

United States Curling Association
Executive Committee Special Meeting
June 30, 2005
Via Conference Call
Minutes

final

Present:

Mark Swandby, in the chair
Andy Anderson
Andy Borland
Grayland Cousins
Bob Fenson
Warren Lowe
Judy Maier
Richard Maskel
Chris Moore
Jim Pleasants
Donna Purkey
Leland Rich
Bill Todhunter
Georgia West
Jon Wilson

Not present:

Nicole Joraanstad
Jack McNelly
Chris Sjue

Also present:

David Garber, COO

1. Convene, welcome, appoint parliamentarian. **Swandby convened the meeting at 12:02 p.m.** Swandby declared a quorum, and appointed Lowe as meeting Parliamentarian.
2. Prior minutes. None at this time.
3. Calendar. Cousins reported; he has sent out the USCA championship event calendar to the committee. There is a potential schedule conflict between the Trials and the Junior World Championships. National Governing Bodies are required by the U.S. Amateur Sports Act to “minimize” schedule conflicts between “protected” competitions, generally defined as international championship events sanctioned by the International Federation. There is also a conflict between the Senior World Championships and the Trials, although the date for the WSCC was set by the World Curling federation well after the USCA schedule was set. Solving the conflict has proven very difficult because of the increased number of events on the USCA schedule, especially for next season with the Olympic Games. Moving the Trials a few days earlier would eliminate the direct conflict with juniors (but not seniors). However the USCA has been advised that the host committee would refuse to host the event if the dates were moved. Moving the trials prior to the Olympic Games will likely hurt the Olympic team’s performance at Torino, thus making it difficult for them to compete in the world trials. An option is to keep the calendar as it is now. At Cousins’ request, Fenson described the reasons host will not agree to a mid-week to mid-week event. They include loss of revenue from ticket sales, concessions and sponsors (who want to maximize the crowd, and moving the semi-finals and finals to a weekday and night would hurt attendance); increased loss of time for other club activities such as leagues, plus

more work days lost by event volunteers. Maier noted that asking new sites to bid may be difficult for a mid-week to mid-week event, especially on such short notice. Cousins suggested keeping the schedule as is this season, meaning that juniors and seniors must choose between events. Swandby read pertinent sections from the Amateur Sports Act ("minimize" schedule conflicts) and the USOC By-Laws (section 9.1) and noted the documents require NGBs to protect the athlete's right to participate using all "reasonable" means. An extensive discussion ensued, including consideration of several options. **Motion by Wilson, Maier second, to reaffirm the current USCA Championship calendar for the 2006 season.** Discussion. **Approved with two opposed and Fenson abstaining.** The USCA will communicate the affirmation and the reasons for the reaffirmation.

4. Budget discussion. Anderson reported that the current budget draft is still in deficit so additional cuts will be needed before the Operating Committee, which consists of USCA officers and athlete leadership, can send a proposed budget to this committee.

Anderson reported that he and Garber met Monday with the Chicago Community Trust, which has asked the USCA to make a grant request. CCT grants have funded the ISCF College Curling Program. The trust purpose is to encourage public participation in curling in the United States. Anderson and Garber provided background and ideas being considered for grants.

5. Pettit Center. Swandby reported. The Pettit Ice Center in Milwaukee has asked for a USCA representative to join their board. Swandby proposes Jay Packard, who lives in the area. The Pettit is looking for opportunities to increase its ice usage, and sees cooperation with the USCA as mutually beneficial. There will be no budget impact for this program at this time. **Motion by Moore, Maier second, to approve the selection of Jay Packard to propose as member of the board of the Pettit Ice Center.** Discussion. **Approved with one opposed.**

6. NGB Executive Directors meeting. Garber reported. The annual USOC National Governing Body Executive Directors meeting was held in Indianapolis June 28-29. Subjects covered included governance (of NGBs and the NGB Council), USOC funding, fund raising, sponsorship, business planning, athlete marketing agreements, internet membership growth, and the role of the NGB Council's USOC board liaison, Chris DuPlanty. USOC speakers included Board Chairman Peter Ueberoth, CEO Jim Scherr, Managing Director Sports Performance Steve Roush and Marketing Chief Jim Grice. Governance guidelines are a "strong suggestion," not a mandate at this time. Base funding was eliminated as an entitlement but the value is still in the USOC budget. An NGB must make the case for its grant requests, and could receive more, not less, funding. USOC will have more revenue through 2012, after which there are then potential problems as the TOP Sponsor and NBC contracts are due to expire then.

Garber noted he was working with Peggy Hatch of the the Lowell 2006 World Men's Championship host committee to develop a USCA sponsorship partnership.

7. Other business. Lowe provided background information about the International Olympic Committee's quadrennial review of summer Olympic sports, which can impact those sports' spots on the Olympic program. Winter sports will have the same review in a year or so.

8. Unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

9. New business. There was no new business.

10. Adjourn. **Motion by Fenson, Wilson second, to adjourn the meeting. Approved at 1:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber

Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized,
Albert Anderson
USCA Secretary