

BOARD Meeting February 22, 2009

In attendance:

Steve Bishop
James Phillips
Mike Farah
Mike Gale
Jennifer Gale
Donna Beasley
Terri Jimenez
Shanon Lewis
Dave Carstenson

Call to order at 10:49 am.

Approve minutes of last meeting - motion – Steve Bishop, 2nd – Mike Farah. All approved.

Commissioner report – James Phillips

If you don't know an answer, please defer to Steve before you make an assumption. It's very frustrating that I'm having to defend the staff to the Board of Directors. Be careful that if a region member has a question, you defer to Steve and let him handle where possible.

Don't forget to look at your job descriptions as a Board member. Make sure it is something you are responsible for. If you have changes to your job description, bring them to the June 7 meeting and we will discuss.

Make sure you understand the WebPoint system. If people have questions regarding the system, talk to Michelle who will assist. The system keeps track of information as you log in, the system when used properly works properly.

Junior officiating clinics – we tried something new this year in regard to clinics. There is no way we can do 80 clinics this year, so we've gone to a new policy – we are getting feedback as to what has worked and hasn't worked. I need the Board of Directors to be on board with this. Some of the Board members are going behind the region backs and denigrating the policy. Shanon: Her only issue was having to make copies of the DVD's to give it her teams and possibly we could put it on the web as a webinar. Shanon: They miss having a rule book in their bag. Donna: I made sure that everyone in our area that wasn't at a clinic got their rule books. I've also heard that clubs from Gainesville are contracting with local officials to give them a separate clinic. James: we've had numerous issues with scorekeeping so far this season. We are supposed to give the two names from each team who are referees and scorekeepers and then when we go to tournaments those kids are not the ones who are scorekeeping and refereeing the matches. James: I'm going to ask for fines for clubs where people are not trained and that club is going to get a fine. Mike Farah: I'm going to make a suggestion that we make the discs over the summer and send them out early for next season. We might have to go to an outside source to copy them or buy a cd burner. You are talking about changes and improvements. We need to come up with a policy. Shanon: if we are going back to a mandatory forum meeting, we could get them handed out there. Steve: This is something we need to work out, storage giving them out, etc.

Terri: I don't have a problem storing and giving them out from my warehouse. James: By June, we'll have solutions for everyone. We are not going back to the old format, so we are not going backwards on this. Dave Carstenson: does every kid need a rule book? Mike Farah: It is part of your membership that you get a rule book. FIVB 20.1.1 requires that you know the rules of USA volleyball. The junior official clinics are not going to change. We're are going to do more production to make it better. Dave: what about if we start mass producing these DVD's and there are rule changes? The questions on the test were not even covered on the DVD's and they had to go somewhere and look up the answers? James: we will make sure that the questions are covered on the DVD's. We should know all the rule changes by early May, and we'll know before they are done? More discussion about logistics.

For all of you who don't know, we have two more people in the region: Mike Hertz who is in charge of rating new officials and ratings. We have a new events manager in training: Sue Wainio-Oato. She is basically Steve's right hand person. Our Wilson one-day series hasn't done as well as we expected. We are getting positive feedback. We just need to get it out for next year sooner to get more support. Next year we will have a region assignor to schedule officials at the tournaments. Florida is hosting the NCAA Final Four in Tampa. We will be doing some things with them as a region to help with the event planning. We are meeting on April 3rd in Tampa to begin discussions. Steve and I have been discussing participation of teams in tournaments. "Invitationals". Hosting scrimmages – what is different about a scrimmage from an event? We have a spectator code of conduct must be posted at every tournament on 11 by 17 and visible. There is a club director code of ethics coming down the pike. My biggest issue as the commissioner, is when someone has issues with a club and decides to split off and form their own club. Personal has to stay out of this, it has to be kept at a business level.

Treasurer's report – negative balance on Suntrust reconciliation. Steve is looking into it. We are negotiating with the National Office to have a Boys event – bid and nonbid in 2010. Shanon – how are the HP tryouts that go with that work? Are we going to run National and Regional HP at the same time? Steve: we are trying to iron that out right now. We might run it on a regional boys level and someone from the national office not charge a "national rate" but look at kids who might have a chance of making the National team.

Donna: as always a great job, timely and always willing to answer my questions. The new accounting person is right on top of things.

