USA Racquetball Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2009
Downtown Hyatt Regency, Houston, TX

Note: Items in bolded red are action items (see recap on page 16); items in bolded black are motions/board decisions

Agenda Item	Who	Comments
8:00 a.m. Roll Call **Turn off Cell Phones** **Jay will act as timekeeper**	Tom Curran	Present: Ray Cordero, Tom Curran, Lance Gilliam, Mike Guidry, Jim Hiser, Jack Huczek, Merijean Kelley, Cheryl Kirk, Jay Mathis, Dave Negrete, Geoff Peters, Ed Remen, Frank Taddonio Absent: Kim Russell-Waselenchuk (unexcused absence) Guest: Jeff Elder Proxies: Kim Russell-Waselenchuk to Mike Guidry
8:15 a.m. Approve minutes from 11/20, 3/4 and 4/28 Board calls; Executive Committee call 5/6	Tom Curran	**Motion to accept – Ray** **Second – Lance** **Vote – Unanimously approved** **Action Items – Signed and dated Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest statements to be turned into Tom**
8:30 a.m. Executive Director Report	Jim Hiser	Report to discuss major concerns relative to our sport. Divided the presentation into three sections (Good News, Half Full or Half Empty, Sport is Fragmented) Good News: Racquetball participation up 18.1%. Larger than any other racquet sport (Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association- SGMA) Jim and Leo will conduct a media blitz citing this survey information. R'ball is one of our four sports to grow since 2000 (Tennis 1st, R'ball 2nd). Perception is racquetball is dying and as a result, courts continue to be

decreased. This information must be publicized (SGMA).

Geoff: Sales numbers from manufacturers are down, so this is contrary to the stats. We should view the promotional materials Tennis is producing and use the concepts for racquetball.

First Licensing agreement:
Licensing court construction materials is our first entry into this. Get an approval to get USAR-approved courts. $4,000 fee.

The year 2008-09 has been successful despite the economy and the controversy surrounding the membership increase.

Tournament entries are steady or up a bit, but positive considering the economy. Folks are waiting until the last minute which causes issues for tournament directors.

Dave: All IRT stops were up.

Sanctioned events are up from last year, even though we have membership increase and poor economy to contend with. .

HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY

Moving National Singles and US Open venues. US Open will be moving out of Memphis.

Houston is set for next year (2010) but then we'll need to move to another venue.

Moving to a new location could be very positive. MN has clubs; Lifetime Fitness is working with us. Could move one there.

Spectrum Club in Canoga Park, CA is another site possibility.

Frank: How many courts do we need?
Jim: 17 to 18 courts. US Open uses 21 courts.

When you look across the US, it's currently hard to find more than two venues that meet our needs.

JOGO (Reno, NV; Joe Garcia) could work if the facility is built and successful.

Ball Situation is critical:
We need to make decisions here. If we lose the contract with a present value of $65,000, we will have to cut staff.
National Ball Contract – $65,000
Approved Ball Status – $2,500

All the sponsors are here and paid. E-Force is not here because they owe the USAR past charges. This is expected to be settled this week.

Sponsorship money is more than last year. We put lots of items in the package to make it attractive.

Ball contract will give monetary support back to the states via the National contract.

States asked for a letter from the USAR. Jim sent it in early May.

12-31-10 is the end of the National contract.

States need assistance with their processes and structures. Many states do not have elections. Don't have confidentially or conflict of interest documents signed. Do not have regular meetings.

Leadership Conference Dates – September 17-20, 2009 – in Colorado Springs at the USOTC.

States see the rebate from a different mindset, that they "give" the rebate ($35.00) to USAR.

Membership is 60% (sign up online via our website) and 40% from

		tournaments. The existence of sanctioned events is what drives memberships. Conference agenda has to address issues for the states. Teach them how to run their states. E.g., Alaska and Hawaii do not currently have state associations. There are others, plus one thinking about separating. Geoff: We need to ask the manufacturers for help with this issue. Tournaments are sponsored by the manufacturers in states that typically do not sanction events. How do we get them to support this? Cheryl: Relative to attendance at the Leadership Conference, should we divide the states amongst our Board members and call to ask them to support the conference? Do we need a 'task force'? SPORT IS FRAGMENTED: We have to operate on the same level. Have organizations represented on the board. E.g., WPRO and AmPro are not connected to the USAR. Relative to our role, should USAR optimally function as an Umbrella or as a Sanctioning Body? If USAR is going to 'lead' the sport, then we have to have the leaders of those organizations on the Board. Task Force from the Board and Staff formed to work on the Leadership Conference: Members: Merijean, Ray, Geoff, Cheryl, Jim and Terri Morse. Lance: How much contact do we have with Manufacturers? Jim: Head, ProKennex, Gearbox, Ektelon, Wilson (E-Force contact is minimal). Racquetball Manufacturers Association (RMA) has disbanded. Geoff: Invite the manufacturers to receive a briefing during the Conference related to the industry.

