

**USADB Executive Council  
Meeting Minutes**

*Date: Sunday, January 9, 2022  
Time: 4:00PM PST / 7:00PM EST*

I. Opening

- a. The meeting was called to order at 4:10PM PST / 7:10PM EST via Zoom.
- b. Kristina Lorenzo-Arteaga, Secretary, called it to order.

II. Present

- a. Carl Denney, USADB Commissioner
- b. Richard McCowin, USADB Deputy Commissioner
- c. Kristina Lorenzo-Arteaga, USADB Secretary
- d. Joey Kutcka, USADB Treasurer
- e. Jim Powell, Assistant to the Commissioner (unofficial)
- f. Ronnie Zuchegno, Jr., National Program Director
- g. Sarah Faber, Women National Director
- h. Michelle Heathington, FAAD
- i. Alexandra Pucciarelli-Miller, EAAD
- j. Charles Trumble, MAAD
- k. Paul LeCroy, SEAAD
- l. Franklyn Ash, CAAD
- m. Arturo Iñiguez, SWBAD

III. Absent

- a. NWADB

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. The minutes from EC meetings dated 7/18/21, 9/12/21, and 11/7/21 were emailed to the EC.
- b. Trumble had a few minor revisions to be implemented in the previous meeting minutes.
- c. The EC voted and accepted the meeting minutes from 7/18/21, 9/12/21, and 11/7/21 as read with Trumble's minor revisions. The final and approved minutes will be emailed to the EC and posted on USADB's website.

V. Old Businesses / Open Issues

VI. New Businesses

- a. Motion #1: Puccarelli-Miller moves for EAAD to pay only half the affiliation fee to USADB (\$150.00). Heathington seconded. Upon discussion, Puccarelli-Miller withdraws her motion.
  - i. Puccarelli-Miller claims that it may be easier for EAAD (and other regions) to pay only \$150.00 of the affiliation fee. Then if USADB does proceed to host a 2022 national tournament, EAAD (and other regions) would then pay the remaining \$150.00 afterwards. This prevents EAAD (and other regions) from having to "chase down" USADB for a \$150.00 refund if there is no national tournament in 2022.
  - ii. Denney pointed out that USADB has no plans to drop the 2022 national tournament.
  - iii. Lorenzo-Arteaga countered by stating that it would be the same amount of effort either way. If regions pay only \$150.00 and USADB holds a tournament, USADB would have to "chase down" regions for the remaining \$150.00.

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iv. Puccarelli-Miller pointed out asking for the reason USADB put into the affiliation fee invoice the phrase regarding the \$150.00 refund if USADB does not hold a tournament. Lorenzo-Arteaga stated that the phrase in the invoice should still be included as the State of Indiana could force facilities to close down as time goes and we would have to cancel the tournament, even though we do not plan to. Anything could occur, so it was important to let regions know they would still get a \$150.00 refund if for any reason the tournament was forced to cancel.

v. Denney added that the \$300.00 regional affiliation fee is applicable for the entire 2022 year, and not solely used to serve regions at the tournament alone. vi.

Heathington questioned about whether the \$150.00/\$300.00 discussion would be based on whether regions hosted a tournament or not for the 2022 year. If regions host a tournament, they would be able to generate the income required to cover for the \$300 affiliation fee. Zuchegno claims this needs to be proposed as a new motion.

vii. After discussion, Puccarelli-Miller withdraws her motion.

**b. Motion #2: Heathington moves to have regions pay only \$150.00 affiliation fee for 2022 if the region is not hosting a regional tournament. Puccarelli-Miller seconded. Upon voting, the motion failed to carry.**

i. Denney is concerned for regions that do host a regional tournament, they would have to pay \$300.00 and their voice is just as equal as regions that do not host a tournament, and pays only \$150.00.

ii. LeCroy questioned whether regions who do not host a tournament in 2022 would still be sending a team to USADB or not? If they only pay \$150.00, are they still sending a team? There are expenses associated with USADB to host a national tournament.

iii. Zuchegno, Jr. had a few points:

1. If you are a member to a fitness gym and happen to be out of town for a period, do you ask for a prorated in your membership fee to the gym?  
No.

2. USADB still serves regions for the entire 2022 year aside from the national tournament. Any appeals, complaints, etc. throughout the year will still be addressed by USADB for regions.

3. There's no such thing as being half a member. You either are a full member or you are not.

4. Regions make their own decisions on holding regional tournaments and those decisions does not involve any of the USADB board. If the USADB board plays a part in the region's decision-making, regions can request for that kind of motion.

iv. Heathington brought up the fact that SWBAD was only charged \$150.00 for the 2022 year and they have an equal voice to those regions who paid \$300.00. She also added due to COVID, USADB only charged regions \$150.00 while still planning on hosting a national tournament (but later canceled).

v. Denney claims that the SWBAD situation was due to a financial hardship and questioned if FAAD is facing a similar situation as USADB could assist if needed. vi. McCowin asked if regions pay \$300.00 and if they are still in a good standing after the national tournament, do they get a \$150.00 refund? Denney and Zuchegno, Jr. both responded with a no.

