



**USA Softball Board of Directors  
Video Meeting  
October 13, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Cobb called the meeting to order at 1:02 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 (left the meeting at 2:57 p.m. CT); Darrin Duistermars; Mary Mahoney; Dick Gulmon; Roger Garcia (joined the meeting at 1:06 p.m. CT); Anna Louie; Donn Addante; Sandy Searcy; Kim Ng; Valerie Arioto; Michelle Moultrie; Janie Reed; and Jeff Nowaczyk (Proxy for Nick Mullins; Left at 2:57 p.m. CT).

Absent: None

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

**M/S/C to approve Jeff Nowaczyk as a proxy for Nick Mullins.**

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)  
Communications – Katie Willis, Manager  
Ms. Willis provided an informational report.

Marketing – Andrea McKee, Managing Director

Ms. McKee provided a proposed virtual Annual Council Meeting agenda. Mid-American Region Vice President, Mary Mahoney, brought up the timing and how attendance could be impacted. CEO Cress added that the Hall of Fame Committee meeting would be canceled as 2020 inductees will be recognized and honored in 2021 prior to inducting a new Hall of Fame Class. Mary Mahoney questioned whether guests would be able to attend. Chief Operations Officer John Miller responded that committee members would be invited first if there was an attendee limit. CEO Cress concluded the discussion by saying the National Office would work with committee chairpersons to make final decisions on preferred meeting days/times.

#### IT – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

Ms. Edwards provided the latest production report numbers through September 30, 2020. COO Miller added that there are new numbers for the 2021 season based on Local Associations registration start date. President Cobb inquired and Registrations Admin/Project Manager Devin Loehrs responded that there are 31 Local Associations still adhering to Jan. 1 registration start date.

#### Membership – John Miller, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

##### USA Softball Rulebook Availability

COO Miller provided a verbal report that USA Softball is not producing the 2021 rulebook as there have been no rule changes. A total of 13,800 extra rulebooks are on hand at the National Office that could be distributed to Local Associations if they have exhausted their supply and have exceeded their registration numbers from the 2019 season.

##### USA Softball Commissioner Openings

COO Miller provided a verbal report on Commissioner vacancies and updates. After completing the interview process and working with USA Softball of San Antonio on a signed agreement, Bill Rodriguez has been selected as the new USA Softball of San Antonio Commissioner. The National Office has requested items from a proposed candidate for the USA Softball of Alabama Commissioner opening following the resignation of Natalie Norman. With the recent retirement announcement of Henry Pollard, the Central Virginia Commissioner, the National Organization is starting the review process regarding the viability of the Central Virginia Association.

#### 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 September 1, 2020 start date, which is 5,468 athletes and 1,003 coaches.

##### High Performance Program – Chris Sebren, National Teams Director

Mr. Sebren provided a written report of the High Performance Program (HPP), which included an FAQ, and it was shared that the HPP will charge \$80 per player to participate.

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

#### Bylaw Amendment Proposals – Donn Addante

At-Large Member, Donn Addante, previously provided a report of the 17 items during the Sept. 15 Board of Directors meeting. Following discussion of the proposals, Board members were asked to vote on a non-binding consent agenda by Oct. 9. Mr. Addante presented the final results of the vote to the Board, showing that all proposals had been approved.

**M/S/C to approve all 17 items.** See pages 4-6 of this document.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was addressed.

### **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 November 17, 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. Following Sept. 13 BOD approval of Elite Athlete Representative Valerie Arioto, President Cobb, National Teams Director Chris Sebren and CEO Cress to select two At-Large individuals for the National Team Selection Committee panel, it was shared that Lovieanne Jung and Kim Ng have been selected to represent the BOD. Phil McElroy has been selected by President Cobb as the President's designee. The BOD Elite Athlete representatives informed us that Valerie Arioto and Lindsey Ziegenhirt will serve as the athlete representatives for the selection panel.
- B. Motion to approve Richard Merritt to the ASA Properties Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Drew Wells.

## 9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m. CT on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

# 2020 Bylaw Amendment Proposals

## ITEM #1: Section 1.4 Precedence of Bylaws

Add language.

The USAS Board of Directors by a 75% majority vote of eligible members may modify or nullify any portion of USAS's Procedural Code and or Playing Rules during a National crisis, emergency, or pandemic if strict adherence to the Procedural Code and or Playing Rules would impose undue hardship on USAS, its members and staff.

**Rationale:** Gives the Board the authority to respond to a crisis, emergency, or pandemic.

## ITEM #2: Section 7.6 B Regional Vice Presidents

Add language outlining duties.