Steve: Dave Carstenson do you have a report for us? Yes – I have a report that the USOC gave USA Volleyball additional monies to further enhance the junior beach program. We have Ally Wood coming out twice to teach our coaches how to coach beach volleyball. Prior to that it was not a good situation with coaches who knew nothing about beach volleyball. Florida and CA will be the only two locations in the US that will have High Performance Beach tryouts. It will be a good money maker for us.

Steve's report. I'm not going through everything on the report that I turned in, but I'm going to talk about upcoming stuff and growth needs. We are having 5 USA events this year in Florida. We have Girls JO's, The PAN AM, Norseca, and NCAA Final Four in Tampa. This is a great opportunity for us to distribute marketing literature at the events to let them know about USA Volleyball. JO's will be managed by the National Office. Mike Chandler has invited me to come and help. As for The PAN AM Cup, Doug Beal has asked us to buy a block of tickets, and sell them as a fund raiser. I haven't jumped at buying the tickets, but he's really counting on us buying a huge block of tickets and then selling them.

My concern is that it is right on top of our JO's and schedule conflicts. Mike Farah: Is it possible to put out a feeler to the club directors and see if they are interested and if they are, then have the club directors purchase the tickets they want? If there is no interest, then we can show them there is little interest. How much is USA Volleyball charging us for the tickets? It's hard to commit when you don't know the price..... Where is the venue? University of Miami and FIU. Steve: They are just trying to get us to purchase a block of tickets..... Not even yet on the USA website. We'll send out a feeler. Mike Farah: What kills me about this is that they don't consult us about anything, then they want us to make a commitment and help them out. Steve has made it very clear to them that they don't let us know anything on the front end and then the feeling is that we are obligated to help them out on the back end. James: We've talked to Mike Chandler, but we can't know far in advance, until it is finalized, then we can give out information. Terri: we can promote, support, etc without making a monetary contribution. Steve: sounds like we all have the same feeling.

National HP championships is happening in July. We are co-hosting the opening ceremony. We get the Title recognition and support the event as the host region. AJ is definitely sensitive to that.

Norceca qualifier, don't really know the magnitude of that event- will be 4 teams. NCAA, talked to Kathy DeBoer with AVCA to partner with them, not monetarily, getting coaches in chairs. The PAVO social in December, there has been a request to help support the social, James is probably more tied to this. James: Every year, the host region has helped with the social. This last one had 180 officials in attendance. My goal is to blow that out of the water with sponsoring the event. The cost prior to that was \$4,000. It would be finger food and drinks would be on them. James is recommended we give \$4,000. Steve – this needs a motion and I would qualify that with up to \$4,000. Dave Carstenson, would we as a region be able to attend the Final Four free of charge. James, I would ask that of them. Dave, it stems from having been to the Final Four in the past. James, we haven't gotten that far yet. We need to know by April 3rd as to our commitment. Shanon, can we get some consideration, since this is a national event, there are local and national commercials, have we considered putting together a 30 second spot? The reason I'm asking is that my brother owns a TV station and he offered to put the commercial together for free. Steve, I've talked to someone and put together 5 or 6 events and shoot this stuff and compiling multiple 30 second spots to come up with something for us. Shanon, if you have someone who has that type of ability to do this, then I'm very interested in talking to them. I've pinged Doug Beal with little response so I think we should keep working on our own. Shanon, if you want to discuss further, please let's talk. Shanon: I'll call you sometime this week.

Steve: James has already talked about the Boy's Event in January next year. It would probably be \$500 for Open and \$250 for club.

I need the Board to get on board with the Awards Ceremony Ballot process – you see the people every day throughout the events. Please nominate someone in as many categories as possible before the deadline.

We will be putting out a survey at the Regional Championships asking Club Directors to fill those out. I need questions and comments from you regarding this survey. Dave Carstenson: I think this is a great idea. I would be willing to call every club in our area to reinforce the ballots and tell them of the upcoming survey.

Historically our member year was October 1 but our membership year is now September 1. Donna recommends that we defer the revenue for September to our fiscal year.

We have to come up with a whole new set of rules based on the new membership year. Shanon: when we went to the national meeting, we talked to someone who has already put together his information in Texas for next year. I would recommend that we go to Texas and see what they are doing in preparation for next year. By us limiting their ability to run events during the high school season, we are forcing them to find other avenues to play. Do we want to continue the way we are going, or do we just want to say that we are dedicated to USA volleyball and open it up. Terri: can I volunteer to do some research on this and bring it to the next meeting. Steve: We've got to hit it hard between now and June. Terri – I'll keep you up to date as we do research and I think Rita would be very interested in participating too. I'll contact her and we'll get started.

