



MINUTES

USA Team Handball Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, May 14 at 11am (MT) in Salt Lake City UT

Recorded by: Steve Pastorino, GM

Present (10/10): Tomuke Ebuwei, Brad Krassner, Marilyn Gauthier, David Thompson, Dan Wollman, Ralf Uhding, Heins Kart Pedersen, Charles Diab, Jeff Utz, Dieter Esch. Marilyn Gauthier participated by phone.

Guests: *Jessica Cross (USOC), Klaus Kattke, Butso Anusic, Ben Abderrahmane, Lars Jorgensen (referees); Laszlo Jurak (NYAC), Jan O'Shea (NEL), Andre Beliveau (Boston), Chrissy Hires (Dynamo), Anca Stephens (WNT/Dynamo), Matt Van Houten (AAC), Dawn Lewis (Montana), John Bates (USATH Counsel), Mariusz Wartalowicz (Technical Director), Mike Tilton (West Point Team Handball).*

PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting was called to order approximately 11:15am.

Butso Anusic made initial comments on behalf of the National Referee Committee. He requested many changes to the structure of referees in USA right now, including the following requests for NRC:

- Has a dedicated budget & autonomy
- Makes assignments for all sanctioned matches (games w/o certified referees don't count)
- Reviews all scoresheets.
- Is allowed to pursue its own sponsor(s) with proceeds directly going to NRC
- May choose three new members
- Shall exclusively represent USA in international referee community
- Rejects usage of foreign referees in USA without referee consultation
- Is allowed to pursue funding proposal to US Team Handball Federation

Referee Klaus Kattke added that payments were received late. He reiterated that referees need tools as well as money. Steve Pastorino suggested that the size of the country and lack of funds make it difficult to grow quality and quantity of referees. Dieter Esch directed USATH management to answer emails within 48 hours, and said he, in principal, agreed to the NRC recommendations. He asked Butso and Klaus to formalize their request to USATH management AND board for further review and action. On behalf of the BOD, David Thompson apologized for the treatment of referees and he welcomed them to Salt Lake.

The conversation transitioned into Domestic competition. Dieter Esch asked the competition committee to review the number and quality of sanctioned tournaments before making commitments for referee participation. BOD instructed Competition Committee to make recommendations to the BOD prior to approval. Steve P. suggested that the CC should produce the 2011-12 calendar/rule book prior to the next Board meeting (late August).

A discussion of deadlines and timelines ensued. Jan O'Shea, Andre Beliveau and Mike Tilton all said USATH needs to set firm deadlines and follow them. Dieter Esch said he worried that we would "lose handball" to discipline, regulations, etc. Steve P. brought up the case of an athlete who was red-carded in Regionals and suspended for first two games of 2010 Nationals. The player's last-minute appeal was denied.

A discussion of International competitions followed. USA Men are headed to Guatemala to attempt to qualify for Pan Am Games. USA Women are headed to Oklahoma City for Selection camp, followed by training in Madrid (tentative) and Lake Placid.

Jeff Utz noted that teams are \$30,000 short if Men qualify for PAG, but \$10,000 short if they do not. Dieter Esch said we should not send teams to Youth/Junior competitions if we have shortfall in Senior Men and/or Women budgets.

Tomuke Ebuwei said everyone needs to fundraise. David said the attitude has to be supportive and encouraging. Brad Krassner reiterated his frustration with USOC funding and pledged to match up to \$5,000 of donations from handball community. Jeff agreed to start a Fundraising Committee. Volunteers include Klaus, Butso, Steve. Details are forthcoming.

Steve thanked BURRDA SPORT, Grundfos, SnapSports and Locust for their national sponsorship. He also recognized Christopher Kia/Jerry Seiner Dealerships, Utah Sports Commission, Fast Track Physical Therapy and Maximized Living.

Steve announced that Eric Heiden / Max Testa had joined USATH as Team Doctors.

Finally, Butso suggested that minutes should be more detailed. Steve said he would try. The Open Session of the meeting adjourned approximately 3pm.

The Board continued in Executive Session. A revision of board member responsibilities and titles was discussed, but a vote was challenged by a board member who was not present.

The Board discussed the the USOC Audit that began in December 2010 but has not been received. Cashflow for the remainder of 2011 was briefly discussed. A brief discussion/review of Management personnel also took place, including the possibility of adding a full-time sponsorship/fundraising position. No action was taken.

The Executive Session of the meeting adjourned approximately 3:20pm.