



Yankee Board Meeting

08/18/2021, 7:30 PM

Zoom Meeting (Video Conference)

Board Attendees: Jeffry Powell, Judy Katalina, Mark Archibald, Amy Grigg, Geoff Tasca, Lauren Bennett, Miriam Moodley, Brianna (Bri) Han

Board Absences: John Kubilis

Guests: Dave Peixoto, Daniel Chen, Will Barnhill, Sarah Dufault

1. Approval of Prior Minutes

- a. Prior minutes were approved online unanimously prior to the meeting

2. Reports

- a. Registrar's Report
 - i. Not applicable yet.
- b. NERVA Report (Dave)
 - i. No paper membership form option this year.
 - ii. We will not have the Friday night for Aces Wild at Mohegan Sun this year.
 - iii. BCEC tournament will be February 25-27 for the majority of adults (15-20 courts) with the Open showcases for the A/AA level the following weekend. The goal is for two courts for the men's but doubtful we can fill two courts for the women's. Boston Bounce was interested in running a VLA event at BCEC but since that is not USAV that is likely problematic.
 - iv. A call is set-up with API to work on automating our membership system with Sports Engine.
 - v. 2022 Adult Nationals was announced for Orlando, FL.
- c. Ratings Report (Jeffry)
 - i. Downrate requests at the start of the year are expected to be plentiful and we should hold off and watch people before granting. At same time we should be vigilant moving people up who have improved a lot in the time that no Yankee tournaments were being held.
 - ii. Will likely need to identify some new people to serve on the ratings committee with some of our current raters playing less.
- d. Social Media Report (Amy)
 - i. Amy will be in charge of this again this year.
- e. Web Editor Report (Amy, Jeffry)
 - i. Amy has taken time to look over the website for things that need to be fixed or updated.
 - ii. There is code that needs to be updated or we will be charged monthly by the hosting company.
 - iii. Significant website expenses will be incurred to get up to date with all the changes needed.
- f. GrassRoots Campaign Report (Jeffry)
 - i. Should have enough scramble shirts for the year.
 - ii. Yankee prizes will be in by the beginning of October.
 - iii. Jeffry will be looking for more assistance with running the Scrambles this year.
 - iv. Three scrambles were scheduled for the fall.
- g. Tournament Director's Report (Mark)
 - i. Draft was broken into two parts to allow Tournament Director's more time to secure dates at their facilities
 - ii. September & October dates have been drafted, rest of the schedule will be drafted starting September 1st.

- iii. There will be less Yankee sanctioned tournaments run than in the past few years.
- iv. All proposed facilities have been sent to Steve Webster for approval.

3. New Business

- a. Committee Assignments and Stipends
 - i. Status quo for now. May transition and adjust over the year as the website and membership system are brought up to date and stabilized.
 - ii. Budget still being worked on. Convention center tournaments will be held out as separate budgets.
- b. Discussion on return to play and monitoring of local regulations
 - i. COVID rates are on the rise again.
 - ii. Will need to be prepared to require masks based on individual regions and facilities deciding to require masks indoors.
 - iii. Nationally USAV policy is to leave vaccination status alone as it is too much of a political landmine.
 - iv. May have wording requesting unvaccinated players to wear masks.
 - v. Tournament directors should be sure to state clearly if masks are required at the facility they are hosting at. The idea that tournament directors should have masks available if hosting at a location that requires them was discussed and it was determined that if we need to require masks then we should also be able to supply masks.
 - vi. The board and tournament directors should stay prepared for things to change rapidly.
- c. New schedule release
 - i. Cost of tournaments being finalized and then initial schedule will be posted with the balance of the fall/winter schedule posting second week of September.
- d. DIG Initiative presentation from Charlotte Parish (Google Doc shared beforehand).
 - i. Judy and Dave are actively working with the DIG initiative on how to move forward. Their goal stated in this presentation of sponsoring 20 kids is seen as unrealistic at this time.
 - ii. Since Yankee and the DIG Initiative both are part of NERVA it does not make sense for Yankee to make a financial donation to the DIG Initiative as the funding all comes from the same place.
 - iii. We will continue to brainstorm ways that Yankee can assist with the DIG Initiative.
 - iv. Putting wording on our website that clarifies that Yankee is a part of NERVA was discussed.

4. Old Business

- a. Possible adjustment of the 5 year list to a 2 or 3 year list to help avoid possibility of a player who hasn't played in years and improves a rating or even 2 making a team clearly unfair and also probably helps limit downrate requests for players coming off long term injury that no one has seen play in years. Had been tabled to work on wording and implementation
 - i. Motion was made by Geoff to change the 5-year list to a 3-year list. Motion was seconded by Bri and unanimously approved.
- b. Use of referees in Yankee tournaments and costs
 - i. Supervised Friendship tournaments have been added as an option.
 - ii. Head official will be assigned and work 4 matches plus playoffs. Head official will also supervise the friendship referees and offer instruction when necessary.
 - iii. Tournament costs and a shortage of referees were the main reasoning behind this new format.
 - iv. Convention center tournaments and Yankee sanctioned tournaments will still run with full referee staffing

- c. Discussion on modified RCO rules where guys can block guys.
 - i. Was discussed as possibly doing an experimental tournament or two but with a majority of board members either clearly against or on the fence plus possibly causing confusion when we are already implementing a new membership system and the supervised friendship tournaments it did not gain enough traction to go to a vote.

5. Executive Session

- a. No executive session was held.

Key Future Dates

- Nationals May 27 – June 1, 2022 Orlando
- Yankee Picnic, June 11, 2022
- Aces Wild Tournament, December 18-19, 2021 Mohegan Sun
- Boston Convention Center Tournament, February 25-27, 2022
- Boston Convention Center A/AA Showcase, March 5-6, 2022