

Eastern Athletic Association of the Deaf, INC
Delegates' Meeting
Zoom Session Part One
Sunday, March 3rd, 2024
Meeting started at 12:12 pm EST

***Note there is no Board of Directors Meeting prior to Delegates' Meeting.**

Roll Call:

- EAAD President, Sheldon Clarke
- EAAD Vice President, Lorraine Stotlz
- EAAD Secretary/Treasurer, Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller
- EAAD Tournament Director, Yarlenny Torres
- EAAD Hall of Fame/Public Relations, Peter Badavas
- EAAD-Appointed Sergeant of Arms, Robert Jones
- Delegate at Large, Chuck Wallace
- Parliamentarian Joshua Beckman
- District City 95ers, Paul Mitchell
- Lady Liberty, James Ginis
- DC Elite Hoyas, Roxanna Aguilo
- NorthEastern Dynamites, Charles Priscopo
- Matrix, Matthew Thomas
- SICD Magic, Carl Colon
- Philadelphia Hustle, Damiere Philips
- Eastern Storms, Andrea Amati
- Maryland Crossovers, Emelia Beldon
- Nor'Eastern Warriors, Nathan Jalali
- Rochester Venom, Ray Angelo Abadia, entered the room at 12:31 pm
- Nighthawks, Grey Sanchez, entered the room at 1:08pm
- District City 95ers, Mon Ching Ng, entered the room at 1:48pm
 - Paul Mitchell is now representing Delegate at Large
- A

Do the delegates accept Joshua Beckman as a Parliamentarian for the meeting tonight?

Majority Voted YES

Approval of the previous minutes of the meeting (EAAD 2023 Delegates Meeting)

Majority Voted YES

Moment of Silence:

Taras Bruce Denis, former NY Golden Tornadoes Athletic Club (GTAC) Head Coach, won 1954 EAAD Regional Championship, 1/15/1927-9/13/2023
Raiquel Tapia Villar, former EAAD Basketball Player, 3/26/1994-11/6/2023

Treasurer's Report (Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller)

- Unaudited as of March 3rd, 2024 \$8,497.50
- Auditors, Stewart Gerlis/Yvonne Davis-Talley has COMPLETED the audit for EAAD Financial 2017-2021! YES!
- We have discussed that it would be ideal to do an audit yearly instead of waiting for two years.

Vice President's Report (Lorraine Stotlz)

Hi everyone! I am new to EAAD, was appointed in September and early October is when we finally worked together. The officers are great and I had truly enjoyed working with them. I do see a lot of improvements regarding our EAAD By Laws/Guidelines. We have decided to have solid team members to be part of the law of committee after the EAAD regional tournament. Good Luck to all of the teams!

Secretary's Report (Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller)

Everyone knows that the rules are no different with the deadlines and it is the same thing every year, it is important for you to communicate with me. A lot of players would bypass their coaches to talk with us, this is not acceptable, and we kept referring them back to their coaches. Once you have signed up with the team, please try to stay with the team, and it is tiresome for the board to deal with players who quit or want to join another team. Next year, we will do something different such as making a vlog for the players after the coaches share it with them to be clear about the rules. **Question: Are we affiliated with NDBO and USADB? Answer: Yes** We will have a new motion for a position that will be liaison between EAAD and Coaches/Players to seamless the communication between two groups.

Tournament Director's Report (Yarleney Torres)

Welcome Matrix, Matthew! Welcome NorthEastern Dynamites, Charles! Welcome No Limit Ballerz, Ash! Welcome Nor Eastern Warriors, Nathan! This year, we had 5 invitational tournaments, and now, we are READY for the EAAD Regional Tournament! I do not want to repeat what Allie just mentioned about the coaches and players. We have our own flaws, you have your own flaws, and we wanted to remind you that coaches have a huge responsibility to communicate with their players. They also need to read our by laws and guidelines because the

delegates have voted on them, we did not. I was extremely disappointed that some of you did not respect me as a board officer, for example, when I said “no”, and you were upset with me. Will not talk to me, will not text me, or make any form of communication. You would prefer to talk to another board member, but this is not within their role. Please do remember that this is based on the group decision, not us, and I do not appreciate this. You will need to control your anger or upset with me, if you want to make changes, and please go to delegates meeting to make the motion. Some of you would go to former tournament directors to ask for their opinions, please do not do that, and talk to me directly so I can revisit to find my mistakes. Lastly, do not text us directly, you will need to email us, and this is to protect both ways (ourselves and ourselves). Good luck at the regional tournament!