		How do we get the manufacturers' sponsored players to support our sanctioned events? Lance: Can we get tournament directors to allow 'demos' from any/all manufacturers during an event?
9:20 a.m. Financial Report – Budget Summary 2007	Lance Gilliam Jim Hiser	Financial Statements are not completed for this year. Will be 30 days from now for the statements to be completed and tax forms prepared. Jim's review: The National Singles banquet is expensive but the ROI justifies the cost. Folks being honored look forward to the recognition at the event. USAR Visa Card: needs to be publicized. Geoff: put a Visa application on our website. USOC – Media and Advertise Grant – Annual revenue. There are management issues with the USOC. Executive Director was fired and replaced (interim) with a Board member. No money is available for athlete development. Racquetball had the best record and lost their funding based on issues with management (Peter Ueberroth). Operational Gold Money is now on the chopping block. Jim is meeting with them next week regarding this issue. Geoff: Where is the National Ball Contract dollars shown in the budget? Jim: It is parceled out in each of the Events pages. Geoff: We need to have more transparency; should show contracts in sponsorship, marketing. **Membership fees for 2 and 3 year memberships are held in a 'bucket' as a part of the total membership funds collected.**

		Geoff: as a Board we should know how much is available. Jim will get that information. Lance: How well are we doing with States earning their rebates? Jim: Most States have no idea how much they have received/will be receiving in rebates. No one tracks it.
9:45 BREAK		
10:00 – US Team Report	Mike Guidry Jim Hiser	Report Items: Adult – Pan Am / Head Coach position / upcoming events Junior Worlds World Games Mike: Dave Ellis resigned as coach in February citing conflict of interest. Officially we want to thank Dave for all his efforts for the U.S. Team. Junior Team Overview: U.S. Junior Team won Junior Worlds in Tempe (December) – defeated Mexico. Adult Team won overall title by 1 point at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in Cali, Colombia. No one has applied to be Head Coach of the Adult team to date. Mike: Would accept the position on an interim basis. MOTION: Frank: Mike to hold the position as interim coach until a replacement is found. 2nd - Geoff Vote: Motion passed unanimous except for one abstention. Mike abstained. Cheryl… Mike was thanked for his leadership of the team in Colombia. WORLD GAMES – Chinese Taipei in July….

Taking 4 singles players… Jack Huczek, Rocky Carson, Rhonda Rajsich, Cheryl Gudinas

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS –
Potential expense of $25K…. is this the best use of our funds?

Korea Event is Operation Gold requirement… Pan Am 2010 has to support since it is qualifier. This means we could end up required to pay expenses for two events in 2010 rather than one.

USOC pays for our expense for the Pan Am Games?
Jim: Talk at the USOC is that they will not fund the Pan Am Games.

Dave: Potential conflict with IRT event in April as well.

Lance: Fundraising for these events needs to start now.

Mike will send out requests to states (TX committed $1,000).

Pam Am Games have 40 different sports.
Pan Am Racquetball Championships take place in March or April (racquetball only). Next year it is important we participate since it is a qualifier for the Pan Am Games.

PARC Tournament is a 9-day event. In Colombia, Mike recommended that it be shortened; and tied it to the goal of making it representative of a regular tournament. Asked whether the goal is participation or an elite level event. Their response was "both." This is what prompted the debate and subsequent argument about changing the draw.

According to Osvaldo Maggi, PARC really doesn't care if the U.S. and Canada do not attend.

