



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

MINUTES

Called to order by President Dan Whitley at 5:31 pm MT

Roll Call -- Cheryl Kirk

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

Not Attending: 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 2/24/20 Board minutes forwarded prior to this call.](#)

[Seconded by Joanne Pomodoro](#)

[Discussion: None](#)

[Vote: Passed unanimously](#)

President's Update (Dan Whitley)

Dan addressed the Board relative to how Board members can respond using consistent messages when faced with questions about the current state of the sport in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Much has taken place since the last Board call on 2/24:

Championships canceled: USAR Intercollegiates (March), National Singles (May), and National Juniors (June); Regional Championships across the country (April)

Pan American Racquetball Championships (April/Bolivia) suspended

USAR Strategic Planning Session postponed from May to September

Clubs began closing in response to local government mandates

Committees (ExCom, Finance, US Team, Outdoor, et al.) are meeting to make recommendations on future considerations.

Our members and partners will have questions. In a crisis, consistent, clear, and succinct messages help to prevent overreaction and promote calmness. Staff, Board members, and ambassadors do not have to feel obligated to provide answers. Instead, all should be sensitive and listen to members' concerns and bring them as needed to Dan Whitley and Mike Wedel.

Executive Director Update (Mike Wedel)

HS Nationals went well: 365 participants in Portland, three facilities, 1,000+ matches. The staff did a good job, attitudes were great, players enjoyed themselves, and the desk ran efficiently. Financials will be available on the next Board call.

Championship Cancellations -- After Intercollegiates had to be canceled, it became quickly apparent that National Singles and National Juniors would have to be canceled as well. Sunk costs are minimal. Working toward getting back the club deposit for Juniors. Some inventory items can be used next year (e.g., water bottles and medals).

Staff Priorities/Projects -- The office is closed, but the staff has access on an as-needed basis to collect mail, scan bills, etc. Phone calls are forwarded to cell phones. Staff members have their desktop computers at home. Weekly group and one-on-one meetings are taking place. Each staff member has been assigned projects/tasks. E.g., Connor Shane is working on the lineup for championships next year (agreements, advertising schedules, etc.).

USAR BOD Athlete Rep Election -- the election ends tomorrow and has had a good turnout. Five candidates expressed interest in filling the three available seats. Athletes (presently just over 30 in number) who have been on Team USA in the last 10 years are eligible to run. They also comprise the voting body.

Hall of Fame Induction -- Since National Singles was canceled, the induction ceremony has not yet been rescheduled. The HOF Committee Chair has been in contact with the inductees -- Jason Mannino, Hank Marcus, and Gregg Peck.

Financials (Steve Czarnecki)

See Message to Board document and provided spreadsheets for additional texture.

The Finance Committee, Steve, Mike Wedel, and Thurman Brooks have been focusing intently on financials and COVID-19 impact on the budget. Tight controls and planning are essential. Thurman is working with Mike on a weekly basis to closely monitor USAR's cash position.

- Lost membership revenue from delayed or cancelled events is a big concern. March-June historically constitutes 24% of our membership revenue.
- The National Singles Championships cancellation will negatively affect the 2020 budget forecast while the cancellation of the National Junior Championships will have positive impact on the forecast.
- Affordability of US Team international event participation is under continuing analysis.
- Due to significant sponsor investments and other factors, the US OPEN may (or may not) be postponed, but it will not be canceled.

It is critical to try and get in front of this unprecedented situation as much as we can with the objective of breaking even if at all possible.

Mike Wedel and Steve Czarnecki will attend a 3/31/20 USOPC call to better understand and learn to navigate the process to pursue support through the CARES act.

Board Member Questions/Concerns (Dan Whitley/All)

An open discussion took place to share concerns, ask questions, and gather suggestions on how the racquetball community, and people in general, can stay connected.

Topics discussed included:

- Mental health aspects, self-care, reaching out to others
- Working on tasks that have suffered previously due to lack of time
- Ideas for social media/website, e.g.:
 - Racquetball-themed movies and TV shows/Google racquetball scenes, commercials
 - Figure out how to throw a big racquetball party -- when it's time, organize a weekend where everyone just goes out and plays—like a New Year's Eve celebration, playing all at the same time across the country. US OPEN could be that kind of racquetball party.
- State Director call on 4/7 -- Board member attendance on the call is a concrete example of how we can demonstrate Board support and connect with the states.
- Fine-tune fundraising efforts and recognition
- Let clubs know we care about them and their members. Club contacts -- plant seeds, we know racquetball players are loyal, welcome them back to the club as long-term members, jumpstart racquetball programming.
 - Can we use state associations to identify the independently owned clubs around the country? Update the master list -- an updated court list for indoor and outdoor.

Social Media (Aimee Ruiz)

You're not stuck at home, you're safe at home. We won't be promoting playing racquetball.

We need to show that we're still open, we're still here. There are a lot of ways we can connect using social media. We could be putting up US OPEN matches from prior years, for example.

Really need to be trying to promote in a fun, creative, and positive manner while being sensitive to people and their challenges. Possibly use our US Team members to get content to us we can use.

Status of the USAR social media calendar—Aimee and Cheryl offered to be part of a huddle with the staff to discuss social media and brainstorm ideas on what can go onto the USAR social media calendar since it's presently cleared of championship-related coverage opportunities.

Election Committee Update (Terry Rogers)

The voting deadline is March 31. Several reminders were sent throughout March. This week, the USOPC will send results to Dan and Mike. Terry will facilitate the process of contacting the candidates (who/when) and prepare an announcement for social media and the USAR website.

Annual Board Meeting Update (Dan Whitley)

Even though National Singles has been canceled, an annual meeting will still be scheduled.

A date will be determined in April. In early May, the meeting format and general agenda will be developed. Budget/financials will be an important part of this meeting. Departing Board members will be recognized. At the reconvened meeting after the annual meeting has adjourned, arriving Board members will be seated and officer elections will take place.

Outstanding Items

The U.S. Team Committee will be meeting this week to discuss populating of Adult and Junior Teams in the absence of qualifying events.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2020

**Motion to Adjourn: Joanne Pomodoro
Seconded by Terry Rogers**

Adjourned 7:20 pm MT

Materials provided to Board by President Dan Whitley, Secretary Cheryl Kirk, and Treasurer Steve Czarnecki

Administration

USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 3/30/2020
USAR BOD Minutes 2/24/20

Financials

Finance 1 -- Memo to Board
Finance 2a -- PL vs. SPLY (2/29/20)
Finance 2b -- PL vs. Budget (2/29/20)
Finance 3 -- Balance Sheet (2/29/20)