



SOPAC Board Meeting Agenda January 13, 2015

Lazy Dog Café, Orange CA, 7:15 pm

1. Welcome to Members (new and continuing) - Palle

All members were welcome and introduced. Both old and new board members were present given election information. In attendance: Jennifer Aronson, Nick Baba, Kristine Palle, Haz Ortega, John Kulisich, Bahram Hojreh, Steve Redding, Mark Cousineau, Casey Greenawalt. Meeting called to order at 7:24pm.

2. Constitution and Bylaws (distribution to new members) – Palle

Physical copy of the “Zone Policies and Procedures” were given to Jenn Aronson and Bahram Hojreh (brand new members to the zone board). Copies will be directly sent electronically to all members on 1/14/15 (Palle to send).

3. Distribute/Review Minutes from SOPAC Annual Meeting – Palle
 - a. Post Agenda to website
 - b. Post Minutes to website

A motion and second was made to amend the minutes of the annual meeting to include an inventory of members in attendance to be compiled via the voting log. Amended minutes will be sent to Kat M. for posting to the SOPAC website.

4. Review of the 2015 Annual Plan/Priorities of the Zone – Palle
 - a. Dialing in the hosting policy, working with major clubs (need volunteer to head)

The zone solicited the membership for input regarding the hosting policy authored in 2014. Steve will approach the four clubs to solicit a liaison to head the committee to work with in fine tuning the hosting policy. USAWP may be willing to help subsidize impacted weekends...Nick to inquire with USAWP.

- b. Better communication with the zone in calendaring/deadlines

Deadlines will be calendared on the zone website to help communication. We will solicit the clubs within the zone for additional contact information to directly send information to regarding major announcements.

- c. Regionalizing of developmental leagues in other areas

Developmental leagues to be started in Inland, and North O.C. This effort will be subsidized by the zone. Each club will be given a stipend AFTER successful participation and completion in the league (clubs must front the expenses; tournament fee). Expenses the club host incurs must be transparent to the zone. Organizers of the league will be compensated with a nominal fee. All snack bar and vendor proceeds will benefit the host clubs. Nick will contact Chad to share his information. Thereafter, we will approach the clubs that have expressed interest to host (CHAWP and Inter), to establish the costs, subsidies and teams involved.

- d. Elimination of “play-in” necessity for JO quals. Creating a schedule to accommodate more than 30 teams so all groups get to compete in a full qualification tournament

Contact Mike Sattler to assess progress of “over 30 team” (over 31-35 team) bracket tournament creation.

5. USAWP Assembly and Referee School (1/16-1/17, Los Angeles)
 - a. Steve Redding
 - b. Nick Baba
 - c. Haz Ortega
 - d. De La Jara
 - e. Manderino

Steve, Nick (zone chair designee for that purpose), Jocelyn Manderino, Jose De La Jara and Haz (delegates) will attend the USAWP Assembly and Referee School (LA- 1/16-1/17). Most of the action items are bylaw changes via USAWP policy. All “game rule” changes are mandated by the National office.

6. Review of Tie Break Policy – Redding

Item removed from agenda

7. Upcoming Events/Calendar Dates – Greenawalt
 - a. Add deadlines to calendar
 - b. Add zone meetings to calendar

Greenawalt will send deadlines to Kat M. to add to the calendar (ACT, SAT etc.)

8. Review Job Descriptions – Cousineau
 - a. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, At-Large x3, Ref. Rep, (Treasurer; non-voting member)

In the annual plan, job descriptions have been detailed. The goal is to institutionalize those descriptions so that when transition in leadership occurs, the descriptions clearly detail and cater to each board position. As responsibilities are added and need occurs, the descriptions can be amended.

- b. Addition of one additional voting member – Redding

Item removed from agenda until after the new election takes place.

9. Assign Board Job Responsibilities – **ON HOLD PER USAWP**
 - a. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, At-Large, At Large, At-Large (Treasurer; non-voting member)

(See “Appendix A” below containing dates received from USAWP regarding election time frames)

b. Update terms, job descriptions on website – Kat M.

Item removed from agenda until after the new election takes place.

10. Determine next meeting date/time/location or conference call?

Tuesday February 3rd, 7:30pm; Lazy Dog in Orange

11. Other Items?

Zone Board Member Individual Goals and Focuses for the Year:

Greenawalt: establishing some master's "round robin" opportunities to play. Subsidizing new member costs...find a way to do this.

Palle: Leadership, character and water polo development...establishing a program to bring to clubs. Create better lines of direct communication with the zone head coaches and administrators through direct email notifications.

Baba: Continue to avoid conflicts of interest and reach out to all areas eliminating perception of favoritism.

Aronson: Find a way to decrease animosity of zone members. There is competition within the zone, which is great for the sport, but realizing our common goals is key to promoting water polo.

Cousineau: Improve the efficiency of zone board. Creating more communication to avoid controversy. Creating more opportunity for masters play and more educational opportunities for adults/parents to promote understanding of the game.

Redding: Standardize referee development and grow registered referees by 25%. Recruiting will be a major focus of the new year.

Bahram: Facilitate "opens" and "masters" play. Figure out a way to develop the "middle of the road" players. Assist in the developmental leagues to create learning opportunity for the rookie coach, referee and player fostering developmental opportunities for all stakeholders. Find a way to make sure kids are having fun and coming back to play even when they don't win (i.e.: Olympian on site to sign autographs for athletes participating in the developmental leagues; zone can give a stipend to said celebrity guest).

Kulisich: Increasing referee involvement and recruitment. Improve training, mentoring and support to better serve the referees of the zone.

Haz: Bridge the gap between coaches and referees through communication. Working together and sharing the educational process with coaches will help them better understand the training and directives but also involve coaches in the training process.

12. Adjournment: 10:05pm