

Governance Committee appointed by Jim Smith

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USOPC (United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee) at the direction of Congress (USOPC [a non profit] created by the Stevens Act) modified their By-Laws to create a Board of Directors of 16 persons that meets four (4) times per year.

Subsequent to the changes made at USOPC, a policy decision was made for the NGB's (national governing bodies) of which USA Hockey is one in good standing, to reduce their respective Boards to a relatively small number. Certain NGB's were asked to take prompt action i.e. USAG , US Diving, etc. The remainder of the NGB's were requested in a scheduled fashion to review their bylaws and modify their governing body structure to reduce the size of their respective board.

USA Hockey began its work last Fall. Each District (there are 13) has a member appointed by the then USA Hockey President and 4 athlete members. The committee was meeting every other week and produced a detailed interim questionnaire to the membership at our Winter Meeting in January. The questionnaire was responded to by the majority of the board and the responses were assembled to appreciate those items and considerations that were most important to the sitting Board. (there are 91 voting members currently on the Board [4 from each District except N. Plains which has 2, plus 18 athletes and affiliated member i.e. NHL, NHLPA,).

The system USAH utilizes works well because many tasks and concepts arise from District ideas, approved by the Board, and are executed at the District level by, for example, the Mid Am Board members and other similar groups across the country.

Nevertheless, the directive is that we must reduce the national Board significantly. The committee has been working since January weekly and has just completed a second questionnaire which reduces the number of Board members (one third of which are required to be athletes) to a number close to half of what the current board is.

This task requires sufficient time to establish not only how we can reduce, but how we will govern, drafting the documents and obtaining favorable votes from the existing Board and then what may be acceptable to USOPC.

Currently the Congress model appears to be the most viable which might yield a 15-20 member Executive Committee, and a reduction in each District's representation so that the Executive Committee would be the final decision maker on many matters. This is a work in progress so no definite statements can be made, other than the task must be completed so that the Board documents will be acceptable to USOPC by our next meeting.