

U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors

Conference Call Agenda - FINAL

Tuesday, December 10, 2019; 8:00PM ET

1. Welcome / Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of November 9, 2019 Board of Directors Minutes and Report of Action
4. President's Update
 - a. General
 - b. Grand Prix Final
 - c. President's Webinar – Thursday, December 12, 2019
 - d. Foundation Meeting Report
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Monthly Financials
 - b. Budget Process Update
 - c. Audit Review/RFA
6. Vice Presidents' Reports (Eastern, Midwestern, Pacific Coast)
7. Group Coordinators, AAC and Coach Reports
 - a. Athlete Services
 - b. AAC
 - c. Coach
 - d. Membership
 - e. Technical & Officials
 1. General
 2. Adult Trophy RFA
 3. Sanction RFA
 - f. Admin/Legal
 1. General
 2. SafeSport Committee RFA
 - g. ISU Report
 1. General
 2. ISU Communication 2265 Follow Up
8. Executive Director's Report
 - a. USOPC Audit Report
 - b. EAB Update/RFA
 - c. 100th Anniversary/Website Updates
 - d. Miscellaneous
9. New Business
10. Executive Session
11. Next meeting – Conference Call – **Monday, January 13, 2020** – 8pm ET/5pm PT

U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors
Via Conference Call
December 10, 2019, 8:00 p.m. ET

Present

Samuel Auxier (Past President), Gretchen Bonnie, Anne Cammett (President), Kristin Arneson Cutler, Christine Fowler-Binder, Janis Engel, Lynn Goldman, Troy Goldstein, Bob Horen (ISU Representative), Mark Ladwig, Jenna Longo, Bobby Martin, Colin McManus (non-voting athlete), Heather Nemier, Richard Perez, David Raith (Executive Director), Douglas Razzano, Karen Terry Perreault, Alan Wolf

Guests

Juliet Newcomer

I. Opening of the Board of Directors Meeting

- A. Cammett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Cammett also notified the board that Goldstein will be on and off the call due to another event at which he is speaking.
- B. Bonnie took roll call, and a quorum was confirmed.
- C. The agenda was adopted as amended.
- D. The November 9 minutes and report of action were approved as presented.

II. Treasurer's Report

- A. Goldstein reviewed specific line items for the first four months of the 2020 fiscal year financials through Oct. 31, 2019, and explained that many of the differences are due to the timing of when specific revenues and expenses are being processed.
- B. Goldstein reported that the U.S. Figure Skating Foundation had a meeting yesterday (Dec. 9), and the investments are doing well.
- C. Goldstein notified the board that all budget templates have been sent, and the Finance Committee liaisons have provided positive feedback so far. Goldstein answered questions about the zero-level budgeting and informed the board that the Finance Committee liaisons will help make sure the committee chairs don't miss anything. Perez gave the board a heads up that the ISU will be changing the software next season, which will require training of all accountants.

<8:19 p.m. ET, Goldstein left the meeting>

- D. Longo reviewed the final audit and governance letter that were sent to the board members in advance. Longo notified the board that the Audit Committee (which includes the U.S. Figure Skating treasurer) approved this unanimously and then made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to accept the Audit Report as presented by Stockman Kast Ryan & Co. for the 2019 FY Financials through June 30, 2019 (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

III. President's Update

- A. Cammett informed the board that things have been very busy the past month, and details will be provided in other reports.
- B. Cammett reviewed the Grand Prix Final, which she, Raith and Horen attended last week in Torino, Italy. Cammett notified the board that Ladwig was also there briefly in another capacity. Cammett notified the board that 39 of the 73 skaters were Russian, and Team USA had six entries total and came away with five medals. Perez, who served as the team leader for the event, commended the preparation and discipline of the team members. Horen also commended the U.S. officials.
- C. Cammett provided additional information on yesterday's U.S. Figure Skating Foundation meeting. Auxier then informed the board that there is currently an 18 percent return, which more than covers some of the special projects, and stressed that the financial situation is very positive.
- D. Cammett reminded the board that her next semi-annual President's Webinar will take place on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. ET.

IV. Vice Presidents' Reports

- A. Eastern
 1. Nemier provided positive feedback on the Eastern Sectional Singles Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final, which she attended as an assistant referee.

