



USATT Board Teleconference Minutes April 4, 2022

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:05 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance: **Tara Profitt, Niraj Oak, Dan Reynolds, Brandon Lawrence, Kelly Watson, Thomas Hu, Lily Zhang, Tahl Leibovitz, Arjun Chowdri, Nikhil Kumar, Will Shortz, and Board Chair Char**

USOPC: **Dragomir Cirosoan, David Patterson**

USATT Staff: **Virginia Sung** (CEO) and **Mark Thompson** (COO, Athlete Protection Officer, General Secretary), **Tina Ren** (Membership Services and Event Coordinator), **Goa Jun** (High Performance Coach), **Jasna Rather** (Para High Performance)

US Table Tennis Association, Inc. Foundation: **Tim Crowley, Dell Sweeris**

Committee Members: **Frank Roth** (Chair – Ethics and Grievance Committee), **Khoa Nguyen** (Chair – High Performance Committee), **Bill Draper** (Chair – Technology Committee), Mik Babuin (Chair – Tournament Committee, US Nationals Tournament Director)

Other Persons Present: **Kagin Lee, SK, Larry Hodges**

Board Chair Call for Conflicts

Board Chair Char called for actual, anticipated or perceived conflicts, and none were noted.

Welcome New Board Members

Board Chair Char took a moment to welcome two newly elected athlete representative Board Members, Tahl Leibovitz and Niraj Oak, to their first Board Meeting in that capacity.

Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2022, and February 17, 2022

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved nine votes to one (Board Member Thomas Hu voting ‘no’ – Board Members Niraj Oak and Tahl Leibovitz abstaining as they were not Board Members at the time of these meetings):

RESOLVED: That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on February 7, 2022, and the Special Board Meeting held on February 17, 2022, are approved and formally entered into the record.

Report of the CEO (Virginia Sung)

Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung reported on the guidance received from the Major Event Task Force and the efforts to revitalize USATT’s Five-Star events, starting with the 2022 US National Table Tennis Championships scheduled for Fort Worth, Texas, from July 2 through July 7, 2022. Ms. Sung noted that a primary goal of the 2022 Nationals is to improve the player experience at Five-Star events by offering more events (112), increasing the number of events that a participant can play (from 7 to 10), offering a brand new line up of events for persons living with a Parkinson diagnosis, increasing the number of courts (to 100 or more), and working with a number of new event sponsors, such as the USATT Foundation sponsoring the tournament’s senior events.



Ms. Sung noted some of the important persons associated with this year's Nationals including Tournament Director, Mike Babuin, Head Referee Roman Tinyszyn, Deputy Referee Dan Reynolds, Volunteer Coordinator Marguerite Cheung, and Marketing Specialist Jack Starr. USATT is working closely with the staff at the Fort Worth Convention Center and Fort Worth Sports to ensure efficient tournament operations. Ms. Sung noted the importance of expanding the revenue streams from Five Star Events, particularly focusing on Event Sponsors, content distribution, ticket sales, and maximizing event registration and participation.

Ms. Sung stated that leading up to the US Nationals, participation at the US Nationals State Qualification Events is up 70% over the prior year with three states still yet to play their SQT. Ms. Sung noted that the organization is intending to create a Competition Handbook for the SQTs and the Regional Qualifying Tournaments to help guide clubs hosting these events, and with the goal of getting the Requests for Proposals to states as early as September of 2022 for the SQTs to be held in 2023.

Report on Major Event Task Force – 2022 US Nationals (Mike Babuin)

The Chair of the Major Event Task Force and the Tournament Director for the 2022 US Nationals, Mike Babuin, reported on developments on these fronts. Mr. Babuin described that, under the METF, a number of important phases related to running a Five-Star Tournament have been (and are being) analyzed and improved. The areas of review and improvement include operational logistics, tournament scheduling, volunteer participation, floor plan design, and improvement of communication. Mr. Babuin noted that, with respect to the 2022 US Nationals, the operational effort is well underway, noting that there are a number of factors outside the control of USATT that could impact the event, including COVID-19 and global shipping and supply chain concerns.

Audit Committee Report (Kelly Watson)

Board Member and Audit Committee Chair Kelly Watson reported on the status of the audit of the USATT December 31, 2021, financial statements. Ms. Watson noted that some changes to the USATT Financial Policy implemented as a result of the recent USOPC Audit.

Board Committee Appointments (Richard Char)

Board Chair Richard Char led the discussion on appointing new athlete representation for two Board populated Committees, the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee, to replace Tara Profitt who has been serving as the athlete representative on those two committees.

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

RESOLVED: That Niraj Oak is hereby appointed to serve as the Athlete Representative on the USATT Audit Committee, to serve until a successor is duly elected.

