



USASF Board Conference Call December 5, 2012

Members on the call:

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

Guests on the call:

Gwen Holtsclaw, President, Cheer, Ltd.
Les Stella, USASF Vice President, Rules, Safety and Judging
Lynn Singer, USASF Executive Director, Communications

Members absent from the call:

Catherine Morris

Jim Chadwick welcomed new Board members Kristen Rosario, Kathy Penry, and Morton Bergue and reviewed status of members and voting.

BUDGET PLANNING – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee held a meeting on 11.27.12 to review the basis, budget categories and how the USASF staff creates the budget. It was determined that the Executive Committee will review the topline budget as created by the USASF staff, provide recommendations and then report to Board. Next meeting is to be determined.



NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The Board unanimously approved the following as the new USASF Mission Statement:

“To support and enrich the lives of our All Star athletes and members. We provide consistent rules, strive for a safe environment for our athletes, drive competitive excellence, and promote a positive image for the sport.”

Next Steps to Support The Mission:

Jim announced that Les Stella will be promoted to Vice President of Rules, Safety and Judging and Lynn Singer will be officially appointed Executive Director of Communications.

The role of Board is to oversee the accomplishment of the mission via committees. The next step is to adjust the committee charters where necessary so that the work of each committee is directed toward accomplishing the mission. Each committee chair will review and/or adjust the current charter with input from his or her committee members, and will submit the any proposed revisions to the Board. If a charter does not support the new mission, the committee may be discontinued. Jim asked committee chairs to have charters ready to review by the next Board call on February 6, 2013.

SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSE STRATEGY

Lynn Singer discussed the policy and process for responding to negative and inflammatory social media posts about the USASF. If warranted, the USASF may acknowledge a negative post and redirect the person either to the appropriate USASF representative who can resolve their issue, or to the USASF website or other information that can correct inaccurate information.

VOTING PROCESS

Les Stella explained that Professional Membership for coaches and gym owners was introduced at summer Regional Meetings. This level of membership requires a background check and provides member benefits including the ability to serve on committees and boards and voting privileges.

Professional Membership is growing, but is not yet at a level to be fully representative for voting purposes. In an effort to keep our voting process inclusive and open to as many members as possible, the Board approved that all current coach members be allowed to vote in 2012-13. Information announcing that Professional Membership will be required to vote beginning with the 2013-14 membership cycle will be provided in ballots this season.



MEMBER AGREEMENT ADDENDUM

Steve Peterson reviewed, and the Board approved, a member agreement addendum requiring that every All Star competition produced by USASF member companies and their affiliates must be USASF sanctioned.

ATHLETE ID, 2013-14

Jeff Fowlkes provided an update on potential accidental medical and catastrophic insurance policies for member athletes. More information from the insurance company is needed. The NACCC, event producers and committees would all need to indicate support for an insurance program and bring the suggestion to the Board for review.

Discussion surrounding required Athlete ID for 2013-14. Elaine Pascale indicated that the NACCC is willing to endorse Athlete ID as a requirement and will provide a letter of support to the USASF Board after discussion 12/6/12.

The Compliance Committee will formalize the process that is already being used this season and present to the Board for approval on 12.12.12.

DEFINITION OF A PROGRAM

Mike Burgess discussed the efforts of a Rules sub-committee to define and clarify the term "program" as it is used in rules. The sub committee was comprised of 21 gyms of all sizes from across the country. The sanctioning and disciplinary committees will also review and provide input. The goal is to have the definition complete in March, 2013, in time for the finalization of the 2013-15 age grid.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Mike Burgess reported that the Special Needs Committee has prepared guidelines for event producers and gyms for teams with special needs. (The committee is made up of coaches and experts on people with special needs.) The Board approved that the guidelines be available to any event producer that requests them now, and will be officially rolled out with the 2013-14 rules cycle.



RULES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike Burgess reviewed the items that the Rules Committee is currently working on:

1. January voting slate was reviewed by the NACCC and the rules committee.
2. Developing a standard protocol for stopping a performance when an injury occurs.
3. Future rules clarifications and glossary items.
4. Exception for an individual with special needs aging out of a team.

Elaine Pascale opened the question for discussion regarding “exhibition” divisions and the requirement for all star teams to follow USASF rules. Board discussion surrounding the issue of teams entering an exhibition division for the purpose of not having to follow rules and to perform skill that are outside the grid and levels. The NACCC will request that the Rules Committee establish a rule requiring exhibition divisions to follow all rules and the age grid.