

Meeting of NASSPDA Board on August 30th, 2009

MINUTES:

Conference call meeting started on Sunday, August 30th, 2009, at ~6:45 PM EDT.
In attendance: Sonja Furiya (membership chair), Winter Held (chair of “board governance” committee), Pat Hogan – joined ~7:10 PM EDT, Richard Lamberty (co-chair), Citabria Phillips (chair of election committee) – until ~7:45 PM EDT, & Benjamin Soencksen (secretary)
Apologies: Barbara Zoloth (co-chair & treasurer)

The following final agenda was posted on August 26th, 2009:

A. Standing Items

1. Record polls since last meeting
2. Approve minutes from last meeting
3. Financial Report

B. Old Business

1. Creation of unified rules and structure requirements for NASSPDA sanctioned competitions (issues include MC vs. Comp Director, Pro/Am, rules for graded and non-graded)
 - a. Other issues regarding competition structure: Proficiency level vs. syllabus-restricted events, age divisions, Newcomer events, gender, and point system
 - b. Process for contesting organizers’ and/or judges’ decisions during competition will be included. Under what conditions is a chairman of judges, who would decide all judging queries and resolve disputes, required?
 - c. Unifying registration process across competitions would not be included at this time
 - d. Reference materials for this effort would include Equality dance rules created for the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam, ESSDA rules first applied at Eurogames 2008, and April Follies 2009 rules
2. Create mechanism that allows Board to send e-mails to members and possibly also non-members
3. Election Committee: updates
4. Clarification of the procedure to be used for identifying the recipient of a Rainbow Ballroom award

C. New Business

1. ESSDA issue raised by Sonja:
“I attended the ESSDA annual meeting on the Wednesday. They are dealing with many of the same things we are, albeit a bit ahead of us. They are just starting to charge membership fees, way less than our fees. They are a member of EGLSF, GLISA and FGG, and can send a rep with voting rights. Seems like this is something that NASSPDA should also do.
They are going to approach the EGLSF with a strong plea for them to negotiate

for one set of Games. Apparently many of the sports organizations are doing this. I said that it was likely that NASSPDA would be willing to back them in this move. I said I would bring it up.

They are working on comp rules - trying to get reps from all the countries that compete so that there is a consensus. There is an interest in working together with other world countries to create standardized rules, and I said that I would bring it up to you all - maybe there can be two kinds of sets of rules - one which is more basic and general which we all agree on and one which enables the variations from country to country.

They are interested in using the EuroGames as the Open European Championships and then maybe the Gay(Out)Games as the World Championships.”

2. Scholarship fund for new memberships
3. “California Dreaming” sanctioning request
4. Soliciting/receiving donations

D. Schedule next Board meeting

A. Standing Items

to A.1.: All Approved

- A. Poll: *“Do you approve the following, as discussed at our last meeting: ‘Organizational Membership’ shall have added to its description/explanation the sentence that ‘Organizational membership can not be used to determine eligibility to win any NASSPDA title.’ ”*
- B. Poll: *“Do you approve the following, as discussed and proposed during our last meeting: NASSPDA shall have an added level of membership called ‘Team Membership,’ which is only available for formation teams, who wish to compete for the annual NASSPDA Championship title; which will grant the member one vote at the general assembly of NASSPDA; and which shall cost \$100.00 per team and calendar year. All other membership rules shall equally apply to this level of membership.”*

This approved addition to NASSPDA’s membership levels prompted a renewed discussion on whether to add that an individual membership with NASSPDA held by 50% of all members in one team could not also create eligibility to garner the NASSPDA authorized formation team title. However, after seriously considering the merits of this suggestion, the Board felt that the process of verifying the membership of all team members of all teams competing in this division is to cumbersome, especially considering that a team might have last minute changes of the participating members of their team.

- C. Poll *“Do you approve to take the necessary steps for NASSPDA to apply for an “associate membership” with ESSDA?”*
- D. Poll *“Do you approve that the Secretary of NASSPDA may formulate and send an invitation to ESSDA for an “affiliate membership” with NASSPDA?”*

to A.2.: Minutes & Notes 090719: Approved

to A.3.:

Due to the absence of the Treasurer from this meeting, no financial report was delivered.

B. Old Business

to B.1.:

The Secretary posted the “1st Workdraft of NASSPDA’s Competition Rules” on August 30th, 2009, to all Board members for discussion. The Board decided to work through each section together taking in account comments already made prior to this meeting.

The secretary will then periodically post an updated version for further comments.

The following two issues triggered more lengthy discussions with opposing point of views and resulting compromises:

A. NASSPDA makes no distinction between amateur and professional relating to competition organizers offering Pro-Am participation and/or separate categories.

B. Inclusion and definition of “Reverse-Role Categories.”

to B.2., 3. & 4.: Postponed

Due to time constraints and most of the meeting’s time spend on the 1st Workdraft of NASSPDA’s Competition Rules, which according to the outcome of this year’s General Meeting seems to be the most pressing issue for all members, all those items had to be postponed.

C. New Business

to C.1., 2. & 4.: Postponed

(see “to B.2., 3. & 4.”)

to C.3.: Approved

Contingent on California Dreaming’s becoming an organizational member of NASSPDA, their request for a one-time NASSPDA sanctioning, received on August 18th, 2009, was approved by 5 “yes” votes, which represented all Board members present at this meeting.

D. Schedule next Board meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th, 2009, at 6:30 PM EDT.

This meeting adjourned at ~8:10 PM EDT.