



Team Representative Council Meeting Minutes

Gallaudet University Library
Washington D.C.

April 20, 2017

Presentation Prior to the Meeting

Deaf Basketball Officials (DBO) gave a short presentation on the tournament rules we will be using during the tournament. The “no-contact” rule was explained and demonstrated. We will not be using the shot clock. Coaches can call timeout during dead ball while the players can during live ball.

Roll Call:

Teams

Arizona Desert Fire – Parham, Kevin
ATX Warriors – Amador, Jose
Bandits – Cocanour, Brian
Carolina (C.A.A.D) – Moses, Tommy
D.C. Elite – Jackson, TJ/Everette, Arthur
DMV – Nowak, Stacy
DMV Diplomats – Perry, John
Empire City – Ginis, James
Florida Blue Waves – Jarama, Ivan
FSAD Bombers – Jimenez, Alberto
Hollywood Stars – Valencia, Jeremias
Indy Hawks – Haney, Jr, Robert
Loyal Ballers – Shorts, Dessirie
New York Tornadoes – Mitchell, Paul
Richmond VA – Denney, Carl
SE Divastars – Colston, Martise
SE Hoopsters – Self, Shawn
Showstoppers – Gabel, Danny
SWAAD Taz – Elliott Jr., William
Texas Outlaws – Iniguez, Arturo
VAD – Boyes, Nathan
Vipers – Montanez, Kenneth

USADB

Commissioner Christina Costello
Deputy Commissioner Benro Ogunyipe
Recording Secretary James Powell

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Deputy Commissioner Benro Ogunyioe.

Ogunyipe explained that the Team Representative Council (TRC) is normally run by the National Program director (also known as Tournament Director). This position is not yet filled. For this year, we have an interim director Chuck Wallace and Ogunyipe will run the meeting.

We reviewed the agenda.

Ogunyipe explained Team Representative Council and its purpose. This meeting focuses on tournament itself.

Key Points:

- Review and discuss questionable player eligibilities;
- Final acceptance of all team rosters for the entire tournament;
- Review and discuss latest changes in the current rules and regulations;
- Make revisions to the Tournament Rules and Regulations, if necessary;
- Conduct a Question and Answer session with the Head Officials, if available;
- Propose amendments to the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Policies;
- Status of team/player registrations, and report of any missing items on these registrations.
- Information regarding the general activities of USADB organizations that may affect teams and/or players;
- Announcement of tournament planning including seeding bracket and/or game schedule

Motions can be made and voted on. All motions, especially the ones affecting Bylaws are reviewed and voted by the Executive Committee (USADB Board + affiliated region representatives).

We reviewed the tournament guidelines.

We discussed the brackets and the challenges we had in creating the brackets.

Women team coaches met to re-draw the women's bracket due to the number of teams. This was happening at the same time during the rest of the TRC meeting.

MOTION: Denney (RVA) moved to approve the proposed Men's Bracket. CARRIED 14-1.

MOTION: (Women's only) It was moved that if sixteen (16) or fewer women's teams are playing in the tournament, the women team coaches will create the bracket the day before the tournament otherwise, it will follow the same process as Men's. **CARRIED.**

MOTION: It was moved to adopt the proposed women's bracket that was created in the "huddle" **CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION: Free Agent Rules (Continuation of discussion from 2015)

USADB Board raised several questions about Free Agent Rules:

**Tournament Rules and Regulations: Article III: Player and Team Eligibility
Section 3.02: Player Eligibility Rules**

F) Free Agent. A player may join a team outside of his/her respective territory as a free agent and must stay with that team for at least one season. Men's and Women's teams are allowed to use up to two free agents. Teams must identify free agents using the appropriate code on the official roster form.

For Men:

- Decrease back to 1 RFA?
- Remove RFA rule entirely (meaning NO RFA allowed)?
- Any other?

For Women:

- Remain the same with 2 RFAs?
- Increase to 3 RFAs?
- Unlimited RFAs?
- Any other?

PROPOSAL: Tournament Bracket Seeding and Drawing

Current Tournament Guidelines

(Article VI: National Tournament Seeding Procedure

- (a) A team of 5 members shall agree by majority vote on the seeding of teams entering the national tournament. (one for men and one for women)
- (b) Five (5) members will consist of Tournament Director, four (4) at-large members (who shall not be players or coaches) that be in place and approved by USADB Executive Board by October 1st.
- (c) The 16 teams will be divided into 4 groups with four teams in each group.
 - a. Group 1: Top 4 teams
 - b. Group 2: Top Second 4 teams
 - c. Group 3: Third 4 teams
 - d. Group 4: Fourth 4 teams
 - e. Rankings of teams will be based on last year's National Tournament results
Teams that did not play in previous National Tournament but won Region championship will be in higher group before the rest of teams.
- (d) Order of Draw:
 - a. Seed Pots will be emptied in order
 - b. Each team from Pot 1 will be drawn to each bracket (North, West, South, and East)
 - c. Teams from Pot 2 will be drawn in each bracket. Pot 3 and Pot 4 to follow.
 - d. If two teams from same region are drawn to same bracket, move team to next bracket to avoid two teams from same region from being played in the first round.
- (e) Once the bracket is filled, it becomes official.
- (f) USADB Tournament Director will announce a day and time of drawing which will be videotaped and posted online.

