

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015
10:30 AM CST
CHICAGO

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz, Josh Parker, Sue Picus, Howard Weinstein

Others Present: Jeff Aker, Jan Martel, McKenzie Meyers, Stan Subeck, Joe Stokes, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President, Jeff Meckstroth (part of meeting)
ACBL Representatives: Bonnie Bagley, Sharon Fairchild, Robert Hartman, Al Levy, Ken Monzingo (part of meeting), Dan Morse, Merlin Vilhauer

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 10:30 am CST.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The president noted that at least a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

III. JUNIOR TEAMS FOR 2016

4 Person Teams: A team that is planning to enter the Junior U26 Trials has asked whether they could play in the World Championship either with a pair whom they don't expect to play very much or with a 4-person team. The sense of the Board was that we would not send a 4-person team.

Under 16 team: Several of the players on teams that have entered the Under-21 event in our Junior Trials are eligible for the Under 16.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to send an Under 16 team and only one Under-21 team to the 2016 World Youth Championship. Mr Rona said that the WBF would prefer to have us send one U-21 and one U-16. It was the sense of the Board that the Junior Committee should determine how to accomplish this.

Expense Reimbursement for Junior Trials: The Board discussed discretionary payment of full expenses for Juniors who can not afford the costs. There was general agreement that in extraordinary situations the USBF would pay additional expenses for such players.

IV. D&O INSURANCE

Howard & Stan have been discussing Directors' and Officers' insurance with our insurance broker. The broker has responded that we have coverage up to \$1,000,000 and it is difficult to find a provider who will cover more than \$1,000,000. Howard explained that we need to make sure that people who are not Board members (Recorder, tournament organizers, etc) are covered. Marty will form a committee to look into this further and see whether it is possible to extend the coverage and to make sure that people who are not Board members covered.

V. EVENTS FOR WHICH WE ARE ELECTING PARTICIPANTS

There are a few international events other than World Championships for which USBF is asked to send a "United States" team. So far, these have been the SportAccord event and the Hua Yuan Women's event, but others may arise in the future. We have developed a method for selecting pairs and teams that involves the players self-nominating themselves and those players who have reached the finals of the last five Open or Women's USBCs voting on which pairs/teams are strongest. The committee in charge of this has proposed two changes to our procedures:

1. Require Active membership to self-nominate

The tabulation committee proposed that all pairs who want to be considered for these events be active members of USBF (have paid current year dues). A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to require pairs to be active members in order to have their names on the list of pairs or teams being voted on.

2. Select Teams instead of Pairs for Open events

It has been difficult to get good pairs to self-nominate for the Open SportAccord and other similar events. The committee proposed that we select by teams instead of by pairs. Mr. Rona reported that the SportAccord event as such will not continue, but IMSA is discussing having a similar event in the future. They do not know when or where it will be. Some discussion of Macao as the location and January or February as the date. There was general agreement that those would improve the possibility of getting good pairs or teams to nominate themselves. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that it was the sense of the Board to select a team instead of pairs for the Open events.

VI. STANDARDS FOR NPC'S OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

Howard raised the question of whether we have specific rules about standards for NPCs for World Championship teams. After some discussion, the Board concluded that the method used this year worked well: the USBF tells the team what functions need to be covered and the team proposes an NPC and explains how they will cover any functions that are not covered by the specific skill set of the NPC.

VII. REPORT ON ACBL BOARD ACTIONS

The motion to have ACBL stop paying WBF dues was deferred to the Denver meeting because of issues with the ACBL Conflict of Issue policy. In terms of how many members USBF has, our Bylaws provide that all ACBL members who are United States citizens are members of USBF, so the number of members would be the same whether ACBL or USBF pays the dues. Robert Hartman reported that he did not think it was the intent of the makers of the motion to stop paying WBF dues. One proposal was to have ACBL give the money to pay the dues to USBF and another was to have an event to raise the money for USBF. There was general agreement that the USBF is not financially able to pay WBF dues on its own.

VIII. USBF/ACBL/WBF STATUS

There was discussion of the issues of ACBL as the Zonal Authority for Zone 2 and Canada's desire to have a different ZA or have more influence in how ACBL acts as ZA.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Meckstroth reported that he expects there will be a new schedule for the Fall NABC with a 7 day Knockout starting on Monday. He raised the issue that the USBF will have to determine how to count the new event and the Reisinger for Positioning Points for the USBC. The Board briefly discussed the issues involved and referred the issue to the ITTC for further discussion.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be by conference call at a time to be scheduled online.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Howard thanked the ACBL Board members who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm CST.