Jim: (PARC Meeting – Official USA Response)

Part of the cause of the issue is their view of Luke and his involvement. This has now turned to personal attacks. We should not allow this to go

		unanswered. There was a public apology issued, but not all countries were present. Mike recommends that the letter has to come from the entire board to make the point of our disapproval of the actions of PARC. Action Item: Cheryl will draft a letter and distribute to the board for review and approval. Submitted by June 15, 2009. Needs to be 'diplomatic' but not 'nice.' Needs to go to IRF as well and requests a written public apology. JUNIOR TEAM: Jim: We need to take a position that we are only responsible for those competing in 18-, 16- and 14-. These are the official team – World Cup. Others are not 'officially' representing the US and their results are not applied to the final results. Motion: (Mike) that USAR Board endorses the 'Junior World Cup' Team's participation in the 2009 Junior World Championships. Frank 2nd Lance abstain Motion Passed
11:00 am – Marketing Report	Geoff Peters	Demographic Report No cost… valid report. First report in 10 years. Results were discussed during a meeting of the Marketing Task Force. Goal to find out how best to use the information to market the sport. How do we attract and market to the 3-5 million recreational players (those who play at least once a month). How do we get the contact information / email / for all these players. (500k to 1 million).

		Jack…. Have to get around the negative connotation of the sport. Our relationship with Lifetime and other club chains that are building courts. Have our players help build the programs that will increase court usage where they are investing in our sport. Geoff: We need to use promotional materials at our 'public' events that explain and promote our sport. He showed an example of an Ektelon booklet (Play with Fire). Cheryl has created informational materials to help build visibility, knowledge and awareness. These focus on the 'recreational' player as well as those seeing the sport for the first time. Lifetime Fitness will be using League Program software (via Usher Barnoff) and all Lifetime leagues will be sanctioned. Membership will be a reduced cost 'recreational' membership. We will also provide1,200 magazines for distribution at Lifetime events. Action Item: Jack and Jim will create a marketing plan using the examples that Jim has from a number of companies (Starbucks, McDonald's). All manufacturers received copies of the demographic report. The intent was to help build trust and support between them and the USAR and also help them to market to the clubs. Discussion to name November as "National Racquetball Month." Limited event membership is lowered to $10.00. Let the states show us that this action will increase tournament participation. Motion: Marketing Committee Identify the month of November as "National Racquetball Month' and during November lower the USAR event membership to $10.00. Dave: The club member is interested in getting the 'morning' player to play in an event to fill the tournament bracket. These folks have no interest in USAR or being a member. All they want to do is play with their regular

		morning friends. Jim: Folks don't know what we do…. There is 'value' in having a governing body. But we need to market what that value is.
12:00 Lunch		On your own
1:00 Technology Update	Jim Hiser Cheryl Kirk Geoff Peters	Website: Twitter partners (300) now on the site. Slide shows on the home page from last year's event. Video on last year Doubles. Monthly survey Updated content to front page weekly. Let Leo know how much you enjoy the site. R2 Tournament Program Update: Pictures of events are integrated into the system. Leo explained that "Photo bucket' allows downloading the pictures and showing them on the site. Can use e-checks and AMEX to enter (not for National events) Receipt Print feature. Ryan does not charge for many of the changes he makes. Fees for online services were explained by Jim at Geoff's request. Lance: Recommendation to Tech Committee: Allow all TD's directors to have their own merchant account as an option on R2. This will allow a fee of $1.00 per player; Lance recommends a $1.50 fee with .50 donated to the USAR.

		Cheryl informed the Board that the ExCom voted on accepting the r2 membership contract proposal the week prior to this meeting. Tom made the motion to accept the proposal Lance 2nd – Vote was 3 yes, one no. New Board will consider the committee structure and find a replacement for Sal.
1:30 State Survey; State Ball Discussion	Jim Hiser	State organizations are not 'organized' in that some have no constitution, by-laws, finances, etc. Some states have failed to fill out the survey and rebates are being withheld until they return the survey. Board needs to detail the differences between Requirements vs. Autonomy – in regard to participation from the states. Lance: State should show activity in establishing Junior, HS or College programs… grassroots programs to grow the sport before the rebate is provided. Some states are not 501(c)(3) and would not be eligible to receive funds of any kind. Tournament results within two weeks will withhold rebates based on a percentage system. Action Item: All of these recommendations need to be presented to the state representatives at the Leadership Conference. Detail this in the correspondence to the states to get their support and attend the Conference. Jim: we should be taking the responsibility to help the state organizations become 501(c)(3).

