



## **USASF Cheer Worlds Advisory Board**

August 10, 2014

Chicago, IL

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Amber Koster , Angela Rogers, Ann Lehrman, Beth Johnson, Brandi Simms, Carly Byman, Cherokee Greendeer, Christy Lehner, Colleen Little, Craig Davis, Damianne Albee, David Sims, Debi Larson, Dereck Patterson, John Hebert, Lori Wainright , Melanie Berry, Michelle Edwards, Mike Burgess, Sean Sutton, Stephanie Ammirati, Tammy VanVleet

### **USASF STAFF**

Jim Chadwick, Steve Peterson, Lynn Singer, Amy Clark

### **AGENDA**

Steve Peterson provided updates and asked for input on a variety of topics regarding The Cheerleading Worlds.

### **NEW BACKDROP**

There was a new backdrop used for Cheer Worlds in 2014 which allowed space for three warm up floors backstage. There was too much crowding, so a tent will be used in 2015 as it was prior to 2014.

### **BASEBALL STADIUM**

Using the baseball stadium for the first time was a great success. We were fortunate that weather did not interfere, although there was lightening just prior to finals. Steve proposed that it would be prudent to adjust the finals schedule for 2015 to include an optional rain day. The proposal is to hold Large Sr and Large Sr Coed semi-finals on Saturday and finals on Sunday night. If it rains Sunday night, Monday would be the backup.

Discussion included consideration about how that adjustment might impact crowd size and other divisions that are happening at the same time. Questions to address include which divisions would compete in which location should rain occur both Sunday and Monday nights and whether a live feed could be played in both Joston's and HP if competition moves inside due to rain.

Committee Support: YES

### **CELEBRITY HALL**

Celebrity Hall will be renovated to include registration desks and resort check-in and could be used as an alternative to Room 5111 for coaches information.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE NUMBER OF SUBSTITUTIONS AND ALTERNATES**

The current rule for substitutions and alternates allows for up to 10 substitutes, including three alternates. A recommendation was made to reduce 10 substitutions to six, three of which may be alternates.

Discussion included suggestions to allow the number of substitutions based on team size or reducing 10 to eight. Also discussed was the amount of substitutions that occur during the event season in order for multiple teams from a gym to earn a bid, so the idea was raised to track bids received by athlete rather than team and the challenge with tracking rosters at events.

After discussion, the WAB voted to keep the number of substitutions as is and to continue discussion as the ability to track athletes on rosters progresses.



### **VERIFYING ATHLETES AT WORLDS**

Amy Clark proposed that a process be added to Worlds for coaches to verify their final rosters and athlete eligibility prior to competing. That final roster will be sent to the warm up room for all athletes to be verified before taking the floor.

Committee Support: YES

### **VERIFICATION OF ATHLETES GETTING A BID ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A suggestion was made that the USASF track athletes within a gym that receive more than one bid.

### **LEVEL 6 QUALIFICATION AND U.S. AND CANADIAN TRIALS**

A question has been raised as to whether the USASF should allow International Open 6 teams to qualify by video. The concern is a perceived reluctance of event producers to award IO6 bids, and that most of the IO6 teams are comprised of college athletes and it's difficult to get them together to get to a bid event. An additional concern was that IO6 teams don't come to Worlds because only the top three from each country advance to finals.

Also discussed was the number of Canadian teams participating in the International Open Level 5 and International Open Coed Level 5 divisions and whether it was time to add a Canadian Trials round to select the top three teams from each division to advance to finals.

After final discussion the committee decided to add Canadian Trials for the International Open Level 5 and International Open Coed Level 5 divisions. The committee also decided not to hold International Open Level 6 U.S. Trials.

### **COACH REQUIREMENTS AT WORLDS**

The current requirements for coaches at Worlds is for cheer coaches to be credentialed to the level they are coaching and for dance coaches to be Professional Members. The question was brought to the committee as to whether cheer coaches should also be Professional Members.

Committee Support: YES

Discussion was also raised about requiring international coaches to be Professional Members. Currently there is no membership classification for international coaches and not all countries have the ability to do background checks as is done in the U.S. The consensus of the committee was to begin by requiring Professional Membership for U.S. coaches and then start to investigate the possibilities for international coaches.

### **PERFORMANCE ORDER**

The current performance order from prelims to finals is grouped by At Large bid recipients performing first, followed by Partial Pad bid recipients and Paid bid recipients last. Is this fair?

After discussion, the committee consensus was that the current process is fair and that it should remain the same.

### **INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES**

Steve explained that the ICU requires that athletes must be a legal resident or legal student resident of the country with which they are competing and the committee discussed that teams that compete at ICU represent countries and teams that compete at Worlds represent programs. This will be included in the Worlds Registration Packet as a requirement for athletes competing at the 2015 Worlds.



## **FLOOR RENTAL**

Practice floor rentals were made available to cheer and dance teams for the first time in 2014. There were six spring floors and three dance floors available to rent prior to the start of Worlds. The USASF provided busing, trainers and safety judges. Participation was low, should we continue to offer the program?

Coaches on the committee who participated said that their teams appreciated the opportunity and would like to do it again. The program was first offered in February and was not included in the Worlds Bid Packet.

The committee decided to continue the program, investigate pricing options and include information in the Words bid packet.

## **Division I and II**

Les Stella reviewed the status of the Division II debate, explaining that the idea is being discussed at all cheer meetings this week, that a survey was sent to members for opinion, that Morton Bergue is in the process of gathering information for further review and that the NACCC would put together a recommendation based on all input gathered from members.

Discussion included the opinion that the Division I and II question should be included on the Rules Slate that is upcoming in order to get input from the membership. It was suggested that it should be posed as an "opinion poll" rather than a decision-making vote so that the opinions of members could be considered in the decision making process along with additional information gathered. The suggestion will be forwarded to the Joint Session meeting of the NACCC Board of Directors and representatives of event producers from each Tier being held later in the week to determine the questions to be included in the opinion poll.

## **Meeting Adjourned**