



Yankee Board Meeting

03/14/2022, 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting (Video Conference)

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

Board Absences: None

Guests: Dave Peixoto, Daniel Chen, Corey Day, Sarah Dufault, Steve Simmons, Kevin Cole, Alyssa Day, Doc Phu, Francis Dallatore, Huy Tran

1. Approval of Prior Minutes

- a. Prior minutes were approved online unanimously prior to the meeting. Amy will instruct Geoff how to upload minutes to the site.

2. Reports

- a. Registrar's Report (Judy)
 - i. Region has 3,400 adult members which is a strong number. 1,900 of the memberships are full player memberships, 274 are one weekend memberships, 1271 are adult coaches and 102 are officials.
 - ii. Previously adult memberships were not labeled separately in the system.
 - iii. Judy and Jeffry will make an effort to compare to pre-Covid numbers.
- b. NERVA Report (Dave)
 - i. Boston was a lot of work to get to run but overall went well.
 - ii. Managed to get a full set of officials for the event. Cost of referees was \$12-13,000. Officials gave positive feedback on being able to officiate adults also. Some out of region refs were unfamiliar with RCO but there were no major issues from that and the board will work to help them next year.
 - iii. Contracted with Mohegan Sun for another year. The hope is to move it a weekend earlier to get further from Christmas. Likely to have a player's party for Mohegan for 2022.
 - iv. Boston will be two weekends again in 2023 and adults likely will be the first weekend again but not yet confirmed..
 - v. The 3 events that NERVA was able to hold at the end of last year was huge benefit to help pay for convention center rentals upfront. The 2021-22 season has gone very well.
 - vi. Mohegan was about a \$27,000 loss for adults and Boston around \$12,000. Yankee Champs tournaments, Scrambles, the Yankee Picnic and Yankee tournaments in Taunton all are money losers as well but we build some back with memberships.
 - vii. A couple other regions are interested in learning how we run things with adults.
 - viii. Lack of water fountains was a big issue at Mohegan Sun. That was a surprise to us and we will look forward at it next time from a health and safety stand point. It was a Covid related restriction so the hope is it will be eliminated. Juniors are at Mohegan in May.
- c. Ratings Report (Jeffry)
 - i. Several new raters have been added recently and probably still need to add a few more to get enough coverage at tournaments.
 - ii. We are short on upper level female players and without much higher level there has been some downward pressure on the ratings at the high end.
 - iii. Likely will have to reassess the Nationals mappings after this year's Nationals.

- iv. With the amount of downrates there was discussion of possibly putting those in the ratings announcements as well to help let captains know of that change in rating.
 - v. Jeffry will make an effort to get a CSV file of the membership list.
 - vi. Currently the membership list has too many names on it and needs to be cleaned up eliminating players whose ratings have expired.
- d. Social Media Report (Amy)
 - i. Most popular post of the year has been the BCEC winning teams photo album reaching over 5,000 people.
 - ii. On average posts the last 2-3 months have been reaching over 1,000 people.
 - iii. Typical posts bring an engagement range of 50-300.
 - iv. Most active posts are the ratings change posts.
 - v. Creating event pages on Facebook for the bigger events was helpful and will continue to be done.
 - vi. Facebook posts currently have more traction than Instagram posts. Lauren will help Amy get Instagram more active with the idea to do more videos there.
 - vii. There has been an issue with some winner's photos coming through at a lower resolution on the Google Form used by tournament directors.
 - viii. Thought was given to getting more Facebook live videos on the Yankee page but issue is giving access to too many people is dangerous and many videos get pulled down for music playing. Facebook live won't really be an option at Nationals because of Baller having a streaming contract with USAV.
- e. Web Editor Report (Amy, Jeffry)
 - i. The web site is aging and requires lots of time and money to get up to speed. Needs added security, modules are outdated, better integration from Sports Engine to the web site. Mobile optimization is also important as the current site is clunky on phones.
 - ii. Jeffry and Amy will discuss what is needed as it is important to define exactly what we need for the meeting with DJ.
- f. GrassRoots Campaign Report (Jeffry)
 - i. Scrambles have had great turnouts this year.
 - ii. About 75% of new players at scrambles have ended up joining for the year. 35-40% of the players at scrambles have been new to Yankee.
 - iii. Lots of the new players have gone on to be captains which is very encouraging.
 - iv. Might run scrambles more often next year.
- g. Tournament Director's Report (Mark)
 - i. Mohegan Sun tournament ran well, it was helpful to not have strict time restraints.
 - ii. BCC tournament was extremely close to being cancelled as the vaccine mandates caused some juniors teams to pull out and put our courts at risk. We were fortunate to get 15 courts and Jeffry came up with a schedule that made it possible to not have to drop any teams.
 - iii. Some referees were a little unsure what they were doing towards end of day. Possibly a combo of the funky schedule and not having a head ref. Plan is to have a head ref at convention center tournaments to help coordinate assignments.
 - iv. Facebook post was put up encouraging teams to sign up for Yankee Champs. May have to combine the A/AA and BB tournaments into one as it is risky financially to hold the courts till the last minute.

