

# UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION

Directors Meeting  
April 26-27, 2003  
AmeriSuites Chicago O'Hare Hotel, Illinois  
**Minutes**

Present

Jack McNelly, in the chair  
Albert Anderson  
Paul Badgero  
Don Barcome, Jr.  
Amy Becher  
John Beckwith  
Geoff Broadhurst  
Craig Brown  
Diane Brown  
Grayland Cousins  
Phil Draper  
Phill Drobnick  
Bob Fenson  
Pam Finch  
Denis Fox  
Leslie Frosch  
Peggy Hatch  
Dave Hill  
Nicole Joraanstad  
Art Jytila  
Mike Liapis  
Stacey Liapis  
Suzanne Liapis  
Warren Lowe  
Judy Maier  
Richard Maskel  
Chris Moore  
Jay Packard  
Dave Peck  
Allison Pottinger  
Donna Purkey  
Paul Pustovar  
Leland Rich  
Anne Robertson  
Lisa Schoeneberg  
Ann Silver  
Chris Sjue  
Mark Swandby  
Jane Thompson  
Dick Urevig  
Greg Volk  
Georgia West

Not present  
Winnie Bloomquist  
Kathy Giedt  
Rusty Rau  
Jon Wilson

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

1. **McNelly called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m.**
2. **Welcome, introductions, ratify new directors, departing directors.** McNelly welcomed all present. Moore introduced Paul Badgero, who is replacing Great Lakes' Robb Borland. McNelly thanked directors who will leave the board after this meeting: Amy Becher, Phil Draper and Denis Fox. The board applauded the efforts of these three directors.
3. **Roll call.** Moore called the roll, listed above.
4. **Appoint parliamentarian.** McNelly appointed Fox as meeting Parliamentarian.
5. **Additions to printed agenda.** McNelly noted several agenda schedule changes.
6. **Approve minutes of previous board meetings.**

**Motion by Silver, Thompson second, to approve the minutes of the Semi-Annual Directors Meeting held September 14-15, 2002. Approved.**

7. **Approve actions of Executive Committee.**

**Motion by Lowe, Fenson second, to approve the minutes of the Special Meetings of the USCA Executive Committee dated September 15, 2002; October 31, 2002; November 12, 2002; November 14, 2002; November 19, 2002; November 27, 2002; and February 13, 2003. Approved.**

8. **Correspondence, miscellaneous items.** McNelly had no correspondence.

a. Strategic Plan. Hatch reported there were no changes to Strategic Plan this season. Hatch has asked the Executive Committee to hold a Special Meeting to update the plan.

9. **Finance.** Anderson reported that the committee has reviewed USCA revenues, expenses balance sheet, and operating variances against budget, and has no comments or recommendations. The annual CPA audit papers have been distributed to Directors. Both the CPA audit and last year's USOC audit were clean audits. Nothing new on internet collaborative, and the committee urges no spending against potential collaborative-derived revenue. The committee is reviewing the USCA liability insurance situation in view of concerns expressed by a Massachusetts club on the impact of the mandatory waiver related to Massachusetts law. The committee notes that the USCA Travel Coordinator will retire over the summer, and advises the board to make plans to handle that function.

10. **Treasurer.** Moore distributed his Treasurer's report, with a review of year-to-date budget-to-actual results. The dues revenue variance is a positive \$20,000, a result of the increase in membership. The Executive Committee approved unbudgeted expenses incurred from the Utica nationals television production. Donation program revenue will be about \$15,000 under budget. Overall, the USCA will be close to the projected \$22,000 surplus. The Balance Sheet shows a net worth at April 17, 2003 of \$271,000. Moore will act to spread the concentration risk from USCA cash in one account in excess of the FDIC-insured \$100,000 limit.

11. **Governance Task Force.** Anderson reviewed the mandate and purpose of the USCA Governance Task Force (GTF). Several weeks ago, a proposal was distributed for comment to the board (by email) and to the membership (via the USCA web site). Anderson encouraged further discussion at this meeting. The proposal covered board reduction and management subjects. There are several changes to announce today, which have been included in the updated document distributed to directors:

-Changes to the order of presentation (e.g., Item #6 is now listed first).

-Item #13, change make-up of Nominating Committee to include three most recent past presidents still serving on the board, one other director elected by the board, and the senior athlete director.

-Item #14, this change would not require a change in the By-Laws.

-Item #9 has been deleted because it was a duplication.

Anderson emphasized the importance of defining director responsibility (i.e., to USCA and/or to those who elected them). Anderson addressed role of management. The GTF proposes establishment of a management committee of the officers and Executive Director. Anderson invited discussion on the proposed timeline, namely a new structure to be effective May 1, 2004. Broadhurst asked for clarification on fiduciary responsibilities of USCA Directors as quickly as possible. Discussion of membership category and definition. Maier suggested number of directors per region be directly tied to number of curlers in the region. Peck commented that in this reduction proposal, proportionality of region representation was reduced, and proposed that a region's number of curlers, number of clubs, and influence receive consideration in any change. **Motion by Barcome, Jytila second, to conduct a "straw" vote to see if there is support to reduce the size of the board to the 25-27 person range, along the guidelines of the recommendations put forth by the Governance Task Force and the Wisconsin Proposal.** After extensive discussion, including discussion of the significance of the motion and procedural issues, a motion to call the question failed. **Motion by Silver, second by Beckwith, to conduct a "straw" vote to determine if the board should be reduced by any amount. Motion passed.** Anderson felt that this meant that a majority of the directors present support a reduction in the size of the board. **Motion by Barcome, second by Jytila, to accept the Governance Task Force recommendations as presented to the board.** A discussion ensued. Lowe suggested that the board consider "keeping what it has that is working," and add representatives from the larger regions. Silver urged development of an action plan that would explain how the GTF and Wisconsin proposals would work in practice. Swandby commented that all members of USCA committees do not need to be USCA directors. Cousins stated that the Grand National region supports in concept both the GTF and Wisconsin proposals. A motion to amend the GTF proposal to state that the number of elected directors change from 30 to 15, maintaining proportionality, died for lack of a second. **Motion by Maier, Drobnick second, to amend the GTF proposal to change the director allotment according to membership as follows: 1 director per 0-1,000 members; 2 directors per 1,001 to 2,000 members; 3 directors per**

