



## **USBF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Sunday, June 23, 2013**

**5:00 pm PST, 7:00 pm CST, 8:00 pm EST**

**Teleconference: 1-951-797-1058 – at prompt enter:**

**Conference Code: 163297**

**Danny's cell – 630-988-2807**

### **TELECONFERENCE**

**Location: IAC - Stockton, California**

**Attendees:** Danny Passaglia, Peter Rabito, Mario Veltri, Gayle Morris, Vern Cooper, Jerry South, Larry Cereghino, David Canclini, Shirley Croce, Jo Ann Jacobs, Ron Jacobs, Diana Pelegrini, Robert Kennedy, Colleen Randazzo, Robert Della Croce, Lio Giannotti, MaryEllen McGauley, Greg Della Croce, Gabe Quattrocchi, Ralph Bagarella.

**Excused absence:** Guy DeSantis, Mike Grasser

**Call to Order:** Danny called the meeting to order at 7:30 and asked for a moment of silence for those members we have lost since the previous meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Updated Report – Mario:**

The Treasurer's Report was sent to members prior to the meeting. Summary of membership includes 62 member clubs and 38 are paid clubs and we have 539 members. Our bank account has \$64,012.00. Last year there were 40 clubs with 509 paid members. Membership is remaining the same. Mario said that we received the money from Alpine. Danny said the biggest problem was the old officers and the new officers couldn't communicate that's why the money was late coming in. Danny explained to the new president that there would be "no discount". Colleen asked what the percentage is. Danny responded that the percentage is 60 – 40.

**Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Colleen. Joann Jacobs 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All agreed – motion was unanimous.**

Danny – the secretary's report will be discussed later since this is the first meeting with the Executive Committee in place.

Danny welcomed Ralph Bagarella, Bob Kennedy, Shirley Croce, Joann Jacobs, and Greg Della Croce as our new board members. Marco, a two (2) year former member took ill and was unable to finish the tournament so Benji Tosi will speak and then he will be excused to leave the room. Benji Tosi said he has been contacted by International Federation regarding the 3 disciplines that our organization represents, he's asking that the Volo be allowed to separate and form a separate federation by being voted out of the USBF. Current players would be organizing the new federation and Marco said the 501C3, insurance, taxes, etc. are in place. We would save \$ 850.00 from not having to pay the International Volo Federation and would remove the burden of host club to provide Volo courts during tournaments. Colleen brought up that even when they are building the courts, sometimes they don't end up in the condition that the Volo players are used to. Colleen asked if Volo broke off would we share tournament info as a partnership. Benji said plenty of players would cross over. Benji said players could be members of both organizations, USBF and Sport Volo. Danny responded to Colleen and said they probably would have their own membership cards, etc. but that yes, we would share information between the two (2) organizations. Benji said we need more players to play Volo. Danny thanked Benji and said the federation can focus on Raffa and Open and not concentrate on Volo. Benji thanked everyone, thinks it will be better for all players, and hopes they have our support on their decision. Danny excused Benji and said that we would discuss and get back to Marco about our thoughts. Ralph asked if there would then be no PRV Tournaments. Danny said no, that the PRV game is completely separate from the game of Volo. Danny mentioned that he did not receive the letter from the President of the FIB, but rather it was sent directly to Marco. Danny asked Marco to send a copy of the letter to him and the FIB President refused. Danny said we can vote on letting them go on their own if we want to. In 2005 Volo was removed in Detroit and it didn't work. There will be about \$ 1,500.00 every other year which is about \$ 1,200.00 in savings every year that the USBF wouldn't have to pay. We would lose control, but do we care. Danny said let's give them a shot. Colleen paraphrased for Vern regarding the World Championship representation. Colleen said the courts require a lot of time so let them go if they want to. Danny said the Board of Directors is covered by insurance, etc. Also, there are tax consequences involved and dues distribution issues. Danny said let them do a clean break and take care of all of their own 501, etc. Danny spoke to attorney and he said the same thing, to let them go.

**Motion – Colleen made a motion to let the Volo players separate the USBF and if they decide that they want to come back, they will be allowed to return. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Jacobs. Motion approved.**

## **Old Business:**

- A) Review all past minutes - June, 2012 and all Executive Committee minutes from June, 2012 - May, 2013

Danny made sure that everyone had received their copies of the previous minutes. Danny explained how the Executive Committee is set up. We have the meeting, Gayle prepares the minutes, then we forward a copy to the Executive Board for review and then we forward to the rest of the board of directors.

