

USASA National Board of Directors (NBOD) Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM CST

Location: Zoom

[Approved December 03, 2024](#)

1. Call to Order

- **Chair:** Jim Sadowski, USASA President
- **Time:** 8:03 pm ET

2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Guests

- **Welcome remarks** by President Jim Sadowski

3. Roll Call

- **Conducted by Zoom Chat.**
- **Board Members Present:**

Jim Sadowski

Fritz Marth

Cezar Wasecki

Karissa Richardson

Otey Smithson

Robin Runstein

MaryBeth Falk

Kendra Halterman

Brett Hurwitz

Karon Beyer – joined late

Executive Director-Bruce Bode

- **Board Members Absent:**

Lori Stoneburner – Lori had a conflict and did not have input as to the meeting date

- **Guests**

Jen Sunderland

John Motta

Jeanne Smith

Richard Moeller

Kevin Anderson – joined late

Tom Moore – joined late

David Altesleben

Jim announced that we have a quorum.

4. Approval of the Proposed Meeting Agenda (November 12, 2024)

Added one item to New Business: Veterans Cup site selection. The amended agenda was approved without objection.

5. Approval of the October 10, 2024 NBOD Meeting Minutes

Approved without objection – there were no objections to approve the minutes.

6. Officer's Reports

A. President's Report – Jim Sadowski

1. Approval (by consent) of Appointment of National Cups Committee.
The National Cups Committee appointments, previously approved by email, were approved without objection. There were no objections to the proposed committee members.
2. Update on USSF Member meetings held on October 30, 2024.
Jim attended the USSF member meetings in Chicago.
The main takeaways were:
Discussion of how to utilize the National Training Center.
The U.S. Soccer Way – the new approach to a national coaching program.
Discussion with Keri Seitz regarding potential for collaborating on the referee development and having more connection with USASA events.
The feeling that the Federation was asking for more input from members before making decisions.
3. Jim also attended a Collective Global session with VYSA. It was helpful to see what they were doing in a different environment. He felt like Collective Global did a good job with the meeting with VYSA stakeholders about strategic planning.
4. Update on 1:1 member meetings. Jim and Bruce have met with several members thus far. The process will continue through the end of the year. Jim and Bruce will try to get connected with all of the members by mid-January.
5. Jim noted that he also has a weekly meeting with Bruce and is currently using a Google sheet to track action items for Bruce.
6. Jim has started compiling a list of potential sponsors.
7. Enforcement of Member Payment/Reporting Requirements.
Jim is now looking at the members that are (or are not) providing the office with required payment and player registration data. There will be additional steps taken regarding members that do not submit data by the end of the year.

8. Jim also noted attending a Zoom meeting with the U.S. Soccer legal department and UPSL regarding Federation bylaw 706 relative to a pending lawsuit involving both USASA and UPSL.
9. Jim noted the need for the Policy Review subcommittees to complete their work in the next two weeks and have written notes ready for review by the full board prior to the next NBOD meeting.

B. Vice President's Report – Fritz Marth

Summary of the key points discussed by the Vice President.

Adult commissioners met last week and discussed complaints about UPSL using the “semi-pro” descriptor for their league. They are now using “pre-professional” language.

Fritz also discussed was the need for a mechanism to prevent teams in bad standing from leaving one member league and seeking to join a different league. Fritz also discussed the Innovate To Grow fund grant application. Richard Groff applied for a grant to fund the Steinbrecher Cup and a Women's championship. the grant is set for review by ITG Committee tomorrow. Fritz does not believe that the Adult Council is going to get the \$200,000 requested. The committee may be offering a \$50,000 grant to help fund an event.

C. Executive Director's Report – Bruce Bode

1. Player Membership update.

Overall, we are behind where we were a year ago by about 4,000 registrations. All members that have not reported registration for the year have been contacted. All but two members have responded with explanations and indicated that registrations will be forthcoming. There are currently 23 members that have not reported data for the year.

