



## **USASF BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 12-13, 2013**

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **ABSENT:**

All present.

### **GUESTS:**

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

### **AGENDA:**

#### **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.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Rules Committee – Mike Burgess, Chairman**

- The Rules Committee met last week and established Level 6 rules.
- The committee also clarified some definitions and imminent safety issues that will be posted. Safety judges will warn teams until the end of this year.
- In the next few weeks we will announce a restructuring of the committee that will bring in new members starting this summer.

#### **Sanctioning Committee – Steve Peterson, Chairman**

- Tier 1 application and approval process will begin in December. We will begin talking about 2014-15 sanctioning standards and will send recommendations to the committee to be decided.

#### **Worlds Advisory Board – Steve Peterson, Chairman**

- There was a conference call on September 25th to revisit the idea of a Worlds Expo. After discussion, the WAB again voted against an expo.

#### **NACCC – Elaine Pascal, Chairman**

- The NACCC has restructured its Executive Committee and Board election process.
- The Annual Meeting will move to rotating locations in each region beginning in the Midwest in 2014.
- The Annual Meeting will include discussion of rules proposals, the voting slate and the rules process. Educational sessions will move to the Regional Meetings.

#### **Dance – Catherine Morris, Chairman**

- Coaches credentialing was successful at Regional Meetings last summer. 99 coaches have received the Risk Management test to complete credentialing. 57 coaches have passed Jazz credentialing, 59 have passed Pom and 98 have passed Hip Hop.
- The goal is to have both dance and cheer credentialing available online going forward.
- Panel Judge certification was offered for the first time this year in an effort to give judges a baseline knowledge of each dance category. 70 judges have passed the first portion of Jazz Judge Certification, 59 have passed the first portion of Pom Judge Certification and 72 have passed the first portion of Hip Hop.
- Safety Judge Certification: 109 rules tests were administered. 78 passed and 20 were given a repeat due to technical errors and are being processed.
- Lynn Singer explained that the internal initiative is to fully integrate dance operations into the organization in an



effort to create efficiencies and to keep all member services and other initiatives parallel for cheer and dance where appropriate.

#### **National Advisory Board – Jim Chadwick, Chairman**

Sessions were held at each Regional Meeting to get input from the Regional Advisory Boards on topics that would then come to the National Advisory Board for review. Thirteen members are elected regionally and will then elect representatives to the National Advisory Board.

The NAB will present any recommended programs and initiatives to the USASF Board to determine next steps.

#### **Disciplinary Committee – Mack Hirshburg, Chairman**

The Professional Responsibility Code 4.0 was adopted with the new membership year.

The committee is making a recommendation for a current disciplinary case where a parent misrepresented her child's age and falsified her birth certificate in order to participate on an older team. The athlete will receive two years suspension of membership beginning July 1, 2013 and continuing through July 1, 2015.

#### **LUNCH**

#### **USASF FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT AND PLAN**

The USASF has repaid the full balance of the start up loan to Varsity Spirit Corporation and has enough working capital to remain financially independent moving forward.

Varsity funded the start of the USASF 10 years ago with an interest free loan that the USASF has been steadily repaying. The largest amount owed was 1.8MM in 2008.

The Executive Committee will review the proposed 2014 USASF budget in December and determine projections and a master plan for moving forward. The Board discussed and approved a plan for relocating USASF offices in Memphis after Worlds, 2014.

#### **PRIVATE SPORT (ALL STAR) VS GOVERNMENT SPORT (SCHOOLS AND STUNT)**

The Board discussed whether there is a need for defining all star as it relates to team composition. There is inconsistency across the US and internationally in the following ways:

- Some US college cheer teams are reorganizing using some or all of their college cheerleaders to form a team for Worlds.
- Other US teams form specifically for a bid giving event and if they don't receive a bid, they disband.
- Internationally, very few teams come from what we recognize as "all star gyms." Most are what we would consider a college-sponsored club team. Others are fully funded by their governments.
- Some event producers used to stipulate that no more than 50% of an all star team could be made up of members from the same school team.

#### **Next steps:**

The NACCC and the Rules Committee will gather input and bring a proposal back to the USASF Board for review on December 11th.

#### **WORLDS DIVISION I & II**

At October's meeting it was decided to gather additional input and suggestions from members and continue the Division I and II proposal discussion at November's meeting. After further discussion, the Board determined that the proposal has raised a number of concerns that could prove counter-productive to the original intent of the proposal.



Considering Division I and II has also widened the discussion from a Worlds proposal to a discussion about all star as a whole and creating a solution for fair and healthy competition in gyms of all sizes. Discussions will continue and more input will be solicited.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013**

### **WORLDS STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Suggestions were made at committee meetings this summer to reduce the number of Worlds bids for cheer. A Board vote was taken to recommend that the Sanctioning Committee vote to reduce the number of At Large bids awarded during the 2014-15 season for the 2015 Worlds by eliminating one At Large bid for every Paid bid. Instead of three At Large bids for every Paid bid awarded, there would be two At Large bids for every one Paid bid. By eliminating one At Large bid for every one Paid bid for the 2015 Worlds, there would be 50 fewer bids (1.2 per company) than were awarded during the 2012-2013 season.

The vote passed unanimously and will be sent to the Sanctioning Committee for a final vote.

(NOTE: The Sanctioning Committee subsequently voted to reduce the number of At Large bids for the 2014-15 season.)

### **LUNCH**

### **ADDITIONAL TOPICS**

#### **GYM RECRUITING**

One of the topics of discussion in the Regional Advisory Boards at Regional Meetings was concerning gyms recruiting athletes from other gyms and whether the USASF should take any action or even has jurisdiction over it. Discussion determined that the USASF cannot police gym recruiting but can educate gym owners as to how to protect themselves and can encourage ethical behavior by members.

#### **EVENT REGISTRATIONS**

Event producers have been noticing a trend when mega gyms or gyms with multiple locations register for a competition other gyms may pull out, not wanting to compete against the larger programs. No resolution was discussed other than the need for awareness and to see if and how the trend continues.

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

A recommendation was made by the National Advisory Board to require that anyone entering a warm up room at an event must be a Professional Member of the USASF. While there is support for the recommendation, there is not sufficient USASF or event producer manpower to implement ID checks at events. Suggestions were made to provide member education regarding Professional Membership until resources are such that a process can be implemented.

#### **IMPROVING SAFETY**

If safety is our #1 mandate, what can we be doing to make our sport more exciting and more fun in addition to more safe? A suggestion was made for the NACCC to work with the Rules Committee to put together an overall safety review of rules, time limits, etc. and put together a safety initiative.



## **WORLDS TOPICS**

Several Worlds processes are being updated.

### **Judging**

The judge selection and judging processes for The Cheer Worlds are being looked at to increase the pool of qualified judges and to add more international judges. The committee is also considering head judges that will oversee panels and watch for consistency, but will not score.

### **Officiating**

A panel of at least five officials (two of them international), not affiliated with any one program, will be created to become the pool of people to make any critical decisions regarding rules violations.

### **Worlds Score Sheets**

A motion was made for a group to work with the Universal Score Sheet Committee to construct a Worlds score sheet for 2014 to be posted by mid-January that would best represent a blend of the industry's current scoring philosophies and elements of the Universal Score Sheet that is in development. The motion passed unanimously.

## **BOARD MEMBER ELECTION**

Morton Bergue's term is expiring at the end of December. The Board voted to re-elect him to a new term, expiring in December, 2014.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 10am Central