



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

**MINUTES**

**Called to order by President Dan Whitley at 5:32 pm MT**

**Roll Call -- Cheryl Kirk**

**Attending:** Thurman Brooks, Steve Czarnecki (Treasurer), Michelle De La Rosa (Athlete Rep), Scott Fish, Mike Kiedrowski, Cheryl Kirk (Secretary), Joanne Pomodoro, Terry Rogers, Aimee Ruiz (Athlete Rep - Executive Committee), 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 to approve the 3/30/20 Board minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Seconded by Joanne Pomodoro

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

**Executive Committee Update (Dan Whitley)**

The pandemic is a common thread across all topics. The ExCom is meeting frequently -- three times since the last Board call. We are trying to think ahead and make sure we as an association are doing everything we can to stay on top of the budget. Mike's letter to the members has been sent. USAR was approved for the small business payroll protection program (\$49k grant). Thanks to Mike for his hard work on securing the grant.

**Executive Director Update (Mike Wedel)**

Social Media, Membership, Sanctioning, Website, PinchPerks, Tournaments

*Social Media*

Renée Isherwood, Rachel Hyman, Mike Wedel, Aimee Ruiz, and Cheryl Kirk collaborated on social media ideas with the objective of keeping people engaged, e.g., magazine posts featuring specific parts of the magazine; Wednesday Words of Wisdom (quotes); and Throwback Thursday matches.

The staff is downloading approximately 500 archived matches that are stored on our own system and organizing them on our website. Videos can be viewed by year and championship.

Sudsy Monchik has been doing a good deal of live streaming work. Sudsy was on Facebook Live last Friday and featured USAR messages from Mike's recent letter about membership renewals/gifts and entering and supporting future events.

#### *Membership/Sanctioning*

Mike presented a report on membership levels by category and time period (the year 2019; Jan. 1-Apr. 24, 2020, etc.). Information was provided also on sanctioned tournaments in the same time periods.

#### *Website*

Rachel Hyman has been working to update the website. Current messages, including recent election results, are on the carousel at the top of the home page.

#### *PinchPerks*

The announcement of a new membership benefit through Perk Spot (launching May 1) will appear on USAR's website tomorrow with an accompanying email. Several other NGBs use this program and like it. Mike reviewed how the offered benefits are administrated. Several emails have already been developed. Members sign up via a simple process and are in complete control of how many emails they wish to receive. The staff is currently contacting racquetball partners to see if they want to participate as vendors in the program.

#### *Tournaments*

Discussion took place surrounding differing event restrictions in various states. Insurance is key - as long as clubs/hosts are not going against restrictions in their areas, USAR liability coverage will apply.

#### **Membership Renewals as Revenue Generation (Mike Wedel)**

Beginning with recent expired memberships and also from the last six months of last year, expired members will be contacted. Connor Shane on the staff is reaching out to state directors and determining whether the states wish to make their own contacts vs. the USAR staff doing it. He is putting together bulleted talking points for states to use and creating a common tracking dashboard to track the individual, phone number, how they were contacted, and their response to the phone call. Mike stated Connor is nearly finished, and information should be coming out in the next day or two.

#### **HOF Committee Update: Annual Awards (Mike Wedel)**

Due to the pandemic, USAR will host its first-ever virtual awards presentation. USAR is testing software and the Awards Committee is selecting the recipients for approval by the Board. Mike will present the awards, which will be sent ahead of time to the recipients and videotaped for 5/28 at 7:30 CT. The session will be pre-taped and broadcast on Facebook Live that evening.

#### **Financials (Thurman Brooks)**

Memberships and events are running behind last year. Per Dan Whitley's report above, USAR has received funding that starts off as a loan. If funds are used for the intended purposes (payroll), it becomes a forgivable grant. Recent expenses have been the D&O insurance policy and the R2 ranking system payment to Usher Barnoff.

Mike added that USAR has received a \$25,000 three-year loan through Survive and Thrive in Colorado Springs (investment group to support local businesses). The funds have been placed

into a separate bank account so it won't reside with operating funds and will only be used as necessary.

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### **US Team Committee Update (Cheryl Kirk)**

The US Team Committee consists of Larry Haemmerle, Aimee Ruiz, Michelle De La Rosa, Dave Ellis, Kelley Beane, Mike Grisz, Charlie Pratt, Otto Dietrich, Jim Durham, Cheryl Kirk, and Mike Wedel (*ex officio*).

