



USA RACQUETBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monday, April 26, 2021
5:30 pm MT
Videoconference via Zoom

MINUTES

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

All Board Members were in attendance: T. J. Baumbaugh, Todd Boss, Steve Czarnecki (Treasurer), Michelle De La Rosa (Athlete Rep), Scott Fish, Mike Grisz, Cheryl Kirk (Secretary), Danielle Maddux (Athlete Rep), Laura Pesek, Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep), Terry Rogers, Stewart Solomon (Vice President), Cindy Tilbury, Mike Wedel (Executive Director), Dan Whitley (President)

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

Approval of Minutes - Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Laura Pesek to approve the March 29, 2021, Board meeting minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously approved

SafeSport Discussion (Mike Wedel)

- Mike delivered a thorough update on recent changes to SafeSport education/training and background check processes.
- Player's Health and JD Palatine have been contracted to provide services via one portal that is available for every member in their membership profile.

Festival Discussion (Mike Wedel and Dan Whitley)

- Should the Festival not be able to be held in June due to COVID-19 restrictions, the staff is working on alternatives as necessary.
- Low entries at this time point indicate concerns surrounding restrictions.
- A decision will be made shortly and will be accompanied by information on alternative plans.

Future Facility Update (Mike Wedel)

- Exploration of a multi-sport opportunity continues.
- Subject matter experts continue to be consulted to help arrive at decisions relative to USA Racquetball's future involvement.

WOR/Outdoor Discussion (Michelle De La Rosa and Dan Whitley)

- Many outdoor tournaments are being approved. There is much excitement surrounding plans for Outdoor Nationals in July and 3Wallball in Las Vegas in October.
- Work continues on the WOR section of the USAR website, which is nearly ready to roll out. Todd Boss is assisting.

- A short discussion took place surrounding processes for content approval and how various individuals fit into administrative roles.

Social Media Assistance/PR (Mike Wedel)

- Mike discussed the concept of creating a small and nimble social media group that can help manage social media issues as they arise, i.e., calm and informative responses to provide information and dispel negative assumptions. By not addressing certain topics that come up, we can miss opportunities to clarify.
- This group of 2-3 Board members would represent the Board, bringing a strategic and coordinated approach and would avoid knee jerk, emotional, and uninformed responses.
- Steve Czarnecki volunteered to participate. Other interested Board members were encouraged to contact Mike Wedel, whether willing to post or rather to work behind the scenes in support.
- The point was made that if USAR's own PR and marketing strategies are not reaching the community, it should be addressed, i.e., make our communications are so compelling that they mitigate misinformation that regularly appears.
- The concept of social media listening was mentioned, i.e., flagging key words to stay aware of what is being discussed.

Committee/General Process Updates

Legislative Committee (Cheryl Kirk)

- USOPC Consultative Review Findings and Requirements are being addressed on a completion deadline of 6/30/21.
- There may be portions of this brought to the May 24th meeting for Board approval as well as electronic approvals in the meantime.

Hall of Fame Committee (Terry Rogers)

- The committee is in process of putting together a proposal for a new award that will be brought to the Board for approval.

Committee Administration (Stewart Solomon)

- Discussion took place relative to charter and goals reporting.
- Stewart is developing a reporting document.

National Rules Commissioner Selection (Stewart Solomon)

- Stewart described the selection process to fill the open National Rules Commissioner position vacated by Otto Dietrich.
- The group is conducting interviews and reviewing submitted materials.
- Next steps will be to formulate a recommendation to bring to the President and the Board.

Board Composition Discussion (Dan Whitley)

- President Dan Whitley described the Board Appointment Task Force being led by Michelle De La Rosa. With Board approval, a three-year Board seat will be filled.
- In May 2022, some members of the Executive Committee will be leaving the Board. Dan encouraged interested Board members to become more engaged and familiar with Board governance processes and roles.

Board Decisions

Hall of Fame Committee - Board Vote to Approve Recommendation

Dan Whitley presented the committee's recommendation on behalf of Hall of Fame Committee Chair Jim Hiser to award the 2021 Joe Sobek Outstanding Contribution Award to Mike Coulter.

Motion by Michelle De La Rosa to approve the HOF Committee's recommendation to award Mike Coulter the 2021 Joe Sobek Outstanding Contributor Award.

Second: Mike Grisz

Discussion: Positive and support comments offered by Board members.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Action Item: Mike Wedel to notify Mike Coulter.

US Team Committee - Board Vote to Approve Recommendations

Cheryl Kirk delivered the committee's report on behalf of U.S. Team Committee Chair Larry Haemmerle.

On March 30, 2021, the U.S. Team Committee met by conference call and formed recommendations regarding the following:

- The Junior Team Qualifying will be part of the National Championships Festival presented by Penn.
- The Adult Team Qualifying will be part of the National Championships Festival presented by Penn. There will be one qualifier for Doubles and one for Singles, based on the Festival format. There will not be a two-part qualifier for Singles this year as in previous years.
- The criteria for dual citizenship athletes will be the same for Juniors as Adults, i.e. U.S. passport presented and release obtained from the other country if the player has competed for that country in international competition.
- The Elite Athlete Health Insurance term for this year will be from July 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022. The subsequent year will revert back to June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023.

Motion by Mike Grisz to accept the US Team Committee recommendations as presented to the BOD on April 26, 2021, relative to Adult and Junior Qualifying Events, dual citizenship process for Juniors, and EAHI.

Seconded by Charlie Pratt

Discussion: Has timing been arranged with the USOPC accordingly? Question re dates, one month of no coverage for athletes? Response was that EAHI extends one month to accommodate qualifier date changes.

Has a contingency been considered if the team selection has to be rescheduled? Response was that we will have to go with plans B and C.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Stewart Solomon left the meeting at 7:15 pm

Motion by Michelle De La Rosa to approve President Dan Whitley's proposal to appoint Stewart Solomon to a two-year term under the Executive Appointed Position category, effective at the Annual Meeting in May 2021 and concluding at the Annual Meeting in May 2023.

Seconded by Steve Czarnecki

Discussion: A question was posed to clarify the difference between an (appointed in this case) Board seat and an Officer position. Response: All two-year officer positions were effective May 2020 and expire May 2022. They continue uninterrupted unless vacated.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Other/New Business

The date/mode/location of the Annual Meeting is pending.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2021

Motion to Adjourn: Laura Pesek

Second: Terry Rogers

Adjourned 7:33 pm MT

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

Administration

- USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 4/26/2021 (Whitley)
- USAR BOD Minutes 3/29/21 for Board approval (Kirk)

Financial Reports (Czarnecki)

- Finance 1 -- Memo to Board April 2021 (2021-4-26)
- Finance 2 -- USAR PL Q1 2021 v SPLY
- Finance 3 -- USAR BS 2021-3-31 vs. SPLY

Executive Director Update (Wedel)

- ED update for 4/26/21 board meeting