind the table) CAC Secretary from Barbados) from the Bahamas. I then in the vacant chair and spoke athlete walked over and he laid another on the table. made a comment "Oh, those CAC President walked over to are in charge, not Christine". **me thrown out of the room if me!"...** and he repeated then walked away. My feeling there, then there was no reason others. He should just kindly ask with him and still don't hold

The next day, my athlete from the US Virgin islands, Mr. Ken Hensley, was trying to get his athlete's pass as they were to be distributed at the pre judging. They didn't want to let him in, uttering that there were no more passes. At that time, the delegate from Grenada (Mr. Kent Joseph), who has been involved in the IFBB for over 40 years, proceeded to ask for an athlete pass to be given to the USVI athlete. I was informed of this



incident by Mr. Joseph, as I was the official delegate representing the USVI. We both, thereafter, proceeded to the backstage area where my athlete was. I wanted to find out if everything was okay with him. The CAC President's wife, who was stalking me all the way, stormed to the backstage with three (3) male security personnel ordering me to leave because I had no right to be backstage. Mr. Joseph indicated to her that I had an athlete at the contest and I was a delegate with a backstage pass, which I immediately showed. She apologized, implying that no one had told her this. She then left with her security squad.

During the General Assembly, which was stage managed and not well organized; I observed that this was the first time I have seen that the IFBB Vice President's report was not tabled in the CAC agenda.

When I questioned the CAC President's wife about the US Virgin Islands representation and having a vote at the election she said I could not vote because the federation was not properly registered. I told her that Aruba had received copies of the documents which were sent by the USVI. She still would not allow it. I did not push the issue because it was not worth it. I told her that all fee payments were accepted by the CAC and the IFBB. She falsely stated to all the federations that the U.S. Virgin Islands affiliation with the IFBB was pending. She still did not allow me to vote and I did not push the issue because I felt it was not making any headway.

The CAC President's wife, who was definitely in charge of the General Assembly, proceeded with the elections which her husband won over the other candidate for the post of president. Mr. Joseph went over afterwards to congratulate the twosome on their victory. She then indicated having an issue with him. Her husband and herself were not picked-up by a car and had to ride a bus to the hotel with other delegates last year in Grenada, when Mr. Joseph was the CAC Championships host.

She further alleged to Mr. Joseph that she had investigated and was now accusing him of not paying his contest sanction fee for the 2009 CAC Championships held in Grenada. This accusation was done in the presence of the current CAC Executive Assistant to the President (from the Bahamas). Mr. Joseph was not happy with that statement, as he did paid all fees and would like the IFBB to make sure they send him receipts for the two payments of \$2,500.00 (totaling \$5,000.00 USD), for his records.

The disrespect showed to the U.S. Virgin Islands as a country, to Mr. Ken Hensley - the athlete, to Mr. Kent Joseph (Grenada) and to me as USVI delegate, IFBB International Judge and as your Executive Assistant; was a clear violation of the IFBB Code of Ethics. It was also indirectly disrespectful to you, as IFBB Vice President for the region. It was very clear that I was targeted by the hosting couple; doing everything they could to make me feel unwelcome and uncomfortable.

It is very sad that our sport has reached this low level and that some of the top people in charge of the CAC have been manipulated to support this couple's behavior.

The attendance in Aruba was extremely low, as it appears that there was no support from the public or from the people in charge of sports in Aruba.

Javier, I do hope that, sometime in the near future, we will see positive changes within the CAC in order to bring back high level of organization, civility and respectability; which we have enjoyed over the past 35 years under your leadership. It will be a shame, after so many years of hard work by all of us, for the sport to die by default within the region because of the foolish, power-hungry and egotistical behavior of a few.

NB: All of the above-mentioned incidents were witnessed by a number of persons, if verification is needed.