

# Minutes from the NEBA Annual Meeting

## held virtually on Sunday, December 13, 2020

Board members present: President Dave Kipperman, 1st VP Chris Viale, 2nd VP Bruce Hall, TD Dan Kaye, Manager Becky Kregling, Tim Gagne, Stephen Major, Ed Roberts & Amy Viale.

Past President(s): Alex Aguiar, Rick Cashell, Chris Monroy & George Tignor,

2020 Member(s): John Anderson, James Bessette, Stephen Dale, Jr, Don Frye, Andrew Hall, Joanne Herman, Kevin Thibeault, Amando J. Villa. Past Member(s): Brian Gaskill, John Kalafas, Darryl Washington

1. Reports of Tournament Director, Manager, Officers and Executive Committee: Dan has nothing new to report since last month's meeting. He presented the numbers for entries in 2020. It is obviously lower than past years due to the pandemic. Becky presented the Treasurer's report stating we supported ourselves this year without going into the reserve account mostly due to many not taking compensation since April. Remember that the membership and sponsors roll over to 2021 so we may end up short next year since the membership monies are split between two years of expenses. We have 375 members and 409 bowlers which is less than the 525-600 members and 600-700 bowlers from the previous two years. The executive committee has discussed and met mostly regarding how the pandemic affects the running of the organization as well as plans for 2021.
2. Reports of Technology Directors and Update on Social Media Committee: Technology and Social Media had nothing new since last meeting. The software has been updated throughout 2020 giving it more functionality. The livestreams have been successful at each tournament. The plan is to fill the Social Media Director position for 2021.
3. Board Members at Large Appointment for 2021: All 2020 at-large members are interested in returning and two new members have expressed interest to be on the board. Returning members Tim Gagne, Ed Roberts and Amy Viale will be joined by newcomers Matt Farber and Andrew Hall. Motion by Chris Viale to approve the group. Second by Dan Kaye. Approved Unanimously.
4. Sponsors for 2021: Any sponsor giving \$500 or more will have their name on a tournament or major award. Two sponsors are not returning for 2021 - Ken's Bowl which has closed and Rutland Bowl which is not on the 2021 schedule. Three sponsors need to be confirmed and that update will be shared by the end of this month. 900 Global has committed to two balls per tournament in 2021 and will reevaluate the monetary donation mid 2021. On the survey, some bowlers suggested Casinos and alcohol sponsors which Chris Viale will work on those ideas. There was discussion if we could have these sponsors since we have youth bowlers. Becky is going to contact USBC to see if there is a conflict for youth.
5. Survey results - The survey format was explained and results discussed. 181 members and bowlers took time to do the survey. This year, the survey was distributed to 2020 members and bowlers from 2018 and 2019.
6. Proposed Bylaw Changes - None
7. Proposed Tournament Rules Changes
  - a. Allow headphones and earbuds to be worn during bowling (Current rule: not allowed) - No motion.
  - b. If a pattern has a name, provide the name of the pattern (Current rules: Length, Distance and volume are given) - Motion by Alex Aguiar. 2nd Stephen Dale. Passed Unanimous
  - c. Change the entry fee to \$80 for regular tournaments. Change the entry fee to \$90. (Current rule: \$95) - There was much discussion, comments and reference to survey results about changing the entry fee. The consensus was to make it affordable for now then rediscuss mid 2021. Motion by Ed Roberts to lower the entry fee to \$80. Second by Bruce Hall. Passed 14-3-1 Motion by Bruce Hall As long as doing modified COVID tournaments, the entry fee is \$80. As soon as we hold regular format tournaments, the entry could be raised back to \$95 or we can discuss keeping it longer. Second by Becky Kregling. Passed Unanimous. It was agreed to survey members throughout 2021 to see how people feel and also to discuss it on a virtual meeting with the membership
  - d. Relax the rule for attire by allowing athletic pants and athletic shorts. (Current rule: does not allow athletic bottoms) - No motion
  - e. Membership – Do not allow PBA national title holders to bowl. (Current rule: allows any NEBA member who wins a national title while a member to continue to bowl if they maintain their NEBA membership. A non NEBA member with a national title cannot bowl.) - No motion
  - f. When someone misses roll call, do not fill the spot with an alternate. The person who misses roll call gets last place money if they cannot make the match by the 3<sup>rd</sup> frame. (Current rule: Alternate replaces anyone who misses roll call) - Motion by Bruce Hall. No Second. Motion failed.
8. Proposal - Give a travel stipend of \$75 or 100 to NEBA staff when the tournament is at least 60 miles from their house and the entry count is under 140 to help cover hotel bills & extra time during COVID impacted events. - Motion by Ed Roberts to do \$100 travel stipend to staff when the tournament is at least 60 miles from their house and the entry count is under 140 during COVID impacted events. Second John Anderson. Passed 16-0-2
9. COVID Format Proposals using two pairs for each group of bowlers - Proposal 1: Switch pairs after each game OR Proposal 2: 1st squad bowl 3 games on 1st pair & 2 on 2nd pair. Second squad bowl 2 games on 1st pair & 3 on 2nd pair

