



**U.S. Association of Blind Athletes
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2022**

Present:

Mark Ackermann, Chair
Gary Remensnyder, Treasurer
Amy Wasson, Secretary
Brian Eaton, Independent Director
Eve Wright Taylor, Board Member
David Cohen, Board Member
Calahan Young, Athlete Board Member
Eliana Mason, Athlete Board Member
Zach Buhler, Athlete Board Member
Tyler Merren, USOPC AAC alternate representative
Tracie Foster, Chair of Nominating and Governance Committee
John Kusku, Chair of Ethics Committee
Molly Quinn, CEO
Breann Scott, Staff

Not Present:

Matt Simpson, Athlete Board Member
Skye Arthur-Banning, Vice Chair
Kathy Beaver, Chair of the Judicial Committee
Jennifer Demby, Constituent Board Member

The meeting took place via videoconference. The meeting was recorded.

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by board chair Mark Ackermann at 5:00 PM Mountain Time.

Conflict of Interest

Mark asked if any board members had a conflict of interest that they needed to disclose relating to the topics listed on the meeting agenda provided to the group beforehand. No such conflicts were declared.

Board Chair Report

Mark thanked departing staff member Kevin Brouard and wished him best in the next chapter of his career. He indicated that two board resolutions would be coming up for discussion during the meeting. The first resolution will allow for three people to sign checks...CEO, chair of Finance Committee, and board chair. The second resolution being voted on is an amendment to the USABA bylaws brought by the U.S. Center for SafeSport and renews the organization's commitment to SafeSport and keeps us in compliance with SafeSport rules and regulations.



Molly referred to page 6 and 8 of the USABA bylaws noting that board members had to be in compliance with the SafeSport requirements. Everyone has to take SafeSport certification each year. Calendar reminders will be sent out when SafeSport certifications are up for renewal.

Motion made to accept the banking resolution. Motion seconded. Motion approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made to accept the bylaw amendments related to SafeSport. Motion seconded. Motion approved. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO & Staff Report

Molly said the media recording from the sport ambassador media training will be sent out to the board. Sport ambassadors Calahan Young, Zach Buhler, Eliana Mason and John Kusku talked about what they got out of the media training with John Register. Molly attended the Philadelphia Distance Run, our newly added endurance event. The goalball teams will be attending the Berlin Cup October 5-12 as preparation for the world championships in December. There are six new athletes in the goalball resident program. Tyler Merren and Daryl Walker are moving out of Fort Wayne to Michigan and Oregon, respectively. Molly attended the Turnstone Gala where USA Women's Goalball Head Coach Jake Czechowski was named the inaugural recipient of the Ronald W. Plassman Gold Standard Award. A CEO email has been started and Molly encouraged everyone to open it and read it.

Blind Soccer Strategy Updates

Molly noted that the 2022 IBSA Central American Championships have been canceled due to host country Guatemala being suspended by the international federation. We have worked with the USOPC to secure funding for the team prep camp and related travel. We have invited the 16 National Team pool players to a selection camp Oct. 27-30. Ten of the athletes have already confirmed their attendance. An international friendly competition will occur in the first quarter of 2023. Certified referees Skye Arthur-Banning and Margaret Domka will officiate at the team selection camp. Interviews have started for the USA Blind Soccer head coach on a short-term six-month contract.

Committee Reports & Updates

Eliana Mason provided Athlete Advisory Committee report and noted they were evaluating the document internally, making sure the 10-year athlete list is correct and will be hosting elections later the fall.

John Kusku provided the Ethics Committee report. The Conflict of Interest Form will be sent out and needs to be returned by October 14.

Gary Remensnyder presented the Audit & Finance Committee report on 2021 financial audit results. There were no major findings on the audit and financial statements accurately reflect what happened. Gary read one paragraph from the external auditor report that summarized the audit. Mark remarked having such a clean audit is a tribute to the committee and staff. Gary added that being the NGB for more than one team sport will require the audit being done earlier in the coming years. Molly noted that 2021 was the first full year of having digital financials and will make us more efficient and effective.



Revenue Development & Opportunities

Molly asked Mark to share information about his Breakfast with Champions watch party at Lighthouse Guild in Manhattan. Molly will be attending the Colorado Springs Switchbacks soccer game along with students from the Colorado School for the Blind and be hosting a blind soccer demo in the fan zone before the game.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM Mountain Time and went into Executive Session and briefly discussed personnel matters.