



# MINUTES – MEETING OF THE USA CRICKET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Teams Meeting – January 06<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## 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), and Noor Murad (CEO).

## Welcome Note and Agenda

VP welcomed the Members and announced a quorum is met. VP announced the U19 team taking their flight to South Africa today and on behalf of the board wished them good luck.

VP proposed an informal session after the board call so NG can present the latest changes/recommendations by the CRWG. NG agreed to the recommendation.

VP mentioned that there was a request from PW to add an item for discussion, VP confirmed that it will be added to the AOB.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

1. AGM Meeting minutes
2. Modified Dec 02<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes
3. Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting minutes

## Chairman's Report

**ACE:** VP informed the board that ACE has not made any payments towards 2023 yet, however they have responded to USAC letter sent in November, the response is shared with USAC attorney Steve Smith.

VP informed that working is thinking to propose a change of terms to ACE in a way to separate the authorities of USA Cricket related matters. Proposal will give MLC/MiLC authorities to ACE and USAC will own anything related to National teams including Players, Commercial and broadcast rights. Once the proposal is drafted will share with the board.

VP clarified to PW's question about ACE ownership that, ACE has verbally told USAC that there is a change to the ownership but USAC is yet to receive any formal notice. VP clarified that until a proposal is agreed upon by both parties working group will work with ACE and ultimately USAC board has to approve any change to the contract.

**USOPC:** USOPC invited USAC team for a two day workshop in Colorado springs. VP informed the board that a team including VP, NM, NG and any other staff members will plan to attend. VP explained the timelines for USOPC application process.

VP also informed the board that ACE team has agreed to come and meet the working group in



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Colorado Springs in ICC presence.

**ICC Meeting:** VP informed the board that, VP and NM met ICC team in NY and provided the updates. ICC has created a 3 member board to oversee the USA T20 operations. ICC will be appointing a new CEO to the T20,inc to oversee the operations.

VP further explained that, ICC will invest into T20, inc to run the operations for US games (total 16). Any surplus revenue left in the T20, inc will stay in USA and be utilized 100% for the USA Cricket. Soon ICC will appoint a operational group, USAC can nominate one person into the group. There will also be opportunities for staff and volunteers to involve in the world cup activities.

**CWI:** VP provided updates on his visit to Barbados. He has met CWI president Mr.Kishore Shallow and discussed the opportunities to partner. Submitted the requests for 2024.

## CEO Report

NM explained there needs to be advocacy in terms of engaging with World cup to gain opportunities for USAC. NM informed, he has visited few of the cities in the last one month and met Cricket community.

NM reiterated the importance of having the Membership portal because that was one of the request he received when meeting community. NM requested the board to review the draft budget and provide inputs.

School program is being revised to rollout in 3 venue cities and align/partner with ICC on these programs.

DH thanked NM for visiting the community in the Bay area and thanked the opportunity to meet him.

## USAC Strategy

VP explained that NM has provided a 5 pillar strategy and based on previous discussions a request is made to add Women Programs as a sixth priority. VP requested the board to formally approve the Strategic areas (pillars) so CEO can continue to prepare a detailed operational plan.

NM explained, the operational document will remain internal and for external audience we can prepare a formal presentation. The plan can be updated each year based on findings.

Motion is proposed and approved unanimously, VP thanked the board for the support and requested NM to continue preparing the operational plan and submit to the board by end of the first quarter. NM clarified that the draft is already submitted to the board and requested any feedback. VP clarified that, operational plan is for the management to own and execute but as far as the board is concerned, it will be interesting to know the objectives, milestones, deliverables and timelines. NM agreed to submit an updated plan by next month.



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## Apparel Partner

VP informed the board that the current apparel partnership is not going great, so in the interest of upcoming Domestic and international activities and world cup we have negotiated a partnership with new partner and the proposal is shared with the board.

The proposal has multiple options

1. All National team apparel is at no cost
2. Free apparel to Domestic tournaments if we purchase a certain no of balls
3. Free apparel to member leagues when they purchase Match balls
4. Discounted apparel to Members

VP requested the board to consider the offer and approve. Motion passed with majority.

## Draft Budget

VP requested board to approve the draft budget so we can submit to ICC along with Q4 report so we receive the Q1 funding. VP requested NM to explain the board on key budget items.

SS requested the date when the player contracts can be issued. NM explained there is room to start the contracts from May.

VP questioned why are we not including any revenue from ACE. AB explained PS has opinion that there is uncertainty on ACE funding so it was not considered. VP clarified without thinking the future of the contract we should atleast include the minimum obligation including portion of 1.2M player funding. NM clarified that \$500 minimum obligation is included as income from ACE.

SS requested what would be the revenue expected from MLC? NM clarified \$500K is expected revenue.

KN asked which national players got the ACE contracts last year, VP clarified they did share the names.

KN asked if the same players received contract from ACE and USAC? VP shared the list of players who received ACE contracts. KN confirmed.

AB requested to get some resolution on ACE funding because that will heavily impact USAC budget. NM also explained the administration costs including salaries of current and future staff salaries.

Board is requested to approve the draft budget.



