



**Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 13, 2012**

**7:00 – 9:00 pm EST**

**Present:** Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Mike Burns, Barbara Chambers, Paul DePace, Jessica Galli, Phil Galli, Cindy Housner, Darlene Hunter, Denise Hutchins

**Absent:** Gregg Baumgarten, Tommy Chasanoff, Glen O'Sullivan

**1. Call to order by Barbara Chambers, Chair**

**2. February 7, 2012 Minutes:** Denise moved to pass the February 2012 minutes. Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**3. Chair's Report:** Barbara Chambers reported.

- a. **Monthly phone meetings and BOD status reports:** Barb reported that the cost of the monthly BoD meetings is getting to be too high. Solution for Discussion: Ralph is looking into another phone service that will be half the price. Cindy told Ralph she uses a service that is free of charge. Ralph is going to call the company Cindy suggested to find out if WASUSA would be able to use it. Another option Barb suggested is to appoint a "Sergeant at Arms" or Time keeper. All agenda items would be allowed 5 minutes, after 5 minutes the BoD can vote to extend the conversation or table it until later or the next meeting. Barb would also like to require all BoD members with agenda items to submit a written report two days prior to the BOD meeting. Any agenda items without a written report would be given 5 minutes, max. A final suggestion to minimize time on the calls is for E-BOD meetings is to only include E-BOD members, and those with agenda items to the meeting or to have the non-E-BOD members present their items first then sign off. Barb stated she personally likes having the input from everyone and she would like to attempt other options before removing people from calls. Ralph would like anyone with other ideas to save costs to email him. He said by the next meeting a new conference call service would be in place.
- b. **2012 Junior Track & Field Championships in Czechs Republic:** Barb reported that there has been little or no interest from athletes and staff to participate in the 2012 IWAS Junior World Championships. Several attempts have been tried to solicit interest (several e-blasts, Facebook postings, and Ralph called athletes individually.) Barb wondered if some reasons for the lack of interest could be the overlap with NJDC, the costs, the proximity of the event to the Paralympics, the fact that this is a repeat destination, and/or the late notice to members. Barb would like to send out a questionnaire to determine actual reasons for future planning. Paul said it would be helpful for IWAS to also know why there was a lack of interest so that IWAS can address those issues as well.
- c. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with US Fencing:** Ralph would like to defer this conversation to Paul. Paul is trying to form a better relationship between US Fencing and IWAS and therefore has agreed to work with US Fencing on behalf of WASUSA as well. Paul hopes to finish up the MOU by the end of this week. He will run this by Barb and Ralph before he goes to US Fencing for the final agreement.
- d. **IPC Rulebook changes:** Barb asked Phil if he is aware of any changes in the IPC Rulebook that will affect WASUSA. Phil said he and Debbie are working with Cathy Sellers to review the new rulebook. They will be meeting at the end of March to discuss. Phil said none of the changes can be too drastic because of the Games coming up in August. John Stephens said most of the changes are in Chapter 6 of the document. Debbie said that Cathy is concerned there are some errors within the rulebook and wants them to catch them and report those errors to the IPC. Barb asked about the process of moving Jerry Clayton up as an official to an international level. She also noted that she and Ralph have never been given a list of officials and level of certification for those officials. Cathy Sellers has agreed to work with WTFUSA to help develop a list of officials and an easy way to maintain and classify these officials. WTFUSA will follow a program that is being created by USATF for the next quadrennial. Phil will work on creating a test for officials using information provided to him by Chris Cohen at the IPC. There will be regulations put in place that will dictate how officials can become certified and how they can move up in level(s). Officials that have currently tested will be grandfathered in at their current officiating level but will be required to follow the new rules in order to move up the pipeline. Denise suggested including Jack Todd in this discussion. Denise thinks Jack may also be able to provide training for higher level officials along with John Stephens.
- e. **Calendaring and Sanctioning Process:** Ralph received a call from Randy Chiviaroli. He had looked on the USP website and noticed that both the Dixie Games and the Tri-States were not listed as IPC sanctioned events.



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Ralph has since been in contact with Tina Cain at USP. Tina assured Ralph that both meets are sanctioned but the list has not been updated online. Ralph would like to improve communication between WASUSA and USP so that both organizations are aware of what competitions are being sanctioned and which competitions are not being sanctioned.

