



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

MINUTES

Called to order by Vice President Stewart Solomon at 5:35 pm MT

Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

Attending: T. J. Baumbaugh, Todd Boss, Michelle De La Rosa (Athlete Representative - ExCom), Mike Grisz, Cheryl Kirk (Secretary), Danielle Maddux (Athlete Representative), Maurice Miller, Laura Pesek, Charlie Pratt (Athlete Representative - AAC), Terry Rogers, Stewart Solomon (Vice President), Cindy Tilbury, Mike Wedel (Executive Director)

Not attending: Steve Czarnecki (Treasurer), Dan Whitley (President)

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

The Board conveyed its sincere condolences to Terry Rogers on the passing of Jack Hughes on July 15, 2021.

Approval of Minutes - Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Mike Grisz to approve the June 28, 2021, Board of Directors meeting minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Seconded by Laura Pesek

Discussion: No

Vote: Passed unanimously

Executive Committee Update (Stewart Solomon)

The Executive Committee met two weeks ago with Racquetball 2.0 (Geoff Peters' presentation on 6/28/21) the main topic of discussion as related to Geoff's generous intent to substantially contribute to one or more programs benefiting USA Racquetball, the U.S. Team, and the sport.

A subsequent meeting explored hybrid approaches and included Geoff Peters as well as most members of the Executive Committee and three additional Board members, one of whom was an additional athlete representative.

Executive Director Update (Mike Wedel)

Mike sent a pre-read report to the Board prior to this meeting. Topics included an update surrounding future enhancements for the sport relative to events, facilities, and sponsorships.

Additionally:

Championships planning has been a priority. Connor Shane spent time this past week with Doug Ganim in Minneapolis meeting managers, sponsors, et al.

World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR)/Huntington Beach recap -- Mike Wedel set up a USAR tent awning, administrated prize drawings, and enjoyed connecting with the outdoor community.

Recap: 2021 National Junior Championships with Adult Team Qualifying (Wellmark YMCA, Des Moines, July 14-18) -- This was a condensed version of our normal junior event -- the draw was lower than other years, but a number of experienced players attended who might have been reasonably expected to qualify for the U.S. Junior Team.

The National Junior Championships Awards and Ice Cream Party on Saturday night had seating for 250 and ended up being "standing room only." The event was a well-received social atmosphere. Custom posters were available for the players, and four adult elite athletes addressed the group during the awards: Rocky Carson, Michelle De La Rosa, Erika Manilla, and Troy Warigon. The US Junior and Adult Teams were announced along with Junior All Americans (semifinals and up).

The Board congratulated Athlete Representatives Michelle De La Rosa and Charlie Pratt for qualifying for the U.S. Team. Board member Maurice Miller competed as well and distinguished himself in both Singles and Doubles, and he and partner Troy Warigon conducted a Junior clinic on Saturday afternoon at the YMCA.

Tentative planning for 2022 Championships dates and locations was shared.

A question was asked relative to whether there are any **new USAR COVID guidelines**. The response was that they are the same as USAR conveyed in Spring 2020. It is critical that sanctioned event directors check with local and state governments -- regulations vary based on states and cities. Since sanctioned events are beginning to increase, a suggestion was made to remind state associations and tournament directors that adherence to state and local guidelines is required for sanctioning/insurance.

Committee Updates

Finance Update (Mike Wedel)

Treasurer Steve Czarnecki forwarded financial reports to the Board prior to this meeting. Mike Wedel covered the topic in Steve's absence.

Year-to-date financial performance through the first half of the year is generally in line with the budget. Membership revenue, while significantly lagging historical levels, has shown a modest increase and is slightly outpacing the budgeted levels. Final figures for the U.S. Junior Championships with National Team Qualifying should be available shortly. The 2022 budgeting process will begin in August with the goal of approving a final budget in October or November.

US Team Committee (Cheryl Kirk)

Pan American Racquetball Championships (PARC) -- The U.S. Team Committee will meet to prepare a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Taking into account a number of factors, the Board will decide if a U.S. Team/Delegation will be sent to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in early September.

Legislative Committee (Cheryl Kirk)

We have received notification that USAR's requested expanded athlete pool criteria were approved by the USOPC Athlete Working Group. The Legislative Committee can now finish the last legislative point before the USOPC's 8/30/21 extended deadline. Notifications of proposed bylaws revisions will come to the Board on or before 8/15.

Additional Discussion Topics

- **Rankings** -- update schedule clarification and doubles ranking work in process from the task force group. On the latter, the work should be on track to be finalized before the US OPEN.
- **Doubles seeding** at the recent Adult Team Qualifying event in Des Moines. Mike Wedel will address a currently unanswered question offline.
- **USAR referee program** currently in place and the need for updating it and better positioning it as a training piece as well as a certification piece.

Racquetball 2.0 / Strategic Planning Discussion (Stewart Solomon)

Refer to Executive Committee section, above.

Several Board members had provided their responses prior to the meeting, including Laura Pesek who was provided time to present a PPT deck on strategic planning.

The Board was requested to send their thoughts on several specific aspects of the PPT Laura presented as well as their further thoughts on Racquetball 2.0. Stewart and Laura will meet immediately on a Board approach and send a desired format to collect the Board's feedback.

Next Meeting: August 30, 2021

Motion to Adjourn: T. J. Baumbaugh

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Adjourned 7:56 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 7/26/2021 (Whitley)
- USAR BOD Meeting Minutes 6/28/21 for Board approval (Kirk)

Financial Reports (Czarnecki)

- Finance 1 -- Memo to Board July 2021 (2021-7-25)
- Finance 2 -- BS End June 2021 v SPLY
- Finance 3 -- USAR PL Jan-Jun 2021 v SPLY
- Finance 4 -- USAR Budget v Actual Through June 2021

Executive Director Update (Wedel)

- ED Update for 7 26 2021 Board Meeting

Racquetball 2.0 / Geoff Peters Discussion

Pre-reads/emails sent by:

- Steve Czarnecki
- Laura Pesek (Strategic Planning PPT)
- T. J. Baumbaugh