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## Membership & Insurance

VP explained to the board that requested the Insurance agent to adjust all our policies to renew at the end of the year going forward so it will be easy to manage and keeps option open to shop around each year for better pricing. Starting this year policies will renew at the end of December. Except the DO policy all other are offered at the reasonable pricing. DO pricing increased due to a legal complaint for which USAC has leveraged the DO policy.

For the Membership & Insurance, VP explained that traditionally USAC is offering insurance as part of the Membership cost but that is not attracting all the leagues because many been following their own methods to purchase insurance. So, to encourage many to join USAC membership a new proposal is being presented to the board for approval.

The new model will offer two options.

Option A: \$10 membership which includes player insurance.

Option B: Membership based on total League players, fee is based on no of players without Insurance coverage. Ex: if a league has 500 members they can become members of USAC by paying a \$500 and get all other benefits (excluding insurance).

PW asked how is this new model help? KN explained his league experience where they buy their own insurance but not use USAC insurance. So, previously they paid \$10 and now they can become member with low cost because they purchase insurance outside of USAC.

AR suggested the options should be ok to give flexibility to the leagues but \$1 for option B is too low. VP explained that when add value to membership with benefits, we can consider increasing the cost. But first we need to establish the system and then slowly scale it up.

PW asked if someone chooses option B, then how are they getting insurance? KN clarified that the purchase of insurance is upto the league to decide, we as USAC no need to mandate that. AB further clarifies that, insurance is included in membership, but it's the discretion of the leagues to use it or buy outside.

The Board is requested to approve the new model for 2024.

## Sanctioning Policy

Based on the experience from 2023 sanctioning, the policy needs to be simplified and adopt few changes to categorize the events. There is significant income received thru sanctioning but the whole process became very cumbersome to manage. A slightly modified policy is shared with the board and at the same time requested feedback from organizers so we can incorporate their recommendations. VP requested any feedback be shared with AG who is managed the sanctioning for 2023 and will be consolidating all the findings and suggestions.

VP also informed the members of the issues arising from a recent tournament 'APL' and currently CEO



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is working with ICC to do the investigation.

VP thanked both KN and AG for managing the 2023 sanctioning process, it's a painful process to educate the organizers on the regulations and rules, and the whole process requires lot of patience. VP informed, a staff member be assigned to managed it in 2024 under the guidance of Cricket Committee and CEO.

## **Houston Open:**

There were dues pending from Houston open tournament. Since the original application came in December we applied 50% discount on international player fee similar to Unity cup.

After paying 10% fee the balance is around \$28,500.

PVCC requested to waive the balance or recover thru future field rentals. \$10K was recovered during U17&U23 tournament.

The current balance is \$18,500. There is a invoice pending from 2021 for field usage by USA Cricket in preparation for CWC series. Richard Done has reserved the fields for USAC and told the organizers that ACE is responsible for the cost and it will be paid by ACE, but the invoice is still pending. VP followed up with ACE in October but have not heard any response. Since the field is used by USAC the invoice is raised and its USAC obligation to pay the rental.

VP recommended to the board to consider deducting the pending field rental invoice from the balance owed by PVCC and recover any left over thru future field rental. This consideration applies only to 2023 pending dues but will not be a method for future tournaments.

AB recommended to keep the transactions separate if the two different entities are involved. VP agreed to check the ownership of PVCC and Houton Open tournaments.

PW recommended this to be handled by CEO going forward because its operational. PW also raised concerns over recent APL tournament and recommended to make rules around paying players and umpires. Also, recommended to appoint a person to attend all the tournaments. AG clarified that he, CEO and Jamie Lloyd discussed about APL irregularities and working on investigation.

DH advised to have a policy to banning an organizer if they violate any defined rules. VP we do have policies but implementing them is the challenge due to lack of resources. DH further clarified that if any one owes us money, we should enforce the ban. I am embarrassed for the sport, that a umpire travel on his own cost to APL and not getting paid. PW if we had the policy in place, the umpire would not travel on his own cost.

VP requested board to make a resolution to resolve the Houston Open payment issue. This is the first year of implementing this policy and fee structure, so it does require some time for every one to learn and adjust to the policy. AB said, he is in favor or recovering the fees but we need to make sure the compliance part if there are two different entities are involved.

Majority of the board agreed to collect any balance left from future field rentals.

Option A – Collect the fees – AG, KN

Option B – Recover from future rentals – SS, AB, PW, AR, VP, DH

Option C – Waive - None



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## AOB

Issues arising in Cricket Committee: VP requested a response on PW email complaint, SS response came this morning so every one may not have time to read. VP advised the members that as the responsible board members we need to work together and when the issues happen needs to be addressed through a process because we are answerable to Members and ICC. To address this matter properly recommended a independent group to talk to all the parties involved and submit a report rather than discussing it on the board without doing proper due diligence. VP requested DH an Independent Director and AB to help and provide guidance since DH is not knowledgeable about Cricket operations.

PW said, if CC operating for years and no problems but now all of a sudden why? I request SS to follow the process as the Cricket Committee chair. What can DH or AB tell me? VP clarified, since you and SS have your own opinions, I am requesting our own board members to do the fact finding.