- B) Discussion and Vote to place Minutes on website

- 1) Current minutes only or all of 2013 for review and vote.

Danny ONE (1) member consistently requests the publishing of minutes. Then a 2<sup>nd</sup> request came in and seemed extravagant and asking for additional items. Danny then took these requests to an attorney to review. There was no cost to federation from attorney conversation and agreed we would do whatever attorney advised. Attorney denied the request agreeing that these requests were extravagant on the member's part. Danny strongly recommends that we put the minutes on the website. We want to be as transparent as possible. As far as votes that we take, we do not have to report per person report, just a summary of the vote. Danny opened this up for discussion and asked if this will be going forward or going back to the first of the year. Should we put on the website and should we include the Executive Committee minutes as well. Mario doesn't think that Danny should have to reimburse the USBF over legal fees. Large corporations NEVER put their minutes on their website. This is being done to satisfy ONE USBF member. There should be a summary of discussion and a final vote. Danny said he spoke with Kathi today, (our webmaster) and if we do this, we can do it as "members only access"; not open on the web for all to see. Mario said in addition to minutes he has been providing the financial statements as well. Colleen as a former secretary said that the notes and the final minutes need to be summarized. But that being said, Colleen is in favor of putting them on the web. Maybe that will keep them from complaining by making them visible. She's aware of other people who want to know what we're doing as well. Since we have no secrets, they can have the ability to find out additional information. We do not have to put on the web per CA code but if we do put them on the web, we will follow CA law. Colleen said we should use a summary. Mario said this will be great for our members. Ralph asked if all members of our clubs are members of USBF. Danny said no. Danny this would be for just our USBF members. Ralph asked regarding members getting on the web. Vern said he didn't know why board members are concerned with their votes being put on the website. If you are going to vote, people should know how you vote. This tells them your attitude and opinion on issue. Danny asked if the majority of the members need to know how you voted. You can vote and not let anyone know how you voted? We as the Sector

voted on the women's issue and Vern felt obligated to vote a certain way. Danny people only want to know so they can complain on how you voted. Danny do you vote your own way or the way you feel obligated to vote a certain way? Larry said Vern has a responsibility to vote for his sector. Danny said but that doesn't necessarily represent the whole sector. Mario asked Vern if his first priority when voting is the Western Sector. Vern's response was of course it is because I am the Western Sector President and I would hope all the other Sector Presidents would do the same. In Vern's opinion, that's why we are there; to represent our sector. Danny asked since we are a national organization please vote what is BEST nationally, not just for your sector. As board members you can influence your membership. Larry said the representatives need to stick up for their sector even if it's not right for the National Organization; you have to vote as your majority wants you to vote. Danny, yes the point being in this discussion is MAJORITY.

**Motion – JoAnn made a motion to now make a summary of the minutes a part of the website and a pass code should be required for the members with the addition the minutes are redacted. Motion was 2nd by Vern. Everyone approved and the vote was unanimous.**

#### **Discuss 2014 Nationals - Club P/R/V in St. Louis**

A) Review format and criteria Club must meet to be eligible.

Danny reminded everyone that according to our bylaws, in order to be eligible to play next year in the club championship, you must be a member of the USBF in 2013 and 2014. If a club does NOT join by 12/2013 they will not be eligible to send any members to St. Louis in 2014 to play in the National Championship.

B) Report on Argentina, 2012 and upcoming Women's World Championship in Brazil –

Danny said we have gained respect of the world bocce players including Italian bocce players. We were one good lag or shot away from beating them. In defense of Livermore and Ben Musolf, the demands they made were outlandish. Having a paramedic on standby was one of the demands. Danny related the Argentinean conditions as being horrible. Danny went through the horrible conditions from food to accommodations, and through it all, for the first time ever, the United States did receive medals and were on the podium with the Italians. Argentina also received four (4) synthetic courts out of the deal. The women are playing the World Championship in October in Carlos Barbosa where the men played three (3) years ago. Danny has warned the ladies and reminded them that the courts are carpet. Colleen cannot do the Visa's yet.

## **Proposals from the Executive Committee:**

Proposals (A) and (B) were previously sent to the Board Members. Please refer to the emailed proposals for any additional details regarding the proposals.

