



BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2017

The Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Anne Cribbs at 7:02 p.m. EDT.

Roll call

The following board members attended:

Anne Cribbs (Chair), Larry Hodges, Ed Hogshead, Tara Proffitt, Carolyne Savini, Gary Schlager, Rajul Sheth, Deepak Somarapu.

Also attending:

Gordon Kaye (CEO), Dennis Taylor (General Counsel and Secretary), Carl Danner (USTTA Foundation Representative), Jörg Bitzigeio (High Performance Director).

A quorum was established. No conflicts were reported.

September 2017 Board Meeting Update

- The meeting will begin in the late afternoon of Saturday, September 9, at Gary Schlager's house. There will be a working dinner that evening at Mr. Schlager's house. The meeting will continue on Sunday, September 10, at Mr. Schlager's office in Dupont Circle.
- Reagan National (DCA) is the closest airport. Mr. Kaye plans to rent a vehicle to accommodate those traveling via Dulles International (DCI). Mr. Taylor can assist in transportation needs.
- Two guests have been invited. The USATT Auditor will present and discuss the 2016 audit, and a representative of USOC will give a presentation on the responsibilities of NGB Boards.
- Sunday evening, subsequent to the meeting, the Board will take a Segway tour of the Federal City.

SafeSport Audit/Compliance Update

- Mr. Kaye reported on the progress of compliance efforts.
 - One hundred percent of USATT staff members are in compliance.
 - Seven of nine Board members are in compliance. (Note: as of the date of drafting of these Minutes, the Board is 100% in compliance.)
 - Twenty-six of forty committee members are in compliance (65%).

- The numbers for Officials, Tournament/Event Directors, Coaches, and Club Owners/Officers are not considered accurate numbers.
 - Because there are no expiration dates for Officials and Coaches, the current listings include many who are inactive or deceased. They cannot be expected to come into compliance.
 - Furthermore, USATT records currently do not track names of Club Owners/Officers and Tournament/Event Directors. To clean up those numbers, USATT will be terminating all certifications on December 31, 2017. Those certifications can be renewed for two-year terms, ending December 31, 2019 (and renewed for similar terms).
 - Systems are being developed to allow tracking of Club Owners/Officers and Tournament/Event Directors.
- Mr. Somarapu questioned the differential between the December 31 deadline and the announced compliance deadline of June 30. The answer is that the process of delisting people from USATT's website began on July 1, meaning that as of July 1 non-compliant people will not be reported until they come into compliance. That affects the numerator of compliance percentage calculations. In contrast, December 31 is the date that certifications will expire. That affects the denominator of compliance percentage calculations.
- USATT expects to be substantially in compliance as of January 1, 2018. USATT's liability insurance carrier is aware of USATT's plans, and it is satisfied that USATT's plans are consistent with underwriting needs.
- Mr. Taylor reported on the auditing of SafeSport compliance.
 - USOC engaged the Tyson's Corner, VA office of accounting firm Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP to audit the SafeSport compliance of all NGBs. Mr. Kaye and Mr. Taylor put in many hours getting materials in proper form and submitting materials for the audit.
 - Mr. Taylor's cover notes for the submission of the compliance spreadsheet are instructive.
 - I expect that the purpose of this audit is as much, or more so, to educate the NGB as to the true status of compliance efforts as it is to demonstrate compliance efforts to USOC. Certainly, the data has been an eye-opener for USATT. As will be noted below, there are certain features of USATT's record-keeping system that have generally been in effect for over 80 years that will need to be changed.
 - This list is unaudited – meaning there are some people on the list that have died (e.g., Barry Dattel), retired (e.g., Fede Bassetti), or are no longer in positions of authority. The list looks really bad until you take into account that about half the people on the list are not active in the position that they have received their credentials.
 - USATT's current credentialing system (coaches, officials, and tournament directors) do not require any renewal process on an annual (or bi-annual) basis, meaning there are people on this list that are no longer active but because our credentialing system does not weed them out. There really

isn't anything we can do, other than de-listing them from USATT's website. USATT is not prepared to continue such a system.