Note: ~~Strike-through text~~ = remove **Red** text = new

PROPOSAL: Revisions to Tournament Seeding Procedure

Article VI: National Tournament Seeding Bracket Procedure Committee Set-Up:

(a) (formerly b) Five (5) members will consist of Tournament Director, four (4) at-large members (who shall not be players or coaches) that be in place and approved by USADB Executive Board by October 1st. **One of at-large member shall be identified as chair of Bracket Committee.**

(b) Tournament Director shall have a list of teams, coaches, coaches' email addresses which has been confirmed for this whole procedure.

Ranking Set-Up:

(c) A survey will be sent to all men and women coaches (separately) for their vote on ranking of each team who attend to National Tournament.

(d)(formerly a) A team of 5 members shall agree by majority vote on the seeding ranking of men and women teams entering the national tournament. (one for men and one for women) *(moved from below to be more consistent)*

(e) Rankings of teams will be based on last year's National Tournament results. Teams that did not play in previous National Tournament but won Region championship will be in higher group before the rest of teams. The final men and women ranking shall be approved by USADB Board before drawing.

Bracket Set-Up:

(f) USADB Tournament Director and the Bracket committee shall have the bracket with game times in place before the drawing.

Drawing Set-Up:

<Need to insert something here to identify a number of teams that will be drawn – for example: If there are 12 or less teams, bracket will be decided based on ranking (seeding). If more than 13 teams, it will be based on drawing. That's something TRC needs to discuss and decide.>

(g) (formerly c) The 16 teams will be divided into 4 groups with four teams in each group.

a. Group 1: Top 4 teams

- b. Group 2: Top Second 4 teams
- c. Group 3: Third 4 teams
- d. Group 4: Fourth 4 teams

TRC needs to be more specific on how groupings should be set? For example: Should groupings should be based on how many region champions. Or other suggestions/ideas?

(h) (formerly d) Order of Draw:

- a. Seed Pots will be emptied in order
- b. Each team from Pot1 will be drawn to each bracket (North, West, South, and East)
- c. Teams from Pot 2 will be drawn in each bracket. Pot 3 and Pot 4 to follow.
- d. If two teams from same region are drawn to same bracket, move team to next bracket to avoid two teams from same region from being played in the first round.

TRC needs to clarify this section.

Live Drawing:

- i. USADB Tournament Director will announce a day and time of **live drawing (Facebook Live) available only to national team participant's coaches and USADB Board.** which will be videotaped and posted online.
 - a. Once the bracket is filled, it becomes official.

MOTION: Amend (b). Coaches shall be in communication with the appointed member of the Committee. **CARRIED**

ACTION: Committee Set-Up referred to Executive Committee

MOTION: Amend (c) Survey results to be sent to coaches. **CARRIED**

MOTION: Gabel (Showstoppers) moved to do top 8 (region champs, and runner ups) and draw the rest. **CARRIED**

MOTION: Use Facebook closed group for drawing. **CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: Should USADB have 2 men divisions?
Should Division 1 be limited to 16 or 20 teams?

TABLED (due to region affiliation issue)

Proposal: Team Player Replacement – More time to process paperwork
USADB Board proposed change of deadline to add replacements from 10 days to 15 days prior to the tournament due to give USADB extra time for paperwork on replacement players.

Article V: Team Registration Rules.

5. A fee of \$25 per replacement dress-able player will be levied after the final **women's** team roster has been submitted to USADB either at the conclusion of regional tournament or by registration deadline for teams bypassing regional tournaments. If a team falls below 8 dress-able players ~~ten (10)~~ **fifteen (15)** days before the tournament, the team is allowed to add sufficient number of dress-able players to the roster (for a total of 8 dress-able players). A team with more than 8 dress-able players is not eligible to replace players. Replacement players will not be accepted after ~~ten (10)~~ **fifteen (15)** days prior to the tournament. This applies to women players only. Other men's players, and non-player like coaches, managers, etc are not eligible.

Proposal: Required Insurance

USADB wants to remind teams that insurance is required at the time of the tournament. USADB uses USSSA for its tournament insurance and encourages teams to use USSSA insurance.

However, USADB will look into changing insurance companies to lower costs. We plan to do this and hope to have a decision in place by October 1, 2017, in time for the 2018 National Tournament.

Article VIII: Proof of Insurance

- a. Each participating team is encouraged required to have proof of insurance at the time of the national tournament. USADB identifies USSSA as their choice of insurance for the national tournament. All participating teams are required to register with USSSA insurance for the national tournament. No other insurance will be accepted.
- b. Rationale: For consistency sake in utilizing an insurance organization, proposed update to include required insurance as USSSA insurance.

In light of the potential insurance agency change, it was suggested that USADB give the region secretaries notice of this insurance requirement with any new information.

MOTIONS FROM FLOOR:

Motion 1: Open Tournament

Denney (RVA) moved to allow teams to be directly affiliated to USADB – therefore guaranteeing teams a spot in the National Tournament. Giving teams the option of attention region tourney or not. **WITHDRAWN**

Motion 2: Shot Clock

Denney (RVA) moved that we use the shot clock for Saturday games at the Fieldhouse. **CARRIED**

Motion 3: Men's Only: Open competition/Remove RFA

Denney (RVA) moved that we allow open competition which means no RFA and region residency rules. **CARRIED**

END OF FLOOR MOTIONS

Announcements:

- Coaches are responsible to make sure the jersey numbers match
- Teams playing Thursday 8:30am games can arrive at 8am. All other teams wait until after 9am.

- Volunteer statisticians are still needed for the Thursday 8:30am games. See Christina Costello ASAP.

Adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted

James Powell,
USADB Recording Secretary