

Board of Directors Teleconference Minutes
Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)
August 7, 2012

Board Members:

Present: Bob Decker, Rebecca Duffy, Dave Feldberg, Avery Jenkins, Kevin McCoy

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present: Executive Director Brian Graham, Dan Roddick, Rick Rothstein, Karolyn O’Cull

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 8:35pm EST by Board President, Rebecca Duffy

Duffy welcomed newly elected board members Rick Rothstein and Karolyn O’Cull to the meeting as observers, in advance of them officially taking office on Sept. 1st, and thanked them for serving.

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes

MOTION (Decker/Jenkins)

Approve the meeting minutes of the July 2012 teleconference.

Yes: Decker, Duffy, Feldberg, Jenkins, McCoy, Wyngaard (by proxy)

Motion passes 6-0

Spring Summit Meeting Minutes

Rebecca Duffy informed the board that she was currently in the process of uploading the Spring Summit minutes.

Closing of On-line Motions

None

Headquarters Update

Memberships - Nicholson

As of 8/1/12, we had 16,122 active members

- Compared to 14,897 members at the same time last year
- This represents an 8.2% increase in memberships thus far in 2012

Finances - Graham

The 2011 PDGA financial audit has been completed and delivered to the office by our independent auditing firm, Pennington & Barry. Copies of the audit documents have been uploaded to the Board Yahoo Group for review.

The auditor reported that the financial statements referred to in the audit presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the PDGA as of December 31, 2009 and 2010, and the respective changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Office Report - Graham

PDGA Elections

The 2012 PDGA elections concluded on July 31, 2012 and the certified results were published at PDGA.com the following morning. 15,561 ballots were sent out to eligible members with 2,990 members voting, representing a participation rate of 19.21% of eligible voters. The three candidates garnering the most votes for the Board of Directors were Avery Jenkins, Rick Rothstein and Karolyn O’Cull and they will officially begin their terms on September 1st.

DiscGolfer Magazine

The Fall 2012 issue of DiscGolfer magazine, which will contain comprehensive World Championships coverage, is currently under development with a scheduled press delivery date of August 29th. Members should begin receiving this issue in early September.

European Disc Golf Championships

Executive Director, Brian Graham will be attending the 2012 European Disc Golf Championships in Colchester, United Kingdom on Aug. 15-18. Brian will be conducting a meeting with all PDGA Europe country coordinators on Wednesday evening Aug. 15th to discuss the results of the recently completed 2012 PDGA International Survey, as well as to discuss ways in which the PDGA can better serve our international members and assist in the development of the sport internationally.

PDGA Board Fall Summit

The 2012 Board of Directors Fall Summit has been scheduled for September 13-14 at the PDGA International Disc Golf Center in Appling, GA. The summit will precede the Augusta Disc Golf Classic SuperTour Event on two courses in Augusta, GA on Sep. 15-16 hosted by the Augusta Disc Golf Association. All PDGA members are invited to attend the summit meetings.

Connect Marketplace Conference

Events Manager, Alan Kane will attend the Connect Marketplace Conference on Aug. 16-18 in New Orleans, LA. Connect Marketplace matches sports commissions and visitors bureaus from all over the country with the owners of meetings and events. Shows like these are very valuable to the PDGA as it gives cities interested in disc golf the opportunity to meet with us face to face to discuss how they can support existing disc golf events as well as bring new events to their communities. Airfare and hotel costs to attend this show are covered by the host, Collinson Media.

Sports Organization Alliance

Executive Director, Brian Graham has engaged in conversations with the EVP Pro Volleyball Tour, the UWP-IJSBA Pro Watercross Tour, Goalline Sports, and an unnamed Pro Surfing Tour to discuss a potential partnership to explore ways in which our organizations can work together on event sponsorship, broadcasting and possible co-events. Graham will continue to explore this relationship and will bring information back to the Board as it becomes available.

