

## USASA NBOD Meeting September 26, 2019

Mr. Motta called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

Mr. Riddle performed Roll Call:

In Attendance:

President – John Motta  
Vice President – Richard Moeller  
Treasurer – Lori Stoneburner  
Region I Director – Tony Falcone  
Region 2 Director – Bill Davey  
Region 3 Director – Darius Ejlaili  
Region 4 Director – Paul Scherer  
At Large Director – Cezar Wasecki  
Independent Director – Brett Hurwitz  
Executive Director – Duncan Riddle

Absent:

Secretary Karon Beyer  
At Large Director – Werner Fricker

Guests: C Ballish Regueiro (SC), S Hernandez (SC), D Rooney (CT), K Richardson (MN), G Testani (CT), K Renner (PA-W), M Hall (PA-W), B Bosgraaf (UT), A Weiss (MA), L Salcedo (CA-S), D Greene, J Mitchell (IN), G Hutton (US Club), M Glenn (SD), J Thrash, R Dixon (SC), Donna Langdon (NC), C Morrison (NC), B George (MD), J Rodriguez (CA-N), K Anderson (MD), L Costa (NH), C McMaster (FL), O Smithson (TN), J Sadowski (DC-VA), T Moore (CA-N), B Turney (KY), P Polly Grizzle (KY), D Pugliese (MI) K Halterman (UT), M Hawkins (MN)

President's Report / US Soccer Update

Mr. Motta notified everyone that Chaz Ballish Regueiro, Region III Deputy Director, will be taking minutes.

- Mr. Motta followed up on US Soccer National Hall of Fame induction. Sunil Gulati and Abby Wambach were inducted. Mr. Moeller and Mr. Motta attended and were proud to support them on our behalf.
- Mr. Motta is on the National Soccer Hall of Fame Committee, they are contemplating changing the awards so we have a coach, a player, a referee and a builder inducted annually. This is in the working stages, but it is gaining momentum.
- This week Megan Rapinoe won FIFA's Women's Player of the Year and Jill Ellis won the Women's Coach of the Year award at the FIFA awards ceremony this month.
- US Soccer has changed referee training but failed to let everyone know timely. They asked for volunteer state associations to participate in a pilot program and 29 state associations applied.

- Dan Russell will be presenting on the US Soccer Referee program and where they are going with it tomorrow.
- The Initiative to Grow fund is 3 million dollars per year. Members need to apply. Only three Adult State Associations applied last cycle. Please get applications in, they are due Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. In the last two years US Soccer has only distributed 1.8M out of the available 6M.
- Mr. Falcone asked if there was a specific criterion for the funds -Mr. Motta and Mr. Scherer responded that it simply must be an idea to help grow soccer. Mr. Motta told everyone that even if members didn't know how to go about writing the proposal, they can contact US Soccer who will gladly assist in preparing a proposal.
- Mr. Motta said USASA is also going to apply for a grant as an organization
- The office of Vice President of US Soccer is up for election at the US Soccer AGM in February. Mr. Motta is considering a run for the office of Vice President of US Soccer. The deadline to apply for the VP spot is Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### b. USASA Strategy Session

- Mr. Riddle held sessions with State associations. The Board recognizes that some states are struggling and need assistance. There is a Saturday meeting called State Associations in a Box, where Tom Moore and Duncan Riddle will present many ideas on how USASA can help.

#### c. The re-election of Independent Director.

- Mr. Motta moved to nominate Mr. Brett Hurwitz for the position of independent director at the National Council Meeting; Mr. Moeller seconded. No opposition. The Motion Passed
- Mr. Davies asked about progress on nominating second Independent director. Mr. Motta said there has been no movement and he intends to make a change on the governance committee.

### 3. Executive Directors Report

#### a. 2020 Dates

- US Soccer AGM Feb 13-15 in Nashville
- May 16 US vs UEFA amateur game in Connecticut
- Women's Tournament Memorial Day Weekend May 23-25
- May 29-31 Steinbrecher Cup in Flynt MI
- July 7-12 Soccer Fest in Escondido CA
- Aug 7-9 Amateur Cup Final
- Sept 23-27 USASA AGM Bonita Springs, FL

A discussion ensued about the location of the future Midyear and Annual General Meetings. Many state associations have requested USASA choose cities that are hubs or closer to major airports. Mr. Riddle said the state office is aware of the requests and agrees with them. His staff will endeavor to schedule in locations that are easier to get to and less expensive.

#### b. National Cup Rules

- Mr. Riddle would like uniform National Cup policies and entry rules for all regions. Mr. Motta created a committee consisting of Mr. Falcone, Mr. Ejlaili, Mr. Fricker and Claudio Frigo, Region 2 Deputy Director, to create these documents.

