



House of Delegates Meeting Minutes

Concord, NC

April 9, 2014
1:30pm-5:30pm

Present:

USADB Board & Staff

Commissioner Christina Costello
Secretary James Powell
Treasurer Brian Fruits
Tournament Director Chuck Wallace

Executive Committee

Doug Mader, CBAD President
Stewart Gerlis, EAAD President
Bruce Beston, NEAAD President
Jose Amader, SWBAD Interim Commissioner
Richard McCowin, MAAD Vice-President
Michelle Heathington, FAAD President
Craig Rafford, NWADB Treasurer

Delegates

Robert "RJ" Jones, Greater Philadelphia
Shirley H Platt, Delegate at Large
Robert Loeffler, Austin "ATX" Toros (SWBAD)
Alexandria Pucciarelli, Showstoppers Stars (EAAD)
James Givens, Lexington Alumni Association (EAAD)
Sarah B Faber, CPD-Chicago Lady Panthers (CBAD)
Lawrence Plate, Delegate at Large
Ivan Jarama, Arizona Desert Fire (AZDF, FAAD)
Andrew R. Helm, Spokane Silent Club (NWADB)
Michael Krieger, New Jersey Wild Ones (EAAD)
Michael Carter, Bridgeport, Vermont (NEAAD)

Parliamentarian

James Johnson, USADB Law Committee Chairperson

Commissioner Costello called the meeting to order at 1:50pm

Commissioner Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Secretary Powell and Commissioner Costello read the Roll Call into the record. See list above. Twenty USADB Board and staff, region officers and delegates were present and voting. [Secretary's Note: Two more delegates arrived later during the meeting]

SEAAD Status

Shirley Platt asked Commissioner Costello the status of the SEAAD situation. Costello replied that details were to be announced in the upcoming Commissioner's Report. Since it was brought up at this time, in short, SEAAD delegates do not have voice and vote in today's meeting because they have not yet paid its past dues. USADB and SEAAD needs to resolve an issue first but SEAAD did not send any requested documentation to USADB Executive Committee in advance of the meeting with SEAAD. The meeting was held on Tuesday April 8. The final decision from the Executive Committee is to set up an ad-hoc committee to research and investigate SEAAD's statements that were presented.

Necrology

Commissioner Costello announced the following and asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed away:

- a) Michael Shiffler, EAAD Secretary/Treasurer
- b) Edward "Paul" Loveland
- c) Mark Corson, FAAD Commissioner
- d) Roy Kazumi Nitta

2014 House of Delegates Meeting Agenda

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the agenda for today's meeting be accepted as submitted.

CARRIED

2013 Meeting Minutes

There were 2 corrections to the minutes from 2013 House of Delegates meeting that was held in King of Prussia, PA. They are as follows:

- a) Name spelling correction: Michael Krieger
- b) Name spelling correction: Robert not "Roberta or Bobby"

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to accept the 2013 House of Delegates Meeting Minutes as corrected.

CARRIED

Reports

Commissioner

Commissioner Costello announced that Shirley Platt retired from USADB last year and Costello became the Commissioner. Costello wished Platt the best of luck. USADB appointed Parker Green-Kelly to the Deputy Commissioner a few weeks later. Green-Kelly is not here due to health issues and unable to travel. Public Relations Director Joey Baer is also not here due to a family scheduling conflict.

Costello announced her intention to continue as Commissioner. As Commissioner she has been working with the Executive Committee members on a number of issues and to get support for the USADB decisions. USADB appointed James Johnson (who served as MAAD Vice-President a few years ago) as the chair of the Governance Committee. Lawrence "Plato" Plate who served as an USADB officer many years ago is a member of the committee. Steven Schoenberg is the third member of the Governance Committee. The Law Committee went through all the Bylaw changes and made proposals and recommendations on the 2013 proposals that were referred to the Governance Committee. [See Governance Committee Report, Appendix A]

USADB will be celebrating the 25th year of Deaf women basketball next year and need to search for a chairperson. We need to start planning and make this a memorable event.

