

Summit Day 1 Minutes
Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)
April 30, 2009

Board Members:

Present: Todd Andrews, Chris Bellinger, Ron Convers, Bob Decker, Matt Gillis, Juliana Korver and Rick Rothstein

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present:

Executive Director: Brian Graham

Other: Dave Gentry – Tour Manager, Dan “Stork” Roddick – Director Special Projects, Chuck Kennedy – Consultant, Addie Isbell – Membership Manager, Todd Breiner - fulfillment, Jim Davis – MI, Lorrie Gibson, Brian Hoeniger – Consultant for International Affairs.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 8:40pm EST by Chair, Bob Decker.

Executive Director’s Report: presented by Brian Graham

- As of the end of February, the PDGA had a net financial position of \$269,759. Last year at this time we had a net financial position of \$187,816. This represents an increase of \$81,943.
- As of the end of February, the PDGA had a net cash position of \$269,980. Last year at this time we had a net cash position of \$190,959. This represents an increase of \$79,021.
- The March 2009 financial report will be completed as soon as all invoices have been received from the fulfillment house and it will be uploaded to the Yahoo Group early next week.
- Our 2008 financial audit by Barry & Associates is still waiting to receive 2008 PDGA Canada finances from Don Lane before the audit can be completed. Brian Hoeniger is working with Don to get this missing information for the office.
- As was reported on April 15, several counterfeit checks were written against our main GABT checking account. I was immediately notified by the bank, when they saw several discrepancies. The account was immediately locked down and none of our money was lost. This account has since been closed and a new one was opened as a security precaution.
- An additional holding account was opened at SunTrust on April 15. SunTrust is the same bank that Todd Breiner uses in Atlanta and they have branch offices here in Augusta. The purpose of this new account is so Breiner can make deposits directly into our account instead of sending deposits by courier from Atlanta.
- The finances of the PDGA continue to be very healthy and the association is in the best financial shape in our history. Credit for this should be given to former executive director, Brian Hoeniger and membership’s manager Lorrie Gibson, who inherited a struggling organization and transformed it into the healthy association that it is today.

Memberships: by Addie Isbell

- We currently have 10,474 active members (Am: 7,912 Pro: 2,562). This is an increase of 6% over 2008.
- Us/Canada: 9,680/133
- International: 794 (Japan usually renews around May; no mags: 687)
- Juniors: 301
- Masters: 2,346
- Grandmasters: 1,220
- Sr. Grandmaster: 196
- Legend: 25
- No DOB submitted: 40
- Born 1994-1970: 6,346
- Male: 9,722
- Female: 752

- The new membership process is running smoothly. The “where is my stuff” emails are minimal which consumed much of Isbell’s time last year.

Member Discounts Update

- Wyndham Hotel Group has added Microtel and Hawthorn Suites to the rebate program. Since the program started in mid July, the PDGA has made \$186.07. This should grow as the members become more aware of it. The codes and information are printed on the reverse side of the membership cards this year in addition to being listed within the TD confirmation emails.
- Red Roof Inn is now offering members 15% off with a 5% rebate to the PDGA. This started mid April so we have not seen the first rebate check.
- We are currently working on adding a “\$5 off PDGA Membership” logo for all Affiliated Club websites; reviewing “Membership Growth” Newsletters; brainstorming membership drive ideas; looking for more discounts/merchandise.
- Lost members: out of 39,100 known PDGA members 20,114 are Amateurs that have not renewed. Maybe we need to think about some incentives for Ams to renew.
- Possible ways to attract more ams might be: a 12 month membership instead of following the calendar year, lowering renewal membership fees (excluding jrs), and giving pro shop reward dollars for members who bring back lost members.

Income thoughts

- Possibly put PDGA pro shop or IDGC merchandise on eBay. (The pro shop is currently being rebuilt.)

Tour Update: by Gentry**(copy off of hand out)**

- As of 4/28, there were a total of 739 unique events (624 US, 10 Canadian, 105 international) on the Calendar. This is a 9.7% increase in US events compared to the same date last year.
- We are seeing more early (Feb, Mar) and late (Nov, Dec) events then in years past.

