

**Teleconference Minutes**  
**Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)**  
August 12, 2009

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Todd Andrews, Cris Bellinger, Ron Convers, Bob Decker, Juliana Korver and Rick Rothstein

*Quorum present?* Yes

*Others Present:*

Executive Director: Brian Graham

Board Member Elect: Dave Feldberg (joined us at 7:42pm)

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

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting called to order* at 8:32pm EST by Chair, Bob Decker.

**MOTION** (Bellinger/Andrews)

Approve the minutes from the July 1<sup>st</sup> Teleconference.

Motion passes unanimously.

**MOTION** (Korver/Convers)

Certify the Blitz and the Power Precision.

Motion passes unanimously.

**Headquarters Update:** *by Graham*

*Finances:*

- As of the end of March, the PDGA had a net financial position of \$483,938.

- This is compared to a net financial position of \$324,625 at the same time last year but this increase is deceptively inflated due to Worlds income and the timing of expenditures as compared to 2008.
- Income (\$38,784) exceeded Expenses (\$91,956) by \$53,172.

- The June 2009 financial report will be uploaded to the Yahoo Group upon completion.

*Memberships:*

As of 8/5/09, we have 12,573 active members.

- That is compared to 11,925 members at the same time last year.
- This represents a 5.4% increase in membership thus far in 2009.

#### *2009 Elections:*

- The 2009 PDGA elections took place from July 1 – July 31 and have now been completed. 12,072 ballots were sent out to eligible members with 3,299 members voting, representing a participation rate of 27.3% of eligible voters. This is the second highest return rate ever just behind last year percentage wise although more members voted this year.
- David Feldberg was elected to the Board of Directors and will take office on September 1<sup>st</sup> and Ron Convers will be leaving the board.

#### *2009 PDGA Worlds:*

- The 2009 PDGA Disc Golf World Championships were recently held in Kansas City.
- The event was the largest in the history of the PDGA with approximately 930 players from 13 countries and 44 states in attendance.
- The Kansas City Flying Disc Club did an outstanding job on the event and the tournament was viewed as a tremendous success by the majority of the members in attendance.
- The office will work with the host club over the next couple of weeks on the final financial report.

#### *PDGA Awards:*

- The annual divisional points awards for 2008 that were presented at the World Championships once again caused some major concerns and questions from the members. Some of the winners were not happy that they won points awards in divisions in which they were eligible but did not compete in, such as Ken Climo with the Masters Points Award. The members who did compete in the divisions were angry that they did not win the award and that it was given to a player who never competed in their division.
- The current system is confusing and very few people are happy with it. I am requesting that the Board task the office with reviewing the current eligibility guidelines for the points awards and to allow us to present a new process for your review and possible approval.

#### **PDGA Committees**

##### *Environmental:*

- I respectfully request that the board of directors name Jim Davis as committee chairman of the PDGA Environmental Committee. I recruited several new members for this committee while at the World Championships including Mike “the unknown” Simone who is an environmental engineer.

#### **MOTION (Korver/Convers)**

That we name Jim Davis as committee chairman of the PDGA Environmental Committee.

Motion passes unanimously.

##### *Senior Committee:*

- I respectfully request that the board of directors create a new Senior Committee with Don Dillon as its chairman. The first task of this committee will be to get the sport of disc golf included in the senior state games in each state. Don Dillon has already been successful with this in Pennsylvania.
- John Bird, who has also agreed to serve on the committee, has gotten disc golf accepted into the senior games in Colorado.

**MOTION** (Convers/Andrews)

That we create a new Senior Committee and name Don Dillon as its chairman.

Motion passes unanimously.

*Smoking at PDGA Events:*

- Several members approached me at the World Championships and asked that the PDGA consider banning smoking during sanctioned events. They stated that nicotine was a drug that adversely affected their play and they were being unfairly exposed to it during play. I explained the current rules related to smoking and advised the members that I would present their request to the board for consideration.
- Perhaps we should write an article on the website or in the magazine discussing the fact that smoking can be called as a courtesy violation.