Stephen DeSalvia resigned as the USADB Youth Director last year due to family and work. USADB is considering making the East-West All Stars Coordinator part of the Youth Director's duties. USADB thanked Vance Rewolinski for taking on the East-West All Stars program. USADB also thanked Charles Wallace for hosting the Invitational Tournament as a fundraiser for the USADB Youth program.

USADB also needs to get the Hall of Fame going once again. It would a great tribute to induct a female person into the USADB Hall of Fame next year.

The International team went to Deaflympics in Sofia last year. The Men's team won the bronze and the Women won the Gold. Members of the International program had a gathering at Treasurer Fruits' residence last fall to discuss how we can improve the program, fund raising ideas and the overall direction of the program is going. The fund raising activities need to be on-going year round because it is one of the expensive sports in International competition. (USADB International also needs to develop a strategic plan. USADB also needs to revise its strategic plan for the next 5 years as well.

USADSF has developed a new strategic plan and was recently passed at their Board meeting in November. This brings some changes with all NSO's involved. USADB's basketball program is the only International sport that has a tournament every year as opposed to other NSO's. The International program will focus on setting up a plan and improve fundraising. This upcoming summer is U21 in Turkey. Best wishes to the teams going.

Costello expanded a bit more on the SEAAD situation. A motion was carried last year to force SEAAD to pay the amount owed to USADB. SEAAD didn't and we had a serious of letter and email exchanges that basically went nowhere. The Executive Committee was also involved and provided support in our decision and actions. SEAAD Board and members met with the Executive Committee yesterday (Tuesday) and SEAAD presented their case to us. The Executive Committee still believes that SEAAD remains in not good standing until they paid the amount owed to USADB. However, USADB will be creating an ad-hoc committee with outside people who have no knowledge of the SEAAD situation to investigate statements SEAAD presented to us and issue the findings.

Deputy Commissioner

No Report

Secretary

Secretary Powell reported that USADB held almost nearly monthly Executive Board meetings online and created many letters – many of them related to the SEAAD situation. Powell also helped with the website redesign. It still needs some tweaks.

His term is up for election this year, and he stated still “on the fence” for another term.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fruits mentioned that 2013 Tournament in King of Prussia was a very successful tournament. Revenue from fan admissions was more than we anticipated. We were able to give Carolina Courts (this year's tournament site) the full deposit. Comparing past tournaments showed that Houston was worse due to fights than King of Prussia due to the After Party being cancelled by the hotel.

Fruits prefers not to save for future and would rather give back to the teams in prizes and souvenirs like T-shirts. When some Bylaws things were moved out and into Guidelines, it helped USADB to be more flexible. Admissions from fans from this weekend could influence how much we give back to the teams.

Fruits enjoys the duties, but hates problems. He feels his time with USADB is up and wants to move on. He still wants to help USADB with a few small projects. Platt commented that USADB should have reserves to maintain the solvency and strengths of USADB. She wants safety nets in place as well as more individual supporters – especially those who want to donate to USADB as individuals.

USADB has an on-line accounting system and the board has read-only access to the system. It's a nice system because he just feeds it data and produces reports. The three programs (National, International and Youth) are separate from each other and each have their own funds.

Public Relations Director

Public Relations Director Baer created a v-log, which was played for all. In the video, Baer announced he was sorry he was not here. For the last 5 years, USADB tournament had conflicted with his family and gave up family each time. This year, he decided to be with his family because his children are growing up fast. He wished the best of luck to the tournament and to the House of Delegates meeting. Baer announced that USADB needs to improve the sponsorship program in order to be more successful in bringing more revenue. Baer's years on the board and dealing with complaints is not an easy task to have.

Tournament Director

No report because Director Wallace is out doing errands with his crew to prepare and get ready for the tournament.