PW repeated that, the process is not followed in making the appointments. SS clarified, I clearly explained in the email that the process is staff makes the recommendations after compiling the eligible candidates and then it is submitted to Cricket Committee. SS raised concerns that information is being leaked to outsiders and the emails PW sending are written by them, he is seriously concerned about it and want to discuss. VP advised to raise this with the two member group when they approach him for clarifications.

VP requested DH and AB to conduct the investigation and submit the report in two weeks because it's a serious matter when two board members fight in the committees. AB accepted to submit the report in two weeks.

VP thanked the board for taking time to participate in the marathon meeting for four and a half hours, and requested not to take anything personal, we have lot of challenges to manage this year and hoping for a successful 2024.

## Motions

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – USAC AGM Meeting Minutes, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2023



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Proposed by: VP.  
Seconded by: SS.

AR abstained because he was not present in the AGM.

Motion passed with majority vote.

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

VP explained there was a minor change to Dec 02<sup>nd</sup> minutes based NG's clarification on Colorado state law around the term limits.

VP also explained that, based on NG clarification about Softball League committee

Proposed by: VP.  
Seconded by: KN.

Motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – USAC Board Meeting on Dec 10th, 2023

Proposed by: VP.  
Seconded by: AG.

AR stated that PS stated that the negotiations with cricclubs will continue even though board approved the agreement. AR wants financial negotiations to continue. VP clarified that we may negotiate but that doesn't mean the contractual terms will change because board made a decision based on the working group's recommendations.

VP requested CEO NM to clarify the plans. NM clarified that board made decision for the lowest cost and quality and we have confirmed to them that the proposal is approved. We can continue negotiations in terms of adding value where possible like requesting more cameras to production, but otherwise we should move forward with the decision. NM also requested to accelerate the process because there is lot of requests coming for membership enrollment.

VP requested working group to come up with the draft agreement soon.

Motion approved unanimously.





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## 4. Approval of strategic priorities for 2024-2028

Proposed by: VP

Seconded by: AB

VP explained board previously had agreed for the five priorities and the current discussion should be around adding the sixth priority to keep the discussion in a focused manner.

PW asked if the order of priorities in the interest of important or random. NM clarified it's the random and each pillar is equally important. PW asked if the fan engagement can be a separate pillar, NM explained participation includes the fan engagement.

PW requested to clarify the diversity to include all areas but not just gender.

Motion approved unanimously.

## 5. Approval of Apparel Partner "Stonehill" proposal

Proposed by: VP

Seconded by: AB

AR requested information about the balls and the cost. AB explained the cost of the ball is \$20 and we will be testing the balls before deciding. AR suggested to make sure the quality remains same because lot of times vendors change quality after first shipment. AB clarified we have no obligation to purchase balls, if we are not satisfied we can chose a different category.

PW asked what is the value of this deal? What is the total deal worth. AB clarified; this is purely apparel proposal only. AB clarified; the pricing is much more competitive than the previous partners. Value depends on how much is ordered for national teams at no cost. AB informed that the rights promised to stonehill is similar to what we offered to previous partners.

AB clarified that, there is no inter link to purchase balls for National team apparel. PW requested to change the language in recital A to 'primary governing body' from 'sole governing body' because that is the language ICC wanted to use. AB acknowledges to change.

PW is concerned that if everything is free to us, what is that partner getting? Why they offering free? VB clarified they get branding and enter in to new market.

KN said, to calculate the value, there are Four national teams, and cost to each tournament apparel can be \$8-10K, so we can calculate accordingly. VP added, it could be more than that because last year for Zimbabwe qualifiers it costed \$28K. So, based on no of tournaments coming up this year, so the value can be around \$200K. previous partners offered typically \$100K vic then we purchase everything else. If we compare to that, this brings more value because zero cost for all National teams.

AR asked what the exit clause for this contract because **he didn't see any**. VP also requested AB to include that into the contract. AB clarified that, this is a MoU and we will draft a legal





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contract with all clauses.

VP informed the motion be modified to say “Board approves the MoU with the assumption that there will be a final contract with exit clause”. AR requested if the board going to approve the final contract? VP clarified that, CEO will be responsible for signing the contract so he can share the agreement with board but not necessarily for approval. CEO will execute the contract as he normally does for other partnerships. VP also clarified, it’s the finance committee responsibility to review any contract and provide feedback.

PW asked where the partner is located and to make sure which applicable laws applies to this MoU because there are two locations UK and Pakistan.

Abstain: AR, PW

DH left the meeting at the time of the vote.

SS, KN, AG, NG, AB & VP in support.

Motion passed with majority vote.

### 6. Approval of Draft budget as presented to the board

Proposed by: VP  
Seconded by: PW

NG, KN, AG, AB, SS were present.  
DH and AR left the meeting at the time of vote.

Motion approved unanimously.

### 7. Approval of new Membership model for 2024

Proposed by: VP  
Seconded by: AB

Abstain: AR  
Against: PW (It needs be studied more deeply)

Motion approved by majority vote.

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