**2,001 to 3,000 members and 4 directors per 3,001 to 4,000 members. Amendment to Barcome motion disapproved. A roll call vote on the Barcome motion was approved 21 for, 20 against, with Lowe abstaining. This vote applies to GTF Item #4, first ten lines on board reduction. To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.**

*(Moore left the meeting.)*

McNelly asked Anderson to act as chair in order to conduct votes on other components of the GTF proposal (all to be effective May 1, 2004).

**Motion and second to limit board-elected directors to three (3). Approved.** (This is a part of GTF Item #4.) *To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.*

**Motion by Robertson, Finch second, to limit affiliate body elected director to one (1). Approved.** (This is a part of GTF Item #4.) *To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.*

**Motion by Barcome, Stacey Liapis second, to approve GTF item #5, namely that WCF and USOC representatives will be ex-officio directors with voice but no vote. Approved.** *To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.*

**Motion by Barcome, Rich second, to approve GTF item #7, namely that Members be encouraged to elect unrelated persons to represent them, exception that an athlete-elected director may serve with a related member-elected director. Motion by Hatch, Drobnick second, to amend the motion to add that if a director misses two consecutive board meetings, the board would ask that director to resign and ask the member to replace that director. Second by Drobnick. Amendment to motion approved. Main motion as amended approved. This is a policy change to be effective May 1, 2004.**

**Motion by Finch, Urevig second, to approve GTF Item #8, namely that Board/Executive Committee votes be recorded and published when requested, in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. Approved.** *This is a policy change to be effective May 1, 2004.*

**Motion by Maier, second by Sue Liapis, to approve GTF Item #10, namely that more than half the voting members of the Executive Committee be member-elected directors. Approved.** *To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.*

**Motion by Sue Liapis, West second, to approve GTF Item #11, namely that WCF and USOC representatives appointed to the Executive Committee have voice but no vote. Approved.** *To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.*

Motion by Urevig, Broadhurst second, to approve GTF Item #13, namely that the Nominating Committee be comprised of the three most recent presidents, serving on the board, one other director at large elected by the board, and the senior athlete director (based on time of service on the board). Silver spoke against the motion, saying there is no independence from the current board for the nominating committee. Urevig spoke in favor of the item. Motion failed.

**Motion by West, Maier second, that the Nominating Committee include five members, the immediate past president, the senior athlete director, and three other directors and/or USCA committee members to be appointed by the president. Approved.** *To enact, a By-Laws Amendment must be prepared for a vote.*

**Motion by Finch, Barcome second, to approve GTF Item #14, namely to establish a Management Council consisting of the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director with the responsibility to meet monthly via conference call; review status of programs and projects; review current financial results and identify actual or potential variances; identify action items for the Board/Executive Committee; and to take no action of a policy nature or that would alter the budget or committee approved programs.** Silver questioned why an athlete would not be included in this management council. Anderson responded that this new group would have no policy or budget powers and would monitor USCA operations to ensure pre-approved programs were being carried out. **Approved.** *This is a policy change to be effective May 1, 2004.*

**Motion by Barcome, Purkey second, to approve GTF Item #15, namely to establish the Executive Director as USCA Chief Operating Officer; to assign to him/her the responsibility of reporting to the Management Council the status of operations; to accomplish this, the Executive Director would use staff, and access to officers and committee chairs; the Executive Director would have no authority to set policy or to modify budgets for approved programs; the Executive Director would be encouraged to recommend policies/programs to the Board and/or Executive Committee.** Rich asked if this would actually change anything. Anderson responded that it would be a policy change, and that it would indeed affect the management of the association. Garber stated his belief that, to assure success, changes to the Executive Director's responsibility should be matched, if appropriate, by a corresponding change in the Executive Director's authority. **Approved.** *This is a policy change to be effective May 1, 2004.*

Anderson noted that four Recommendations, proposed to the board in the paper distributed to directors for this meeting, have not been put up for a vote today. They will be included in future motions or, as needed, in By-Laws Amendments to be Noticed to the board before the next Board meeting. The four recommendations are (number refers to the number in the Governance Task Force document):

"#3," consideration of a "USCA House of Delegates" or "Curling Congress" annual meeting concept, to take effect when board size is reduced;

"#6," a USCA position paper detailing directors responsibilities to the USCA;

"#12," that the USCA President must be a director, that Vice Presidents must be directors or USCA committee members, and that the Secretary and Treasurer need not be a board member;

and "#16," develop an action plan for the USCA committee structure, as committees are impacted by board reorganization.

