Attending: Keith Noll, John Roux, Dustin Brown, Heidi Permatteo, Stephen Carter and Melanie Bogus

Missing: Dave Marmorstein, Tim McManus, Charlotte Nicholson and Charles Sgrillo Jr.

There was no quorum at the meeting, so no votes were held. There was a discussion regarding an even number of committee members and concern about not being able to come to a majority decisions on important matters. If a decision cannot be made, the issue will revert to the board. The committee can vote on adding a 9th member.

Currently, Jon Roux continues to be the committee chairman. The role of the chairperson is to set the agenda and run the meeting. When an agenda item comes up for discussion, the chairperson should refrain from voicing his/her opinion until the end of the discussion. The vice-chairperson will run the meeting in the absence of the chairperson. At the beginning of a meeting, members should gently be reminded to disclose any conflicts.

A discussion was held regarding funding for players. All agreed finding funding would be beneficial, but money is not as easily available as it was in the past when players were paid for winning. Fundraising should be in the open and fully disclosed. All fundraising and sponsorships must benefit each player on the team equally, in compliance with IRS tax-exempt regulations. Heidi agreed to the need to follow IRS regulations stating she was fully aware of the regulation.

Uniforms and Equipment – All purchases require three bids from suppliers. Due to time constraints and supply chain issues, this was not done this past year. Jon has asked for receipts and invoices but has been ignored. Players did receive their uniforms in time for the tournament. The bags and gloves came in late, after players returned from Argentina. However, they have not been distributed to date. At least 20 junior players have not receive the items they paid for and most indicated they have received no communication regarding the delay or when they could anticipate their merchandise. Due to lack of disclosure, many on the committee did not know this was an issue until parents made contact inquiring about their merchandise. No accounting or contracts have been received to date. The terms with the supplier were not known. Heidi will contact the supplier and ask for invoices. Melanie should send contact information to Heidi.

Growing USARS – There was a lengthy discussion on how to grow USARS. While sending teams to world championships is important, a greater focus needs to be placed on growing the sport within USARS. Heidi and Stephen asked what it would take to run a tournament. There was a discussion about the various costs and recruiting teams. The committee has been attempting to raise money slowly over the past couple years to raise funds necessary to hold a tournament. Heidi believes we should not be piggybacking off another tournament. Perhaps inline hockey could hold the games during USARS Nationals. This has not been done in years. The USOPC has been apprehensive about using the Olympic Training Center since Covid. Stephen stated derby has separated from nationals. He has many resources in the industry and urged inline hockey to reach out for help. A proposal should be sent to USARS to see if funds could be fronted for a tournament.

The committee discussed a variety of issues, focusing on compliance and transparency. Heidi stated the board will get involved in any legal or financial issues regarding committees. There were discussions regarding fundraising, sport committee guidelines, processes and procedures, team selection, player commitment, location of tryouts and player payments. All committee members must be transparent about their actions and communicate. Coaches, staff and committee members should always put the best interest of USARS first. Heidi asked that Melanie send a reminder to all committee members to be sure they completed their requires compliance forms and are up to date with their Safe Sport and background check obligations.

Stephen asked Dustin for his thoughts on the committee. Dustin stated he came onboard a year ago and is still in a learning curve. Due to his employment in financial planning/wealth management, compliance is very important to him. He was involved in team selection last year. He did know many players and provide input on those he knew. He stated he did not know how the player list came to be.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 13th, the second Monday of the month. It will be held at 9:00 p.m., EST, 8:00 p.m. CST. This meeting is being held later than the usual meeting time, to accommodate Heidi and Stephen’s schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m. EST.