Public Relations/Hall of Fame’s Report (Peter Badavas)

I simply wanted to thank all of the board members, delegates, players, and coaches for making this year a successful season. It is not over, but we will finish the regional tournament with a strong closing. This year, a lot of good, bad, and unexpected things had happened. It is definitely beyond our control, especially what is happening with United States America Deaf Basketball’s disaffiliation with the regions, but we are staying stronger to move forward to find what is the best for the EAAD. The key to make sure that everything goes smooth is transition, as you may know, Maryland has a new Athletic Director, and I was promoted with a new job position which keeps me on my toes. I would like to move forward by using EAAD’s email address, please do not use my personal or work email address to discuss EAAD. Please use the following email address: EAADPRHOF@gmail.com, will be easier to do transition for the next person who takes my role, and communicate with others.

In the beginning of September, we had started off by sharing videos, I would like to bring it back, and share more vlogs for visibility purposes. Deaf people depend heavily on visibility. I have suggested to Allie to do a bilingual approach for any announcements that we make, and we should do an announcement in ASL too. I’d like to thank SICD for hosting the tournament and I have been trying to delegate the public relations to SICD because it is their tournament, but I was willing to take the role to work on the program book/flyers. We have personal lives and I have a huge devotion for the program books. I do understand that it was hard to host the tournament during COVID years, but it is all about baby steps. We are running a marathon to get the tournament ready for everyone. Let’s work together!

Lastly, I would like to remind the coaches to remove negativity at the tournament, and be thoughtful/respectful to everyone. We are ONE Family under EAAD, Good luck with the Tournament, and have a wonderful time at the regional tournament!

President’s Report (Sheldon “Wesley” Clarke)

Hello everyone! This is a friendly reminder that the position is volunteer-based. We are trying to make this a better tournament even though we know what is happening with the national

organizations. My role is to oversee the board to make sure that they are doing their jobs, communicate with the board on the national levels, Vice President reviews the by laws, and oversees the guidelines. Our Tournament Director handles the coaches, tournament guidelines for the sanctioned invitational, and regional tournament. Secretary/Treasurer handles the administration role within the organization such as emailing, communicating with the national organizations, and following up with the coaches regarding their rosters. She also collects fees and dues for the tournament. Our Hall of Fame/Public Relations focus on communication with the public by using our social media.

We did a great job with five invitational tournaments and thank you for those who have hosted those tournaments!

Yes, USADB has cut us off, and it will not impact us as a whole in the EAAD region, but it has a significant impact with the rosters. We have caught some flaws especially when players are playing for another team in a different region. This is becoming harder for us to minimize the concern for the coaches before going to the national level tournament.

We have appointed Chuck Wallace to be our Softball Tournament Director.

We sent a plaque to Danny for his excellence and contribution to the EAAD Community for the last 8 years.

We are still struggling with the website because of two specific people and we will prioritize this on our list for the next year. We had a website master, Eric Hamlow, but he had an issue with the site because of the ownership. I'd already discussed it with Marcus Daniels who is interested in helping us to run a new website. We simply need to talk with Daniela Farka about the domain name and see how we can move forward with this. Our goal is to have this running and up by before the next season.

I'd like to discuss accountability. I have seen some mistakes during the year, and some of the officers did not do their job. I wanted to apologize for not being transparent this year by not updating with the deadlines or not communicating with the coaches about the deadlines. I will set up a better system for next year and respect our roles like Yarlney have mentioned in her report. For example, if your question is related to the tournament, please reach out to Yarlney, if it is about fees, see Allie, and if you want to talk about the Hall of Fame, please reach out to Peter. You will need to include us in the emails so we can nudge each other instead of leaving some of us in the dark. My goal for the next season is to add your information to EAAD Google Calendar for tournament information/deadlines/fees. The google calendar will remind you to be mindful of the deadlines and reach out to us if you need anything else.

I also wanted to apologize that we have failed to host at least one invitational tournament this year, the school director from Marie Phillips Deaf School has set a different expectation than we have tried to pick a different gym, but we did not make this happen due to a lot of strict rules.

Please do read our EAAD Bylaws and Guidelines, if you have any questions or clarifications, reach out to us and we can explain.

Please do use emails to document your question or concern, it is easier for us to track this down, and we can easily overlook a text message. We could have missed your message and for further communication, please use emails.

Question: Why did USADB decide to remove the regions? Allie: Yes, they should not disaffiliate without having the regions to vote on this, I have participated in all of the meetings, and then when Wes went into the meeting to represent EAAD as a President, they have decided to cut us off. It was not fair, they felt that five regions were not enough to keep USADB afloat, regions have their own rules, and prefers to run the national tournament on their own. Follow up questions/comment: Why didn't USADB communicate with everyone in the regions instead of making the final decision on their own? Did something happen behind the doors that we are not aware of? It does not make sense, should we not have that kind of power of authorization to open an investigation to see what is really happening with USADB? Should we work with other regions to make this happen?