		Reporting requirement is revenue over $25,000. State can be a state level charity, but must submit for 501(c)(3) designation. Staff is putting together the 'State Manual'. Please give them your thanks.
1:45 -	Tom Curran	**Legislative: Updates for Constitution** Secretary will maintain and update the Constitution as needed. **Officer Terms and New Elections** Nothing specific in the constitution. Action Item: Tom will provide content to detail this issue for board approval. **Appointed Positions Timeline (how long until it must be filled)** Recommendation: no more than 60 days from the time of the vacancy. **Governance Manual** Policy manual and Constitution (aka by-laws) have to agree. **Copies of all USAR Documents to Secretary** **Amateur Sports Organization Board Position – Military Representative**
2:00 – US Open Update	Doug Ganim, Event Director, US Open	2008 turned out ok, but 2009 is looking dark. Due to the economic downturn there were no takes for sponsorship. No industry is booming. Details/Challenges for 2009: Seeing the effect now of sponsorship that have to be sold a year in advance. Doug had cut contract prices 50% with sponsors who were going to cancel their contracts. We will not televise in October due to loss of sponsorship. Prize money will remain the same; cuts in hospitality

		No entry form printed…just .pdf. Most are online entries. Memphis is tentative. University of Memphis is taking out three courts that may be gone before the event. WellWorx Sportsplex is not doing well. Racquet Club is having problems and not sure what the status of the club will be. Between these three venue issues, the event will have to move in 2010 and we are looking at venues (cities). Canton, OH possible. Meeting with Governor of Ohio to tap tourist budget. Area is hit really hard by economy. Minnesota…. Lifetime Fitness has 22 courts in two clubs. Good for sponsorships. Target center – downtown Minneapolis and 10 minutes away from another club with total 20 courts. Weather is great at that time (October). Las Vegas – very spread out, but is interested and has some money for racquet sports. Draw would be great. Trying to avoid colleges due to restrictions sometimes too numerous to overcome. Reno – since the business plan has changed, they have all but 20% of the funding to break ground (scheduled for October). Financial institutions are looking for letters of intent. Negotiate the fee with letter of intent. US Open is a major asset to USAR regardless of the leadership.
National Ball Contract/ Penn Presentation	Doug Ganim, Head/Penn Racquet Sports	Doug requested time to address the Penn Ball sponsorship and the Official Ball contract. Appreciate being a major sponsor and the connection goes beyond the financial contract with the association. What Penn sees happening to the ball contract: other manufacturers are trying to go to the state associations (throwing quite a bit of money into their initiatives). As the states contract with other manufacturers, the value of the

		contract is decreasing. The ball contract value is arguably $100,000 overall. Lost CA, FL, NC; Texas is in a bidding situation. Big states are leaving and it creates a problem for USAR. Penn is the only major sponsor to USAR. If states continue to switch, there is not much left for the USAR to sell in a major sponsorship. Ideas to present: Options to consider (and fairly soon). Let the states understand that USAR is taking control of the ball situation. The Dunlop ball is national official ball for all sanctioned Squash events. This was completed 20 years ago. Their sport is one tenth the size of racquetball in the U.S. Most value option: All sanctioned tournaments have to use the official ball. Next: USAR takes control of all state, regional, and national events relative to the official ball. All other events would be approved ball at tentatively $12,000 per year. Ball deal is now worth half because of the defection from states. Under either of these proposals, the value of the ball contract increases. Automatic renewal clauses…. or first right of refusal? This was one manufacturer's perspective.
2:30 Break		Frank Taddonio departed the meeting and gave his proxy to Mike Guidry
3:00 US IRF	Keith Calkins, President, International Racquetball Federation (IRF)	All about time, commitment and money. Update on IRF: World Games scheduled for July 17 in Chinese Taipei. Opening uniforms coming from the IOC. Using a portable court that was built in Korea. U.S. has not been involved for the past twelve years. Expensive effort – IOC may be sending a group of folks to look at our sport.

		Don't know the impact. Copenhagen in October will select two sports… if accepted the sport will get $5 million. There are seven being considered; squash is one. Strategic Planning. Thanks to USAR for setting meeting up in Memphis. Upgrading the website. Will be hiring a full-time staff member. Function as umbrella/parent organization for all (global) racquetball associations. Feeder system has been proven by players like Jack Huczek. Presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Geoff Peters for his contribution to the IRF in the form of facilitating the IRF Strategic Planning Session in Colorado Springs in February and generating subsequent recap documents. IOC recognizes racquetball as an official sport for international competition. This allows us to compete in the World Games. The IRF is the only IOC-recognized organization for racquetball.
3:45 Membership Committee	Geoff Peters	Membership numbers are holding very well… very stable. Membership rates are included in the board packet membership committee report. Motion: Geoff Raise the Lifetime Membership to $1250.00 – effective 1/1/2010, with appropriate marketing of the old rate prior to the dead line. State Rebate remains at $250.00. Mike 2nd Motion Passes. Lance: Question about the email membership. Dave made a recommendation three years ago to have an email address membership in order to grow the base membership. 20,000 emails go out each month to non-members. These are lapsed members. Sign-up for eNewsletter is offered on the front page of the

