

United States Curling Association
Executive Committee Meeting
Special Meeting via Conference Call
July 29, 2003

8-4-03

Minutes

Present

Bob Fenson, in the chair
Phill Drobnick
Pam Finch
Warren Lowe
Richard Maskel
Jack McNelly
Chris Moore
Donna Purkey
Mark Swandby
Jane Thompson

Not present

Grayland Cousins
Ann Silver

Also present

David Garber, Executive Director
Rick Patzke, Director of Communications
Bev Schroeder, Member Services Manager
Ed Lukowich, Athlete Development Director

1. Call to order; parliamentarian; approve prior minutes. **Fenson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Fenson appointed Lowe as meeting Parliamentarian. Motion by Finch, Thompson second, to approve minutes of the June 28-29, 2003, meeting. Approved.**

2. Budget approval. Moore reviewed a memo from the Finance Committee, which met via conference call on July 25 to review the preliminary budget for FY2004. The Finance Committee supports the investment and acknowledges the risk involved in the Ice2003 television production. The committee proposes that the USCA FY2004 budget deficit be limited to \$5,000, in order to maintain the \$250,000 net worth goal established by the board of directors and achieved as of fiscal year-end 2003. In addition, the Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Committee balance the budget for the "Base" class as close to breakeven as possible. Swandby discussed submission of World Curling Federation Development Grant applications, for about \$25,000, to be written by Swandby, Finch and Thompson, then sent to Garber for consolidation and forwarding to the WCF. Moore said the Finance Committee had also questioned why some nationals transportation budget dollars were classed "USCA." Cousins would be asked to reply to this inquiry. Moore suggested that the committee not try to set the final budget today, rather, that the committee accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and that Moore, Fenson and Garber would work with the officers on further budget cut details. **Fenson directed Moore to develop budget reduction options for the committee on which to vote by August 12.** Moore will work with Cousins to get more detail on the financial handling of championship rock purchase. Patzke will keep committee updated on the Ice2003 show.

3. Junior B team field approval. Finch has distributed the list of proposed teams. Eight teams have been chosen for the Junior B selection competition from 10 applicants, named by team skip and region

here: Plys, Perkovich, and George, Minnesota; Delaney and Lemke, Wisconsin; Jacobson, North Dakota; Booth, Washington; and Paul, Grand National. **Motion by Finch, Thompson second, to approve the Junior B team selections.** Format to be single round robin with a two-loss provision. **Approved, with Moore and Drobnick abstaining.** Schroeder will notify the teams by phone, including the two applicant teams not selected.

Drobnick left the meeting.

Maskel inquired about the status of the national Junior B coach. As this item has been cut from the budget, Finch will discuss volunteer roles with applicants.

4. 2004 Karuizawa Competition. The Japan Curling Association has invited the USCA to send one U.S. women's team to its annual international competition in Karuizawa. **Motion by Thompson, Lowe second, that the USCA fulfill its invitation to the 2004 Karuizawa competition by inviting first Team McCormick, and second Team Lank. If neither team accepts the invitation, a USCA committee will select additional invitee(s).** **Approved.** Garber to communicate and ask for team's acceptance.

5. Elite Athlete Health Insurance. Garber asked for a policy for Elite Athlete Health Insurance. The USCA receives 10 no-cost-to-USCA allocations for this major medical insurance. Basic Grant recipients who desire EAHI must receive it. The USCA may designate other athletes for unused allocations. USCA has always had extra allocations. So as not to lose this athlete benefit, yet provide access on a fair basis, Garber proposes a lottery system giving preference to the most recent national champions who are not Basic Grantees may, at their option, put their names in a hat for a drawing to fill available USOC-paid allocations. **The "lottery" concept was approved by consensus, with available EAHI allocations to be made available to, in successive drawings, the most recent national champions, who are also current competitors signing a Player-Coach Agreement, going back four years (to 1999 for this season).** Fenson directed Garber to create a paper with detailed criteria for committee approval.

6. Disabled and Minority census. Garber asked for committee approval to survey member regions and clubs for census data on minority and disabled curlers, in order to comply with the USOC Performance Partnership Agreement clause that the USCA must reply to surveys from USOC to tally these categories (plus gender) for staff and membership. **Consensus was to ask Garber to inquire with USOC legal department regarding potential conflict between new privacy laws and the survey; and that any census request would be voluntary.** Garber anticipated a simple survey asking for total numbers by category with no individual names.

7. On-track rules. In response to a request by Garber to address recent athlete correspondence requesting a change in the current USCA definition of "on-track" eligibility (for U.S. Citizenship), the committee **consensus is to continue using the current definition of "on-track" for purposes of eligibility, because the current definition is an objective and observable standard.**

8. World Wheelchair Coach. Fenson reported that the USCA has been invited to send a Wheelchair Curling Coach to a WCF Seminar & Workshop in Kinross, Scotland, October 2-5. The cost, if not provided by USOC Paralympic Division (as has been requested), would be about \$1,200 including airfare. **The committee consensus is that the concept is approved and supported, but no funds are authorized unless funding is budget neutral.**

9. Drug testing. Garber asked for direction in his response to the WCF request for athlete names and address for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Out of Competition (OOC) Pool. Silver has provided Garber with verbal input about concerns regarding the WCF's lack of a complete anti-doping protocol. Consensus is to table action until the next conference call, tentatively August 12. Meanwhile,

Garber will work with the USOC and WCF and meet his July 31 response deadline.

10. Other business. Swandby asked the status of the By-Laws Amendments language for the governance changes, which must be noticed to directors by mid-August. Fenson responded that Task Force Chair Anderson hoped to have initial language by the end of this week. Maskel inquired about the status of the USCA request for WCF consideration of support for future television projects. Lowe has not received response to recent inquiries and will try again.

11. Motion by Finch, Thompson second, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45pm. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized
R. Chris Moore
Secretary