1. Call to Order

The USATT Board of Directors teleconference meeting was called to order at 9:32 am EDT on September 24, 2016 by Mr. Peter Scudner, Chairman of the Board ("Chair").

2. Administrative Matters: Roll Call, Quorum Established, Conflict of Interest Statements, USOC General Assembly Meeting

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was established. Mr. Ed Levy and Mr. Dennis Taylor, General Counsel, were absent. A routine call for conflicts of interest was made. Mr. Peter Scudner, Chair, disclosed a conflict with the first media services agenda item; and he did not participate in that discussion.

Members present:

Peter Scudner, Chairman of the Board (Chair)
Mike Babuin, At-Large Director
Anne Cribbs, Independent Director
Larry Hodges, At-Large Director
Ed Hogshead, Club Representative Director
Kagin Lee, National Organization Director
Carolyne Savini, Independent Director
Han Xiao, Athlete Director (joined meeting at 9:52 am, left at 10:45 am)

Also in attendance:

Gordon Kaye, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Carl Danner, Foundation Representative
Lee Kondo, Assistant Secretary

The Chair noted that Ms. Cribbs, Mr. Xiao and the CEO attended the USOC General Assembly meeting. They met with USOC leadership which promoted the U.S. Olympics events. The USOC gave positive feedback regarding its business interactions with USATT's CEO.
3. Proposed Media Services Agreement with Triode-- Women’s World Cup TV Broadcast Proposal/Broadcast Management Group Proposal

The CEO stated that, according to General Counsel, Mr. Peter Scudner, Triode company owner, has fulfilled his duty as a Board member by disclosing a conflict of interest with this agenda item, not participating in USATT’s evaluation of the Proposal, and not voting on the Proposal. The CEO then described that Triode’s estimate of costs was significantly lower than those of other broadcast groups. The CEO recommended that USATT should enter into an agreement with Triode. If USATT approved the Triode agreement, Triode Media Group would act as a general contractor, outsourcing various jobs to subcontractors to meet the agreement specifications.

Mr. Hogshead suggested that General Counsel’s advice should be obtained regarding this proposed contractual matter. The CEO said that General Counsel stated that decision making authority for this issue was within the scope of the CEO’s responsibility as an operational matter. The CEO noted that, as a standard precaution, General Counsel will review all aspects of this transaction. The CEO reviewed anticipated revenues and expenses, noting significant ITTF funding.

Mr. Hogshead said that the conflict must be reported on the IRS 990 form, and he suggested a possible Board motion to accept and agree with General Counsel’s advice to conduct business with a Board member. Mr. Lee commented that no such motion generally is needed to accept General Counsel's advice. He added that it would be sufficient to note General Counsel's advice in the minutes. Mr. Hogshead suggested that General Counsel could provide a summary of this agenda item for inclusion in the minutes.

Mr. Babuin noted that considering this accelerated timeframe for decision making, grant monies received, and Triode's numerous unpaid hours already spent on the project, USATT should sign the Triode agreement.

4. New ITTF Coaching Rule Discussion

The Chair noted that if the USATT Board does not act, the new ITTF coaching rule (permitting advice between every point) will automatically be adopted for all U.S. tournaments on October 1, 2016, in accordance with USATT policy. The Chair added that if the Board decides not to adopt the new ITTF coaching rule for U.S. tournaments, motions concerning this coaching rule should be discussed. The CEO noted his conversation with General Counsel who recommended that any proposed motion should be phrased affirmatively as a rule that would supersede the ITTF rule.

USATT committees submitted opinions regarding this issue as follows:

- Tournament Committee – In favor of following the ITTF rule
- High Performance Committee – In favor of following the ITTF rule
• Umpires and Referees Committee – Opposed to following the ITTF rule
• Rules Committee – Evenly split opinion

Mr. Hodges stated that he previously distributed an email to Board members regarding possible wording of a motion, and he presented variations on motions for the Board's consideration. Mr. Hogshead noted that the URC supported USATT retaining the previous "no coaching" rule, rather than the new ITTF rule. He also suggested that Mr. Hodges' motion be simplified.

Mr. Lee had distributed a draft version of the USATT rules which contained a new section that would retain the current “no coaching” rule for domestic tournaments. He suggested that if the Board wished to take this route, this version of the rules could be approved. Mr. Lee also emailed a proposed explanation of the ITTF coaching rule with guidance to tournaments for enforcement of this rule to Board members for their review.

The Chair noted that the Board can re-examine this coaching rule issue at its meeting in December. Mr. Danner said that USATT’s enforcement of ITTF’s new coaching rule at upcoming international tournaments (e.g., world cup, world cadet) is important because U.S. elite athletes need to be competitive at the world class level. Mr. Xiao commented that delaying adoption of the new ITTF coaching rule for U.S. tournaments has advantages in encouraging junior and cadet players to think for themselves, simplifying competition for recreational players, and ironing out procedural issues of new ITTF rule enforcement.

In response to Mr. Danner’s question regarding potential problems anticipated regarding enforcement of the new ITTF coaching rule, Mr. Lee said that officials worldwide may reasonably anticipate varying levels of difficulty in enforcing the new ITTF coaching rule, depending on a specific country’s culture. In a country whose culture is more orderly and "rule accepting," officials might find this new ITTF coaching rule to be potentially more readily and more quickly accepted than in a country whose culture is perhaps arguably more independent and "rule non-accepting."

Mr. Hodges noted that Hong Kong rejected the new ITTF rule for domestic non-ITTF affiliated tournaments. He suggested that USATT obtain feedback from other countries regarding their opinions on this matter. Mr. Xiao said USATT’s experiences at the Joola teams tournament might provide useful insight into whether or not to adopt ITTF's new rule. Mr. Lee said that all US collegiate tournaments will be following ITTF rules.

**MOTION 1.** MOVED to approve the amended USATT rules as presented, with a new section (4.5.1) retaining the current coaching rule at tournaments as follows:

Players may receive advice only during the intervals between games or during authorized suspension of play, and not between the end of practice and the start of a match; if any authorized person gives advice illegally the umpire shall hold up a yellow card to warn him or her that any further such offence will result in his or her dismissal from the playing area.
Movant:          Ed Hogshead  
Second:          Mike Babuin  

Discussion: Rule 4.5.1. was added to permit advice “only during the intervals between games and authorized suspension of play . . .”. While the Board decided not to adopt the new ITTF coaching rule now for U.S. domestic tournaments (i.e., non-ITTF sponsored/sanctioned), the Board can re-evaluate this matter at its December meeting.

The motion passed by voice vote, 7-1-0, with Mr. Lee opposed.

**MOTION 2.** MOVED that tournaments may opt to operate under ITTF’s new coaching rule 3.5.1.3. if noted on the entry form.

Movant:          Larry Hodges  
Second:          Mike Babuin  

Discussion: The CEO asked whether tournament directors can choose to play domestic tournaments under ITTF rules. Mr. Lee said that USATT tournaments should follow the USATT rules. Mr. Hodges stated that the Joola Teams tournament planned to follow the ITTF rules, particularly with regard to the coaching rule. The Chair requested that a motion be presented. Mr. Lee's memorandum concerning the new coaching rule can be published on USATT's website. The CEO will work with committees (e.g., URC, TAC) to implement USATT's new coaching policies.

In Favor:  Mr. Hodges, Mr. Babuin, Mr. Scudner, Ms. Savini  
Opposed:  Mr. Lee, Ms. Cribbs, Mr. Hogshead  
Abstentions: None  

The motion passed by voice vote, 4-3-0.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 am EDT.

Respectfully submitted by,  

Lee Kondo  
Assistant Secretary