### **A) Separation of Open from P/R/V at the Nationals (summary and discussion):**

Danny brought up the separation of open from PRV at Nationals. Danny read the separation information at Larry's request. Colleen asked would it separate the players from getting to play in both. Danny said no and this would not come into effect until a vote has been taken. In fact, this would only apply for St. Louis 2014 if it is voted on in say the next 60 – 90 days. Dave asked if now we were going to limit the Nationals to 12 teams. He said we're talking about revenue, and we're restricting the teams so revenue is down by the 40% that the USBF is getting out of every entry fee. Dave asked how the revenue will be replaced. Dave said the nationals are going the wrong way and this is a singles year and has a bearing on it. Nationals are no longer a national event, but a sector event. Danny said I know the East and the Midwest would love to be here. Midwest and East representatives all agreed. Pete said there is graduation and anniversaries, etc. going on which eliminated many members from the East coming to play. Larry asked can we offer an amendment to this proposal. Yes, per Danny, this is just a discussion. Larry said I like the idea; how about the largest Sector can always host a national tournament? Larry said there should be some benefit to having a large sector. Vern said the tournament wouldn't be anything without the CA teams. Dave asked which club will go to all this trouble for 12 teams. Danny said this is in ADDITION to PRV not in lieu of PRV. Pete said if we held the Nationals in the East, they would have more exposure. Colleen said they still have to travel if they qualify, but (Danny said), they already qualified because they have a chance to win. Dave said people don't go the Nationals to make money they just want to participate even knowing they can't win some tournament events. Colleen suggested that maybe brackets could be made. Danny said this is just food for thought about separating; it is just for discussion. Vern brought up that he is again hearing about the Executive Committee being able to make THIS decision like the \$5.00 dues issue. Danny – the Executive Committee has not RULED on anything that affected the USBF. The \$5.00 was a "board" vote not an executive committee decision. Vern said that there was a vote on the \$5.00 first time membership by the Executive Committee via email with results on November 26, 2012 for the 2013 membership forms. It was an email vote when Colleen was still voting and Gayle was stepping in for her because of her hand surgery. Colleen, Guy, and Vern voted yes. Pete, Roberts, and Mario voted no and because it was tied, Danny voted no which stopped the \$ 5.00 last year. As Vern now understands it, we should have put it to the whole board but we didn't.

8:45 pm (CST) – Danny called for a 15 minute break. 9:00 meeting resumed.

B) Format for future National events

- 1) Divide into Sectors with Nationals held with only qualifying teams  
(Review hand out sheets)
- 2) Current results of Volo Competition (Review hand out sheet )  
Delete this proposal since they're going out on their own.

Danny read C-1 through C-3 of the proposals regarding this issue that again all board members have already received once. This sort of follows a European ranking. Dave said there is no congeniality. Danny is trying to attempt to get the best teams to be representing the USBF.

**Website explanation for change and new address – Danny said we currently have two websites:**

- 1) [www.bocce.com](http://www.bocce.com)
- 2) [www.usbf.us](http://www.usbf.us)

Danny said the original man left and to change it is very difficult. Kathi couldn't make any changes, the board decided to start a new website [www.usbf.us](http://www.usbf.us). Pete said bocce.com is a domain that has to be renewed. If renewed we can keep both. Danny said we lost control over the website, so the website got changed. Danny said Lio Giannotti is in charge of the new website and if anyone wants anything added on to the new website to please let Lio know. A great feature is the "contact us" section of the website where questions about bocce come to Danny for clarification. Danny gets league questions, how to rule on the size of the bocces to use, and also how to become a member. Dave called Kathi to put the dress code on the website, but Kathi couldn't change it. It's since been added to the website. Danny has seen no violations in dress code in Stockton so far. Pete asked what is the change in dress code that is now going on; Robert wanted to know as well. Danny said everyone agreed to allow players to not have the name on the back. Pete said he thought it was always optional all along.

**New Business:**

A) Executive Committee

*Vern Cooper has requested a discussion specifically regarding the the necessity and effectiveness of the Executive Committee.*

Danny said the Executive Committee is not the one who makes the decisions. We hash out items to bring to the board. Danny read the parameters of the Executive Committee. Vern said the Executive Committee voted on the "\$5.00 membership" Danny said as of January 1, 2013 we have never voted. Vern and David are hearing from people that their perception is that the Executive Committee rules the board. Robert said that the idea of the Executive Committee was to get the Sector members to bring information so that all the people can get together to discuss ideas to bring to the Board. Danny said if your constituents don't think you'll vote for what is best for the USBF as a whole then you shouldn't be on the board. Mario talked about how the perception spreads about the Executive Committee. Danny said he will not stay on the Board if they disband the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was to speed up the process of leg work and bringing all the information to the Board. Vern just letting everyone know what the perception from the "old" timers currently is. Vern said he would again try to get the word out regarding the Executive Committee now that he understands the concept fully. He apologized for the misunderstanding.

