

**Professional Disc Golf Association
Board of Directors Summit, Augusta, GA 9/27-28/04 – Approved Minutes**

The Summit was convened by Commissioner Theo Pozzy

Present: T. Pozzy, J. Lyksett, J. Chapman, T. Calhoun, P. May, B. Hoeniger (ED), L. Gibson (Admin), D. Roddick (Dir of Spec Projects), C. Kennedy, C. Towne (Mon) Not Present: S. Wertz, B. Brakel

Introduction

Theo welcomed everyone to Augusta.

Theo led off by declaring the priority of the meeting was to examine the long term path of the PDGA, any required changes and the impact of changes on the budget.

Everyone was asked to provide goals for the long term vision of the PDGA. Common ideas included:

- put fun back into the organization, into the game
- decide what the PDGA is, who we serve e.g. do more for Ams, Sr players, course owners and managers
- focus on stability
- membership drive, growth of sport e.g. schools
- decide what we are doing well, and what we need to continue to focus on, where to expend energy and finances.
- construction of the new PDGA HQ at the NDGC.

Affiliated Clubs (Cliff Towne)

This program has seen significant growth in the past year, growing from 12 to 20 to 34 clubs in 2004. Providing each Club with its own page on the Discussion Board has proven to be a very popular move.

Action Item (Cliff, HQ)

For 2006, develop a more economical and less complicated format for joining the Affiliated Club Program.

Course Directory (Cliff Towne)

Cliff thanked the many volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Course Directory. His next project is to obtain the GPS co-ordinates for all courses. Viewers will be able to select a course, click on "Map Tee 1" and be taken to a Mapquest map with a red star on the first tee. The satellite view will show the entire course. The Search function will provide the nearest courses and distances from an entered zip code. Eventually Cliff hopes to include this Search function along Interstates.

Course Evaluation Survey (CES) (Cliff)

The survey instrument is almost ready to be distributed to State Coordinators and others for gathering data. The CES is a valuable first step towards creating an AAA system of course ratings. Available to PDGA members only via a protected place at the web site, this service will provide a starred rating for an entire course, and a number rating the design, individual tees/holes and amenities.

Action Items: (Cliff)

1. Cliff will forward to HQ a list of volunteers to be thanked publicly in DGWN.
2. Request State Coordinators assist in providing data for the GPS function.
3. Emails will be sent out to Course contacts requesting a response. If none is provided, the person's name and number will be removed from the Directory and another contact sought.
4. Theo to forward to Terry a list of emails from Course Owners requesting their names be removed from the PDGA email list.

PDGA Tour 2005 (Brian/John)

It is believed that the increasing expense of being a tournament player is one of the leading factors that is costing the PDGA memberships. This year our non-retention rate will be closer to 37%, higher than previous years, approaching the "unacceptable range."

Goal: To strengthen what has been the recommended Table of Tour Event Entry Fees and examine the resulting impact this will have on various tier levels.

Within the Sanctioning Agreement the "Terms of Agreement" include the Media Rights clause. Beyond the Major events we do not have the capacity to manage this. It was agreed the crucial point is for the PDGA to retain commercial rights in principle but to support small scale videographers as promoters of disc golf.

Action Items:

1. Brian and John to complete 2005 Tour core documents including Tour Standards and Sanctioning Agreement.
2. Brian and Stork to rewrite the Media clause, using non-threatening language, softening the tone.
3. Meld the Competition and NT Committees into one.

Board Teleconference

Five of seven BOD members met in executive session to consider the appeal of Cameron Todd of disciplinary action by Commissioner Theo Pozzy. Commissioner Pozzy and new board member John Chapman both sat out due to their earlier involvement in the disciplinary process.

Moved by Terry Calhoun; seconded by Jon Lyksett; approved by a 5-0 vote from board members in attendance: Calhoun, Lyksett, Pete May, Steve Wertz (telephone), and Bruce Brakel (telephone).

"That the PDGA board of directors confirms the commissioner's decision to impose disciplinary action on Cameron Todd for the incident at the 2004 Brent Hambrick Memorial Open in 2004 and we impose the following modified penalty:

1. Suspension for a period of two months beginning immediately, September 27, 2004 and ending November 27, 2005.

However, this suspension may be waived upon binding written agreement by Cameron Todd that he will donate any tournament winnings from his participation in his next PDGA Major event to the Leukemia Foundation. Proof of such donation must be received by the PDGA no later than November 15, 2005

2. A one-year probation beginning November 27, 2004 and ending November 27, 2005.

However, this probation begins September 27, 2004 and ends September 27, 2005 if the above-referenced agreement is received.

3. Suspension from participation in the 2005 Brent Hambrick Memorial Open."

Ratings Nationals (Chuck)

Goal: a Championship held in each division for those with a rating below 970. Tier yet to be determined, and still in the formative stage, there was nothing new to report at this time.

Disc Golf United (DGU) (Teleconference With H. Duvall)

Goal 1: provide a universal handicap for disc golf, one that is transportable, whereby an individual would be able to compare a handicap from one course to another, to play in a league in one area or another, taking their handicap with them.