Swandby asked for confirmation that the board had just voted to go ahead and prepare bylaw and/or policy changes for all of the GTF recommendations? This was the sense of the board. McNelly asked that the Governance Task Force be kept intact.

**Motion approved at 3:12 p.m. to recess the board meeting and reconvene the Members Meeting. The Board meeting was reconvened at 3:24 p.m.**

**12. Athlete/Curler Recognition:** Maskel reported the committees proposals for awards as

follows:

**USCA Female Athlete of the Year—Debbie McCormick.**

**USCA Male Athlete of the Year—Pete Fenson.**

**USCA Team of the Year—Team McCormick, the 2003 Women’s World Champions.**

**Approved by acclimation.**

Maskel encourages directors to develop and submit USCA Hall of Fame nominations by June 1. Current board members are not eligible for nomination.

**The committee proposes for USCA Bruce Bennett Media Award—Tom Erskine of WKTV NBC, Utica, NY.** Patzke distributed background information with Erskine’s work that benefited curling. Maskel explained criteria for this award. *The vote on the Bennett award will be held tomorrow (Sunday).*

13. **Legal/By-Laws.** West reviewed By-Laws Amendments, as Noticed in March and written in Attachment A. The vote will be tomorrow (Sunday). There are two non-material changes that do not require an additional Notice period: 1. In Exhibit A, the definition of individual member, words have been added to clarify the status of an individual curler, a club, state/region member, and the USCA. 2. In Exhibit G, allowance has been made for additional committees, to reflect actual USCA practice, by adding the words “or the president may appoint additional committees.”

14. **Nominating.** Rich presented the slate of nominations as Noticed to directors in March.

**For USCA Board-elected Director:**

**Albert Anderson**

**Warren Lowe**

**Jack McNelly**

**Lisa Schoeneberg**

**Jane Thompson**

**Rich asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.**

**A motion to close nominations was approved.**

**For USCA Vice President:**

**Garyland Cousins**

**Pam Finch**

**Mark Swandby**

**Jane Thompson**

**Rich asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.**

**A motion to close nominations was approved.**

**For USCA Secretary and Treasurer:**

**R. Chris Moore**

**Rich asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.**

**A motion to close nominations was approved.**

**For USCA representative to the World Curling Federation:**

**Albert Anderson**

**Lisa Schoeneberg**

**Rich asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.  
A motion to close nominations was approved.**

**A motion was made and approved to elect the slate by acclimation.** Rich noted that the committee proposes that nominating committee develop and distribute the annual slate in early January, since there is now no president-elect, and in view of the future two year presidential term.

15. **Executive Director.** Garber reported that he was proud of his staff member's performance, including new staff members Terry Kolesar and Jennifer Culver. Staff activities will be covered in the USCA committee reports.

a. Director of Communications. Patzke, in addition to his written report provided to the board, provided additional detail about the planned NBC-TV program scheduled for early December, which will include curling, luge and bobsled, with curling from the November, 2003 Continental Cup. Patzke noted that the Executive Committee has authorized financial support for this program, currently estimated at \$35,000. Patzke presented a short video highlight film from the season's curling on television. There were 483,000 web site hits from Worlds, and one million from the Nationals at Utica. The NBC ratings good, with the door open with NBC for future programming. The board applauded Patzke's efforts.

b. Member Services Manager. Schroeder thanked the board members for their support. McNelly urged Schroeder to email her written report to the board to help directors appreciate the large and diverse workload for her position.

16. **2006 Olympic Team Selection Task Force.** D. Brown recounted the committee's activities and its interaction with the Format Task Force. The 2006 Task Force proposes a Spring, 2005, Olympic Team Selection, including a final event with a round robin format. The final event could be, or could include, the 2005 Nationals. Fenson stated he is considering merging the Format and Olympic Task Forces. The 2006 Task Force will offer a final proposal for a vote at the fall board meeting. McNelly noted that the 2006 Task Force proposal will include a provision that the 2004 National Champions will qualify for the final selection event.

17. **Winter World University Games (WWUG).** Athlete Development Director Lukowich reported that the WWUG, held in Claut, Italy, were well run. Neither U.S. team won a medal. McNelly reported curling's future in the Games, which are held every other year. Curling will either become a full-medal WWUG sport, or be dropped. If the former, the USCA must decide if the \$15,000 investment is cost-effective. Swandby suggested considering tie-in of WWUG and USCA College Curling Program.

18. **Member Services.** Swandby reported. The USCA has a net gain of over 1,000 registered curlers this season. Swandby credited staff, Jerome Larson, Dave Peck, George Phillips and others for work with new clubs and prospective curlers, and listed about a dozen new, revitalized and "incubating" clubs. The regional presidents meeting was well worth the \$9,000 spent last season. Swandby complimented staff and Finch for work on the database and the OXL card program.

a. Database. USCA sponsor Dan Field of Aurora Solutions gave a presentation to introduce the new USCA web-based database, now partially completed and available to members. The new system has pro-active and informational features for curlers, clubs and regions.