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

RESOLVED: That Tahl Leibovitz is hereby appointed to serve as the Athlete Representative on the USATT Compensation Committee, to serve until a successor is duly elected.



High Performance Committee Appointment (Dan Reynolds)

Board Member Dan Reynolds led the discussion regarding the appointment of a new member to the USATT High Performance Committee. Mr. Reynolds noted that the members of the HP Committee had voted amongst themselves and selected Khoa Nguyen to serve as the Chair of the Committee. Mr. Reynolds recommended that Mr. Nguyen be approved as the Chair of the HPC. Mr. Reynolds also noted that a three-person Board Member Task Force had solicited applications for a vacancy High Performance Committee and received four applications. After proper interviews of each candidate, the Board Member Task Force recommended Sean O’Neill to fill the vacancy in the High Performance Committee.

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved ten votes to two (Board Members Lily Zhang and Nikhil Kumar voting “no”):

RESOLVED: That Sean O’Neill is hereby appointed to serve on the USATT High Performance Committee, to serve until his successor is duly elected.

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved eleven votes to one (Board Member Nikhil Kumar “abstaining”):

RESOLVED: That Khoa Nguyen is hereby appointed as the Chair of the USATT High Performance Committee, to serve until his successor is duly elected.

Report of the High Performance Committee (Khoa Nguyen)

High Performance Committee Chair Khoa Nguyen reported on the recent activities of the HPC, which includes an effort to study the reallocation of funds currently allotted to Performance Pathway Grant. Mr. Nguyen noted that with the Pan Am Games upcoming two years, the HPC is working on the process to ensure that the best US players are properly supported to play in that event.

Report of the Technology Committee (Bill Draper)

Technology Chair Bill Draper gave a report on the efforts of the USATT Technology Committee. Mr. Draper stated that USATT has historically contracted its technology needs to third party contractors; but it is the opinion of the committee assessed problems with this approach. He then described an alternate approach for USATT to take more ownership in the systems used by USATT and the underlying technology supporting those systems. Mr. Draper noted that USATT recently instituted a “home grown” solution for tournament registration that is being implemented for registration for the US National Team Trials. Following Mr. Draper’s presentation, the Board asked a number of questions and agreed that the Technology Committee recommendations deserve further Board deliberation.



United States Table Tennis Foundation, Inc. Report (Tim Crowley)

USTTF Member Tim Crowley reported on the status of the Foundation, noting that the current reserves in the fund have gone from \$1,255,000 to \$1,195,000.00, which was a five per cent (5%) decrease in the fund and was expected in light of the current status of the markets. Mr. Crowley stated that the Foundation is continually monitoring and examining how these funds should be invested and allocated in the future.

Ping Pong Diplomacy Team Championships and Gala Event (Dell Sweeris)

USATT Hall of Famer Dell Sweeris and Foundation Acting Chair reported on a recent event held at the California Table Tennis Center in Rosemead, California, celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy phenomena, which brought the table tennis teams of America and China together in a good will event. The “Friendship Match” held in the Los Angeles area was accompanied by a successful gala celebrating harmony between the US and China. Mr. Sweeris then described plans for a series of events known as the Ping Pong Diplomacy Team Championships, which are scheduled for at least three cities – Houston, San Francisco, and New York – and will include a team table tennis competition, as well as a fund-raising gala element. The date for the first PPD Team Event, which will be held at the Houston International Table Tennis Academy and where teams will compete for \$6,000 in prize money, is still to be determined. Additional events in San Francisco and New York are in the planning stages.

Ethics and Grievance Committee Report – Conflicts of Interest (Frank Roth)

USATT Ethics and Grievance Committee Chair Frank Roth reported that he has received and reviewed the Conflicts of Interest forms for persons who self-identified potential conflicts on their 2022 Annual Compliance Packet, including Board Members, USATT Staff and Contractors, and Committee Members. Mr. Roth stated that he discovered no potential disqualifying or impermissible conflicts in the forms submitted to the EGC. Mr. Roth indicated that USATT implemented this system of COI review in 2021, and he believes that the system effectively attains the goal of ensuring proper review of potential conflicts of interest for the organization.

Mr. Roth indicated that the EGC continues to meet monthly and has been implementing changes to the Grievance Procedures that were required by the 2021 USOPC Audit.

Board Member Dan Reynolds Remarks

Board Member Dan Reynolds took a moment to report on his recent experiences in the table tennis community.

Next Board Meeting – June 13, 2022

Board Chair Char requested that the Board agree to meet on the second Monday in June (June 13) rather than the first (June 6) because of a Para event going on that week, which will involve several Board Members.



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.

Board Chair Char discussed the Board Training and Strategic Planning session for May 20-21, 2022, in Colorado Springs.

Adjournment

It was properly moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. Board meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm US Mountain time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson
USATT General Secretary

End. 22 04-08a