Old Business

HOD 2012-18

HOD 2012-18 motion was referred to the Governance Committee and the Committee recommended that this motion pass as edited.

HOD 2012-18

I, Brian Fruits, move that we revise the following section in the USA Deaf Basketball National Tournament Guidelines:

25) Basketball Rules

(b) There shall be a five (5) minutes overtime in case of a tie in any basketball games during the Annual Basketball Tournament. All games in the annual USADB Basketball Tournament shall have two (2) or three (3) basketball officials recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or Recreational Basketball Referee Association/League. All games will be followed by NCAA Rules and Regulations or Recreational Basketball Rules and Regulations.

Referral Passed.

Rationale: USADB could use recreational referees to keep tournament costs down.

Governance Committee: Added "Referee" between Basketball and Association.

Amendment: This motion was amended to replace "Recreational Basketball Referees Association/League" with "International Association of Basketball Officials (IBO)."

AMENDMENT CARRIED
MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

Individual Membership

The proposal regarding individual membership that was referred to the Governance Committee last year was brought back to the floor for additional discussion.

I, Shirley Platt, move to add a new sub-section to Chapter One Membership in the USADB Bylaws.

Chapter One Membership

Individuals shall be members of the Association in one of the following classifications:

(a) ...

(b) ...

(c) ...

(d) ...

(e) All associate individual members shall be members of the USADSF.

Moved to refer to Governance Committee.

The intention of this motion was clarified to allow a range of options for individual non-players (like delegate-at-large) to support USADB with monetary donations. In order to do that, the individuals shall be USADB members. Some delegates were against this because it creates confusion.

This was referred back to the Governance Committee with the specific instruction that the Governance Committee recommend a way to accept donations from individuals.

REFERRAL CARRIED 14-0

There was a third motion, but it was withdrawn before I could document the motion.

New Business

Proposal 2014-HOD-1

Governance committee moves that we insert the following sub-section in the USA Deaf Basketball By Laws:

§ 3.04 Secretary.

The Secretary shall:

(f) perform Association official correspondence duties and keep Association official correspondence records

Rationale: the most important duty by Secretary is missing here.

CARRIED 15-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-2

Governance committee moves that we revise the following section in the USA Deaf Basketball By Laws:

§ 11.07 ~~Dues for Member Regions~~ Dues and Fees for Affiliated Regions

(1) Each Member Region shall pay dues in an amount as determined in Appendix A, payable to the Treasurer.

~~(2) Membership dues for replacement officers who assume their position after February 1st must submit their membership dues before they may officially take office.~~

(2) ~~(3)~~ Region membership affiliation dues and renewal, in an amount determined in Appendix A, shall be due on Dec 31 before the start of the next basketball season.

~~(4) Replacement officers who take regional office after February 2 for basketball shall pay their USADB/USADSF membership dues within 30 days after assuming their position.~~

~~(5) An automatic late penalty fee, in an amount determined in Appendix A, shall be assessed against any region which fails to meet the February 1 deadline. The penalty shall be assessed a second time if the region again fails to meet the deadline for sending dues payments for any replacement officers.~~

(3) ~~(6)~~ All fees, forms, documentation, etc shall be in the USADB Secretary's hands mailed no later than postmarked February 15 of the current year. No exceptions will be made. Failure to comply this deadline shall result in an automatic late submission penalty, in an amount determined in Appendix A, against the region.

~~The USADB team entry and membership fee shall be in an amount determined in Appendix A. The player registration fee shall be, in an amount determined in Appendix A, per name on roster. The fees shall be due February 1 of current year with registration forms.~~

~~Each region shall pay their regional tournament sanction fee (NOT including insurance fee) in an amount determined in Appendix A.~~

Rationale: USADB no longer collects player, team and region officer fees. This revised section now focuses on region affiliation and team entry fees. The (7) subsection is already covered in Chapter 13 of the By Laws.

A word was corrected in this proposal.