*Junior Scholarships:*

- By virtue of a straw poll, the majority of the board of directors were in agreement that the PDGA should look into the possibility of allowing Junior players to compete in pro divisions but maintain their amateur status by allowing any cash won to be used for college scholarships.
- Dr. David Wiggins, Sr. did some research for the PDGA office and reported that this would not affect a student's future NCAA eligibility in other sports.
- Graham spoke with the founder of the Junior Disc Golf Foundation and he is agreeable to working with the PDGA on this program.
- The board directed the PDGA office to proceed with developing the details of this program for future review and comments.

*Future Worlds*

- The Houston Flying Disc Society has expressed interest in hosting the 2011 Pro Worlds in Houston, TX. I would like to make an announcement that we will be accepting proposals for the 2011 Pro Worlds at the fall summit. Once we get this event awarded, we will be set until 2013.

*IDGC Sponsor:*

- Dr. Rick and Sylvia Voakes have graciously offered a \$25,000 sponsorship to the International Disc Golf Center for naming rights on a future course.
- Our agreement with Columbia County calls for them to review the project at the end of 2009 to determine if they will give us more land for another course.

*Magazine Sales:*

- Possibility to use magazine sales to raise money for the PDGA. Addie will get some more details and will present this to the board at the fall summit.

*International Meetings:*

- Brian Hoeniger and Graham hosted a meeting in Kansas City for our partners and country representatives' from Australasia. (Japan, China, New Zealand, Australia, Korea) The meeting was very fruitful and Graham is currently working with some of our manufacturers to find ways of getting more affordable course equipment to these areas.
- The minutes from this meeting are available to any board members who wish to see them.
- We will be hosting a summit for all European country coordinators in conjunction with the 2009 European Open (PDGA Major) in Tampere Finland at the end of August.

*Military:*

- Graham is going back and forth with Jerry on the registration process.
- His BOD thought they wanted to handle registration, but after looking at it they have now passed that responsibility back to us.
- Once Graham gets a more comprehensive plan he will bring it back to the BOD.

**PDGA Tour:** *by Gentry*

- As of 8/11/09 there was a total of 968 unique events (808 US, 17 Canadian, & 143 International) on the PDGA calendar. We have maintained double digit growth in US events and in fact the rate was 10.2% at the last teleconference.
- If we assume that we will have 1060 events on the PDGA Tour this year, then we have currently entered 91.3% (968) into the calendar, 65% (689 total) of those events have already occurred, and 50.7% (537 total) of those events have been processed by PDGA headquarters.
- We recently returned from the World Championships which had a record attendance of 922 players (327 Pros, 518 Ams, 77 juniors). A full report will be coming in the next month or two but I believe the event was well received by the players.

*IT:*

- The Worlds media page was a great example of what can be accomplished with the new Drupal platform and we received a great deal of positive feedback about that page and the online coverage in Kansas City.
- There are several projects that will be launched in the next week or two after Gentry returns from the Vibram Open. These projects are a new and improved course directory and a web form that will allow tournament directors to submit an online sanctioning agreement.
- Gentry has been asked to do an update about where we stand with mobile devices. The current website is not optimized or 100% compatible with mobile devices and the primary problems deal with flash or JavaScript.
- One of the upcoming milestones for the website is the creation of a mobile template. This template will feature portions of the website beneficial to mobile users such as the schedule, results and course directory. It is not known when this will be completed, but November 15th is the target completion date for all development under the current contract.
- There have also been some recent discussions about apps for the iPhone and Blackberry. The office has had inquiries from developers interested in developing applications and the licensing of data, primarily the course directory data.
- Gentry has a phone conference scheduled with a developer later this week who wants to create a course directory app and provide the ability to create course maps.

**Audit of financial statements:** *by Decker*

- All BOD members need to review and get any questions to Decker by this Friday.
- Decker believes that we need to go out for 3 year bids again to do the audit because the current company did not include inventory (in Atlanta at the fulfillment center or at the IDGC). PDGA staff does an inventory, but the auditor did not verify that the numbers were correct.