b. Club Membership & Development. Broadhurst reported that in the last five years, 37 clubs, with 144 participants, have taken the USCA Member Marketing Seminar (MMS). Over this period, clubs that followed the guidance related to full attendance at the MMS have had membership growth. This year, with the added draw from Olympic TV coverage, membership increased 9%, about 20% of the spring, 2002 Open House attendance. The MMS are a way to help retain these new members. Seminar information for this coming late spring and summer have been communicated to clubs. Broadhurst encourages greater collaboration between Member Services and USCA media staff, as previous joint efforts have proven successful. About 12 USCA clubs curl on skating ice, which is generally not good ice. Broadhurst is tapping Iain Hueton of Ogden Curling Club for information about successful and quick conversion skating ice for curling. Broadhurst observed during the 2001 Scots Tour that most Scottish curling facilities are multi-use. At Broadhurst's request, Keith Wendorf of the WCF staff is collecting information from the Scots to make available to U.S. clubs this summer for best use of arena ice.

c. College Curling. Swandby reported for Rich Larko. The USCA shares expenses with the Illinois State Curling Foundation (ISCF). The college curling program includes five regional and one national college tournament. Growth and success of the program is due in part to the subsidy of participating curlers' expenses, which is about \$165 per team per bonspiel. The USCA contributes about \$6,000 for overall program expenses. The ISCF contributes that amount plus other costs. The program targets many players who may not otherwise curl at that age. Swandby believes this is a good program to support.

d. Youth Curling. Sjue reported that junior camps are the bulk of his committee's budget. Camps are scheduled next season for Eau Claire, Cape Cod, and Bismarck. The Junior Merit Program materials cost per curler is \$15, the USCA charges the kids \$2. The committee is studying new options for the school "curling in the gym" program, but no proposals today. The junior rock grant program will be cancelled next season, since the program value is questionable because the kids want to use full sized rocks at an increasingly early age.

e. Training & Instruction. Hatch reported that eight "train the trainer" clinics were conducted last season, with kudos to the national course conductors. Training and Instructional standards are available on the USCA web site. Next season, the committee plans to add adult clinics. Information will be posted on the USCA web site. Hatch is excited that the new USCA database work is progressing, as it is critical in tracking certified instructors by region, in order to match them with planned clinics. Two new instructional brochures will be developed for use next season: one on wheelchair curling, the other covering delivery with the "stick."

19. **Championships.** Cousins noted that this is the year that weekend #1 jumps in the numbered weekend system.

a. Awards. Joraanstad reported that the Awards program is in good shape.

b. Drawmaster. Barcome reported that new draw software is 90% developed for the USCA at nominal cost. The software will be available to clubs next season, at a planned cost of about \$50 per order. The software is designed so users can plug in variables such as format and number of teams, and get the completed draw.

c. Drug Education. Silver reported that all USCA athletes passed drug tests conducted by USADA at nationals this season. The onus to be educated on banned substances is on the athlete. Educational material is being developed re: role of parent-as-chaperone at



competition and drug testing.

d. Field of Play. Fox reported that Dennis Tietge has completed his first year as USCA Head Ice Technologist in training. He attended the 2003 Junior Nationals at Broomstones (with Bill Wilberg), and successfully made ice at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance in Grafton, and at the Mixed in Medford. Future USCA/Host contracts for men's and women's nationals must include clauses for ice making, and must reiterate the USCA right to appoint (and set the payment amount for) the nationals ice maker.

e. Officiating. West reported that the committee is proposing to coordinate its work with the Rules Committee. A committee goal is to reduce the number of nationals officials per draw. Potential changes include having teams take measurements and hang the score, and eliminate the on-ice observer position. Maier has created an Officiating Coordinator Procedure Manual, and other manuals will be updated. The USCA trained 180 new officials at six clinics last season.

f. Rules. Cousins reported. The committee reviews and interprets rules and makes proposals for changes; updates the annual USCA Championship Rules booklet; and handles Requests for Rulings, which is often needed to assign teams to playdown regions based on regional residency rules. The USCA uses the WCF Rules of Play. Several WCF rules changes made in Winnipeg this month will be added to the 2004 USCA Championship Rules booklet:

- championship ice sheet minimum width reduced to 14'6 with WCF pre-approval
- a substitute is allowed at any position during a game, and upon substitution, the rest of team line-up may be changed
- sweeping behind the tee no longer restricted to skip only, can use any one sweeper
- two one-minute time outs now allowed during the game, game now 73 minute time limit instead of 75 minutes
- eliminate minimum age required for eligibility at World Championships, and thus for the USCA Men's and Women's Championships

g. Site Selection. Schoeneberg reported sites for the 2004 USCA championships:

World Junior B Team Selection, Bemidji (Minn.) or Bismarck (N.Dak.), November 21-23 (2003)  
World Wheelchair Team Selection, Utica (NY) or Belfast (Maine), November 21-23 (2003)  
Senior Worlds Team Selection, Grafton (N.Dak.), December 11-14 (2003)  
Junior Nationals, Centerville (Wisc.), January 31-February 7  
Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance, Waupaca (Wisc.), February 12-15  
Men's and Women's Nationals, Grand Forks (N.Dak.), March 5-13  
Mixed Nationals, Mankato (Minn.), March 20-27

h. World Wheelchair Championship. Schoeneberg reported that wheelchair curlers are playing in able-body curler leagues at Belfast Curling Club, with interest in Ogden and Utica. Wheelchair curling will be on the program of the 2006 Paralympic Games. Wheelchair curling rules will be posted on the USCA web site. A team must include athletes of both genders on ice. The USCA must commit to sending a team to the World Championships at Sursee, Switzerland by August 31, 2003. The World competition will be January 19-24, 2004. Glasgow will host in 2005. The 2004 and 2005 events will be qualifiers for the 2006 Paralympics in Italy. **Motion by Schoeneberg, Silver second, that USCA be the NGB for Paralympic Curling. Motion by Hatch, Silver second, to amend the motion to include the words "through the 2006 Torino Paralympic Games." Amendment approved.** Discussion