CARRIED as corrected 17-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-3

Governance committee moves that we strike the following section from the USA Deaf Basketball By Laws:

§ 5.01 Delegates.

~~(b) Each delegate shall be a full member in good standing with the Association and the USADSF for at least one year prior to the House of Delegates meeting, and the organization he represents shall meet the membership criteria as outlined in Article Three of this Constitution.~~

Rationale: USADB no longer collects individual membership dues.

CARRIED 18-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-4

Governance committee moves that we strike the following subsections from the USA Deaf Basketball By Laws:

§ 13.07 - USADB REGISTRATION FORMS.

~~4. The annual player registration fee shall be determined, in Appendix A, for USADB membership and USADSF membership fees. The USADB membership fee and the USADSF membership fee shall be collected from each individual player, coach, and other participant who is listed on the team registration form.~~

~~5. All official player registration forms, team fees, and/or surcharge fees shall be received by the USADB Treasurer by February 15. Failure to do so shall be subjected to a fine of \$100.00 to the region.~~

~~10. The USADB membership shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each year.~~

Renumber all subsections in 13.07 accordingly.

Rationale: USADB no longer collects player registration fees. The (5) subsection is already covered in Chapter 11.07 of the By Laws.

CARRIED 17-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-5

Governance committee moves that we strike the following section from the USA Deaf Basketball By Laws:

~~§ 11.14 Responsibility of Regional Runner-Up teams.~~

~~Any Regional Runner Up teams shall inform Regional Presidents within 48 hours after the final game of the regional tournament, to attend or not to attend as invited team to USADB National Tournament.~~

Rationale: USADB tournament is open to all teams who participate in regional tournaments and have up to 72 hours after their regional tournament to submit entry fee. This is covered in Chapter 13 of the By Laws.

CARRIED 17-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-6

Governance committee moves that we insert the following section in the USA Deaf Basketball By Laws:

§ 6.9 –Region Disaffiliation/Re-affiliation Procedures

In order for a regional sport organization to qualify for affiliation with USADB, it must be able to provide detailed written rationales for disaffiliation decisions if any and to allow for necessary information to be re-affiliated with USADB.

Rationale: USADB has a section on determining when regions not in good standing but nothing about returning to good standing.

CARRIED 15-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-7

USADB Board requests that the name “Ira Hendon, III” be stricken from and banned entry to all awards and recognition such as “USADB Hall of Fame”, “USADB Lifetime”, etc as well as a lifetime ban entry to all USADB current and future tourneys.

Rationale

1. While USADB has not been able to have this person convicted (even though there is plentiful and substantial evidence of wrongdoing), we still hold the individual primarily responsible for the misuse of funds from 2006-2008.
2. This individual was the Commissioner during this time and did not take steps to prevent nor rectify the situation.
3. This individual has not come forward to provide any details as to what happened during his tenure.
4. This individual blames two other individuals (one whom is dead) for all of the missing funds and is not claiming any responsibility at all.

CARRIED 19-0

Proposal 2014-HOD-8

USADB Board requests that HOD delegates grant the USADB Board and the USADB Executive Committee (made up of the 8 regions) one time authority (without the need for HOD delegate approval) to either accept or not accept the final agreements made by CBAD and CAAD when discussing their merge issues which is supposed to happen in May or later in 2014.

Rationale:

1. Rather than to wait until 2015 to motion at HOD to accept CBAD/CAAD merge (which will become CAAD), CAAD will not officially be able to play until 2016 due to By Laws.
2. USADB Board/Executive Committee (made up of 8 regional officers) prefers to be given the authority to accept and ratify the merge prior to 2015 USADB so that all teams within CAAD can attend the USADB tourney.
3. USADB Board/Executive Committee would like to ensure the merge agreement between CBAD and CAAD is proper for the players and without any potential blowback. Once this merger is approved, we do not want to see any issues resurfacing again within this region.
4. This may not even happen but USADB wants to have all of the mechanisms in place to help make the merger a reality should it occur.

