

USASA NBOD Approved Meeting Minutes
8pm (EST) Wednesday March 6, 2024

1. The meeting was called to order by United States Adult Soccer Association President John Motta at 8:02pm
2. President John Motta welcomed and acknowledged all of the Board of Directors and guests. President John Motta asked that all guests refrain from asking questions during the meeting and that if there was enough time, he would allow questions after the meeting.
3. The National Board of Directors roll call was taken by USASA Secretary Karon Beyer. The full National Board of Directors were present with the exception of Treasurer Lori Stoneburner, and Affiliate Member Director, Kendra Halterman, who will try to call in later during the meeting. (Kendra Haltermen called in later in the meeting)
4. The Board approved the revised proposed March 6, 2024 Agenda sent out by Secretary Karon Beyer.
5. Minutes:
 - A. February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes by the Board were approved by the board with no changes.
 - B. February 8, 202 Executive Session Meeting Minutes:
Executive meeting minutes were tabled until the April Board meeting, as At Large Director Jim Sadowski had two suggested changes. Secretary Karon Beyer and At-large Director Jim Sadowski will revise the minutes from the executive Session to present for approval for the April Board Meeting.

President John Motta asked USASA Executive Director Bruce Bode to introduce his National office staff and responsibilities.

Amber Klimek, (Chicago) who just started on Monday and will be our Member Communications and Engagement Director,

Matt Zelek, (Chicago) who came on two weeks ago and will be the National Cup Competition and Competitions Event Manager (including Soccer Fest).

Cassie Stipe, who is his administrative assistance, has been on board for over a month, works remotely in Florida.

Ava Rose Lynch has been around since last June, Social Media Manager.

Jen Sunderland, Events, Competitions & Special Projects Director.

President John Motta thanked the Executive Director for all the new hires and that he believes that they will enhance our association and will free up the Executive Director, Bruce Bode for more important tasks at hand for USASA.

6. Officer's Reports

A. President's Report: John Motta reported:

1) Steinbrecher Cup updates; US Soccer will not be funding this year's event. Teams are very passionate about the Steinbrecher Cup and the NPSL Championships. Tulsa Athletic are willing to host in Tulsa Oklahoma this year. They have reached out to Chicago House and Westchester (Last year's Champions) to see if they are interested. Chicago House is interested and Westchester would need funding. Executive Director Bruce Bode will reach out to our National Amateur Champions as well as the USL2 Champions.

2) Adult Commissioners met two weeks ago and have put together two task force committees:

USASA Budget & Forecasting Task Force and the Committee members will be, Chair Richard Groff, Richard Moeller and Shonna Schroedl, what USASA should request from US Soccer and a USASA Bylaw Task Force, as the Adult Council needs their Bylaws to be in line with US Soccer's Bylaws and the members will be Chaz Ballish Regueiro, Fritz Marth and Tim Busch. The two Task Forces will start immediately and be reporting back to the Adult Council Commissioners on their recommendations. The Adult Commissioners did have discussions around other possible task forces, but they had two members of the US Soccer representative who were on the call and reported that US Soccer would be creating working groups around US Soccer Ecosystems.

3) The US Womens' National Team will play tonight at 10pm vs. Canada for the semifinals for the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

4) Social Media Postings: President John Motta will refrain from commenting until Executive Director Bruce Bode's report on the Levinson Group.

B. Vice President's Report: Fritz Marth reported on:

- 1) USASA Coaching Course Certification: Vice President Fritz Marth has followed up with Vince Treglia about the coaching course they have been working on. Fritz Marth has been in touch with JT Batson from US Soccer and he is putting them in touch with the proper folks at the Federation. They hope to roll out Continuing Teaching modules to have something rolled out by summer (June).
- 2) Online Webinars: Fritz Marth will be circling back to Anne Braghero from Oregon.

C. Executive Directors Report: Executive Director Bruce Bode submitted a written report to the board but gave an oral update.

- 1) The Steinbrecher Cup was already talked about under the President's report. The Amateur Cup proposals will be discussed during National Cup Committee Reports.
- 2) Executive Directors written report includes a breakdown of all staff issues and staff hiring.
- 3) Strategic Planning is set for April 19-21 in Chicago and Cassi Stripe will be reaching out for travel information. Executive Director Bruce Bode will be working with the executive board on the agenda.
- 4) Executive Director Bruce Bode has been working with National Cup Committee Chair Richard Groff and the board will be updated by Chair Richard Groff under Committee Reports
- 5) Social Media Update. Executive Director Bruce Bode would like feedback from members on the posting by GroupLevinson has been working on. The goal is a broader engagement with an audience of people outside the USASA community. At the end of March they will have a report for the board and until we have some data he won't recommend changes. Executive Director Bruce Bode has forwarded content from the members to the NBOD..

