



USA Softball Board of Directors
Video Meeting
July 7, 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; John McPhail; Carlton Benton; Walker Clark; Drew Wells; Darrin Duistermars; Mary Mahoney; Dick Gulmon (left the meeting at 3 p.m. CT); Roger Garcia; Anna Louie; Donn Addante; Kim Ng; Michelle Moultrie and Janie Reed.

Absent: Valerie Arioto, Nick Mullins and Sandy Searcy.

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

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

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Craig Cress – One Item – Executive Session

4. 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 then delayed to July 4 by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), will now take place July 20-23, 2020. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Marketing – Dre McKee, Managing Director

Dre McKee provided an updated RFP for the 2023 USA Softball Annual Council Meeting for the BOD. BOD members were asked to review the RFP and provide feedback or edits by August 3, 2020, after which the RFP will be distributed for bids. Southeast Region Vice President, Carlton Benton, inquired about holding virtual committee meetings to discuss USA Softball business in lieu of the cancelled 2020 Annual Council Meeting. CEO Cress informed the BOD that the National Office has begun having conversations with committee chairs to explore holding virtual committee meetings. 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 June 30, 2020. 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 July COVID-19 Impact Survey. The survey was 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 improved in terms of registration totals and projected losses. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Membership - John Miller, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

USA Softball Commissioner Openings – COO Miller provided a verbal report to the BOD on current Commissioner openings for USA Softball of San Antonio, USA Softball of Southern California and USA Softball of Kentucky. A committee has been convened to review San Antonio's viability will meet after the conclusion of the July 7, 2020 BOD Meeting. Interviews for the USA Softball of Southern California Commissioner will begin on July 8, 2020 while applications are still being taken for Commissioner with USA Softball of Kentucky. In addition to the three Commissioner positions above, COO Miller also informed the BOD of potential Commissioner openings and will provide additional information when updates are available. Independent BOD Member, Kim Ng, asked about the general requirements for Commissioners and the process for selecting a new Commissioner for an association, which was answered by COO Miller. Mid-America Region Vice President, Mary Mahoney, also asked about the status of any temporary or interim Commissioners and if they will remain with that status for another year or be reviewed in an alternate form this year. Traditionally, these are reviewed during the Annual Council Meeting. COO Miller informed the BOD that the National Office is currently reviewing which committees should host virtual meetings this year and the Commissioner Appointment Committee would most likely be one of them. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Championships - Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Relocated/Cancelled National Championship Finals Report – Mr. Cress provided a written report to the BOD detailing the status of 2020 National Championship Finals that have been cancelled, changed dates or have relocated due to COVID-19 restrictions. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Events - Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

July 4th Showdown – Mr. Cress gave a verbal report to the BOD on the HFL July 4th Showdown, the first event to be held at the newly renovated USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex following renovations. In total, 26 teams competed in the event and the National Office received very positive feedback from teams and umpires about the facility. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

Girls' GOLD National Championship Finals – Mr. Cress gave a verbal report on the 2020 Girls' GOLD National Championship Finals. At the time of the BOD meeting, there were 36 teams registered for the 16U GOLD while the 18U GOLD had 74 teams registered. Midwest Region Vice President, Darrin Duistermars, asked about the status of the 2020 USA Softball Junior Olympic (JO Cup) and if it's still anticipated to be held in Spartanburg, S.C. July 26-August 1, 2020. Mr. Cress informed the BOD that the National Office has been in constant communication with Spartanburg and is monitoring the status of the event. Ms. Mahoney asked about the possibility of having to relocate the 2020 USA Softball All-American Games (AAG), which are scheduled to be held at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex August 13-16, 2020, and if the National Office would explore an alternate location. COO Miller noted that the AAG Committee will need to investigate alternate locations, however the National Office would work with the AAG Committee on any adjustments that need to be made for the event. Ms. Mahoney also asked about a COVID-19 waiver for participants if the AAG are held at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex. The National Office is looking at options. At-Large BOD Member, Donn Addante, voiced his concern for National Championship Finals slated to be held in Ohio due to recent developments in COVID-19 restrictions. CEO Cress reminded the BOD that it is up to each Local Association and organizing committee to determine if a National Championship Final can be held in their area. At this time the National Office has not been informed of any cancellations or relocations from USA Softball of Ohio. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

B. National Teams – Chris Sebren, National Teams Director

Mr. Sebren provided a written report to the BOD on the current status of the National Team Programs and their 2020 seasons. This was an informative report, which required no action by the BOD.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Registration Period

Past President, John Gouveia, brought up the history of BOD discussions regarding a singular registration period for JO Individual and Team registrations. Mr. Gouveia stressed the need for USA Softball to determine a consistent registration period for USA Softball as it would help with future registration platforms. Mr. Gouveia recommended having registration data being distributed to Commissioners for them to vote on what the registration period should be going forward: either January 1 – December 31 or September 1 – August 31. BOD members voiced their support for having Commissioners review the data for JO individual and Team registrations, however, noted that the BOD is ultimately charged with making decisions related to the business of USA Softball. BOD members also asked about what information is available for review to make a decision on a singular registration period and if there was anything in the Procedural Code for registrations periods. CEO Cress informed the BOD that there is information that can be distributed to Commissioners and the BOD on registration trends and that there is not anything in the Procedural Code regarding registration periods. The National Office will send out information to the BOD and Commissioners on registration trends and inform the Commissioners that the BOD will be making a decision on a single registration period for JO Individual and Team registrations. CEO Cress asked the BOD to reach out to the Commissioners in their respective regions and territories once the information has been sent out in order to get a read from their members.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

7. **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

President Cobb and CEO Cress have drafted a meeting schedule for all Video Conference Meetings through the remainder of the 2020 season for review. Below is the date for August and the remaining dates will be distributed to the Board shortly.

Virtual Board Meeting Dates

2020 August Board Meeting: August 18, 2020 at 1 p.m. CT.

8. **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. Motion to approve the new wording for the USA Softball Board of Directors International Play Policies and Procedures to increase the size of the selection panel from three to five individuals.

B. Motion to allow the CEO and his designee to pursue and negotiate a national registration fee for travel ball leagues that are currently being organized in several parts of the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. CT on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.