Steve: Junior forum meeting – I got feedback that was positive with the phone call and not making me drive etc. James got several clubs who were disappointed because they didn't feel their voice was heard by being able to be present, etc. James, I'm back and forth, but we can have the meeting either by phone or in person. We need a commitment by June because the meeting might need to be in August this year. Steve: my suggestion is that we could have a meeting place and those who prefer to attend in person may attend, while others who want to participate by phone may do so. I'm also going to research video conference methods. Mike Farah: Whatever way we go, whatever we pick, its just a blackout date for our meeting and no tryouts, etc. Terri: we can go over all that once we have information as to what other regions are doing, etc.

Steve: that's it.

James: BOD Protocol and job descriptions, please defer to Steve, if they haven't liked the answer from the office, then defer them to me and I'll work with Steve to work it out. Job descriptions have not been reviewed, etc. and we need everyone to look at them and give me changes, recommendations. Terri: I would ask that if you think someone is not doing their job, that you pick up the phone and say we need you to take care of this. It's part of your job. Communication is a starting point.

Next year we will have an assignor to assign the referees to the tournaments, not the exact matches that are occurring. Mike Gale will give the names for the events and you will be able to use officials if you request them for the most part.

James: I'm asking that you go through the webpoint and someone from the board take them on as a mentor and help them through it. Individual member registration. We did a really good job of recruiting officials this year. We don't want to lose them.

New business. Motion from JAB: The JAB endorses the current practice of granting junior age waivers in the Florida Region. This practice only allows for age waivers for players that are born within 7 days of the cutoff date. Bishop, 2nd Farah, Votes For: 5 Votes Against: 0, MOTION PASSED

The board unanimously voted to accept the motion from the JAB.

Motion by Mike Farah: It is recommended that all tournament directors have their team codes verified by the Region Office at least three weeks prior to the start date of the tournament for the remainder of the 08/09 season. Any teams added after this date will be verified by the Region Office as time permits. This requirement will be added to the

Tournament Director Checklist for all future seasons and become mandatory. 2nd Jimenez. Votes For: 5, Votes Against: 0 MOTION PASSED

The board unanimously voted to accept the motion from the JAB.

Junior girls scorekeeper and referee patches. We will put a list together of girls together to rate at events where they are playing. We want to get them rated and give them the patches at the awards ceremony.

Mike Farah: were all the adults at the recent event in Tampa background checked? I need a list of the referees and to know if they were background checked and screened. The only way to check this out, is to get a list. Mike Gale, I have the list. I'll forward it to Steve.

Sports Marketing agreement – Dig the Beach Series. Dave Carstenson: we are running that event in conjunction with the beach clinic. Shanon: where are the coaching clinics being held. One in Siesta Key in May and one in Orlando right after Junior Nationals. Is this the same girl who made the presentation at the National meeting? Steve: No. Shanon: I have questions as to how this certification is going to show up under my coaching information so that I know how my coaches have been certified. Steve: it will be added under the coaching tab. Dave Carstenson: every coach will be handed a coaching certificate. Steve: under coaches accreditation it will say BCAP. I'll verify with my action item as to how that will become visible at the club admin level. Are we able to be listed as an indoor and outdoor club now? I've elevated that to the National office as an action item because they can only show them with one affiliation. I should have an answer for you when I return from Minneapolis. Shanon: just so you know, the information I get from my coaches is main info, membership info and the other info says player info and official info. There's nothing that says they are CAP certified, etc. I'm adopting to only have new coaches sign that code of ethics because once you sign it, it should be good as long as there is not a member lapse. All regions do not use the same code of ethics. I'm trying to get them us the USOC, we can do away with all the paper. If they can't do that or aren't willing to, then can they assist us with the fast forwarding of the click box.

Any questions, comments or concerns? Anyone have anything they want to add for the next meeting?

Next meeting is June 7th. We will get more information to you and pass it along.

The June 7th meeting is in conjunction with regional HP training camp. It is an excellent opportunity to participate and get face time with the kids.

Motion to adjourn. Steve and second by Mike Farah.

Motion passed.