		website. We have an email exchange program with Gearbox and with Fran Davis.
4:00 Military Update	Ray Cordero	Ray provided a packet of detailed information to each board member. Service Representative from each military branch sports is proposed to the AF Sports Council. Goal is to grow racquetball in the military. Also to have an Armed Forces Championship. Focus for Active Duty should be on enlisted members, which has the largest growth potential. Note that largest military 'states' are the largest USAR membership states. Jack: How easy is it for non-military folks to gain access to a military base? Without an ID Card, the visitor must be accompanied by a Military Member as a guest. Great potential in dependents being exposed to the sport. There is a great opportunity to help support the military racquetball players. Any help from USAR would be appreciated -- any consideration that could be given, such as membership discounts, etc.
BREAK		
4:40 President's Informational Update	Cheryl Kirk	Board Contact form update – individuals update the form and give it to Cheryl Action Item: Cheryl will update and send out the new contact list Motion: Jay Reappoint Otto as National Rules Committee 2nd Ed Passed unanimously Unexcused Absence – how defined: emergency relative to a member or member's family. E.g., an excused absence was granted to Jay Mathis in

		October due to the imminent birth of his son. WOR/Ektelon – agreement was signed and entered into in March Master Calendar – urges USAR staff to continue to build this as a viable tool for all Joe Garcia Report (included in Board packet)
4:45 New Business	All	Geoff: Constitution said that we only have one formal meeting or two? Clear if 'two consecutive' meetings. US Open is assumed to be the 2nd required biannual meeting. *(Note: subsequent to this meeting, Jim identified that in reviewing Board minutes from 2005, the November meeting was determined a formal meeting of the board with mandatory attendance required.)* Lance: We decided on Memphis because we were always approving a budget at that meeting. Jay: Just call it two consecutive meetings. Action Item: Look at 404 b and 404 c use the terms semi and bi annual. Change the wording in the constitution regarding missed board meetings to read 'having two unexcused absences at consecutive scheduled board meetings will result in removal from the board'. Jim: Joe Williams (retired military), a support staff member for the USAR, just became a lifetime member of the USAR. Jim wanted to remind us all that we don't have any 'professionals' on our staff. Fact is, they step up as needed and have done a great job. Marti Torres is a new member of the USAR Staff. Mary Meredith and Dianne Birchler were part-time workers, Marti took their place. Motion: Jack

		Award a 4% increase to the Executive Director effective June 1, 2009. 2^{nd} Dave Passed. Motion Dave Give salary increases not to exceed 4% in aggregate to the staff in individual amounts at the discretion of the Executive Director effective July 1, 2009. 2^{nd} Jack Passed. We had already voted on a budget that approved (proration) a raise last year. This year (July 1) those funds are still available. Conference Calls – Board would like to see these projected out a quarter at a time Houston schedule: Wednesday night JOGO has scheduled a meeting for Team Racquetball League concept. Wednesday 7pm – Library Thursday 6:30 Ladies Night Out – Board members welcome to attend. Friday – American Idol Party – sponsored by Head Saturday – VIP Reception in Hyatt Window Box prior to Banquet.
5:30 Ball Contract	Cheryl Kirk	Jim: like the policy of a 'state ball'. Lance: Would National Office be responsible for sending them out? Jim: This would cost for shipping, which is additional expense to the USAR. Could do it, have the room. If the ball contact value increases, it would be shared with the states. Two Options: I. All State Championship, regional and qualifying events are required to use the Official Ball of the USAR as defined in the 2011 National Ball

		Contract proposal. II. All regional and qualifying events are required to use the Official Ball of the USAR as defined in the 2011 National Ball Contract proposal. Motion: Tom Option 1 Jack 2nd 10 yes 1 no 1 abstain
6:30 Adjournment	Cheryl Kirk	Motion Tom: 2nd Ed Passed.
		Thanks was expressed to the departing members, Dave and Lance, for their service to the USAR Board of Directors and its membership.
6:43 Reconvene Special Meeting of the Board of Directors		Welcome new Board member: Jeff Elder Election of Officers Open position of Treasurer due to Lance Gilliam's departure from the Board. Nomination: Geoff Peters (Tom). No opposing nominations, Geoff Peters assumes Treasurer role on the BOD. Open position of Vice President due to Geoff Peters' move into the Treasurer position. Nomination of Jack Huczek (Geoff) Nomination of Frank Taddonio (Mike) Secret ballot vote, tied 4/4. (Note: No proxy (absentee) votes were allowed in this election, per the USAR Governance Manual, section 7.2.) Cheryl as President cast the tiebreaking vote. Jack Huczek assumes Vice President role on the BOD.
7:10 pm Adjourned		Motion by Jeff, 2nd Mike

