



**USA Softball Board of Directors
Video Meeting
August 25, 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; Joe Patterson (left at 4:50pm); John Gouveia; Beverly Wiley (left at 5:45pm); John McPhail; James Ellis (left at 5:17pm); Walker Clark; Drew Wells; Darrin Duistermars (left at 5:40pm); Mary Mahoney; Dick Gulmon; Roger Garcia; Anna Louie; Donn Addante (left at 5:15pm); David James (left at 5:32pm); Sandy Searcy; Valerie Arioto, Michelle Moultrie; and Nick Mullins.

Absent –Cam Schiller

Guests – John Falcone joined at 4:45pm

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

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

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Regular Agenda – Strategic Plan Update
Registration Date vs Eligibility Period
SafeSport Update

Executive Session – None

4. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

IT – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

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

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

Mr. Sebren reported on the Women's journey to the Silver Medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Michelle Moultrie expressed her appreciation to the organization and the support staff who made their journey possible. He also reported on the High-Performance Program (HPP) and that the Committee is in the process of evaluating the program and how to enhance it towards its designed mission. Some identifiers are planned but most are on hold pending this evaluation.

Mr. Sebren also provided an update of The Alliance statistics noting a total of 11,128 athletes and 2,002 support personnel.

Umpires – Kevin Ryan – Director of Umpires/Independent Contractor

Mr. Ryan updated the Board that 545 umpires participated in our JO Events including 123 at The Alliance Championships, 62 at Gold and 60 at JO Cup. This represents an all-time high in the number of participants. Mr. Ryan also noted that due to the change in award providers, there is currently no access to NIF and Elite awards. He is working with Crown to obtain designs and cost estimates on these items.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update – Craig Cress – Chief Executive Officer

CEO Cress reported that Mr. Wolter will be contacting staff in the next week and then Board members to get the Strategic Plan process started.

Registration vs Eligibility Date Issues – Craig Cress – Chief Executive Officer

With the conversion of all associations to a 9/1 registration date, some associations are experiencing issues registering fall leagues in the appropriate age group in the recreation league areas. Staff has proposed a work-around in the last few hours to the affected associations which will be available to other associations if they choose but will not be mandated.

6. NEW BUSINESS

CEO Cress and Savannah Edwards provided an update regarding certain issues experienced recently with SafeSport on their new platform and which courses the US Center for SafeSport will accept for purposes of meeting the requirements of SafeSport education. The USA Center for SafeSport is actively working with us to resolve these issues and feel confident they will be resolved soon.

7. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

September 29, 2021, at 3:00pm CT regularly scheduled meeting.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

M/S/C – Motion to enter Executive Session for consideration of the following sensitive and/or confidential matters and issues:

- National Team issues
- Software development issues
- Audit issues
- Local Association and Local Association Commissioners updates and issues
- Membership issues/Council Member Emeritus issues
- Conference Issues
- Corporate matters issues
- Discussion of potential business opportunity
- Personnel/Employee issues

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

- A. Approved the retirement of the Illinois Commissioner as of December 31, 2021.
- B. Approved Mississippi as a viable association and accepted the Commissioners retirement as of 10/31/21.

- C. Approved John Miller as Council Member Emeritus.
- D. Approved John Gouveia as Commissioner Emeritus pending completion of all duties and qualifications outlined in the Code.
- E. Approved NTS Test Lab as an additional independent bat and ball testing and certification provider pending their acceptance of our protocol agreement.
- F. Approved an amendment to Section 1.4 of the Bylaws which incorporates the word "bylaws" into the amendment.
- G. Approved hosting the 2021 Council Meeting in person in Oklahoma City provided no city or state mandates regarding COVID would necessitate conversion to a virtual meeting.
- H. Approved the President appointing a committee to research and present options to the Board at the September meeting regarding board composition to achieve compliance with the recently updated Ted Stevens Act.
- I. Approved the CEO Employment Contract as presented by the Compensation Committee.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23p.m. CT on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.