



USA Softball Board of Directors

Video Meeting

June 11, 2020

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Cobb called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. CT

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors (BOD) members present were Rodney Cobb; John Gouveia; Joe Patterson; Beverly Wiley; Carlton Benton; Walker Clark; Drew Wells; Darrin Duistermars; Mary Mahoney; Dick Gulmon; Roger Garcia (left the meeting at 2:34 pm); Anna Louie; Donn Addante; Sandy Searcy; Kim Ng (joined the meeting at 1:18 pm); Valerie Arioto; Michelle Moultrie and Janie Reed.

Absent: John McPhail and Nick Mullins

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

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

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Carlton Benton – Back to the Ballpark Guidelines Alterations – Old Business

Carlton Benton – Insurance Deductible Options – Old Business

Craig Cress – Two Items – Executive Session

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE PASSING OF MR. DONALD E. PORTER

CEO Cress spoke on the passing of former Executive Director, Mr. Don Porter, and the many contributions Mr. Porter made to the sport of softball. CEO Cress has spoken with the family of Mr. Porter, and at this time no arrangements have been made. As soon as the National Office receives information on further arrangements, the information will be shared with the Council. The BOD participated in a moment of silence to honor Mr. Porter.

5. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Operations (Communications, Marketing, IT, Membership, Sport Development)

Communications – Codi Warren, Managing Director

Codi Warren provided a written report on the new date for the launch of the redesigned USASoftball.com. The redesign, which was originally scheduled for April 15, 2020 but delayed by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) due to COVID-19, will begin on July 2, 2020 with a “soft launch” before the full launch of the redesigned website on July 4, 2020. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

IT – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

Savannah Edwards provided the latest production report numbers through May 31, 2020. At this point, the production report only reflects those associations who have been invoiced, but the numbers could change because of potential refunds due to COVID-19 cancellations. Immediate Past President, John Gouveia, provided an update from a meeting held by the Pacific Coast Region to make any determinations for refunds or credits. The region discussed using November 1, 2020 as the date to begin evaluating refund or credit requests, but it was determined that each association would set the date to begin evaluating refund or credit requests. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

IT - Devin Loehrs, Registrations Administrator and Project Manager

Devin Loehrs provided the BOD with a report on results from the May COVID-19 Impact Survey conducted by the National Office to gauge the effects of COVID-19 on registrations and events for Local Associations. Results included a 2020 season forecast, projected losses in registrations by association, feedback on refunds/credits/insurance extensions, forecasts on the possibility of a fall season, anticipated reopening dates and overall traffic to RegisterUSASoftball.com. In comparison to previous survey results, the numbers have slightly improved in terms of registration totals, while CEO Cress added that although registration projections are lower due to COVID-19, because of the way that USA Softball is structured, corresponding expenses with registrations will also be lower. BOD Members also provided updates on reopening dates or anticipated return to play timeframes for their associations. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Membership - John Miller, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

USA Softball of San Antonio, Southern California and Kentucky Commissionerships

COO Miller notified the BOD on the resignation of USA Softball of San Antonio Commissioner, Herman Garza. The National Office, President Cobb and Southwest Region Vice President, Drew Wells, have been in communication with Mr. Garza regarding potential interim Commissioners, but each believe that Mr. Garza will be available for help during the transition. The next steps for appointing a new Commissioner per the USA Softball Procedural Code is to assemble a committee to determine if an association is viable. Traditionally, the committee is comprised of the CEO and COO from the National Office in addition to the President, Regional Vice President and Regional Director. As both President Cobb and Mr. Wells are affiliated with USA Softball of Texas, which neighbors San Antonio, they are requesting to recuse themselves from the initial committee review of the association and recommendation to the BOD. Per the Procedural Code, President Cobb designated President-Elect Joe Patterson to be his designee on the committee, while South Region Vice President, Walker Clark, and Midwest Region Vice President, Darrin Duistermars, were designated by Mr. Wells to be his designees for the Regional Vice President and Regional Director positions.

In addition to San Antonio, COO Miller provided updates on the search for candidates for the open Commissioner positions in Kentucky and Southern California.