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- vii. Powell recapped that regions affiliation fee is \$300.00, but if USADB does not hold a tournament, \$150.00 would be refunded.
  - viii. LeCroy threw in that regions not hosting a tournament in 2022 would be the lucky dogs. They do not have to worry about making sure the tournament comes out with a positive revenue and that heavily depends on fan admissions. In times like these, regions hosting a tournament are taking a risk.
  - ix. Trumble mentioned that during a previous USADB administration, the affiliation fee was \$150.00 for each region. The EC voted and approved to increase it to \$300.00. Now regions are trying to find a way to move back to pay only \$150.00, which does not make sense. MAAD took loss in 2019, but still paid the \$300.00 affiliation fee. He feels that it should be either \$150.00 for all, or \$300.00 for all, and not some pay one price and some the other price.
  - x. LeCroy asks to see a breakdown on the \$300.00 and how USADB uses the monies. Powell said basically it helps USADB operate as an organization. A few examples are paying for the web host, Zoom account, Board lodging and travel expenses, postage where applicable, and usual business expenses. He added that all affiliation fees are thrown into a pot and USADB takes from it when needed.
  - xi. Zuchegno, Jr. stated that it is better for an organization to not have a rigid break down of where money will be applied. For instance, if we determine an X amount of all affiliation fee will proceed to referees at the tournament. But USADB happens to get a sponsor to cover the referee expense, USADB cannot touch that X portion of the affiliation fee designated for referees because it was designated for that purpose only. It would limit the ability to be able to move money to where it is needed. Therefore, a pot is logical. Regions can ask annually to see where the monies from the pot was used as one year may differ from the other depending on other factors such as sponsors.
  - xii. After voting, the motion failed to carry.
- c. MOTION #3: Puccarelli-Miller/EAAD moves to allow EAAD teams to play in another regional tournament for 2022. Heathington seconded. Upon discussion, the motion was withdrawn.
- i. Zuchegno, Jr. shares that a motion is not needed for this. Under the bylaws, Article I: Membership, Section 1.03 Regional Territory states: "The national territory of USADB shall be divided into eight regions, subject to change as the occasion may demand." He implied that as long as both regions are affiliated, they can make internal decisions such as a team joining the other region as long as it has been approved by both regions and USADB recognizes such decision.
  - ii. Denney does not see a problem with it if both regions have approved it. Zuchegno, Jr. stresses that the regions are aware of how seeding would work if it was a team from another region that placed at the said tournament.
  - iii. Puccarelli-Miller states that only two men and one women team are interested in attending 2022 USADB (10 men teams and 3 women teams interested in NDBO).
  - iv. After discussing and determining the answer is yes, Pucarelli-Miller withdraws her motion.
- d. Region affiliation fees

- i. Trumble requested whether the “\$300.00 affiliation fee is the cost for each region, but if the national tournament is not held, then \$150.00 will be

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refunded” agreement was in the Bylaws and whether it was a temporary or permanent agreement. The consensus said it is not in the Bylaws.

- ii. Trumble added that the EC approved for this temporary agreement initially only applicable to 2019. USADB did the same in 2020 and is doing it again in 2021. He asks why the EC did not approve of that decision.
- iii. The bottom line is the Bylaws does not state anything regarding refunding \$150.00 of the \$300.00 affiliation fee if the USADB fails to host a national tournament for a specific year.

**e. MOTION #4: Trumble moves to amend region affiliation fee procedure where if USADB cancels the national tournament for a year, all regional affiliation memberships will be extended to the next year with no additional affiliation fee. Puccarelli-Miller seconded. Motion CARRIED effective immediately, for 2022.**

- i. Trumble shared that MAAD follows a similar procedure whereas if MAAD cancels a basketball and softball tournament, all clubs membership will renew for the next year at no additional fee. He would like to see USADB follow this as he thinks this would simplify things as opposed to refunding \$150.00 to regions for a specific year if there is no national tournament.
- ii. Lorenzo-Arteaga inquired how fiscal reports should be noted. Trumble claims for one year, it would show \$300.00 per region for the affiliation membership. If there is no tournament, then the next year report would show \$0 for the region memberships.
- iii. LeCroy showed concern that if USADB proceeds with a tournament, but is forced to cancel only days prior, USADB would be at a loss financially if regions do not need to pay a fee for the following year.
- iv. Denney claims that USADB will try its best to make a decision at least six weeks prior to a tournament on whether it needs to be canceled or not. USADB does not want to see any teams lose money as well as they prepare for a tournament that has been forced to cancel.
- v. McCowin expressed interest in having this concept in black and white and in writing to protect USADB in terms of cancellations of tournaments. Powell stated that when USADB contracts with facilities, USADB ensures there is a clause in the contract that explicitly states that we can cancel up to x number of days prior without losing the deposit. This applies to hotel reservations as well and Powell encourages anyone who reserves a hotel to ensure they are aware of the cancelation policy in place.
- vi. Majority in vote is to carry the motion.

