

United States Curling Association
Executive Committee Special Meeting
July 18, 2007
Via Conference Call
Minutes

Present:

Georgia West, in the chair
Andy Anderson
Janet Farr
Bob Fenson
Nicole Joraanstad
Judy Maier
Richard Maskel
Chris Moore
James Pleasants
Chris Sjue
Mark Swandby
Jon Wilson

Not present:

Robert Pelletier*
Bill Todhunter

**Pelletier's absence was due to a failure of notification about the meeting.*

Also present:

Jack Bernauer
Rick Patzke, COO
Sandy Robinson, Controller

1. Convene, welcome, appoint parliamentarian. **West convened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.** Roll was called. West appointed Anderson as Parliamentarian, and Anderson declared there is a quorum.

Patzke was asked to record the minutes.

2. Athletes/Team of the Year – Richard Maskel. Athlete Curler Recognition Committee met by teleconference, deliberated, and made the following nominations: Male Athlete of the Year, Todd Birr; Female Athlete of the Year, Nicole Joraanstad; Team of the Year, Todd Birr team.

(Nicole Joraanstad joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.)

Motion by Judy Maier, second by Janet Farr, to approve the nominations as recommended. Approved unanimously, with Joraanstad abstaining.

3. Developmental Coach of the Year and Coach of the Year – Chris Moore said that the Coaching Committee recommends Karyn Cousins as Developmental Coach of the Year and Wally Henry as Coach of the Year. **Motion by Bob Fenson, second by James Pleasants, to approve the nominations as recommended. Approved unanimously.**

4. FY2007 Financial Results – Treasurer Andy Anderson gave a brief overview of the FY2007 financial results, stating that the USCA's cash position and balance sheet are in good shape. FY2007 shows a small surplus at this time, with about 98 percent of the books closed. Anderson will continue to work with Controller Sandy Robinson and Assistant Treasurer Jack Bernauer to finalize the books.

(USCA Controller Sandy Robinson joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.)

5. FY2008 Budget – Anderson reviewed a proposed budget that is break-even in the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) class and shows a small surplus in the USCA class. He noted that the Finance Committee is aware of a Board of Directors policy to try to budget for a \$20,000 surplus in order to rebuild the USCA's cash reserves to \$250,000. Although this is not reflected in the FY2008 budget, Anderson said the Finance Committee was comfortable with recommending approval of the proposed budget. He mentioned that the budget includes \$30,000 of non-guaranteed revenue from a potential grantor and sponsor.

Discussion: President West asked Anderson to give an estimation of the worst-case scenario if some of these revenues that are considered a risk don't materialize. Anderson stated that if the grant, cash sponsorship and some proposed revenues from potential anniversary merchandise sales were not realized, the USCA would have a budget deficit of \$33,000.

Anderson commented that the budget reflects donation program revenues of only \$34,000. He said he believes that this could be increased if the committee in charge of the program (Revenue Development) can do more to encourage individual clubs to solicit donations.

Bernauer added that getting all clubs to fully report membership would also increase revenues, and that the USCA might then be less inclined to need to consider a dues increase in FY2009 as is currently projected.

Judy Maier asked if there were any items in the budget no longer being supported by the USOC that could be eliminated. Anderson replied that previously a portion of USOC funds was not restricted to competitive support programs, but that this situation has changed.

Anderson noted that the Paralympic program revenues and expenses were not included in the current budget as all of the numbers are not yet in. However, this area will be budgeted as break-even.

Motion by Anderson, second by Chris Moore, to approve the FY2008 budget as submitted. Approved unanimously.

6. 50th anniversary logo – Vice President of Operations/Marketing Jon Wilson introduced a USCA 50th anniversary logo as designed and approved by the Revenue Development Committee. This logo will be used by the USCA throughout the anniversary year (2008) in publications, merchandise, etc., and is also intended to serve as the design for the 2007-08 donation pin.

7. WCF delivery stick rules – West prefaced this discussion by noting that the USCA has received a lot of correspondence regarding the new stick rules proposed for adoption by the Championships Committee. Vice President of Championships James Pleasants gave background on the new stick rules recently adopted by the World Curling Federation (WCF). One rule in particular that has become controversial is the new release point, requiring curlers using the stick to deliver the stone before either foot crosses the near tee line. Previously the rule was the same as for regular deliveries, i.e., before the rock crosses the hog line. Pleasants said that the Championships Committee adopted the WCF rules intact. “It doesn’t mean we liked all of them, but we recognized the value of uniformity,” he said. Pleasants explained that the WCF will review the rules in one year, so with this in mind, his committee voted to adopt the rules intact in order to be able to adequately test them and be able to make informed recommendations for any changes after the one-year trial period. Pleasants presented a letter to the committee that he proposed sending to all member clubs explaining the stick rule changes and outlining the reasoning for the committee’s recommendation.

Anderson, speaking as a WCF representative, said the rules were submitted to the WCF board in Basel in September for review and comment. The rules were then put up for adoption at the General Assembly in Japan in March. “Use of the stick was designed to allow those curlers who could no longer deliver the stone in the traditional manner to continue to play,” said Anderson. “It was not designed to give them a competitive advantage beyond what they enjoyed when using the traditional delivery.”

West reviewed some of the correspondence received by the USCA. She said the general consensus was that the USCA should not be adopting these rules without gaining further input from the membership.

A long discussion ensued over the pros and cons suspending adoption vs. testing the new rules for the one-year trial period. Anderson, Sjue, Fenson and Swandby spoke in favor of either suspending the rules for the year or for a short time in order to gain more input from members and other curling nations. Moore and Maskel spoke in favor of upholding the Championships Committee’s decision to adopt the rules intact.

Motion by Anderson, second by Janet Farr, to uphold the Championships Committee decision, with some minor changes made to Pleasants’ letter to the membership. Fenson asked for roll call vote. Motion carried 9-3, with Fenson, Maier and Sjue opposed.

8. Unfinished business – There was no unfinished business.

9. New business – West noted that the next USCA Operating Committee meeting would be Aug. 8.

Motion by Sjue, second by Joraanstad, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Patzke
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized,
Albert Anderson
Secretary