



**Board of Directors ZOOM Call
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 7 p.m. (Ontario)**

MINUTES

Present:

Scott Neiles, President

Directors:

Andrea Wolf
Scott Searle
Robb Andison

Ryan DeBelser
Brooks Penrod

Jackie Dugger
Bob Stanton

Staff:

Mike Branchaud, CEO Mgr.

Hugh Mitchener, Past CEO

Donna Ozarko, Mgr. – Officials/Publications

Gilles LeBlanc, Mgr. – Marketing & Communications

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

President Neiles opened the meeting at 7pm and thanked all for taking the time to join. He acknowledged that the call originated from the Softball Canada office on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. Neiles congratulated Branchaud as new CEO, Mitchener on his retirement and John Stewart and Branchaud on the MNT on an outstanding job.

2. Acceptance of the February 25, 2022 Board Minutes

Motion #1 - To approve the February 25, 2022 Board Minutes

Penrod/Andison CARRIED

3. Men's National Teams

3.1 Americas Championship, Argentina – Review

Overall everything went well with the team winning a silver medal (4-1 against Argentina). Great atmosphere at championship although communication and travel to the site was difficult. It was reported the pitching was outstanding, but



the hitting was mediocre.

3.2 U-23 Americas Championship

Has been awarded to Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela in mid-July. Currently the Government of Canada has their highest-level travel advisory out for Venezuela recommending “avoiding all travel due to the significant level of violent crime, the unstable political and economic situations and the decline in basic living conditions, including shortages of medication, gasoline and water.” WBSC Americas has advised that all teams will be accompanied by armed guards. It was noted that we have travelled to locations where this was in place in the past (Colombia, Guatemala, and Venezuela), but we have never travelled when an avoid all travel warning has been in place. WBSC Americas requires confirmation of participation by May 15. Branchaud spoke with Velazquez (WBSC Softball Chair/WBSC Americas President) in Argentina and advised him that it could be difficult for us to travel with this warning in place. Velazquez and Board member Soto (Venezuela) feel that the warnings are overblown, and the event can be safely run. Branchaud discussed the possibility of us not attending and getting the wild card entry that is available for these Worlds. Velazquez was understanding of the situation, but there is still no guarantee of us getting the wild card if we do not attend the qualifier. The U.S. is also unlikely to attend.

A Board vote was made, and decision was to not send a team.

Motion #2 - To decline the opportunity to send the team and umpire(s) to this event (noting Searle abstained, Penrod left meeting early)

DeBelser/Andison CARRIED

3.3 U-18 Americas Championship

The event was originally scheduled in August, is now up in the air. If it happens it will be in September, or later. Currently there is no host. There is also a possibility that it will not happen and the top 4 teams from the 2019 Americas Championship (we won the Gold) will be sent to the 2023 Worlds (no host/date for that event yet).

Motion #3 - To go in camera

DeBelser/Dugger CARRIED

Note – several items and approvals were discussed in camera.

Motion #8 - To go out of camera

DeBelser/Dugger CARRIED



8. Transgender and Non-binary Inclusion Policy

A draft Transgender and Non-binary Inclusion Policy was presented and reviewed. The policy is to replace the current Trans Inclusion Policy. It was prepared by Inclusion Incorporated and reviewed by Steve Indig. Also noted that it will be a temporary policy for 2022, will be discussed at the Canadian Championship Supervisor call (or link to the website) and potentially at the AGM. The draft policy will also be reviewed by the DEI committee for feedback and Board will vote on following this.

9. 2022-23 Budget

The budget was reviewed noting it is still a work in progress which has been a complicated process over the past 2-years during the pandemic. Still working on the March 31 year end for Own the Podium and Sport Canada as we need to pull from April/May to meet minimum spending requirements. It is projected a \$135,674 deficit. The 20-21 audited statements had a surplus of \$142,000. It is projected to have a surplus in 2022 with a potential deficit in 2023 of about \$135K depending on what happens with the U23 program. Overall, positive surplus over the past 3 fiscal years given the pandemic situation.

Motion # 9 - approve the Budget Review

Dugger/Andison CARRIED

10. Next meeting

TBD or in-person September 30 - Oct 1

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Motion #10 - to adjourn

Searle/Wolf CARRIED