**Mario made a suggestion to move forward and the discussion will be presented in the Western Sector Newsletter for discussion.**

B) *Vern Cooper has requested a discussion to decide the contents of the 2014 USBF application with the full board present.*

Vern said we need to vote on the application. Danny said it's such a minimal amount with the \$ 5.00 fee and they get nothing. Suggested a free membership for 6 months then the individual after 6 months send them an invoice for \$ 15.00. Discussion was made over the membership costs. Mario at least with the \$5.00 membership you get some revenue in. With a "free" membership you get nothing in. Robert said the application should be left as it is for the next year at least. The member joined for \$ 5.00 and then drops and comes back by starting over - Pete agreed with Robert. **Motion made by Vern to return the \$ 5.00 first time membership on the application. David Canclini 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.** Joann asked if they can they quit and come back two (2) years later as a new member. Danny explained that is a problem and it's just what Robert brought up about issuing cards to everyone who pays \$5.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> time member. Colleen asked if Kathi is using the same data base with a spread sheet with first time members. Danny didn't know. **Motion vote results: 8 voted yes. 7 voted no. Gayle stated that the motion was passed to bring back the \$ 5.00 first time membership on the application.** Robert's spreadsheet concerns will be addressed at a later date.

### C) Bubba Bocce/ State Law requirements in certain states across USA

Danny said we voted to put the USBF pamphlets in the boxes of the Bubba/Bocce. They require no courts and work perfect for special needs kids. Larry said with Bubba Bocce being in one of the biggest school in Maryland, there is an actual uniform bocce league where kids with disabilities play with kids without disabilities. Bubba Bocce started out with 29 teams competing for a State Championship. Larry had 32 kids when it ended. He is looking closer to 50 or more come this Fall 2013. It's another attempt by the USBF to reach out for the sport. Danny thinks all board members should be reaching out to kids. The USA as well as other countries, is having trouble keeping the sport going. Mario spoke about high school leaders with Livermore and spoke to Ben about promotion. Discussion was held regarding Livermore's promotion of kid's bocce as well. Danny we need to keep plugging away. Larry said that there are so many versions of bocce rules that we're talking about programming these kids to maybe eventually have some unified rules for the game of bocce as they grow up.

### D) North American Championship Status (possible response prior to meeting)

Danny said Canada doesn't want to do the NAC and he doesn't want to have to tell the three (3) teams that it's over. If there would be a sponsor, the NAC they would continue, but Danny wants to eliminate the NAC so we can vote tonight. The deadline was the June 30<sup>th</sup> to play if there were sponsors involved. They want to eliminate the women's teams. **Joann – made a motion to tell Canada thank you but we're not interested. Ron Jacobs – 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed. Vote is unanimous.**

**Note: Shortly after the meeting Danny was informed that Canada called and they cancelled due to not having any sponsors so it looks like we made the correct decision.**

### E) Uniform Code on Website (Changes, Complaints, Suggestions, etc.)

The uniform code that in on the website is the CBI code. Danny would like to have the code every tournament. Danny thinks if they only play Open rules that we shouldn't enforce the names on the back of the shirts. I think we need to maintain a code, and we need to enforce the code. Every year there are exceptions. Colleen asked why we had to have the names in Italy on the back of the shirt. There was discussion about the "size" of the letters for the name. Danny explained to Dave that the rules have been there for a long time. Dave said the people going to the Worlds have to have them. Danny said PRV uniforms should look like we ARE going to the Worlds. Guy asked about the rules being for PRV only not for open. Danny agreed. Another discussion was held over the size of the names on the back. This was discussed every year for the last three (3) years. Guy said these requirements are posted on the application when they apply to play in the tournaments. 2 – 2 ½ is the small patch for the sleeves Danny

– Uniform CBI requirements is on the website as the uniform code. The names were required while streaming live so why can we not have these requirements in every tournament. Danny said names on the shirts are not required if in an Open Tournament; just PRV. Discussion was held with the names wrapping around the shirt. Dave and Danny arguing about the “patch” rule. Either size patch is fine as long as team is in uniform. Small are 2 ½ patch.

F) Elections scheduled for next Board Meeting June, 2014

Current Officers term expires 12/31/2014 – Danny Passaglia, Pete Rabito, Mario Veltri and Gayle Morris. There will have to be an election next June 2014.

