

**Teleconference Minutes**  
**Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)**  
October 15, 2009

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Todd Andrews, Cris Bellinger, Dave Feldberg, Matt Gillis, Bob Decker, Juliana Korver and Rick Rothstein

*Quorum present?* Yes

*Others Present:*

Executive Director: Brian Graham

Other: Dan “Stork” Roddick – Director Special Projects, Dave Gentry – Tour Manager.

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting called to order at 8:32 pm EST by Chair, Todd Andrews*

**MOTION** (Decker/Rothstein)

Approve the fall summit minutes as corrected.

Approve: Andrews, Bellinger, Feldberg, Korver and Rothstein

Abstain: Gillis

Motion passes.

**MOTION** (Korver/Decker)

Certify the Focus, Ion and Mako.

Motion passes unanimously.

**Headquarters Update** *by Graham*

- As of the end of August, the PDGA had a net financial position of \$419,256 compared to a net financial position of \$313,746 at the same time last year

- Expenses (\$85,202) exceeded Income (\$50,364) in August by \$34,838

- As of 10/14/09, we have 13,552 active members compared to 12,504 members at the same time last year; this represents an 8.4% increase in membership thus far in 2009

*USDGC IPTV Broadcast*

- The live IPTV broadcast of the USDGC was by most accounts a tremendous success. There were a few hiccups during our 22 hours of broadcasting but it improved daily.

- Over 7400 viewers from 46 different nations viewed the show with nearly 1000 of the registered viewers making contributions totaling \$7,440 that will go to pay for the broadcast.

- Viewers were able to interact with the on-air personalities through a Viewer Participation Window where over 11,400 comments were posted over the four days of coverage, with the vast majority being

positive and giving kudos to the PDGA.

- A more detailed report on the broadcast is forthcoming.

#### *Marketing/Publicity Firm*

- Feldberg and Graham hosted a teleconference with Jenn Bragalone and Ryan Johnson of Leader Enterprises to discuss a potential marketing relationship.

- This was a follow-up on the marketing presentation that we reviewed at the fall summit. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce ourselves and our organizations.

- Jenn & Ryan would like to receive some direction from the board in regards to priorities before putting together a more formal proposal for your review.

- Graham will also be putting together an informational package for them containing statistics and demographics.

#### *Technical Standards Feedback*

- A request for feedback and comments on the potential requirement to include the disc name on all discs (engraved or hotstamp) was sent to all disc manufacturers via e-mail on 9/29/09 with a deadline of 10/16/09. Thus far I have received written responses from only five manufacturers but they all seem to be echoing the same sentiments. I will continue to compile the responses until the deadline before sending them on to the board and the technical standards committee.

#### *Auditor*

- The office is currently working on a request for proposals for an auditor to perform our annual financial audit.

#### **USEF/PDGA Military Division**

- Details of the new military division memberships are being finalized between the USEF and the office. The board will be given the final details to review and make comments before the draft is sent on to our attorney to create the final document.

#### **Tour Update by Gentry**

- As of Tuesday (10/13) there were a total of 1091 unique events (915 US, 20 Canadian, and 150 International) on the PDGA calendar.

- The growth rate in sanctioned events is at 8% and is almost identical to the increase we saw in 2008. At this current rate we will probably see close to 1000 US and 1250 total events in 2010.

- The office staff has been very busy getting ready for the October 20<sup>th</sup> ratings update and have imported over 230 events into our system since the last teleconference.

- The season is starting to wind down as it usually does after the US Championship and about 93% of all 2009 events have already occurred.

- There are two items that Gentry would like the Board to reach a final decision on:

1. Legends Division - Do we want to create age protected divisions every five years starting at age 70? If so will this begin in 2010 or should we wait until 2011? Also will we create equivalent amateur divisions?

- Stork suggested that we use the division's minimum age to delineate it. Such as Legends 70 for 70-74, Legends 75 for 75 – 80

**MOTION** (Decker/Rothstein)

Adopt a *Legends 75* division for the pros effective for 2010 as a trial year.

Yes: Andrews, Gillis, Feldberg, Korver, Rothstein, Decker

No: Bellinger

Motion passes.

2. Junior Scholarships - Is the board agreeable to pro earnings at a PDGA event going towards some type of scholarship for junior players? I think the details will need to be worked out including who is going to manage the scholarship but would like to officially obtain the approval for the concept. Also would a player's contributions be earmarked a specific player or would it go to a general fund instead?

- It is our understanding that if a person accepts cash as a disc golf professional, they would only lose their eligibility to play disc golf as a NCAA sport. However, disc golf is not an NCAA sport. The primary benefit of this scholarship is that the individuals want to be able to go to college and play other collegiate sports.

- Graham was instructed to look more closely into this matter.

**PDGA Committee Reports**

Course design – There is a course designer group and they used to have their own webpage with a wiki. That site is now down.