(Current Rule: bowl 3 games on 1st pair & 2 games on 2nd pair) - No motion. It was questioned why we are in pods and didn't move pairs. The reason was due to the center staff needing to clean the entire settee area in between games. This would add a significant amount of time for qualifying so qualifying is only hold on two pairs instead of five. It was learned that some states are cleaning still and closely following COVID-19 guidelines, some were diligent at the beginning but not as much lately and some are not doing any extra cleaning. The COVID format is not set in stone and can be modified moving forward. The items to consider first is moving pairs and who can bowl with who. The board will continue to use state guidelines when making decisions. Note that 95% of those who voted thought board decisions about modifying the format and running or cancelling tournaments in response to the pandemic were average to very good.

10. Annual awards & points - Proposal 1: Start points back up with the first event in 2021 OR Proposal 2: Start when we stop using the COVID format & travel restrictions are gone. Points from early 2020 carry over. - Motion by Chris Viale to start points back up with the first event in 2021, 2nd by Stephen Dale. Motion withdrawn after discussion about how to adapt the points for the special cut groups.. No motion on the second proposal since some were not interested in committing to an unknown time frame. No motion so points are on hold and this will be revisited in early 2021. Proposals on how to adapt this with an alternative point system are being taken.

11. Committees

- a. Special tournaments - Nothing to report at this time but will work on the special tournaments in mid to late 2021. Bruce Hall has offered to add \$6,000 to an over/under doubles tournament to be named the Vincent Hall Memorial to honor his dad who passed away in 2020. The committee will look into this proposal.
- b. Schedule - The 2021 schedule is on BowlNEBA.com. One singles tournament a month was put in larger centers for the first five months. The regular looking NEBA schedule was confirmed for the rest of the years.
- c. Survey - Will continue to survey members and past bowlers on topics in the future.

12. New business

- a. Proposal to purchase Zoom for future meetings which is \$199.90 per year.
- b. Proposal to not do Saturday night squads during COVID tournaments. There was some interest in this but not a large amount of support. Entries will be monitored and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting for a possible vote.
- c. Discussed whether to move or cancel the date when a tournament cannot be held at the original scheduled center. Last meeting the board agreed to cancel but the survey supported finding another center. Discussion revolved around it can be difficult to find another center last minute plus moving created hard feelings. Those not on the board at the meeting understood this decision was more complicated than the survey question might have suggested. One person suggested we follow the health situation and state guidelines, catch up two weeks prior and by the end of the week make a decision to go forward or cancel. Someone questioned at what point do we run tournaments when we become the minority of who is cancelling. It was admitted this is a difficult topic then noted that NEBA is not run for profit or by one person but run by a group of bowlers for the bowlers. The board will discuss if this comes up again.
- d. Idea to do a special NEBA Broadcast to preview the upcoming tournament the week before the event.
- e. Allow people to pay membership in advance using Venmo, Cash App or sending a check. People can complete the form then send their payment which would help with registration on-site.
- f. It was asked if a 2020 member could voluntarily pay their 2021 membership to help support the organization. The answer was yes, of course, so Dave will look into how he can update the software to allow this.
- g. Special thank you to Dave Kipperman for serving NEBA for six years as 1st VP, 2nd and President plus developing specialized software for our organization. Especially as President with extra time put into this season and leading during a difficult, unprecedented time

13. Motion to adjourn at 12:44PM. Bruce Hall motion. Dan second. Passed unanimously.

2020 NEBA Board of Directors

President	Dave Kipperman	Member at-large	Tim Gagne
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Chris Viale	Member at-large	Stephen Major
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bruce Hall	Member at-large	Ed Roberts
Tournament Director	Dan Kaye	Member at-large	Amy Viale
Manager	Becky Kregling		

2021 NEBA Board of Directors

President	Chris Viale	Member at-large	Matt Farber
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Bruce Hall	Member at-large	Tim Gagne
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Stephen Major	Member at-large	Andrew Hall
Tournament Director	Dan Kaye	Member at-large	Ed Roberts
Manager	Becky Kregling	Member at-large	Amy Viale