followed on the main motion. The cost estimate for next season is \$10,000. There is revenue potential from the Paralympic NGB (a USOC member), but none committed yet. Issues yet to be dealt with include USCA board representation for Paralympic athletes. A sunset provision is possible but not certain. The team expenses for the 2006 Paralympic Games will be funded by the USOC. **Main motion, as amended, approved.**

i. Format Task Force. Cousins reported that Directors have received the Task Force proposal by email. The USCA "citizenship" vote last fall mandated two playdowns, but offered no guidelines. "Open" and "club" options have been posted on the USCA web site. Cousins has no early "official" feedback from associations, however he received feedback from individual curlers. Now, Cousins has feedback from officials of the Washington, Minnesota, Grand National and Wisconsin regions. After several changes of mind, the regions favor maintaining a regional vs. an open format for the world selection event. The Task Force has no changes to propose today. However, as a result of a "heart to heart" meeting this weekend, the Task Force determined that an open format is "What's best for USCA" for World Team Selection, and a regional format is best for the club nationals event. The reason is that the best teams in U.S. should compete at a world selection final event, because a tougher field better prepares the eventual world and Olympic teams to medal. Also, world and Olympic medals also benefit membership growth. The Task Force will propose a specific playdown format for the Men's and Women's events in Fall of 2003, to be put in use for the 2005 championships. No changes for the 2004 season. The citizenship eligibility requirement will still apply in 2004. Today, the Task Force will make several proposals.

**#1. Defer implementation of change.**

**Motion by Anderson, Barcome second,**

**Whereas, the USCA Board of Directors, at its meeting in September, 2002 adapted the motion "That participation in all events leading to WCF sanctioned world play be limited to U.S. citizens or on-track foreign nationals. The policy change would take effect in the 2003-2004 season. The term on-track is defined using the current USCA language. In the same 2003-2004 season, the USCA will have in place an annual funded national championship without a citizen restriction," and**

**Whereas, there are multiple perceptions of what the intent of this action is given the differences of interpretation of what a two event system is, and**

**Whereas, The Format Task Force has received many diverse recommendations and comments on the proposed alternatives of a revised "championship" format, and**

**Whereas, the Format Task Force has reached a consensus that an open format (meaning no restriction on the residency of the team members, nor arbitrary quotas or limitations on where a team plays to qualify for the event), for the men's and women's world team selection process, is in the best interests of the teams and the USCA and will increase the competitiveness of the event and enhance our teams' opportunities to achieve "competitive success" at world competitions, and**

**Whereas, to continue to plan for a championship event in 2003-2004 that would permit non-citizens and other competitive club curlers to compete, in the absence of the open event for the selection of our world teams, would result in duplication of playdown or state championship events which would be detrimental to the USCA member**

organizations and negatively impact on the success of both championships, therefore,

Be it hereby resolved:

That the USCA defer the implementation of the change in the championships to the 2004-2005 curling year during which time the USCA National Men's and Women's Club Championships and the USCA Men's and Women's Championships (World Team Selection Events), including necessary qualifying events, will be conducted, and, that the Format Task Force and USCA staff be directed to develop full procedures for these two events, distribute them for comment, and make final recommendations for Board Action at the Fall, 2003 meeting. Extensive discussion. It was noted that the club event should be designed and promoted to assist club membership growth. Barcome moved, Anderson second, to call the question. Approved. Vote on main motion. Approved.

**#2. National Entry Deadlines. Motion by Barcome, Drobnick second, that all playdown entries must be in the USCA office by the deadline date. Payment must accompany the entry. A web based registration form with credit card payment will simplify the process. Non-citizens must provide proof of on-track status. The USCA reserves the right to seek further documentation of citizenship, on-track status, and residency. The following is a schedule of entry deadlines.**

**Wheelchair, November 3, 2003**

**Senior World Team Selection, December 1, 2003**

**Junior World Team Selection, December 1, 2003**

**Men's and Women's World Team Selection, December 1, 2003**

**Mixed, January 26, 2004**

**Approved.**

**#3. Regional Playdown Windows. Motion by Barcome, Jytyla second, to implement the regional playdown date windows listed below. Purpose is to avoid schedule conflicts between protected competitions.**

**Seniors, No regional playdowns at this time.**

**Juniors, December 17-January 4**

**Men's and Women's, Weekends 1, 2 and 3 (January 8-25, 2004)**

**Approved.**

**#4 Playdown fee increases. Motion by Barcome, Lowe second, to increase the playdown fees from \$100 to \$200 per team (for all but juniors). Establish a \$200 playdown fee for Wheelchair nationals. The incremental revenue will allow the procurement of a professional ice maker and championship rocks. Approved.**

**#5 Sign up and go. Motion by Drobnick, Barcome second, that in the interest of fairness and the spirit of competition, if any region falls below two (2) teams, the remaining teams will be sent to another region for playdowns. The following chart indicates where regions would play if they fall below minimums. Each affected region will be obligated to accept teams from other regions per the chart below.**

<u>Region</u>	<u>Playdown Alternate</u>
GNCC	Great Lakes
Great Lakes	GNCC
Illinois	Wisconsin
Wisconsin	Illinois

Minnesota	North Dakota
North Dakota	Minnesota
Washington	Alaska
Alaska	Washington
NE, CO, MOPAC	Depends on where the teams are from*

*NE	North Dakota
*CO	North Dakota
*TX	North Dakota
*UT	Washington
*CA	Washington
*OR	Washington

If any state or region loses a slot because of this policy, the open slot will be filled through the Second Chance (men’s) and with the existing fill policy for women’s.

