

U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors

Conference Call Agenda – FINAL

Monday, October 7, 2019; 8:00PM ET

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of September 9, 2019, Board of Directors Minutes and ROA
4. President's Update
 - a. USOPC Olympic Assembly
 - b. Strategic Planning Committee
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Monthly Update
 - b. Year-End Financials
 - c. Audit Update
6. Vice Presidents' Reports (Midwest, Pacific Coast, East)
7. Group Coordinators' Reports
 - a. Technical/Officials
 - i. General
 - ii. Travel and Expense Policy Update RFA
 - iii. Judges Stand – service animals
 - iv. Sanction Request – California Cup
 - v. SyS RFA
 - b. Athlete Services
 - c. Membership
 - d. Administrative/Legal
 - e. ISU Representative
 - i. General
 - ii. SyS World Team and Junior World Team Selection Procedures
8. Athlete Advisory Committee
9. Coaches Representatives Report
10. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Events Advisory Board RFA
 - b. USOPC Update
 - c. 100th Anniversary Update
 - d. Misc.
11. New Business
12. Executive Session
13. Next Meeting(s) – In-Person – Saturday, November 9, 2019 – Chicago O'Hare Hilton:
Saturday: 9:00am – 4pm CT

U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors
Via Conference Call
October 7, 2019, 8:00 p.m. ET

Present

Gretchen Bonnie, Anne Cammett (President), Christine Fowler-Binder, Janis Engel, Lynn Goldman, Troy Goldstein, Bob Horen (ISU Representative), Mark Ladwig (joined at 8:22 p.m.), Jenna Longo, Bobby Martin, Colin McManus (non-voting athlete), Heather Nemier, Richard Perez, David Raith (Executive Director), Douglas Razzano, Karen Terry Perreault, Alan Wolf

Absent

Samuel Auxier (Past President), Kristin Arneson Cutler

Guest

Juliet Newcomer

I. Opening of the Board of Directors Meeting

- A. Cammett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
- B. Bonnie took roll call, and a quorum was confirmed.
- C. The agenda was approved.
- D. The September 9 minutes were approved as amended, and the report of action was approved as presented.

II. President's Update

- A. Cammett reviewed the USOPC Olympic Assembly. Cammett, Raith and Emily Hughes attended the full meeting, and Ladwig, Kelly Vogtner, Ramsey Baker and Barb Reichert attended portions of the meeting.
- B. Cammett reported that Ju'Riese Colón, CEO of the U.S. Center for SafeSport, asked the NGB Council for more financial support, and the council approved a 25 percent increase. Raith announced that he is on a working group to review this funding increase, and John Anderson is on a separate working group to come up with specific markers that the NGBs would like to have the U.S. Center for SafeSport address.
- C. Raith informed the board that another topic at the assembly was a review of the amateur sports act and potential changes.
- D. Cammett reviewed a recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) in Colorado Springs. Cammett reminded the board that this is the first official year of the new committee structure and reported that the new structure worked well. Chair Mary Klugherz and Kelly Vogtner are working on a report of the SPC's recommendations, which will be presented to the board in November. Martin, Wolf and Nemier provided additional feedback on the meeting.

<8:22 p.m. ET, Ladwig joined the call>

III. Treasurer's Report

- A. Goldstein reported that, for the 2020 fiscal year financials through August 31, 2019, revenues are favorable in comparison to last year, while expenses are slightly higher, but not by a significant margin. He then reviewed key items.
- B. Goldstein reviewed the written report of the 2018-19 year-end preliminary financials. Raith notified the board that this report will be posted on the Members Only website later this month.
- C. Goldstein notified the board that the Audit field work has been completed, and he expects to receive a report in the next week or so.
- D. Goldstein notified the board that he and Mario Rede are preparing the process and timeline for the 2020-21 budget.

