

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Location	Date	Time	Format
Zoom	July 26, 2023	2:00 p.m. CT	Virtual

In Attendance

Board Members		
Joe Patterson	President	Present
Dave Devine	President-Elect	Present
Rodney Cobb	Immediate Past President	Present
Beverly Wiley	Northeast Regional Vice-President	Present
John McPhail	Central Atlantic Regional Vice-President	Absent
Al Dattolo	Southeast Regional Vice-President	Absent
Walker Clark	South Regional Vice-President	Present, joined at 2:19 p.m.
Richard Merritt	Southwest Regional Vice-President	Present
Darrin Duistermars	Midwest Regional Vice-President	Present
Mary Mahoney	Mid-America Regional Vice-President	Present
Dick Gulmon	Northern Regional Vice-President	Present
Roger Garcia	Northwest Mountain Regional Vice-President	Present, joined at 2:20 p.m.
Anna Louie	Pacific Coast Regional Vice-President	Present
Donn Addante	Elected At-Large Representative	Present
Sandy Searcy	Allied / Affiliated Members	Present
David James	Independent Director	Present
Ally Carda	Elite Athlete Representative	Present, left at 3:00 p.m.
Nick Mullins	Elite Athlete Representative	Absent
Michelle Moultrie	Elite Athlete Representative	Absent
Cam Schiller	Elite Athlete Representative	Absent
Joshua Johnson	Elite Athlete Representative	Present
Aubree Munro	Elite Athlete Representative	Absent
Kelsey Stewart	Elite Athlete Representative	Absent
Lovieanne Jung	Elite Athlete Representative	Absent
Others Present		
Craig Cress	CEO	Present
Cheryl Bond	CFO, Minute Taker	Present
Chris Sebren	Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer	Present
Allison Flaig	Chief of Staff	Present
Andrea McKee	Director of Marketing	Present
Jay Hedrick	Managing Director of Network Systems	Present
Devin Loehrs	Director of IT	Present
Morgan Palmer	Director of Communications	Present

Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Patterson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. CT.

Conflicts of Interest

“Is any member aware of any conflict of interest (that is, of a personal interest or direct or indirect pecuniary interest) in any matter being considered by this meeting, which should now be reported or disclosed or addressed under the USA Softball Conflict of Interest Policy?”

“If a Board member determines there to be a conflict of interest at any point during the course of the meeting when a specific subject is being discussed and / or action is being taken, a declaration of a conflict of interest should be made at this time.”

“This is also a reminder that no confidential information disclosed during this meeting, or while doing any of the business of USA Softball can be used for the benefit of any other entity.”

It was noted that all Commissioners on the Board have an inherent conflict of interest when discussing and voting on the proposed bylaw amendment related to board composition.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was determined as noted in the “In Attendance” grid.

3. Approve the Agenda and Minutes

MOTION	BD	23-07	01
To approve the agenda for the meeting as presented with additions in Executive Session.			
Moved	Sandy Searcy	Seconded	Donn Addante
CARRIED			

4. Management Report

CEO Cress presented the updated production reports through June 2023. Reports are positive for 2023 JO individual registrations, but team registrations for JO and Adult are more comparable to 2022. Director Gulmon provided information from Minnesota with updated registrations for their association.

CEO Cress presented the monthly stadium report for June. The only event was the 2023 WCWS which saw over 110,000 fans attend.

CEO Cress thanked staff for their efforts at the JO Cup held in Florida which battled extended weather disruptions. Also, the onsite event staff who hosted the Gold Championships last week at the Hall of Fame Complex did a fantastic job.

CEO Cress updated the Board on the status of the various audits, all of which are proceeding in a positive manner and should start wrapping up in the next month or so. SafeSport was onsite during the Gold Championships for an event audit.

CEO Cress informed the Board that Director of Marketing, Dre McKee, has accepted a position with the Oklahoma City Thunder and will be leaving USA Softball at the end of the month.

President Patterson and CEO Cress updated the Board on a recent meeting with Virginia Congressman Griffith to discuss issues related the NGBs and SafeSport jurisdiction. The message appeared to be well received and the Congressman’s office has reached out for follow up dialogue.

5. New Business

Director Addante presented an update regarding Board Composition and discussion received from around the country. It is requested that the proposal be sent back to the committee for review and potential resubmission. Directors Duisternars, Gulmon, and McPhail contributed to the discussion.