Approved.

Motion by Barcome, Drobnick second, that the USCA Board of Directors mandates the 2003 Format Task Force to develop a comprehensive Open Format to be presented to the 2003 USCA Fall meeting. Approved.

Motion to recess meeting until Sunday morning approved at 5:55 p.m.

*McNelly reconvenes meeting at 8:05 a.m. Sunday. Moore rejoined the meeting. All directors present except Barcome, Bloomquist, Giedt, Stacey Liapis, Pustovar, Rau, Schoeneberg and Wilson.*

j. World Seniors Playdown. Fenson reported that 12 men’s and 4 women’s teams played in Bemidji to select the 2003 World Seniors Team USA. The men played a two division round robin, the women a double round robin. The LaVonne Berg and Scott Baird teams won. At Worlds, Baird won silver, Berg was one game out the medal rounds.

20. **Competitive Programs.** Thompson reported.

a. Elite Programs. Thompson reported that the committee met from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m Thursday, including USOC Sports Partner Leslie Gamez. The committee reviewed the year’s activities, committee responsibilities, and the possible acquisition of committee functions of elite Coaching, Athlete Funding and the competitive component of World Team Preparation.

ADD. Lukowich reported on his activities as Athlete Development Director. The ADD works with high performance funded teams. In addition, Ed tracked the Wes Johnson and Pete Fenson teams, and worked with the “Junior B” and Junior World team. A successful season. An early cashspiel win for Team McCormick was a good sign, the first Canadian cashspiel win for a U.S. women’s team. McCormick finished 14<sup>th</sup> on World Curling Tour. One USCA goal is high WCT rankings for U.S. men’s and women’s teams. Teams Lank and Pustovar represented U.S. at Continental Cup with success. Pustovar won the Karuizawa Cup; Team Cassie Johnson the World Junior Silver Medal at Flims; Team McCormick the Women’s World Gold at Winnipeg. Lukowich ranks overall world performance each season. In his ranking system, the U.S. finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. Goals for 2004: top-10 WCT finish for a women’s team, top-15 for a men’s team. Medal in both women’s and men’s Worlds. His job is

to assist teams to learn how to play at top world level. He believes we have to compete more in skins, because skins games teach teams critical skills. Looking forward to next year.

Junior B. Finch reported that Team USA came in 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Junior B world challenge last fall; they needed to finish 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> to regain the Worlds berth. This fall, the USCA will select, by August 1, four to eight teams to compete in a Junior B playdown November 21-23 at either Bemidji or Bismarck. The USCA will select a Level 3 or 4 coach to work with the field of teams.

b. Athlete Funding. Frosch reported that the committee will be combined within the Elite Programs Committee. The junior funding process will be accomplished earlier next season.

c. Coaching. Rich reported that a Coaching Symposium is scheduled for the last weekend in July, in the Minneapolis area. Level 1-3 courses will be held on Friday, with the Symposium slated for Saturday and Sunday.

d. Sports Science. Maskel reported that sports medicine services are available from the USOC, but the USCA must request specific services. USCA needs to start planning now to access these services in time to benefit our 2006 Torino teams. Maskel encourages budgeting to allow for some services. In sports science, the technology is improving and the costs coming down. Maskel will work with Lukowich to assess opportunities. Maskel taps into people with science expertise. The USOC has a Performance Enhancement Team (PET) that USCA may wish to access, however NGB must develop specific requests. Lowe noted there is new technology to record a game directly onto a lap top computer. McNelly said he has a "demo" of the software available for under \$800. Lukowich noted increased athlete use of massage therapy, and the need for more sports psychology programs. Maskel noted a USOC program is available to develop volunteer sports medicine professionals for ultimate service at Olympic Games. He advocates involvement now so athletes have the chance to get to know the professionals well before 2006. Maskel will meet with a sports vision expert later today.

e. World Team Preparation. D. Brown noted the increase in USCA sponsored championships, which requires additional services from her committee. She thanked Joraanstad for her work in handling world team uniform orders and delivery. The USCA banners, used primarily for exchanges between teams at World level events, must be reordered. **Motion by Finch, Lowe second, to change to the USA Curling logo on world team banners.** Discussion backed sentiment for traditional crest design. **Motion disapproved.**

21. **Operations.** Finch reported.

a. Legal & Bylaws. **Motion by West, Finch second, to approve the By-Laws Amendments presented in item 13, above. Approved.** West reported that the current USCA By-Laws Committee job description is good, but that the present committee does not have the personnel expertise needed to revise bylaws in view of the governance changes. She asked that the Nominating Committee seek a lawyer to serve on the board; that representatives from the Legal/By-Laws Committee be actively involved in the restructuring discussion; and that the Finance Committee include in the budget an expense item for increased activity next season by the By-Laws Committee.

b. Human Resources. Lowe reported that the two new staff persons are performing at or above expectations, and are happy in their work. Garber presented a salary administration

review to Human Resources for submission to budgetary process. The committee has reviewed the Griem/Urevig consultant's report on USCA operational efficiency. Several items are being put to use, including the new database and increased member communications.

c. Finance. Reported under item #9, above.

d. Athlete/Curler Recognition. Maskel asked that ballots be distributed for the Bennett Award vote.

e. ACF&M Liaison. Suzanne Liapis reported that the committee is developing a Curling Legacy program, including the concept of endowments for curling. Several ideas are taking shape, including a "Mobile Museum" to bring American Curling Museum artifacts to members at their clubs. Liapis is seeking volunteers with estate planning background to assist the committee develop the Legacy program.

