

Teleconference Minutes
Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)
November 5, 2009

Board Members:

Present: Todd Andrews, Cris Bellinger, Dave Feldberg, 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 8:36 pm EST by Chair, Todd Andrews

MOTION (Rothstein/Decker)

Approve the minutes from the 10/15/09 teleconference as corrected.

Yes: Korver, Feldberg, Rothstein, Decker, Andrews

Motion passes.

MOTION (Korver/Feldberg)

Certify the Guardian by Hero Leports, Co, the Nuke by Discraft, the Katana by Innova, the Titan Pro-24 and the HH3.

Motion passes unanimously.

Headquarters Update by Graham

- As of the end of September, the PDGA had a net financial position of \$547,208 compared to a net financial position of \$310,648 at the same time last year

- Income (\$146,699) exceeded expenses (\$99,255) in September by \$47,444

- As of 11/4/09, we have 13,708 active members compared to 12,644 members at the same time last year; this represents an 8.4% increase in membership thus far in 2009

Accounting

- The PDGA's tax accountant, Chuck Decker has been working with Decker and Graham to wrap up the 2008 990 tax form for filing. As of 11/3/09 the second draft was received and the accountant is awaiting approval from Bob and Graham before it is filed. Chuck Decker did inform us by e-mail on 11/3/09 that:

It has come to my attention that my office failed to obtain an additional extension in August to extend the returns until November 16, 2009. There was an internal problem which has been resolved, but regardless the fault is ours. I anticipate the Service will assess a failure to file penalty on both returns as they are indeed late. If you receive the assessment, I would appreciate the opportunity to have the penalties abated for reasonable cause. If the organization has not incurred

a previous late filing penalty, my experience is the Service most likely will abate it. However, if they choose not to abate the penalty, this firm will reimburse PDGA for any penalty incurred. It is our fault and that is only fair. I apologize for this oversight; it is embarrassing to me and my staff.

- Chuck mentioned in a previous e-mail that the PDGA should consider finding another accountant with more experience in unrelated business income as that has recently become a hot topic with the IRS. On Oct. 26th, Graham met with our local payroll accountant to discuss expanding our business relationship with them to include the filing of our required tax forms each year. That firm is in the process of putting together a bid for these services, which will be reviewed by Bob Decker and Graham before we make a recommendation to the board.

Audit

- A request for bids to provide auditing services to the PDGA was sent to six local accounting firms on October 19th with a response deadline of November 17th. The request asked for a one year bid as well as a three year bid. The main reason for this bid process is to ensure that the PDGA is getting a good price through competitive bids. It is hoped that our current auditor, Berry & Associates, will submit a competitive price and can be retained as they now have a good understanding of the PDGA's finances.

Marketing/Publicity Firm

- Jenny Bragalone of Leader Enterprises has been in contact with Graham several times and is very eager to submit their marketing/publicity proposal to the board. As explained earlier, she is waiting for a list of priorities from the board so she can better structure her proposal.

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. Eight responses were received from manufacturers by the deadline and were forwarded to the Technical standards Committee on 10/16/09.

2010 Documents

- The PDGA office is in the process of finalizing all 2010 membership and tour documents and will have them ready for our official 2010 membership kick off date of Nov. 16th.

Online Sanctioning Agreement

- The new online sanctioning agreement was completed and launched on Thursday Oct. 29th. This new process allows tournament directors to go to PDGA.com to complete an online sanctioning form and submit it to the office along with their online payment. The beauty of the new system is that it is now semi-automated and the office is happy to report that it has decreased the amount of time to process these agreements by nearly 50% thus far.

Tour Update *by Gentry*

- As of Tuesday (11/12) there were a total of 1104 unique events (927 US, 20 Canadian, and 157 International) on the PDGA calendar.
- There are very few changes to the PDGA tour next year.
- Gentry requested that the board review the technical standards regarding the classification of targets. The board gave their approval of this document.
- We are working on the rules proficiency test. Hopefully this will be up on the website by December 1st.

PDGA Committee Reports

Competition – no update

Course design – no update

Disciplinary – Currently working on 2 cases. Both are in the investigation process.

Environment committee – no update

International Committee – Feldberg missed the conference, but has talked to Hoeniger about the meeting. In the meeting, committee members talked about the Eurotour mostly.

IDGC – The committee chair has been missing in action. Graham is trying to contact him to see if he wants to retain his position.

IT committee – no update

NT committee – the board had an extra meeting regarding this subject last week. Gentry has created a new yahoo group for this committee.

Ratings & stats – Feldberg is working on a slope formula for disc golf courses.

