



**USA Ultimate Board Minutes
July 4-5, 2015
Hilton Garden Inn, West Chester, OH**

Saturday, July 4, 2015

President Mike Payne calls meeting to order at 8:21 AM ET, Saturday July 4, 2015.

Board Members Present In-Person:

Mike Payne* – President, At-Large (Appointed) Representative
DeAnna Ball – Vice President, At-Large Representative
Henry Thorne – At-Large Representative
Stephen Hubbard – Southwest Region Representative
Ness Fajardo* – Athlete Representative
Michael Eck – At-Large (Independent) Representative
Josh Seamon – Secretary, At-Large Representative
Kevin Minderhout* – At-Large Representative

Board Members Present via Teleconference:

Brian Garcia* – Treasurer, Athlete Representative
Kathy Hendrickson – Mid-Atlantic Region Representative
Val Belmonte – At-Large (Independent) Representative

Board Members Not Present:

Mary-Clare Brennan – At-Large (Appointed) Representative

USA Ultimate Staff Present:

Dr. Tom Crawford – CEO
Andy Lee – Director, Marketing and Communications

USA Ultimate Staff Present via Teleconference:

Julia Echterhoff Lee – Director, Finance and Development

Elite athletes are denoted by a *



Introduction

Presented by Mike Payne and Tom Crawford

- Tom Crawford emphasized the success of the Learn to Play clinic and the US Open convention as a whole.
- Several Board members shared their positive observations of the US Open and in particular the GUM presentation and Equity Task Force forum.

Financial Update

Presented by Tom Crawford

- We are already above 85% on membership dues.
- Membership numbers have been helped by continued strong growth at the youth level, the launch of the Beach Championships, and Masters registration was early and larger than in past years
- Masters growth has been similar for women and men.
- The Board discussed different ways to grow the budget.

CEO Report: 2015 1st Half Highlights

Presented by Tom Crawford

- Beach Championships went very well.
- Youth Club Championships keeps growing. It's now our largest event in terms of athletes.
- GUM has been making big progress on several fronts; Curriculum development, clinics, outreach, and a new website.
- Ultimate in the Olympics could happen by 2024.
- The Women's Sports Foundation is excited about Ultimate. Joining their "Go Girl Go" program would help us connect with a million girls.

2014 Audit & Auditor's Recommendations

Presented by Ken Waugh

- The audit went smoothly and did not encounter any difficulties.
- USAU HQ staff should be commended for their meticulous work; No adjusting entries were needed.
- The 990 form has been received and will soon be voted on by the full Board.



Mobile App Platform Preview

Presented by Andy

- Several app developers were interviewed. We are targeting a manageable amount of deliverables for version 1.0.
- Major launch features will include calendar and scoreboard features.
- The magazine content will be pressed into a more mobile-friendly form for consumption on the app.
- A long-term plan for the introduction of expanded modules is being worked on.

Committee, Working Group, Task Force Report Q&A

Presented by DeAnna

- The next phases of feedback and discussion will be done online.

Proposal 2015.3 (Bylaws Amendment on Arbitration Notification Period)

Presented by Mike Payne

- See the appendix for the full text of the proposed bylaw amendment.
- DeAnna Ball moves to strike the last two paragraphs from the proposal. Seconded by Stephen Hubbard. Passes 11-0-1.
 - The proposal as amended:
"10.12 (a) Any party may appeal a final determination of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association (AAA), following the commercial rules of the AAA. The period for filing an appeal is 30 days from the date of the decision of the hearing panel. For "Administrative Grievances", a "final determination" shall mean the party requesting the arbitration shall have exhausted all administrative remedies available to it, exhausted all other available appeals and received a final decision from USA Ultimate. Failure to receive a final determination and to take all administrative steps necessary to obtain a final determination is a jurisdictional requirement and shall be a bar to requesting arbitration. For "Right to Participate" complaints USA Ultimate will adhere to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act."
- Henry Thorne moves to vote on the proposal as amended. Seconded by Josh Seamon. Passes 11-0-1.

