

Report by MAAD Deputy Commissioner James Johnson  
NDBO – Orlando, Florida – April 2012

### **Incorporation**

NDBO incorporated in the State of Massachusetts last November.

### **New Regions (WBAD and EBAD)**

Three affiliation forms were submitted on behalf of Western Basketball Association of the Deaf (WBAD), Eastern Basketball Association of the Deaf (EBAD) and Central Basketball Association of the Deaf (CBAD). The board of directors approved only the EBAD affiliation form. The vote on the EBAD application tied and Chairwoman Bonnie broke the tie in favor of the EBAD. Reasons vary from officer corruption to same leaders on the board for a long time to EAAD forcing teams to pay USADB \$100 team fees.

WBAD's affiliation application was rejected because I believe the reason is because WBAD includes the entire NW region which currently has no organization affiliated to NDBO. A few representatives were concerned that WBAD is not ready this year.

CBAD's form was rejected basically because it was incorporated as a LTD instead of nonprofit organization, and two individuals listed as owners of CBAD. Chairwoman Bonnie was concerned about due process for players in which these owners can easily dismiss just because they own CBAD. Bonnie showed a copy of CBAD's corporation form but it was too small to read everything on the screen. She highlighted the "LTD" after CBAD and then went on to the next slide explaining what LTD means - limited liability corporation. Today I checked the Indiana Secretary of State website and found the CBAD corporation form, and it is formed as a nonprofit domestic corporation. I have no idea why they added "LTD" to the organization name. Nevertheless, it is a nonprofit organization. Attached is a copy of CBAD's Articles of Incorporation.

### **Three Teams from WBAD and EBAD at the NDBO tournament**

The majority of the board of directors voted to allow three teams from WBAD and EBAD to participate in the NDBO tournament because they were already there, refused to pay USADB \$100 team fee, and were forced to pay USADB \$100 fee by current regions. FAAD disputed the claim made by a WBAD team about being forced to pay USADB \$100 fee. The FAAD board relented and agreed to allow teams to participate without paying \$100 in February but four teams decided to band together and form WBAD. A few board members said this is for this year's tournament only so let them play.

### **Suspension List maintained by regions**

FAAD's motion for NDBO to recognize and honor FAAD's suspension list failed. The list included one individual who brought a team to the NDBO tournament. The board heard this individual's grievance against FAAD and the majority of the board voted not to recognize FAAD's suspension for this individual. FAAD president felt it was not a proper due process because nobody told FAAD about the grievance until the board meeting.

Another player's appeal was heard and the board voted not to recognize the suspension related to his eligibilities to play. He was a college basketball player and quit after seven or eight games back in December or January.

Basically, NDBO will hear any individual out if they feel the suspension is unjustified instead of taking regions' words for suspensions.

### **Team Registration/Roster**

I learned that NDBO allows changes to team registration/roster until 72 hours after regional tournaments before sending a final roster to NDBO along with region registration form.

### **Last Minute Modification to Roster**

A team's request was approved by the majority of the board of directors to allow an addition of two players to its roster because it had only six players showing up at the tournament.

### **deafutah Blog**

FAAD moved, seconded by MAAD, that NDBO denounces the [deafutah.wordpress.com](http://deafutah.wordpress.com) blog. The motion passed. While everyone said they didn't know who was behind the blog, the discussion was whether the motion was out of order or not. Chairwoman Bonnie declared it out of order and a board member moved to have the motion back in order and it passed by one vote. Discussion was brief and to the point that MAAD simply wants NDBO to end its silent treatment by publicly denouncing the blog.

### **Communication Issues**

A motion passed highlighting regions' concerns about NDBO's lack of communication on several critical issues such as new regions, incorporation, financial reports, etc.

### **Bylaws Amendments**

The bylaw amendment, to which MAAD objected, made last year along with another bylaw amendment. One was to allow NDBO officer appointments of individuals who are not region officers (used to require those who ARE region officers). The rationale was because they struggled with region officers who couldn't serve on the board while committing to USADB at the same time.

