

Tuesday, October 17, 2006 Board Conference Call  
9PM to 10PM EST  
USSRA Governance Review Task Force session

The Governance Review Task Force hosted the second of three conference calls seeking input from the board on important issues relevant to formulating changes to USSRA governance.

Present on the call from the Board were Dudley Stephens, Ken Stillman, Steve Bieneman, Sheldon Anderson, Jack Wyant, Marty Clark, Jeannie Blasberg, Carey Anderson (Task force member), Richard Chin, Betsy Sechrest, Bob Burton, Peter Lasusa (Task force Chair), Demer Holleran, Libby Welch. Kevin Klipstein and Phil Brandes were on the call by invitation.

Mr. Lasusa opened the call indicating the feedback gathering nature of the calls and outlined several concepts contained in the most recent USOC governance “best practices” recommendations in the area of volunteer committee structure, which was the topic of the call. The concepts he introduced included: (i) the number of standing committees is generally finite and their mandates relate to overall Board level “governance umbrella” responsibilities including: audit, compensation, nominations, governance, ethics/conflict of interest/dispute resolution; (ii) the size of the organization is a pertinent factor in determining the number and size of committees; (iii) non-standing committees tend to focus on organization operating issues and can be formed at the behest of, and report to, the executive leadership of the organization, or when appropriate, the Board, and (iv) the goal of a governance best practices review process should be a committee structure that is adaptable and accountable to the changing needs of the organization. It was also pointed out that one of the over arching goals of the current Executive Committee is to support the CEO in building deeper operational capability within the paid staff leaving the volunteer board members and committee participants free to focus on the “big picture” issues of strategy and fund raising and includes the key role of acting as important conduits for communicating what the membership expects from their association at all levels and in all of its activities.

Kevin Klipstein was asked to outline the current committees per the bylaws and describe generally which ones were active. Kevin described the overall need for a dynamic structure, one that could adapt to the changing needs of an evolving organization and sport.

Bob Burton asked how the committee structure interrelates to the concept of a smaller, governing focused board and the discussion considered both issues extensively. The discussion touched on the potential reporting structure of committees, whether to the board or to the CEO, on whether chairs should be members of the board or not, and the connection to the expectation for board members to make significant donations to the association.

Consideration on how to engage the broader squash community was discussed, as well as whether the board may become too exclusive with concerns about potentially losing people more active in the squash community. It was brought up for consideration that most committees and task forces would report to the CEO, with the board providing oversight, and with standing committees reporting directly to the board.

After extensive debate, there appeared to be general consensus that a smaller board, able to contribute significantly to the association would work well with an actively managed, flexible committee structure that reported to the executive level, keeping the work of the association close to the grassroots and volunteer base.

The last call date of Tuesday, November 14, was mentioned and will cover the Nominations Process and Transition Steps.

The call concluded at approximately 9:55PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kevin Klipstein  
Secretary for the meeting.