



BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2017

The Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Anne Cribbs at 7:02 p.m. EDT.

Roll call

The following board members attended:

Anne Cribbs (Chair), Larry Hodges, Ed Hogshead, Tara Profitt, Carolyne Savini, Gary Schlager, Rajul Sheth, Deepak Somarapu (7:23 p.m.), Erica Wu.

Also attending:

Carl Danner (Foundation Rep), Dennis Taylor (General Counsel), Gordon Kaye (CEO)

A quorum was established. No conflicts were reported.

General Board Reminders

Anne Cribbs reminded the board that 100% had pledged contributions to USATT. The totals are not in, but everyone should contribute something. She also gave a reminder regarding any outstanding Conflicts of Interest and Code of Ethics statements.

SafeSport

Anne Cribbs provided a reminder to the board regarding SafeSport compliance (background checks and training) and stressed the importance of getting this done. She provided an update on the USOC SafeSport audit process, which was released today. USOC is serious and will be conducting its audit soon.

Gordon Kaye updated the board on the SafeSport implementation. USATT is currently approaching 90% committee compliance. Some not pleased with the First Advantage storage policy of Social Security numbers. First Advantage will take a passport or driver's license # to establish identity, but that does not change the SSN storage policy.

Committees

MOVED to approve Sydney Christophe as a member of the Coaching Committee.

Movant: Larry Hodges **Second:** Anne Cribbs

Approved: 8-0-0

MOVED to approve Diann Darnall, Al Papp, Jay Turberville, and Ty Hoff as members of the Classic Table Tennis Committee.

Movant: Larry Hodges **Second:** Ed Hogshead

Approved: 8-0-1 (Deepak Somarapu abstained)

Discussion Regarding High Performance Director and Coaching at World Championships

Rajul Sheth expressed his concerns over the decision to appoint Jörg Bitzigeio, the new High Performance Director (“HPD”), as a coach for the World Championships. Concerns were:

- He does not yet have his work visa and there is no assurance that he will get his work permit;
 - The money saved by not requesting expedited service and by HPD living in Germany has funded an additional athlete to travel to the Worlds.
- He should not be working for or with USATT until he has his work visa;
 - He is currently working as an unpaid volunteer. Counsel has no issue with this. Also, he is already SafeSport compliant.
- There is concern that USATT is falling into the same “trap” as in the past when the HPD selected himself as the team coach;
 - USATT does not have a formal policy regarding who will choose coaches for international competitions. This will be addressed in the new High Performance Plan to be drafted during Summer-Fall 2017. Also, the coaching appointment is an interim measure, not a permanent measure.
- He does not have experience working with the current list of players.
 - HPD will be talking with players’ personal coaches to learn more about players. One parent has said that HPD has communicated more in 39 days than anyone else in 12 years.

The Board took no action.

Discussion Regarding Hopes Continental Event

Rajul Sheth voiced his concerns regarding the venue and smoothness of operations at the recent 2017 ITTF North American Hopes Trial. The Board discussed whether it should act proactively or retroactively, and the Board discuss potential steps to elevate the stature of the event.

The Board took no formal action.

The Board went into Executive Session between 8:21 and 8:32 to discuss a confidential business proposal.

Old Business

The next in-person meeting will be September 9-10 in the Washington, DC region. Gary Schlager will coordinate. Anne Cribbs has requested that the CEO invite an expert on board etiquette and responsibilities to the September meeting.

New Business

This summer's US Para Open is expected to be a Factor 40 event. It will take place during the five days prior to the 2017 SuperMicro US Nationals. USATT has negotiated for the extra use of the Convention Center at no cost. The primary remaining expense will be for officials.

The 2018 World Veteran Championships website, <http://www.wvc2018.com/>, has launched. Many auxiliary contracts are already in place. USATT still needs to set up a young officials program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Taylor
USATT Secretary