



USASF BOARD MEETING – JUNE 11, 2014

PRESENT:

Jim Chadwick, Brian Elza, Colleen Little, Dan Kessler, Elaine Pascale, Happy Hooper, John Newby, John Nichols, Justin Carrier, Jeff Fowlkes, Kathy Penree, Kristen Rosario, Mack Hirschberg, Mike Burgess, Morton Bergue, Steve Peterson, Tara Harris

ABSENT:

None.

GUESTS:

Gwen Holtsclaw, President, Cheer, Ltd., Les Stella, USASF Vice President, Rules, Safety and Judging, Lynn Singer, USASF Executive Director, Communications, Amy Clark, USASF Executive Director, Membership, Karen Wilson, USASF West Regional Director

AGENDA

Universal Score Sheet Update: Les Stella and Kristen Rosario

Les explained that the Universal Score Sheet is still on schedule and moving forward and will be used for Worlds in 2015.

Kristen reviewed the implementation timeline that was provided to members in January:

- Now: judges training and coaches education will be begin
- December 15-16: small group meets to discuss tweaks
- April, 2015: use at Worlds
- 2015-16: Final score sheet available for use at all events

Les added that while it is not mandatory for event producers to use the Universal Score Sheet, it will be available for those that want to use it during the 2014-15 season, and it will be discussed at Regional Meetings this summer.

After discussion, the Board approved, by voice vote with no opposition, the Universal Score Sheet being available (as an option) for event producers to adopt and use during the 2014-15 competition season, but could not be officially called the "Universal Score Sheet" while in the testing season. The score sheet will be tweaked in December, 2014 for release as the Worlds Score Sheet in January, 2015, then available for full implementation as the Universal Score Sheet for the 2015-16 season.

A second discussion, approved by voice vote with no opposition, is the reorganization of the Universal Score Sheet committee to include some of the original members with the addition of some new members to form a new USASF Scoring and Judging Committee. Once the committee is organized, Les will provide an explanation of the scope and purpose via a new Charter to the Board for approval.

Dance Rules 2014-15 Approval: Mike Burgess

Mike reviewed that dance has a rules change process that includes collecting input from members that is discussed and agreed upon by the Dance Rules Committee and that process occurred in March, 2014. He also explained that the Dance Rules committee is working to align its timeline with the Cheer Rules timeline. .

Jim asked if anyone was opposed to the 2014-15 Dance Rules. None were opposed. The 2014-15 Dance Rules were approved by voice vote.

Cheer Rules Process Update: Mike Burgess

Mike reminded the Board that we are in the second of a two year cycle in the rules process, and then explained that since the NACCC annual meeting has been moved from May each year to August each year, the rules process needs to be adjusted to match the new timeline. Mike recommended the following:

- Now: the rules proposals that were submitted by June 1 go to the NACCC and the Rules Committee to be whittled down to a "Draft Slate" and brought to Regional Meetings for discussion and coach input.
- August: NACCC Congress Meeting: Live webcast to present all sides of each proposal on the Draft Slate.
- Immediately after NACCC Congress Meeting: Member polling takes place and results are sent to the Board for final decision

Discipline: Brian Elza

Brian Elza brought up a concern about an escalation in teams competing with athletes that are outside of the age grid, and therefore "illegal," and opened discussion for possible solutions.

Mack Hirshberg provided an explanation of the current disciplinary process. Amy Clark and Karen Wilson noted that event producers are often reluctant to submit disciplinary complaints against customers, and program owners are often reluctant to submit complaints against programs in their area, and that the USASF cannot take disciplinary action without a filed complaint. All agreed that event producers are responsible for enforcing USASF rules at their events, and the USASF is responsible for the disciplinary process.

The motion was made to include the reporting of any action taken for age eligibility infractions in the Event Close-Out process for event producers. Once the USASF receives the Close-Out report, the issue will move through the already established disciplinary review process by the Disciplinary Committee.

Second : Mike Burgess

The motion passed by voice vote with no opposition.

Parent Committee Update - Kathy Penree

Kathy reported that the committee name will be modified to Parent Advisory Committee. She, Amy Clark, Angi Dunham and Lynn Singer have been working with two members of the committee to begin the process of setting up a structure that is more integrated into the overall USASF committee structure and process.

A session will be conducted at each Regional Meeting offering ideas to program owners and coaches for effective parent communication and education about USASF programs and benefits as well as key policies and programs within their own gym. The goal is to encourage successful gym/parent relationships and ultimately, long-term loyalty to the gym.

Division II Update: Morton Bergue

Morton briefly reviewed that Les introduced the idea of offering a Division II for Worlds at Regional Meetings last summer. The idea was brought to the Board last fall. The Board decided not to adopt Division II for Worlds, 2014, and suggested the idea be reviewed and further developed by the NACCC.

Morton reviewed pros, cons, concerns and suggestions that he has gathered from the NACCC and from discussions with a variety of program owners. From this information, and with additional input from Les Stella and Karen Wilson, Morton will put together broad topics and ideas for discussion at Regional Meetings and at the NACCC Congress Meeting. Once those ideas are discussed, specific recommendations will be brought to the Board for review.



STUNT update: Karen Wilson

STUNT Committee Chair: Karen Wilson

Committee Members: Happy Hooper, Brad Habermel, Lisa Hemmie, Morton Bergue, Sean Timmons, Tannaz Emamjomeh, David Sims, Leah Barger, Misty Hodges, Orson Sykes, Bill Ahern Leroy McCullough, Tres LeTard, Dan Kessler.

The goals of the committee are to:

- Develop a productive dialogue with USA Cheer
- Provide USASF members with accurate information about STUNT
- Develop opportunities for USASF members to integrate STUNT into their programs

Issues discussed by the committee:

- The overlap of spring as the season for STUNT competitions and for national events and Worlds for All Star. STUNT will not likely shift their season.
- Making sure that there aren't limitations for athletes to participate both in STUNT and All Star.
- Potential conflicts with NCAA eligibility. The committee is confident that since All Star is not a Title IX sport, there is not a conflict.
- Opportunities for All Star gyms to develop summer leagues for STUNT.

There are currently 19 college STUNT teams and nine states with high school competitions for STUNT.

Uniform Guidelines: Happy Hooper

Happy discussed an issue that is occurring as a result of the full length uniform top requirement for junior teams. The age grid allows for 10 year olds to be on senior teams and for 14 and 15 year olds to be on junior teams. While the original intent of the uniform guideline was to cover up younger athletes and allow older athletes to compete in crop tops, the age grid allows for the opposite to occur.

Discussion suggested that if a proposed age grid change passes that increases the bottom age for senior level teams, that change will address the issue. Further discussion noted that, as with any rule or guideline, the uniform guideline will be reviewed after it has been in place for a reasonable period of time.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: September 3, 2014