- Plans are being formulated so that as of January 1, 2018, anyone that is not SafeSport certified (background check and SafeSport tutorial) will be weeded out of the system and will lose their credentials. USATT will review the success at that point and make further adjustments as necessary.
- Committee members are not credentialed at all, so there is no threat of credential loss that is available. Of course, removal from the position is available.
- Another item that has become apparent during the process is that many of our coaches have limited to no proficiency in English. It is almost impossible for them to comprehend, or be successfully quizzed upon, the online training. We have discussed this with the US Center for SafeSport, and we are hopeful that reasonable accommodations will be incorporated into the training system.
- Andy Horn will be updating the master compliance spreadsheet on a daily basis, and he will be reporting results to Mr. Kaye and Mr. Taylor on a biweekly basis.

USATT Events Update

- 2017 US Para Open
 - The tournament will be an ITTF Factor 40 event.
 - USATT is anticipating that 300-350 athletes will enter.
- 2018 Youth Olympic Games North American Qualification Event
 - This one-day, two-table event, will be contested on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.
 - Formatwise, it is a winner-take-all event.
- 2017 US Open
 - All events will be moved one day forward from what members are accustomed. The Finals will be held on Thursday.
 - The Open will be an ITTF world ranking event.
 - Harrah's will be the headquarters hotel.
- ITTF China in North America (new event)
 - A team from the People's Republic of China will be coming to North America to spend 20 days training with North American athletes.
 - Ten days will be conducted in the US, and ten days will be conducted in Canada. The US portion will be held in Milpitas, CA on October 3-10, 2017. The next ten days will be held in Canada. US and Canadian athletes will be allowed to participate in both segments of the tour.
 - This is an ITTF-NA event. USATT will not be asked to fund; however, some of the attending athletes will be asked to partially self-fund their participation.

- The US athletes will predominately come from the 14-18 age range. They have been chosen by Mr. Bitzigeio, based on performance/results, national team membership, long-term potential, and training environment and commitment to the sport and program. There was discussion regarding certain high performance matters. No formal action was taken at this meeting. The matter will be discussed further at the September meeting.
- USATT SuperCamp (new event)
 - The camp will be held in Morrisville, NC between Christmas and New Year's Day, the dates that most schools are on vacation. The Triangle club will raise over \$25,000 to fund the event. National Team athletes will only be asked to pay a small fee, \$250, plus airfare.
 - Invitations will first be extended to the 32 junior, cadet, and mini-cadet national team members. Attendance will not be mandatory, but attendance will be expected.
 - A limited number of self-funded future prospects are also expected to attend.
 - There was discussion stating that many local clubs will be running their own camps during this week. The suggestion was made that other dates should be chosen in order to accommodate the local clubs. However, those are the only possible dates. No action was taken.
 - There was discussion regarding the need to publish a national team calendar sooner. Planning is important for all of the athletes. Mr. Bitzigeio is already at work on the 2018 calendar.
- 2018 World Hopes Week
 - The event was originally scheduled to be held at the UW Health Sports Factory in Rockford, IL. Unfortunately, that is no longer feasible. A RFP will be issued.
- 2018 World Veterans Championships
 - USATT is preparing for a large turnout. Entries have already surpassed the final number from Baltimore 1990. Moreover, the numbers are pacing ahead of the 2016 in Spain, which set a record for event attendance.
- 2018 US National Championships
 - The potential separation of junior and adult events, such as holding junior events Sunday through Wednesday and adult events Wednesday through Saturday, will be a discussion topic at the Board's September meeting.

Upcoming Board Meetings

- The next in-person meeting, in Washington, DC, will be September 9-10.
- The next teleconference will be November 13.
- The in-person meeting at the US Open will be December 15-16, starting Friday at 1:00 p.m.

- The Annual USATT Assembly is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday evening, December 19.

Old Business

- Tennis channel
 - The tennis channel will broadcast the Open and Nationals finals, at no cost, on a two-hour tape delay. The broadcast will be replayed four times.
 - USATT will be given 7.5 minutes/hour to use/sell.
 - USATT must produce the content.
- Service Judges
 - Service judges were given a limited trial at the 2017 Supermicro US Nationals. Kagin Lee has been asked to draft a proposal to test further at the 2017 Open. The proposal is due to be presented at the September Board meeting.

New Business

- none

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Taylor
USATT Secretary