**f. NCAA NIL Policy**

- i. Denney shared about the existing NIL policy in effect under NCAA. The NCAA basketball season ends when the division 1 championship game ends, which is often in April. Can USADB allow Gallaudet players to join club basketball since USADB is in May?
- ii. Kutcka wanted to emphasize that college players should be required to use their home state address as opposed to creating a Gallaudet team.
- iii. Puccarelli-Miller stated that Gallaudet could get in trouble for this. Denney contradicted stating that Kevin Kovacs was present in the previous Florida

- invitational tournament watching his players participate in other teams.
- iv. Puccarelli-Miller states that EAAD Bylaws do not allow college players to participate in EAAD tournaments.

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- v. Denney shared that the basketball season generally runs from October 20 to some time in April. During offseason and with players not having scholarships, should they be allowed to play club basketball?
- vi. Heathington shared that region tournaments are often before the NCAA season ends. So therefore, how can college players sign to play at USADB if they cannot be on the roster for regions?
- vii. McCowin suggests if we allow college players, we need to add another "column" to the form where the player needs to indicate if he/she is a college basketball player and will need to sign a liability waiver.
- g. MOTION #5: Denney moves to have regions discuss the issue of college basketball players participating at USADB tournaments at their next regional meeting. Iñiguez seconded. This motion has been referred back to the USADB Board.
  - i. Discussion includes as mentioned above.
  - ii. Zuchegno, Jr. claims that he would like to develop a general guideline as starting point on how we can allow college basketball players to participate in USADB. His goal is to provide an even playing field for all. When completed, he will share with regions, so they can further discuss from there. Without a pre-established guideline in place as a starting point, the discussion on this topic would be lengthy. He also shared that this would not occur until after the 2022 USADB tournament as we do not want any confusion at the upcoming tournament.
  - iii. Pucarelli-Miller added to refer the original motion back to the USADB Board to allow Zuchegno, Jr. to finalize a draft guideline for regions to oversee and discuss.
- h. 2022 National Tournament Report (Zuchegno, Jr.)
  - i. Registration: USADB will not share Team Sideline with regions for 2022 as we need to test the application. USADB will use Team Sideline, but regions are expected to keep their original plans for team/player registration for their tournament. Teams planning to participate at USADB will be contacted by Zuchegno, Jr. and he will assist in getting the team registered via Team Sideline. There is potential for Team Sideline to be used by all regions in addition to USADB next year, but that will need to be discussed at another time.
  - ii. COVID: USADB PLANS to proceed with the 2022 tournament. We will not cancel on our own terms. Facilities will be contacted on how to implement safety measures. Unless the state of Indiana notes otherwise, vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be treated equally. Perhaps players and coaches will be encouraged to wear masks when not playing and fans to be encouraged to wear masks. A temperature station may be established for people coming into the facility. All of this will be discussed with the facilities to determine the best course of action based on their requirements. Other ideas include distributing hand sanitizers and having extra balls on hand to rotate and sanitize.
  - iii. Regions without a tournament: several regions will not have a tournament, but if they have team(s) that would like to participate at USADB, please contact Zuchegno, Jr. to further discuss how and which teams to properly invite to

USADB. If each region cannot send 2 men/1 women teams, then slots would be open to other regions wanting to send more teams to USADB. Regions without a tournament can still have teams formed to send to USADB. If those players

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would like to join other teams from outside their region, then the Free Agents rule will apply.

- iv. 16/8 format: if USADB does not have 8 women teams registered, will the remaining slots open up to men teams? This will need to be discussed with Faber.
- v. Transgender athletes: Trumble mentioned that the previous administration had a ruling in place, and he wanted to clarify what the ruling were. Denney claims that we should be going by what the transgender individual identifies as, whether male or female. Transgender individuals are marginalized, face barriers, hormone medications are costly, issues are private, so we should be more respectful. Iñiguez claims that he faced this situation at SWBAD and Joey Baer (former USADB administration) claimed that we need to look at the individual's testosterone levels to determine gender. Zuchegno, Jr. claims that USSSA has a simple, but standardized rule pertaining transgender athletes in recreational sports; he can share with the EC. McCowin suggested we discuss this further at the next EC meeting. Powell finalized the discussion by stating that USADB already has a policy pertaining to transgender athletes on their website and suggested the EC check it prior to further discussing this issue.
- vi. Coaches meeting at USADB: Zuchegno, Jr. is thinking about a Zoom meeting prior to the tournament since the format is only 16/8. This way, when players and coaches arrive, they can go straight to playing.
- vii. Jose Amador: Trumble asked if this individual has been officially suspended from USADB for embezzlement within SWBAD. Powell said his name is not on the USADB suspension list. Denney suggested Iñiguez to send a documented email or letter regarding this individual and the basis of the suspension before USADB can make an official decision.

#### VII. Adjournment / Closing Remarks

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12PM PST / 9:12PM EST.
- b. Next EC meeting will be March 6, 2022 at 4:00PM PST / 7:00PM EST.

VIII. Minutes submitted by: Kristina Lorenzo-Arteaga, USADB Secretary.