IT

- We recently switched our discussion board from Ubbthreads to vBulletin. This is a key step as it will allow us a single login / authentication for all users and will lay the foundation for blogs, photos, videos, etc. The conversion has not been completely painless but the issues have been identified and will be resolved soon.
- The next significant website item that will be updated is the course directory. Ciphent has received the specifications and is working on implementation. I expect to see this launch by the middle of May.
- We are also very close to having an online sanctioning agreement ready to go. I believe a web form will be more user friendly to tournament directors and the associated import tools that we are working on will increase office efficiency. This should be launched in mid-May.
- A problem brought to Gentry's attention that the course directory link does not work from mobile phones. It was requested that the regular addresses for each course be added to the directory.
- We will add coordinates to the parking lot in addition to the current coordinates of the first tee.

National Tour Review – by Ron Convers

- The BOD discussed where we want to go with the NT.

MOTION (Andrews/Korver)

Approve the National Tour Review process (created by Stork) beginning October 1st of 2009 for the planning of 2011.

Note from Stork: Part of the first year of this is for both sides to keep notation and potentially adjust these dates. So it should be a living document in that the first time through we may need to shift the time line slightly.

Motion passes unanimously.

- The composition of the NT committee will be reorganized. We want to find people who can help address the issues of promotion and media.
- Possible changes to the NT structure – biannual schedule and Worlds to Worlds calendar instead of following the annual calendar.
- How is an NT measureable different than another event. We need to give the TD's the tools to create this atmosphere.
- Best model we have right now is USDGC that has both a tournament director and an event director.
- Should we emphasize the festival atmosphere to try to distinguish the NT events?
- At some point we need to become certain what it means to be an NT event, but that certainty cannot translate into inflexibility. We need to be ready and able to respond to the best opportunities that become available to us along the way.

TD Bill of Rights – by Andrews/Bellinger

- Decker doesn't like what the name of the document applies.
- Discussion regarding the reasons a TD can refuse players admittance to the event.
- Andrews walked the board through the proposed document with much discussion.
- These ideas could be put into the competition manual.

- This is a work in progress and hopefully some aspects of it will find themselves into the competition manual.

Tournament Payout Structure – *by Decker*

- This refers to the question regarding the “legality” of our tournament structure. The question is whether our payouts are considered gambling. This issue was last discussed by the BOD in 2005.
- We may need to task the staff to look into this. The problem is that we have to check each state separately.
- Possible ways to get around this are to add sponsorship cash and post a payout in advance of an event.
- We could add something in the sanctioning agreement that states that the TD’s are required to meet the rules of their state.
- We owe it to the TD’s to deliver some guidance.
- We have 50 states, the law, and then the reality. The more practical way to deal with this may be to see what other similar organizations are doing in each area (bingo, pool, darts) and follow their model.
- Prosecutions are on the public record, so we can search the records to see if any other sports organizations have dealt with this.
- The following statement will be amended to the sanctioning agreement:
 - “The tournament director and sponsoring organization understand that it is their responsibility to comply with all local, state and federal laws.”

Legends Division Review – *by Gentry*

- Reviewed the demographics of the Legends division
- Do we want to create divisions for 5 year increments after 70?

MOTION: (Bellinger/Convers)

Create a trophy division for the 75 and above age group beginning at this year’s worlds.
Motion passes unanimously.

Discipline Process Review – *by Decker/Graham*

- Our lawyer has requested our definition of probation and suspension.

Suspension: A player who is placed on suspension by the PDGA shall forfeit all rights and privileges granted to members of the organization for the length of term specified. These forfeited rights include, but are not limited to:

- Playing in any PDGA sanctioned events
- Officiating in any PDGA sanctioned events.
- Directing or helping to direct any PDGA sanctioned events.
- Voting in any PDGA elections.
- Holding any PDGA offices.

If a player is found to have violated the terms of the suspension, that player risks permanent loss of their PDGA membership.

Probation: If a player has been placed on probation they are able to enjoy all of the rights and privileges of PDGA membership. However, If they are subsequently accused of additional infractions during the probationary period, they will be immediately reviewed by the disciplinary committee. This review shall take no longer than three months. During this review period these new accusations will be looked at by the committee using the preponderance of the evidence standard. If the player has been found to be in violation of the terms of the probationary period, that player risks an extension of their current suspension and / or probation. In addition, depending upon the circumstances of the violation, the player may also risk the permanent loss of their PDGA membership.

MOTION (Convers/Gillis)

Approve the above definitions for Probation and Suspension to be used by our attorney.

Motion passes unanimously.

