

July 21, 2023 USAOCR BOD Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jason Stanley, Josh Graves, Micah Dorfner, Diana Codspoti, Ian Hosek, Josh Fiore, Stacy Stamm

Not Attending: Russ Blatt

June Meeting Minutes: Approved Unanimously.

Board Update:

World Champs Delegates: Kristina Johnson, Alwyn Cosgrove

Jason clarified that delegates role is to be the go between for the athletes on the ground in Belgium and World Obstacle/USAOCR board at home.

Head Coach position: From Josh Graves: Alwyn is looking to represent as Team USA Coach
Josh Graves: Alwyn has volunteered for 5 years and taught coaches training. Josh and Alwyn would like to have Alwyn have the title of Team USA Head Coach. Thinks having a head coach would be a good step for the development committee and show that they're doing something. Would be meaningful for Alwyn to say he's the head coach.

Jason: Alwyn is qualified and we still have the opportunity to appoint a head coach. We could provide a statement and offer transparency about the fact that he's already going to be there and paying his own way and that's why he was chosen.

Ian: We are trying to start over and old coaching certs and ties to old USAOCR aren't tied to our current organization. What does Josh see as the role of the head coach?

Josh Graves: Will essentially be a delegate, but with the title of head coach.

Ian: Ok with him acting as a delegate with the title of head coach as long as he's just doing the role of delegate, but to be recognized as an important coach. Wants to run it by the elite athletes.

Diana: Likes running the head coach by the elite athletes

Micah: Understands we need to have buy-in, respect and trust from elite athletes. Though it's not normal that elite athletes get to select the head coach.

Josh Fiore: Agrees that we need to run the choice of a head coach by the elite athletes. If Josh Graves can define the role and responsibilities of the head coach first, then we can run that by the elite athletes.

Micah: Words matter, is coach the right title, or is it team manager as the title? Feels like we're backdooring a coach in after the team has been formed. To do it the right way, we would have

the coach defined prior to onboarding athletes onto the team. Is this the right time to try and put a coach in place?

Josh Graves.: This is an opportunity for us to learn what the role and responsibilities of a head coach would be at the race. There are currently only 3 certified coaches, and Alwyn is the only one interested in going, so no one else will care.

Conclusion: Role will be as a team manager but will have the Head Coach title. The development committee will write up guidelines and responsibilities for the head coach.

Vote for Alywn as Team USA Head Coach: Micah: Yes, Stacy: No, Ian: No, Jason: Yes, Josh Graves: Yes, Josh Fiore:Yes, Diana: Yes

Guidelines and boundaries will be clarified and approved at August BOD meeting. BOD will then let Team USA athletes know that Alwyn will be head coach and provide them with guidelines at that time and that this is the process this year and will be improved next year.

Committee Updates:

Athletes:

Missing a bunch of Elite women in registration. Most AG have registered, all 100m elite have registered. Most elite men have registered

Kris Rugoliski and Rylan Schlegg are now not going due to funds and time of work. Diana wondered if they can register later if we get funding. We're pretty confident WO would make an exception to allow them to register if we find funds to send them.

AG athletes are creating on their own teams and registering on their own. USAOCR will be registering the Elite teams

Competitions:

Competition rules have been finalized and are [here](#). Please review, we will be voting on them at the August BOD meeting.

Do we want to have uniform requirements? Must wear a shirt? No profanity? Etc? -Ian will talk with his committee with ideas of what they want and will present at August BOD meeting.

Development:

Emailed Jack Bauer twice and hasn't heard back. Ian will share Jack's phone number with Josh so Josh can contact him and talk about technical officials.

DEI/Para:

Continuing to stay in communication with Para contacts to make sure she's ready for future years. Focusing heavily on sponsorships now.

Finance:

Sponsorships: Deck is finalized and the email template has been shared to all board and elite athletes. Ian sent out a spreadsheet for tracking sponsorship contacts. once you get someone interested, send them on to Diana to manage so we don't overlap

Jerseys: Jason contacted Legendborne, very supportive. Love the company and founder, know the jerseys can be thick and restrictive, elite athletes were concerned about the impact on performance.

Jason also reached out to Hyperthreads on Wed/Thurs, asking about funding and/or discounts and lead time. Hyperthreads responded with no discounts/sponsorship, lead time may also be too long.

Jason talked to Legendborne last weekend, they have updated their fabrics and likely have improved. Legendborne has offered us a large discount (~50%). Also will put a store together for public purchases of apparel and we'd receive commission from that store. Lead time has been reduced to 2-3 weeks. They do have shorts now too.

Bank account will be set up next week

Should we set up a GoFundMe to help fund athletes? Yes. 50% to Elite, 50% to AG
Jason motion to approve: Micah Seconds. Approved unanimously.

Communications:

Lots of great engagement from the social posts. Wish he had waited longer to post since athletes have changed so much since the original post.

Has created the template for elite athlete posts, will start posting once it's fully finalized after creating a communication plan.

Need to post final national team athlete list on the website as well as News page.

Medical:

One athlete reached out due to participation because they're pregnant. Couldn't give her medical advice, but encouraged her to listen to her doctor's advice.

When registering, athletes had to fill out medical history form and take WADA class.

Would like to create communication to send to all registered athletes offering his contact info. Specifically for WADA and TUEs so we avoid any issues there. Needs email address.

Action Items

Josh Graves will let Alwyn know about the Head Coach decision.

Josh Graves will work with the development committee to create the responsibilities and guidelines for the head coach position for approval at the August BOD Meeting

Jason will register the Elite teams. Looks like the registration deadline has been extended to race day, so no rush.

Ian will discuss uniform requirements with the competition committee and present options at the August BOD meeting.

Ian will share Jack Bauer's phone number with Josh Graves.

Josh Graves will continue working to find a volunteer to lead the technical official sub-committee

Diana will continue working on sponsorships

Jason will send info about jerseys via Slack for BOD to decide on Legendborne vs Hyperthreads by July 28th

Diana will set up GoFundMe for Worlds. Making sure to specify that Elite athletes will receive 50% of funds and AG athletes will receive the other 50%.

Stacy will add the final list of national team athletes to the website as well as a News page.

Jason will set up Medical and Delegates email accounts

Josh Fiore will send an email to all the World's athletes introducing himself as a resource. Once he receives an email address from Jason.

Everyone will read through the competition rules and be prepared to discuss and approve at the August BOD meeting.