7. Committee /Task Force Reports & Updates:

A. USASA Committee Reports:

- 1) Budget & Finance - Andy Marion says he has no new report since the US Soccer AGM in Dallas.

Karon Beyer asked if we could remove the Registration Committee as the committee has made their recommendation to the board and is no longer active.

2) Soccer Fest – Chair Cezar Wasecki gave a report,

- a) There is a committee meeting this week and Cezar is meeting with the national staff tomorrow with our priority on recruiting teams.
- b) Team registration numbers are down from last year. The Pan Am Master Tournament is impacting the registration for the men's. There are about sixty teams registered, the women's side is looking good but the competition needs more men's teams to register.
- c) Tom Shea is working on the party venue. The beer vendor has withdrawn from signing the contract. Chair Cezar Wasecki and Executive Director Bruce Bode are looking at a downtown option for the venue facility for the player party, the location is right next to the baseball fields. It will be very nice to have dinner, a live band and fireworks at 9pm at the baseball fields.
- c) The new fields are completed at the facility but some things like the lights may not be ready for this summer.
- d) The board needs to start looking at 2025 venues. California, and Seattle have submitted bids for 2025, Chair Cezar Wasecki is talking to Kendra Halterman about the WPSL and Vermont might be a venue site for 2026.

3) 2024 National Cup - Richard Groff reported:

- a) A proposal pertaining to protests was submitted in writing by Vice President Fritz Marth to the board for approval.

*M1 Motion made by Tony Falcone, Region 1 Director, seconded by Otey Smithson, Region 3 Director, to accept the written proposal that was submitted. Discussion by the board and the Board of Directors sends this proposal back to the National Cup Committee. Motion Fails

b) \$500 Bond Proposal:

To eliminate the bond requirement from each team for entry into the regional event, with a guarantee from the state association. The Board of Directors sends this proposal back to the National Cup Committee as a policy change for 2025.

c) 14 Day player registration deadline Policy. The Executive Director explained the challenges that teams have expressed to him.

*M2 A motion to approve by Region 2 Director Karissa Richardson, the submitted policy changes to the National Cup Rules, seconded by Otey Smithson and motion fails.

ACTION - The Board recommends that the proposed changes to National Cup Rules be referred back to the National Cups Committee for implementation for the 2025 National Cup.

- a) National Cup Bond: The \$500.00 dollar Bond may be eliminated if the state is willing to guarantee the bond.
- b) Player Roster Deadline: That the current fourteen (14) day deadline to submit the player roster be changed to a seven (7) day deadline. The Board sends the proposal back to the Cup Committee with the recommendation to submit for the 2025 Cup Competition.

There was general concern expressed about changing the rules in the middle of the competition.

d) The protest at a regional event must first go to the Regional Cup Commissioners.

- Region 1 – Peter Pinori
- Region 2 – Gerhardt Mengal
- Region 3 – Darius Ejlali
- Region 4 – Dan Trainor

8. Unfinished Business: None reported.

9. New Business:

Action Item - A) At Large Chair Cezar Wasecki would like the US Soccer Guidelines for Referee Assault & Abuse to be shared with the member state association. He recommends that the National Office collect a USASA Database of all suspended players that we can share annually. Cezar Wasecki also recommends that the suspended player list be shared with US Soccer.

Tom Moore explained that US Soccer has appointed a Referee Abuse Prevention Working Group. They are working on three areas and they are working to get these to the US Soccer board for their May Meeting.

- 1. Update the existing language in the US Soccer Federation Bylaw and policies to make them clearer and bring them in line with safe sport Policies.
- 2. US Soccer Staff will be working on how to change the culture
- 3. How to train referees to deal with referee abuse.

The committee includes Tom Moore, Jim Sadowski and Janet Campbell, who were already working on their own proposed revisions to the policy on referee abuse.

Good of the game:

Cezar Wasecki announced that they have already had four submissions for reimbursements for the Automated External Defibrillator Machine Program. Three Board members mentioned that they have or are working with their board to purchase an AED machine.

10. Adjourn by President John Motta at 9:17pm (est)

In Attendance:

- President - John Motta
- Vice President – Fritz Marth
- Treasurer – Lori Stoneburner
- Secretary - Karon Beyer
- Executive Director – Bruce Bode
- Region 1 Director – Tony Falcone
- Region 2 Director – Karissa Richardson
- Region 3 Director – Otey Smithson
- Region 4 Director – Robin Runstein
- Affiliate Director – Kendra Halterman
- At Large – Jim Sadowski

At Large – Cezar Wasecki

Independent Director – Brett Hurwitz

Guests:

Jeanne Smith, USASA Region 3 Deputy Director

Tom Moore, USASA Region 4 Deputy Director

Andy Marion, USASA Budget and Finance Chair

Richard Groff, USASA National Cup Chair

Chaz Ballish Regueiro, USASA Rules & USSA Mac Committee

Peggy Polley-Grizzle, Kentucky State President