



UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION
Members' Assembly Meeting
October 13, 2018
Holiday Inn Express
Latham, New York

Approved October 12, 2019

1. **Convene Members Meeting** – Call to Order 8:52a.m. C.D.T.
2. **Roll call**

Delegates Present (Representing, Votes) – Craig Brown (AAC, 1087), Dean Gemmell (AAC, 1087), Jessica Schultz (AAC, 1087), Bill Stopera (AAC, 1087), Leland Rich (Colorado, 0), Roger Smith (Dakota Territory, 1366), Charlie Brown (GNCC, 3644), Garrit Blauvelt (Grand National, CC of the Berkshires, 0), Kevin Hawlk (Grand National, Atlanta CC, 0), Hannah Hyde (Grand National, Atlanta CC, 0), Ben Levy (Great Lakes, 1655), Scott Stevinson (Mid-America, 639), Russ Brown (Midwest, 671), Jeff Annis (Minnesota, 2187.5), Nick Wellen (Minnesota, 2187.5), Matt Gamboa (Mountain Pacific, 735), Doug Potter (Washington, 509), Steven O'Keefe (Wisconsin, 3505)

Delegates Absent – Monica Walker (AAC, -)

Guests in Attendance – William Anderson (Rutland Rocks CC), Richard Arnold (Triangle CC), Deirdre Arnold (Triangle CC), Henry Atkins (Belfast CC) George Austin (New York Caledonian CC), Jon Barbagallo (Norfolk CC), Barbara Baroni (Nutmeg CC), Roger Becker (Albany CC), Barbara Berberich (Schenectady CC), Wendy Berber (Albany CC), Solon Boomer-Jenks (Albany CC), Kathy Brown (Grand National CC), Derik Brown (USA Curling Staff), Melissa Brown (Derby City CC), Matt Buczek (Blankstone Valley CC), Banielle Buczek (Blackstone Valley CC), Frank Buquicchio (Long Island CC), Lisa Clark (Long Island CC), Paul Clarke (Schenectady CC), Car Colburn (Traverse City CC), Nikki Conway (Albany CC), Bethaney Curry (Derby City CC), Terry Davis (USA Curling Staff), John Donoghue (Albany CC), Brian Dooley (Merrimack Valley CC), Craig Doucette (Nutmeg CC), Erin Doucette (Nutmeg CC), Gregory Eisenhauer (Broomstones CC) Michelle Elder (Bozeman CC) Kirstie Fanning (Albany CC), Jay Flanders (Woodstock CC), Devin Gomes (Schenectady CC), Julie Granata (Albany CC) Kayla Grossman (South Shore CC), Karen Hamilton (USCA Assistant Secretary), Jeff Hannon (BOD), Joseph Hart (Albany CC), Kevin Hawlk (Atlanta CC), Dan Hazlitt (Finger Lakes CC), Andrew Hiplus (Nutmeg CC), Bob Hogan (Peachtree Curling Association), Ruth Horton (Albany CC), Heather Houck (USA Curling Staff), Hannah Hyde (Atlanta CC), Bobby Iadanza (Long Island CC), Jeff Isaacson (Chaska CC), Nancy Jennett (Broomstones CC), Mike Knaggs (Ardsley CC), Madelene Knaggs (Ardsley CC), Gwen Krailo (presenter), Herb Kupchik (Diamong State CC), Mikhail Kubatov (St Louis CC), Russ Lemcke (Cape Cod CC), Joel Leneker (Nutmeg CC), Richard Lepping (BOD), Peter Lynons (Nashua Country Club), Dan Machold (Schenectady CC), Fred Mackintosh (Schenectady CC), Hawley MacLean (BOD), Barry McLaughlin (Orlando CC), James Meinhold (Schenectady CC), Gert Messing (Schenectady CC), Nancy Myers (Aksarben CC), Kim Nawyn (USA Curling Staff), Daniel Nedwell (Albany CC), Laurie Northrup (Albany CC), Rich Oettinger (Albany CC), Lauren Olewnik (Rutland Rocks CC), David Paro (Schenectady CC), Rick Patzke (USA Curling Staff), Catherine Persinger (BOD), Scott Piroth (Bowling Green CC), Janet Prichard (Ocean State CC), Tyler Reynolds (Albany CC), Leland Rich (Presenter), Doroty Roach (Rochester CC), Alison Roark (Palmetto CC), Ron Rossi (USA Curling Staff), Roger Rowlett (Presenter), Marek Rzonca (Schenectady CC), Joseph Sablow (Ardsley CC), Gudrun Sablow (Ardsley CC), Robert Samaniuk (Schenectady CC), Gabriel Schlomer (Albany CC), Courtney Schmidt (BOD), Tiffany Sizemore (Derby City CC), Roger Smith (BOD), Greg Smith (Granite Cc of Seattle), Jane Sousa (South Shore CC), Jason Stein (Albany CC), Shane Stein (USA Curling Staff), Scott

