

**USA Federation for Sport Cheering
Board of Directors Meeting
April 30, 2023**

The meeting was held at the Westin Hotel in Richardson, Texas and via ZOOM video/teleconference. After a roll call and confirming that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at approximately 10:34 a.m. CT by Lauri Harris.

The following members of the Board of Directors participated in the meeting:

- Rhonda Blanford-Green
- Asia Chatman
- Dr. Jeff Dugas (via video conference)
- Bob Dunseath (via video conference)
- Celia Kiogima
- Jim Lord (non-voting)
- Ryan O'Connor (via video conference)
- Ben Schreiber (via video conference)
- Bill Seely (early departure)
- John Stuart (via video conference)
- Lee Trudell (via video conference)

Directors absent from the meeting:

- Andres Cantero
- Justin Carrier
- Christa Sanford
- Kaitlynn Volmer

Also attending the meeting were the following:

- Lauri Harris, Executive Director
- Danika H. Mendrygal, Attorney, Mendrygal Law PLLC
- Lynne M. Howard, Paralegal, Mendrygal Law PLLC

Announcements and General Updates – Lauri Harris

- Lauri opened the meeting with announcements and highlights on the STUNT national championships.
- Lauri reported that USA Cheer is invited to participate in the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Assembly to be held September 2023.
- Lauri will attend the Association of Chief Executives for Sport (ACES) conference in August 2023. ACES is a valuable resource for best practices in the national governing body community.

National Teams – Lauri Harris

- Lauri reported on the U.S. National Teams' accomplishments in the 2023 ICU World Championships earlier this month, highlighting that the teams participated in 19 divisions and won 17 gold and 2 silver medals. Lauri and Asia Chatman briefly discussed the adjustments made to the training program for the U.S. National Team Premier All Girl team, noting that the adjustments proved better for the athletes overall and optimized performance. Lauri emphasized

that USA Cheer is continuously evaluating its programs to ensure athletes are attaining the highest benefit.

- Lauri provided a brief update on the status of FloCheer.
- At Lauri's request, Lee Trudell provided an update on the US National Adaptive, Special Abilities, and Special Olympics Teams.
- Lauri provided an update on athlete safety, highlighting that USA Cheer is seeking to grow its Safety Council to further broaden the Council's medical expertise and that there are plans for updating the Cheerleading Safety Manual. Dr. Dugas contributed to the discussion, noting that the Safety Council is also exploring options for expanding athlete services.

Coaches Summit / Summer Conference – Lauri Harris

- Lauri reported that the July 2023 Coaches Summit will be centered on safety and athlete protection. She also announced that through a grant funded by Varsity Spirit, USA Cheer engaged Ms. Aly Raisman as special guest speaker. Lauri provided background on Ms. Raisman, an Olympic gold medalist and advocate for positive body image and athlete safety. The Board engaged in a brief discussion around the conference.

Legal Update – Lauri Harris

- Lauri provided a legal update and opened for questions, and there were none.
- Lauri also reported on legal expenses and insurance coverage.

Financial Update – Lauri Harris and Jim Lord

- Lauri reported that USA Cheer is developing a long-term financial strategy which will be presented to the Board for review in the coming months.
- At Lauri's request, Jim Lord presented a detailed report on education and credentialing courses over the period 2017-2023, with the key takeaway being 2023 is up over 2019 pre-pandemic numbers, and the trends are showing growth.
- Lauri provided an update on the status of agreements with partners and sponsors.

Athlete Safety – Lauri Harris and Jim Lord

- Lauri and Jim provided an update on the Unified Ineligibility List (the "**List**"), reiterating that athlete safety remains the driver of USA Cheer's decision-making process with respect to the List. The Board engaged in a discussion, with Lauri responding to questions.
- Lauri reported that USA Cheer is moving its safety awareness campaign to August to improve visibility and impact of the campaign.
- The Board engaged in a discussion around USA Cheer's ongoing priority to enhance athlete safety on all levels, including bolstering education resources. The Board also discussed implementing potential programs aimed at raising positivity in the cheerleading community.
- The Board engaged in a discussion regarding coach safety education and opportunities for USA Cheer to help ensure coaches understand their responsibility for reporting abuse or misconduct, and the reporting processes available to them.
- Jim Lord explained USA Cheer's protocols around evaluating reports and/or information on alleged abuse or misconduct and for making determinations related to the Unified Ineligibility List.

Youth Update – Lauri Harris

- Lauri is exploring strategies to grow USA Cheer’s involvement in the youth space, particularly through relationships with organizations with a national focus on youth sports.

At approximately 11:56 a.m. CT Bill Seely left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Lauri Harris

- Lauri referenced the draft minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors, previously circulated to the Board for review, and opened for comments. With no comments or revisions raised, upon motion by Celia Kiogima to approve the minutes as circulated, and seconded by Asia Chatman, the January 25, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

Closing of Meeting and Adjournment – Lauri Harris

- Lauri provided additional general updates and closing remarks. With no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m. CT.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauri Harris, Executive Director