



USA Climbing: Board of Directors Meeting – 03/010/20 (via teleconference)

Board Members in Attendance:

Patti Rube, President
Bruce Mitchell, Vice President
Avery Cook
Kyra Condie
Brett Rogers

Kate Felsen Di Pietro
Dustin Skinner
Jesse Grupper
Joel Litvin
Matt Roberts

USA Climbing Staff and Others in Attendance:

Marc Norman, Chief Executive Officer
John Muse, VP of Sport
Kelly Feilke, VP of Marketing, Communication, & Development
Charles Lamb, Chair of Nominating and Governance Committee (“NGC”)

The meeting commenced at 6:00 P.M. MTN. Mr. Norman acted as Secretary for the meeting. Ms. Rube presided.

- I. Call To Order
 - a) Ms. Rube and Mr. Norman described the purpose of the meeting, which was to assess recently passed federal legislation designed to help small businesses and non-profit organizations through the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- II. Payment Protection Program (PPP)
 - a) Mr. Norman reported with regard to Payment Protection Program and to official sources he had consulted. These included regular contact with health officials in the state of Utah, as well as with the health department in Kings County, Washington, where an early outbreak had occurred, and with an infectious disease specialist at the University of Utah medical center.
 - b) *Open Sport & Speed National Championship* (scheduled for March 12-13, 2020 in Salt Lake City, UT):
 - i) Mr. Norman described the special precautions and restrictions he intended to implement if the competition were to be held as scheduled, including enhanced procedures for rope handling in lead climbing, hand sanitizing, and social distancing. Mr. Norman noted that the event host facility is a brand new gym never before open to the public, but he

acknowledged that the competitors, coaches, and volunteer officials would be arriving at the venue by air from other parts of the country and even from overseas including from areas where the virus is spreading rapidly in the community and would be arriving through an international airport in Salt Lake City.

- ii) After discussion, the Board voted to announce the postponement of the Open Sport & Speed National Championship to a later date. The Board urged USA Climbing staff to endeavor to reschedule the event as soon as practicable and as best aligned with the international event calendar.
- c) *Rules Change for the Current Youth Sport Season*
- i) Mr. Norman reported regarding the Youth Sport Climbing Local season currently underway across the country. He reminded the Board that current Rules require that competitors seeking to register for the Youth Sport Regional Championship (scheduled for May 2020) are required to participate in at least one Local competition and to meet a placement requirement.
 - ii) The Board discussed the participation and placement requirements in the context of the special circumstances of the accelerating spread of the Coronavirus. The Board expressed concern that these special circumstances warranted a temporary rule change for the Sport season to eliminate incentives to compete while sick with an infectious virus.
 - iii) After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to make a temporary rule change that, effective immediately, USA Climbing will not require youth local participation for qualification to the upcoming Youth Sport Regional Championships scheduled for May 2020. The remainder of the current Youth season will remain under review, with the intention to make additional assessments and determinations shortly.
 - iv) A discussion ensued regarding possible other changes to the Local season.
- d) *Paraclimbing National Championship* (scheduled for March 28-29, 2020 in San Diego, CA):
- i) Mr. Norman described the special precautions and restrictions he intended to implement if the competition were to be held as scheduled. Those under consideration included enhanced measures for hand sanitizing and social distancing. Mr. Norman acknowledged that the competitors, coaches, and volunteer officials would be arriving at the venue by air from other parts of the country and even from overseas including from areas where the virus is spreading rapidly in the community.
 - ii) After discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of a postponement of the Paraclimbing National Championship to a later date. The Board directed Mr. Norman and his staff to communicate with the Paraclimbing Committee and the host facility before making a final determination. The Board urged USA Climbing staff to endeavor

- to reschedule the event as soon as practicable and as best aligned with the international Paraclimbing event calendar.
- e) *Collegiate Regional Championships* (scheduled at 14 facilities around the country on the weekend of March 28-29, 2020):
 - i) Mr. Norman described the special precautions and restrictions he intended to implement at each location if the competitions were to be held as scheduled, including format changes and enhanced procedures for hand sanitizing and social distancing.
 - ii) Mr. Norman acknowledged that many colleges and universities around the country have started to announce school closures for the remainder of the spring semester or are transitioning to online learning with limits on gathering size.
 - iii) After discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of cancellation of all Collegiate Regional Championships. The Board directed Mr. Norman and his staff to communicate with the Collegiate Committee and each host facility before making a final determination. The Board urged USA Climbing staff to work with the Rules Committee and the Collegiate Committee to determine appropriate format modifications, competition rules changes, and qualification requirements for the Collegiate National Championships on the assumption that the Collegiate National Championships will be held either as scheduled in April 2020 or on a postponed basis as needed.
 - f) The Board thanked Mr. Norman and Mr. Muse for their hard work in making every attempt possible to move forward with these events as originally scheduled, and for their anticipated additional efforts in rescheduling events when necessary, communicating effectively with applicable stakeholders, and managing the impact to USA Climbing and its members to the extent possible.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm MTN.