Goal 2: to bring competitive disc golf to the 99% of disc golfers who are not PDGA members. In doing so, this is expected to be a member generator for the PDGA.

DGU will be internet based, not an organization and therefore not in competition with the PDGA.. Subscribers will pay a yearly or monthly fee, earning and redeeming points at the website. The relationship between DGU and local clubs has yet to be defined. To date, no leagues have signed up. There is potential for a Finals but that is down the road. The first step is to elicit the participation of local leagues.

PDGA Radio (All)

PDGA Radio was originally designed to be 10 minutes per week. Presently, a high quality show is being produced averaging 18-20 min. The vote to continue this initiative was tabled until the budget discussion later in the meeting.

Action Items: (HQ/Terry) Should PDGA Radio continue:

1. Regular emails to the membership reminding them to listen to PDGA Radio.
2. During the annual approach to the manufacturers for sponsorship, include advertising on PDGA Radio in the package.

Disc Golf Live (DGL) (All)

The PDGA subsidized the first 2 episodes of DGL. The Board expressed an interest in learning how many people availed themselves of this project, and how/what the next episodes would look like. The vote to continue DGL was tabled until the budget discussion later in the meeting.

Membership Growth Brainstorm (All)

It was agreed that a campaign via flyer and email is needed promoting reasons for joining the PDGA including:

- ratings
- co-ordinate World Championships
- course directory
- promote fair competition, assist TDs and reduce scheduling conflicts
- provide equipment standards
- promote national awareness

The discussion regarding memberships and opting in/opting out of DGWN was tabled until the spring '05 Summit.

Rules Update for 2005 (Theo/John)

A list of potential changes to the rules was submitted by the Rules Committee and reviewed by the Board. It was divided into 2 categories:

1. Must be changed in the upcoming revision of the rules book OR
2. Too much discussion required, will not be resolved at present and therefore left for the future.

The Board ran through the list, assigning rules to category 1 or 2. Those in category 1 will make it into the rules book in time for the 2005 season.

It was decided that the age related divisions for Juniors would be based upon the year of birth, which is consistent with the current format for Senior age protected divisions.

Day 2 Tuesday September 28, 2004

Preliminary 2005 Budget Review (Brian/Teleconference With S. Wertz)

Motion (Jon/Pete)

To accept the budget as presented and amended.

Unanimous **Motion Approved**

NDGC Update (C. Beale, B. Graham)

Columbia County has adopted a 10 yr Master Plan for Wildwood Park.

The boat ramp has been installed. Cabin areas, RV parking, additional horse trails, disc golf area and club house, new entry booth, visitors centre and festival area, walking/jogging trail around the periphery of the park are included in the plan.

One cent sales tax was recently voted on and approved by the county. The disc golf building will be one of the first projects undertaken, money will be borrowed and construction will begin hopefully around Jan 1/05 and completed by 2006. The Army Corps of Engineers are completely on board. They required the 10 yr Master Plan of the Park, which has been submitted and approved. The Corps are now prepared to examine the park trees the disc golf course designers have designated for removal subject to the Corps' permission. Undertaking a Wildlife, Ecological and Archeological survey is that last prerequisite before anything can be cut down.

The PDGA HQ building will be log cabin style with "green" specifications.

Action Items: (All)

1. Send out a call to the constituents requesting assistance with light clearing in preparation for the installation of the courses. Members could come and camp.
2. The Master Plan image as a digital file will be provided to us by Charlie Beale to be posted at pdga.com
3. Posters of the NDGC Map could be sold at pdgastore.com.

Motion (Jon/Pete)

Present Mr. Beale with an honorary PDGA membership.

Unanimous **Motion Passed**

PDGA Initiatives (Pete)

Pete distributed a handout outlining a 14 point campaign for improving the PDGA and fostering relations with the constituency. Highlights include:

1. Campaign why it is so important to join the PDGA.

Action Item: (Pete)

Will design a flyer for mass distribution highlighting reasons for joining the PDGA (see previous day's Brainstorming session).

2. Turn our focus to the World Championships with less emphasis on the NT Tour.

Action Item: (Pete)

Assemble an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of reducing the length of the World Championships.

3. Create a greater awareness of State Champions with their names posted at the website.

4. Regional Championships. Pete identified 10 disc golf's "hotbeds" around the country with contacts from each region who could take a lead role in organizing Regional Championships. He suggested the PDGA encourage these regions to compete against each other, wear team uniforms, foster pride and spirit in their region. This is a doable way to add energy to our sport. Initially it may be best to test drive the concept in one region. Create a ranking system.
5. Creation of a World Championship pin.

Motion (Pete/Terry)

Design a World Championship pin and accompanied by a numbered certificate give one to all past, present and future World Champions (Am and Pro) with their names entered into a special ledger. Pins will also be awarded to top finishing SR players beginning at age 55+, 65+, 75+.

Unanimous **Motion Passed**

Constitutional Rewrite (Teleconference with B. Brakel)

Removing titles from Board positions was discussed. Since this will involve a major constitutional rewrite it was decided to debate the issue further at the spring '05 Summit.

