



USASF Board of Directors Call

January 16, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann Lehrmann, Brad Habermel, Brian Elza, Carlos Onofre, Dan Kessler, Debbie Love, Happy Hooper, Jeff Fowlkes, Jim Chadwick, John Newby, John Nichols, Justin Carrier, Kathy Penree, Kristen Rosario, Mike Burgess, Nicole Landrum, Peter Lezin, Steve Peterson

ABSENT:

Catherine Morris, Tres Letard

GUESTS:

Ali Stangle, Amy Clark, Grady Garrison, Karen Wilson, Lynn Singer

AGENDA

Jim welcomed the new Board members that were elected at the November 2018 meeting. Noting a full agenda, he turned the call over to Ali to discuss cheer rules updates.

Rules and Junior Worlds Proposals

2019/20 Rules

The rules committee has met many times over the last few months to consider how the IASF rules were consistent with USASF rules and if there were differences, how they might be consistent.

There are no changes for Levels 1 and 2 as the rules are consistent between USASF and IASF. The changes that the IASF made for Levels 3 and 4 did not make sense for U.S. teams, so USASF rules will remain as they are. Level 5R is a strong and growing division for the U.S., so even though the IASF will not have that division, the USASF will.

- Consensus of the discussion:
 - the Board is asking the Rules Committee to rethink a new rules proposal that will:
 - Simplify the changes
 - Focus on USASF members first
 - Be as consistent as possible with IASF since we host Worlds together
 - Hold the January 31 Rules release date pending Rules Committee discussion
 - All Board members are invited to Rules Committee discussion

Juniors at Worlds

A poll of gym owners was taken in 2017 asking whether a Junior division should be added to The Cheerleading Worlds. The consensus of gym owners with Jr Level 5 teams was mixed, leaning toward not in favor of Juniors at Worlds. Currently, the Rules Committee is not in favor of Juniors returning to Worlds. Board discussion included these points:

- Other youth sports have Junior World Championships, but athlete retention rates suffer. When athletes have a “pinnacle” experience at a young age, they’ve fulfilled the highest level in their



sport and leave the sport before they might have if the pinnacle experience had been a goal for an older age.

- Rules Committee would like to see how the bottom ages of Sr divisions might affect Jr first, then reconsider the Juniors at Worlds discussion

Consensus is not to add Juniors at Worlds yet, but the Board will keep the question open for future consideration.

Membership Policy and Requirements

Athlete Safety Education - Athletes 1st

Progress was reviewed on the initiatives surrounding athlete protection and a focus on education, resources and empowerment for all members.

Currently, there is a twice weekly social media campaign for Athletes 1st, pointing members to education and resources by experts in child protection.

A social media contest will be launched for athletes empowering them to define and amplify the ABCs of All Star; **A**thletic and filled with fun and **B**onding with friends in addition to it being a **C**ompetitive youth sport. #ThisIsAllStar will be tracked and athletes with the most reach and engagement with an effective message hitting the ABCs of All Star will receive recognition through our social media channels and media partners.

Resources are provided for owners, coaches, parents and athletes, event producers and affiliates for protecting minors online and promoting a more athletic image through their social media platforms. Education and awareness is key. **The Triple A challenge** will be given to all members:

The USASF challenges you to ask yourself three questions before you do anything in All Star. From choosing a uniform or creating choreography to crafting a marketing campaign or posting pictures or videos online, ask yourself these three questions:

Is it **A**thletic?

Is it **A**ge Appropriate?

What does it **A**mplify?

New policies and education requirements for 2019-20

At the November meeting, the Board recommended a closer review by the coach members of the Board of the proposed travel and billeting policies along with required Safe Sport education that would be required for membership in the 2019-20 season. Coaches on the Board reviewed all by conference call, offered recommendations for changes, and are in support of the final policies.



Billeting and Travel proposal

Travel Policy

Basic Tenants

- Follow the SafeSport guidelines for sexual abuse and prevention
- Give specific examples or directives as they relate to travel

Local Travel

- Should be handled by the parents
- Minimize involvement of program

Program Travel

- Should be handled by parents
- Minimize involvement of program
- Extra care taken when the program is responsible for athletes who are minors and away from their parent and/or guardian

Billeting/Housing Policy

Basic Tenants

- Follow the SafeSport guidelines for sexual abuse and prevention
- Give specific examples or directives as they relate to minors in the care of other adults (non-family members)
- Required screening of adults in the host family
- Required training for the adults in the host family
- Oversight by the program based on their involvement in securing or recommending a billet arrangement

Coach Eligibility Required Training

The SafeSport Act requires Youth Sports Organizations to provide consistent training on prevention and reporting of child abuse to all adult members who are in regular contact with minors/amateur athletes. Effective prevention training allows adults to see and recognize problematic behaviors before a minor is abused.

Required Training: **SafeSport Trained**

- Cost \$20
- Valid for 2 years (will expire 7/31/+2 years from year coach takes the course)
- Initiated through profile and will post back to coach profile.
- SafeSport Training includes three (3) courses:
 - Mandatory Reporting
 - Emotional and Physical Misconduct
 - Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education
- Time: 90 Minutes Total

Jim reminded the Board the SafeSport law went into effect in February, 2018. We're the first non-Olympic governing authority to adhere to SafeSport guidelines, and we're proud to be in front of this effort for youth sports.



VOTE:

The motion passed unanimously.

Jim thanked the Board and reminded all that a call would be scheduled in February following the Rules Committee meeting.

Meeting Adjourned