

ATHLETES' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL - MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Call to Order (Nick Smagula)

The meeting was called to order by AEC chair Nick Smagula at 9:03pm Eastern Time with the following people participating:

Nick Smagula, Chair
Jack Swanson
Annie Norris
Jake Simmons
Maria Davila
Ellery Parish
Madison Lash

Dakota Noble
Janelle Nguyen
Ty Seymour
Natalie Coughlin
Cathy Durance, Staff Liaison
Morgan Weinberg, Staff

Approve the agenda (Nick Smagula)

MOTION made/seconded/approved to approve the agenda.

Approve previous minutes (Nick Smagula)

MOTION made/seconded/approved to approve the minutes of the September 11 and September 13, 2019, AEC meetings in St. Louis.

AEC Chair's Report (Nick Smagula)

Fall phone calls – Nick thanked the committee members for being available for one-to-one conversations with him after convention.

Feedback on AEC onboarding documents – Nick asked the committee for feedback on the AEC onboarding documents that he created and distributed to the committee after convention. Feedback was very positive.

Future AEC meetings – There is no funding for an in-person AEC meeting this year. If the committee feels that it needs to have a longer in-person meeting the day before convention, funding can be requested.

Leadership Chair's Report (Jack Swanson)

Jack thanked the committee for their support over the past few months.

Sub-committee Update – If committee members have ideas for future cluster topics, please let Jack know. Committee members expressed some frustration that the LSC athlete reps don't take the time to respond to cluster emails. It is important that athletes are hearing from the AEC but there might be a better platform, like a Google form, that athletes would be more likely to use. More relevant and direct questions that ask for shorter answers would also help. The committee also asked for better summaries after LSC responses are received.

National Committee Updates – All committee appointments were finalized in late October, but official email invites weren't sent out until December due to outside circumstances on the non-athlete appointment side. There are more athletes who still want to get involved at the national committee level.

Program and Events Chair's Report (Janelle Nguyen)

Convention Planning Process – Annie Noble gave the report for Janelle. The sub-committee is thinking about offering two different tracks at convention – a track for first-year attendees (to include a workbook) and a different track for athletes who have attended past conventions, with sessions that bring both groups together. They are also talking about more cluster time and fewer lectures; the goal is to offer more interaction and engagement with the athletes. Janelle is not going to the site visit this year since this is our fourth convention in Jacksonville.

Board of Directors' Report (Natalie Coughlin)

Athletes First Initiative – the BOD approved \$5M (\$2M to Safe Sport programs, \$2M to education and the learning platform, \$500K for staff development, and \$500K for online registration). The Board of Directors changed from a governance to a strategic model two years ago and this is a good example of the new direction the Board is going.

USOPC Athletes' Advisory Commission's Report (Natalie Coughlin)

Rule 40 Update – updated social media rules, created an online platform for sponsors and athletes to connect.

National Team Athletes Committee (Nick Smagula, Natalie Coughlin)

Had a conference call last night; a new program for national team members to have access to mental health professionals was announced.

Reports from AEC At-Large Members

LSC Athlete Rep Resources (Annie Norris) – she is updating the materials; convention materials have been posted. She is also working with the zone athlete reps to improve content. It was recommended that committee members send the link out to their clusters. The link can also be posted to the Next Gen Instagram account with an email notification to all the LSC athlete reps. There is an athlete newsletter on the resource page as well.

2020 Zone Workshop (Maria Davila) – The Zone Directors Council and zone athlete reps discussed having the athlete reps attend the workshop in Chicago. There seems to be a disconnect between the LSC leadership and athletes, so this could improve that and provide for a short (45 minute?) session for LSC leaders conducted by the athletes in attendance. Because the LSC Development Committee is meeting at the zone workshop already, Jake and possibly Annika will be at the workshop to assist the zone athlete reps who can attend.

Staff Liaison's Report (Cathy Durance)

Cathy is currently reviewing grants for the LSC Athlete Leadership Summit program. She explained why online registration was being funded by the *Athletes' First* Initiative (parent safe sport education and better collection of parent email addresses).

LSC Leadership Summits (Morgan Weinberg)

Morgan thanked Jack, Janelle, and Nick for their work developing the grant application form and process. She received applications from 21 LSCs, which is exciting but also means that not every LSC that applied will get a grant. LSCs that receive grants will be required to submit their final budget and an evaluation by the end of the year. Several suggestions were made as to how to get feedback from the athletes who attend these summits.

Athlete Protection Training Communication (Nick Smagula)

There are still athletes over the age of 18 who haven't completed the APT requirement; therefore, their times don't count. The staff is working on improving communication to older athletes. It was suggested that Cathy ask Kara to use social media to get this message out to the athletes.

Next Meeting (Nick Smagula)

The next conference call will be scheduled for April of 2020.

Adjournment (Nick Smagula)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13pm Eastern Time. MOTION made/seconded/ approved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Durance
Staff Liaison