Submitted by Tom Curran, USAR Board Secretary

Reports Included in Board Packet

- ***High School***
- ***Collegiates***
- ***Referee***
- ***Women***
- ***Juniors***
- ***Marketing Task Force (minutes from recent call)***
- ***Membership***
- ***Hall of Fame & Awards***

Committees with No Reports

- **Legislative**
- **Ethics**
- **Compensation/Personnel**
- **Due Process**
- **Rules**

Votes Taken

Motion		**2nd**	**Result**
Mike to hold the position as interim Adult Team Coach until a replacement is found.		Geoff	Passed Mike Abstained
Motion: Mike USAR board endorses the Junior World Cup Team's participation in the 2009 Junior World Championships.		Frank	Passed Lance Abstained
Motion: Geoff Raise the Lifetime Membership to			

$1250.00 – effective 1/1/2010, with appropriate marketing of the old rate prior to the dead line. State Rebate remains at $250.00. Mike 2nd Motion Passes.		Mike	Passed
Motion: Membership Committee Identify the month of November as "National Racquetball Month' and during November adjust the USAR limited event membership to $10.00.	Policy Change	Ray	Passed
Motion: Jay Reappoint Otto as National Rules Committee		Ed	Passed unanimously
Motion: Tom All State Championship, regional and qualifying events are required to use the Official Ball of the USAR as defined in the 2011 National Ball Contract proposal.		Jack	10 yes 1 no 1abstain
Motion: Jack Award a 4% increase to the Executive Director effective June 1, 2009.		Dave Negrete	Passed
Motion: Dave Give salary increases not to exceed 4% in aggregate to the staff in individual amounts at the discretion of the Executive Director Effective July 1, 2009.		Jack Huczek	Passed

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Action Item Recap

Item	Responsibility	Item	Responsibility
Draft a letter relative to the PARC incident in Cali, Colombia and distribute to the Board for review and approval. Submitted by June 15, 2009.	**Cheryl Kirk**	Project Board conference call schedule one quarter in advance	**Cheryl Kirk**
Create a marketing plan using the examples that Jim has from a number of companies (Starbucks, McDonald's)	**Jim Hiser and Jack Huczek**	Put a Visa application on our website.	**Geoff Peters and Lance Gilliam**
Update and send out the new contact list	**Cheryl Kirk**	Send out request to states (TX committed $1,000) for support of US Team	**Mike Guidry**
Look at 404 b and 404 c use the terms semi and bi annual. Change the wording in the constitution regarding missed board meetings to read 'having two unexcused absences consecutive scheduled board meetings will result in removal from the board'.	**Tom Curran/Legislative Committee**	Membership fees for 2 and 3 year memberships are held in a 'bucket' as a part of the total membership funds collected. As a Board we should know how much is available. Jim will get that information.	**Jim Hiser**
Officer Terms and New Elections Nothing specific in the constitution. Action Item: Provide content to detail this issue for board approval.	**Tom Curran/Legislative Committee**		
State recommendations need to be presented to the state representatives at the Leadership Conference. Detail this in the correspondence to the states to get their support and attend the	**Leadership Conference Committee: Geoff, Merijean, Ray, Cheryl, Jim, Terri**		

Conference.	**Morse**		

USA Racquetball Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Tom Curran, Secretary, July 28, 2009

Agenda Item	Who	Comments
Meeting called to order **Roll Call**	Cheryl Kirk Tom Curran	8:03 pm Central Present: Tom, Ed, Jim, Merijean, Frank, Ray, Jay, Cheryl, Jack, Geoff Absent: Jeff, Mike, Kim
Approve minutes of Board meeting, 5/19/09, Houston	Tom Curran	Motion to accept – Merijean Second – Ed Vote – unanimously approved
Leadership Conference update	Jim Hiser	Update… physical location is set with all administration and reference materials. Eight folks have registered so far.
Board assignments for state calls	Cheryl Kirk	Each board member assigned to call representatives in five states. Jim will provide information on why they should attend. We need to make a good sell to the state to attend. States are set based on developed and non-developed. Surveys needs to have the state survey submitted. Registered states are AL, CA, FL, MI, are only confirmed.
Board attendance -- RSVPs	Cheryl Kirk	Geoff, yes, Ed no, Tom maybe, Jim yes, Jack maybe, Merijean yes, Frank yes, Ray, no, Jay maybe, Cheryl yes. Yes: 5 No: 2 Maybe: 3 Not in attendance: 3

