

# Board Meeting Minutes

American Go Association

Meeting Date and Time: September 13, 2020, 8:00 pm EDT/ 5:00 pm PDT

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# Overview

## Summary

At the September meeting of the AGA board of directors, the board gave the AGA president authorization to rate online tournaments advertised as "AGA rateable", pending development of an online rating system. The board also discussed filling the vacant treasurer post, development of formal policy documentation, and long-term priorities. The board also received an update on operational concerns related to the AGAGD implementation.

## In Attendance

### Current Board

Lisa Scott (Chair, Central Region)  
Devin Frazee (Central Region)  
Chris Kirschner (Western Region)  
Dan Ritter (Eastern Region)  
Stephanie Yin (Eastern Region)  
Les Lanphear (Western Region)  
Ted Terpstra (At-Large Region)

### Guests who have asked to attend

Steve Zilber (guest)  
Justin Teng (guest)  
Albert Yen (guest)  
Stephen Hu (guest)

### Officers

Andy Okun (President)  
Samantha Fede (Secretary)  
Steve Colburn (Volunteer  
Coordinator)

## Notable Motions and Decisions

### Actionable Motions Passed

1. If online tournaments are advertised as AGA rateable, they shall eventually be incorporated into the online rating system. The executive could determine the date at which this policy takes effect. The AGA president has discretion to define what AGA rateable includes.

# Minutes

## 1. Call Meeting to Order (8:20pm)

## 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approved over email 9/13/2020, 4 votes for approval

## 3. President's Report

- a. Annual Tournament Calendar
  - i. On hold until the pandemic allows for tournament revitalization
- b. Report on Games and Tournaments Played: 48 tournaments from 1239 players since Madison Congress (until beginning of COVID)
- c. Report on Pro Play: Ryan Li won the European Online Pro League. Hajin and Andy Okun discussing online North American Pro League that could have a final match vs. Europe.
- d. Update on Ratings: nothing to report for now, working on this issue and it will hopefully be solved soon.
- e. Update on status of Rank Certificate Program: Nothing to report.
- f. Update on creation of Committee for Diversity and Inclusion: has met, working on projects, nothing specific to report.
- g. Update on e-Go Congress: Commended involved parties, certain elements were better than others.
- h. Update on Privacy Policy: A volunteer has been identified
- i. International tournament business? World amateur women's go championship.. It will be going on online and we need to provide a candidate. Also the Wu Xian [?] tournament hybrid online/finals in person, and reduced delegation from 4 to 2.
  - i. Stephanie: The timing is also a problem, it will happen at 12pm/12am. But I can probably do it.

## 4. Ongoing Business

### a. Vacant Treasurer post

- i. Ted: To clarify, should the person be a CPA [Andy: No.] Lisa will look into updating the call for volunteers.
- ii. Lisa: We need to take ownership of the fact that it is our responsibility to fill the Treasurer position, Andy has been helping with the duties and with recruitment, but we need to step up. I asked you to come ready to solicit candidates. Thoughts?
- iii. Ted: I will talk to people in my clubs
- iv. Devin: Maybe asking successful smaller organizations (like Seattle Go Center) could have treasurers that could fill in with book keeping.
- v. Lisa: Book keeping is handled by the firm, we're really looking for a liason with our financial services company, policy, approvals. (Like a CFO)
- vi. Andy: The financial services company takes 80% of the work away.
- vii. Stephanie: I've been trying to convince James Pinkerton [Ted supports this]

- viii. Lisa: I could ask Brady Daniels now that it's a smaller position.
- ix. Dan: Maybe David Kahn?

**b. Online Ratings (per 6/28 board meeting)**

- i. Andy: I was hoping to have more information but things are still being figured out.
- ii. Devin: Do you have an estimated timeline?
- iii. Andy: I think it will be in the next 10 days, I can send information to the board about what will need to be policy then. But we have a couple of competing models and I need to decide between them.
- iv. Lisa: Let's put it on the agenda for the November meeting.
- v. Ted: That rating will be distinct from the AGA rank, right? [Andy: Yes]
- vi. Stephanie: Can online games be rated right now? [Andy: No, but they can be stored if needed.]
- vii. Ted: It'd be nice to have it work retrospectively
- viii. Lisa: I don't think that's a good idea, people might not have entered with the expectation of being rated, until we adopt a policy.
- ix. Ted: Well I've told tournament attendees they might get rated one day.
- x. Lisa: That's unfortunate, since the AGA does not do online ratings.
- xi. Devin: But it could be.
- xii. Chris K: I don't think the policy is that we can't have a separate online rating. We shouldn't do anything retroactively.
- xiii. Lisa: I do think we need details approved, we aren't ready to do so, and we haven't approved the algorithms.
- xiv. Devin: I think the membership would enjoy having online ratings being collected over the next 3 months.
- xv. Ted: **I move that if online tournaments are advertised as AGA ratable, they shall eventually be incorporated into the online rating system. Devin seconds.**
  - 1. Lisa: I hesitate to approve until we have details, I don't think we need a new backlog of unrated tournaments.
  - 2. Ted: I'm sitting here with a tournament that was advertised on the AGA online, can we submit that online?
  - 3. Lisa: No, that could create an issue with players filing objections and issues endlessly retroactively.
  - 4. Chris: Allowing a tournament to be so advertised could be an executive issue to decide going forward. **Moves to amend the motion to the effect that the executive could determine the date at which this policy takes effect. Devin seconds.**
  - 5. Ted: I told people that it would be a rated tournament in the past.
  - 6. Lisa: "AGA ratable" was not a category until just now.
  - 7. Chris: In the future, we should allow the executive to identify when the appropriate time to start this is.

8. Lisa: Can we have an amendment to add this discretion, or table for more info?
9. Andy: I would be comfortable with this discretion, and I could evaluate retroactively and use my judgment / take the heat.
10. Devin: I think that's reasonable though I'm not sure how the ratings bandwidth tech issues
11. Lisa: Andy, do you have the bandwidth for this?
12. Ted: So we can't have online tournaments for the next 3 months? We should try so people get memberships, and if it doesn't happen well, that's okay.
13. Dan: I support the idea of if players and TDs form an agreement to have tournaments online rated, that's okay. I'm fine with retroactive approval, and happy to help with the workload.
14. Ted: I'd be okay going forward with this motion if it can be approved today.
15. Dan **I'd like to amend the motion that the AGA president has discretion to define what AGA rateable includes.** Chris seconds passes unanimously.
16. Vote on the motion as amended passes unanimously.

**c. Policy documentation needed**

- i. Policies per concordance created by Gordon Castanza in 2011-2012
  1. Lisa: Discussing history and the named documents that need to be addressed by the board. Gordon went and made a number of items in past board minutes that were not followed up on. Details on the many items are in older documents.
  2. Andy: Thanks Gordon Costanza for his many years of service over the years
  3. Lisa: These are older documents that will need looking over by all. Some of these came up during the latest congress and were needing to be addressed then. These were hard to track down but we had someone there to be able to make decisions at the right time.
  4. Chris: Going way way back when I was president, the board approved a motion to say that all pre-existing policies would continue as policy until or unless changed. My understanding is that policy predates the current structure.
  5. Lisa: Correct, but we don't have a written policy. We need to write down this policy and not depend on institutional memory.
  6. Chris: I agree, we should ask our Archivist to preserve it.
  7. Lisa: It doesn't exist, or at least, we can't find it.

8. Chris: But I agree that we need an accessible and concrete policy library. I hope Karoline Li (archivist) can help, and I think she does.
9. Andy: The board could also, for clarity, repeal all policies that aren't in some centralized place.
10. Lisa: Yes, but I hesitate to do that until we have a strong concordance.
11. Lisa: Case Western [for Congress in 2021] requires a written policy on child abuse/sexual abuse, and on disaster management.
12. Chris: We should do a thorough review of policy every 10 years. I don't think we've ever done it.
13. Ted: What is the reciprocal membership policy with Canada?
14. Lisa: Basically that if they have a Canadian Go Association ID, they can play as an AGA member in AGA tournaments.
15. Ted: So if they have a free CGA membership, they can come in and get AGA membership. I don't know how to do that as a TD.
16. Lisa: They're given "Foreign" membership. [As a new member]
17. Lisa: Do we want to form a committee to do this or look into it? Do we want to look at it and discuss in November?
18. Chris: I will look through my records, and talk to Ted and Barbara.
19. Lisa: I will make a new policy folder on the shared drive, I ask that all board members review the documents, we'll talk about next steps in November.
20. Dan: Is there a timeline on the new required policies?
21. Lisa: Not really, we don't have the details, but we may have to do those specific policies soon after the November meeting. But not before then.
22. Devin: I assume Lisa or Steve Zilber is writing those? [Lisa: I probably would; Dan also volunteers].
23. Les: Gordon wasn't mentioned in the ejournal? [Lisa: No.]