#### 4. Women's Competitions – Mr. Moeller

- USASA is trying to resurrect the Women's National Amateur Cup Tournament in August. We would like it to mirror the men's competition. Regional Champions who progress to a final four tournament.
- We are also looking to have something equivalent to Steinbrecher Cup. It is proposed to be the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. We will continue to call it the Michelle Akers Cup.
- The budget for the Final Four Tournament and Michelle Akers Cup is proposed at combined 30k. We will be asking USSF to supplement funding.
- Women's task force has been focusing on getting women participating in Regional events.
- Because the Regions do not have champions Mr. Davies said he thinks we should hold off on spending 30k on the Michelle Akers cup this year. Mr. Motta and Mr. Moeller said the money would be split between National Championship and National Amateur Championship, so it will not be 30k rather a smaller amount. Mr. Davies said we may be starting off on the wrong foot, we need to show members of a state associations a pathway to this event from the beginning.
- Mr. Motta said only Region two and Region three had women's champions, he suggested the winners of these two regions play for a spot in Michelle Akers Cup. Mr. Moeller suggested we could send both regional champions directly to Michelle Akers Cup. Mr. Riddle is going to follow through with Mr. Ejlaili and Mr. Davies to see if the teams have interest.
- The Women's committee is to propose a date for the next Women's Amateur Championship in August.

#### 5. Insurance Update

- Insurance rate is expected to increase in 2020. Mr. Motta said this should not affect member cost to USASA.

Special Guest from K&K Andy Gregory and Jason discussed the insurance marketplace specific to sports organization

- Participant accident will remain the same. But Liability will increase for 2020. We are seeing a trend in sports. Safe Sport legislation has increased potential liability; sexual issues with USA Gymnastics, Penn State and the like have exposed increased liability. It is a volatile time in the insurance world and it is not possible to lock down where rates will go in the future but the trend is price increases for sports organization.
- Mr. Scherer suggested we remind members of their due diligence as far as responsibilities.

Mr. Falcone had some Housekeeping points for the National Council Meeting Saturday:

- The Body needs to ratify UPSL
- Credentials for Saturday, National league and State Leagues will not get a single vote as that bylaw went in effect at the last meeting, their votes will be based on their 2019 numbers.
- States who have not paid affiliation fees are not eligible to vote.

- Formal action to accept new members and league / affiliate members

#### Open Forum

- Bill George, VP Maryland – expressed concern with women’s competitions. Federation paid for the Steinbrecher cup so he believes USSF should pay for Akers Cup. Mr. Riddle corrected him that Akers cup is all only our members while Steinbrecher Cup is for a mix of USSF and USASA teams. Despite this difference we are requesting funding.
- Lewis Costa NH – believes if the bylaws for men and women are the same “that says it all,” funding for the tournaments should be equal. It was explained that there are over 150 teams in Men’s and 12 in Women’s so equal funding is not realistic rather an equal experience is what we are trying to provide.
- Jim Sadowski, Pres DC VA, heard that no player cards were checked for some teams at the Regional Amateur Championship. Jim wants to know if it was true. Mr. Riddle said he will respond in the National Council meeting to everyone.
- MR Sadowski believes the Annual General meetings are too far and too expensive, they are creating a financial burden on the states.
- According to Mr. Sadowski, our bylaws have 2 components associations must achieve to get votes: paying money and conveying player registration information. He wants to know where the voting numbers came from. Do these numbers exactly correlate with registration data and payments? He further would like to know what consideration went into the decision.
  - Mr. Riddle said for the numbers represented in the AGM Book, every state associations turned in registration information and payment were received before 12/31/18. There are states who struggle with issues, but as far as registration every state association has turned in registration and payments for all votes he has certified.
- Mr. Sadowski asked if it was possible to verify these numbers. Mr. Riddle said he would not discuss individual states.
- Mr. Sadowski asked Mr. Riddle if every State Association have submitted their required data of player registrations as required by the by-laws to the office. Mr. Riddle answered that every State has submitted their data to the office.
- Mr. Sadowski asked if our database was shared with USSF. Mr. Riddle said the states are responsible under the bylaws. Since USSF is having issues they have asked us to service our state associations as an individual entity.
- Mr. Sadowski asked for comments on his proposed bylaw
  - Mr. Davies said it was cumbersome
  - Mr. Falcone said there might be issues with USSF
- Mr. Sadowski responded that he believed the bylaw no more cumbersome than the current one. As far as protecting small states, he staggered numbers on purpose. The threshold to gain votes is only 500 votes at the beginning so small states could quickly get votes, as states grow it becomes more difficult.
- Mr. Sadowski suggested that the rules committee act more with a dialogue so small issues could be corrected.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32pm