



USA SOFTBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
USA SOFTBALL AEP Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
September 15 -17, 2017

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Warren Jones called the meeting to order on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Bev Wiley, Northeast Regional Vice-President, delivered the Invocation and Andy Dooley, Central Atlantic Vice-President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Board Members present were Warren Jones, Phil Gutierrez, John Gouveia, Bev Wiley, Andy Dooley, Carlton Benton, ET Colvin, Drew Wells (*Proxy for Rodney Cobb - Southwest Regional Vice-President*), Darrin Duistermars, Joe Patterson, Bill Parks, Sam Ducato, Dave Devine, Valerie Arioto, Tyron McKinney, Michelle Moultrie and Ally Carda (*Proxy for Janie Takeda - Elite Athlete*).

Absent: Dick Gulmon, Northern Regional Vice-President

The Executive Director declared that a quorum had been established.

Approval of Proxies

***M/S/C – Motion to approve Ally Carda (Proxy for Janie Takeda) and Drew Wells (Proxy for Rodney Cobb).***

Guests present: A.J. Morgan, RPS Bollinger; John Falcone, Cheek and Falcone; Donn Addante, Chair of the USA Softball Legislation Committee; Richard Merritt, USA Softball of Texas At-Large Player Rep.

Staff present: Craig Cress, Mark Loehrs, Steve Walker, John Miller, Codi Warren, Savannah Edwards, Rich Cress, Kevin Ryan, Jay Hedrick and Shirley Adkins.

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***M/S/C – Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Liability Insurance Alternatives.***

***M/S/C – Motion to exit out of Executive Session.***

5. **USA SOFTBALL 12-UNDER ALL-AMERICAN GAMES Oklahoma City - August 18 – 20, 2017**

Kristi Allen, Chair of the Girls/Women's Fast Pitch Task Force Committee, along with Mary Mahoney and Cassi Ponzio presented the All-American Games event report. They showed a video of the event and are planning to show this at the General Council Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. They answered questions and addressed concerns the Board of Directors had regarding this event. The Board thanked them and their committee members for the hard work in putting on a great event.

**Directive:** The Board of Directors instructed the Girls/Women's Fast Pitch Task Force Committee to post information on the 2018 USA Softball All-American Games with the tryout dates/sites and selection of the teams on the website with as much advance notice as possible.

***M/S/C – Motion to recess the Board meeting for Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.***

***M/S/C – Motion to reconvene the Board meeting on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.***

6. **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**  
A. John Gouveia – New Business: Endowment Fund  
B. Craig Cress - Executive Session (2 items)

7. **REMARKS**  
A. President remarks  
B. Immediate Past President remarks  
C. President-Elect remarks  
D. Executive Director remarks

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*M/S/C – Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss insurance and legal matters.*

*M/S/C – Motion to exit Executive Session with the following motions:*

*M/S/C – Motion to speak with the Commissioners regarding the proposed insurance increase at the Annual Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. at their Commissioners Meeting.*

*M/S/C – Motion to move forward with the negotiation of the Facility Lease Agreement with Oklahoma City All Sports.*

*M/S/C - Motion to direct the USA Softball Executive Director to work with John Falcone on our Governance documents for standardization with the United States Olympic Committee.*

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

The Long Range Planning Committee met in Oklahoma City, OK on September 14, 2017. Executive Director Craig Cress informed the Board that the Long Range Planning Committee worked on two objectives: Succession Planning and Training of our local associations and members.

10. **DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

A. Operations (Communications, Marketing, IT) – Steve Walker, Director

- i. Mr. Walker provided a written report on the Communications, Marketing and I.T. Department activities.

*M/S/C – Motion to approve a contract renewal with Softball Factory.*

*M/S/C – Motion to approve an update to the Board of Director Background Check Policy.*

ii. SafeSports

Craig Cress informed the Board that a letter will be sent to the association commissioners regarding SafeSport. The SafeSport program will be discussed at the Commissioners Meeting in Greensboro, NC.

B. Membership / Championships / USA HOF Complex – John Miller, Director

i. Membership

John Miller provided a written report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2017 with the current status of the State/Metro Associations, Commissioners, Procedural Manual Deadlines, Board of Directors Directives and Regional/State/Metro Meetings. This was an informative report which required no action by the Board.

ii. Championships Report 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2017

John Miller provided a written report on the 2017 National Championships, Tournament Reps and the 2018 Gold Tournament Sites. This was an informative report which required no action by the Board.

- iii. USA Softball HOF Complex 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3rd Quarter of 2017  
John Miller provided a written report on the 2017 USA Hall of Fame Complex Events, maintenance and projects.