Stevinson (BOD), Mark Swandby (Madison CC), Den Tonis (Marlborough CC), Paul Valle (Mount Washington Valley CC), Jillene Van Hoy (Palmetto CC), Tom Violette (USA Curling Staff), Don Wade (Broomstones CC), Kendall Walker (South Shore CC), Mary Jane Walsh (Presenter), Andrea Warr (Schenectady CC/Albany CC), Dion Warr (Schenectady CC), Mary Whilden (Granite CC of Seattle), Jenifer Whiston (Albany CC), Sam Williams (Broomstones CC), Andrew Willis (Broomstones CC), Alpheus Winter (Nutmeg CC), Keith Wisbauer (Long Island CC), Steven Wood (Schenectady CC), Nancy Wurth (Schenectady CC), Robert Yuskevich (Albany CC), James Zuber (Shore Shore CC).

3. **Appointment of Parliamentarian** - Chair appoints Jeff Hannon as Parliamentarian.
4. **Certification of Votes** – Ron Rossi certifies the votes as read by the Secretary during roll call.
5. **Determination of quorum** – With 17099 votes being present and 9782.50 votes being the minimum required the Secretary determines that a quorum is present.
6. **Approval of minutes of last Members Meeting**
September 30, 2017 Minutes – Motion to approve minutes as presented by Schmidt, second by Nick Wellen. Motion is passed on a unanimous voice vote.
7. **Additions to the Agenda** - None
8. **Reports from USCA:**
 - a. **Chair of Board of Directors Report (Schmidt)**
 - i. Thanked Charlie Brown and the GNCC for hosting event and their hospitality and thanked all the representative for coming to the meeting.
 - ii. Presentation of the Strategic Plan- Growth of Sport
Rick and the staff have been working on a plan around the initiatives that were approved by the board in July. The Board will be updated on the progress throughout the 4-year period including the Ad hoc committees which have been created to focus on the initiative. The Ad hoc committees have been putting in a great deal of effect to make sure progress is made.
 - iii. New Governance Structure past and future.
Schmidt discussed the new direction the board will be undergoing to move to a smaller board that is more policy directed. The transition will occur between now and the next Members Assembly. Chair also explained the Directors survey that explains the importance of the director responsibilities and expectations as identified in the bylaws.
Four Key Take-Aways that are important to review in more detail.
 - We need to understand our role and responsibility as a board member
 - Clarify the relationship between the states and regions and the USCA
 - We need to review strategic plan initiatives regularly and provide feedback to staff.
 - Governance needs to substantially improve for board recruitment and development.
 - b. **CEO Report (Patzke)**
 - i. Communications/ Public Relations
 1. Curling Night is America begins showing on NBC Sports network on October 12, 2018 and will continue into December. Matt Hamilton competed on the TV show Total Knockout.
 2. Tickets for Omaha leg of the Curling world cup on sale.
 3. Exploring a joint promotional opportunity with the NBA Milwaukee Bucks.