**4. Immediate Past Chair's Report:** Paul DePace reported.

- a. **Olympic Day:** Paul was contacted by the USOC as the representative for WASUSA, which is a multi-sport organization (MSO) within the USOC, about Olympic Day. One of the pushes in 2012 for the MSO Council is to become more involved in Olympic Day. Paul emailed the BoD about this idea recently. In response to his email, Jessie told the group that as a part of the Athletes Advisory Council for the USOC she has worked to change the name of Olympic Day to Olympic and Paralympic Day but was met with resistance from the USOC. Paul contacted Abby Tompkins at the USOC to discuss this. He was told that the USOC had tried to change the name previously but was told by the IOC that Olympic Day is property of the IOC and the name cannot therefore be changed. Additionally, he was reminded that there is a Paralympic Day that takes place once every two years. Paul was told that the USOC does encourage Olympic Day organizers to include both Olympic and Paralympic sports. Jessie commented that for the most part she didn't receive negative feedback from the USOC when the suggestion was made to change the name but rather was told it just can't happen. She said it's frustrating that the USOC supports Olympic Day but does not spread the word about Paralympic Day. Paul would like to see WASUSA promote Paralympics within Olympic Day at its chapters' events. Paul will contact Scott Blackmun, CEO of the USOC, to find out what terminology can be used. Barb would like to promote the event on Facebook that would encourage Paralympic sport involvement. Phil recapped the discussion and clarified that WASUSA would like its clubs and members to identify their local Olympic Day event and offer to be a part of the program. Ralph suggested that an event be held at Adult Nationals that are being held in Chicago in June.
- b. **IWASF Executive Retreat:** A retreat for the IWASF Executive Board will take place in Russia.
- c. **USA Volleyball:** Paul connected with USA Volleyball to encourage participation of sit volleyball at WASUSA events. He hopes there will be an exhibition event at the 2012 NJDC. Debbie said a tentative schedule for the Games shows a sit volleyball exhibition on it. Debbie will talk to the organizers for 2013 so that next year it can be a scoring event at NJDC.
- d. **US Fencing:** Paul has also worked with US Fencing to include fencing within the WASUSA sport spectrum. There will be a demonstration of wheelchair fencing at the 2012 NJDC.

**5. Vice Chair's Report:** Denise Hutchins reported.

- a. **Policies and Procedures:** Denise has created a draft version of a confidentiality policy, a documentation destruction policy, and a policy on conflicts of interest. Ralph would like to back-up files online on a secure site. He will look into options. The BoD had a discussion about the draft of the deconstruction document. The group agreed that Denise should leave the document as is. **Paul motioned to approve the Documentation Destruction Policy. Phil 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.** This document will be posted online. The BoD discussed the confidentiality policy. It was agreed that consequences would be written out for a breach of this policy. Denise will work on this. Barb also suggested Denise look into the laws of New York where WASUSA is incorporated. Barb and Ralph will help Denise. This item along with the conflicts of interest policy is being tabled until the April meeting. Denise will also include a signature page when the documents are presented again. Phil asked if there is any policy for conflicts between WASUSA and outsiders. Barb said she believes there is a grievance policy in place. Phil wants to ensure this exists.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Mike Burns reported. Mike reported that WASUSA has paid the IWAS annual membership fee. Mike will send a financial report to the BoD within the next week.

**7. Office Report:** Ralph Armento reported.



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- a. **Sanctioning:** Since the last BoD meeting, Ralph has received sanctioning forms from the following meets: Dixie Games, GUMBO Meet (Acadiana), Tri-State Games, West Virginia Track & Field Championships, Buckeye PVA Games, Texas Regional Games, and Texas School Games.
- b. **Club Membership:** Ralph reported that there are now 28 clubs registered and paid. Ralph needs to order and obtain banners for these member clubs.
- c. **Insurance:** Ralph has processed a total of 35 COI requests since the last meeting. He has put the bid on hold until we get out of sports season.
- d. **Newsletter:** Ralph has enough material to put out another newsletter. The newsletter will include news about NJDC 2012, NJDC 2013, adult nationals, an updated event schedule, and an article on an adult athlete.
- e. **Rulebooks & Records:** Debbie is assisting Ralph with finalizing the rulebooks for Weightlifting and Archery. Some of the rulebook files have required a lot of tedious work on the part of Ralph as he's had to retype much of the rulebook due to program errors.
- f. **Membership:** Approximately 170 members are registered as of today. The data is being continually updated on the website. Active.com is fully in use and is working well. Ralph hasn't had many questions on procedures and he has been getting the receipts in a timely manner. From the receipt records, he can update the membership database. Phil has updated the website with the newest membership list. Phil asked if membership is doing as well this year as it did last year. Ralph checked and at this time last year there were 65 members registered.
- g. **Background Checks:** Ralph has connected with John Miller from the company that WASUSA uses for background checks. Together they updated the WASUSA site and he will be able to send out the paperwork to BoD in a few days.