Tour Report – Sweeton

2012 YTD vs 2011 YTD Tour Breakdown																					
	Totals			Location			Tier Level														
	Total	Paid	Unique	US	Canada	Intrntl	Major	NT	A	B	C	A/B	B/C	C/A	C/B	XA	XA/XB	XB	XC	Leagues	
2012 YTD	1460	1419	1402	1155	23	224	8	6	56	364	783	7	3	1	29	4	1	6	23	111	
2011 YTD	1227	1190	1187	960	19	208	9	9	54	348	691	10	4	2	30	3	1	6	21	0	
Difference	233.3	229.1	215	195	4	16	-1	-3	2	16	92	-3	-1	-1	-1	1	0	0	2	111	
% Difference	19%	19%	18%	20%	21%	8%	-11%	-33%	4%	4%	13%	-30%	-25%	100%	-3%	33%	0%	0%	10%	11100%	

- 1) We have 1460 events, 1402 unique, on the 2012 calendar (an increase of 80 since last month's report) and 1419 of them have paid their sanctioning fees. YTD we are at 19% ahead of last year. The US is 20% ahead of last year, Canada is 21% ahead and International is at 8% ahead.
- 2) The fourth Ratings Update for 2012 events is scheduled to be published on August 14th. The data package is in Roger and Chuck's hands and includes 259 events plus the 1095 player Combined PDGA Worlds.
- 3) Several more rounds of testing on importing PDGA Leagues has occurred since returning from Charlotte and as of this past Sunday (8/5) Theo has an import tool that works correctly for assigning rankings and points for Leagues. Currently I have 40 reports from Leagues and will import them over the next two days to prepare a separate League data package for Roger and Chuck on Tuesday 8/7. Their workload will determine if the League ratings can be included with the 8/14 Ratings Update or if they will be separate shortly thereafter.

2012 PDGA World Championships

Due to last minute drops and no-shows the 2012 PDGA Worlds ended up being 1095 players – 705 Amateurs and 390 Pros. The size of the field caused some headaches for the Scoring Office, but despite some early issues lessons were learned, adjustments were made, and by Wednesday night the largest shuffle in disc golf history (740+ players) was accomplished and posted online by 7:30pm. We had daily issues with thunderstorms and lightning culminating on the Friday afternoon round where 9 of 13 courses had at least one lightning delay. Luckily all but the most eastern course were able to resume play and finish the round. The MPG division on the Idlewild course was not so lucky, and they were forced to conclude their round on Saturday and skip their semi-finals round. This resulted in the most complaints concerning Worlds.

Singles

Pro Payout was \$98,030 (390 Players)

Amateur Payout was \$41,733 (705 Players)

Doubles

Pro Doubles Payout was \$1,751 (25 teams @t \$50 entry + \$500 Cash Added)

Amateur Doubles Payout was \$1,800 (36 Teams @ \$50 entry)

Junior Doubles Payout was \$290 (14 teams @ \$20 entry)

Field Events

Long Drive Payout - \$1690 (133 participants)

Mini Golf Payout - \$1314 (101 participants)

Putting Payout - \$2631 (194 participants)

Skillshot Payout - \$771 (123 participants)

Total Payout = \$150,010

- All leftover Pro and Field Event payouts were mailed the Monday following the event.
- All shipping data for player packs due were provided to the Host the week after the event.
- All contact data for unclaimed Amateur payout was provided the same day it was requested by the host.

I've written a debrief document on what went well and what needs improving and this will be the basis for a debrief session later this week with key staff.

Information Technology Report – Ganz

The website is performing better than ever with more functionality and under record loads. I've sent out some stats in the past few weeks and would be happy to provide more if there is interest.

Some Recently Released Features:

1. Tournament results will now show a player's current calculated "Place" at all times. Previously, this was only displayed at the completion of a tournament. This has been one of the most frequently requested features.
2. "Live Hole-by-hole Scoring" links on Tournament Results pages with live scoring have been restored. This disappeared when Drupal was first implemented back in 2008.
3. Previously, all views of tournament results would display a player's current rating no matter when the event took place. Now, the player rating displayed for Official Results is the rating the player had at the time of the event. This includes current and former members. On the Current Registration and Unofficial Results views, the player rating displayed for active members is their current rating as has always been the case. However, if a player is not a current member, we will no longer display a rating.

