



## USATT Special Board Teleconference Minutes April 5, 2021

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:14 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance: **Tom Feng, Tara Profitt, Thomas Hu, Will Shortz, Dan Reynolds, Kelly Watson, Brandon Lawrence,** and **Board Chair Char.**

Board Member not in attendance: **Sergio Garcia.**

USATT Outside Counsel: **Brian Moran, Esq.** and **Megan Craig, Esq.**

USATT Staff Present: **Virginia Sung** (CEO) and **Mark Thompson** (COO, Athlete Protection Officer, General Secretary), **Sean O'Neill** (High Performance Director), **Jasna Rather** (Para High Performance Director).

Other Persons Present: **Lee Kondo, Larry Hodges, Niraj Oak** and **David Patterson** (USOPC), **Dragomir Cioroslan** (USOPC), **Willy Leparulo** (NCTTA), **Tim Crowley** (USATT Foundation).

### **Board Chair Call for Conflicts**

None noted.

### **Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of February 1, 2021**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following unanimous Resolution was approved:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on February 1, 2021 are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of February 22, 2021**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following unanimous Resolution was approved:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on February 22, 2021 are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **CEO Report**

Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung provided a First Quarter Report on the status of the USATT Individual Membership and Member Clubs and how the programs implemented in these areas have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Sung also discussed the impact of the pandemic on sanctioned tournaments. She noted that four of the eleven US Nationals State Qualifying Tournaments have been completed, and she presented the statistics related to those four events. Ms. Sung addressed concerns related to the USATT Coaching Certification Program, including the coaching licensing fee. Ms. Sung finished her presentation with a discussion regarding the



upcoming 2021 US National Table Tennis Championships at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, noting that there has been a tremendous early positive response to this event, although she noted the potential challenges presented for an event of this type by the COVID-19 pandemic.

USATT Athlete Protection Officer Mark Thompson provided a report on USATT's SafeSport efforts. Mr. Thompson stated that USATT has prepared and submitted for consideration to the US Center for SafeSport the organization's revised Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy. This Policy should be ready to present to the Board for approval and inclusion in the USATT SafeSport Policy at the May Board Meeting. Mr. Thompson reiterated points made by Ms. Sung with respect to the Coaching Certification Program, particularly with respect to the importance of SafeSport Compliance and the importance of this issue with respect to liability insurance coverage. Mr. Thompson finished by noting that USATT is currently undergoing an audit being conducted the USOPC, who conducted random testing on the compliance of the USATT criminal background check policy.

USATT High Performance Director Sean O'Neill provided a First Quarter review matters related to the elite athletes in the organization. Mr. O'Neill noted that USATT is preparing to host the National Team Trials for adults as well as two groups of youth players. The adult National Team Trials are to be conducted in Fort Worth, Texas in late May, while in early June the U-15 and U-19 at ICC in Milpitas, California, and the U-11, U-13, and U-17 Trials will be held at Westchester Table Tennis Center in Pleasantville, New York. Mr. O'Neill noted that a number of USATT's elite athletes are currently playing in Season Two of the T-2 Challenge. Mr. O'Neill stated that two USATT sponsors, STUPA and Switcher Studios, are providing important services for the continued development of analytics and internet broadcast production. Mr. O'Neill also provided a short update of the efforts of US Olympians preparing for Tokyo in 2021.

#### **Audit Committee Report – Consolidated Reporting with Foundation**

Board Member Kelly Watson reported that, although the Audit Committee, has not met since the last Board Meeting, but the Audit Committee has been active: reviewing the organization's Profit and Loss Statements for January and February; confirming that the first Payroll Protection Program loan received by USATT has in fact been forgiven; and overseeing a second PPP loan received by the organization. Ms. Watson further stated that USATT will begin annual audit with field work beginning in two weeks, and, for the first time, this year's audit will include the financials of the USATT Foundation.

#### **Amendment of Bylaws**

Board Chair Richard Char noted the pending amendments to the bylaws have been, in large part, been posted for public comment since February 5, 2021. A number of comments from the membership have been received and additional language clarifications and explanations have been added to the bylaws in response to these comments. Mr. Char said that the Board would not call for a vote on the proposed Bylaw Amendments because further minor revisions will be required for the proposed Bylaw Amendments based on guidance received earlier in the day from the USOPC regarding the election of athlete representatives for the Board, USATT's Athlete Advisory Council, and the USOPC's Athlete Advisory Council. Mr. Char stated that it is critical to ensure that USATT protects the rights of athletes to select their representatives. Mr. Char stated that legal counsel will incorporate these recommendations into the proposed Bylaw Changes, review them with selected members of the Board for input, and then submit the revised Bylaw Amendments for comments by the USATT Membership.



David Patterson of the USOPC provided further insight into the election process for athlete representation. He also endorsed USATT's plan to implement a "staggered" term system into the selection and election of Board Members. Mr. Patterson noted that, for the purposes of the selection and election procedures, USATT's Board Members (with the exception of Brandon Lawrence of the NCTTA who joined the Board in February of 2021) began their term on the same date, January 1, 2021, which will end on December 31, 2024, and that members of the Board who were on the Board prior to that date were expressly serving on an interim basis.

#### **Update re. Committees**

Board Chair Char stated that under the leadership of the various Committee Chairs, the great majority of USATT's Committees have been properly populated and that these committees are prepared to begin service. He did note that two Committees, the Juniors Committee and the Diversity Equity, and Inclusion Committee still must select a Chair. He also noted that the Nominating and Governance Committee has yet to be fully empaneled, although it appears that there are now sufficient number of candidates to select the general membership individuals who will serve on the NGC. The independent members for NGC remain to be selected and will be selected by the outgoing NGC in accordance with the Bylaws. The formal approval by the Boar of the Committee members and Chair will be done at the June Board meeting.

#### **Executive Session**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session where it discussed various matters, including confidential matters related to international table tennis events.

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following unanimous Resolution approved:

**RESOLUTION:** That the Board concludes the Executive Session and move back into the Board's General Session.

#### **Adjournment**

It was properly moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Board meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm US Mountain time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson  
USATT General Secretary

End. 21 04-06a