



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2012  
Conference Call**

*These minutes reflect key decisions made during USA Ultimate Board meetings, as well as associated discussion points*

**Board members present:**

Gwen Ambler	At-Large Rep, Vice President
Audrius Barzdukas	Southwest Rep, ExComm member
Mandy Eckhoff	Northeast Rep
Kathy Hendrickson	Mid-Atlantic Rep, Treasurer
Mike Kinsella	Central Rep
Colin McIntyre	At-Large Rep
Sandy Park	Appointed Director, Secretary
Mike Payne	Northwest Rep, President
Ben Slade	South Rep
John Terry	At-Large Rep

**Also present:**

Tom Crawford	Chief Executive Officer
Melanie Byrd	Director - Membership and Sport Development
Andy Lee	Director - Marketing and Communications
Will Deaver	Managing Director - Competition and Athlete Programs
Julia Echterhoff	Manager - Administration and Finance

**Saturday, October 1, 2012**

- *President Mike Payne called the meeting to order at 10:09 A.M.*

**Agenda items involving Board decisions**

Proposal 2012.12 – Experimental Rules for the 2013 College and High School Series  
Resolution to formally recognize standing committees

**Proposal 2012.12 – Experimental Rules for the 2013 College and High School Series**

Submitted by USA Ultimate SOaR Committee

**Submitted Proposal Wording:**

This proposal includes recommended changes to the rules and to Observer roles/duties for the 2013 College and High School Series.

We recommend the following rules changes for the 2013 College and High School Series:

1. Shortening the length of end zones to 20 yards
2. Adding a “Contact” call for throwers, as implemented for the 2012 College and Club Series, with clarifications from the Rules Committee.
3. Adopting clarified language regarding the proper procedure for performing a “check” to put the disc into play -- this will be reinforced by Observers, when present.

We are essentially re-adopting experimental changes from the 2012 College and Club Series for 2013 in the College Series, and expanding them into the High School series. Other changes may be tested during specific experimental events, but are not a part of this proposal for changes for use in the 2013 College and High School Series. Finally, as with any experimental change approved by the Board, it is critical that USA Ultimate collect feedback from the participants, so that informed decisions may be made regarding future changes, and this proposal specifically calls for collection of such feedback.

<b><u>General Discussion Points:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The experimental rules were beneficial in both club and college and should be extended to high school and college regular season.</li><li>• Approving this proposal will keep us within compliance of presenting the new rules 6 month before the start of the season.</li></ul>	
<b><u>Pros Discussed:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potentially allows more venues to be options for official competition</li><li>• Helps with consistency between Regular Season events and the Championship Series</li><li>• Provides early enough notice to teams and event organizers that they will be able to practice and plan for events knowing exactly what rules will be used in 2012</li><li>• Reinforces the value of proactive implementation of our existing Observer system.</li><li>• Creates player-controlled options for reducing stoppages and improving the flow of game play.</li></ul>	<b><u>Cons Discussed:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Late proposal runs afoul of the 6 month deadline, and should not be used to establish a precedent of such action.</li><li>• Some experimental options are left for experimental events, rather than the entire College Series. Some may view this is an underly-aggressive approach.</li><li>• The College and Club Divisions continue to operate under different sets of Observer roles</li></ul>

**Overall Rationale:**

We believe we have targeted rules changes that will continue to have a significant positive effect on the College season and Series, and will offer similar benefits to the High School Series. In addition, these changes provide uniformity across the Divisions, which is helpful from a standpoint of reducing confusion, but also in terms of collecting feedback from a broader sample as SOaR and its subcommittees consider future changes. This annual proposal plays an important role in the on-going process of reviewing, revising, and updating the Official Rules of Ultimate and the Observer System.

**Motion to approve proposal 2012.12: [Mike Kinsella], seconded [Gwen Ambler].**

**Proposal approved (8-0-0)**

- Audrius Barzdukas and John Terry were absent for vote.

**Resolution to formally recognize existing committees and task forces**

- To reflect in our corporate records the resolutions that have been adopted from time to time creating various committees and task forces and to ratify the actions those groups have made
- This is consistent with the requirements of our bylaws
- Update Finance & Audit committee to Finance, Audit and Ethics committee
  - Mandy will send Kathy examples and list of responsibilities
- Gwen will send a complete list of all committees and task forces to Kathy
- Kathy will update the document and send it to Mike Payne. He will conduct an email vote.

*President Mike Payne adjourned the meeting at 12:51pm.*