The committee has met several times on US Team topics beginning with conversations and proposals on how qualifier events can look going forward. The committee has segued to working first on establishing the 2020-21 US Team and US Junior Team, i.e. how to populate them in the absence of qualifiers (National Singles/National Juniors) due to the global pandemic. A list of recommendations has been generated to bring to the Board for ratification.

Motion by Cindy Tilbury to create a direct link on the Team USA page to permit quick access to the Race for the U.S. National Team standings. Additionally, everyone who has earned points in qualifying for the U.S. National Team should be listed in the standings.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: Is there any downside to this? Cheryl: This is administrative in nature.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Cheryl presented a detailed explanation of the US Team Committee's consideration surrounding Alejandro Landa's performance at the US OPEN in the context of his receiving points toward the Race for the US Team standings. Factors included his citizenship (dual) and his letter of release from Mexico to compete for other countries (received in mid-January).

Motion by Cindy Tilbury to credit Alejandro Landa with semifinal points earned at the US OPEN toward the Race for the U.S. National Team.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion surrounded retroactivity of the letter; questions about international relations; Landa's position on the team with or without the points. (Note: he would be on the team regardless of this decision; it would be a matter of the #1 or #2 position.) A question was asked about whether the US OPEN should be a qualifier at all in the future. (Note: this topic is already in committee discussion.)

Vote: Motion passed with 9 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention

Motion: Terry Rogers moved to use the points that have been accrued to date (no points credited for the canceled National Singles Championships Qualifying Division) in determining who is successful in making the U.S. National Team for 2020-21.

Seconded by Joanne Pomodoro

Discussion: A question was asked relative to whether there might be a possibility of still having a qualifier and the difference it might make. Mike commented on the risk of financial loss; a 1% chance it could still be held if everything suddenly improved with the pandemic; and the impact on association finances.

Vote: Passed 10 yes, 1 abstention

### **U.S. Junior Team Selection Update (Cheryl Kirk)**

A status report was delivered to the Board on the work the US Team Committee is performing to create a selection process for the 2020-21 US junior Team in the absence of the lone qualifier

(Junior National Championships). No vote was deemed necessary to ratify a recommendation at this time since the process is still work in progress. The US Team Committee will bring further information to the next Board meeting in order to communicate its final recommendation, and the Board will vote to ratify at that time.

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### **Election Committee Update/Athlete Representative Election Update (Terry Rogers/Mike Wedel)**

*Terry Rogers:* Mike Grisz, JD Shelton, and Cindy Tilbury were elected to the three available Board seats for the term 2020-2023. They are invited to the Annual Meeting in May and will be installed at the reconvened meeting after adjournment of the main meeting.

*Mike Wedel:* Michelle De La Rosa, Danielle Maddux, and Charlie Pratt were elected as Athlete Representatives for the next quadrennial period 2020-2024. This process involved an election with US Team members over the last 10 years as the voting body.

Dan thanked Terry for chairing the Board Election Committee and Mike and Staff for administrating the athlete election. Dan will reach out to everyone joining the Board to schedule an onboarding informational session. The Board will bid farewell to departing members Joanne Pomodoro, Aimee Ruiz, and Jose Diaz at the Annual Meeting.

### **Annual Board Meeting Update (Dan Whitley)**

With more details to be sent in the next 10 days, the Annual Meeting will take place toward the end of May. The format will be a 90-minute evening video meeting (an introduction for new members, going over engagement things with the new group, etc.). The next day, the Board meeting will be conducted in two parts with a closing informal session to follow.

### **"How to Play Racquetball" in the Pandemic (Dan Whitley)**

How do we do it? What does it look like? Two documents are being drafted -- one for playing, one for hosting tournaments. For playing, ideas may include using two (or four) balls; two gloves; one person opening and closing the door, etc. The Board was invited to send ideas to Dan on this topic as these tools are being developed.

**Next Meeting:** Annual Meeting date to be determined (end of May)

**Motion to Adjourn: Aimee Ruiz**  
**Seconded by Thurman Brooks**

**Adjourned 7:42 pm MT**

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

**Administration:** USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 4/27/2020; USAR BOD Minutes 3/30/20  
**Financial Reports:** Finance 1 -- Finance Update (2020-4-24); Finance 2 -- PL Through March 2020 vs. SPLY; Finance 3 -- PL vs. Budget (Through March); Finance 4 -- Balance Sheet (2020-3-31)