



USA RACQUETBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Teleconference
Monday, January 27, 2020
5:30 pm MT

MINUTES

Called to order by President Dan Whitley at 5:33 MT

Blue = Motions/Votes

Roll Call (Cheryl Kirk)

Attending: Steve Czarnecki (Treasurer), Michelle De La Rosa (Athlete Rep), Scott Fish, Mike Kiedrowski, Cheryl Kirk (Secretary), Joanne Pomodoro, Terry Rogers, Aimee Ruiz (ExCom Athlete Rep), Stewart Solomon (Vice President), Cindy Tilbury, Dan Whitley (President), Mike Wedel (Executive Director)

Not Attending: Thurman Brooks, Jose Diaz (Athlete Rep)

A quorum was achieved. President Whitley provided prior notice of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes (Cheryl Kirk)

Motion by Terry Rogers: Approve the 11/25/19 Board minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Seconded by Aimee Ruiz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously (10 members voting)

Executive Director Update: Championship Director hire, National Singles location, Membership Price change feedback, National Doubles update (Mike Wedel)

Connor Shane has been hired as **Director of National Championships** effective the end of February. He resides in Colorado Springs. Announcement is pending.

The **2020 USAR National Singles Championships** site has been moved from San Marcos, Texas, to College Station, Texas (Texas A&M). The Hall of Fame banquet will be at the Hilton host hotel. The Annual Board meeting will take place at the A&M Hotel.

Membership increase communication was socialized with a minimum of negative feedback (a few social media threads but compliments as well). A question was posed as to whether any data is available on members who renewed in December to take advantage of the former \$50 rate? Answer: Our forecast for membership was right on for 2019 and didn't really take into account a lot of advance renewals.

National Doubles should reflect 10-15 more entries than last year. Hospitality change of lowering entry fee price and offering a separate package has gone fairly smoothly. The R2 entry

process asked a mandatory question about whether members would purchase the package. A question was asked regarding who will be doing the draws and who will be proofing and checking the seeds. Answer: Jim Hiser has a seeding group to which he sends the draws. Follow-up question asked regarding who serves on the seeding group.

US OPEN (Dan Whitley/Mike Wedel)

Relative to the US OPEN beyond 2020, Board discussion took place relative to future agreements with Life Time, hotels, sponsors, etc. Assistance will be available from Doug Ganim in helping USAR/Connor Shane with the transition.

SafeSport Update (Dan Whitley)

Discussions and exploration continue to take place with both the USOPC (VP of Safety) and representatives with The Center for SafeSport. We desire to learn more about other NGBs' best practices. We want to provide a safe environment -- promote and participate; educate; look at updating core values; market the vision; determine USA Racquetball's best approaches toward compliance. This Board is challenged to come up with ideas on how we can be consistent and do the best job we can.

Scholarship & Hall of Fame Update (Dan Whitley)

Scholarship Committee: From 24 applications, the Scholarship Committee reduced the number to 18 and then to 6. A scoring summary of the six finalists was provided prior to this meeting. The committee requests that the Board approve two \$1,000 scholarships for the top two scoring applicants -- Nikita Chauhan and Annie Roberts.

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to approve the Scholarship Committee's 2020 recommendation of two scholarships of \$1,000 each to be awarded to Nikita Chauhan (California) and Annie Roberts (Oregon).

Seconded by Aimee Ruiz

Discussion: Questions were posed to the treasurer regarding the balance in the scholarship fund and the contributions that have been made by the WSMRA and others.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Hall of Fame Committee: The Board is requested to approve three candidates who were nominated, moved forward to the voting group by the HOF Committee, and received more than 75% of the votes required for induction. Documents for Jason Mannino, Hank Marcus, and Gregg Peck were provided to the Board prior to this meeting.

General discussion took place relative to Hall of Fame Committee processes and oversight -- succinctly kept minutes, etc. Do we want to require more transparency from the HOF Committee? Cheryl

Motion by Aimee Ruiz to accept the Hall of Fame Committee's recommendation to induct Jason Mannino into the USAR Hall of Fame Class of 2020 as an Athlete.

Seconded by Michelle De La Rosa

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Motion by Michelle De La Rosa to accept the Hall of Fame Committee's recommendation to induct Hank Marcus into the USAR Hall of Fame Class of 2020.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: Regarding the categories of inductees, Mike Wedel stated they can now consider their amateur, professional, or contributor status (or any variation thereof) but are Inducted without mention of category. A Board member made a comment that the HOF Committee may not change policies or processes and let the Board know later. A member of the HOF committee who is also a Board member stated that the HOF minutes discussion says the Board should approve.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Motion by Cindy Tilbury to accept the Hall of Fame Committee's recommendation to induct Greg Peck into the USAR Hall of Fame Class of 2020 as an Athlete.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Next steps -- Dan Whitley will contact Jim Hiser to communicate the Board's decisions to approve all three. Terry Rogers will send verbiage to the HOF Committee on the processes inquiry discussed above.

