

**USA Jump Rope Board Meeting  
October 2-3, 2010**

Members in Attendance: Tim Rader, Tom LaVecchia, Rochelle Boggs, Todd Haidet, Cindy Bork, EJ Boillot, Paul Feciura, Janice Harrington, Bonnie Harrison, Mary Kinsey, and Lee Troxler.

Also in attendance: Marian Fletcher, Executive Director and John Fletcher, Operations Manager

Meeting called to order 8:24am CDT

Reading and approval of minutes from summer and special meetings:

June 27, 2010 meeting minutes – **Motion – Tom/Paul to pass as amended; passed 10-0**

Sept. 27, 2010 special meeting minutes – **motion Mary/Janice; passed 10-0**

**President's Report – Tim**

Board member removal – board response – develop talking points

Financial situation– secured a line of credit, Nationals overspending – Marian and Todd will discuss further

Accomplishments – Nationals, Camps, Worlds, PARSO;

Looking forward to productive year.

**Treasurer's Report – Todd**

Review of current cash situation

Overage with expenses for Nationals

Situation is not pleasant, but is not impossible

**Action Item:** Todd will work with office to develop a process and procedure to better manage and monitor expenses for Nationals.

**Executive Director's Report – Marian**

**New Business:**

**Review of Committees/Committee Structure** – Tim proposed changing Camp Committee to an Ad Hoc committee because their work is seasonal

**Motion – Mary/Paul**

To approve the following committees as Standing Committees: Competition Committee, Governance Committee, Nationals Planning Committee, and All-Star Committee. **Approved 10-0**

**Motion – Mary/Paul**

To approve the following committees as Ad-Hoc Committees: Camp Committee, Nominating Committee, and Scholarship Committees

**Approved 10-0**

**Pan-Am Update – EJ**

Pan-Am games will be in Calgary, Canada last week of July 2011, trying not to overlap with AAU Junior Olympics. Canada Nationals will be immediately prior to Pan-Am games. There is a grant that is helping to support the Pan-Am event and it will require a qualifying process for competitors. U.S. will

not hold a qualifying tournament for this event, but will allow any US competitor with documented scores of 75 or higher in single rope speed to qualify for this tournament. Coach would need to certify that jumper meets this requirement in order to participate. The U.S. will host the Pan-Am event in 2013.

### **Arnold Sports Festival status update – Rochelle**

The Arnold Sports Festival is March 4-6 in Columbus, OH. Rochelle and Marian had a very successful meeting with the event organizers. They would like us to hold an international type event sometime. The event organizers will donate space to USAJR during their 2011 event at no cost to USAJR. We just have to be there. We can sell merchandise and charge registration fees and be able to keep 100% of the profits. The space is limited, about 975 square feet x2, but is a good opportunity to gain exposure for our sport and our organization. If we are going to go forward with this, an itinerary and name for the event will need to be completed within two weeks. Event would include a performance(s) by the All-Stars, other activities to be discussed further.

### **Motion – Mary/Tom**

The Board will establish an Ad-Hoc Arnold Committee to work on the plans for this event.

### **Approved 10-0**

The members for this committee will be Rochelle as Chair, Janice, EJ, Paul, Tom, and Todd

### **Discussion on how to fill open board position – Tim**

While the responsibility to fill vacant board positions remains with the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee would like to hear from the full board on how to proceed in this matter. Possible ideas include: selecting candidate with the next highest votes in recent election; appoint based on a skill set that would be beneficial to the board and organization; consider filling with a prior board member; or leave position open until next election.

Members agreed that the position should be filled and felt that Executive Committee should look first to previous board members. Members with recommendations for candidates for this position should let Tim know this weekend, goal is to come up with 1-3 names for Tim and Executive Committee to choose from.

### **Committee Assignments Reviewed:**

Competition Committee: EJ as Chair, Janice, Cindy, and Paul

Governance Committee: Mary as Chair, Bonnie, Todd, Tom, Rochelle, Lee

Nationals Planning Committee: Janice and Bonnie as Co-Chairs, Mary, Todd, Cindy, Paul

All-Star Committee: Tom, EJ, Rochelle, and Lee

Scholarship Committee: Tom and Rochelle

Nominating Committee: to be determined at future meeting

Members met in Committees to discuss and develop their proposals for the Board to review.

### **Fair Treatment Coordinator Report – Bonnie**

One code of conduct complaint was received this year. Complaints that aren't disciplinary are brought to the Executive Committee, as well as those that involve the All-Stars and Saltare. Bonnie requested that any information containing her phone number also include the time zone where she resides so that people will be aware of potential time differences.