Lifetime Fitness update	Jim Hiser	Jim was in MN last week and met with Danielle Maur (National Squash and Racquetball Director) for Lifetime Fitness. They are dedicated to making racquetball and squash successful in their facilities. HS and Collegiate programs … with teachers in every club, league software from Usher/USAR are being used. This is a 100% effort on their parts. National event for the US Open possible for MN…13 courts and 11 courts… portable court and noise challenge. These are new clubs, Lifetime's Platinum and Gold level clubs. The portable court would be a challenge. Maybe Houston, or Jr National and Collegiate there. CEO wants everything first class. Geoff… their test is MN only? Jim… they are putting all their effort and test into MN. Geoff… will our players step up? Is there something we can do to help this happen? Jim… they are working very closely with Ektelon… Doug has talked to them about Head. They have sanctioned all their leagues with R2.
Ball contract update	Jim Hiser	Passed at the last board meeting… we said it was a three-year contract, but it is really is for five years. Took effect 1/1/09, goes to 12/31/2013. Is the board still in agreement that the ball be used by state championships beginning 2011? We are only seven months into a five-year contract. Jim wants us to start the state ball contract to begin in 2011. Who has contracts with whom so we can know what to decide? Where are we standing… we know what Doug wants us to do.

		There are about seven states that have contracts other than Penn. 30 States are signed up for Penn Contract..... We have about 7 or 8 states with no state championships. Do not include the state contract until 2011. Texas contract is a one-year contract. Information now is to not sign contracts past 2011. Does it impact the state championship to be considered a qualifier for National? Cheryl... will look at the contract and she and Jim will come up with a proposed ... do not make this a topic of discussion for the state directors. Geoff... if we decide to implement the ball program before we have to correct it more than once. Need to get it done before the Leadership Conference. Manufacturers need to know. Ektelon knows it's a five-year contract. We must let the states and manufacturers know as soon as possible. Jim disagrees. Frank... this needs to wait, but needs to be on the state call. Cheryl... we will communicate with the manufacturers before 6 pm mountain so it can be on the agenda for the state call. NOTE: Cheryl wanted to ensure that everyone on the call understood that by asking to see the contract in no way should be construed to

		imply any lack of faith in Jim relative to what he explained during the call regarding the ball contract and the new information on the dates.
Selection of Military Representative to the Board	Ray Cordero	Update on the selection. The Armed Forces Sports Council does not meet until Thursday. Maj Mark Furman will be nominated (US Air Force) We should know Friday if he is selected. When Ray was appointed he had to wait until the Board meeting in Houston… Ray would like to get the new rep into the process at the US Open. Cheryl thanked Ray for his service on the Board and wished him luck in the future.
USAR Committees -- work in progress	Cheryl Kirk	Committees… Jim, Jack Geoff and Cheryl looked at the committees. Eliminated: Fundraising (subset to marketing); Compensation and Personnel (under the Ethics and renamed Ethics/HR) Added: Grant Fund (Kim, Peter and George expressed interest) Seventeen committees proposed and a board member must be assigned to a committee. Athletes' reps are required to be on 20% of each of he committees. Members of the US Adult team. Cheryl suggests that this is too many committees to be involved with. Jack is on 11, Mike on 10 and Kim on 10. Discussion: Get a list of the folks who are on the Adult Team and draft them on committees. Or amend that 20% to one per committee. Jack… reason for having it this was for the purpose of voting. So we have the athlete view on every working element.

		Cheryl… that is true, but considering the volume do the athlete reps have the time? Jack… how many active committees? Cheryl… some meet often, others never depending on conditions. Is there a list available who have been members of the US Team for the last 10 years? Jim…. Same list as those who vote for the athlete rep. Frank… we need to ensure that have exact numbers on which of the committees are really active. Cheryl… we have an issue with committees not being as active as they could be. Let's determine which would best work for present board athlete members.
US Team at World Games in Chinese Taipei	Jack Huczek	Team USA did very well. All in the finals. Event games were first class. The facility was really spectacular. Korean Racquetball Federation constructed the all-glass court. No twin view on the glass so it was difficult to see the ball while playing. There were 500 people viewing from the quarterfinals on. They were engaged point by point. This made it rewarding to play in front of them. We should continue to expand into Asia.
US Team Head Coach	Frank Taddonio	Consideration of Mike Guidry to assume permanent position (see attached resume) In Houston we appointed him as Interim US Team Coach… Mike has expressed an interest in taking the position. Mike is nominated. Ray 2nd… Discussion: Geoff… do we have a current job description. A complete job description was published in the newsletter and magazine. Does the job include being a primary fundraiser? Mike is aware that it is a requirement for the position.