4. The 2018-2019 edition of the Media Guide and Directory has been printed and board members will receive copies at the members assemble.
 5. The ARC committee met in June to determine the 2019 USA Curling Team of the Year and Male/Female Athletes of the Year. Thank you to everyone who voted. Induction ceremonies are in the works.
- ii. Revenue Development
1. New partnership with Twin Cities Orthopedics has been officially announced. The HPP athletes toured the TCO's Training Haus and 50 TCO employees attended Curling Night in America. Twenty-One of the junior curlers in the Developmental pool toured TCO and underwent a workout with USA Curling trainer Michael Gulenchyn who was hired by TCO.
 2. Members of the Granite Society enjoyed a VIP experience and dinner with the 2018 gold medalist team with the staging of Curling Night in America in Chaska.
 3. TJ Maxx will be selling the Team Shuster tabletop curling game; USA curling will receive a portion of royalties from the sales through a licensing agreement with the team's marketing agency.
 4. Hawaii Charity Curling Classic was held October 3-4, with Tyler George and Joe Polo as the featured athletes. This event is done in partnership with American Savings Bank and raises \$25,000 for USA curling as well as \$100,000 for a local charity.
 5. H. MacLean, Maclean and I have had another conversation with Carhartt in an effort to increase their sponsorship support of USA curling. Will be working for an in-person meeting with Carhartt executives.
- c. **Director of High Performance Report (Brown)**
- i. Twenty-one junior curlers ages 16-18 make up the second running of the Junior High Performance Program Developmental Pool.
 - ii. USA Curling's Paralympic program team won the Cape Cod International Summer spiel, defeating Canada 7-2.
 - iii. Achieved goal of getting medal at Olympics. Gold for the men's team and the results of both women's and doubles team.
 - iv. Discussed the High Performance teams for the 2018-2019 season.
 - v. Other goals, announced we have achieved Gold level of funding – 4 year commitment for funding.
 - vi. Development of High performance and the new partnership with Twin Cities Orthopedics and our new Athletic Trainer Mike Gulenchyn located new Training Haus in Viking Lakes. Mike will attend a number of events supporting the HP athletes and team USA. The Athletes have received introductions and tours and will have access to the training facilities and sports medicine network.
 - vii. High Performance Outreach Ambassador. Tyler George has been appointed to this role, which includes spending time advising USA team outside of the HP program. Tyler spent a day with the Mixed Worlds Team as they prepare for the World Mixed Championships and is planning to assist the Jed Brundage team. Other opportunity is being explored.
- d. **Operational Committee Reports**
- i. **Member Development** – Kim Nawyn (Director of Growth and Development)
 1. Capitalizing on Olympics. USA curling is working on growing the sport by capitalizing on our recent success at the Olympics.
 2. Clubs have access to a Video clip from USCA to use on the own websites

3. Olympic Celebration tour – school outreach
 4. Gym curling kits available
 5. Business of curling program
 6. Education program; instructors, officiating courses are listed in the report in Drop Box.
 7. Hit, Draw and Tap programs – looking for 3 clubs to serve as pilot programs which are to help with the growth and promotion of junior curling within the clubs.
 8. Safe Sport Program- The revised USA Safe sport Handbook is available on Dropbox. The policy was updated to meet the evolving standards set by the USOC. The Handbook will undergo another revision in the coming months in order to comply with the new policy regarding minor athlete safety. The U.S. Center for SafeSport’s policy impacts all local curling clubs that are associated with USA Curling and possible clubs that are not currently members what have youth programming. It is important that everyone keep up to date on the SafeSport requirements and completing them in a timely manner.
- ii. **Grassroots Competition – Sam Williams**
1. 10 national championships are held each year and the location of the 2020 Schedule is in the process of being finalized. Compete list is located on the report on Drop Box.
 2. Site is area of concern- amount of reimbursement hasn’t changed in years
 3. Rules – reviewed by competition committee, members are Sam Williams, Craig Brown, Derek Brown, Herb Kupchik, Mark Swandby and Jenny Biadasz.
 4. The new five rock rule will be implemented this year.
- iii. **Report of Ad Hoc Organizational Development Committee – (Rich/Patzke)**
1. Discussion of the plan to move forward with reducing the current size of the Board of Directors.
 2. To reduce number of Board members should consider regional committee or president’s counsel; so, regions still have a voice. This is to improve regions talking and working together.
 3. Discussed having new vetting process for directors: With an 11-member board would be a higher-level board; would this put too much work on the staff? Issued debated: Is this the correct staffing model; is this putting too much pressure on board members; do we eliminate regions. Board members are elected at Members assembly.
- iv. **Other Staff Reports**
1. Olympic Media Tour (Terri) Team Press Operator Use of social media to build the presence of curling.
 2. Discussion of the flood of media during and following the Olympics And how each club should benefit from the exposure.
 3. Face book campaign Curling Across America, used to promote Learn to Curl programs at the local clubs.
 4. Discussed how to use social media to promote National Events
 5. Website hits in February totaled 1.7 Million-page views
 6. Discussed the creation of a Mobile app of website for phones
- e. **Granite Society Report – (Schmidt)**
- i. Discussion of the Granite Society and how it is helping to promote the mission of USCA curling, help bring focus to the annual giving program.
 - ii. Raised \$70,000 so far- would like to reach \$100,000. There is still the opportunity to be a founding member of the Granite Society, Discussion of the various benefits including exclusive parties at Events. Hawley- explained levels of membership.