MOTION	BD	23-07	02
To deem the Finance Committee as a designated committee within the Bylaws.			
Moved	Mary Mahoney	Seconded	Darrin Duisternars
CARRIED			

6. Executive Session

MOTION	BD	23-07	03
To enter Executive Session at 2:22 p.m.			
Moved	Sandy Searcy	Seconded	Darrin Duisternars
CARRIED			

CEO Cress updated the Board on the search for a new commissioner in Arizona. As of today, there are no candidates.

CEO Cress updated the Board on the search for a new commissioner in Tennessee. We currently have two candidates and expect possibly one more.

CEO Cress announced that Tom Dowd is retiring at the end of the year. The Association Review Committee recommends that Central California be approved as a viable association.

MOTION	BD	23-07	04
To approve Central California as a viable association.			
Moved	Rodney Cobb	Seconded	Donn Addante
CARRIED			

CEO Cress updated the Board that Ron Merritt of Wyoming has submitted notice of his resignation effective at the end of the year. The Association Review Committee is beginning the review process.

President Patterson presented the Commissioner Emeritus application of Mel Pinkley.

MOTION	BD	23-07	05
To approve Commissioner Emeritus status for Mel Pinkley.			
Moved	Joe Patterson	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
FAILED – 7 approved and 9 opposed			

CEO Cress the U18 Men’s Roster and Coaching Staff recommendation from the Selection Committee for an event in Columbia this fall. Coach Dave Myers is now unable to attend the event.

MOTION	BD	23-07	06
To approve the roster and coaching staff for the U18 as presented by the JMNT Selection Committee.			
Moved	Darrin Duistermars	Seconded	Rodney Cobb
CARRIED			

The Junior Women’s National Teams Selection Committee presented an additional coach for the Junior Women’s National Team.

MOTION	BD	23-07	07
To approve Jimmy Kolaitis as an assistant with the Junior Women’s National Team.			
Moved	Bev Wiley	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
CARRIED			

CEO Cress updated the Board status of litigation against Decker Sports and former Commissioner Nik Mead. Decker has yet to be served due to lost mail in USPS system. Commissioner Mead’s Colorado attorney offered to settle for \$5,000 earlier today.

MOTION	BD	23-07	08
To authorize legal counsel to settle with former Commissioner Mead for \$15,000.			
Moved	Dick Gulmon	Seconded	Roger Garcia
CARRIED – Director Louie opposed			

CEO Cress presented an updated list of Commissioners who had yet to complete their Local Association and Commissioner agreements. As of today, Commissioners Hutcherson, Pfeffer, Parks, Pellegrini, Adelhart, Bennett, Donner and Hansen have yet to sign either document.

CEO Cress updated the Board on the Notice of Default to SportsEngine and their response. Directors Cobb, Devine, James, Gulmon and President Patterson contributed to the discussion.

MOTION	BD	23-07	09
To designate RegisterUSA as the registration system for the 2024 season.			
Moved	Rodney Cobb	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
CARRIED			

MOTION	BD	23-07	10
To set individual JO registration fees for the 2024 season at \$11.75 per player and non-player.			
Moved	Dick Gulmon	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
CARRIED			

MOTION	BD	23-07	11
To proceed with umpire registration fee at \$30.75 per umpire for the 2024 season.			
Moved	Dick Gulmon	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
CARRIED			

MOTION	BD	23-07	12
To proceed with the team registration fees at \$16.50 for youth teams and \$12.50 for adult teams for the 2024 season.			
Moved	Dick Gulmon	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
CARRIED			

MOTION	BD	23-07	13
To retain the current background check carrier PYS for the 2024 season at a cost of \$17 per background check instead of \$20 with NCSI. There will no longer be a 2-year option for the 2024 season.			
Moved	Rodney Cobb	Seconded	Darrin Duistermars
CARRIED			

MOTION	BD	23-07	14
To revert ACE prices to 2023 rates (\$29 for ACE 1 and \$28 for ACE 2,3 & 4) and to increase the ACE/Background Bundle to \$36 for ACE 1 and \$35 ACE 2, 3 & 4 for the 2024 season.			
Moved	Roger Garcia	Seconded	Sandy Searcy
CARRIED			

MOTION	BD	23-07	15
To return to open session at 3:40 p.m.			
Moved	Darrin Duistermars	Seconded	Roger Garcia
CARRIED			

7. Adjournment

MOTION	BD	23-07	16
To adjourn July 26, 2023, meeting at 3:48 p.m.			
Moved	Darrin Duistermars	Seconded	Roger Garcia
CARRIED			