Any Other Business (AOB) & Wrap-Up

Presented by Mike Payne and Tom Crawford



- The Board discussed how to best support the Women's All-Star Tour as well as the important of setting formal structures for the Equity Task Force.

Henry moves to close the meeting. Ness second. Passes 11-0-1 at 11:11am.

Sunday, July 5, 2015

President Mike Payne calls meeting to order at 8:11 AM ET, Saturday July 4, 2015.

Thanking Tom!

Presented by Mike Payne

- A celebration of Tom's 6 phenomenal years on the job!
- Each Board member spoke about Tom's impact on USA Ultimate and the sport of Ultimate.

Joined the meeting:

Will Deaver – Managing Director, Competition and Athlete Programs

Josh Murphy – Manager, Membership and Sport Development

Matthew Bourland – Manager, New Media

Chapter/Affiliate Line of Business: Proposal and Budget

Presented by Tom Crawford and Josh Murphy

- We need to create a national infrastructure that will allow USA Ultimate to grow faster than ever before.
- The aim is to build strong relationships with local organizations as well as to recruit entrepreneurs to help grow the sport.
- An intermediary level is needed to help Head Quarters manage the membership numbers we will see in coming years.
- The Board discussed the best way to move forward with the Chapter/Affiliate model.
- The Board expressed unanimous support for moving forward with building the Chapter/Affiliate model.
- The Board is generally in favor of aiming to create the first one or two chapters in 2016.



USAU Foundation Update

Presented by Henry Thorne

- The foundation has received its first large donation.
- The Board discussed different fundraising avenues.
- The big vision is to attract donors from outside the sport.

Any Other Business (AOB) & Wrap-Up

Presented by Mike Payne

- The Board discussed an annual media / marketing buy plan for multiple platforms as well as ways to increase the visibility of the Board in the field throughout the year among our membership.

Josh Seamon moves to close the meeting at 11:05am ET. Kevin Minderhout seconds. Unanimously passes.



Appendix

Proposal 2015.3

Proposal to amend Section 10.12(a), to add a new Section 13.18 and to renumber the original Section 13.18 of USA Ultimate's Bylaws

The Judicial Committee recommends that the Board of USA Ultimate amend the Bylaws of the organization to provide for a limit on the time in which a party can appeal a decision of a Hearing Panel of the Judicial Committee and to provide generally how to compute time periods set out in the Bylaws.

Our Bylaws provide that any party can appeal a decision of a hearing panel established by the Judicial Committee to AAA Arbitration. But they do not say how long a party has to file an appeal. A typical appeal period in legal proceedings is 30 days.

The Judicial Committee recommends amending Section 10.12(a) of the Bylaws to add a sentence stipulating the appeal period. As amended, Section 10.12(a) would read in its entirety as follows (new language is underscored):

"10.12 (a) Any party may appeal a final determination of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association (AAA), following the commercial rules of the AAA. The period for filing an appeal is 30 days from the date of the decision of the hearing panel. For "Administrative Grievances", a "final determination" shall mean the party requesting the arbitration shall have exhausted all administrative remedies available to it, exhausted all other available appeals and received a final decision from USA Ultimate. Failure to receive a final determination and to take all administrative steps necessary to obtain a final determination is a jurisdictional requirement and shall be a bar to requesting arbitration. For "Right to Participate" complaints USA Ultimate will adhere to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act."

The Judicial Committee also recommends inserting a new Section 13.18 and renumbering the existing Section 13.18 as Section 13.19. The new Section 13.18, which would apply to all provisions in the Bylaws dealing with time periods (e.g., time required to send notices to board members, time to file a complaint with the Judicial Committee, time for taking an appeal from a decision of a hearing panel) would provide as follows:

"10.18 Computation of Time. In computing a period of time under these Bylaws, exclude the day of the event that triggers the period; count every day, including intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays; and include the last day of the period, but if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period continues to run until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday."