

In a message dated 5/3/2010 11:38:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time, commissioner@usadb.us writes:

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to the emails received from CAAD and other interested parties. The USADB Executive Board truly understands the despair regarding CAAD's affiliation status. It was never our intention to see ANY region disaffiliate. Like you, we do cherish and honor CAAD's (and every other region's) history and USADB has absolutely no interest or intention of destroying any of that. USADB has a long and rich history as well and we took an oath to preserve and protect it.

Everyone is aware that there is a procedure USADB must follow. USADB strongly encouraged CAAD ("beg" is not the correct term here) to have CAAD Executive Board reaffiliate and later have it ratified by the CAAD Delegate meeting in March (it would be the exact same procedure that the CAAD Executive Board had used when CAAD disaffiliated). USADB received emails from several frustrated players in the central region, stating that they wanted to play in USADB. We responded by encouraging them to work with CAAD.

In the meantime, CBAD did their homework, met all the requirements, paid all fees and fines in advance, applied for and was granted provisional affiliation status. CAAD did not come forth with the request to re-affiliate with USADB until two weeks prior to the national tournament. The timing was not good. We had already shifted our time, attention and energy to the upcoming national tournament, since that is our priority. Our players are important to us, and the tournament is important to them, not the politics. We all know that time waits for no one, and unfortunately waiting too long hurt CAAD. In addition, CAAD attempted to re-affiliate without any teams, while CBAD already had 9 teams representing the Central Region.

It is important to understand that disaffiliation is the worst thing any organization can do. When an organization disaffiliates, they lose their voice and vote and any advantage they may have had as a member - or front runner status in a race for recognition. We would also like to point out that once votes are completed and meetings are adjourned - that is it. There is no second-guessing after the fact. It is over and done. If there was a minor procedural error, if it is not immediately addressed at that moment, or that meeting, it does NOT render the meeting, vote or motion null and void. We have continuously checked with our parliamentarians about all of our steps and procedures - before, during and after our HOD meeting to ensure we were not doing anything wrong. We relied on two parliamentarians - how much more correct can we be?

Out of respect for CAAD, USADB did encourage CAAD to participate in the Round Table Conference and also gave both CAAD and CBAD a chance to voice at the beginning of HOD, which they did. Several people got a chance to speak on behalf of CAAD and several people spoke on behalf of CBAD as well. After everyone heard the arguments for both sides, the delegates voted and their message was clear. USADB has to honor the delegates' final decision. We all know that USADB Executive Board did not make the decision, the voting delegates did.

When CAAD disaffiliated over a year ago, their status became that of "not in good standing." Not in good standing means that another group can apply for recognition to replace the group that is not in good standing. Since our meetings are held annually, it becomes automatic that the disaffiliated party is no longer a member even if the bylaws have not been updated. Formal action by the members does not need to take place when a member disaffiliates.

CBAD is now recognized as the Central region's affiliated organization. Our bylaws do not allow two organizations from the same region to be affiliated with USADB. USADB, to this day, still strongly encourages CAAD and CBAD to work out their differences. USADB will not and cannot change anything related to this particular situation.

CBAD has responded to the various issues raised by CAAD's letter of April 17, 2010, and has also stepped up and asked to meet to resolve differences in their email to CAAD dated April 27, 2010. We strongly recommend that you shift your time and energy towards resolving CAAD/CBAD regional issues and come up with a win-win solution to merge.

This will be the last time USADB responds to these issues because we will be repeating the same answer again and again.

Last but not least, USADB would like to express our thanks to Justin Anderson (NWBAD President and previous bylaw committee), Christina (EAAD officer and serving on current bylaw committee) and Paige (MAAD President and current law committee) for their recent email attempts to clarify some of the issues regarding the meeting. We appreciate the support and assistance of our diversified regions.

Thank you for taking time to express your concerns, and we wish you the best in trying to resolve issues within the central region.

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Shirley H. Platt
Commissioner
USA Deaf Basketball

cc: USADB Executive Board
Governance Committee
CBAD

"Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts." Vince Lombardi

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