The second amendment which MAAD overlooked is to add staff of any kind to the NDBO board of directors. This amendment is the reason why regions no longer have significant voting power on the NDBO board of directors. Chairwoman Bonnie appointed five individuals as staff members of the NDBO board of directors - they are tournament chairman, tournament co-chairman, tournament director, assistant tournament director, and media coordinator. That increase the voting membership from six to 11. These two amendments were never approved by regions at their meetings last year.

New bylaws amendments approved by the board of directors last week - while I'm not sure whether the board will refer all these amendments to regions for vote next year, here's what the majority of the board approved:

Change Secretary to Recording Secretary.

Change Treasurer to Team Coordinator. Rationale behind this is complicated and this amendment passed by one vote.

Lastly, "Athletic Association of the Deaf" was removed from all eight regions recognized in the NDBO bylaws. For example, NDBO Bylaws mentions Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf, and the amendment revise that to "Midwest Region." This allows NDBO to recognize more than one region organization in each region if needed.

### **My Observations and Discussions with NDBO folks**

I have asked and discussed with NDBO officers and staff to clarify this. Affiliated to NDBO, MAAD, as well as all other affiliated regions, is expected to do two things: 1) helps promote NDBO tournaments which we already did at our recent tournament by passing out flyers, and 2) making it CLEAR to all basketball teams that they have TWO national registration options - one is to pay USADB \$100 team fee and another is not to pay any national team fee even though if they will go to NDBO or USADB national tournament or not. This is the crosshair I've observed at the NDBO board meetings.

EBAD is now recognized because EAAD "forced" all teams to pay USADB \$100 team fees. Two teams refused and formed EBAD on their own and appealed to NDBO for relief which was granted. WBAD was established for the same reason but was not recognized by the board of directors.

Nearly all teams at the SEAAD tournament did not pay USADB team fees, and it is facing possible sanctions at the upcoming USADB basketball tournament. Only one team out of four or five in NEAAD didn't pay USADB team fee. All other regions did not have problems complying with USADB's requirements.

Until these can be confirmed by official meeting minutes, someone proposed NWBAD to affiliate with NDBO and it was tabled to the next year's meeting. SWBAD had a similar motion which failed. Both regions are still not affiliated to NDBO and are primed to compete with new organizations in their respective regions within the next year or two.

### **Issues to consider**

Please note that these issues are based on my opinions and for the board to consider and make decisions. I believe I have presented a very objective report, and I have nothing but the best for all basketball players in the midwest region. The board needs to decide what's the best for all these players.

#### Should MAAD remain affiliated to NDBO?

This is a big question to consider carefully. This is a double-edged sword. If MAAD ends its affiliation to NDBO, you can expect someone to establish MBAD to compete against MAAD and send teams to NDBO tournaments. Now, if MAAD wishes to maintain its affiliation with BOTH NDBO and USADB, you can expect NDBO to scrutinize MAAD on whether we make it CLEAR to all teams about having two options of paying national team fees. If MAAD does not do it properly, any team can object and go to NDBO tournament without touching our regional tournament. What will USADB do if we have one or more teams that do not pay USADB \$100 team fee? Remember that MAAD remains affiliated to USADB and in doing so, MAAD follows USADB rules. Being affiliated to NDBO, NDBO expects MAAD to do these two things.

Lastly, if there's a chance for MBAD to be established you can expect MBAD to charge a lot less than what MAAD has been charging. WBAD charged \$125 per team and drew six teams while FAAD drew four teams. EBAD officers are talking about charging only \$100 team fee and \$10 per player fee while EAAD charges \$200 team fee and \$20 player fee. Sure, MAAD has money to host a tournament or two at very low costs but that will drain MAAD treasury unnecessarily.

#### WBAD and EBAD organizational structure

WBAD bylaws show that there will be no delegates and voting power for club members. EBAD bylaws are not available for review. We do not really know how they will manage their affairs with or without input from bona fide club members.

#### NDBO Bylaw Amendments

How should the MAAD board respond to new bylaw amendments passed last week? Especially the removal of "Athletic Association of the Deaf"? What about the two bylaws amendments from last year's board meetings?

#### MAAD Petition

Decide whether to continue or to pull the petition back.