

**Commissioner's USADB 2012 Report**  
**April 17-22, 2012 in Houston, Texas**

I attended all of the USADB's scheduled meetings, except for their Executive Board meeting that was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. I did not get to the hotel until about 11:00 p.m., obviously bedtime!!! :)

**USADB Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 18th from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon with USADB Board and Region Presidents/Commissioners.**

Region Presidents/Commissioners are back to USADB Executive Committee status after some years' gaps. Mr. Karl Ewan of Austin, Texas was serving as the USADB Parliamentarian and Ms. Kay Vincent was serving as the USADB Facilitator. It was voted that SEAAD President must reply by 12 noon with means of payment for their arrears of fees before he can exercise his rights to voice and vote. In the USADB Commissioner's report, FAAD was recognized as 2012 USADB Region of the Year. Past USADB Region of the Year were as the following: 2011 - NWADB, 2010 - MAAD.

For the USADB Executive Committee Meeting (Roundtable), most were repeated during the House of Delegates meeting as stated in the minutes (I don't know when it will be distributed and posted). On the agenda that I have for the Executive Committee Meeting which is next to me to help me refresh my memory: Trust Issues & Conflicts of Interest, Compliance, Region Affiliation Benefits, and Region Items. As for the 'items' part, I did suggest to Shirley to change the wording to 'issues'.

**Trust Issues & Conflicts of Interest-** It was all about USADB vs. NDBO, and it was brought up about Mark Corson sending out that NDBO Results email. USADB felt it was conflict of interest, and expressed a lot of frustrations about NDBO. Most of us, Region Presidents, had told USADB not to worry about NDBO, and just focus on USADB. Regions also let USADB know that it is Mark's choice to send out the results or not. I know it was hard for them to ignore the facts, rumors, etc. I even express that the petition is between MAAD and NDBO and that USADB and other regions had nothing to do with it. MAAD is being applauded for making the actions.

**Compliance** - Discussions were made regarding SEAAD failed to pay \$1300 in Team Fees that the 13 teams refused to pay the \$100 USADB team entry fees - claiming that the issue of \$20 membership fee changing to \$100 team fee is out of order. Action? We did not allow SEAAD President to voice or vote, only the team representatives can during the HoD (House of Delegates). I did mention that I felt the other region Commissioners were weak, and allowed those teams to play at their regional tournaments while MAAD, EAAD, and I can't remember one more region or not - WILL NOT allow teams to play unless paid the \$100 USADB team entry fees. NEAAD also failed to pay \$100 for one team.

**EAAD** - Vice President Christina Costello explained about their EAAD Tournament Funds System which is that they hosted Invitational Tournaments and used those profits to cover the USADB team entry fees. Which I was fascinated with, and I thought maybe it may benefit MAAD in some ways. Maybe??

**Region Affiliation Benefits** - 'What should the regions get for paying the USADB affiliation fee?' This had been brought up several times for a long time, I believe. USADB is trying to satisfy the regions as much as to satisfy USADB itself without losing any money. There were discussions about raising the affiliation fees, waiving the \$100 team entry fee, and also that USADB waived the \$20 individual fee, and now is like "what more do you want?" That is similar to clubs affiliating with MAAD - wanting more, and MAAD did the best we could, and only the delegates can change the Bylaws. It was decided that we let the HoD decide.

**Region Items** -

\***2012 (or 2013) Retreat** - USADB is unsure about the Retreat, whether to have it or not due to financial limits. We don't know if we will have a Retreat or not.

\***Donation to Stu Kluger for "Mike Glenn - Spirit of Love" (movie)** - Same reason as above - financial limits.

**\*2012 Bylaws Proposal** - A lot of work was put in to clarify many wordings, and to put together the booklets to pass out. We did not discuss anything about this as saved it for HoD.

**\*USADB Officers present at Region Meetings** - Same reason as other two - financial limits.

**\*2013 Tournament Fees** - Discussed about the \$400 flat fee, if by 2/15/2013, \$50 per roster back only if all rosters and fees are in, and also discussed about the Roster and Team Photo deadline, 3 weeks before Tournament (rather than 72 hours after region deadline). It was to let HoD determine about the team entree fees.

**\*Current system NOT working & cumbersome** - Need to address - Discussed about the organization structure - wanting to try adopting a new USADB job description and structure. Again, this was referred to HoD to determine. (The picture of this is in the Proposal Booklet - if you don't have it, please let me know and I'll be happy to send it to you as USADB did send us the attachments prior to their tournament).

**\*Code of Ethics and Liability Waiver Revisions** (bad grammar) - This was related to MAAD's email (mine) that was sent to USADB (and NSAD) asking about their waiver clause when sign the registration forms, if it implies that their insurance will cover our tournament, etc. USADB was under the impression that it was not clear and wanted to clean it up and rephrase it. The response to MAAD's question was yes, it does cover us.

For the Wednesday meetings - I can say this - it was a really good productive meeting, and it was much better than last year. As I had forwarded you all Mark Corson's email which basically said it all. Wow. He should be a reporter for sports! :) Other regions were surprised to learn that MAAD do imply fines for not following rules when filling out the registration forms. When Joey Baer was doing the proposals, and it came to the one where they discussed about what to do when a player wanted to cross off his/her name off a team's registration and sign another team's registration. I explained that MAAD implies a fine of \$100 for cross-offs, improper uniform numbers, etc. Of course, their answer: "Oh that explains why MAAD's rich!" I told them they can always look at MAAD's Bylaws as it is posted on the website!!! I loved their face expressions every time I explain how MAAD do theirs, etc. So funny.

The situation about the Dallas Independence Team and Wendell Gaskins came up, I explained that we are aware that there's not much we can do now, and just want to warn other regions to be sure to double check with other regions, etc. The time frame was brought up that MAAD protested too soon to the tournament and the USADB Bylaws have a clause: **14.05 – PROTESTS. Any protest regarding the eligibility of any team or any player shall be made before the start of any regional tournament.** However, I believe a motion was made and passed about that it can be made at any time. I will contact USADB secretary, James Powell, and ask about that as well as when we should expect the minutes. We all went through a lot of proposals, which went smoothly, and also new business as well. Our motion regarding the \$350.00 was referred to the Executive Committee as well as other motions that were related to the \$100 team entry fee, and the \$350.00. The Executive Committee took action later that evening, Wednesday, April 18th and came to a conclusion: The regionals will pay the \$200 affiliation fee, which includes the Officers Membership of \$20 each. The team entry fee of \$100.00 required upon signing the registration form by February 1st had been removed, and there will be a flat fee of \$400.00 until 72 hours after each respective regional tournaments. I know I had emailed the Executive Board, including the incoming new officers to help determine this issue.

On Thursday, April 19th, I arrived a bit late to the gym on Thursday, which that the first game I saw was the Lincoln Independent Team playing against California Club of the Deaf. I saw that Calvin Christenson wearing Chris Woodside uniform #12 and I knew I had no other choice except to report it to USADB officials. They stopped the game - choice: player out or forfeit the game. It was already in second half, California Deaf Club leading, the coach Chris was trying to convince me that Calvin is hard of hearing. I told him to be honest and USADB's proof is that Calvin did not sign form as a player, just 'C' for coach with no number. USADB's decision: to have LIT suspend from one game, then next games - can play but Calvin can't.

I applaud our MAAD teams for their hard efforts to do their best in USADB: Women's Omaha Eagles – 9th place out of 11 and Men's Lincoln Independence Team – 12th place out of 18. In conclusion, I am happy to announce that the 2013 USADB National Tournament to be held in Philadelphia, PA (King of Prussia) April 4-6, 2013.