

United States Curling Association

**Executive Committee Special Meeting
via Conference Call
October 8, 2003**

Minutes

Present

Bob Fenson, in the chair
Grayland Cousins
Phill Drobnick
Pam Finch
Warren Lowe
Richard Maskel
Chris Moore
Ann Silver
Mark Swandby

Not present

Jack McNelly
Donna Purkey
Jane Thompson

Also present

David Garber, Executive Director
Rick Patzke, Director of Communications
Bev Schroeder, Member Services Manager

1. Call to order; parliamentarian; approve prior minutes; correspondence. **Fenson called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Fenson appointed Lowe as meeting Parliamentarian. Motion by Lowe, Drobnick second, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2003, meeting. Approved, Silver abstaining.**
2. Site approval. **Motion by Finch, Drobnick, to approve the Capitol Curling Club, Bismarck, N.Dak., as Host for the 2005 USCA Junior National Championships. Discussion. Approved.**
3. Women's Second Chance Competition. Cousins led a discussion of the possibility of a Women's Second Chance Competition. The subject arose based on the chance for elimination of top teams playing head to head at regional level and thus reducing strength of nationals field. After discussion, the consensus was not to pursue further, one factor being it is too late for this season.
4. On-track criteria. As directed by the Board at its September 13-14 meeting, a proposed written "on-track" procedure has been submitted to Garber by McNelly for Executive Committee approval. If approved, the language is to be posted on the USCA web-site and included in the 2004 Championship Rules booklet.

Motion by Lowe, Swandby second, to approve the citizenship eligibility criteria for "on-track" athletes as written below:

"For eligibility for men's and women's competition leading to non-age restricted World or Olympic Curling Championships, an athlete is deemed to be on-track for U.S. citizenship if he/she will have fulfilled the requirements to apply for U.S. citizenship far enough in advance of

the final USCA Olympic trials that, in the sole judgment of the USCA, that athlete will be a U.S. citizen at the beginning of the final USCA Olympic trials event.

“Any athlete who feels that he/she should be considered for on-track status must supply the USCA Executive Director with appropriate documentation to establish residency status. The Executive Director will offer his opinion to that athlete. The athlete then has the option of requesting a ruling from the USCA Board of Review. If the athlete disagrees with that ruling, he/she may appeal the ruling to the USCA Executive Committee, which will have the final authority in determining on-track status.”

Approved, with Drobnick abstaining.

Drobnick left the meeting.

5. Ice2003 update. Patzke has provided the committee with a written update on the Ice2003 program, including the financial aspects. USA Luge, Bobsled and Curling are sharing the three-hour program. NBC supports continuation of the “Ice” program in 2004 and 2005. After extensive discussion on financial prospects, it was agreed that Patzke will continue to provide weekly updates.

Patzke and Maskel left the meeting.

6. Regional boundaries. Fenson led a discussion about member regional boundaries in view of extensive new club activity. There is no need for action today, but a plan needs to be developed. Moore noted that traditionally, USCA member regions have the right to define their boundaries. Having said that, he suggests that the USCA Governance Task Force and Rules Committees study this subject. Fenson concurred, and will contact the committees. It was noted that there are differences in USCA practices as to regional boundaries for USCA membership versus playdown group assignments.

7. Playdown administration. Cousins led a discussion on the proposal to move to a web-based playdown registration system, and the problem of signatures from the insurance waiver and member certification and Player/Coach Agreement forms, published in the Championship Rules booklet. Cousins favors simplifying the process as much as possible by elimination of signature requirement, but is aware of possible problems based on current USCA rules. Concern was also expressed about full implementation of the on-line registration and payment system prior to being fully tested. After a lengthy discussion, the committee consensus is to maintain the current system for this season, with the exception that the paper and money flow will now go from athlete to USCA, then to state and region playdown chairs, prior to anyone stepping on the ice. Checks and forms must be postmarked by the deadline.

Fenson turned over the chair to Swandby and left the meeting.

8. 2006 Olympic team selection. Garber advised the committee that the USOC requires submission of the 2006 Olympic Team Selection Procedure by early November, 2003 (next month). USOC policy is that NGB procedures must be approved one year prior to the final selection event (for USCA, late February, 2005), and submitted for USOC approval three months prior to that date. The USOC is developing a new Selection Procedure Manual. Meanwhile, the USCA should use the manual for the recent Winter World University Games as its guideline.

9. Unfinished business. There is no unfinished business.

10. New Business.

a. WADA. Lowe noted that a new World Anti-Doping Protocol is up for approval at the December

World Curling Federation meetings. Lowe asked Silver for comments on the new WADA code. Silver provided suggestions to Lowe.

b. Treasurer. Moore noted late adjustments to the income and balance sheet statements for fiscal year 2003 and the fiscal year 2004 budget related to Donation Program rebates. He will notify the full board with details.

c. OXL card. Finch and Garber reported that some members were left confused after receiving their "OXL" member card. The USCA is preparing a letter, a web-site posting and a Curling News article to help better communicate the new card, which serves both as a USCA membership card and offers associated marketing benefits, such as discounts on United Airlines and at Marriott Hotels.

16. Adjourn. **Motion by Silver, Lowe second, to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m. Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized
R. Chris Moore
Secretary