## 22. **Marketing.**

a. Merchandising. Finch reported on a successful sales year through official USCA merchandiser XP Apparel. Royalties are over \$1,000 to date, double the previous program. The USOC "OXL" member card program will be implemented as a member service. USCA has committed budget dollars to purchase and mail the card. Members should receive the card by the end of this summer. No expiration date on the card, to avoid need for annual USCA purchase. Benefits to USCA members, to be explained in a cover letter, include discounts with Gateway, United, Monster.com, and Marriott Hotels. Finch seeks designs for merchandise clothing ideas from curlers.

b. PR/Media. Reported under #15, above.

c. Donation Development. Draper reported that the goal of \$65,000 goal will not be met. The revenue estimate is \$50,000. Draper offered a brief analysis of the program effectiveness.

d. Sponsor Development. Draper recognized efforts of staff and others in the growth of televised curling in the U.S. The committee retains its direction that sponsors will best be secured by focus on securing the services of a professional sports marketer. Draper suggests a \$2,000 budget item to update the USCA member demographic information and for a member preferences survey. If/when a major sponsor is secured, additional staff resources for sponsor support will be needed. Draper received praise and applause for his service as a USCA director.

23. **USOC**. McNelly reported that the U.S. Olympic Committee Board has supported a board reduction to nine directors and the elimination of its Executive Committee. The plan approved in concept at the early April USOC meeting in Ft. Worth calls for a board with two directors from the National Governing Bodies (NGB), two athlete directors, one IOC representative director, and four independent directors. The USOC is governed by federal law (the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act), which must be amended to allow governance restructuring. A report is due by June from the Senate Task Force for USOC governance. Curling will still be represented on the NGB and Athletes Advisory Councils. One result may be more USOC dollars directed to NGBs and athletes. Silver, one of three athletes to testify Friday in front of a House USOC panel, invited comment from board members via email. McNelly thanked the board for its support for Paralympic curling, including the sunset proviso designed to protect the USCA.

**24. Athletes Advisory Council (AAC).** Maskel reported that unlike curling, few NGBs have a dedicated weekend for an AAC meeting, and he thanked curling athletes for taking the time for active participation in the AAC and on the board. The AAC had endorsed fall selection a year ago, but he realizes that attitudes have changed since that time. Maskel has lobbied for 10-end play in the Junior B challenge, and to avoid the sudden death semi-final. The latter has been changed to a round robin. He urged the WCF reps to keep working for 10-end games. Maskel has communicated concerns about USCA championship draws to the VP Championships, who is working to meet AAC concerns. The Officiating Committee has been considering concerns expressed by AAC. Maskel, who is heartened by progress, thanked West and her committee for their responsiveness and efforts. The AAC has urged the USCA to improve ice conditions at nationals, and again, progress is being made. The AAC continues to urge USCA to develop further revenue and other value from sponsorships. Maskel mentioned two potential sponsors and urged, "Strike while the grill is hot."

**McNelly announced vote results: Tom Erskine wins the USCA Bruce Bennett Media award. Motion by Fox, Anderson second, to destroy the ballots. Approved.**

Silver is USCA representative to the USOC-AAC, and a member of the USOC board. She reported she has been working on Anti-Doping business related to the codes and protocols of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). Silver stated that more work needs to be done, noting as an example that there was no drug testing at the recent Winnipeg worlds.

**25. World Curling Federation.** Lowe reported that the USCA WCF reps attended WCF meetings in Grindelwald, Switzerland, in December, 2002, and in Winnipeg two weeks ago. Several rules changes were made, as previously described. In 2005, the men's and women's world championships will be split by gender, to enhance Ford of Canada's sponsor support by assuring an annual event in Canada. The WCF held a reception in Winnipeg to honor the late Bob Whitehead's World Curling Freytag Award. Marilyn Brown accepted the Award. The WCF will not continue to fund team travel to the World Senior Curling Championships. Hatch encouraged directors to get their requests for WCF action to the USCA WCF reps as soon as possible to facilitate potential action at future WCF meetings. Lowe stated there is no information yet regarding a gender split for the Senior Worlds, or at which world championship site the WCF Annual General Meeting will be held.

**26. USWCA.** Purkey reported that Shirley Coe is incoming president of the U.S. Women's Curling Association. The USWCA had 112 more members last season. The USWCA has made a written offer to host the women's national club championship. Participation in the USWCA Junior National Bonspiel is increasing, partly due to the availability of travel assistance funds. Part of the profits from USWCA pin sales are used to support Juniors. The USWCA web site is now on line. The USWCA Canadian Senior Friendship Tour will be held in the Northeastern U.S. in November, 2003.

**27. Open board action items.** None.

**28. Unfinished business.** None.

**29. New business.** Fenson announced that the next USCA Board of Directors meeting would be scheduled for September 12-14, 2003, in the Minneapolis area. The tentative date and site for the Spring meeting is April 2-4, 2004, also in the Minneapolis area.