2. Nemier reviewed her November 19 VP call, which focused on synchronized skating with Laura Days, Ann Buckley and Leslie Graham presenting. The call concluded with Susi Wehrli McLaughlin speaking about National Skating Month.
3. Nemier announced that she will not have a VP call in December, and she has not yet set the date for her January VP call.
4. Nemier informed the board that she had set up a table in the merchandise area at the Eastern Sectional Singles Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final to make it easier for people to talk to her as vice president.

B. Midwestern

1. Cutler reviewed a successful Midwestern Singles Final and U.S. Pairs Final in Dallas, Texas.
2. Cutler notified the board that national judge and data operator, Kim Moore, passed away today.
3. Cutler reviewed her November 20 VP call, which focused on synchronized skating and National Skating Month.
4. Cutler announced that she will not have a VP call in December, and she has not yet set the date for her January VP call, but it will be prior to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

C. Pacific Coast

1. Engel reviewed her November 19 VP call, on which Jonathan Cassar spoke about the Nominating Committee; Susi Wehrli McLaughlin spoke about National Skating Month; and Mary Ann Wilcox, Laura Days and Leslie Graham then spoke about synchronized skating.
2. Engel provided positive feedback on the Pacific Coast Sectional Singles Final. Perez, who served as the chief referee, also provided positive feedback about the event.
3. Engel announced that she will not have a VP call in December.
4. Cammett informed the board that she and Raith attended all three sectional championships, and reported that there were a lot of positivity and constructive ideas.

V. Group Coordinators and Athletes Advisory Committee and Coaches Reports

A. Athlete Services

1. Goldman notified the board that she attended Easterns as a technical controller and reported that there was a lot of excitement about the new High Performance Development Team Camp.
2. Goldman reported that she has reached out to her committee chairs and asked them to hold off on making rule changes that affect the software as much as possible because of the new software that will be rolled out in 2020.
3. Goldman notified the board that singles, pairs and ice dance are discussing minimum scores for next season. This season, based on placements at sectional singles finals and the U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final, one senior pair team, four senior men and one senior lady did not achieve the minimum score and, therefore, did not advance to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

B. Athletes Advisory Committee (AAC)

1. Ladwig reviewed the various questions and feedback that he's been receiving from athletes.
2. Ladwig provided an update on the work of the USOPC Athletes Advisory Committee.
3. Ladwig reported that the athlete representatives for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and U.S. Synchronized Championships will be named soon.

C. Coaches Representatives Reports

1. Fowler-Binder reported that both the U.S. Pairs Final and U.S. Ice Dance Final were well received and provided some feedback on the awards and the kiss and cry from the U.S. Ice Dance Final.
2. Martin reported that the U.S. Pairs Final was exceptional, and that was a consistent feeling amongst the coaches with whom he spoke. He particularly commended the venue.
3. Fowler-Binder and Martin both mentioned that the minimum score challenged the coaching community, but Martin believes people will adjust over time, and that the minimum score is a good criterion overall.
4. Martin also stated that the coaching community, as a whole, is very strong and extremely professional, and is disappointed by the people who are besmirching the profession.

D. Membership Development Group

1. Wolf reviewed the membership numbers through the end of November and announced that membership is up approximately 1,960 members overall when compared to the same time last season due to the continued growth of Learn to Skate USA, which is up 3.6 percent when compared to the same time last season.
2. Wolf also expressed concerns about people getting errors when they are trying to register online for Learn to Skate USA and informed the board of steps they are taking to address this.
3. Wolf announced that 575 National Skating Month Kits have been shipped, a few are waiting addresses and/or payment, and only 14 of the 600 prepared kits are still available.

4. Wolf notified the board that U.S. Figure Skating is looking for independent contractors for the new Aspire Program.
- E. Technical and Officials
1. Perez reviewed a trophy request from the Adult Skating Committee and the Centennial Skating Club and then made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to approve a new perpetual trophy for the Club Team Competition at the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent).