The duties of a Regional Vice President are as follows:

01. file a quarterly report addressing any registration concerns, compliance and/or ethical issues, or any other issues within the local associations of their region. This report shall be sent to USAS's Chief Operating Officer and copied to the USAS President.
02. verify that all National Championships and National Qualifiers held in their region are listed on the TournamentUSASoftball.com site.
03. communicate with the commissioners in their region on a regular basis. This duty can be done by e-mail, newsletter, phone, or any other method of communication.
04. serve as the liaison among commissioners and council members in their region and the USAS staff and President to ensure that critical communications and necessary information is flowing in all directions.
05. assume the duties of The Regional Director (Article 401 E of The USAS Procedural Code) if their region does not elect a separate Regional Director.

**Rationale:** These duties were accidentally omitted during the process of consolidating the Bylaws, Code, and Procedural Manual.

## ITEM #3 Section 10.2 Appointments

Delete the second paragraph concerning "Task Forces".

**Rationale:** The Committees outlined in the Bylaws and Forums and Panels in the Procedural Code are sufficient to conduct the business and programs of USAS.

**Note:** Delete all references to Task Forces in Section 10 and the remainder of The Bylaws.

## ITEMS #4 - 11 Section 10.17 Working Committees

Delete references to specific working committees.

- |         |                |                               |
|---------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ITEM #4 | Delete 10.17 A | Association Review Committee  |
| ITEM #5 | Delete 10.17 D | Commissioner Review Committee |
| ITEM #6 | Delete 10.17 H | Legislative Committee         |
| ITEM #7 | Delete 10.17 J | Membership Committee          |
| ITEM #8 | Delete 10.17 K | Player Representatives        |

<b>ITEM #9</b>	Delete 10.17 L	Playing Rules Committees
<b>ITEM #10</b>	Delete 10.17 N	Tournament Programs and Awards Committee
<b>ITEM #11</b>	Delete 10.17 O	Tournament Review Committee

**Rationale:** All of these former “Committees” are properly placed, retitled, and governed by The USAS Procedural Code and should not remain in the Bylaws. The Association Review is in Article 405 Commissioners and the others are in Article 502 Panels and Forums. The Commissioner Review committee was re-named The Commissioner Appointment Panel. Tournament Programs and Tournament Review committees were combined in the Procedural Code.

**ITEM #12 Section 10.17 E Working Committees**

Delete language addressing Compliance Committee.

**Rationale:** With the creation and implementation of the Ethics and Judicial Committees, combined with the other review committees, panels, and forums the Compliance Committee has become redundant and unnecessary.

**Note:** See companion item #13 below.

**ITEM #13 Section 10.15 B (1, 3) Judicial Committee**

Revise language to expand duties (changes in bold).

B. The Judicial committee shall:

01. generally, administer and oversee all administrative, disciplinary, **non-compliance, non-performance** and right to compete matters filed with USAS;

03. hear and render a decision, or appoint a **sub-committee** to hear and render a decision on **all** administrative, disciplinary, **non-compliance, non-performance** and right to compete matters; and

**Rationale:** To close any “loopholes” created by deleting the Compliance committee, and to replace the term panel with sub-committee to avoid confusion with panels existing in the Procedural Code.

**ITEM #14 Section 10.17 Working Committees**

Addition of clarifying language (changes in bold).

**C. Communications and Marketing Committee.** This committee shall make **necessary** recommendations to the Board regarding all methods of USAS communications and marketing. This **includes** reviewing all current methods of communications and **marketing**; including **trends, internet, publications, website**, and all other technology **concerns** for the association. **This committee shall include at least one member from The Long Range Planning Committee.**

**Rationale:** Clarification and housekeeping.

**ITEM #15 Section 10.17 Working Committees**

Addition of clarifying language (changes in bold).

**I. Long Range Planning Committee**

This committee shall make recommendations to the Board for future directions and goals of

**USAS. This committee shall include at least one member from The Communications and Marketing Committee.**

**Rationale:** Clarification and housekeeping.

**ITEM #16 Section 10.17 Working Committees**

Add duties for Slow Pitch Committee.

**Slow Pitch Committee.** This committee shall consist of no more than 10 members, with at least two athlete representatives. Each USAS territory must have at least one representative on the committee. Its duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

01. review all aspects of USAS slow pitch program to improve it, and to promote and increase participation in all Divisions and Classes;
02. review proposed amendments to USAS Bylaws, Playing Rules, and Procedural Code that affect the Slow Pitch Program;
03. write amendments to USAS Bylaws, Playing Rules, and Procedural Code as needed to improve, promote, and increase participation in the Slow Pitch Program;
04. make recommendations to USAS Board, Committees, Forums, Panels, and Council as deemed necessary to improve, promote, and increase participation in the Slow Pitch Program.

**Rationale:** Added language to describe the committee.

**ITEM #17 Section 10.17 Working Committees**

Add duties for Ad Hoc Committee.

**Ad Hoc Committees.** Those committees created by the President for special purposes. These committees shall be effective January 1 of the current year through December 31 and must be re-appointed by the President.

**Rationale:** Current practice.

**Note:** Housekeep the lettering in Section 10.17 pending the acceptance of items 15,16, and 17 by The Board.