



ASA/USA Softball Board of Directors Meeting
ASA/USA Softball AEP Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
April 16-17, 2016

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Warren Jones called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Darrin Duistermars, Northern Territory Vice President, delivered the Invocation; John Gouveia, President Elect/Northern California ASA Commissioner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Board members present were Warren Jones, Phil Gutierrez, John Gouveia, Andy Dooley, Dave Persing, Rodney Cobb, Tony Laws, Darrin Duistermars, Joe Patterson, Sam Ducato, Bill Parks, Bev Wiley, Lauren Gibson (Proxy for Michelle Moultrie - Elite Athlete) and Chris Miljavac (Proxy for Frank DeGroat, Jr. - Elite Athlete).

Absent: Valerie Arioto - Elite Athlete

The Executive Director declared that a quorum had been established.

Approval of Proxies:

M/S/C – Motion to approve Lauren Gibson (Proxy for Michelle Moultrie - Elite Athlete) and Chris Miljavac (Proxy for Frank DeGroat, Jr. - Elite Athlete).

Guests present: Dave Devine, Dallas/Ft. Worth Commissioner, E.T. Colvin, Mississippi ASA Commissioner, Mike Warner, New Jersey ASA Commissioner, Ray Gutierrez, Oklahoma ASA, John Falcone and Robert Thompson (ASA Outside Legal Counsel)

Staff members present: Craig Cress, Mark Loehrs, Chris Sebren, Kevin Ryan, Codi Warren, Savannah Edwards, Jay Hedrick and Shirley Adkins. Stacey Hepp was present on Sunday.

4. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

- a. Phil Gutierrez – New Business: ASA/USA Softball Complex
- b. Sam Ducato – New Business: 2017 Annual Council Meeting
- c. Craig Cress – New Business: Budget item (Fencing for the ASA/USA Softball Complex)

5. REMARKS

- a. President remarks
- b. Immediate Past President remarks
- c. President Elect remarks
- d. Executive Director remarks

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Governance Committee

i. Regional realignment

Mr. Colvin delivered the Governance Board Committee presentation on the ASA/USA Softball Proposed 10 Regions realignment and answered questions from the Board members.

M/S/C – Motion to implement the ASA/USA Softball Proposed Regional Realignment to 10 Regions to be effective January 1, 2017.

ii. Rebranding report and logo discussion

Mr. Cress reminded the Board of the motion made at the September 19-20, 2015 meeting in Oklahoma City.

M/S/C – Rebrand the Amateur Softball Association of America to USA Softball that will be implemented September 1, 2016 for the 2017 season.

M/S/C – Motion for the National Office to rename the organization’s name with the Oklahoma Secretary of State to “USA Softball” effective immediately.

M/S/C – Motion for all local associations (State/Metro) to rename the legal organization name to USA Softball and name of Association (Example: USA Softball of Oklahoma). This legal name change must occur no later than January 1, 2020.

Ms. Warren presented the Board with three versions of a redesigned USA Softball logo.

M/S/C – Motion to have the staff make three specific modifications to the presented option number 3 logo to provide different looks: modification 1, remove the ball; modification 2, move the ball down below USA Softball; modification 3, remove the gray shadow on stripes.

Per the Board’s motion, the staff came back to the Board with the modifications on Sunday morning with 10 different versions of presented option number 3 of the USA Softball logo for review and vote.

M/S/C – Motion to approve version 7 of the presented modifications to option number 3 of the USA Softball logo.

National Office staff will work with Old Hat in completing the new USA Softball logo; which includes the primary and secondary logos, the official style guide and implementation timeline. This process could take up to eight weeks as this will be a very important announcement for our organization.

b. Compliance and Ethics Committee Appeal (**Executive Session**)

M/S/C – Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential reports from the Compliance and Ethics Committee Appeal.

M/S/C – Motion to come out of Executive Session.

