



**USA Softball Board of Directors
Video Meeting
April 28, 2021**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Cobb called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. CT.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors (BOD) members present were Rodney Cobb; John Gouveia; Beverly Wiley; John McPhail; James Ellis; Walker Clark; Darrin Duistermars; Mary Mahoney; Drew Wells; Roger Garcia; Anna Louie; Donn Addante; David James; Sandy Searcy; Valerie Arioto (left meeting at 4:15p.m.); Michelle Moultrie; Nick Mullins and Cam Schiller.

Absent –Dick Gulmon and Joe Patterson.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Craig Cress, declared that a quorum had been established.

New National Office staff members Ashlea Nash, Marketing Manager and Cathy Newton, Merchandise Coordinator were introduced by Dre McKee and Cheryl Bond.

Guests: Dave Devine and Rick Hansen.

Staff: Craig Cress, Cheryl Bond, Chris Sebren, Rich Cress, Savannah Edwards, Jay Hedrick, Devin Loehrs, Destinee Martinez, Andrea McKee, Julie Whiteaker and Independent Contractor Kevin Ryan.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Regular Agenda – WCWS 30 Year History Presentation
Executive Session – Political Issues

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship Finals report was presented by Dave Devine and Rick Hanson outlining a proposed schedule for the championships on a 4-year rotation. The Committee will continue to work on a formal proposal.

5. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

IT – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

Ms. Edwards provided the latest production report numbers through March 31, 2021.

Sport Development/Performance – Chris Sebren, Chief of Sport Development/Performance Officer (CSDPO)

Mr. Sebren also provided an update of The Alliance statistics noting an increase in March to a total of 968 teams, 10,250 athletes and 2,135 support personnel. Mr. Sebren reported that the Women's team had a successful April camp in Vero Beach, Florida and sponsored by MLB at the Jackie Robinson Sports Complex. Weather and travel delays resulted in only getting to play Italy on the last day at USSSA Space Coast. The May camp begins this weekend in Chula Vista, California. He also reported on the High Performance Program (HPP) outlining the success since the fall with over 2,500 athletes participating so far with 4-6 identifiers left in this cycle. ME-NH-VT hosted the 2nd largest identifier to date with around 180 athletes.

Events – Julie Whiteaker – Event Manager

Ms. Whiteaker provided an update of events held at the Hall of Fame Complex this spring. In March, we hosted, 2 college events and 1 JO event.

Umpires – Kevin Ryan – Director of Umpires/Independent Contractor

Mr. Ryan updated the Board on the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) Meeting regarding safety equipment and sport participation. Currently slow pitch is the 5th largest core participation sport and fastpitch is the 11th. Mr. Ryan and his staff participated in the Military Virtual Umpire Clinic with military personnel in Italy and Germany. The clinic was very well received. We were requested to bill them for the umpire clinic so we invoiced them \$4,300. All USA staff elected to provide their services for free and ask that the funds be saved for a potential meeting this fall.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was addressed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

CEO Cress shared a copy of the presentation celebrating the 30th WCWS in Oklahoma City presented to the Oklahoma City Council on April 27, 2021, highlighting the evolution of the complex from 1990 to present.

8. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 26, 2021 at 3:00pm CT regularly scheduled meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

M/S/C – Motion to enter Executive Session.

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

A. Approved the MNTSC U-23 Assistant Coach nominee, Chase Turner.

B. Approved ASA Properties Directors Drumm and Sprouse for terms expiring 12/31/24 and 12/31/23, respectively.

C. By May 14th all associations, the commissioner, all personnel appointed by the commissioner and all local association Board of Director Members shall have started their background check and completed SafeSport certification with each person submitting their completed certifications to their Regional VP and USA Softball National Office. Failure to comply will result in a hearing before the USA Softball Board of Directors in accordance with USA Softball Bylaw Sections 6.1 and 6.2.

D. Colorado and South Carolina will have all current 990s to the USA Softball National Office by May 14th. All other associations will have all current 990s to the USA Softball National Office by May 28th. Failure to comply will result in a hearing before the USA Softball Board of Directors in accordance with USA Softball Bylaw Sections 6.1 and 6.2.

The Board was updated on the status of Affiliated/Allied membership fees, the search for a new Commissioner in Northern California, future Commissioner retirements in Illinois (12/31/2021) and Mississippi (12/31/2022 or earlier if a replacement can be found), the financial results of the March events held at HOF Complex, the status of the All-American Games team allocation and contract, the Finance Committee's progress in finding a new registration/tournament system and the deadline for upcoming Regional Vice President Reports. In addition, CEO Cress updated the Board on various political issues that potentially affect our sport. CEO Cress reminded the Board that as a 501C3 entity, part of our mission is to remain neutral in such situations to protect our non-profit status and therefore, USA Softball will not be taking a public stance or issuing comment on such matters and would ask that local associations do the same.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m. CT on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.