

**USADB Executive Council  
Meeting Minutes**

*Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022*

*Time: 10:00AM EST*

*Location: USADB Tournament in Indianapolis, IN*

- I. Opening
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 10:16AM EST.
  - b. Kristina Lorenzo-Arteaga, Secretary, called it to order.
- II. Present
  - a. Carl Denney, USADB Commissioner
  - b. Paige Thompson, USADB Interim Deputy Commissioner
  - c. Kristina Lorenzo-Arteaga, USADB Secretary
  - d. Ronnie Zuchegno, Jr., National Program Director
  - e. Sarah Faber, Women National Director
  - f. Jim Powell, Executive Assistant
  - g. Charles Trumble, MAAD
  - h. Paul LeCroy, SEAAD
  - i. Arturo Iñiguez, SWBAD
  - j. Billy Schwall, guest
- III. Absent
  - a. Joey Kutcka, USADB Treasurer (supervising admission table)
  - b. Leo Gutierrez, Youth Director
  - c. CAAD
  - d. FAAD
  - e. NWADB
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. The EC minutes from 3/27/22 has not been completed. When it is, it will be emailed to the EC.
- V. Old Businesses
  - a. FAAD
    - i. The EB met on 5/4/22 at Indianapolis, IN; the FAAD issue was discussed. The EB voted in majority to recognize the new officers of FAAD as the current Board of FAAD. The list of new officers and contacts were provided to the Deputy Commissioner via email previously.
    - ii. Review: Heathington and Gonzalez held a delegates meeting in 2020 whereas only reportedly one delegate made an appearance. The secretary and treasurer from the former Board has decided to serve their positions with the new FAAD Board.
    - iii. LeCroy requested information about the incorporation for FAAD. Thompson claims that FAAD is incorporated in Arizona and that the USADB guidelines only recognizes a region based on the payment of affiliation fee and a list of current officers as provided to USADB. The incorporation contact information can be amended to be current with the new ownership as wished. The current balance with FAAD can be handled through appropriate channels with the new FAAD Board.
  - b. Affiliation Fee Break Down

- i. Based on the previous EC meeting, a breakdown of the region affiliation fee was requested. Thompson provided the following information:

What does Region Affiliation Fees Contribute to?				
Fee	No Tournament	With Tournament		
	Annual (2021)	Annual	3 Years (2022-2024)	
Per Region	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00	
6 regions	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 5,400.00	
Region Dues collected (2022)	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,100.00	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 750.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,100.00</b>	
USADB waived SWBAD fees for 2021 and 2022				
<b>Office</b>				
Postage/Shipping	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00	
Legal Fees (Corporate Filings)	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00	
Bank Fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	
Meeting (Zoom)	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,200.00	
<b>Internet</b>				
Web hosting	\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 315.00	
Domain	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 60.00	
SSL Certificate	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	
<b>Board</b>				
Apparel	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	
Per Diem		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
2022 it was \$350 because the whole board and staff was new varies each year, this is a variable percentage of the total cost, the rest is covered by other fees (teams, etc)				
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,200.00</b>	
	\$ 900.00			
<b>NOTES</b>				
Much of the board travel/fodging is in the tournament portion of the budget				
That's why USADB depends on the fan admissions to help cover the board's expenses				
This does NOT include any funds used for tournament (gym deposits, site visit costs)				
USADB established a Zoom account in 2021 to host both EB and EC meetings due to no tournament				
USADB spent \$500 to get tournament software in 2021, which we are using in 2022				

- ii. Thompson pointed out that at 6 regions affiliated, the money in the pot is \$1800 and that is insufficient to cover the above expenses, but USADB will continue to navigate the best options for operation expenses.
- c. USADB-NDBO Merge
  - i. Denney discussed this idea with the EC previously and has attempted to reach out to the NDBO Board, but to no avail. NDBO appears to express a lack of interest in a general discussion with USADB.
  - ii. Lorenzo-Arteaga expressed that USADB should look at the dates as a factor for teams deciding to participate in USADB, NDBO, or both. She encouraged USADB to set a date for their national tournament and to allow regions to choose their dates in accordance.
  - iii. LeCroy pointed out how SEAAD handles cash prizes for their region. SEAAD will pay directly to USADB or NDBO, depending on the winning team's preference, and then SEAAD will distribute the remaining of the cash prize to the team. Zuchegno, Jr. claims that offering teams to choose from USADB or NDBO does not help USADB. We need to navigate ideas to improve USADB and make it more attractive.
  - iv. LeCroy suggested USADB look into creating a Communications Director position. The role of this position would be to contact and get information from teams interested in participating and reports it to PR and the Tournament Director. This would help strengthen relationships between teams and the USADB Board. Zuchegno, Jr. recommended this a position for someone like Jimmy Newsome, or a highly-respected individual in the basketball community.