This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Background Checks for Non-U.S. Citizens

COO Miller updated the BOD on recent Procedural Code changes that require all those 18 years and older (excluding players) to be background checked and how the National Office has received inquiries on how that affects teams and participants from outside countries. The National Office has reached out to Protect Youth Sports, the background check provider for USA Softball, to see what options might be available for background checks and what would be the associated costs. The BOD was provided with a report on different international background checks that could be conducted, and the cost breakdown associated with each. BOD members asked about what the process would be for those background checks to be conducted, however at this time the RegisterUSASoftball.com platform does not allow for non-U.S. citizens to complete their background check through the system. Those requests would have to be done on an individual basis with the National Office. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Championships - Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Cancelled National Championship Finals Report

Mr. Cress provided a written and verbal report to the BOD detailing the status of 2020 National Championship Finals that have been cancelled or relocated due to COVID-19 restrictions. Mr. Gouveia asked how members were informed of the event cancellations, which at this time the events are being updated on USASoftball.com and once the list is finalized a PDF will be placed on our National Championship Finals page detailing those changes. Mid-America Region Vice President, Mary Mahoney, spoke on the availability of Region 7 to host National Championship Finals that might not be able to be held in other areas of the country. Northern Region Vice President, Dick Gulmon, inquired about the associations that had National Championship Finals cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 who have requested to host the same event in 2022, which at this time nearly every cancelled National Championship Final has requested the same one for 2022. COO Miller added that the National Office has asked the regions and territories to work out the details for Territorial Championships for 2020 per BOD recommendations. Ms. Mahoney also inquired about the Girls' 12-Under Class A National Championship, the possibility of it being relocated to Oklahoma City two weeks prior to the 2020 USA Softball All American Games (AAG) and how that might affect participation for the AAG. COO Miller has spoken with the AAG Committee Chair, Kristi Allen, regarding those concerns, however at this time the National Office has not placed the Girls' 12-Under Class A National Championship Final as Georgia has also expressed interest in hosting the National Championship Final this year. BOD Members asked about when the decision for the location of the 2020 Girls' 12-Under Class A National Championship Final will be made, which should be made in the coming weeks. CEO Cress also requested some clarification from the BOD on the National Office's ability to place National Championship Finals in areas who have expressed interest without having to go before the BOD.

M/S/C – Motion to allow the National Office to place new sites for 2020 National Championship Finals.

Allowing Junior Olympic (JO) Teams to Play in Multiple JO National Championship Finals

The BOD discussed the possibility of JO teams participating in multiple JO National Championship Finals for the 2020 season as many teams are looking to play in as many events as possible for the year within their local area. USA Softball's Procedural Code does not permit teams to play in multiple National Championship Finals, and CEO Cress requested that the National Office be given some flexibility in reviewing and allowing teams to do so given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic.

M/S/C – Motion to allow the National Office to make decisions on allowing teams to play in multiple National Championship Finals for the 2020 season only.

Events - Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress informed the BOD that the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex anticipates reopening for events at the end of June and is looking to host an event at the complex June 28-July 1, 2020. The event would be called the 4th of July Showdown and will feature 26 teams. The National Office is working on getting the teams registered with their respective associations and has begun the process for registering umpires who were originally scheduled to attend an NCAA evaluation camp in the area around that timeframe to provide upper-level umpires for the event. BOD Members asked if the event was full or if teams could be added, which at this time the event is full, and if the National Office will communicate with the Commissioners and Regional Vice Presidents to let them know if teams from their associations will be participating, which the National Office will do. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Back to the Ballpark Guidelines

Mr. Benton brought up concerns over the length of the liability waiver for COVID-19 that was distributed to Council Members as part of USA Softball's Back to the Ballpark Guidelines and asked if the waiver could be shortened and if it was required to be signed. CEO Cress reminded the BOD that the waiver and Back to the Ballpark Guidelines are recommendations for associations, and that if associations wanted to tailor any document to meet the needs of their area that they are free to do so. CEO Cress did recommend that any alterations should be checked with appropriate legal counsel. Mr. Duistermars asked if the National Office could create a waiver signature page similar to a roster check-in form, to which Ms. Mahoney added that Kansas City has created an initial page for guardians to initial that corresponds with a roster sign-in form. The National Office asked that any new or adjusted documents that associations have created be shared with the National Office so that it can be shared with all the associations. The BOD then discussed how the Back to the Ballpark Guidelines affect requirements per the Procedural Code for National Championship Tournament Directors, such as Opening Ceremony and Bat Testing protocols and if the National Office had looked into additional recommendations that pertain to Championship Play specifically. The National Office will reevaluate the Back to the Ballpark Guidelines and look into creating additional recommendations for Championship Play events.

B. Insurance Deductible Options

Mr. Benton requested a follow up on the request to RPS Bollinger and Markel for a \$500.00, \$750.00 and \$1,000.000 deductible for insurance and both 90/10 and 100 percent co-insurance clauses. CEO Cress has provided AJ Morgan with RPS Bollinger the information, who has also submitted the request to Markel.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

8. **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

President Cobb proposed an additional Video Meeting for the BOD to be held in early July.

Virtual Board Meeting Dates

2020 July Board Meeting: July 7, 2020 at 1 p.m. CT.

2020 Fall Board Meeting: September 18-19, 2020.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

Motion to approve Jerry Hanson as Commissioner Emeritus.

10. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. CT on Wednesday, June 11, 2020.