**Action item:** Marian will update relevant documents, including USAJR member code of conduct form.

## **Competition Committee Report – EJ**

The competition committee presented the following proposals to Board:

The competition committee proposes to change the Regional Alignments for the 2011-2012 jump rope season to:

- Region 3 - MN, IA, IL, WI, IN
- Region 11 – Michigan and OH
- Region 14 - Kentucky, TN, Missouri
- Region 6 – CO, NM, Nebraska, South Dakota, WY
- Region 12 – Montana, Utah, ND, ID
- Region 15 – Northern CA (from San Francisco North), OR
- Region 8 – Southern CA (from South of San Francisco – along county lines), NV, AZ
- Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 remain unchanged

Discussion: Committee feels this would help with promoting growth in CA and particularly with Nationals going to Long Beach, CA in 2012.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

Regional Bids accepted by the committee and board representatives:

- Region 1 – Cindy Bork – Kangaroo Kids -Saturday, April 9, 2011 – BOD - Paul Feciura
- Region 2 – No Bid yet – BOD – Cindy Bork (depending on date)
- Region 3 – Nikki Glover – Indy Air Bears, April 16, 2011- BOD – Rochelle Boggs
- Region 4 – Tim Rader – High Velocity, Saturday, April 9, 2011 – BOD – Marian Fletcher
- Region 5 – Jumpin’ Jammers – BOD- Tim Rader – depending on date
- Region 6 – Skip-It, April 16 -BOD –Tom La Vecchia
- Region 7 – Bainbridge – Saturday, April 23, 2011 –BOD –Amy or Dennis
- Region 8 – Foothill Force, March 26, 2011 –BOD –EJ Boillot
- Region 9 - Sitka, AL and HI Island – dates not yet submitted –BOD -NA
- Region 10 – Extreme Air, New Hampshire, Saturday, April 9 –BOD Janice H
- Region 11 –Jumpin Jaguars, April 16, 2011 – BOD – Todd Haidet
- Region 12 – Pro-Form Airborne – Eric Cornell, Saturday, March 19, 2011- BOD – Lee Troxler
- Region 13 – Supersonics – Saturday, March 26, 2011 – BOD – Tim Rader

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

Proposal to go to a minimum routine time of 60 seconds for all freestyle events, maximum time remains 75 seconds.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

***Business recommendation*** that the athlete and team registration deadline for the Regional Tournaments be changed from 3 weeks prior to tournament date to 4 weeks prior to tournament date. This will facilitate process for the Tournament Directors.

In the case of a re-jump due to inaccurate counting, the coach or coach of record may elect to have a re-jump. If they elect to re-jump the re-jump score becomes the official score for the athlete.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

The committee recommends that our uniform rule be modified to reflect the following: Gender differences are acceptable (sleeve length, collar style and short length). Group Team show competitors may coordinate their uniforms to allow for creativity. Exceptions can be made for religious preferences with prior notification to the tournament director.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

The committee recommends accepting the following procedure for scoring density as well as removing the bonus .4 for density.

The range for density scores will still be 0 – 2.0. A jumper's density score starts at a perfect 2.0 and then has deductions applied to it. Content judges should only be making density markings when they are not making markings for difficulty. As long as a jumper is completing skills, there is no need to be making density marks (with the only exception being skills used as transitional elements). Whenever a jumper is NOT completing skills, the content judge should be making density marks (again, the only exception is for skills that are used as transitional elements). Content judges that follow these guidelines will find that they are continuously making either difficulty or density marks throughout a routine. (see attached procedure for scoring this). [In preparation for a tumbling run, up to three steps (inclusive of the hurdle step) is considered part of the skill, 4 or more steps is considered a transition. Note taking must be written on the score sheet (this is for handbook update)]

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

Committee recommends the following changes to the Lone Star Classic for 2011:

- Remove 15-17 age group
- Athletes that finish 5<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> place qualify for Lone Star.
- Remove restrictions that we had last year on which events they could do if qualify in events for both Nationals and LSC, but they cannot compete in the same event in both tournaments.
- The committee recommends that the ED decide on a fee for those athletes that qualify for both.
- Add three minute speed to the current list of events.

**Approved: 10-0**

Committee recommends the following changes to qualifying for Grand Nationals:

- In MSRF and FSRF events, athletes qualifying to compete in Grand Nationals will be the gold medalists from the 10U, 11-12, 13-14, 15-17, 18-22, and 23-29 age divisions, remaining slots go to athletes with the next top 10 freestyle scores across age divisions; total of 16 would qualify for Grand Nationals.
- In the mixed/open SRPF, DDSF, and DDPF events, qualifying athletes will be the gold medalists from the 12U, 13-14, 15-17, and 18+ age divisions, with remaining slots to the next top 8 scores; total of 12 would qualify for Grand Nationals.
- In the female divisions, FSRPR, FDDSF, and FDDPF events, qualifying athletes will be the gold medalists in the 15-17 and 18+ age divisions, with remaining slots to the next top 8 scores; total of 10 would qualify for Grand Nationals.
- No change in qualifying in the speed events

These recommendations would add about 45-60 minutes to schedule of Grand Nationals.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

The committee recommends that at the regional level athletes (16 yrs of age and certified to judge) in single rope speed or athletes only in single rope freestyle can be utilized to judge team events in speed or a team freestyle that they are not competing in at the discretion of the tournament director.

**Approved 10-0**

Tumbling- A document on levels of difficulty for tumbling (inversion/displacement) will be added to the judging manual to use as a reference in relationship to tumbling skills. This is a manual update, vote of the board is not necessary.