It was agreed to shift the election term to a time frame more appropriate to the PDGA yearly cycle: Sept 1-Aug 31. By changing Article 7 Section 7 Bruce agreed this can be incorporated relatively quickly into the current constitution with the least amount of rewriting and can be ready for inclusion in the election package distributed to members November/04. It was agreed to shorten the current terms of office to fit the new election schedule.

Action Items: (Bruce)

1. Compile a list of potential constitutional changes for discussion at the spring '05 Summit
2. Examine Georgia incorporation laws to see if there would be any benefit to incorporating in GA.

Further related topics for discussion at the spring '05 Summit will be: eliminating offices and bullet voting.

Dress Code (Jon)

Permitted Options:

Collared shirt
Mock turtleneck

Add:

High tech, high performance or dry fit shirt with crew, vee, henley or zip necklines
For men short or long sleeves covering shoulder to elbow
For women sleeveless style continues to be acceptable, must meet other requirements.

Not Permitted For Men or Women

Tanks tops
A-line shirts
Bare midriffs
Sports bras
Torn, worn ragged clothing
Offensive, drug or sexually related slogans or logos
Alcohol or tobacco related logos are prohibited for junior players.

Statement:

“Recognizing the athletic nature of our sport, shirts may be left untucked if they do not expose the abdomen or extend past the seam of a player’s shorts.” (If the shirt looks like one is wearing a dress, tuck the shirt in.) “Players are expected to dress appropriately and maintain a professional appearance.”

Action Item: (Jon)

Assemble a document with pictures of approved shirt styles, to be voted on by the Board in time for inclusion in the 2005 Players Handbook.

Modified Tournament System (Chuck)

Current System

Pay: Cash Prizes Trophy
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 Pro / \
 / \
 Skill : Age Age
 Base M/F M/F
 Ratings

Chuck’s Proposed System

Cash Prizes Trophy
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 Pro / \
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 Age Ratings Age
 M/F M/F

The following two modifications to the current format were approved:

1. Pros players with a rating < 955 are able to compete in Open-age Amateur divisions for which they meet the ratings standards.
2. Amateur players may compete in Amateur divisions for trophies only at a reduced entry fee.

Action Item: (Chuck)

In time for the next teleconference, a format (as it will be presented to Tournament Directors) will be drawn up, presented to and voted on by the Board.

Development of Critical Path Process For Major Event Production (Stork)

There is a need for a basic template i.e. a chronological map (years, months, days), systematizing the mechanics of running our Major events from bidding, planning, implementing and post production. Stork has agreed to draw up a document designing this process as a 3 yr critical path. He will run it by movers and shakers in the sport and ask for their input, identifying what is missing. It can be tested and fine tuned with the Allentown team in '05 but should be in place and ready for use 3 months post Allentown. At this point there is no need for software, but eventually there will be, with a web document available for use/reference. With such a tool in place, the aim is to have 6, 8, 10 timelines going simultaneously.

Collegiate Play (Stork)

Stork has received approximately 30 inquiries from different colleges or universities. An opportunity is out there if the PDGA wishes to take advantage of it. Led by Stork, possibly as early as next year, the PDGA could provide a template for competition run by organizations interested in inter-collegiate/inter-scholastic play. Stork recommends a specific format similar to match play seen in intercollegiate tennis or golf – a club sport like the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Assoc (NIRSA) or the Association of College Unions-International (ACU-I) not NCAA. Under the umbrella of the PDGA little or no financing would be required, we would encourage these college teams to get into our system by signing up as Affiliate Clubs - another potential membership generating initiative. We could advertise/promote collegiate play in DGWN, provide web pages describing the active teams and how to compete.

International Proposal (Brian)

Earlier this year, a substantial program proposal was submitted to our constituents overseas.
On Board: Japan, Finland, Sweden, Belgium (running sanctioned events this year), and Germany.
Great Britain coming on board next year.

The expectation is that the PDGA will provide these countries with leadership and a framework for coordinating a PDGA European Tour.

Taiwan signed recently – the Taiwan National Championships held later this year will be sanctioned. Japan will be sanctioning 24 events after the fact to strengthen player ratings and statistics, the next Japan Open in 2006 will be a Tour Major plus there is an expressed interest in and a commitment in principle by Kozo Shimbo/Hero Discs to make this event the Pro World Championships in 2008. This can be considered more seriously once an agreement has been signed. This event would serve as the qualifier for the World Games in Taiwan in 2009.

Action Item: (Brian)

Contact Taiwan, confirm that disc golf will be part of the 2009 World Games.

Dave Nesbitt will continue to develop the International program. This past summer, WFDF gave preliminary approval for the PDGA International Committee to function also as the WFDF Disc Golf Committee. The key issue here will be marrying representation on that committee between WFDF representatives related to disc golf in those countries and the organizations that are represented on WFDF, and some of the people who have proven to be the key disc golf movers and shakers in those countries from a PDGA perspective. In summary, the growth we are experiencing in our membership here as a result of what we have put out there, has borne significant fruit for year one.

New PDGA Staff announced.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm EST.