Women's Committee – we are still waiting for the group to gather information regarding women's leagues and events. I am also still waiting to hear back from Karolyn regarding the creation of the page on the PDGA's website that will be used to display this information. Feldberg suggested that we have some kind of brochure available to encourage more college women to play disc golf. Andrews suggested that we could possibly take some older articles on women in disc golf to use in such a pamphlet.

Senior committee – Don Dillion is doing a lot of research. He wants to expose disc golf to seniors in a non competitive manner.

Tech Standards – no update

Rules Committee – Shawn Sinclair just sent a request to the group asking the committee members to come up with question that can be used on the rules proficiency test.

Youth Committee – no update

Technical Standards Update *by Roddick*

Proposed requirement:

As of July 1, 2010, all newly-approved discs must carry the approved model name either engraved in the mold or as part of the disc art, permanent sticker label or by indelible ink marking. The full model name is recommended, but the use of unique abbreviations or codes is acceptable. Such codes must be identified with the submission for approval.

It is also highly recommended that all approved discs carry the words "PDGA Approved" either engraved in the mold and/or as part of the disc art or a permanent sticker. Manufacturers are also encouraged to add the model and approval identification to all previously-approved discs when it is feasible to do so. All approved discs manufactured after January 1, 2012 must comply with these standards.

Rationale:

A primary benefit of the PDGA equipment approval process is to allow players, tournament directors, disc sellers and others to easily identify approved equipment. In the past, identification of approved discs has been unregulated. While some discs have been clearly identified, others have carried no approval or model information, which has created confusion. By ramping up to these identification regulations over time, we hope to make identification of discs more clear in the future.

Motion (Decker/Korver)

Accept the technical standards proposal as stated

Discussion: Feldberg brought up a concern about the sticker. Stork responded that they went with as many acceptable options that are out there. If a manufacturer finds that a consumer doesn't like one of the options then the market will speak to that and the manufacturer can respond accordingly. We are not insisting on any particular way of marking the disc, rather just that the disc is actually marked.

Abstain: Feldberg

Yes: Korver, Rothstein, Decker, Bellinger, Andrews

Motion passes.

Marketing/Publicity Priorities *by Graham and Feldberg*

- The firm that did the initial presentation at the summit is looking for direction. They want to know what our priorities are before they work more on their proposal.
- Graham read a list of possible priorities.
- Graham will compile the list and send to the board for prioritization.
- Feldberg added that the firm also wants to know what the PDGA asked for from Sports Loop so we can see where or how we went wrong with them.

Other items: getting better exposure to the general public, attracting more women to the sport, brand awareness, show celebrity interest. Create a website with a compilation of articles.

Code of Conduct *by Andrews and Bellinger*

- Bellinger sent the following questions to the board regarding our code of conduct.
- With the code of conduct, we are trying to put something in place for the future. We are not trying to add any additional rules, rather we are trying to encourage people to adopt a certain outlook and responsibility disc golf.
- General opinion was that we do have a conduct problem.
- Stork suggested that we think about the way the sport looks to new people or to ams that come in, but also remember that a number of the things that we are going to be talking about are really transparent to those individuals. Most of the time those individuals will not even come into contact with this document.

Junior Scholarships by *Graham*

- Graham spoke with Dr. David Wiggins again to clarify a few things. He stressed that this has very little to do with his son. His kids are in a bowling league where they compete for scholarship money. This program has resulted in growth and thinks it could be helpful to disc golf as well. He is not asking that David could play and retrain his am status. He just wants the PDGA to say to TD's that it is OK to give scholarship money in place of prizes.
- Dr. David Wiggins has offered to set up the fund and manage it.
- Maybe we need a document to TD's that explains to TD's that they have this option.
- Graham was directed to put together a plan and bring it back to the board.

Chain reaction by *Graham*

- A five dollar credit will cost about \$3.50.
- The additional staff time is minimal.

Motion (Rothstein/Decker)

Accept the chain reaction program as a trial program for 2010 and then assess it in time for the member outreach in 2011.

Abstain: Bellinger

Yes: Korver, Feldberg, Rothstein, Decker,

Motion passes.

[Gentry left the teleconference]

Budget by *Graham*

- The board discussed Graham's suggestions regarding staff salaries and bonuses.
- Andrews suggests that the staff restructures the budget so it becomes a better tool for us in the future
- The board needs to review Grahams compensation and will do so via email.

Decker moved to accept the Budget for 2010, but it did not get a second. The board suggests that we spend a few more weeks looking at the budget before we approve it.

MOTION (Feldberg/Decker)

To adjourn.

Passed unanimously

- Meeting adjourned at 10:51 pm EST
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Juliana Korver

Action Items

Bellinger and Andrews: Will submit a new version of the code of conduct to the yahoo group next week, highlighting the areas that are new.

Graham: Put together a plan for the Junior Scholarship program.