		Cheryl has already talked to Mike about this and other responsibilities for the position. Mike is busy in his day job… but his company is very supportive to comply with the travel. The fundraising is a plus, but not a 'required' part of the position. Mike will not be able to do fundraising at the level that had been in the past under Dave Ellis. Geoff… Jim, do you think from a staff perspective that Fundraising is do-able. Cheryl: The staff and the Board need to pick up the slack on this. Mike does not have the time nor the inclination to do fundraising. Geoff… did not budget a salary. We are not paying Mike for the job… just expenses. Kelley Beane receives $166.67 received payment per month. It is not a salary, just an honorarium. Frank will check with Mike to ensure that he understands that only his expenses will be reimbursed. Cheryl provided additional information … Mike is bilingual and is good under pressure…great business head. Geoff… term of this appointment. Jim… end of the Pan Am games. Has the opportunity to participate in the Pan Am Games…. October 2011 (Fall). Appointment until 12/31/2011. Depending on evaluation could be extension of two years based on recommendation of the board.

		Motion: Mike is appointed at the Coach of the US Adult Team with the term ending 12/31/2011. Passes… unanimous.
Legislative Committee	Tom Curran and Cheryl Kirk	By-laws/Governance Manual calibration (Tom) Cheryl… Governance Manual /Constitution / By Laws… these items don't always agree with each other. The Governance manual needs to be reviewed in detail. Merijean has agreed to be the lead on looking at the documents to assess how big a job it is and then suggest if we need more folks to review as well. This will begin first part of September, should have information for consideration by Memphis Board meeting. Robert's Rules of Order -- proxy voting (Cheryl) Cheryl…. RRO is the governing publication regarding administration of our board processes. Question was posed after the election of officers in Houston. Our Governance manual covers the process. As we were taking a closer look at this we may have been remiss in the way we use a proxy vote. If a quorum is not established that votes can still be made… the by laws state RRO govern our process. Prohibits proxy voting in deliberative democratic assemblies. We are that type of organization. No substitute for deliberative voting. We could not allow it or not allow it; not allowing it compels us to ensure full, or close to full, participation in each meeting. We need to know what the agenda votes would be in advance of meetings in order to fairly administrate a proxy voting protocol.

		Tom will collect input from Board members on use of proxies. The subject will appear on the next Board call agenda for further discussion. Cheryl to send verbiage from RRO to Tom for Legislative Committee consideration.
Memphis Board meeting date	Cheryl Kirk	Memphis meeting dates: Pro/Am is Tuesday night.... Wednesday morning affects the athletes (Pro).... Jim will ensure that none of the board members will be schedule to play on Wednesday... **Wednesday October 21st is the date, 8 am-5 pm.**
Next conference call - previously proposed dates:	Cheryl Kirk	**Monday, August 24th, 7:00 p.m. Central** **Wednesday, September 9th, 7:00 p.m. Central (Leadership Conference briefing/discussion)** ***(Kim not available)***
Motion to adjourn	Tom Curran	Motion: Jack... 2nd: Ed... Adjourned 9:29 p.m. Central time

Action Item Recap

Item	Responsibility	Item	Responsibility
Provide talking points to Board members for state calls (Leadership Conference attendance)	Jim/Terri 7/29 a.m.	Write announcement of Mike's appointment for the website	Frank
Recap state ball contract status via Excel spreadsheet to Board	Jim Before next Board call	Send US Team Coach job description to Frank and Tom	Cheryl (done)
Contact Cheryl and Jim when the new Military rep has been confirmed; provide contact information	Ray By 8/3	Send Constitution and Governance Manual electronically to Merijean and Tom	Cheryl (done)
Send list of athletes actively engaged in racquetball who have been members of the US National (Adult Elite) Team within the preceding 10 years.	Jim to Jack and Cheryl This week	Send RRO verbiage to Tom	Cheryl (done)
Notify Mike Guidry of his appointment to US Team Head Coach position	Frank, cc Board		