**8. Committee Reports**

- a. **Junior Committee:** Debbie Armento reported.
  - i. **2012 NJDC:** Debbie reported that meetings with Lane have been very successful. Lane has finalized her schedule and there should not be major changes made to it from now until the Games. The save the date/information packet is also completed and should be sent out within the week. Debbie and Lane are working on the registration packet and will decide within the next couple of weeks if it will be fully paper or electronic and paper depending on how the participants want to register. Lane will give Debbie a list of the number of officials she can provide for and the number of local officials she has so that Debbie can begin planning. Debbie has spoken with Erin Popovich at USP to confirm the classifiers. Debbie asked Erin about classification of intellectually impaired athletes. Erin didn't have any answers for Debbie at the time and is looking into it.
  - ii. **2013 NJDC:** The Jr. Committee voted to approve Rochester, Minnesota as the site for the 2013 NJDC.
  - iii. **2014 NJDC:** The Jr. Committee voted to approve Aimes, Iowa as the site for the 2014 NJDC. The LOC there was excited with this news and has presented two date options for the Games: June 29-July 7 or July 6-14. The BoD agreed that July 6-14 would be the better option for multiple reasons.
- b. **STCs and NGBs:**
  - i. **STCs:** No reports given.
  - ii. **NGB's**
    - 1. **Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported.
      - a. **Rulebook:** The rulebook has been revised five times in 2012. Phil recommends anyone that has previously downloaded the rulebook go to [www.wasusa.org](http://www.wasusa.org) and re-download the latest copy to



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ensure everyone has the most up-to-date version. Most of the edits have been minor typos that were caught after the first version was published.

- b. USP Warrior Grant:** The community-based meets that were selected to receive money via the USP Warrior Grant are working on their individual contracts with USP.
- c. Officials:** Phil along with Jerry Clayton, Debbie Armento, and Tom Southall held a conference call with Cathy Sellers from USP to discuss the care and growth of track and field officials. This group will meet again at the end of March to further discuss the topic. The plan is to put a new program in place for the next four years. USAT&F is rolling out their new program and WTFUSA will attempt to mimic their new process. The major changes are in the amount of time an individual remains at Associate level and then National level and then the process from there to Master level. All existing levels will be grandfathered. WTFUSA will bring John Stevens in as the IPC trainer since he is the only trainer in the Americas at this time. Phil stated that each individual country is responsible for its training and certifying of officials. It is only when the country nominates someone that they can move up to an IPC international level.
- d. North Carolina Schools:** Phil said WTFUSA is working with N.C. to add standards for track and field for amputees. A middle-school aged athlete on Mike Burns' team is requesting help in establishing standards for amputees. He is a T/F42 athlete.

- b. RSOs:** The RSO's began a discussion at the NDA about aligning themselves with USP in terms of regional breakdown. The RSO's proposed to change from RSO's to Regional Point Organizations (RPO's). Paul Johnson, Cindy, Darlene, Tommy and others have worked on creating a presentation that displays the changes to take place. They have been sharing this information with the RSO's to get a feeling for how people feel about the proposal.

- c. Athlete Advisory:** No report given.

## **9. Old Business**

- a. Strategic Plan Committee Update:** No update given.

- b. Website:** Phil spoke with the individual that he thought would help with the website and discovered that in fact he is not willing to donate his time but rather it will cost the organization \$2000. Phil will review their proposal and make a recommendation. Darlene suggested we archive the website in case information is lost.

## **10. New Business**

- a. Amazing Leaders Conference:** Barb asked who is planning on attending this conference. Cindy will be the only one attending.

## **11. Next Meeting: April 17, 2012 – 7pm EST**