

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Of the
USVBA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
January 13, 2006
Colorado Springs, CO**

PRESENT: Kevin Twohig (presiding), Elisabeth Bachman, Kevin Barnett, Ken Cain, Dave Gentile, Rebecca Howard, Jonathan Lee, Stewart McDole, Albert Monaco, Roger Neppl, Cynthia Doyle Perkins, Glenn Sapp, Susan True.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Erik Sullivan

STAFF: Kerry Klostermann, Doug Beal, and Mike Chandler

NOTE: Information is reported according to topic and not necessarily in the chronological order of discussion.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Kevin Twohig, Executive Vice President called the meeting of the Executive Council of the United States Volleyball Association to order at approximately 2:05 pm on Wednesday, May 25, 2005.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Mr. Twohig reminded the Executive Council that it is empowered to take action on interdivisional matters and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2005 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

Motion 1: It was M/S/C (Lee/Doyle) approve the minutes of the May 25, 2006 Meeting of the Executive Council.

- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Motion 2: It was M/S/C (Lee/Gentile) to approve the agenda as revised with the understanding that the Executive Vice President will be permitted to adjust the agenda as the meeting proceeds.

- V. **DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- A. **Incident Reporting.** The policy that directs the National Office to designate a staff person to receive incident reports and distribute the information in a confidential manner to regions and other appropriate individuals will be taken to the Board of Directors for approval as a part of the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- B. **Events Department Criteria for Adding New Championship Events.** The Event Growth Projections developed by the Events Department will be presented to the Board of Directors as an Appendix to the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- C. **Qualifiers.**
 - 1, Evaluation by the YJOVD Administrative Council of the Qualifier System Report from YJOVD on Qualifiers. Dave Gentile, Vice President, Youth and Junior Olympic Volleyball Division (YJOVD) reported the following key points in the evaluation of the Qualifier system.
 - a. The Qualifier system (9 girls events / 8 boys events) works well as it is currently designed (both Open and Club Divisions) and meets the needs of many junior teams and junior players.

- b. The system, in general, meets the fundamental purpose of the Qualifiers as stated in the Qualifier manual of identifying the best teams to advance to the Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships through its Open division structure.
- c. The system does not address the growing desire of “lower” mid-level competition to eventually participate in a “Championship” framework on a National Level.
- d. The system has weaknesses in the eyes of some junior representation and Region Representation in that the scheduling of events causes complexities within region adding costs to families with multiple players. In addition it is perceived as working against regions and clubs as it pulls away revenue sources and lowers participation levels in local events.
- e. The cost to the consumer (teams / clubs) continues to be a concern yet many programs are willing to pay existing levels in consideration of:
 - i. The need to qualify in an Open event,
 - ii. The desire to experience a “USAV National event” conducted in a convention center venue,
 - iii. Having college recruitment opportunities made available in a concise manner, and
 - iv. The opportunity to play in a large competition field with outside region teams in the field.
- f. Finally the system (and any alternatives for growth) clearly is adding demands (and in some cases strains) on the infrastructure of USAV Divisions and should be a consideration.
- g. Key suggestions for consideration:
 - i. There appears to be a need for addressing mid-level competition venues in some capacity through a championship series or zonals or region based venues. These types of events could be complimentary to the existing infrastructure of Regions, Clubs and Qualifiers.
 - ii. Administrative/communications process
 - iii. This type of expansion could also create similar feelings of distance or qualified support as many of the same issues come to light such as calendar scheduling, travel costs, event costs and officials availability.
 - iv. A clear need to assess, in a more formal manner, what is needed and or desired by the junior constituency. A mechanism should be developed this season to gain greater specific insights on the environmental issues and to assist in the outline of formulating solutions.

The Executive Council discussed the evaluation points and the suggestions for consideration. Mr. Beal pointed out the importance of staff being able to define if the Qualifiers are equally available across the country and that the system does not leave the impression or does not seem to make volleyball a sport that is defined by socio-economic

capacity. Mr. Cain stated how important it was that the bid process for Qualifiers be truly an open process. Mr. Twohig reported that as long as USAV is satisfied with the way a Qualifier is run, each has right of first refusal when the licensing contract expires. The Council agreed that Qualifier Directors should not be able to make major changes without coordinate those changes with USAV.

Motion 3: It was M/S/C (Gentile/Cain) to ensure that all Qualifier events continue to meet these objectives and provide a successful environment for all concerned we would recommend that all Qualifiers Directors make contact with USAV events department, USAV Official Divisions and affected Regional Commissioners to properly coordinate and communicate any material change in administration of the events such as venue location, venue dates or movement to multiple weekends.

2. Qualifier Review Committee
 - a. The Qualifier Review Committee must be more collaborative in nature. Obtaining self-evaluations from the Qualifier Directors is a part of the license agreement, but USAV is not getting all of them. Arbitrators also evaluate the Qualifiers to which they are assigned.
 - b. Qualifier evaluation and the “continuous improvement” process should be primary responsibilities of the Championship Events Commission working in concert with the Events Department.
 - c. The event evaluation function of the Championships Events Commission includes all U.S. National Championships. Mr. Cain said the Regional Operations Division (ROD) should be reminded of that fact.

- D. **Junior Olympic Players Playing on a Team at the U.S. Open Championships.** Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to revisit this after the ROD and YJOVD have an opportunity to revisit the issue in May. Mr. Chandler said the insurance carrier should also be consulted before the Annual Meeting in May.

- E. **Ad Hoc Committee on USA Governance Structure.** Mr. Monaco, with assistance from Mr. Beal, will chair this Committee that will study the current governance structure of USAV in light of the USOC guidelines. The goal is to bring a recommendation to the January 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors. One subcommittee will review the working relationship between the Regional Volleyball Associations and USAV. Members of that subcommittee will be Doug Beal, chair, Ken Cain, Jon Lee, Chuck Stemm and Fred Wendelboe. Members of the other subcommittee will be Al Monaco, chair, Marcia Alterman, Ellen Crandall, Dave Gentile, Sinjin Smith and Charlene Tagaloa (Note: It was discovered later during the Winter Meeting that Ms Tagaloa could not serve so Liz Masakayan agreed to serve on this subcommittee)

- F. **CAP I Coaches Certification Requirement for National Championships.** Mr. Monaco reported the issue of the cost of liability insurance and the need to hold coaches at USAV events to a high standard. The staff has developed a plan for requiring CAP I coaches

certification for all coaches of junior teams in National Championships by 2010. This issue will be one of the topics in the Sunday breakout session of the Board of Directors' meeting.

Mr. Cain reminded Vice Presidents Gentile and Lee to have the leadership of their divisions develop a list of questions and concerns and deliver that to Mr. Beal before the Annual Meeting in May.

- VI. DIVISION UPDATES.** There were no additional division updates beyond what would be reported to the Board of Directors.
- VII. NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting of the Executive Council will be 2:00 – 6:00 pm, Tuesday, May 23, 2006 in New Orleans, LA.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT.** It was agreed by consensus to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Council at approximately 11:45 am.