- Other than that, this current auditing group has both pros and cons. They are familiar with us and work well with Brian who prefers that we stay with this group, but does agree that it would be a good idea to put it up for bids.
- A request for proposals should be sent out soon if we are going to do so.

**Disciplinary policy update:** *by Andrews*

- Andrews rewrote the disciplinary document based on what we have discussed over the last few months.
- The BOD will have 1 week to discuss over email before sending to the attorney for approval.

**Player Conduct update:** *by Andrews/Bellinger*

- This hinges on the disciplinary document and the BOD has been asked to do some research regarding this, but will address it directly following the approval of the disciplinary document.

**National Tour Action proposal:** *by Convers/Gentry*

- We should be working on 2011 at this point if we want to follow the timeline that was approved. However, we still have to deal with 2010 to “catch up” with this time frame.
- Suggestions for 2010: lower the number of NT events, but keep the same amount of money, assign John Duesler to oversee the 2010 year. Ask for applications for 2010 immediately with a deadline somewhere around September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Is the application process the best way to judge which event will be successful? There should be standards that are required before a club can bid for an NT.
- We need to figure out a way to hold TD’s to these standards. Should there be ramifications for a tournament not meeting the required standards.
- Application or Invite. We need to get the TD’s involved in this process. Use an invite and then ask those clubs to fill out the application to see if they can do it.
- Clubs/locations who we know can do a good job: Memorial, Masters Cup, Fling, KC, Vibram open,
- How are these events going to be distinguished from others? Generally what makes them great comes locally. It is more likely that what will make them great are the standards and expectations that we hold for them that will help them distinguish themselves from other events.
- Standout events have banners, information, vendors, food, they have a public face.
- Discussed adding a request for VIP amenities and 3-5 spots for registration exemptions’ held until 2 weeks before as well as moving up the added cash requirement to \$5000

**Future Summits:** *by Graham*

- PDGA 2009 Fall Summit will be held Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.

*-2010 Spring Summit*

The Lemon Lake Parks district, who will be hosting our 2010 Pro Worlds, has offered the PDGA free use of its meeting facilities for our 2010 spring summit. They would like to give BOD members the opportunity to see the complex that will be used for the Worlds later in the year.

- They have also offered to assist us in finding affordable room accommodations should we decide to host the summit there.
- Our costs will increase to fly some office staff to the summit but this cost may be offset somewhat due to the fact that everyone would be flying directly in to Chicago instead of taking the smaller flights from Atlanta or Columbia to Augusta.
- This would also represent a cost decrease as it could serve as a course/facility review.

**John Duesler Media Issue:** *by Decker/Graham*

- The media storm has died down and there is no reason to think that John can't represent the PDGA

**Election of officers 9/2/09:** *by Decker*

- We need to be ready to elect officers.
- Rothstein would like to add a regional director to the list of positions. This is not in the by-laws, but there is no reason that the board can't appoint one of the group members to the unofficial job.

**Online Registration**

- We have received complaints about the current online registration website. Typical complaints are that it is not attractive, not intuitive, and slow.
- When a TD sanctions an event there is a box to check whether or not they want to have online registration. The TD will be given a link to his online registration form that he fills out with divisions and prices. Brinner then sets up the page, but the time frame varies. When it is set up, The PDGA office adds the icon to the schedule page.
- In the past, we talked about putting this up for bids.
- Terry Miller has a very professional site that does online registration for disc golf as well as other sports and activities. He is interested in getting a link from the PDGA schedule to his site.

**MOTION** (Convers /Andrews)

Adjourn.

Motion passes unanimously

- Meeting adjourned at 11:20pm
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Juliana Korver

**Action Items:**

Graham – prepare a request for proposal for an auditor.

Andrews – send the disciplinary document to the BOD

BOD – reply to Andrews regarding the disciplinary document by 8/20/09

BOD – look into player conduct of other sports to get some ideas how to handle this.

BOD – come up with a list of events to run NT's and send to Gentry and Convers soon.

Staff – need some kind of freshmen orientation for new board members.