



USATT Board Teleconference Minutes August 11, 2021

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:03 pm** US Mountain time.

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

USATT Outside Counsel: **Brian Moran, Esq.** and **Stephen Hess, Esq.**

USATT Foundation: **Carl Danner** and **Timothy Crawley**

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

Other Persons Present: **Willy Leparulo** (NCTTA) and **Larry Hodges**.

Board Chair Call for Conflicts

None noted.

Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of June 7, 2021

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on June 7, 2021, are approved and formally entered into the record.

Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of June 14, 2021

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on June 14, 2021, are approved and formally entered into the record.

Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of June 23, 2021

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on June 23, 2021, are approved and formally entered into the record.

NGC Selection of New Independent Director

Bobby Sharma, the Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee, reported that Arjun Chowdri has accepted the offer to fill the Independent Director vacancy on the USATT Board of Directors created by the resignation of Sergio Garcia. The NGC undertook a thorough process to identify and review a number of quality candidates for this position, taking into account each candidate's experience and skills. The NGC also considered the importance of the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Mr. Chowdri has extensive experience in sports marketing, which includes working at the PGA of America for the last nine years, currently serving as the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Innovation Officer.



Acknowledgement of and Consent to the NGC's Selection of Arjun Chowdri as Independent Director

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

RESOLVED: That the USATT Board of Directors hereby acknowledges and consents to the USATT Nominating and Governance Committee's selection of Arjun Chowdri as an Independent Member on the USATT Board of Directors.

CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung reported on a number of important matters for USATT. First, the 2021 US Nationals was undertaken and completed since the last Board Meeting. This was the first five-star USATT sanctioned event to be held since the inception of the pandemic. Ms. Sung expressed her sincere thanks on behalf of the organization to the entire community of the persons who participated and assisted in this event, including the players, officials, volunteers, and staff. She stated that, overall, USATT considers the 2021 US Nationals as a success, although the organization recognized that there were unique challenges and difficulties presented by this event from which the organization expects to learn and adapt. In her presentation, Ms. Sung detailed the analytics of the event, including the number of participants and how those participants broke down over various demographics, including gender. Ms. Sung stated one of the elements that USATT will seek to improve is the participation of women in our National event.

Ms. Sung also reported on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. She noted that Team USA overall had a successful performance in the Games, and that our Olympic table tennis team represented our country with skill, courage and pride. Ms. Sung noted that both the men's and women's table tennis teams had successful moments, including the run of Liu Juan to the Round of 16 in the Women's Singles and Kanak Jha's victory over the highly rated Mattias Falck of Sweden in the Team match. But she also noted that the Olympics highlighted how far America has to go to compete with the best in the world in table tennis, and the Games provided us with a good starting point towards developing successful teams for the 2024 Games in Paris and the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

Ms. Sung stated that USATT is excited about the prospects of the members of America's Paralympic Table Tennis Team who are headed to Tokyo in the near future. She stated that Tahl Liebovitz, Jenson Van Emburgh, Ian Seidenfeld, and Michael Godfrey are all great representatives for our country, and we wish them all the best of success in their Paralympic experience.

Ms. Sung stated that USATT is currently involved in addressing and resolving a number of important upcoming issues and events, including audits being conducted by the USOPC and US Center for SafeSport; determining the location and format for the 2021 US Open; hosting the 2021 Pan Am Championships; and playing an active and important role in the presentation of the 2021 World Championships in Houston, Texas.

High Performance Director Report

USATT High Performance Director Sean O'Neill reported on recent developments in the organization's elite level athlete programs. He stated that the High Performance Division of the organization has been extremely busy with events to select the National Team for adults and junior age groups, hosting events in Texas, California, and New York, which also included an opportunity for two junior players to earn a spot to represent America in the Pan Am Junior Championships.



Mr. O'Neill noted that young players also had an opportunity to make the US National Team by winning their age group division at the 2021 US Nationals at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, Nevada, where the competition highlighted a number of up-and-coming young players on the American table tennis landscape.

