



USA RACQUETBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monday, January 31, 2022
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, Steve Czarnecki (Treasurer), Michelle De La Rosa (Athlete Representative - Executive Committee), Mike Grisz, Cheryl Kirk (Secretary), Maurice Miller, Laura Pesek, Terry Rogers, Stewart Solomon (Vice President), Cindy Tilbury, Mike Wedel (Executive Director), Dan Whitley (President)

Not attending: Danielle Maddux (Athlete Representative), Charlie Pratt (Athlete Representative - AAC)

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

The Secretary reminded Board members to consider conflicts of interest relative to Board decisions being considered.

Approval of Minutes (Cheryl Kirk)

Motion by Mike Grisz to approve the December 20, 2021, USAR Board of Directors meeting minutes forwarded prior to this call.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to enter into Closed Session

Seconded by Mike Grisz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Strategic Plan Progress Update & Next Steps (Laura Pesek)

Recap presented relative to work/discussions in December meeting. Topics included forming workstream teams comprised of Board members as well as KPI measurement structure. A full account of the accomplished work is in the Secretary's records.

Motion by Laura Pesek to exit Closed Session

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Executive Committee Update (Dan Whitley)

National Championships, US OPEN, and USOPC topics covered in the January Executive Committee meeting are recapped in the Executive Director Update in these minutes.

Dan provided a report on the progress of plans for the National High School Championships. The tournament entry deadline is February 11. Only one USAR High School Championships event has been missed (2021, due to the pandemic).

Executive Director Update (Mike Wedel)

Pre-read document provided to the Board in advance of the meeting (1/30/22).

- National Event Calendar Update
- US OPEN Planning Update
- Referee and Instructor Program Testing Upgrade: A new stand-alone platform that will integrate with the USAR website. The hoped-for grant did not materialize, but work is nevertheless going forward. Todd Boss commented on planned next steps.
- An update was provided surrounding future enhancements for the sport relative to events, facilities, and sponsorships.
- Membership Update: Numbers have surpassed 5,000 again for the first time in many months since the pandemic critically impacted membership levels beginning in the second quarter of 2020.
- Real Racquetball Show: Next shows will be February 7 and 21.

Initiated by the Executive Director's recommendation, the following motion was taken under consideration:

Motion by Michelle De La Rosa to approve the creation of a separate World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR) account under the USAR financial structure, initially with a starting balance of \$1,000, with additional deposits coming from WOR-related revenues that will be used for WOR-related expenses. Oversight and approval will be provided by the Board of Directors with the WOR Committee Chair and the USAR Executive Director accountable for reporting and gaining approvals. Governance controls oversight to be developed at a later date and incorporated into USAR financial processes.

Seconded by Mike Grisz

Discussion surrounding potential use of funds and general financial oversight. With the approval of Michelle and Mike (motion and second), the motion as stated above was amended from the original to add governance/oversight aspects.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Budget/Finance Report (Steve Czarnecki)

Financial documents provided in advance of the meeting.

Initial estimates for 2021 financial performance include an operating profit of \$30,000. This result was supported by strong US OPEN financial results and two Payroll Protection Plan grants. Membership revenue continued to significantly lag behind prior years and did not meet budget projections.

Finances for 2022 are off to a challenging start with the postponement of the USAR National Doubles Championships and likely pandemic-related impacts on the school-based competitions of USAR National High School and USAR National Intercollegiate Championships.

Committee Updates

Scholarship Committee (Dan Whitley)

Fifteen applications were received that were narrowed to six, then three. The Committee asked the Board for \$2,100 vs. the budgeted amount of \$2,000 in order to award a \$700 scholarship to each of three recipients.

Motion by Michelle De La Rosa to accept the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to award a \$700 scholarship to each of three recipients: Annie Roberts, Heather Mahoney, and Josh Shea.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion on motion: None

Vote: Passed unanimously

Dan thanked the committee members for their work. An announcement will be made in the upcoming February 15th *Serving Up the News* newsletter, and the recipients will appear on the February 21st Real Racquetball Show.

National Events Committee

The National Events Committee met on January 26. Stewart Solomon, Mike Wedel, Mike Grisz, Cindy Tilbury, Terry Rogers, and Cheryl Kirk attended to receive an update and provide input, feedback, and advice for National Events Director Connor Shane.

U.S. Team Committee (Cheryl Kirk)

The International Racquetball Federation letter dated 1/21/22 announcing format and a rules change was re-forwarded in advance of the meeting for Board reference.

The U.S. Team Committee met on January 27. Two recommendations were brought to the Board of Directors at this meeting for consideration that affect U.S. Team Qualifying divisions at the National Singles & Doubles Championships in May: 1) Use rally scoring and the revised appeals rule at the upcoming National Singles & Doubles Championships; 2) That there be one team qualifying event to form the 2022-2023 U.S. Adult Team and also to add Mixed Doubles as a qualifier division at same. Both Committee votes were unanimous.

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to ratify the U.S. Team Committee's recommendation that the USAR National Singles & Doubles Championships in May 2022 be the sole event for qualifying the U.S. Team for the 2022-2023 season effective June 1, 2022. Add Mixed Doubles as a Team Qualifying division at the USAR National Singles & Doubles Championships.

Seconded by Mike Grisz

Discussion surrounding questions regarding athlete opinions on competing in up to three U.S. Team qualifying divisions at one event. Suggestions were made for future consideration on forming Mixed Doubles teams for international competition rosters from available U.S. Team athletes vs. offering Mixed Doubles team qualifying divisions.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Motion by Mike Grisz to ratify the U.S. Team Committee's recommendation to use rally scoring and the IRF appeal rule change effective 1/1/22 for Team Qualifying divisions at the USAR National Singles & Doubles Championships in May 2022.

Seconded by Terry Rogers

Discussion surrounding rally scoring as an overall IRF decision. Perspectives expressed regarding the need to prepare U.S. Team athletes for the format in international competition.

Vote: Motion passed with 11 yes votes and 1 no vote

A brief update was provided on the Pan American Racquetball Championships (PARC) survey sent to U.S. Team athletes in January.

Membership Committee

Stewart Solomon thanked Terry Rogers for her service as Membership Committee Chair. Terry will continue to concentrate on other areas of racquetball responsibility. A new Membership Committee chairperson is being sought.

New Business: None brought.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 28, 2022

Motion to Adjourn: Stewart Solomon

Seconded by: Michelle De La Rosa

Adjourned 8:23 pm MT

Materials provided to Board by President Dan Whitley, Secretary Cheryl Kirk, Treasurer Steve Czarnecki, Executive Director Mike Wedel, and Laura Pesek (Strategy Lead)

Administration

- USAR BOD Meeting Agenda 1/31/2022 (Whitley)
- USAR BOD Meeting Minutes 12/20/21 for Board approval (Kirk)

Financial Reports (Czarnecki)

- Finance 1 -- Finance Memo to Board Jan 2022 (2022-1-28)
- Finance 2 -- USAR 2021 PL (2022-1-20)
- Finance 3 -- USAR BS Year End 2021 vs 2020 and 2019
- Finance 4 -- USAR Budget v Actuals 2021

Pre-Reads

- USAR 2020 Strategic Plan (Pesek)
- ED Update for 1 31 22 Board Meeting (Wedel)
- USAR Scholarship Committee Report 01312022 (Whitley)