Minutes
Lakeshore National Adapted Sport Organization (LNASO)
Board Meeting
February 26, 2024

The Lakeshore National Adapted Sport Organization Board meeting was held on February 26, 2024, at noon via Zoom. The board members in attendance were:

	Bill Horton, Chair	Noah Galloway *(Absent)*
	Walter Beale	Joel Welker *(Absent)*
	Lee Fredette	
	Patrick Parkes	
	Graham Sisson	
	Allison Stephens	
	Nick Taylor	
	John Kemp	
	Jen Allred	
Staff	Chris Thomason	
	Rebecca Cline	

Chairman William Horton opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for the first LNASO Board meeting of 2024. Chairman Horton declared a quorum was present and thanked everyone for their attendance. He thanked past chair Graham Sisson for all his time and work in establishing the administrative functions of the Board. Mr. Horton shared with the group that meetings would now be more focused on our strategic activities and goals.

Chairman Horton called on Ms. Jen Allred to give an update on our sports. Ms. Allred communicated that Eric Newby will share an update on wheelchair rugby. Mr. Newby communicated that rugby is in a good place, despite a rocky start due to athlete changes through classification. Mr. Newby communicated that at the end of the season in Santiago, the team won a gold medal, which qualified the team to compete in Paris. He shared that the team has four competitions this year and the first one is slated to be in Demark. The other competitions are Quad Nations, Canada Cup, and then Paris. He also communicated that the new leadership is also in a great place and has found their roles. Nick Taylor gave an update on boccia. The highlight of last year was three members who competed in the Para Pan American Games, which was a first. He communicated that five athletes will be going to Croatia in April, two members will be going to Santiago in June, and many of them are on the waiting list for a World Cup in Montreal and hoping to compete in Paris, but there is no guarantee. He also communicated that they had a great training camp in Birmingham and will be going to Colorado Springs next week. Mr. Taylor communicated that he would be remise if he did not mention that they got new HUDL software, a performance technology to analyze their sport.

Ms. Allred congratulated Nick Taylor for being selected as one of the athletes who will represent Team USA in New York City at the media summit in April. Ms. Allred shared that Zion Redington (wheelchair rugby) received his invitation this morning to New York and now we will have both sports represented at this important event.

Chairman Horton communicated that a few administrative items needed to be addressed. Mr. Horton asked for a motion to ratify Eric Newby as a board member. The motion was made, seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Allred communicated to the group this is a friendly reminder that if you have not completed and emailed your conflict-of-interest form, please do so at your earliest convenience as the deadline is forthcoming. All Conflict-of-Interest submissions will be reviewed by the Board at the next meeting.

The next agenda item was Safe Sport. Mr. Kemp communicated to the group our work to stay in compliance with USOPC, and the US Center for Safe Sport. He communicated a reminder that every Board member as well as staff must go through an initial comprehensive Safe Sport training and subsequently annual training. Ms. Allred communicated that we have been 100% compliant and that if anyone has any questions, please let her know. She also shared that resources are abundant for your use that you can benefit from as well as sharing the resources with athletes, parents, and other organizations. Ms. Allred communicated to the Board that we are currently compliant with the USOPC's certification process.

Chairman Horton communicated the next agenda item for discussion is our strategic initiatives and goals. The areas of focus are performance, athlete development, operational excellence, marketing, and communication. Mr. Horton then called on Ms. Allred to share with the group the document that they received regarding goal setting for these strategic goals and initiatives.

She mentioned at the top of the list was high performance, winning a gold medal, trying to secure a spot or spots at the Paralympic Games for Boccia, and improving world rankings.

The next agenda item was athlete development. Ms. Allred communicated that we have the responsibility of managing the national teams for both sports, we do not manage the domestic leagues of both sports, which are the greatest development opportunity to identify new athletes. The group then discussed the merits of creating clear Memorandums of Understanding with leagues for both sports so that we have better opportunities to work together. Conducting international camps and competitions was discussed. There was a lengthy discussion on how to create opportunities to integrate both sports into universities and colleges as well as getting these professional athletes' compensation so they can better focus on their training. Ms. Allred asked Mr. Chris Thomason if he had any additional comments on fundraising. Mr. Thomason shared details on how his team is preparing grant proposals to generate funds for our specific sports and will be having a Media Day reception in May. Mr. Thomason shared with the group that we are in discussion with several international companies regarding job opportunities for our athletes.

There was a lengthy discussion on funding and how the funding is distributed between the sports and programs.

Finally, the group discussed the need to continue refining this strategic document and ensure it is applied to the planning process for the year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Allred, Secretary