M/S/C – Motion for Executive Director to complete items discussed in Executive Session.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Championships - Chris Sebren, Director

Mr. Sebren presented a report to the Board on department activities and answered questions.

i. Women's 35-Over Slow Pitch NIT Bid

M/S/C – Motion to award Holland, Michigan the Women's 35-Over Slow Pitch NIT Bid with competition dates of August 20-21, 2016.

ii. ASA Hall of Fame Complex Facility and Event Action Plans

Mr. Sebren informed the Board that National Office Staff has been working with the City of Oklahoma City Emergency Management Staff to develop a facility and emergency plan for our complex. One of the recommendations in the draft plan suggests enclosing our complex, which requires the purchase of chain link fencing to complete the enclosure.

M/S/C - Motion to approve the purchase of chain link fencing to enclose the ASA Hall of Fame Complex. The cost is not to exceed the amount of \$30,000.00.

b. Operations - Steve Walker, Director

i. Communications – Codi Warren, Managing Director

Ms. Warren presented a report to the Board on the Communications activities. This was an information only report which required no action by the Board.

ii. I.T. – Savannah Edwards, Managing Director

Ms. Edwards presented a report on department activities and provided the Board with the most recent production reports dated March 31, 2016.

Ms. Edwards asked the Board for suggestions on the TournamentASA Integration of the Adult Classification System.

Directive: Board was asked to submit any suggestions on the TournamentASA Integration by e-mail to Savannah Edwards.

iii. Marketing – Stacey Hepp, Managing Director

Ms. Hepp submitted a written report to the Board on the Marketing activities. This was an information only report which required no action by the Board.

c. Membership - John Miller, Director

Due to Mr. Miller's absence, Mr. Cress went over the Membership Department report and answered questions from the Board. This was an information only report which required no action by the Board.

West Virginia ASA

Mr. Dooley updated the Board on his recommendation for the West Virginia ASA Commissioner position. The National Office will be advertising the position for the West Virginia ASA Commissioner position in July.

Commissioner Retirement Notice:

Jack Mowatt, Maryland-DC/Delaware ASA Commissioner, submitted his Letter of Retirement to the Executive Director. Mr. Mowatt will retire at the end of December, 2016. The National Office will post the announcement of the Maryland-DC/Delaware ASA Commissioner position in July.

Mr. Dooley asked for a clarification on the Delaware Association and whether it could be a separate association again in the future. Mr. Cress stated that the Board is responsible for all redistricting issues and could address them at any time.

d. Umpires - Kevin Ryan, Director

Mr. Ryan provided additional information from the Umpire Department which was not included in the written report to the Board. Jim Peters, New Jersey ASA, has been named as the new Regional Umpire-in-Chief for Region 2 and Chuck Louie, San Francisco ASA, has been named as the new Regional Umpire-in-Chief for Region 14.

Regional Umpires-in-Chief retiring December 31, 2016 are Region 12, Dave Epperson and Region 15, Bill Silves. John Wright, Washington ASA, has been elected by Region 15 to replace Mr. Silves effective January 1, 2017.

e. National Teams - Ronnie Isham, Director

Due to Mr. Isham's absence, Mr. Cress provided updates on the 2016 USA Softball National Teams, 2016 USA Softball National Coaching Schools and 2017 National Teams selection opportunities.

CONPASA Meeting

Mr. Cress provided an oral report on the XVII CONPASA Meeting held in Venezuela on March 30 to April 3, 2016. The attendees were Warren Jones, Ray Gutierrez, who served as an interpreter, and Craig Cress. CONPASA invited the USA Softball Men's National Team to participate in the Men's Fastpitch Tournament in Venezuela during November 2016. A budget is being put together along with plans to seek sponsors for assistance in acquiring funds for the team to participate in this event. An update will be provided to the Board at the September Meeting.

f. Chief Financial Officer – Mark Loehrs

Mr. Loehrs presented a report to the Board on department activities including the ASA/USA Softball budget and the ASA Properties budget. This was an information only report which required no action by the Board.

g. Executive Director Report – Craig Cress

Mr. Cress provided an oral report to the Board. This was an information only report which required no action by the Board.

8. **LEGAL**

M/S/C – Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Legal items with John Falcone and Robert Thompson, Cheek & Falcone, PLLC, Outside Legal Counsel.

