



# MINUTES – MEETING OF THE USA CRICKET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Teams Meeting – December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## Attendance

Virtually:

Venu Pisike, Chairman (VP), Arjun Gona, Individual Director (AG), Kuljit Nijjar, Individual Director (KN), Atul Rai, Club Director (AR), Nadia Gruny, Player Director (NG), Srinu Salver, Player Director (SS), Anj Balusu, League Director (AB), Patricia Whittaker, Independent Director (PW), David Haubert, Independent Director (DH), Pintoo Shah, Independent Director (PS), and Dr. Noor Murad (CEO).

Minutes Captured by: VP/AB

## Welcome Note and Agenda

VP welcomed the Members and announced a quorum is met.

The agenda was discussed and decided to defer CRWG recommendations approval to the next meeting, as the legal review is not complete.

- Approval of Minutes
- Membership Portal - Approval
- Player Eligibility
- Strategy 2024 – 2028 Approval
- CRWG recommendations Approval
- AOB

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

1. The board is presented the minutes from Nov 10<sup>th</sup> with the Meeting invite.

NG and PW requested to capture summary details of committee presentations and proposals Members (NG to send summary on Women & Girls Committee). AR stated that MoM are not to be captured by Chairman, either hire someone through CEO or designate within the board. KN recommended having the MoM reviewed and provide feedback ahead of time, so the approval process can be productive.

Approved by: VP, DH, KN, AG, AB, SS, PS, AR, NG, PW

2. The board is presented the minutes from Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Meeting invite.

PW recommended that these MoM is rushed and requires additional captured given the length of the meeting. VP requested volunteers to revise the MoM, no volunteers. DH recommended staying within the timeline as per the constitution in approving and publishing MoM. DH recommended hiring or identify a volunteer to transcribe the MoM based on the recordings with some detail. VP to request a staff member to transcribe. KN volunteered to transcribe these minutes.

Approval deferred to the next Board Meeting.



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## Membership Portal – Approval of CricClubs as Vendor

An RFP was emailed to 4 potential vendors. Only 2 responses received. CEO completed a thorough evaluation process (Technical/Functional & Financial) of RFP responses received. The working group recommends CricClubs as the vendor of choice based on the evaluation.

AR requested for clarification on the financial benefits to USAC based on the 2 proposals. CEO provided clarification, and in summary CricClubs proposal is beneficial to USAC financially compared to Cric Heroes proposal in addition to Technical/Functional competence. DH recommended to review the quality of the product vs pricing and then determine the right product even if it is at a higher cost to USAC. VP provided history on CricClubs usage by USAC community. NG has no questions on the features as posed during a previous meeting.

PS asked AR if interested to review the contract from CricClubs and AR accepted.

Approved by: VP, DH, KN, AG, AB, SS, PS, AR, NG, PW

Note from VP to CEO/Working Group: Communicate with CricClubs, and initiate discussions/communications on contract and timeline, preferably EOM December 2023.

## Player Eligibility

VP provided the background with reference to USAC policy and ICC guidance. VP brought the concerns from the USAC community to the boards attention. Several players who are residents in the USA qualify to represent USAC National team based on the policy under the eligible immigration status. VP recommended to discuss the current policy and come up with any revisions to address the challenges USAC could face based on the current circumstances.

VP asked SS to take lead on gathering inputs from fellow board members. AR recommended initiating an online discussion forum to seek input and possibly a Q&A session. SS suggested to adopt CRWG process for this initiative. VP to define the scope for this initiative.

PW raised a requirement to address eligible players who are US Citizens and/or Permanent Residents. AR recommended seeking legal opinion on player eligibility process with reference to immigration status, to avoid any challenges.

KN met with an immigration attorney, and the attorney offered to review the policy related to immigration process and matters. AR requested for the information about the immigration attorney to be engaged. AB to check with current USAC approved immigration attorney for their interest in this regard.

VP stated that CEO/Chairman to have the authority to engage professionals, for USAC matters without having to seek board involvement in everything that is not warranted.



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ACE approach and practices of applying for visas to bring in qualified players was brought to the attention of the board by PW. VP provided clarification as per the current MoU between USAC and ACE. VP also mentioned that there were some adequacies with the process in regard to ACE voluntarily sponsoring visas, and in some contexts USAC provided the support to ACE.

AG sought clarification on the USAC letter issued to ACE for player visa application in regard to validity of the letter. VP clarified that the USAC letter is specific to a particular player, not a blanket letter. As per VP, ACE may be using the MoU to sponsor visas for their desired players. As per AG, there are many local organizations sponsoring players using Q1 visa without USAC support letter. AB provided information related to O1 visa holders' do's and don'ts being on the visa in USA.

Board in consensus to seek legal guidance in developing the policy that can prevail in the court of law, should there be a challenge.

