



USA Softball Board of Directors
Telephonic Conference Call
April 12, 2019

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Gouveia called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board of Directors (BOD) members present were John Gouveia; Warren Jones; Rodney Cobb; Beverly Wiley; John McPhail; Carlton Benton; ET Colvin; Drew Wells; Darrin Duistermars; Joe Patterson; Dick Gulmon; Roger Garcia; Don Addante; Valerie Arioto; Michelle Moultrie; Nick Mullins and Janie Reed.

Absent: Sam Ducato

The CEO declared that a quorum had been established.

Staff: Craig Cress, Mark Loehrs, Chris Sebren, John Miller, Rich Cress, Savannah Edwards, Dre McKee, Codi Warren, Destinee Martinez and Shirley Adkins.

3. **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Craig Cress – WBSC U-12 World Cup - National Teams

4. **DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

a. Membership Services – John Miller, Director

Staffing Update

John Miller informed the BOD of recent staffing changes within the Membership Department. Two new employees were hired to fill vacant positions at the facility: Ryan Morris, Assistant Sports Turf Manager, and Kyle Maddux, Facility Maintenance Foreman. Julie Whiteaker has accepted the Event Coordinator position and will start at the National Office sometime in May.

Amateur Resource Center (ARC) Website

Destinee Martinez provided the BOD with a report on the development of the ARC website, which serves as an educational resource for youth softball athletes. The site, which will launch on April 15, features instructional videos, practice plans and health and safety resources for USA Softball's grassroots programming. CEO Craig Cress spoke on the support of Major League Baseball's (MLB) in getting the site up and running while staff answered questions from the BOD on the development of new content for the website and how changes would be made to the site going forward.

b. Marketing – Dre McKee, Managing Director

MLB Club Initiative – USA Softball Day

Dre McKee provided the BOD with a report on an opportunity proposed by MLB for Local Associations to host a USA Softball Day in conjunction with MLB clubs. This would be a similar event to what MLB does with other softball and baseball organizations where teams and leagues have special promotional opportunities and discount tickets to attend games. Staff answered questions from the BOD on how associations can get involved with their MLB club and will provide that information to associations once available.

c. National Teams – Chris Sebren, Director

Men's National Team (MNT) Schedule Update

Chris Sebren provided the BOD with a report on the fundraising efforts by the MNT in preparation for the 2019 season. Through these efforts, the team has raised enough funds to participate in an additional event in Kimberly, Wis.

Iwakuni Pre-Olympic Training Agreement Signing

President Gouveia spoke on the trip to Iwakuni, Japan that he and Mr. Sebren recently took to sign the agreement with the city of Iwakuni to host the pre-Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games training for the Women's National Team. Mr. Gouveia spoke on the generosity of Iwakuni and thanked the staff for facilitating this opportunity.

WBSC U-12 Softball World Cup

Mr. Cress spoke on the inaugural WBSC U-12 Softball World Cup that will be held in Tainan City, Chinese Taipei this summer. This event will be co-ed and would allow for a 16-player roster. Due to lack of funding for the cost to send a team to the event, USA Softball will not be participating, unless additional funding is secured.

d. ADA Accommodation – Craig Cress, CEO

Mr. Cress has received a request from a Local Association to permit having a service animal on the field of play for a base coach. Working with legal counsel, after reviewing existing laws and regulations on the topic it has been recommended that USA Softball allow base coaches to have a service animal on the field of play; however USA Softball will need to establish accommodations for service animals. Staff answered questions from the BOD on health and safety concerns, liability and if any type of verification would be required for participants to request a service animal on the field of play. Mr. Cress informed the BOD that those items will be addressed in USA Softball's service animal accommodation policy. President Gouveia spoke on this issue and the necessity of having a policy in place to avoid legal action should a policy not be established.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

M/S/C - Motion to enter into Executive Session.

M/S/C - Motion to exit out of Executive Session with the following motions made:

- a. *M/S/C – Motion to approve Indiana as a viable association.*
- b. *M/S/C – Motion to approve a compensation-based advertisement for the USA Softball of Indiana Commissioner opening.*
- c. *M/S/C – Motion to approve the purchase of liability and event insurances for the 2019 NCAA WCWS and approve USA Softball to enter into an agreement with the NCAA as the primary provider for the NCAA WCWS.*

6. NEW BUSINESS

Membership – Commissioner's Meeting Update

President Gouveia updated the BOD on the progress that has been made regarding an idea from Region 2 on a potential Commissioner's Meeting to discuss issues in the organization, specifically with regard to membership and participation. BOD members provided updates on their respective region's and whether they have had or plan to have phone meetings with Commissioners in their areas. Additionally, Mr. Cobb spoke on the possibility of conducting a survey with Council Members, players, coaches, umpires and parents that would request feedback on USA Softball. These topics will be included in the May BOD meeting agenda.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2019.