

USA Badminton
Board of Directors Meeting
Renaissance O'Hare Suites, Chicago, IL
10.26.2019 at 10:00 AM CT

Board members present: Ben Lee (Chair), Ken Wong, Kyle Emerick, Dan Mehr, Nibu Paul, Victor Vannukul, Rena Wang

Board members absent: Patty Pflaging, Amy Burnett (present by phone sporadically, in person absence excused)

Staff present: Linda French (Interim CEO), Steve Kearney joins at 11:00 AM

Guest present: Beth Sopka USBEF

10 AM

Introduction

Ken Wong introduction and welcome as newest Board of Director.

10:07 AM

Ben moves to suspend the rules. Victor seconds. Unanimous approval.

10:09 AM

Approval of Minutes

Rena motions to approve June 12th 2019 board minutes. Dan Mehr seconds. Unanimous approval, Ken Wong recused.

10:10 AM

Amy and Patty join board meeting via phone call

10:10 AM

Revision of Strategic Plan

- Interested in growing the sport and nurturing life-long engagement through:
 - International team matches on a regular basis between Pan American countries
 - Hosting coaching certification and referee workshops
 - Invest in long-term planning: establish tournament bids at least two years ahead of time (consideration for two year contracts)
 - Develop badminton opportunities abroad through diplomacy and partnerships

10:20 AM

Review of USAB Contracts

11:20 PM - 11:45 PM Break

11:45 AM

Review of USAB Finances

12:50 PM

Para Update

- Top athletes:

- Miles is 8th in the world, silver at Para Pan Games and will compete in test event for Paralympic event in Japan
- Women: Catherine Valli is 2nd in the world and JC is 6th in the world
- Currently bidding for a tournament in 2020
 - Will seek a site at TEAMS event
 - Need ADA approved facilities and need to consider cost of transportation/ wheelchair
- Interest in building base of individuals in US certified for determining athlete classifications and as a center to provide classification training

1 PM

AAC Update

- 2020 Olympic Hopefuls
- Junior Review Panel
 - Recommendations completed in May 2019 and leaked without board approval from staff
 - Board will review panel recommendations from May and Phase III recommendations and vote at the next board meeting

2 PM

- International Team Head Coach and Assistant Head Coach Selection Process
 - Need to redefine HPAG composition
 - Finalize Olympic and Paralympic Staff Procedures before end of year
- Nationals
 - Consideration for holding tournaments in close proximity or timing to increase participation
 - (e.g. junior nationals with adult nationals)
 - Work on combining USA Team trials with Nationals
- Safesport / Background Check
 - Discussion on revamping membership for technical officials
 - With respect to SafeSport policies applied to those with authority and contact over athletes:
 - Dan motions that line judges can be excluded from USAB Safesport Policy because they don't have a position of authority and USAB will ensure that won't have contact with athletes. Ben seconds. No discussion. Unanimous approval.
 - Board expressed need to create procedures to ensure that tournament directors and referees are given most up to date list to ensure only Safesport certified and background checked individuals are appointed as technical officials at tournaments
 - Discussion on legal obligation and liability of USAB during an ongoing investigation on a coach or following a case dismissal by SafeSport
 - Maintaining banned/ investigated list on website
 - Suspend on player entry and coaching privileges
 - Create provision for expedited review by the ethics committee
 - Update code of conduct to include USAB's organizational SafeSport procedures

3:20 PM

- Membership Update
- Operations Update
 - New pricing on administrative fees:
 - Visa request letters have increased
 - P visas are not allowed to coach in the US, admin fee for letter
 - O visa admin fee for letter also instituted

- Athletes changing their national flag, fee \$1000
 - Technical officials stipends will be regulated and 990s will be issued
 - Suzanna currently works on club sanctions, collegiate program, coach certification, chatter
- Fundraising and partnership with Regions/ Junior tournament ideas
 - Bilateral matches with Canada, junior quad match with Canada, Japan, China
 - Army world class athletes program: players get paid to train for any athlete ranked internationally/ nationally
 - Grow badminton as a varsity sport in public schools and offer curriculum to develop coaching clinics and PE teachers
 - Sparring with Chinese provincial teams for a tour of the US

4:30 PM

- Events Update
 - Plan to seek venue for events for the next three years at TEAMS event in November
 - Junior Nationals
 - General consensus from board in holding tournament in large venues and seeking opportunities to partner with sports councils

5 PM

- Board size
 - Majority of board expressed thirteen may be too large and interest in limiting to eleven
 - Consideration for a junior advisory board member
 - IRC election will occur in November and IRC board position will be filled by the end of year
 - Need to consider the at-large (positions voted on by members) to independent directors ratio and determine what skill sets are missing on the board
- Technical Officials Board position will be filled by January 1st
- Independent Director resume for Mike Krajewski sent to USOPC, but no response
- Advisory Groups
 - Need to reevaluate positions, election process and terms

5:20 PM

- Coaching Certification Reform
 - Coaching certification is suspended until new system is established
 - As of now, only SP1 will be issued and has been replaced minimum in junior and adult events
 - To transition from the past HP certification process, will consider reduced fees for those that have paid for previous certification system

5:25 PM

To comply with USOC reform letter:

- Ben steps down as chair of the board. Board chair seat is declared vacant.
- Kyle motions to nominate Ken as the new chair. Rena seconds. No discussion. Unanimous approval.
- At the adjournment of the meeting, Ken Wong is effectively the chair.
- Board agrees that Ken's current term as a chair will count as full term and end at 2020.

Discussed the need for board term months to be published on the website moving forward.

5:35 PM

- Reviewed preliminary report from certified fraud examiner at forensic accounting firm

6:10 PM

Kyle motions to adjourn the meeting. Ben seconds. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned.