

United States Curling Association
Executive Committee Special Meeting
June 22, 2005
Via Conference Call
Minutes

final

Present:

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

Not present:

Chris Sjue

Also present:

David Garber, COO

1. Convene, welcome, appoint parliamentarian. **Swandby convened the meeting at 12:05 p.m.** Swandby declared a quorum, and appointed Lowe as meeting Parliamentarian.
2. Prior minutes. **Motion by Anderson, West second, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2005 and the June 15, 2005 Executive Committee meetings. Approved.**
3. Coach of the Year. Moore reported. **Motion by Moore, Rich second, that the committee ratify the USCA Coaching Committee selections of Neil Doese as USCA Coach of the Year and Dave Jensen as USCA Developmental Coach of the Year. Approved.**
4. USCA Calendar. Cousins reported. The Olympic year schedule is especially tight. Annual event site selection is a very large and difficult job (done by Maier). The current USCA event calendar includes schedule conflicts for "protected" competitions as follows: The Trials in Bemidji March 4-12, 2006 and the World Seniors in Denmark directly conflict; and the Junior Worlds in Korea March 11-19 overlap with the Trials. The World Seniors site and dates (a new week) were announced by the WCF after the USCA had set its schedule. A later Trials date would conflict with Olympic team ability to enter the 2006 World Trials process. There is a solution to avoid the conflict, but it requires massive changes to most of the USCA event calendar, which in turn will require extensive time and expense. Cousins asked the committee to determine how far the USCA should go to eliminate the conflicts. The committee will address the issue after Cousins distributes the USCA calendar, and an illustrative solution, to the committee next week. Extensive discussion of options.

5. Site selection. **Motion by Maier, Todhunter second, to approve USCA event bids from the Grand Forks Curling Club, for the Trials Men’s Midwest North Preliminary Round; and from the North Shore Curling Club for the Trials Women’s Midwest Qualifying Round. Approved.**
6. Citizenship “on-track” rule. Cousins reported on deliberations in the Championship Committee. Todhunter reported that the USOC Ombudsman had advised him, per the USOC Selection Handbook, National Governing Bodies have the right to do promulgate their own citizenship rules except in an Olympic year, when they must use the USOC rule, which states that athletes must be U.S. citizens by the time of the first event of the Olympic team Selection Process, which in the USCA current case is the men’s preliminary round or the women’s Qualifying round. Todhunter proposed adopting the USOC rule each year to avoid the need to change every four years. Discussion. **Motion by Anderson, Fenson second, that eligibility for World Team Trials requires U.S. citizenship at the time of the first event within the trials process, currently the preliminary round for men and the qualifying round for women.** Extensive discussion. **Motion withdrawn by Anderson and Fenson. Motion by Cousins, Borland second, that eligibility for World Team Trials requires U.S. citizenship at the time of the registration deadline for the Trials process. Approved with two opposed.** Garber will communicate this change to the athletes through the USCA web site, an email to the office’s athlete email group, and by targeted emails to those the USCA is aware may be impacted because they are non-citizens interested in becoming U.S. citizens.
7. Eligibility issue. Cousins reported that the Rules Committee had considered a junior athlete eligibility issue with regard to residency, and wanted the Executive Committee to be informed. There was extensive discussion of the situation and of the current rule. Anderson suggested that the committee refer the matter back to the rules committee to address the rule specifically as regards college students. The committee asked that the “Request for Ruling” process be used. Garber or Rules Committee staff liaison Bev Schroeder will communicate this to the athlete and athlete’s coach.
8. USCA representation on NGB Council. McNelly reported. The USOC has urged member National Governing Bodies (NGB) to select the NGB President or Executive Director (or equivalent title) as voting rep on the NGB Council. Currently McNelly is USCA board-elected USOC representative, with Hatch as alternate. An NGB Council By-Laws vote by conference call on this subject is scheduled for June 30. McNelly discussed the background and asked for the opinion of the committee. McNelly proposes accepting naming the Executive Director, but favors more NGB discretion in naming the alternate. The committee agreed with McNelly’s position by consensus.
9. Boys/Girls Clubs. Pleasants reported. He has emailed a background memo committee. Pleasants advocates the USCA support setting up a relationship with the Boys and Girls Clubs on the national level, with the goal to generate additional youth participation in curling. USCA involvement would be setting the general terms of the agreement, and communication to curling clubs. The substantial work would be done at the local level. Moore suggested the committee create general guidelines, including liability insurance matters. By consensus, the committee approved proceeding with the project under Pleasants’ direction as Youth Curling Committee chair. The Boys and Girls Clubs of America provide after school activities primarily for children in grades K-8.
10. Other business. Anderson urged officers and others, as appropriate, to be prepared for the budget meeting Friday.
11. Unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.
12. New business. There was no new business.
13. Adjourn. **Motion by Moore, Anderson second, to adjourn the meeting. Approved at 1:39**

p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized,
Albert Anderson
USCA Secretary