M/S/C – Motion to come out of Executive Session.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Review New Appeal Process Proposal

Mr. Phil Gutierrez provided the Board with the proposed changes to the Procedural Manual Articles 104.d (Council Members), 105.H (Commissioners) and 108.F (Athletes) regarding the Appeal Process. The New Appeal Process will be presented as a Procedural Manual proposal to the ASA/USA Softball General Council at the 2016 Annual Council Meeting in Shreveport, LA.

b. ASA Properties Board Vacancy

M/S/C - Motion to approve Henry Pollard to the ASA Properties Board with his term ending December 31, 2019.

c. Weather Cancellation Insurance for National Teams Tour Stops

Mr. Walker submitted a written report on a Weather Event Cancellation Policy for USA Softball National Teams Tour Stops.

Question from Board Member regarding rain fall amounts for the purpose of cancellation and insurance coverage.

Answer from Bollinger Insurance: There is no stipulation regarding the amount of rainfall in the event cancellation policies we are currently writing. If the field owner deems the field too wet to play and cancels, then the policies kick in.

d. Procedural Manual Proposal for Commissioner Appointment Committee

A Procedural Manual proposal will be presented to the Council to vote on whether or not to make the Commissioner Appointment Committee a permanent Committee instead of an Ad Hoc Committee.

e. Review of Annual Council Meeting Expenses from 2013, 2014 and 2015

Mr. Loehrs provided a detailed report to the Board on Annual Council Meeting expenses and addressed all questions. No action required by the Board.

f. Hall of Fame Stadium Name

Mr. Cress reported to the Board and provided an update on the Hall of Fame Stadium field name. The official name is ASA Hall of Fame Stadium – OGE Energy Field.

g. RPS Bollinger Insurance

AJ Morgan provided a written report, which Mr. Cress presented to the Board to review for 2017 regarding the Field Owners Program and Adult Team Insurance. The Board will have further discussions at the September Board Meeting.

Question from Board Member regarding coverage of basketball and volleyball teams under the ASA Policy.

Answer from Bollinger Insurance: We cannot cover those sports on the ASA policy. It is a problem for ASA as the NGB of Softball as well as the insurance policy and our rating basis. Those groups wanting to insure other sports can certainly call Bollinger directly.

Mr. Cress asked the Board, if possible in the future, as a courtesy to submit questions by e-mail in advance as members review the Board materials. This will enable the staff to have answers to questions prior to or at the Board Meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. State/Metro Association Fee Survey

Mr. Miller is working with the Long Range Committee Chair Mick Renneisen and Consultant Steve Wolters on the State/Metro Association Fee Survey which will be sent out to the Commissioners.

b. Slow Pitch Task Force Committee

Mr. Duistermars, Chair of the Slow Pitch Task Force Committee, presented a report on a meeting held April 14-15, 2016 in Oklahoma City. Other Committee members are Mike Warner, E.T. Colvin, David Maury, Dan Pfeffer, Kristy Rich, Mike Rogers (Absent), with staff member Rich Cress.

M/S/C – Motion to approve an NIT event in Myrtle Beach, SC in January 2017.

Directive: The Board will discuss additional NITs at the September Board Meeting.

c. 2017 ASA Annual Council Meeting

Mr. Ducato addressed the issue within North Carolina concerning HB2 Law and asked how this could affect the Annual Council Meeting site. Mr. Cress addressed the Board concerning the contract for the Annual Council Meeting. Mr. Laws, North Carolina ASA Commissioner, informed the Board on the current status of HB2. No action taken by the Board.

d. ASA/USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex

Mr. Phil Gutierrez asked the Board to consider moving the Gift Shop, the Hall of Fame/Museum and some of the administrative offices to the stadium. This would be more convenient for staff and potentially generate more revenue for our organization. Mr. Loehrs emphasized that this would be an ideal time to move since we will be in the third phase of construction.

M/S/C – Motion to allocate the sum of up to \$30,000.00 to hire a company to conduct a feasibility study on Site and Funding plans to accommodate the move.

11. ADJOURN

M/S/C – Motion to adjourn the meeting.