Disciplinary – There is one open case. There are 2 new members.

Environment committee – Jim Davis is the new chairperson. There are quite a few new members on the committee. Currently working on a project involving

International Committee – an international teleconference will occur soon.

IDGC – nothing to report

IT committee – Theo just gave Andrews a proposal on where we should go and it will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

NT committee – Feldberg has been working with Gentry regarding the rules knowledge test that players will be required to take prior to competing in an NT event in 2010.

Ratings stats – Feldberg is talking to Chuck trying to come up with a mathematical way to change the ratings. Chuck will be dropping the player's cup from the rankings next year as it will not be a major. Feldberg wants to get his hands on all the stats since 1983. Before 2000 the stats are all paper records.

Chuck is going to come out with ratings from 1993 to today.

Women's Committee – Over the last 12 months, Korver reestablished the women's committee. It now consists of: 11 women from across North America. The group held a women's meeting at Worlds this year which was very well attended. The main focus of the meeting was to try to empower the women present and to let them know that they should contact committee members if they have concerns or suggestions. The committee has decided to gather information regarding women's leagues, tournaments, and clinics and to make that information available on the PDGA website on a women's information page. Though the committee has been very slow in collecting the information, we do have a handful of items that can be placed on the women's page and Karolyn is working with Gentry to make that information available.

Senior committee – Rothstein has suggested to the committee chair to reach out to more of the committee for more help. Don Dillion is primarily working on getting disc golf into the senior games.

Tech Standards – no update (Bellinger needs to be added to this group).

Rules Committee - the competition manual will be included in the 2010 printing of the rule book. There will be a few modifications where the two currently overlap. In 2010, the committee will discuss possible rules changes that they hope will take effect for the 2011 season.

Youth Committee – Nothing new

#### **Technical Standards Update** *by Roddick*

- Last meeting the committee brought forward a proposal for requiring better identification on discs. We agreed that we wanted to do an outreach to manufacturers because it affects them most. The deadline for their responses is tomorrow. We have had 5 manufactures respond. What we can see so far is that there are some issues that we have to address. The particular thing that is more difficult than we imagined is the engraving of a model name. We wanted that because it would be permanent, but apparently that would be a very big hardship for them as they do a lot of mixing and matching of molds. So we need to revisit that part of it.

- We want to get to the point where companies are proud to make compliant discs and where their customers are demanding them.

#### **Disciplinary Process Document** *by Andrews*

##### **Motion (Decker/Bellinger)**

Adopt the Disciplinary Process Document dated October 15, 2009 as amended for the definition of rules.

Abstain: Feldberg, Rothstein

Yes: Andrews, Bellinger, Gillis, Korver, Decker

Motion passes.

### **Code of Conduct** *by Andrews*

- The board discussed the current code of conduct.
- Do we need to define “illegal activity”.
- Decker thinks it is important to adopt a code of conduct that we can enforce then annually we can strengthen the document.
- Rothstein leaves the conversation at 9:19pm.
- We need to be careful in how strong we make this.
- The code of conduct is already in the competition manual, we are simply revising it.
- Stork: When we get back to the event level, and we ask specific questions, “What if this happens, the board can say a. it is none of our business, or b. it is very much our business.” These are the questions that we need to figure out. If we just put out a policy and don’t have any way of backing it up, that may not help the situation. It seems useful to continue to work on this document, but to also pull out specific events that have happen in the past and to test them against the document.
- Do we need a new document to address the current problems or do we simply need to enforce the rules that we have?

### **Budget** *by Graham*

- Andrews asked for more detailed reports and have things broken down into more specific categories.
- Bellinger asked for some identification on a few of the budget items.

### **New Business**

Marketing – the company we are talking with wants priorities from the board before they continue. Is it the NT; is it marketing the whole sport? Graham will make a list and send to the board for some feedback.

Proposal from the Memorial and Discraft – They would like to apply for Major status for the Memorial.

- We should define what a major really is.
- Feldberg suggested that we make it an NT Opener that has a special status.
- Potentially make all majors qualify only events.

Feldberg brought up that he has been hearing big complaints about the USDGC allowing people to play who didn’t “qualify” by merit.

### **MOTION** (Gillis/Feldberg)

To adjourn.

Passed unanimously

- Meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm EST
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Juliana Korver

**Action Items**

Graham: See that Feldberg gets added to Jeff's email list

Graham: Talk to David Wiggins Sr regarding the NCAA guidelines.

Graham: Contact NCAA to confirm that an athlete's college eligibility is not jeopardized by accepting cash in a disc golf event.

Gillis: talk to Chuck Kennedy with regards to the course design group website.

BOD: everyone look at the code of conduct document and write down their opinions and the direction we need to go. Members are asked to post to the yahoo group.

BOD: look over the proposal from the Memorial