Law of Committee (Board Report) (Joshua Beckman, Lorraine Stotlz, and Andrea Amati)

1. Motion #8 DC Elite Hoyas move to change the decibel levels from 55 dbs to 50 dbs. Seconded by Empire City. Crossover amended by removing decibel levels based on "case by case".
 - a. **Result: VETO: Rationale: USADB and NDBO player eligibility rules show the players must have 55db or greater in better ear to play. EAAD players will not play at USADB and/or NDBO if their db are 54 and less.**

Grievance

Grievance by Mr. James Ginis (Lady Liberty)

Subject: Christopher Marchese

Issue: This is to inform you that I was not happy with what Christopher said to me in ASD but I kept cool. He asked if I had the Men Basketball team this year. I told him no, not this time, probably next year. The next day, he called and would bring seven players to play for me as the Empire City team. I was surprised and checked a list of players' names. I said wow, good players. Chris wanted the men's basketball tournament placed in Lexington on Jan. 27th, so I paid for the fee \$200. Three days before the tournament, he said sorry to inform me that he and his team had decided to join another team. I told myself I felt like a fool as he defrauded me. Now I have no men's team. Please support me as I object to him as I wanted him to be expelled and pay me \$200 plus \$75 for referees.

REFERRED TO THE BOARD FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Old Business (NONE!)

New Business

1. Matrix moves that all of the participating teams shall play at minimum of two invitational tournaments before qualifying for the EAAD regional tournament. **FAILED**
2. Philadelphia Hustle moves to have EAAD host a summer league for student athletes AND work with all of the Deaf schools to ensure the development of student athletes. **MOTION DEAD, DELEGATE LEFT THE ROOM**
3. Vice President moves that EAAD creates a guideline for the points system to give the team an opportunity to earn points. **PASSED**
4. NorthEastern Dynamite moves that the player registration fees shall be for those participating players who will be attending EAAD tournament with a minimum of guarantee of 8 players for the EAAD Regional Tournament. **MOTION WITHDRAWN**
5. NorthEastern Dynamite moves that every invitational tournament shall have the same bracket format for X number of teams. **MOTION OUT OF ORDER: We have a bracket format structure on our guidelines for the invitational tournament and we are also responsible for approving the type of the format before hosting the invitational tournament.**
6. NorthEastern Dynamite moves that the host can host three tournaments a year instead of two. Seconded by Chuck Wallace. **REFERRED TO THE LAW COMMITTEE**
7. Nor Eastern Warriors moves that one invitational tournament be added to the schedule in the month of January to allow the team to grow and build together. **MOTION WITHDRAWN**
8. Nor Eastern Warriors moves that the team roster deadline be set at the end of December (31st) each year. Chuck Wallace Seconded. Amended: change Dec 31st to Third Sunday of December. **REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE**
9. Nor Eastern Warriors moves that one invitational tournament (which shall follow the EAAD final team rosters) be added to the schedule in the month of February to allow the team to grow and build together. **MOTION WITHDRAWN**
10. Nor Eastern Warriors moves EAAD (to add) the addition of an extra member to the organization who is solely responsible for communication and mediation between the organization and coaches. Seconded by DC Elite Hoyas **PASSED**
11. Nor Eastern Warriors moves that an additional free agent (FA) be added to the organization, bringing the total to 3. **FAILED**

President Clarke adjourned the meeting at 2:56 pm EST!

Respectfully Submitted by:

Alexandria Pucciarelli, Recording Secretary

Eastern Athletic Association of the Deaf, INC
Delegates' Meeting
Zoom Session Part Two
Sunday, April 14th, 2024
Meeting started at 12:13 pm EST

***Note there is no Board of Directors Meeting prior to Delegates' Meeting.**

Roll Call:

- EAAD President, Sheldon Clarke
 - EAAD Vice President, Lorraine Stotlz
 - EAAD Secretary/Treasurer, Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller
 - EAAD Tournament Director, Yarlenny Torres
 - EAAD Hall of Fame/Public Relations, Peter Badavas
 - EAAD-Appointed Sergeant of Arms, Robert Jones
 - Delegate at Large, Chuck Wallace
 - Parliamentarian Joshua Beckman
 - District City 95ers, Paul Mitchell
 - DC Elite Hoyas, Roxanna Aguilo
 - Philadelphia Hustle, Damiere Philips
 - Maryland Crossover, Jimmy Beldon
 - Eastern Storm, Andrea Amati
 - Matrix, Matthew Thomas entered the room at 12:35pm
12. DC Elite Hoyas moves that the player's registration shall be completed by December 31st, 2024 instead of the third Sunday in January. Seconded by RJ **PASSED**
13. DC Elite Hoyas moves that the EAAD regional tournament entry fee should be paid by January 31st instead of Feb 5th. Seconded by District City 95ers, Amended/Main Motion: moves that the EAAD regional tournament entry fee should be paid within 7

days after January 31st, and after the deadline, the entry fee registration will be closed.