IV. Vice Presidents' Reports

- A. Midwestern
 1. Cammett notified the board that Cutler was not able to be on the call. Bonnie then read a report that Cutler submitted in advance.
 - a. Cutler reported that she enjoyed participating in the Strategic Planning Meeting in Colorado Springs, September 13-15, and provided some information on the meeting.
 - b. Cutler reported that her September 18 VP call was well attended, and reviewed some of the details of the call.

- c. Cutler announced that her next VP call will be October 15, and Kathleen Krieger will provide an overview on the first season of NQS.
 - d. Cutler reported that she attended the afternoon portion of a recent SafeSport Committee meeting and was pleased to hear the plans for athlete and program communication, the discussion regarding refinements to certain elements of the current program, and a proposed rule change, all of which will be further developed by subcommittees and then brought forward to the board.
 - e. Cutler reviewed a Club Ed Seminar that was held on October 5, and a PSA Seminar held on October 6. Both were hosted by the Twin Cities Figure Skating Association.
 - f. Cutler stated that the regional singles challenges and sectional ice dance and pairs competitions are underway in the Midwest and notified the board that she is looking forward to refereeing at the Upper Great Lakes Regional Singles Challenge in a few weeks.
- B. Pacific Coast
- 1. Engel reviewed her recent competition activity.
 - 2. Engel reviewed her September 17 VP call, which was also about regionals and sectionals with the chief and assistant referees for the Pacific Coast qualifying competitions, and staff members from headquarters, on the call.
 - 3. Engel announced that her next VP call will be October 15 and will also have Kathleen Krieger present on the first season of NQS.
 - 4. Engel reviewed some of the upcoming competitions being held in the Pacific Coast.
- C. Eastern
- 1. Nemier reviewed her September 17 VP call, which was also about regionals and sectionals with a referee and LOC representatives for the Eastern qualifying competitions, and staff members from headquarters, on the call.
 - 2. Nemier announced that her next VP call will be October 17 and will also focus on the NQS.
 - 3. Nemier reviewed her recent competition activity. Nemier also reported that she heard that the South Atlantic Regional Challenge and Eastern Pairs and Dance Challenges were successful. Nemier also reviewed some of the preparations for the New England and North Atlantic Regional Challenge.

V. Athletes Advisory Committee (AAC) Report

- A. Ladwig reported that he has attended some of the athlete protection seminars/meetings, and he has been receiving good feedback. Ladwig believes understanding of and adherence to athlete protection policies is increasing with every event he attends.
- B. Ladwig has been receiving post-NQS feedback with many positive feelings toward the series, as well as some good suggestions. Ladwig has passed the information along to headquarters, and staff has noted and been very receptive to feedback.
- C. Ladwig reported that the inclusion of the athlete voice has been very good, with the strategic planning and various selections having good athlete representatives. Ladwig also reported that the Athlete High Performance Department has had several calls about process, selection and general information.
- D. Ladwig commended the athletes who have achieved personal bests and medal success at competitions over the past month.
- E. Ladwig notified the board that he will be visiting several of the remaining qualifying challenges.

VI. Group Coordinators Reports

- A. Technical and Officials
 - 1. Perez reviewed the updates to the Travel and Expense Policy. Ladwig then made the following motion:

 <Request for Action> to approve the updated Travel and Expense Policy, dated October 2019. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)
 - 2. Perez reviewed Technical Notification 238, which was published on September 26, 2019, and addresses animals on the officials stand. Perez also provided some examples that necessitated this policy.

<8:51 p.m. ET, Fowler-Binder left the call>

- 3. Perez presented a sanction request for an upcoming international synchronized skating challenger event and then made the following motion:

<**Request for Action**> to approve a final sanction for the 2019 California Cup; Nov. 7-9, 2019; Irvine, California; U.S. Figure Skating. (13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent)

<8:52 p.m. ET, Fowler-Binder rejoined the call>

4. Perez reviewed a referee webinar that was presented by Ilana Prusock for qualifying referees.
5. Perez also thanked Newcomer for putting the qualifying referee report online and reviewed some of the benefits and future plans for these reports.
6. Perez reviewed the first week of qualifying competitions, and notified the board that there are no qualifying competitions this week.