3. New Business

- a. BCC Tournament Recap (some will be covered in NERVA report)
 - i. Covered in NERVA and TD reports.
- b. Yankee Board Elections

- i. Need 3 people not running for the board to be on the nominating committee. Glenn Corwin will be one to handle the technical side (generating a unique voter ID for each member). Will Barnhill and Corey Day volunteered to be the other two.
 - ii. There are 9 positions for election (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer plus 5 At Large spots). Every two years every position on the board is up for election. In the past the officer spots and the at large spots alternated years. Miriam suggested that would be a better option to not risk having a whole new board and the board was in agreement but that would be a by-law change and needs to be voted on by the membership in this election. The language of that will be discussed at the April meeting.
 - iii. Francis Dallatore suggested that only previous members of the Yankee board should be able to run for Yankee President or Vice President as someone coming in cold would not understand the work that needs to be done. That can also be discussed at the April meeting.
 - iv. Elections will open the first or second week of May. Jeffry will talk with Will, Corey and Glenn so that they understand their assignments.
- c. Yankee Picnic
 - i. Picnic will be held on June 11th.
 - ii. Yankee has some nets and will need to borrow some nets from Wootown Volleyball.
 - iii. Will need some members to assist in the set-up of the nets.
 - iv. Mark and Jeffry will coordinate the picnic.
 - v. Google form for sign-up is active.
 - vi. Biggest potential issue this year is parking. The grass lot was sold so cannot use that. We have rented the hall so can park cars in the paved parking lot. The hope is we can park at Hudson High School as well, Judy will reach out to the Principal.
 - vii. Geoff will be assigned the purchase of Raffle Prizes again with \$1,000 budget.
 - viii. The drink service also needs to be discussed as in the past Yankee took charge of supplying the non-alcoholic drinks and they opened their bar at 1 pm. It was mentioned having to pay them for all drink service which would be more money but Jeffry and Judy will try to keep it the way we have always done.
 - ix. For insurance purposes it was discussed that having only full members to play in the tournament and offering an option for a \$10 charge for spectators aged 13+.
 - x. The levels are flexible in numbers and will be adjusted based on sign-ups.
- d. Proposal on USAV tournaments plus other member feedback involving tournament formats and work teams at friendship tournament/ supported friendship tournaments
 - i. Proposal to adjust the players allowed in USAV B and BB Men's tournaments will be e-mailed out so that it can be better understood. Tabled until board members review the proposal.
 - ii. Discussion was held on possible elimination of the gender touch rule for RCO. Yankee has the gender touch rule because it is in the USAV rule book but it is noted that back row attack is not allowed by men on a women's net in USAV rules thus in that case the male player is a disadvantaged player.
 - iii. John made the motion to eliminate the gender touch rule on the women's net in all formats where male back row attack is permitted. Geoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 4 effective for the 2022-23 Yankee season.
 - iv. Discussion of allowing female players to play in male USAV players was had. John made the motion to allow female players in male USAV tournaments, Lauren seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4-2 with 3 abstaining.
- e. Yankee Championship Tournaments
 - i. Mostly covered in the reports.
 - ii. Prizes will be picked soon.
 - iii. RCO C (a new championship tournament this year) is the first to fill.

- f. USAV Adult Nationals
 - i. Need to make sure captains know that they must get their roster approved.
 - ii. Guidance should also be given to teams with out of region players on their roster and how to add them to the roster.
 - iii. Not many New England teams have signed up yet so it will be a late scramble.

4. Executive Session

- a. No executive session was held.

Key Future Dates

- Nationals May 27 – June 1, 2022 Orlando
- Yankee Picnic, June 11, 2022
- Meeting of the Membership, April 12, 2022