2. Update on bank account transfers.

Chase account CD's are all up for renewal in December. The Angelo Bratsis Fund has been transferred to Mass Soccer. The regular operating account will be swept daily to earn interest. This will allow USASA to get returns on the account every night. A money market account transfer was made with funds that have not been performing well. The Finance & Budget Committee will be meeting with Bruce and Lori to determine a long term plan as well.

3. Proposed USSF AGM meeting schedule.

Bruce sent a proposed schedule to the regional directors for the USASA meetings. Thursday – 2 hours for USASA NBOD meeting from 4-6pm. A US Soccer event starts at 6pm.

Friday – Regional meetings scheduled in the morning. USASA will be holding a National Council meeting, so the schedule has been split with time in the late morning and also in the afternoon with the Adult Council meeting.

Regions – 8-9:30 am

USASA council –10am-12pm
Adult Council – 12:30pm-2pm
USASA National Council – 2pm-3:30pm

D. Financial Report – Lori Stoneburner – had a conflict for tonight.

Open questions from the floor/guests: there were none.

7. Committee/Task Force Reports & Updates

- **A. None scheduled.**

8. Unfinished Business

- **A. Update on NBOD subcommittee policy review.**

Jim noted that subcommittee groups that met. Karon's group was unable to get a markup in writing completed as yet. The Bruce – Karissa - Lori group has completed their portion but needs to compare to current document to make sure nothing is missing.

Subcommittees need to get Jim their written work product.

Jim asked Bruce to review the policy areas and questions from the Governance Committee regarding technology issues.

Jim wants to finish the NBOD review and approval process by the beginning of the year so that the approved policies are sent to the members to review. We will probably schedule a pre-AGM review meeting with members prior the February 2025 meeting.

- **B. Discussion on proposed changes to the National Cup entry fee.**

MOTION: To change the national cup policy to have a \$50 National Entry Fee at the state level. Teams advancing to the regional final would have an additional fee of \$100. Teams entering at the regional final level would have a National Entry Fee of \$150.

Offered by Jim. Seconded by Fritz.

Karissa – commented on what Dan sent to the committee – Everyone agreed with the \$50 state level entry fee. There was an even split among the committee if it should be \$100 or \$150 once the team reaches the regional level.

It was also noted that some states have already begun playing qualifying rounds.

MOTION PASSES – with two voting against the motion.

9. New Business

- **A. Discussion on the Alternate Gender Task Force.**

Pre-election Robin posed a question to the two presidential candidates. How do we address Transgender issues? The consensus was that we should get a taskforce together to figure out how to deal with these issues.

No objections to setting up a Task Force.

- **B. Committee Appointments**

Review of the overall committee structure is in line with strategic plan recommendations and further committee appointments will be considered with regard to the groups being recommended to meet and align with the WIGs (Wildly important Goals).

- **C. Veterans Cup**

MOTION: To select Traverse City, Michigan as the venue for 2025 for the second weekend in July.

Offered by Cezar. Seconded by Fritz

Motion approved unanimously.

Guest question session –

John Motta – commented on committees- the Bylaws had required committees listed. Jim – the committee structure may have been moved to policies, which is why they are not defined in the bylaws.

Jeanne Smith – Has an issue with the \$50 fee. Where does the money go? To USASA or Regional pot? She also thinks that it is smart to have in Michigan over Colorado hosting the Veteran’s Cup due to altitude and the age of the participants.

Tom Moore – commented about a year ago that every team that wanted to go to a regional event pay the \$50. Tom also feels that we need to have some kind of adjudication guidance for the state associations.

10. Executive Session

- Executive session held to discuss litigation and personnel matters.
- **Time Entered:** 8:25pm
- **Time Exited:** 9:10pm
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11. Adjournment

Meeting called to end 9:10pm CST

Notes prepared by: Jen Sunderland
Minutes by: Bruce Bode

FOR APPROVAL