2. Perez reviewed two sanction requests for synchronized skating events and then made the following motions:

<Request for Action> to approve a final sanction for the 2020 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships; Feb. 25 through March 1, 2020; Providence, R.I.; Warwick Figure Skaters. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

<Request for Action> to approve a final sanction for the 2021 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships; Feb. 24-27, 2021, in Las Vegas, Nev. The event will be hosted by U.S. Figure Skating and the Orleans Arena. (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

3. Perez provided additional information about Kim Moore and informed the board that Larry Kriwanek will replace her as a data operator at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.
4. Perez informed the board that the actions from Nov. 9 that amended technical rules have been posted as Technical Notifications 241 through 244.
5. Perez notified the board that the NQS working group has reviewed the survey results. Perez then reviewed the changes the group plans to make.

F. Administrative/Legal

1. Perreault provided an update on the status of active ethics and grievance cases.
2. Perreault reviewed a draft policy on how U.S. Figure Skating publishes its grievance findings as well as the banned and suspended lists. Perreault notified the board that this will be balloted through the Grievance Committee and then brought back to the board for its signoff.
3. Perreault provided an update on SafeSport complaints received since the November board meeting.
4. Perreault reviewed a new rule proposed by the SafeSport Committee and then made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to approve a new rule for immediate implementation as follows: *Any current or past member (living or deceased) who has been permanently banned from U.S. Figure Skating by U.S. Figure Skating or in accordance with measures enacted by the U.S. Center for SafeSport will be removed from the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame and stripped of all U.S. Hall of Fame recognitions. In accord, any banned member is ineligible for consideration by the Nominating Committee to the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.* (14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent)

Raith notified the board that, based on this approval, Gordon McKellen Jr.'s name will be removed from the list. There will be no public announcement, but Senior Director of External Relations Barb Reichert will respond to any media inquiries.

5. Perreault and Raith also provided information on a member who has been suspended following an arrest for a SafeSport violation, and reported that the U.S. Center for SafeSport was notified immediately.

G. International

<9:27 p.m., Goldstein rejoined the call>

1. Horen reported that the Grand Prix Coordination Committee had a meeting at the Grand Prix Final and has approved the schedule for the next two seasons. Horen also announced that the 2020 Grand Prix Final will be the test event for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games figure skating venue in Beijing.
2. Horen informed the board that he, Cammett, Patricia St. Peter, Raith and Beatrice Pfister met to review ISU Communication No. 2265, and the ISU has agreed to review some of the details of the communication.

3. Horen notified the board that there has been discussion with other federations about proposals for the 2020 ISU Congress and reviewed some of those proposals. Horen also notified the board that the proposals will be published at the end of January, at which point a formal review and preparation for the Congress will begin.

VI. Executive Director's Report

- A. Raith reviewed the Nov. 26, 2019, USOPC Audit Report prepared by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, Audit & Organizational Advancement Department, which was sent to the board in advance of the call.
- B. Raith reviewed the Events Advisory Board's recommendation for 2020 Skate America, and Cutler made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to approve Las Vegas (Orleans Arena) as the site of the 2020 Skate America international competition, Oct. 23-25, 2020, pending the execution of a host agreement between U.S. Figure Skating and the Orleans Arena by Jan. 20, 2020. (15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent)

- C. Raith notified the board that we received six proposals from agencies to assist with the planning for the 100th Anniversary celebration. Raith announced that Ladwig and Nemier have been asked to help vet the proposals, and Raith then reviewed the expected timeline for the next steps.
- D. Raith reviewed the status of the new website and the information that was sent to the board in advance, including a four-minute video that gives an overview of the new site. Raith informed the board that the current plan is to launch the new website the week of Jan. 6, 2020, subject to any last minute challenges.
- E. Raith announced that he has a new administrative assistant, Alyssa Koogler. Koogler previously held the receptionist position and U.S. Figure Skating now has a new receptionist named Esperanza Gillard.

VII. New Business

Bonnie presented a memorial resolution for Benjamin T. Wright and made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to approve a memorial resolution for Benjamin T. Wright, past president of U.S. Figure Skating, who recently passed away. (15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent)

Raith notified the board that there may be a public memorial service in March, and he will pass along any information he receives about that.

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Closing Announcements and Adjournment

The next business meeting of the board will be via conference call on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, at 8 p.m. ET.

Meeting concluded at 10:08 p.m. ET

Submitted,



Gretchen Bonnie, Secretary