VI. New Businesses

a. USADB Youth

- i. Denney discussed how USADB Youth was able to start an annual awardage to recognize youth players. He also indicated that it is their plan to host an All-Star game in 2023.

- b. NIL – College Players
  - i. SEAAD brought this concept to their delegates meeting previously and the general feel is neutral and there was no great opposition.
  - ii. SWBAD and MAAD are concerned on how the technicians will work to allow current college basketball players participate at USADB (rosters, limitations, etc.).
  - iii. MOTION #1: Thompson moves to have USADB allow current college basketball players to participate in USADB and for USADB to develop guidelines pertaining college basketball players' participations. Iniguez seconded. Majority vote was in favor. Motion carried.
  - iv. Discussion: Zuchegno, Jr. shared that allowing college basketball players will increase the competitiveness of the tournament and will create a desire for more fans interested in coming to watch the games. Lorenzo-Arteaga asked regions to have faith in USADB that they will do right by college basketball players to protect other participating teams. Strict guidelines will be developed and the EC and TRC will have the opportunity to review and make recommendations before it is put into effect. Denney hopes to have this completed and ready for 2023.
- c. Billy Schwall's Remarks
  - i. Utilize the TRC (Team Representative Council) meeting ONLY for information pertaining to the weekend's tournament such as scheduling, referees, rulings, bracket, etc. Any other issues not pertaining to the tournament should be discussed via Zoom in advance.
  - ii. To build better relationships, regions should invest in teams to at least participate in a national tournament.
  - iii. It is time for USADB to reform for a fresh start and not go into another cycle as history has shown.
- d. National Tournament Director on the Board
  - i. The NTD does not serve as a position of the USADB Board. Zuchegno, Jr. discussed that he has spoken with Joey Baer and the reason for this is due to a conflict of interest. If an issue arose during a tournament that required a reference to the Board, the NTD would be able to vote. He recommended the NTD to serve a position on the Board without voting rights.
- e. Region Affiliation Fee
  - i. MOTION #2: Trumble/MAAD moves to reduce the USADB region affiliation fee to \$150 effective 2023. Iniguez seconded.
    - 1. Discussion: Trumble states that MAAD delegates met and have it in writing that if USADB does not reduce the affiliation fee to \$150, MAAD will disaffiliate from USADB. MAAD feels that the affiliation fee is higher than hoped when they are not sending any teams to USADB. Trumble pointed out asking for the reason USADB is willing to reduce the team fee to \$250 for 2022, but not reduce the affiliation fee.
  - ii. AMENDMENT: Thompson moves to amend the motion from \$150 to \$200 for the region affiliation fee. Lorenzo-Arteaga seconded. Majority vote for the amendment passed.
    - 1. Discussion: Lorenzo-Arteaga mentioned that the region affiliation fee monies break down was already shown and discussed. Regions already

saw that our operation expenses already exceed the “pot” of affiliation fees from regions.

iii. MOTION #2: Trumble/MAAD moves to reduce the USADB region affiliation fee to \$200 effective 2023. (with amendment) Majority voted to pass. Motion carried as whole.

- f. USADB Team Fees
  - i. Zuchegno, Jr. brought up the idea of splitting up the team fees to a flat rate team fee where 100% would proceed to cash prizes and a X amount of player fee. Previously, USADB was required to pay a portion to USADSF (USA Deaf Sports Federation) regardless if teams participated at USADB or not. This is now no longer the case. If we split the team fee, teams would know exactly how much would be available in cash prizes. This is to be discussed further.
- g. USADB Board Elections
  - i. Powell as the nominating chair confirmed with Denney and Lorenzo-Arteaga of their interest to continue their positions as Commissioner and Secretary, respectively. Both confirmed. Thompson denied interest in continuing her position as Public Relations.
  - ii. Powell claimed that there were no interest from other individuals for the positions. Denney and Lorenzo-Arteaga both are appointed as Commissioner and Secretary, respectively for the 2022-2024 term, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. The new Board will provide an oath statement at halftime of the men’s championship game.
  - iii. The Board approved LeCroy, Iniguez, and Trumble to serve as a Past Commissioner to read the oath statement.
- VII. Adjournment / Closing Remarks
  - a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59PM EST.
- VIII. Minutes submitted by: Kristina Lorenzo-Arteaga, USADB Secretary.