PASSED

14. DC Elite Hoyas moves to remove a \$25.00 fine for each week for the player's registration form after the third Sunday of January. Seconded by District City 95ers **REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE**
15. DC Elite Hoyas moves after submitting the player registration form after the third Sunday in January, the form shall be locked, and no replacements can be made. Seconded by District City 95ers, Amended by Crossover “with an exceptional for the women’s teams” **REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE**
16. DC Elite Hoyas moves that the teams who forfeit at the invitational tournament shall pay for the referee fees at the end of the day. Seconded by RJ. Amended: add this statement to the current guidelines. **PASSED**
17. DC Elite Hoyas moves that EAAD will allow (1) CODA players to participate in the invitational basketball tournaments. Seconded by Chuck Wallace. Amended: add “and regional” MAIN MOTION: EAAD will allow (1) CODA players to participate in the invitational AND REGIONAL basketball tournaments. **PASSED**
18. DC Elite Hoyas moves removing \$50.00 fine for the host who did not submit the results of the invitational tournament after one week. Seconded by District City 95ers. **FAILED**
19. DC Elite Hoyas moves to amend this: a technical foul for the two uniform rule sanctions instead of fine. Seconded by District City 95ers. Amended: at the regional tournament **REFERRED TO LAW COMMITTEE**
20. DC Elite Hoyas moves to remove the undergarment rule about one color and allowing the players to wear any undergarment colors they would like to use. **MOTION OUT OF ORDER: WE FOLLOW NCAA RULES**
21. Gotham City moves the EAAD regional tournament to be on Friday after 5:30pm, Saturday, and Sunday. **MOTION DEAD, DELEGATE NOT PRESENTED**

Appeal by Maryland Crossovers

We, as a team, shall be allowed to participate in the National Organization’s basketball tournament because the term “actively” is not being added to the qualifications list at the EAAD regional tournament in order to qualify for the national tournament. One of our Crossover players, Sierra, was presented at the tournament and she is currently on the roster list of Maryland Crossover.

Result: Delegates voted no.

22. District City 95ers moves that if a player is DNP/ineligible to play at the EAAD regional, but is allowed to play at NDBO should not pay player registration fee for the EAAD.
WITHDRAWN PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE NOT PRESENTED
23. District City 95ers moves that the EAAD regional tournament should be held on the first weekend of March. **WITHDRAWN PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE NOT PRESENTED**
24. District City 95ers moved that EAAD should be in alignment with the NDBO national guidelines by adding a third free agent to ensure everyone is on the same page.
WITHDRAWN PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE NOT PRESENTED
25. District City 95ers moves the player deadline in February to the forefront of that day of the regional tournament. **WITHDRAWN PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE NOT PRESENTED**
26. District City 95ers moves having the bracket set ready at least one month prior to the regional date to provide players with ample time for preparation. **WITHDRAWN PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE NOT PRESENTED**
27. Tournament Director moves that EAAD Regional Entry Fee shall be paid at the same time when you submit your player's registration form on the third Sunday in January.
MOTION NULL DUE TO ANOTHER MOTION BEING PASSED
28. Tournament Director moves to Insert "Team franchise shall not hold invitational tournament two (2) weekends prior to the date of the basketball Championship Tournament." **PASSED**
29. Tournament Director moves to remove the following statement: within 15 days prior to the delegates' meeting, the team registration form includes the replacement player(s) shall be locked." Replace with "Within 14 days AFTER the team registration form deadline includes the replacement player(s) shall be locked." **MOTION OUT OF ORDER**
30. Tournament Director moved to remove "\$40.00 to cover" from the sentence: The teams who forfeit a game at the Basketball Championship Tournament shall pay ~~forty \$40.00 to cover~~ the referee expenses. Seconded by DC Elite Hoyas. **PASSED**

Bidding for the 2025 EAAD Regional Tournament

NONE! EAAD will host the 2025 EAAD Regional Tournament!

Elections for EAAD Officer- 2024-2026

- **Vice President**
 - No nominations-EAAD Board will appoint
- **Secretary/Treasurer**
 - Alexandria Pucciarelli Miller-ACL

Announcements

- Wes- Thank you Joshua for being our parliamentarian, we have learned a lot today, and we want to work on reducing time for the zoom meetings.
- Jimmy-suggested to have a group of committee to review the motions and make sure that they are clear/ready for the meeting. The group of committee can discuss with the person who makes the motions to have a clear statement and make the meeting more smooth. The motions can also be shared with the delegates prior to the meeting to reduce time.
- Yarlney- Thank you for your feedback and suggestions to improve our current regional tournament. This is a friendly reminder that the delegates are the one to decide. Enjoy your time at NDBO and do not forget to enjoy summer too!

President Clarke adjourned the meeting at 4:31 pm EST!

Respectfully Submitted by:

Alexandria Pucciarelli, Recording Secretary