- 1. Hall of Fame Tournaments

- M/S/C – Motion by the Board of Directors to eliminate the Hall of Fame Tournaments.*

- Directive:** Notify Council that the Hall of Fame tournaments have been eliminated due to construction that is scheduled to take place at the Stadium after the citizens of Oklahoma City approved a Bond Measure that will bring \$25M in improvements to the Stadium.

- iv. JO Individual Registration Fee Increase

- M/S/C – Motion to increase the Individual Registration for JO only by \$1.00 effective January 1, 2018.*

- C. Umpires – Kevin Ryan, Director

- Kevin Ryan presented the Umpire Department report covering the 2017 USA Softball National Championships, 2017 WBSC Events, 2017 WBSC Certification Camps, Umpire Program Projects Priorities, Social Media Guide and Electronic Copy of the Umpire Manual.

- M/S/C – Motion to approve the Electronic Umpire Manual and the Social Media Guide.*

- D. National Teams – Chris Sebren, Director

- Craig Cress presented Chris Sebren's written reports as Chris Sebren was with the Men's National Team participating in the 2017 Pan American Championship Qualifier in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic at the time of the BOD meeting.

- USA Softball Junior Men's National Team – Tyron McKinney, Junior Men's Head Coach

- President Jones asked Tyron McKinney, Head Coach of the Junior Men's National Team to provide an update on the Junior Men's National Team Exposure Events. Coach McKinney reported that they had recruited 36 players this summer. Coach McKinney's goal is to build up the Junior Men's team which will lead them up into the Men's team. He is looking for a tournament for the 10, 12, 14 and 16-under divisions for the 2020 and beyond.

- E. Chief Financial Officer – Mark Loehrs, Director

- Mark Loehrs, Chief Financial Officer presented his report on the USA Softball budget. No action required at this time.

## 11. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Update on MLB Initiatives

- Craig Cress provided an update on the positive partnership with MLB and the different events held this past summer. Both organizations will be working together on the event schedules for 2018.

- B. 2018 USA Softball Annual Council Meeting Hotel Contract

- The agreement between USA Softball and The Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK for the 2018 USA Softball Annual Council Meeting has been executed.

- C. Bundling Registration Fees (Dave Devine)

- Dave Devine, USA Softball Commissioner of Dallas/Fort Worth provided an update on the Bundling Registration Fees. He commented that with the technology out there, he would like to add more items, which are a huge value to the customers when they register.

## 12. **TOURNAMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- John Miller distributed a Draft copy of the Tournament Bid Booklet for their approval.

13. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Endowment Fund

John Gouveia proposed that an Endowment Fund be set up for the USA Softball National Teams. Mr. Gouveia turned the floor over to Mark Loehrs to discuss Community Foundations basis to explain how they are set up, applicable fees and how the monies are distributed.

*M/S/C – Motion was to direct Mark Loehrs to bring back information to the next meeting on setting up an Endowment Fund for Nationals Teams and how to integrate it with the current Legacy Fund program.*

B. Jim Farrell Awards – John Gouveia

*M/S/C – Motion to give the James Farrell Award of Excellence to any city or organization that has hosted a National Championship of any kind in the current year beginning 2017 in Greensboro, N.C. at the Awards Banquet.*

C. Request for 2018 Class A 14-U National Championship Date Change

*M/S/C – Motion to move the dates for the 2018 Class A 14-U in Bowling Green, KY to July 22-29, 2018.*

D. 2019/2020 Council Meeting RFP review of Bids

*M/S/C – Motion was to postpone awarding the bids and re-bid in early 2018 for the Board's consideration in April, allowing time for a possible restructuring of the Council Meeting.*

**Directive:** Have the National Office review the Annual Council meeting agenda to determine whether or not the meeting could be shortened by one or two days.

E. Website Review

Carlton Benton addressed the Board that our National Organization Website is not easy to maneuver around and improvements need to be made for the website to be easier to navigate. Craig Cress informed the Board that we are improving our website and would make this a high priority.

F. Program Review

Carlton Benton brought up the matter that the members of our organization should be using TournamentUSA and RegisterUSA. Some associations choose not to use the TournamentUSA and find a cheaper site to do their registrations. We need to use TournamentUSA to support our program. Based on the code now, we can make Board directives.

G. Procedure Code – Tournament Locations

The Board discussed looking into how certain events are placed and look at alternative options as opposed to how we are presently handling them. Our competitors are putting their tournaments in vacation cities. Darrin Duistermars, will be providing a report and proposal which will address this matter.

**Directive:** Craig Cress will check with Cities that have been reported as having a stay and play for National Championship Finals.

14. **ASSOCIATION AND PERSONNEL REVIEW (Executive Session)**

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

*M/S/C – Motion to exit Executive Session and ratify the motions made collectively in Executive Session.*

15. **ADJOURN**

*M/S/C – Motion to adjourn meeting.*