9. USCA Membership Action

a. Consideration of full USCA membership for the following clubs currently with provisional membership status:

- i. Bozeman CC (Dakota Territory)
- ii. Chaska CC (Minnesota)
- iii. Coeur d'Alene CC (Mountain-Pacific)
- iv. Derby City CC (At-Large)
- v. Finger Lakes CC (Grand National)
- vi. Granite CC of California (Mountain-Pacific)
- vii. Mid-South CC (At-Large)
- viii. Petoskey CC (Great Lakes)
- ix. CC of Rochester (Minnesota)
- x. Silicon Valley CC (Mountain-Pacific)

Motion to accept full membership of these clubs by Scott Stevinson, seconded by Russ Brown. Motion accepted on a unanimous voice vote. Bozeman CC, Chaska CC, Derby City CC, and Finger Lakes CC present and accept certificate of membership and organizational banner.

b. SafeSport Amendment-

Presentation by Patkze, Motion presented by Leland. Protect 18 and under. Motion to accept by Doug Potter, seconded by Roger Smith, motion passed By unanimous voice vote.

10. Old business - None

11. New business

a. Recognized the 2 host clubs by Chair Schmidt and thanked them for all time and volunteers who helped with organizing the clinics and events over the weekend.

12. Adjourn 11: 38 a.m. C.D.T.

EXHIBIT A

Proposed USCA Bylaws Amendment

For consideration by the USCA Members' Assembly during the annual meeting October 13th, 2018

Proposed Addition to Article 4 – Recognition as a National Governing Body

Proposed Addition to Article 5 – Members

Proposed Addition to Article 11A – Athlete's Rights

Modified Text Published and Distributed October 4, 2018

Section 4.2 – SafeSport Compliance as a National Governing Body

As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic Committee, the USCA is required to adhere to the safe sport rules and regulations of the USOC. Additionally, USOC Bylaw Section 8.7(I) provides that, as a condition of membership in the USOC, the USCA shall comply with the policies and procedures of the independent safe sport organization designated by the USOC to investigate and resolve safe sport violations. The USOC has designated the U.S. Center for Safe Sport as that organization. The current safe sport rules, policies and procedures are available at the offices of the USCA or on-line at the following websites: www.safesport.org

Section 5.9 – SafeSport Compliance by USCA Members

As a condition of membership in the USCA each USCA member agrees to comply with and be bound by the safe sport rules, policies and procedures of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport and to submit, without reservation or condition, to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport for the resolution of any alleged violations of those rules, policies and procedures, as may be amended from time to time. To the extent any USCA or member rule is inconsistent with the rules of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport, such rule is hereby superseded. The current safe sport rules, policies and procedures are available at the offices of the USCA or on-line at the following websites: www.safesport.org

Section 11A.4. – SafeSport Compliance at USCA Events

As a condition for participation in any competition or event sanctioned by the USCA or its member organizations, each athlete, coach, trainer, agent, athlete support personnel, medical or para-medical personnel, team staff, official and other person who participates in USCA or USCA events (whether or not a USCA member), agrees to comply with and be bound by the safe sport rules, policies and procedures of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport and to submit, without reservation or condition, to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport for the resolution of any alleged violations of those rules, policies and procedures, as may be amended from time to time. To the extent any USCA rule is inconsistent with the rules of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport, such rule is hereby superseded. The current safe sport rules, policies and procedures are available at the offices of the USCA or on-line at the following websites: www.safesport.org

Explanation:

This wording change reflects further refinement of the USOC's SafeSport policy and how that policy is applied to NGB's. It also reflects changes in the USOC's suggested NGB by-laws template language as adapted and applied to the USCA's existing by-laws.

Original Text Published and Distributed September 11, 2018

Section 11A.4. – SafeSport Compliance

As a member National Governing Body of the USOC, the USCA shall recognize, accept, apply, observe and abide by the policies and procedures of the USOC, as amended from time to time, including, but not limited to, its SafeSport rules and regulations. Additionally, the USCA shall abide by the policies and procedures of the independent SafeSport organization designated by the USOC to investigate and resolve SafeSport violations. The USOC has designated the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) as that organization. As such, it is the duty of USCA members and member organizations to comply with the SafeSport Code for the Olympic and Paralympic Movement (the “SafeSport Code”) promulgated by the Center.

Explanation:

As a member National Governing Body (NGB) of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), the USCA is required to comply with safe sport policies that are adopted by the USOC and/or the U.S. Center for SafeSport. By recognizing the authority of these organizations, the proposed by-law amendment is designed to meet the USOC mandate that all NGBs provide jurisdiction to the U.S. Center for SafeSport in their bylaws. Please see the USA Curling website for a copy of the latest version of the USA Curling SafeSport Handbook, which includes the organization’s policy on the prevention of and response to allegations of abuse and harassment within the sport of curling.