Draper asked for future refinement of USCA rules regarding the relationship between club dues payment and athlete eligibility. Cousins and Moore stated they anticipate refinement of these rules.

McNelly introduced incoming president Fenson. McNelly was lauded by the board for his long-term service to the USCA and his excellent service this season as USCA President. Applause.

**30. Motion by Anderson, Finch, second, to adjourn. Approved at 9:35 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
David Garber  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and Authorized,  
R. Chris Moore  
Secretary



## ATTACHMENT A

ITEM: Bylaw Amendments  
DATE: April 26-27, 2003  
PAGE 1

# RESOLUTION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION

Chicago, Illinois  
April 26-27, 2003

**SUBMITTED BY:** Georgia West, Chair Legal/Bylaws Committee

### **BACK GROUND INFORMATION:**

The amendments provided in Exhibits A through C add and define the term "Club at Large" to our definitions.

The amendment provided in Exhibit D amends the names of the "Members" of the Corporations to reflect their actual names.

The amendment provided in Exhibit E clarifies a curling club applicant requirement.

The amendment provided in Exhibit F clarifies that our USOC Representative is an individual in good standing of a Member of the USCA not the USCA itself.

The amendment provided in Exhibit G makes provision for the Board of Directors to constitute additional Committees as needed.

The amendments provided in Exhibit H and I amend the methods of notice for Amendments to By-Laws and Amendments to Articles of Incorporation to coincide with the methods of notice for meetings of the Board of Directors and Special Meetings.

### **SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:**

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2.5 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit A Attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2.6 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 2, Section 2.7 as set forth in Exhibit C attached is Hereby added.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 3, Section 3.3 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit D attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 6, Section 6.2 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit E attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 7, Section 7.3 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit F attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 7, Section 7.4 be added as set forth in Exhibit G attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 14, Section 14.1 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit H attached hereto.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the USCA Bylaws, Article 14, Section 14.2 be amended to read as set forth in Exhibit I attached hereto.

**BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT:**

None.

~~Strikethrough~~ = deleted language. **Underlined Bold** = new language

**EXHIBIT A**

Section 2.5 - "Individual Member" shall mean any Curler who belongs to a curling club that belongs to a Member association or organization **or** "**Club at Large**" as ~~the same are~~ defined ~~above~~.

**EXHIBIT B**

**Section 2.6** "Member" shall mean any association of Curling Clubs or any organization of Curlers conducting curling programs that are national in scope **or a "Club at Large"**.

**EXHIBIT C**

**Section 2.7 "Club at Large" shall mean a "Member" that does not belong to any state or regional curling association.**

**EXHIBIT D**

**Section 3.3 MEMBER ELECTED DIRECTOR ALLOCATIONS.** The Member elected directors shall be allocated as follows:

- (a) Grand National **Curling Club of America, Inc.** - 4 Directors
- (b) Illinois **Curling Association** - 4 Directors
- © Minnesota **Curling Association** - 4 Directors
- (d) North Dakota **Curling Association** - 4 Directors

- (e) Wisconsin **State Curling Association** - 4 Directors
- (f) Alaska **Curling Association** - 2 Directors
- (g) Mountain Pacific Curling Association  
[California-Oregon-Utah ] - 2 Directors
- (h) Washington **State Curling Association** - 2 Directors
- (i) Great Lakes **Curling Association** - 2 Directors
- (j) Nebraska **Curling Association**, and Colorado **Curling Association** and Clubs At Large - 2 Directors

#### EXHIBIT E

**Section 6.2 – MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.** Each Member shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- (a) If the Member **curling club** is domiciled in a state or region which is already represented in the Corporation by an association, then applicant's membership shall be through that association in their state or region. However, if the applicant has been denied membership by the appropriate association, then said applicant may apply to the Corporation for direct membership; and,

#### EXHIBIT F

**Section 7.3 - USOC REPRESENTATION.** The Board of Directors shall appoint the number and type of representatives that they are entitled to have under the USOC Constitution. In addition, the Athletes Advisory Council shall elect one or more representatives to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council, in accordance with the provisions of the USOC Constitution. This term shall be for a period of four (4) years, provided said appointees remain Individual Members in good standing of **a Member of** this Corporation. It shall be the function of these representatives to attend all meetings and functions required of them by the USOC and to notify the membership of this Corporation as to the activities of the USOC, especially as they pertain to the sport of curling.

#### EXHIBIT G

**Section 7.4 – Other committees deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Corporation may be constituted by resolution of the Board of Directors, or the President may appoint such other ad hoc or special committees.**

#### EXHIBIT H

Section 14.1 AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS. These by-laws may be repealed or amended in whole or in part by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors or by a majority vote of the Members, provided that in the event of a conflict, the vote of the Members shall control. However, no such changes in the By-Laws shall be adopted unless the directors or Members shall have been notified in writing of the subject of the proposed change by ~~letters mailed or telegrams~~ **regular mail, facsimile or electronic mail** sent at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting; or unless each such director or Member, as the case may be, not so notified shall execute a waiver of such notice.

#### EXHIBIT I

Section 14.2 AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION. The Articles of Incorporation may be amended in whole or in part by a 2/3 vote of the Members. However, no such changes in the Articles shall be adopted unless the Members shall have been notified in writing of the subject of the proposed change by ~~letters mailed or telegrams~~ **regular mail, facsimile or electronic mail** sent at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting; or unless each such Member not so notified shall execute a waiver of such notice.