



USASF Board of Directors Meeting February 3, 2016

PRESENT:

Ann Lehrmann, Brian Elza, Dan Kessler, Happy Hooper, Jim Chadwick, Jeff Fowlkes, Joelle Antico, John Newby, John Nichols, Justin Carrier, Kathy Penree, Kristen Rosario, Mike Burgess, Morton Bergue, Roger Schonder, Steve Peterson, Tara Harris

ABSENT:

Debbie Love

GUESTS:

Bill Seely, Ali Stangle, Amy Clark, Karen Wilson, Lynn Singer

AGENDA:

Jim welcomed everyone to the call, reviewed the agenda and introduced the first guest, Bill Seely of USA Cheer.

Bill Seely, USA Cheer

Bill provided an overview of USA Cheer, explaining that it is the National governing body for all disciplines of cheer and has three main functions:

- 1 – To grow the number of participants in all disciplines of cheer – All Star, Scholastic and STUNT.
- 2 – Safety awareness. USA Cheer launched the National Safety Council, which brings together the whole industry along with medical experts, media, parents and athletes to create a 360° approach to safety. A safety reporting mechanism has been implemented to address issues, to make recommendations to groups accordingly and to promote how safe cheerleading really is.
- 3 – Represent the U.S. in international competition. The U.S. National team doesn't reflect any discipline individually, but represents all disciplines.

There are currently two legislative issues of concern:

1. A new CA law that has made cheer a sport. This new law can be problematic for both school and All Star as it has the potential to limit the number of participants in both disciplines. USA Cheer has reached out to a sponsor of the CA bill to help her understand potential ramifications and steer her in the direction of a positive resolution for all sides.
2. There is a bill in New Jersey coming through the state assembly in the same way the bill in CA did. USA Cheer reached out to the authors of the bill and it was tabled based on relationships with coaches and state associations, but has come up again recently. USA Cheer will be working closely with representatives both in CA and NJ.

A key to success in keeping All Star from being diminished by combining it with scholastic cheer limitations imposed legislatively is to maintain All Star's status as a separate discipline from scholastic cheer.

Jim thanked Bill for his time on the call and for the work that USA Cheer is doing on behalf of All Star and the USASF.

USASF Points Race

Tier 3 companies will apply to be a part of the points race and follow a process similar to the process used by Tier 1 companies that award Worlds bids. Three paid bids and three at large bids will be awarded (and funded) by the USASF to the six highest scoring teams at the end of the virtual race. More discussion will take place to finalize the calculations and technical needs.

TIER 4 membership enhancements

A new Tier 4 membership designation for gyms that host one event per year as a fundraiser or showoff is available. This membership designation would allow gyms to be covered by event insurance through the USASF. Specific guidelines will be set regarding the definition of the type of event that would qualify, the type(s) of sanctioning guidelines that need to be met and additional scenarios.

Task Force Updates

At the November Board meeting, several Task Force committees were established to address specific Board questions and requests for more information and to come back to the Board with findings and recommendations.

Worlds Task Force Update

The Worlds Task Force will have its first call on February 17th to begin discussion about plans for Worlds long term.

VIP Gala Task Force Update

The VIP Gala Task Force feels that a celebration of All Star and recognition of excellence and leadership by members prior to Worlds is an important and meaningful way to acknowledge successes of the season as well as set a positive and festive tone for competition that begins the following day. The Task Force recommends continuing the VIP Gala, and:

1. reviewing the nomination and selection process for award recipients
2. exploring the idea of showing footage from the Gala in the venues during Worlds weekend and on the website afterwards
3. additional ideas will be gathered from NAB and WAB members

Education Task Force

The Education Steering Committee will address the breadth and depth of educational initiatives, and define what fits under the education umbrella for the USASF. The Steering Committee will be comprised of Board Members, Coaches, Event Producers, NACCC representatives, Dance representatives and USASF Staff. The first call will take place on February 17th.

Rules Process Update

The Rules Committee makeup is being reviewed. All is going well with the tracking of safety judges and their efforts this season. Submissions for new rules proposals are being accepted now through May 1. They are streamlining the process for how the rules change proposals will be processed. Final rules will be announced in the fall and distributed in early 2017.

Age Based Rules Proposal update: Gym owners applied in December to be part of regional focus groups, which are going on now through next week. Following these focus groups, each Regional Advisory Board will be asked for input. New groups will then be established in each region that will continue to gather input. The Age Based Rules Proposal is not a part of the Rules Committee or the Rules process, but is happening concurrently.



Coach ID Card and Background Check Update

To date, 14,377 people are background checked. The USASF follows NCYS standards.

Event Producers are doing a great job of enforcing the new requirement of a green light status to access the warm up room at sanctioned events. Conference calls with event producers are being conducted to help with the process.

Coach ID cards are being made available by region.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 2