

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

TELECONFERENCE

JANUARY 22, 2025

PRESENT: Brian Vahaly, Chairman of the Board, J. Christopher Lewis, First Vice President, Maggie Chan Jones, Vice President, Megan Moulton-Levy, Vice President, William McGugin, Secretary-Treasurer, Catherine (CiCi) Bellis, Laura F. Canfield, Violet Clark, Amanda Fink-Moore, Kathleen Francis, Jon Rydberg, Hon. Derek J. White, Perren Wong, Directors at Large, and Dr. Brian Hainline, Immediate Past President.

ABSENT: Chris Capossela, Director at Large.

ALSO PRESENT: Lew Sherr, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Andrea S. Hirsch, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, Stacey Allaster, Chief Executive, Pro Tennis, and Rachel Booth, Senior Counsel, Managing Director Tennis Integrity.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Vahaly called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. (EST) on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. A roll call was taken and a quorum certified.

2. **Fan Week Mixed Doubles Championship.** Vahaly convened the teleconference to review staff's recommendation to re-imagine the US Open Mixed Doubles Championship. He referenced materials previously distributed highlighting three areas key to the recommendation: i) a shorter set format, ii) Fan Week scheduling/timing, and iii) eligibility to participate.

Sherr stressed that the new Mixed Doubles format provides a platform to promote equality by showcasing men and women competing together as equals and an opportunity to partner with ESPN to bring attention to Mixed Doubles. He explained that by scheduling the event during Fan Week, the tournament would attract high-ranking singles players who otherwise would not participate. He noted that the shorter set length will appeal to players and align with ESPN's broadcast schedule. Additionally, Sherr offered that the current Mixed Doubles competition struggles to attract top players or generate substantial viewership.

Allaster spoke to the growth of Fan Week and the need for a marquis event to expand the fan base and broadcast viewership. She summarized the success of the 2024 Mixed Madness event and spoke to consumer appetite for competition during Fan Week. She advised the International Tennis Federation ("ITF") approved the short set format.

Discussion ensued relating to the size of the draw, the effect on doubles specialists and journeyman players, sponsorship potential, investment costs, set length impact on singles players, ESPN


participation, the availability of wild cards for doubles players and the sentiment of the other Grand Slam tournaments regarding the proposal. Allaster and Sherr were queried on prize money, and explained that some allocation of the money budgeted for Mixed Doubles would be applied to the Men's and Women's Doubles competitions. Sherr noted \$5,000,000 would be allocated to the new Mixed Doubles event.

Robust debate ensued as to the set length, with support expressed for a final six-game set and some wildcards for doubles specialists or past mixed champions. Discussion continued as to calling the competition a "Grand Slam Championship," and the importance of gaining buy-in from top players. Allaster explained the process to update the Grand Slam Rule book to include the new Mixed Doubles format.

The Board reached consensus to support the proposed Fan Week Mixed Doubles proposal and asked that staff consider some of the proposals regarding set length and wildcards. Vahaly thanked the Board and requested staff consider Board feedback in finalizing the details.

The meeting concluded at 3:53 p.m. (EST) on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



William McGugin
Secretary-Treasurer