



**USA Softball Board of Directors  
Video Meeting  
June 23, 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; Joe Patterson (left at 4:30 p.m.); Beverly Wiley (joined at 3:08 p.m.); John McPhail (left at 4:59 p.m.); James Ellis; Walker Clark; Drew Wells; Darrin Duistermars (joined at 3:03 p.m.); Mary Mahoney; Dick Gulmon; Roger Garcia; Anna Louie; Donn Addante; Sandy Searcy; Michelle Moultrie; Nick Mullins; and Cam Schiller.

Absent: David James and Valerie Arioto

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

New National Office staff member Allison Flaig, Chief of Staff was introduced by CEO Cress.

Staff: Craig Cress, Cheryl Bond, Chris Sebren (left at 4:40 p.m.), Andrea McKee, Savannah Edwards, Rich Cress, Jay Hedrick, Devin Loehrs, Destinee Martinez, Julie Whiteaker, Allison Flaig and Independent Contractor Kevin Ryan.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**4. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

IT – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

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

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

Mr. Sebren reported the Women's team had a successful June camp in Oklahoma City, OK; Midland, TX; and Sugar Land, TX; as they were able to play four games in Oklahoma during the WCWS, with three in Stillwater at Oklahoma State University, one in Oklahoma City against the USSSA Pride and four games each in Midland and Sugar Land against All-Stars from The Alliance. Mr. Sebren outlined the timeline for the team through the Tokyo Olympic Games in July. The HPP program begins its 2022 cycle in August with the first identifier being held in Colorado. Regional calls are expected to begin next week. Mr. Sebren also provided an update of The Alliance statistics noting an increase in May of 12 teams, 243 athletes and 40 support personnel bringing the total number of registrations to over 14,000. CEO Cress and President

Cobb discussed the history and purpose of the partnership with The Alliance and encouraged Board Members to communicate issues related to the partnership directly with staff. CFO Bond reported that rebates for the period from January 1 through April 30, 2021, will be distributed according to the policy established at the February and March meetings with checks going out by June 30 and ACH deposits being effective the same date.

#### Events – Julie Whiteaker – Event Manager

Ms. Whiteaker provided an update of events held at the Hall of Fame Complex in May.

#### WCWS Event – Rich Cress – Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress provided an update of WCWS which was held at 100% capacity June 3-10. CEO Cress relayed a letter received from the NCAA congratulating the staff on its success, despite all of the challenges related to issues caused by weather and the pandemic.

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

USA Softball Annual Council Meeting Update was provided by Dre McKee, Director of Marketing and Communications. Ms. McKee reported the meeting will be held, in person, October 23-27, 2021; in Oklahoma City, OK.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **7. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

### **8. 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:**

**Approved the Nike Partnership Renewal for 2021-2028.**

**Approved merging USA Softball of San Antonio into USA Softball of Texas beginning January 1, 2022, following the resignation of Commissioner Rodriguez. April Sparks will serve as the interim Commissioner until that date and new JO registrations will begin on September 1, 2021. It is noted that President Cobb recused himself from the discussion and vote.**

**Approved USA Softball of Portland as a viable association and appointed Dan Bennett, current JO Commissioner of USA Softball of Portland, as interim Commissioner until a new Commissioner can be appointed.**

**Approved the suspension from the USA Softball Council of all Council Members who have not completed all background check and SafeSport requirements as of June 23, 2021, effective immediately. Once each individual completes all background check and SafeSport requirements; they may petition the Board of Directors for reinstatement of Council status. In addition, said individuals are not eligible for any remuneration of costs related to the 2021 Council Meeting.**

The Board was updated on the agreement pertaining to the Big 12 Championship. The Board was updated regarding the status of compliance related items due from Local Associations. The Finance Committee updated the Board on the status of the search for a new registration program with the final draft of the RFP being readied for presentation to the Committee in the

next few weeks. The Board was notified that David Copeland rescinded his resignation as Commissioner in New York and will not be moving to Florida. The Board was updated on concerns arising out of inequities noted between the WCWS and the men's CWS as well as scheduling concerns and that all parties will be working together to address issues and how to continue to improve the event. CEO Cress updated the Board on the US Center for SafeSport site visit at the JO Cup this week.

**9. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m. CT on Wednesday, June 23, 2021.