B. Athlete Services

1. Goldman reviewed recent documents that have been posted by the Dance Development and Technical, and Synchronized Development and Technical Committees, and the ISU.
2. Goldman reviewed three requests for action from the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee and then made the following motions:

<**Request for Action**> to approve amending rule 2823 (page 139, Rulebook) as presented. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

<**Request for Action**> to approve amending rules 9461, 9471, 9481 and 9496 (pages 302-306, Rulebook) as presented. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

<**Request for Action**> to approve amending rule 9000 (A) (page 287, Rulebook) as presented. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

C. Membership Development Group

1. Wolf reported that he spent the last two weekends attending Club Education Seminars, first in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, and then in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Wolf then reviewed both meetings and announced that upcoming Club Education Seminars will be held in Boston and Denver. Wolf notified the board that they plan to invite local club SafeSport chairs to the seminar in Boston.
2. Wolf announced that Denise Hughes is the new Midwest business development specialist. Hughes was one of the original 10 business development specialists.
3. Wolf notified the board that he attended the recent SafeSport Committee meeting, and he will be presenting to the U.S. Ice Rink Association about ideas that rinks could potentially do to promote an even safer environment at their facilities.
4. Wolf informed the board that Programs and New Program Development Committee Chair John Cole is very excited to report on the work being done by his subcommittees.
5. Wolf reviewed the membership numbers through the end of September and announced that U.S. Figure Skating is up approximately 3,280 members overall when compared to the same time last season due to the continued growth of Learn to Skate USA. Wolf provided information on some of the changes that are being considered to help with full membership.

D. Administrative/Legal

1. Perreault confirmed that the Strategic Planning Committee is currently drafting the updates for review by the committee.
2. Perreault reviewed a recent in-person meeting of the SafeSport Committee. Perreault expects to present some action items at the in-person meeting in November.
3. Perreault reported on the current work undertaken by the Administrative/Legal Committees.

<Executive Session>

E. International

1. Horen reported on an extensive power outage that took place at the Midwestern Sectional Dance Challenge last week.
2. Horen announced that Alysa Liu (ladies), and Avonley Nguyen and Vadym Kolesnik (ice dance) have qualified for the Junior Grand Prix Final.
3. Horen announced that Team USA has earned 10 medals in five challenger competitions, and the Grand Prix Series begins next week with Skate America.
4. Horen notified the board that the draw for judges at ISU Championships will be held this Thursday in Geneva, Switzerland.

5. Horen announced that Laurie Johnson passed the exam for ISU Singles/Pairs Judge.
6. Horen reviewed the selection procedures for the 2020 World Junior Synchronized Skating Team and the 2020 World Synchronized Skating Team. Longo then made the following motion.

<Request for Action> to approve the selection procedures for the 2020 World Junior Synchronized Skating Team and the 2020 World Synchronized Skating Team. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

VII. Coaches Representatives Reports

- A. Fowler-Binder provided some information on the Professional Skaters Association.
- B. Fowler-Binder reported that coaches are adjusting to the new competition structure and provided feedback for NQS.

VIII. Executive Director's Report

- A. Raith reviewed the Events Advisory Board's recommendation for the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Goldstein then made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to approve San Jose as the host of the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, 1 abstain)

Raith then provided some additional information on when the locations for 2021 and 2022 might be announced to the public.

- B. Raith announced that the USOPC has hired a new chief marketing and communications officer, Luella Chavez D'Angelo. Raith also informed the board that the annual compliance audit by the USOPC will begin soon for the 2019-20 season.
- C. Raith provided an update on the planning for the 100th Anniversary and asked board members to recommend additional members to join Longo, Wolf and the three vice presidents on the working group.
- D. Raith announced that Charles Chow has been hired as the new chief technology officer for U.S. Figure Skating. Chow has been working with U.S. Figure Skating as a consultant for more than five years.

IX. New Business – None

The next business meeting of the board will be in-person on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT.

Call concluded at 9:36 p.m. ET

Submitted,



Gretchen Bonnie, Secretary