Work-in-Progress

My work continues on an ongoing project to rewrite the Tournament Administration program. The primary goal is to clean up the code, fix long-standing bugs and improve the overall usability of the tool. I will be adding a new crucial piece of functionality that will allow tournament directors to see membership status, official status and division eligibility at a glance. This will effectively replace the time-consuming and tedious task of creating and emailing spreadsheets to tournament directors by the PDGA Staff every week. I *hope* to release a beta version of this to Jeff LaGrassa to use during the Vibram Open.

New Website

Development of the new website is well underway and I've been very impressed with the quality of work and level of expertise at Bluespark. They have been very methodical in their process and have been asking all the right questions.

We have been evaluating e-commerce solutions to help us manage online membership transactions. The front-runner right now is the PayPal Pro. We will need to open up a new account (or convert our old one) with PayPal by the first of September.

- End of Headquarters Update

Tech Standards – Disc & Target Certifications - Graham

MOTION (Feldberg/Decker)

Certify the TSC approval of the “Pro Basket E2” by Latitude 64

Yes: Decker, Duffy, Feldberg, Jenkins, McCoy, Wyngaard (by proxy)

Motion passes 6-0

Committee Reports

Discipline – Rebecca Duffy reported on discussions by the committee related to ratings manipulation by purposely not completing a round. Seven warning letters are in the process of being written. Duffy also reported on the status of a recent appeal of suspension.

Tech Standards – Roddick reported on a proposed change to the technical standards process to address the lag time between the initial approval of a disc or basket by Jeff Homburg, and the monthly certification of these approvals by the board. The TSC is proposing that the certification process be changed and that all approvals are immediately sent to the Board, who will have a 3 day period to certify the approval via an online method. Discussion ensued. Graham warned that he was skeptical that a majority of Board members would or could vote before the 3 day deadline and questioned what would happen if a majority had not cast votes during this period. Duffy suggested a one week certification time period with all approvals being presented to the board on a specific day of the week each week. Roddick advised that because the proposed process would be transparent to the manufacturers, it would not hurt to try the proposed 3 day method first and to come back and address it again later if this new process did not work out.

Action Item: The office staff will make this internal procedural change to test the proposed 3 day certification process.

2012 Worlds – Jenkins

Avery Jenkins expressed his dissatisfaction with the 2012 World Championships stating that he felt the preparation of the courses was lacking and the event was not up to the quality that should be expected. Graham, Decker and McCoy disagreed and while they noted some small problems, they felt that the hosts did a good job given the challenges of 14 courses and the record number of competitors in the event. Jenkins expressed that it was time for there to be an Open division only World Championships and that the PDGA should not attempt any more combined Pro/Am Worlds. Duffy expressed concern and felt the

women had been disrespected because a Pro Women's division with two finalists played their 9-hole final round with a senior division with two finalists. Graham stated that there were some staffing challenges as a result of the size and scope of the event and that he would not want to try to run another event of this magnitude for some time. He noted that there probably was not another community in the world with enough courses capable of hosting another event this size. Jenkins concluded by stating that rather than looking back, he wanted to be a visionary.

Action Item: Graham to provide Jenkins and McCoy copies of the Worlds review documents that the office staff is in the process of creating.

Rules Rewrite – Decker

Decker reported on the status of the rules rewrite and the need for a decision to be made in order to stay on schedule. Duffy reminded everyone that the documents had been available to board members for some time now and that they had been afforded plenty of time for review. Decker questioned as to whether all of the office comments had been adequately addressed and Graham confirmed that they had.

MOTION (Decker/McCoy)

Approve the latest revised "Official Rules of Disc Golf" as presented by the rules committee.