Discussion: Fruits explained this proposal gives the USADB Board authority to fix the USADB By-Laws if the CBAD/CAAD merger goes through and to allow the new CAAD teams to play at the next tournament, which will be 2015. If we have to go through House of Delegates net year to approve the merger, then the new CAAD will not able to play until 2016, which is the next tournament after the 2015 House of Delegates.

CARRIED 17-0

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-1

Andrew Helm moves that USADB pays hotel and van rental for eight regional champs and van rental for eight regional runner-ups.

Seconded by:

MOTION DIED, no second.

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-2

Robert Loeffler moves that USADB allow for 20 roster spots per team: 15 dress-able players, 1 head coach, 2 asst. coaches, a statistician and a manager.

Seconded by Robert Jones

Rationale: Roster numbers would match with the NCAA roster allowances.

REFERRED TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, since this motion relates to By-Laws.

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-3

Robert Jones moves that in case any position become vacant, any candidate shall be screened, interviewed and appointed/elected at the House of Delegates meeting only.

Seconded by Richard McCowin.

Rationale: (none provided)

MOTION OUT OF ORDER

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-4

Michelle Heathington (FAAD President) moves that we delete § 1.03 Individual Membership – (d) and (c) from the By-Laws.

Seconded by Stewart Gerlis.

Rationale: There is no need for individual membership because it is no longer exist

REFERRED TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, 20-0

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-5

Robert Jones moves that USADB study how to improve the prize system for the first five top teams in each division.

Seconded by Doug Mader

Rationale: (none provided)

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-6

Shirley Platt moves that USADB secretary shall email the meeting agenda, proposals, old business, etc to registered delegates 7 days before the HOD date.

Seconded by Sarah Faber

Rationale: Nobody can read this packet and be prepared from a same day distribution.

Discussion: Put this in the Guidelines.

REFERRED TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE with authority to amend

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-7

Shirley Platt moves that position of Deputy Commissioner be put on floor for election for remaining one year of the term.

Seconded by Doug Mader

Rationale: Not satisfied with work of the interim deputy currently appointed.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-8

Michelle Heathington (FAAD President) moves that we replace “a full member” with “individual membership” in By-Laws 2.05 (2).

Seconded by Stewart Gerlis.

Rationale: Need to define who is a full member due to HOD-2014-4 motion above.

REFERRED TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Floor Motion 2014-HOD-9

Sarah Faber moves that USADB reinstate \$20 membership dues.

Seconded by Shirley Platt.

Rationale: We need revenue.

Amendment: Shirley Platt amends “\$10 membership due for each team member in addition to team registration fee.

Seconded by Robert Loeffler

TABLED TO NEXT HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING by majority vote

END OF NEW BUSINESS

Elections

USADB Parliamentarian James Johnson is handling this portion. Commissioner, Secretary and Public Relations Director are on this year’s slate.

Commissioner

Christina Costello accepted the only nomination from the floor.

ELECTED BY ACL, 19-0

Secretary

James Powell accepted the only nomination from the floor.

ELECTED BY ACL, 17-0

Public Relations Director

Richard McCowin nominated Joey Baer

In a previously recorded v-log, Joey Baer accepted the nomination and stated that he was interested in Public Relations Director for another term.

ELECTED BY ACL, 17-0

Retired Commissioner Shirley Platt administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Costello and Secretary Powell. Treasurer Fruits re-affirmed his Oath. The newly re-elected assume the offices on May 1, 2014.

Announcements

The **Region of the Year Award** was given to **NEW ENGLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (NEAAD)**

Next year tournament will be in the Northwest (NWADB) region. If you have any ideas for host sites, please contact Joey Baer. MAAD will be hosting the 2016 Tournament and NEAAD will be in 2017. NEAAD reports they already have a site selected. FAAD will have the USADB Tournament in 2018.

ADJOURNED at 5:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

James Powell
USADB Secretary