

MINUTES
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
IN-PERSON/VIDEO CONFERENCE
MARCH 4, 2022
9:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME

PRESENT: Chris Ahrens, Nelson Akwari, Nicole Barnhart, Sean Boyle, John Collins, Cindy Cone, Mike Cullina, Patti Hart, Michael Karon, Lori Lindsey, Garrison Mason, Marla Messing, Richard Moeller, John Motta, Oguchi Onyewu, Danielle Slaton, Bill Taylor, Tim Turney, Juan Uro, Dr. Pete Zopfi, Will Wilson

REGRETS: Lisa Carnoy, Don Garber

IN ATTENDANCE: Kay Bradley, Neil Buethe, Paulina Chapo, Greg Fike, Kelly Higgins, Leah Holt, Amy Hopfinger, Karen Leetzow, Jeff L'Hote, Kate Markgraf, Brian McBride, Ross Moses, Mel Radke, Pinky Raina, Dan Russell, Ann Seeney, Stuart Sharp, Laura Shelton, Earnie Stewart, Helen Syreggelas, Maribeth Towers, David Wright

Cindy Cone called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Leah Holt took roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The meeting began with a request for disclosure of any conflicts of interest. John Motta, Richard Moeller, and Garrison Mason had potential conflicts on the UPSL membership application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board began by reviewing the minutes from the Board meetings on December 3, 2021, and January 5, 2022. It was **MOVED** to approve the minutes. The motion was **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND CEO/SECRETARY GENERAL REPORT

Cindy Cone began by thanking guests for attending and expressed support for Ukraine and its Federation. Next, she noted the WNT settlement. Will Wilson then gave his report and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

SAFESPORT UPDATE

Alison Kocoras reviewed the SafeSport reporting requirements, and then gave the Board an overview of the U.S. Center for SafeSport event audit in November 2022. She then reviewed the upcoming administrative audit in August 2022.

COMMERCIAL UPDATE

Dave Wright gave the Board a review of the new media deal. Then, he reviewed the upcoming events, including the SheBelieves Summit and the World Cup Qualifiers. Finally, he reviewed the Nike renewal and evolving commercial structure of the Federation.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Next, Mr. Wright gave the Board an update on the Federation's development efforts, including the growth of leadership groups and the launch of the One Nation fund.

ANALYTICS AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Ross Moses gave the Board an overview of the Federation's data acquisition goal of 25 million customers over the next 8 years. Then, he reviewed the website refresh and the Insiders Program, including the Insider Rewards Program soft launch. He finished with an update on opportunities with NFTs.

EVENTS UPDATE

Amy Hopfinger gave the Board an update on competitions and key tentpoles in 2022. She then gave a recap of the World Cup Qualifying, followed by updates on event marketing and the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup. Finally, she reviewed the World Cup bid city timeline. Discussion ensued regarding whether the new media deal included Open Cup broadcasting.

FINANCE UPDATE

Pinky Raina provided the Board a review of the FY'22 actuals, which included a surplus of \$12.3 million. She then reviewed the favorable revenue and favorable expenses. She also noted that the Federation moved to a new reporting system that allowed costs and revenues managed at the programming level.

SPORTING UPDATE

Earnie Stewart began with staffing updates. Next, Kate Markgraf provided an update on the SheBelieves Cup and the upcoming World Cup Qualifiers. Next, Brian McBride gave the Board an update on the MNT, including World Cup Qualifying and what it would take to qualify. Stuart Sharp then reviewed the Extended National Teams programming, including the Adapt and Thrive Invitational. He next reviewed the 2 ENT applications for Tier 1-funded National Teams.

It was **MOVED** to approve USA Deaf Soccer Association (men's and women's) and U.S. Power Soccer Association for full national team status, managed, staffed, and operated by U.S. Soccer. The motion was **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

Mr. Stewart then gave a recap of the YNT. Dan Russell ended the sporting update with an overview of sport development, including coaching education. Discussion ensued.

USOPC AUDIT RECAP/USOPC RECERTIFICATION

Helen Syreggelas gave the Board an overview of the USOPC audit results and the management response.

PLAYER STATUS UPDATE

Ms. Syreggelas next provided the Board an update on the player status department.

MEMBER & PLAYER SERVICES UPDATE

Mel Radke gave an update on the 2022 in-person member meetings, and she then provided the Board an update on the Innovate to Grow program.

(At this time, John Motta, Richard Moeller, and Garrison Mason left the meeting.)

UPSL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Greg Fike gave the Board an overview of the UPSL membership application and the Rules Committee recommendation to grant provisional approval. It was **MOVED** to approve UPSL for provisional membership as a National Affiliate. The motion was **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent.



(At this time, John Motta, Richard Moeller, and Garrison Mason returned to the meeting.)

OPEN CUP POLICY AMENDMENT

Mr. Fike then reviewed the Open Cup policy amendment put forward by the U.S. Open Cup Committee. It was **MOVED** to approve the U.S. Open Cup Policy amendment. The motion was **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT AT INTERNATIONAL MATCHES POLICY

John Collins reviewed proposed Policy 521-2 to deal with discriminatory conduct at international matches. More specifically, the chant at the games against Mexico. He reviewed the policy and discussion ensued. It was **MOVED** to approve the resolution and then to send the Policy to the Rules Committee for review. The motion was **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

GENDER EQUITY BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Collins then provided the Board with the gender equity board resolutions, including the background. Discussion ensued amongst the Board. It was **MOVED** to send the proposal to the Nominating and Governance Committee and include DEI staff members, sporting, and legal. The motion was **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** by unanimous consent.

GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Juan Uro provided an update on the governance task force.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Cone reviewed future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