## **USAC Strategy: 2024-2028**

Board to provide guidance on the proposed strategic pillars, to CEO in developing an operational plan. VP to share the document with the board members for review and discuss further to adopt to align with ICC cycle. CEO had 1-on-1 discussions with several board members and received inputs w.r.t strategic pillars.

DH recommended developing the strategic pillars with desired outcomes to be achieved in reality. PS recommended including metrics into the working plan. AR recommends emphasizing the organic growth of the game in USA and include Women's cricket in it. AR strongly recommended to include financial outlay with reference to each of the strategic pillars at the micro level, when developing operational plan.

NG recommends including multiday cricket at the High-Performance Plan level than at the strategic plan level. PW further clarified the importance of domestic cricket MUST include ODI, T20, 3/4 cricket and bi-lateral/regional tournaments to achieve full member status for both Boys/Men and Girls/Women.

NG recommended to carve out Girls & Women's cricket to emphasize as it aligns with ICC strategy with reference to Girls & Women's cricket, as 6<sup>th</sup> strategic pillar. NG clarified further to the board, that a separate carve out shall surround with more emphasis given the appetite for organizations to support Girls & Women's programs specifically.

VP echoes the importance of special engagement to grow Girls & Women Cricket closer to Boys & Men in this cycle and it shall be achieved if carved out as a 6<sup>th</sup> strategic pillar. AR recommends further strengthen this approach in terms of overall perception and optics. CEO stated an integrated approach will yield the intended results for Girls & Women programs as a strategic priority than pillar.

VP clarified further that USAC to reach out to stake holders (USAC Community) seeking inputs to work into this strategic plan, from Fara's perspective.

PW stated that multiday cricket was part of the foundation plan and time is now to plan for to become a full member.



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AG expressed concern of being a duplication of efforts keeping it as a separate strategic pillar, given the resources available and current circumstances. VP clarified that as part of the constitutional amendments, Girls and Women committee is being separated to operate independently with their assigned/available resources.

CEO clarified his approach in developing these strategic pillars is to achieve the full member status within this cycle.

In conclusion,

- it is recommended to include Girls & Women Cricket as a 6<sup>th</sup> strategic pillar. AR consents to this recommendation. No objections from any other board member.
- to share the plan as is with ICC to seek feedback, and a note to include it as a 6<sup>th</sup> strategic pillar from the board's perspective.
- upon receiving ICC feedback, USAC to submit for community/stakeholder feedback.

## AOB

1. Sanctioning policy: A need to amend the policy to strengthen the policy overall by simplifying the understanding and come up with a tiered approach of fee structure. AG is working on the amendments. Board to provide input to AG and VP within a week's time.
2. Selector Payments: KN was approached by selectors for their payments. 2021 and 2022 budget had payments included and honored the same. VP proposed to pay the selectors for 2023. An estimate of \$17K-20K in total payments for all involved selectors full time and part time for both Men and Women. Selectors work at the direction of the Cricket Committee.
  - a. PW asked for selector term clarification.
    - i. 2 Year and 3 Year terms respectively.
    - ii. SS to submit the CC minutes in relation to Women's selection panel dissolution decision.
  - b. PW raised a question on when the Men's selection panel will be reconstituted.
  - c. KN requested for an agreement or a letter between USAC and selectors to be in support of payments and audit compliance.

VP clarified that board doesn't require to approve selection panel dissolution when board was not asked for approval on the appointments, but Board was informed of the decision of Cricket Committee. VP asked SS to submit the minutes of Cricket Committee.

SS Clarified he brought the dissolution of Women's selection panel to the attention of Board. SS also confirmed that CC resolution was shared with CC right after the meeting.

VP proposed to pay \$1000 to Chair and \$500 for Women's selection panel.

3. USAC Membership package: VP proposed to revise current USAC membership program(to increase the membership through a tiered approach and fee structure with/without insurance for the benefit of the USAC Community); to create a working group in developing the new program.
4. KN requested the status of the non-payee members/member leagues towards 2023 dues. VP



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clarified to KN that any defaulters has lapsed their membership as per prior board decision as of 11/30/23.

5. Constitution Amendments: PW asked for clarification if all types of cricket leagues(Hardball, Softball, Tape ball etc.,) are considered to be members of USAC. NG is YES.

## Motions

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – USAC Board Meeting on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Proposed by: VP.  
Seconded by: PS.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – USAC Board Meeting on Dec 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Proposed by: VP.  
Seconded by: SS.

Motion deferred.

3. Approval of Membership Portal Vendor – CricClubs

Proposed by: VP.  
Seconded by: AB.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Selectors Payments – Men and Women

- a. Men's and U19 Selection Chair(s) - \$2500 and Members \$1500
- b. Women selection chair \$1000 and Members \$500

Proposed by: VP  
Seconded by: KN

Motion passed by: VP, KN, AG, AB, SS, NG  
Abstained by: PW

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