**d. Ideas for playing go during the pandemic**

- i. [Ideas for Playing go During the Pandemic \(2020\)](#)

## 6. Discussion of Long-Term Goals and Priorities

### a. Status of Goals

Status of goals determined in Nov 2019 to be accomplished by November 2020

- i. Desired results from November 2019
  1. Focus on 1-year plan for this year, and conversation to support 5- or 10-year plan, to be solidified by the November 2020 meeting.
  2. Alignment on the mission and vision of the AGA

#### Projects well underway

- Rank certificates
- Investing reserve funds
- Partially centralizing and improving the management of Congress

#### Projects Started

- Continued Ratings Improvements
- Determine goals of the AGA rating system
- Change how the treasurer functions, including splitting the task among several people
- Renewing the Pro system
- Hiring an executive administrator

#### Projects Not Yet Started

- Redo the AGA organization chart and implement it
- Developing 5 and 10 year plans
- Deciding how to move forward with integrating membership management and treasurer functioning
- Marketing go better

### b. Concrete Steps

Discussion of what **concrete steps** we can take to support the various ways we all understand the mission of the AGA

- i. Devin: I saw a lot of similarities between what was suggested, but mine were pretty different from the others. My thought is that we wouldn't be able to discuss it all during the meeting today.
- ii. Samantha agrees to go through as secretary and identify similarities to work off of
- iii. Chris: The problem with concreteness is we need to identify people who will do things. Given our organizational size, that depends on the volunteer.
- iv. Devin: We should not just encourage, we should enable. Things shouldn't be blocked.
- v. Lisa: We should make things manageable and not wishlist items. I think where we disagree is the freedom. I agree we should give people freedom within their projects, we shouldn't micromanage, but there's a difference between that and freedom to do projects.
- vi. Dan: To go to Chris's point, I think the board has some additional problems with time commitment and organizational oversight. I do think

there's some energy on the board to take on operations, but it's tricky because we're all elected and might not be here in 2 years but then peter out when they leave the board. I think we should think of the board in the 5-10 years as committee rather than board to ensure doneness. The planning stage is different than identifying and taking on specific projects.

- vii. Lisa: Perhaps redundancy- having both a board member and non board member on these projects might help us be more in line with other non-profits, and also to help things not get lost.
- viii. Devin: Perhaps identifying architects of each project.
- ix. Dan: We need to actually be accountable for concrete tasks.
- x. Lisa: let's add specific deadlines/goals
  - 1. 9/21- data on the concordance between the goals
  - 2. 10/4 board discussion by october 4th
  - 3. 10/18 Give to board such that Andy + Lisa write things up
  - 4. 11/1 Publish something ie agenda for the next meeting.
- xi. Dan: Let's please check in once per week.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Discussion of AGAGD implementation**

- i. Lisa: This is a primarily operational issue, but we wanted board members to be aware. There are some temporary issues (Chapter designations) but have to do with the database in general. Because the 4-char shorthand has been phased out.
- ii. Ted: We were told this wouldn't impact TD list, We need the club information.
- iii. Steve: AGAGD and TD list come from completely separate databases. This comes from an old policy of creating those codes manually by Sam Zimmerman 10 years ago. These haven't been added since then, and full club names / ID#s are used. So the four character code is listed as "None".
- iv. Ted: WHO assigns the four digit code?
- v. Andy: No one. We don't do that anymore.
- vi. Devin: It was an OpenGotha thing.
- vii. Chris: Can the club ID serve the purpose that the 4 characters did? [Yes] Can that function be in the TD list?
- viii. Steve: TBD, we'll likely keep a legacy column.
- ix. Lisa: We are ending this conversation because it is operational and outside the scope of the board. Anything else can be discussed offline.

## **8. Adjourn**

- a. Devin moves to end the meeting, Ted seconds the motion to adjourn, unanimous adjournment at 10:06pm.