



United States Mondio Ring Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 19, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Don Lee at 2003(or 8:03 P.M. CST). A quorum was present.

Members Present:

President	Donald Lee	Director	Gail Marit
Vice President	Allison Seghetti-Kehoe	Director	Todd Dunlap
Secretary	Michon Mills	Director	vacant
Treasurer	David Broderick		

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – The May minutes were approved unanimously via Facebook June 12, 2017.

Officer Reports

President – Don reported that our primary focus, as the Board of Directors, should be on what the membership, as a whole, wants, as the BOD works for the membership. Don also stated that if a member has a question that can be answered by the BOD, the question should be answered. Any questions that cannot be answered by the BOD, the concern or question would be then added to the agenda for the next BOD meeting.

Don also discussed that that Board should be striving for unity in their decisions. It was further discussed that there will be disagreements and the BOD will not always vote in majority, but it is important to have respect and be supportive of one another. Don reminded the BOD that Board discussions and decisions should not be discussed with the membership until all information is dispersed to the entire membership by the proper authority, per Sturgis.

Don discussed that when changes are being suggested and made within an organization, it can take approximately four years to be implemented and reviewed for quality.

Vice President – Allison discussed some of the rules of Sturgis regarding the process of a board meeting, such as when members should comment, make motions, how motions are discussed and voted on. She further reported that remarks should be directed at the chair and should not be debated between BOD members. She further reiterated that all discussion need to be respectful of one another.

Treasurer – David reported the following: Wells Fargo – \$36249.37 PayPal \$4130.25 Total: \$40379.62

Secretary – Michon reported the following: YTD numbers: 203 members and 26 clubs.

Director at Large – No reports

Committee Reports

Judge's Committee – Judge's Committee has finalized the new Judge Apprentice Program criteria. Don will send the criteria to the BOD for approval.

Don reported that there will be a Judges training seminar with Iris Remund in November. There will also be a handler and decoy seminar. Don will send the information to Michon once the dates and times are finalized. Don stated that he would like to see the judge's training be mandatory for our USMRA judges.

Decoy Committee – No report

Membership Committee – Gail questioned what the Educational/Membership Committee grant money will be used for. There are currently no plans for this money.

Todd discussed that he would like to find options to have club trial entries be reasonable fees such as \$20.00. His club is trying to find ways to make this happen.

There was discussion about finding ways to promote multiple clubs using European judges for events when they come over to the US, depending on their timeframes. This would benefit clubs in sharing costs and having the judge be available to more members and clubs.

AWDF Update – AKC has declined USMRA submitting for Mondioring titles at this time. Michon will continue to work towards this being approved.

There was further discussion about educating other organizations about Mondioring. USMRA would like to do a demonstration at the IPO Nationals this coming year.

Nationals Committee –

- Discuss club criteria to host National Championships

BOD agreed that the recommended criteria from the Committee is acceptable. Once the criteria is presented to the membership, it will be opened up to clubs to submit for the National Championships. Michon will send the criteria to all club contacts.

The clubs will be notified of the criteria and allowed to submit a packet requesting their desire to host the 2018 National Championship. The Nationals Committee will make a recommendation to the BOD once the Committee makes a decision based on all clubs that submit a packet.

- Discuss the selection process for the 2018 National Championships.

Discussed that preference would go to the scheduled region, if no club is interested, it would go to the next rotated region. The preference for 2018 will be given to the Eastern Region as the last two championships were held in the Central and Western regions.

Unfinished Business

- Discuss the specific regions for the location of the National Championships.
Discussed the breakdown of the three regions. A map was presented to the BOD for verification of the regions. There was also discussion that with growth, a fourth region may be necessary in the future. Future hosting of Regional Championships were also discussed.
- Discuss the rotation of the National Championships, including if a region has no club willing to assist the National Committee in the scheduled region, does that region forfeit for the year, and the next available region is selected.

As discussed above, preference would go to the scheduled region, if no club is interested, it would go to the next rotated region. The National Championship will be hosted by the USMRA Nationals Committee in conjunction with a club(s) from the scheduled region. The Nationals Committee will have oversight of the event and will make sure that all aspects of the event are taken care of.

- Discuss the non-profit status of USMRA. Follow up from May meeting

This was at the request of a Board Member who is no longer a Board Member. There was discussion that the current status of USMRA is sufficient.