Year-End Financials (Steve Czarnecki)

As final reports are being prepared, a loss is being projected for 2019. Fundraising projections and US OPEN anticipated income were not realized.

A revised 2020 forecast will be presented at the end of the first quarter.

Rules Committee Considerations (Stewart Solomon)

A number of documents were provided for the Board's review prior to this meeting (see list at the end of these minutes).

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to allow the Rules Committee to explore the 11 changes with the final actual changes being brought up for a final vote at the Annual Meeting in May.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: Several Board members articulated questions and concerns on a number of points included in the rules change proposals document. Stewart will take the discussion feedback to the committee to assist them in addressing these rules changes one by one.

Vote: Passed unanimously

The Exhibit B discussion was tabled.

Legislative Committee Vote - WOR Committee Verbiage for Bylaws (Cheryl Kirk)

Notification of proposed bylaws revision to be presented by the committee and considered by the Board at the next full Board meeting on 1/27/2020 was sent to the Board on 1/12/2020, in compliance with the 15-day revision requirement stated in the bylaws. Bylaws revisions are subject to approval by a 2/3 vote by the USAR Board of Directors.

Business at hand: Add the WOR (Outdoor) Committee to the USAR bylaws (see Standing Committees, p. 17, of the current USAR bylaws revised August 2019) with the following description:

WOR (Outdoor) Committee

This committee is responsible for preserving the integrity of World Outdoor Racquetball. The WOR (Outdoor) Committee oversees all aspects of outdoor racquetball in support of events, directors, and members. Some of this committee's specific functions are to develop rules, promote outdoor racquetball, administer rankings, and assist WOR directors.

Motion by Michelle De La Rosa: Approve the WOR (Outdoor) Committee verbiage presented to the Board on 1/12/2020 for incorporation into the Standing Committees section of the USAR Bylaws.

Seconded by Joanne Pomodoro

Discussion took place regarding operating processes of the WOR Committee and Task Force, e.g., rules and how Indoor and Outdoor rules should be administrated. Does/should the USAR Board of Directors approve WOR Rules and rules revisions as a matter of governance responsibility? Michelle will work with Dan and the WOR Committee to solidify and codify these processes.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Motion by Stewart Solomon to change the USAR Bylaws revision date to January 2020 and adjust page numbers in the Table of Contents on page 2 to accommodate added committee verbiage.

Seconded by Terry

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

US Team Committee Coach Discussion/Vote (Dan Whitley)

US Team Committee Report Submitted by Chair Larry Haemmerle: Head Coach Position Interview Results -- On January 28th and 30th, interviews were conducted with four applicants. The US Team Committee deliberated in an attempt to reach a final conclusion and recommendation for the Board of Directors. After identifying the top two candidates, the result was a tie vote without any anticipated change in position by any of the committee members. The committee agreed to send both candidates' names to the Board of Directors for consideration and final selection. Provided for the Board's review prior to this meeting were interview notes, cover letters, resumes, and letters of recommendation were provided for the Board's review.

Discussion centered around the Board's concern that they were not the optimal group to make this decision. By a vote of 8 members (of the 11 present) not being comfortable with making this decision, the consensus was to ask Dan Whitley and Mike Wedel (*ex officio* members of all committees) to contact Larry Haemmerle and offer support in determining a process by which the committee could be led to a decision. Dan and Mike agreed to contact Larry the following day.

Outstanding Items

Election Committee update -- the petition process closes February 1st

Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020

Joanne Pomodoro moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Terry Rogers

Adjourned 8:30 pm MT

Materials provided to Board by President Dan Whitley, Vice President Stewart Solomon, Secretary/Legislative Committee Chair Cheryl Kirk, and Treasurer Steve Czarnecki:

Administration

USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 1/27/2020
USAR BOD Minutes 11/25/2019

Scholarship Committee

2020 USAR Scholarship Application Evaluation

Hall of Fame Committee

Hank Marcus
Jason Mannino
Gregg Peck

Financials

Finance 1 -- Memo to Board
Finance 2 -- Prelim 2019 Financials (2020-01-24)

Rules Committee

Current USAR Rulebook
Exhibit A Rule Change Proposals
Attachment A (Ann Hemphill's Idea, supplement to Exhibit A)
Exhibit B Rulebook Policy Section
Rules Committee table of changes

Legislative Committee

WOR Committee Verbiage Motion and Vote (Bylaws Change Proposal submitted via email 1/12/2020)

US Team Committee

US Team Committee Interview Results
US Team Coach Interview Notes (Final Candidates)
Final Candidate Cover Letters, Resumes, and Recommendation Letters