- Andrews was directed to contact our attorney (or have Disciplinary Committee Chair, Shawn Sinclair do so) to ask what possible changes he suggests that we make to the disciplinary process.
- Discussed having a membership document that covers membership conduct outside of tournament play?

International Report – by *Hoeniger/Graham*

- There has been tremendous growth in the European numbers since 2004.
- The new country for this year is Austria. We have 4 sanctioned events this year in Austria and 19 members so far.
- Italy is likely the next country to become part of PDGA Europe.
- We now have Canada listed under the International demographics. We only have 10 events officially on the schedule, but it will be at least 23 which will be a doubling over the last few years. There is now an Ontario Disc Sport Association which has received substantial government funds. This group will work to improve Ontario course conditions.
- We have 5 affiliated countries in Asia/Australasia. The newest country is South Korea. They are in the formative stages and have no courses or tournaments yet.
- The two countries outside of Europe who may have the greatest potential to break out are South America and Costa Rica.
- We had a bid from Finland to host the 2011 Pro World Championships. Due to some changes, they have decided not to continue with their 2011 bid but may still bid for the event in the future.
- Graham and Hoeniger will attend the European Championships and will participate in the PDGA Europe meeting.

Europeanization of PDGA Europe

- Europe would like to move towards a self-directed PDGA Europe. Hoeniger provided the board with a document containing the reasons and benefits as well as a proposal on the structure and timeframe for this to take place.
- We need to insure that this model includes some small tie back to the PDGA.

- We want to have them take over things that are hard for us to do from a distance, but where it makes sense for us to continue to do the things that are not made harder with distance; we should continue to do so.
- Transition should be done in pieces to show us that this can be done satisfactorily.

PDGA Majors – *by Rothstein*

- Do we have too many Majors? Have they been created for the right reasons?
- Should the Am Doubles event maintain its Major status when it is populated by 90% local players?
- Maybe the World Doubles could be put up for bids.
- Suggestion – on years that we have am and pro world championships, we could call for bids from clubs in the general region so international travelers could extend their trip to hit the world doubles as well. For years where am and pro are together, the event should be following or preceding and again presented by a different, but relatively close club.
- Similarly, Tim Silenski has mentioned that the USMDGC may benefit from a rotating location.
- This discussion will continue in the future.

2010 Pro Worlds Bid (Indiana) – *by Jay Svito/Brian Cummings*

- Proposed dates August 2 – 7 at Lemon Lake County Park
- 4 courses in one location
- BOD would like a more detailed budget that includes the Income side of things.

2012 Pro/Am Worlds Bid (Charlotte) – *by Tim Morgan/Sam Nicholson/ Bill Jacobson*

- Tim Morgan addressed the board with regard to their 2012 Worlds bid.

MOTION (Gillis/Korver)

Approve the 2012 Pro/Am Worlds be awarded to Charlotte, NC pending approval of the course evaluations and the ability to agree on a suitable contract.

Motion passes unanimously.

Worlds Video RFP – *by Graham*

- 2009 Worlds DVD – 4 bids: Media Active, ReCurve Media, Thill Media and Soleman Video Production.

MOTION (Gillis/Bellinger)

Approve the RFP from Media Active pending the approval of PDGA staff after further communications

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION (Gillis/Bellinger)

Ajourn.

Motion passes unanimously

Action Items:

- (Addie) - Continue to mention membership benefits in the e newsletter .
- (Korver) - Find someone to replace me on the women's committee as it is somewhat of a conflict to be both liaison and chair.
- (Convers) - Draft up a possible composition for the NT committee and post to yahoo group for discussion.
- (Graham) - Purge the Yahoo group of unnecessary and outdated information to make it easier
- (Decker) - Add Player Conduct to the next meeting.
- (Graham) - Investigate the legality of a tournament payout by first talking to Brian Murphy.
- (Andrews) - Contact Brian Murphy with regard to the disciplinary process and see what he believes should be modified.
- (All BOD) - Go over the PDGA Europe Transition document. Provide Hoeniger with questions and comments and an indication of approval on this concept.
- (Graham) - Send an email to Brian Cummings with a list of the additional information the BOD would like to see regarding their 2010 Lemon Lake Worlds Bids.
- (Graham) - Talk to Media Active regarding the Worlds Video RFP.

- Meeting adjourned at 5:14pm

- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Juliana Korver