Mr. O'Neill reported that as result of these qualification events, USATT now has National Teams comprised of eight players in both male and female genders for adults, U19, U15, and U13, who will represent America in several important international events over the next year.

Mr. O'Neill stated that young American players also participated in a virtual training program hosted by the International Table Tennis Foundation, the Hopes Around the Clock, which proved to be an important source of high level training and guidance for our future elite level players.

With respect to preparation for the Olympics, Mr. O'Neill reported that USATT hosted and assisted in events in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York designed to prepare, assist and challenge our Olympic representatives on both the men's and women's teams as they prepared for Tokyo 2020.

With respect to the performance at the Olympics, Mr. O'Neill submitted reports prepared by the Men's Team Coach, Stefan Feth, and the Women's Team Coach, Gao Jun. Mr. O'Neill was extremely complimentary with respect to the performance of America's Olympians, and he was particularly proud of the way the team came together and supported one another.

Mr. O'Neill noted that the top players on the Men's and Women's Teams, Kanak Jha and Lily Zhang, were the recipients of grants from the ITTF to assist in their training. He noted that the Performance Pathway Grants from USATT were also awarded to the top four persons on the Adult National Team for the Men and Women.

Mr. O'Neill stated that USATT is preparing to submit the registrations for American players in the upcoming World Championships in Houston. Because America is the host nation, the organization is not bound by the rule requiring that all persons who participate in the World Championships be ranked in the top 256 in the world, which should help the eligibility of the American players in this historic event.

Audit Committee Report

Board Chair Char noted that the Audit Committee did not have a report to make at this Board Meeting.

Report of the USATT Foundation

Carl Danner, of the USATT Foundation, provided a detailed presentation on the history and function of the Foundation. Mr. Danner submitted a written report to the Board, but he gave an oral overview of how the Foundation was originally funded by profits from the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and how the Foundation has performed since its inception in 1985. Mr. Danner stated that the Foundation has successfully protected the principal of this fund and provided annual grants to USATT since its inception. He stated that the Foundation operates inexpensively and efficiently, with the primary expense being liability insurance for the Board. Mr. Danner stated the Foundation continues to investigate the process and legal requirements to undertake fundraising efforts and is willing to work with the USATT Board in this regard.



Report of the Umpire and Referee Committee

Board Member Dan Reynolds began this portion of the meeting by congratulating the Umpire and Referee Committee Chair, Roman Tinyszyn, on being inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame. Mr. Tinyszyn thanked the Board for this recognition. He stated that the URC is recommending that USATT follow suit with the ITTF decision to allow colors other than black and red for paddle rubbers. Mr. Tinyszyn stated that he will seek to have USATT URC adopt and implement the rules of rubber color adopted by the ITTF (2.4.6 of the ITTF Handbook) by October 1.

Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws

Pro Bono Outside Counsel Brian Moran, Esq. stated that the project to amend the USATT bylaws so that they comply with the Ted Stevens Act, Illinois law, and the USOPC guidelines and audit results remains ongoing. It is expected that the proposed revised version of the bylaws will be published for member comments shortly.

Athletes Advisory Council – First and Second Athletes – Third and Fourth Athletes

Board Chair Char reiterated that as a part of the amendment of the USATT Bylaws, USATT will proceed to host an election for the four Athlete Directors. Board Chair Char stated that it is expected that these elections will be held after the Bylaws are amended, all of which will occur after the Paralympians return from Tokyo.

Approvals of Committee Members and Chairs

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

RESOLVED: That Marco Makkar is hereby appointed to serve as a member of the USATT Nominating and Governance Committee.

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

RESOLVED: That Alfred Adjei is hereby appointed to serve as a member of the Tournament Advisory Committee.

Executive Session

Upon Motion properly presented, seconded and approved, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session where it discussed various matters.

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

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

Adjournment

It was properly moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. Board meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm US Mountain time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson
USATT General Secretary

End. 21 08-18a