

## **USASF Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 4, 2020**

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Brad Habermel, Brian Elza, Carlos Onofree, Catherine Morris, Happy Hooper, Jeff Fowlkes, Jim Chadwick, John Nichols, Justin Carrier, Kathy Penree, Kristin Rosario, Mike Burgess, Nicole Landrum, Peter Lezin, Steve Peterson

### **Absent:**

Tres LeTard, John Newby, Karen Wilson

### **GUESTS:**

Ali Stangle, Amy Clark, Grady Garrison, Lynn Singer

## **AGENDA**

### **2020-2021 Rules and Age Grid Amendment - Ali and Happy**

Ali opened discussion about a potential amendment to the approved rules regarding new “age as of” date that would allow 20 year-olds to compete on Senior Club Division teams at Worlds. She noted that there are very few 19 year-olds at Worlds and asked if there might be an issue during the season. Discussion points included:

- There are other avenues for 19 & 20 year-olds, we shouldn’t allow them to be on a Sr. team
- If this only applies to Worlds divisions, this would have a date and month instead of just a year
- It adds a layer of complexity to not do it for all Senior divisions.
- Needs to be an answer that is simple to manage.

Motion: 20 year-olds may not be on Senior Club teams.

The motion was 2nd

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Non-Sanctioned Event Plan - Kathy Penree**

There is an increasing swell of events that are choosing to not be sanctioned by the USASF. Jim asked Kathy Penree to gather a group to discuss and put together a strategy to address the trend.

### **Connection Leaders National Meeting Recommendations - Kathy, Peter, Amy, and Ali**

Kathy reported that the primary subject of last week’s Connection Leaders call centered around the USASF National Meeting coming up in June. Connection Leaders expressed a need to add classes for coaches.

Amy previewed an outline for the National Meeting that includes more opportunity for interaction and discussion through sessions grouped by region, program size and just for club owners to engage with Board Members. Class sessions will include professional development.

Ali reported that Connection Leaders are seeing that coaches train athletes without following the progressions to safely get there. As a result, athletes are leaving the sport because of injury and burnout. If safety is the USASF’s number one priority, how can we help coach members to understand and learn the importance of progression? If we can keep athletes’ “whole body” healthier, can we keep them in the sport longer? The thought is to have sports medicine professionals, coaches and coaches with a moderator team-up to present at the National Meeting and in sessions to help coaches work on a path to safety.

It was noted that when coaches have a thorough understanding of the progressions along with the safety considerations, they can do a better job of keeping athletes from getting hurt, thus keeping them in the sport longer.

The direction of the National Meeting sessions was affirmed by the Board without concern. Staff and Connection Leaders will continue to plan sessions heading in the directions presented.

**Coronavirus – Steve, Melanie, Lynn**

Steve read the most current messaging that Varsity, IASF and USASF is providing:

*At USASF and IASF, nothing is more important to us than the safety of the athletes, coaches, friends and families that attend our Worlds events. We are closely monitoring the potential impact the coronavirus may have on upcoming Cheerleading and Dance Worlds events and will continue to make decisions based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, local health officials and our event Partners. At this time, we have not received any indication that there is cause to cancel the upcoming Cheerleading and Dance Worlds events. We will notify you if circumstances change.*

Lynn updated that USASF is ready to post that standard messaging on the public website, in the Worlds information page for Bid Recipients and in The Connection, the online community for members.

Melanie provided an update on Varsity efforts with Disney:

- Varsity has been in discussions with Disney for several weeks
- Currently working on a statement to include link to the Disney website regarding preventative measures being taken at Disney
- Will continue to monitor and release statements as needed

Jim noted that there isn't a need for a separate call to discuss this right now, so the call on March 11 is canceled.

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: April 1, 2020