Yes: Decker, Duffy, Feldberg, Jenkins, McCoy, Shive (by proxy), Wyngaard (by proxy)

Motion passes 7-0

Decker explained an additional recommendation by the rules committee regarding a change in marking your lie. The new method would require that the rear edge of the disc be marked rather than the edge closer to the target. Discussion ensued and concluded when Duffy conducted a straw poll to determine if there was support for the proposed change.

Action Item: Duffy to send straw poll results to rules committee liaison, Bob Decker who will discuss the results with the committee.

USDGC Rules Variance – Graham

Graham gave the board an overview and summary of a request by Harold Duvall for a rules variance to rule 803.09 Out-of-Bounds, for the 2012 United States Disc Golf Championship. Harold submitted the following:

If the disc comes to rest completely surrounded by out-of-bounds after clearly hitting the playing surface in bounds sometime during the throw, the player has an option as to how to proceed. The player may elect to play the next throw from a lie that is up to one meter away from and perpendicular to the point where the disc last crossed out of bounds counting the original throw and a one-throw penalty. Or the player may elect to re-throw from the previous lie counting the original throw, but no additional penalty throw.

If the player's disc comes to rest completely surrounded by out-of-bounds clearly without ever hitting the playing surface in bounds, the player will re-throw from the previous lie counting the original throw. No additional penalty throw will be added.

MOTION (McCoy/Jenkins)

To disapprove the rules variance to rule 803.09 as requested by Harold Duvall.

Yes: Jenkins, McCoy

No: Decker, Duffy, Shive (by proxy), Wyngaard (by proxy)

Abstain: Feldberg

Motion fails

MOTION (Decker/McCoy)

To approve the rules variance to rule 803.09 as requested by Harold Duvall.

Yes: Decker, Duffy, Shive (by proxy), Wyngaard (by proxy)

No: Jenkins, McCoy

Abstain: Feldberg

Motion passes 4-2-1

Action Item: Graham to notify Harold Duvall that his variance request had been granted but to also let him know of the Board's concern regarding the use of the variance and the effect on other events with less staffing attempting it.

Marco Polo Program Application – Graham

Graham gave the Board an overview of a recent application by a gentleman in Ghana Africa as well as the review and recommendation by Alan Kane that the grant be conditionally approved.

MOTION (Feldberg/Decker)

Approve the grant application from Ghana as recommended by Alan Kane with grant payments in two installments.

Yes: Decker, Duffy, Feldberg, Jenkins, Shive (by proxy), Wyngaard (by proxy)

No: McCoy

Motion passes 6-1

New Business

Worlds - Jenkins

Jenkins stated that the competition committee would be reviewing the successes and downfalls of a combined Pro/Am World Championships. Graham noted that the PDGA office staff and marshals from the 2012 Worlds were in the process of a comprehensive post event review which would be shared with the board when completed. Graham also reminded the Board that a Worlds committee had been created at the spring summit and that these reviews fell more under the purview of the Worlds committee rather than the competition committee.

Fall Summit / September Teleconference – Duffy

Duffy reminded the Board that the Fall summit had been scheduled for Sept. 13-14 at the International Disc Golf Center and recommended that the September teleconference be rescheduled for Tuesday, Sept 4th since the originally scheduled date of Sept. 11th was only two days before the summit. The agenda of the teleconference will be brief with only the election of Board officers and the assigning of committee liaison positions. Graham reminded the Board to book flights to the summit as soon as possible in order to get a favorable rate and to submit their itineraries to the office so accommodations could be made.

Financial Audit – Graham

Graham requested that the 2011 PDGA financial audit be approved for posting at PDGA.com.

MOTION (Decker/McCoy)

To approve the 2011 PDGA financial audit for posting at PDGA.com.

Yes: Decker, Duffy, Feldberg, Jenkins, McCoy

Motion passes 5-0

League Poll – McCoy

Kevin McCoy gave a brief update on the PDGA league program and stated his wish to conduct a poll for league players. Graham advised McCoy to coordinate the delivery of the poll with the office.

MOTION (Decker/McCoy)

To adjourn the meeting.

Yes: Decker, McCoy, Duffy, Jenkins, Feldberg

Motion passes 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:22pm EST.