- Determine an election committee as the election process begins in October

This will be done via FB

Evaluate the Status of USMRA Clubs

- **Discuss/motion for approval of new clubs**

None to discuss

New Business

- Discuss videotaping/photographing at USMRA sanctioned events

The USMRA BOD discussed and agreed that photographs and videos at USMRA sanctioned events are beneficial for educational purposes and should be encouraged. It was also agreed that it is the decision of the private property owner hosting the USMRA sanctioned event, whether to allow photographing and videoing at their club trials. It was further agreed upon that it would be up to each individual USMRA member to make it known that they do not wish to have video or photographs taken and distributed publically, if they so desire. Any photographer or videographer should respect the wishes of each USMRA member and club.

The BOD also agreed that events held at public venues, such as the National Championship, will have the expectation that there will be video and photographs taken and distributed during such events, as these events are open to the public

- Discuss increasing the fee amount for submitting a formal complaint due to certified mail requirements

There was discussion about the current fee to file a formal complaint which is \$75.00. This amount does not cover the certified mail postage requirements to send all correspondence to all members of the Board of Inquiry as required by the USMRA Bylaws.

It was moved by Allison, second by Michon, to increase the price of filing a formal complaint with USMRA from \$75.00 to \$150.00. Yes: Allison, Michon, David; No: Todd, Gail; Motion carried by majority.

- Discuss filling vacant Director at Large position (1-year term, ends 12/31/2017)
 - Candidates: Karen Shivers, George Manley, Sarah Brueske, Jake Scott

It was moved by Todd, second by Allison, to remove two Director at Large Candidates, Jake Scott and George Manley, from the list of candidates for the vacant position, due to them being members of clubs that currently have members serving on the Board of Directors, in order to eliminate any club bias. The motion carried unanimously.

It was voted on by the Board of Directors to select the vacant Director at Large position from the candidate list of Karen Shivers and Sarah Brueske. The Board of Directors voted on and selected by majority, Karen Shivers to fill the vacant Director at Large position, with the term ending on December 31, 2017.

Member's Concerns – Any concerns that USMRA Members may have

- World Team Criteria
 - There is a member wanting to know why it is so hard to be on the World Championship Team

It was discussed that Mondioring is a difficult sport and it is difficult to be selected to the World Championship Team.

- A member would like to know if a member can compete with 2 dogs at the World Championships.

It was reported that a member can compete with two dogs at the World Championship.

- Reopen discussion per a member's request, regarding the World Team Criteria regarding requiring different decoys and the 250 miles distance between trials. This was discussed and voted on June 27, 2016. Discussion/action for approval from the June 27, 2016 meeting states: Based on membership input, there was discussion about

changing the World Team criteria to specifically define the meaning of two fields. Discussion ensued that adding a specific number of miles separating the fields would be best to meet the intention of trialing on two different fields. The Board of Directors discussed and decided that 250 miles would be a reasonable amount to separate the fields. There was also discussion about the use of the same decoy in multiple trials. The Board of Directors discussed and agreed to add to the criteria that the same decoy(s) cannot be used for the two trial scores submitted. Michon will get the new criteria on Facebook for Board approval. The Board of Directors agreed unanimously that these additions should be made.

There was nothing new to report or discuss on this topic and no motion to rescind the prior motions were made.

- A member would like to see the World Team Criteria changed to allow selection of the team based on rankings of the scores from the National Championship and a World Team Qualifier Trial.

It was discussed that there is not a World Team Qualifier at this time so this option is not available. The criteria will stand as is.

- A member expressed concern on how BOD members who do not compete, make decisions on competitions and World Team Criteria.

It was discussed that the Board of Directors are voted on by the current USMRA members.

- A member expressed concerns whether a board member can have a criminal record? If yes, how does that look to other members and countries?

This was requested by a former BOD member and there was no information available for this topic.

- A member expressed concern that there are no rules passed out or rules to copy that include rule changes and amendments.

All updated information is posted on the USMRA website. Michon is also working on a general USMRA Policy and Procedure manual and hopes to have this completed by the end of the year.

- A member expressed concern why OB and OBJ not included in the National Championships to help improve attendance.

It was discussed that OB and OBJ are not FCI recognized titles but are recognized by USMRA.

- Reopen discussion from February 20, 2017, regarding USMRA paying for club trial insurance as members would like to see USMRA pay for club insurance. The motion from February 20, 2017 states: It was moved by Gail, second by Todd that USMRA will not cover costs for insurance policies for clubs. The motion carried unanimously.

There was nothing new to report or discuss on this topic and no motion to rescind the prior motion was made.

