



MINUTES – MEETING OF THE USA CRICKET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Conference call – March 31st, 2023

Attendance

USA Cricket Board Directors

Kuljit Nijjar, Interim Chair, Individual Director (KN), Venu Pisike, Individual Director (VP), Nadia Gruny, Player Director (NG), Srinu Salver, Player Director (SS), Patricia Whittaker, Independent Director(PW), Pintoo Shah, Independent Director(PS), Sushil Nadkarni, League Director(SN)

Absentees – Atul Rai, Club Director (AR), Avinash Gaje Individual Director (AG), David Haubert, Independent Director(DH)

1. ACE Update

PS updated that he met couple times with Sameer and Vijay this week who are key principles of ACE who are minority owners of ACE, 6 teams as majority owners, conversations regarding the contracts are not going very well. PS also updated that USAC wants ACE to successfully running major league cricket but the contracts with USAC were written very poorly. USAC won't have any right to commercialize cricket as they would get 95% of the revenue and 5% to USAC. PS recommendation is that we go back to ACE and negotiate to amend the contract. VP said MLC can run while we set the guidelines and governance issues, ACE can manage MLC and MiLC but the bigger ask from USAC is that commercial rights for national team and broadcast rights should be given to USAC. VP also said that we can sanction the MLC provided ACE agrees for the USAC recommendations in next 3 to 6 months as per the recommendations from the group. PW gave her opinion that contract cannot be amended but started afresh as ACE is powerful but one party getting 95% revenue and other party getting 5% revenue is unequitable in any court. PS and VP agree with PW but also said in the interest of time, USAC has to sanction MiLC and also with the earlier said recommendations MLC should also be sanctioned. SN commented USAC is on the crossroads and he supports MiLC and MLC and USAC should do something to make it happen. KN raised a point that this contract should be on USA Cricket and the terms and conditions should be revisited otherwise USAC is at the mercy of ACE to even conduct any tournament or even player salaries. NG agrees that the agreement is lopsided but it takes time to make any changes and felt that USAC should own the governing rights. NG opinion is that if USAC doesn't sanction it now, it reflects poorly on USAC rather than ACE or MLC given the timing of the tournament, so it is better to sanction for this year one time and renegotiate the contract by having ICC on our side otherwise we can't make much progress on this. VP mentioned that working group was thinking about April 15th as the deadline to approve MLC but it is the commercial part which is holding and not the board wants to MLC to fail. PS clarified that the major recommendations or asks from USAC are

- 1) USAC maintains the rights for all USA Cricket team's tournaments, commercialization of USA Cricket and as a giveaway ACE won't need to fund USAC and they no longer need to build any infrastructure on behalf of USAC.
- 2) All USA Cricket team players must be selected and drafted into MLC in this season
- 3) From overall governance point of view, all ICC funding will be USAC funding
- 4) Little more governance around MLC concerning local players vs non-local players and aligned with what USAC calls the local players



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NG raised the \$5M licensing fee. PS clarified that there should be minimum guaranty fee and 5% of the major league and minor league revenue to USAC from ACE. VP and NG shared the opinion that we can give the conditional approval provided ACE should come to the table to renegotiate the terms and conditions before end of the year otherwise we won't be sanction the next year. KN asked the question, how much time was given to the previous board to approve the ACE contract for which NG answered that it was less than 24 hours and not enough time to read the 33 plus page legal document at that time. PW mentioned that ACE bypassed the USAC board and directly went to ICC and this is an insult to the USAC board. KN raised the concern of the emails he is sending to all the vendors and people to whom USAC is indebted for various payments apologizing to them as USAC doesn't have enough funds, and advocates that USAC should never ever be in this position of lack of funds. KN also mentioned that everyone on the board want MLC to be successful but as a board member everyone should wear the hat of BOD and stand by the board rather than just supporting MLC. PS recommended that he can send a message to ACE immediately and see the response from ACE, approving MiLC and adding the board recommendations as discussed. VN mentioned that ACE said that out of the \$42M they raised they already spent \$33M and only \$9M left in the bank but ACE never submitted any information or data on what and where they spent this money inspite of we asking for accounts. VP mentioned that next time we might be dealing with MLC owners rather than ACE owners which might be a bigger problem. KN raised a concern that the ownership on MLC is transferred from ACE owners to MLC owners without the knowledge of the USAC board and surely this is a concern for USA cricket. KN said as of today USAC owes \$800K to \$900K and asked the board to see how we can make USAC a partner in USA cricket.

The Board resolved for PS to send email to ACE with the board recommendations:

In favor: PS, NG, KN, SS

Abstain: SN

Against: Nil

Recused for this item: Nil

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