



**USA Softball Board of Directors
Video Meeting
September 15, 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; Roger Garcia; Anna Louie; Donn Addante; Sandy Searcy; Kim Ng (joined the meeting at 1:38 p.m. CT); Valerie Arioto; Michelle Moultrie (joined the meeting at 2:08 p.m. CT); Janie Reed (joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m. CT); and Nick Mullins.

Absent: None

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, Andrea McKee, Kevin Ryan and Katie Willis.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No amendments were submitted.

4. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Operations (Communications, Marketing, IT, Membership, Sport Development)
Marketing – Andrea McKee, Managing Director

Ms. McKee provided a written report summarizing the Champro uniform pilot program; where 7% is coming back to USA Softball. Of that 7%, 5% is allotted for the National Office while the remaining 2% will go to Local Associations.

IT – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

Ms. Edwards provided the latest production report numbers through August 31, 2020.

Membership – John Miller, Chief Operating Officer (COO)
USA Softball Commissioner Openings

COO Miller provided a verbal report on Commissioner vacancies. The National Office and interview panel completed interviews and are discussing agreements signed by the San Antonio Softball Association (now USA Softball of San Antonio) with USA Softball National Organization prior to deciding on a new San Antonio Commissioner. The National Office was notified that Natalie Norman, the Alabama Commissioner, will be resigning but will stay on until a new Commissioner is named. The National Organization is putting together

a committee to decide the viability of the Alabama association. Following the recent retirement announcement of Henry Pollard, the Central Virginia Commissioner, the National Organization is putting together a committee to decide the viability of the Central Virginia Association.

Championships – Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress provided a written report including participation numbers from the 2020 USA Softball National Championship season. Of the 110 National Championships available in 2020, only 31% were played. There were 17 Adult National Championships and 17 JO National Championships, and all others were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic or were unbid.

2022 National Championships – Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress presented a written report of 2022 National Championships and their location status. CEO Cress spoke on the possibility of rethinking the way National Championships are awarded to cities. Southeast Region Vice President, Carlton Benton, questioned the possibility of National Championships being placed in cities where teams have expressed interest in playing. President Cobb added that he would discuss further with CEO Cress and Southeast Region Vice President Carlton Benton about a potential process to present to the BOD.

2020 USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex Schedule – Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress provided an updated calendar of USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex events, which include The Alliance Cup, OSSAA High School State Championships, and HFL Cup.

2020 GOLD National Championships – Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress provided a report evaluating the possibility of bringing GOLD Nationals to Oklahoma City every year. Southeast Region Vice President, Carlton Benton, added that during a meeting held by Region 3, members liked the idea and thought the 16-Under division and 18-Under division could be held on separate weekends if necessary. President Cobb tasked others with speaking within their regions to gauge council interest.

National Championship Berth Award – Rich Cress, Managing Director of Membership Services

Mr. Cress provided a draft of what a 'Berth Award' document to a National Championship could look like; Southeast Region Vice President Carlton Benton suggested an edit to include space for the National Tournament Director or USA Softball Representative signature.

B. National Teams – Chris Sebren, Director of National Teams

The Alliance Partnership – Chris Sebren, National Teams Director

Mr. Sebren provided a verbal report of registration numbers since the Sept. 1 start date. Approximately 370 teams and 3,200+ athletes have registered with the National Office thus far, with data still being processed and Alliance FP teams continuing to register.

High Performance Program – Chris Sebren, National Teams Director

Mr. Sebren provided a written overview of the High Performance Program for informational purposes only.

5. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was addressed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Additional Year of Eligibility for 18U players – Roger Garcia

Northwest Mountain Region Vice President, Roger Garcia, asked about the possibility of adding an additional year of eligibility for 18U players. CEO Cress brought up the NCAA as an association that has made adjustments. Immediate Past President John Gouveia said that it could potentially create more problems. Affiliate Member Sandy Searcy reported on NFHS and the limited associations that were able to complete the season, and shared similar sentiments that problems could arise. COO Miller brought up the 19-Under division of play and reminded members that USA Softball provides another avenue for players that have aged out of their previous division. Northeast Region Vice President, Beverly Wiley, wondered if this decision was left up to the local level would problems be created surrounding insurance coverage.

B. BRK Partners Partnership Presentation – Andrea McKee

Ms. McKee introduced Ryan Breckenridge, Matt Wood and Chappel Jordan of BRK Partners, who gave a presentation and written overview of the partnership with USA Softball. Midwest Region Vice President, Darrin Duistermars, asked about what assistance at the local level looks like and BRK Partners responded that everything would be interconnected from the national level and explained the revenue-share piece.

C. All American Games Committee Request – Rodney Cobb

President Cobb presented a request from the All American Games (AAG) Committee for a contract extension, 2021 dates and the addition of a 10-Under division to the already established 12-Under division. Mid-American Region Vice President, Mary Mahoney, explained the AAG, if inclusive of two age divisions, would run similar to previous years but include less teams. CEO Cress explained if the 10-Under division were to be added, the AAG would be held on two separate weekends. Northwest Mountain Region Vice President, Roger Garcia, stated that a handful of states would not be in support of it and questioned whether it was a true representation of the region. Southwest Region Vice President, Drew Wells, inquired if the 2020 AAG agreement had been fulfilled between the AAG Committee and National Office. South Region Vice President, Walker Clark, shared positive sentiment about adding a 10-Under division and commented on what he has seen other organizations do with their All American Program. Northeast Vice President, Beverly Wiley, spoke about how Local Associations can support the team and/or coaches.

President Cobb tasked the BOD with connecting with their AAG Regional Representative prior to a BOD vote via email regarding the addition of the 10-Under division.

Mid-American Region Vice President, Mary Mahoney, spoke on behalf of AAG requesting a vote for the 12-Under AAG contract extension for dates in order to proceed with preparations; CEO Cress responded that the National Office had received the contract extension request on Aug. 27 and it would be finalized within the next 10 business days from Sept. 15.

D. Bylaw Amendment Update – Donn Addante

At-Large Member, Donn Addante reported that he currently has 17 written amendments to the bylaws and requests they have a non-binding consent agenda by Friday, Oct. 9. CEO Cress commented that if presented, the bylaw amendments need to be acted upon at the next BOD meeting. President Cobb directed Mr. Addante to proceed.

7. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

President Cobb and CEO Cress are working to finalize the details for the next virtual BOD meeting, which is scheduled to take place October 13, 2020.

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 updated renewals with our insurance provider, RPS Bollinger, in 2021; the youth/team/tournament/clinic accident deductible will be raised to \$500 to begin 1/1/2021, the umpire accident deductible changes to \$500 beginning 1/1/2021, and a reduction to the USA Softball liability subsidy, Youth individual accident increases to \$500 deductible beginning 9/1/2021 for the 2022 season, communicable diseases exclusion beginning 1/1/2021.
- B. Motion to approve Phil Gutierrez as Commissioner Emeritus.
- C. Motion to approve National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) sponsorship for a three-year term.
- D. Motion to approve Elite Athlete Representative Valerie Arioto, President Cobb, National Teams Director Sebren and CEO Cress to select two At-Large individuals for the National Team Selection Committee panel.
- E. Motion to approve \$1 increase for ACE Year 1 participants and an increase of \$3 for the background check beginning 1/1/2021.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m. CT on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.