- Reopen discussions from March 13, 2017, regarding the FCI Variance, as a member would like this looked at again as there was information heard that Switzerland received a variance allowing all dogs to compete in their country, including mixed breeds. There were also members wanting rescued and mixed breed dogs to be able to compete in Mondioring.

The information regarding Switzerland receiving a variance was false information as they do not have a variance from FCI. There was nothing new to report or discuss on this topic and no motion to rescind the prior motions were made

- A member expressed concerns that the results of the survey that were posted to the membership via Facebook on May 24, 2017, are not being followed by the Board of Directors. Specifically, this member had concern that the Board of Directors voted to hold the National Championships in the spring every year, on the second weekend of April, but the survey results stated that the majority of the members selected to have the championships held in the fall. The motion on May 15, 2017 stated: It was moved by Todd, second by Paul that the USMRA National Championship be held the second weekend of April every year, unless that weekend falls on Easter weekend, then it would be held the first weekend of April. Motion carried by majority. Yes votes: Todd, Gail, Paul, David No votes: Allison, Michon

The survey question that sparked this concern was the timeframe of spring or fall for National.

Michon reported that the member was concerned that the BOD did not follow the wishes of the membership as expressed by the survey results.

- A member expressed concerns that there is no affordable accessibility to training and would like to see that change.

The Board of Directors acknowledged that this is unfortunate but not a lot can be done to limit the cost of training at individual clubs.

- There is a member that would like to see more opportunities for club members to be educated in basic suit work

This is not something that can be dictated by the Board of Directors and should be addressed by individual clubs.

- A member expressed concern that while attending a recent trial, he was not afforded any type of decoy or training availability, prior to the trial, without needing to pay the club.

It was discussed that there are not requirements for the clubs to offer a decoy or training at club events.

- A member expressed concern that a club refused to communicate the trial start times prior to the trial and then the club contact person blocked the member from Facebook, which limited communications further.

It was discussed that even though clubs may have their own forms of communication for their club trials, any information regarding USMRA sanctioned events must be available on the USMRA website and/or Facebook page to all current USMRA members wanting to attend the

event. Also, all current USMRA members must be allowed to attend any USMRA sanctioned event.

Michon will modify the Club Trial Request Form to include information regarding if open field will be available and if so, the date and time it will be held.

- A member expressed concern and would like to see a minimum requirement of 25 miles between the home locations of clubs to prevent any clubs having adjacent fields.

There is nothing that USMRA Board of Directors can do about this.

- A member expressed concerns about comments being made on Facebook by a Board Member that stated that they Board of Directors argue and do not agree on decisions.

It was discussed that it is inappropriate for board members to make public comments like this.

- A member expressed concerns about the rules stating that male dogs must be unaltered. The member has competed in 2017 with an unaltered male, but has since been altered due to medical reasons.

It was reported that USMRA will be following the rules of the FCI which state: male dogs which participate in Mondioring trials must have two testicles that appear normal and completely descended into the scrotum.

If a dog does not comply with FCI rules, they may be disqualified from participating in a trial at the discretion of the Judge. There is no information in the FCI rules giving an exemption to this rule due to medical necessity.

- A member has requested that all financial transactions are printed out monthly and presented to the membership.

A monthly account balance is reported by the Treasurer at every board meeting.

- A member expressed concern that scores are not being posted on the Facebook page after a trial.

It was reported that this is a courtesy but not a requirement. All official scores will be listed on the USMRA Website once they have been received and approved by the USMRA Secretary. Any scores listed on Facebook by the clubs are unofficial results and do not become official until received and approved by the USMRA Secretary.

- There was discussion about putting together a committee to begin discussion about the direction USMRA will take with FCI requirements.

Don discussed that FCI would like to see all USMRA Judges and Decoys become FCI Judges and Decoys.

- There was discussion about determining a criteria on how to fill vacant spots for the USMRA World Championship team after spots are filled by members meeting the criteria, if there are teams not meeting the current World Team Criteria wanting to go. This criteria will be further

discussed on the BOD Facebook page after review of the draft stepdown criteria posted by Michon.

Announcements

Next Regular BOD Meeting – July 17, 2017 at 8:00 PM Central Time

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail, second by Allison to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 23:23 hours (11:23 P.M. CST)

Michon M. Mills,
USMRA Secretary

**Approved (Approved as Corrected)
BOD Electronic approval**

Michon M. Mills
USMRA Secretary
August 8, 2017