#### **Governance Committee – Mary**

A new Background Check Policy was written to replace the current policy, this version reflects changes and clarification of this policy. Policy follows NCYS guidelines.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

Bylaw changes will be proposed by the committee, plan is to do so within next 30 days.

The committee wants to review the Membership Code of Conduct, to update language, possibly make more concise, and so on.

The committee is working on proposed changes to the Annual General Meeting.

The committee will develop a handbook to be provided to new Board members. This would be used to help new members get familiar with the processes and procedures of the board and be better prepared.

The committee proposed the establishment of a new group, a Jumper Advisory Board.

Purpose of this group is to provide an avenue for jumpers to share their ideas, voice concerns, and to possibly develop future leaders for our organization. An application form has been created, the positions would be one-year terms, jumpers would be responsible for their costs to attend meetings (by phone conference, at Nationals, etc), a Board member would be assigned to work with this advisory board.

Call to question. **Approved 10-0**

The committee recommends amending the role of the Regional Representatives, giving them a bigger role and a little more responsibility.

**Approved 10-0**

#### **Membership Response Overview – Bonnie and Lee**

Mike Simpson was suspended as a member of this board of directors, pending an appeal to the Board, during a special meeting on 9/27/10. In an email to the Executive Committee on 9/29/10, Mike declined to appeal the board's decision therefore he is officially removed as a member from this board.

Presentation of board response, draft of letter reviewed and discussed. No objections to the letter.

**Approved 10-0**

#### **Winter Meeting Dates – Tim**

Winter meeting scheduled for the weekend of Jan. 29, 2011. Meeting will be held in Huntsville, TX.

Possible Board Member Retreat - Visit to Long Beach, CA will be needed ahead of Nationals moving there in 2012. The CVB in Long Beach wants the board members to come and will provide housing and meals, members will have to cover their own transportation expenses. Marian will explore further.

### **Proposed Fee Changes as requested in Executive Director's report**

Proposed membership fee changes:

Youth from \$30 to \$35

Adult from \$35 to \$40

Change name of Club membership to Recreational Membership and this fee from \$15 to \$20

Coach membership fee remains the same at \$45.

Eliminate the current Family Membership as a membership structure and create a family membership discount. Propose that family of 3 would get \$10 off their total price; family of 4 or more would get \$20 off their total price. The discount off the total price would also apply when a coach membership is purchased in the same family household.

Fee changes would become effective Jan. 1, 2011

#### **Motion: Mary/Todd**

To approve the proposed fee structure listed above. **Approved 9-0**

Propose changing the Regional Tournament athlete entry fee from \$40 to \$50, and impose late registration fee of \$10 per athlete.

#### **Motion: Mary/Paul**

Call to question. **Approved 8-1**

Discussion that \$10 late fee may be too low; maybe it should be double the registration fee.

#### **Motion: Rochelle/Tom**

Raise late fee to \$20

Call to question. Votes: 2 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstained. **Not Approved**

**Business Recommendation** from Committee to eliminate the physical mailing of the newsletter. Newsletter will be made available electronically. Copies of newsletters will be available for download from the website and available from the office upon request.

### **National Planning Committee Report – Janice**

Janice reviewed the NPC work plan, first conference scheduled for 11/11/10 at 9pm EST

- Committee will seek input from Regional Tournament Directors to help identify possible announcers to use at Nationals.
- Consider offering one-day exhibitor fees to make it easier for some vendors to participate.
- Marian is working on potential sponsors, Kodak, and one that Bob is working on to cover TV production costs.
- Recommend keeping same amount of Sport Court in the practice space.
- Lighting will need to be an all inclusive contract
- Refine system for technical volunteers, reduce staging lines
- Will need to order 15 year pins this year

- May use Fine Designs for on-site apparel vendor
- Will conduct survey about athlete party at the waterpark or party at convention center; considering party/dance at convention center as possible cost savings option.

Comments about need for proofing of the Nationals Program – Committee will be more involved this year reviewing program

Suggestion to create a wishlist for items that organization needs/wants that people could donate; possible items could be speed scoring displays, headsets, walkie-talkies, etc....

John asked if there were comments about the seating; consensus was that there was enough seating and liked having seating section on the opposite side.

#### **All-Star Committee – Tom**

- Committee is considering changes to the All-Star selection process for the future.
- Comment that All-Stars should be based on a body of work, not necessarily just a one-day tryout

#### **Scholarship Committee – Tom**

- Still looking for a foundation to administer the fund
- Ad-Hoc committee expires today, would like to extend committee

Executive Committee approved extending the Ad-Hoc Scholarship to Jan. 2011; approved 5-0

#### **Arnold Ad-Hoc Committee – Rochelle**

The estimate to bring the full All-Star team to the event at the Arnold is about \$10,000. Space is limited. Suggest doing performances on the main stage. Further details still to be worked out.

#### **Schedule phone conference times – Tim**

- Third Tuesdays of the month, 9pm EST;
- first informational call scheduled for 10/19/10 at 9pm EST.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Paul/Tom; approved 9-0

Meeting adjourned 12:30pm CDT