



**Board of Directors Teleconference Minutes  
April 21, 2014**

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Quorum Established, Conflict of Interest Statements**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm ET by Chairman Mike Babuin. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was established. A routine call for conflicts of interest was made, and there were no conflicts reported.

**Members present:**

Mike Babuin, Chairman of the Board (COB)  
Kagin Lee, National Organization Director  
Jim McQueen, At Large Director  
Peter Scudner, Independent Director  
Han Xiao, Athlete Director  
Jim Kahler, Independent Director

**Also in attendance:**

Doru Gheorghe, interim CEO, Chief Operating Officer (COO), High Performance & Technical Director  
Deborah Gray, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)  
Dennis Taylor (entered at 5:09 pm)  
Dell Sweeris, USTTA Foundation  
Lee Kondo, Assistant Secretary

**B. COI and COE Submission Status**

The COB noted that 9 persons had not yet submitted the required COI/COE forms. Mr. Xiao mentioned that he sent out an email today to 4 athletes who had not yet submitted forms. The COB noted that USATT Bylaws state that those who have not submitted forms can participate in committee or other meetings but cannot vote.

**C. Approval of the Review of Agenda**

Today's agenda was approved.

#### **D. Approval of the March 17th Teleconference Minutes**

##### **MOTION:**

**MOVED to approve the March 17, 2014 minutes as amended.**

Movant: Peter Scudner

Second: Kagan Lee

Discussion: Mr. Scudner suggested that the minutes be amended to reflect a minor format change, which was unanimously agreed upon.

**The Motion was passed unanimously.**

#### **E. Staff Structure Status CEO Search, Interim CEO**

**MOTION: Moved that the Board authorizes the COB to negotiate with and hire an executive search firm, with an initial approved budget of \$10,000, to be obtained as a grant from the USOC.**

Movant: Peter Scudner

Second: Han Xiao

Discussion: The COB noted that the Board previously voted to appoint Mr. Gheorghe as USATT's interim CEO. A nationwide search for a permanent CEO is being conducted over the coming months. The COB commented that two executive search firms (e.g., Prodigy Sports) have been contacted, with one firm agreeing to a \$10,000 fee for services. The USOC likely will agree to give the USATT a \$10,000 grant for this purpose. Mr. Kahler was acquainted with both search firms and briefly described their individual search approaches. He suggested a third search firm (i.e., Turnkey Sports) and agreed to arrange for the firm to contact our COB.

**The Motion was passed unanimously.**

Dennis Taylor entered at 5:09 pm.

Mr. Lee stated that the Board's decision to appoint Mr. Gheorghe as interim CEO was made on March 28th. Mr. Taylor noted that this motion passed unanimously.

#### **F. Audit Status**

Ms. Gray stated that two auditors audited USATT's financial records last week. The auditors seemed satisfied with documents provided and completed their field work. Ms. Gray intends to finish the required 990 form, probably by Fall 2014. The auditors are expected to make their recommendations, perhaps prior to the U.S. Open.

## **G. RailStation Implementation Schedule**

Mr. Gheorghe stated that there will be a conference call with RailStation representatives tomorrow to discuss the schedule for the first phase of RailStation program implementation. In phase 1, RailStation plans to address membership and payments issues on its platform. In phase 2, ratings will be addressed. Ms. Gray suggested that RailStation might provide USATT with projected dates for completion of project phases. The COB mentioned that RailStation's platform implementation needs to be coordinated with NATT's current responsibilities via Mr. Richard Lee to ensure that all glitches are ironed out smoothly. Mr. Gheorghe expressed that both RailStation and NATT platforms should be run at least one month in parallel.

In response to Mr. Kagin Lee's inquiry, the COB said that RailStation has a membership platform deadline of May 1st. Mr. Lee expressed that tournament directors (TDs) should be notified about and prepared for the scheduled transition from NATT to RailStation, particularly regarding the entry of tournament ratings data. In response, Ms. Gray stated that an explanatory letter will be sent to membership, clubs, and TDs. Regarding entry of tournament results into the RailStation platform, RailStation prefers the Excel format for results. RailStation, and also Mr. O'Neill, are working on "handshaking" software programs to permit automatic computerized entry of submitted tournament results into RailStation using Omnipong and Net/Edge software. In the meantime, various arrangements were discussed for the manual entry of hard copy tournament results data.

## **H. Legal Briefing**

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:38 pm to discuss legal matters. Non-Board members were excused from the meeting. No minutes are taken in Executive Sessions.

Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Gray left the meeting at 5:38 pm.

The Board resumed its Open Session at 5:58 pm.

Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Gray entered the meeting at 5:58 pm.

## **I. First Quarter Financials**

Ms. Gray stated that the first quarter financial report will be prepared after the audit is completed. TPreliminary reports show a positive net income for the first quarter; however, that includes significant deferred income associated with the US Open. Mr. O'Neill noted that some sponsors have welcomed USATT's conversion to the digital magazine format.

## **J. ITTF / 2015 Americas Challenge, World Championships in Japan, YOG Status**

The COB noted that USATT is submitting bid packages to the ITTF for 2015, 2016 and 2017 events. In 2015, USATT would like to hold a Challenge Series tournament. In 2016, an ITTF Major Series event was proposed. A 2017 Super Series event was also presented. The ITTF will make its decision regarding approval of these bid packages after the Tokyo world championships and general assembly meeting. Las Vegas is the proposed venue for these events, primarily because Vegas playing halls meet ITTF's stringent illumination and space requirements.

Mr. Xiao left at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Gheorghe noted that U.S. players are preparing to attend the World Championships in Japan and the Youth Olympic Games. Lily Zhang and Krishnateja Avvari qualified for the Youth Olympic team. Applications from candidates to serve as the US Coach for the Youth Olympic Games will be reviewed, and interviews will be conducted. Both Ms. Zhang and Mr. Avvari will attend the Hong Kong Open, then travel directly to Shanghai for the Youth Olympic Games.

## **K. Old Business / New Business**

There was no old or new business.

## **L. Next Meetings**

The next Board Teleconference Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm, ET on Monday, May 19, 2014.

The Board will then meet in Grand Rapids on June 29 - 30, 2014.

## **M. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Kondo, Assistant Secretary