(Danny came back to this at the end of the evening)

Danny will neither seek nor accept nomination of a position on the board. He said he feels bad for many members and feels that he is the most qualified in International matters, and therefore he wanted to give plenty of notice to find another person. He’s spoken to other officers and they will leave when his term is up as well. The USBF President has to come from the board. Jerry has seen Danny in action internationally. Jerry suggested that there be an inside man and an outside man. For instance Danny could handle the International tournament responsibilities and continue to be involved and the President would handle the domestic duties. Larry said he thinks that there should be assignments for Sector Reps. Danny will email the business plan to all the members and would like a vote in 30 days. Colleen and Danny would like to vote on the business plan by July 15, 2013. Colleen said she thinks that we need time to review. Colleen asked Danny about Ken Dothee. Danny will get with Ken Dothee for historical items. There was extensive discussion regarding duties of reps and Danny possibly staying on to handle the International duties. Next year will be Danny’s 25<sup>th</sup> year.

**Open Forum:**

1) Danny was approached about the “Raymond’s Rule”. The move is “legal, but unsportsmanlike conduct. Danny was presented with a letter regarding this issue. “Raymond’s Rule” is now to “prohibit that act of lagging short of center line in order to Volo the shot, therefore moving the bocce to the back of the court”. Vern thinks this should be a Tournament director decision.

2) Women winning in multiple tournaments:

The board is going to decide which group the player that qualifies in multiple areas is going to allow her to play in.

She has the right to play in both. The board is in unanimous agreement on this point.

Option1 : Let her choose which SHE wants to represent.

Option 2: The board chooses for her either to represent

- A) under 21 group
- B) or the women's' singles.

Colleen questioned why she's playing in both areas. Apparently she applied to play in both the "under 21" and the "ladies division". Should she have to make a decision as to which division she can play in? Should the decision be made in advance as to what she wants to play in? Larry asked what if she goes out and wins the under 21 and loses the women's' does she have to play in the under 21? Greg said she shouldn't know in advance the decision prior to the championship, she could lose on purpose and both her and the runner up of the other division could go. Danny said then she shouldn't be representing the USBF with that lack of integrity. Danny said if it's announced, then she'll know in advance. Vern said for 2013 Championship in Stockton, CA. if we have a women participant in the under 21 women's division, if she wins both she will play in the women's or the under 21 division. Ralph and Gayle want to know if this is for the future tournaments or if this is to include the current one going on currently in Stockton, CA. Larry thinks this is wrong to make this decision at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. The applications were sent and they allowed everyone to play in everything and now you want to eliminate her options. She can't play in both. Danny said she CAN play in both, but she can't play in both at the Worlds.

(Ladies on the board that are playing in Stockton have now left the room for the vote).

**1<sup>st</sup> Motion is that Motion #2 is for the future and does not affect the ladies playing currently in the 2013 Nationals being held.**

**12 VOTED YES, 1 VOTED NO Vote passed.**

**(3 of the 16 voters were the 3 ladies out of the voting area)**

Ladies Colleen, Joann and Diana, were brought back in the room to vote on the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion from Vern for the future, if the participant play's in the "under 21" and the "men's or ladies' singles division" and if they win both, then the participant will be required to play in the "men's or ladies' division", not the "under 21" division. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner in the "under 21 division" will play in the "under 21" World Tournament. Dave – 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.**

**Vote results: 10 YES VOTES and 6 NO VOTES Vote passed.**

Robert asked for a decision regarding the Nationals for 2014. He said the options are either the week of June 1,- June 7, 2013 or June 22 – June 28<sup>th</sup>. The group prefers June 22 – June 28, 2013. It's unanimous.

Robert said the Italia-America Bocce Club in the Midwest elected Robert as the new IABC President and he will resign as board member on the effective July 1, 2013 and will no longer be the Midwest Sector President. Lio Giannotti will take over Robert's position and he'll appoint Greg as his Vice President. Danny asked who is replacing Greg. Robert doesn't think that Lio has appointed anyone yet.

Ralph wanted to know how they host the Nationals in the future. Danny said they will have to bid and they will have to be able to accommodate the PRV. Danny said we typically alternate years, but we need to have the Midwest or the East host for the next two (2) years in order to get on track. The ladies need to be back in the West for 2016. Danny told Ralph the soonest he could host would be 2015 but he still needs to put a bid in for it.

**Motion to close the meeting @ 10:55 CST made by Ron Jacobs. Vern – 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted

Gayle Morris,  
Secretary  
United States Bocce Federation