

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**

**Thursday, July 18, 2002
Washington, DC NABC**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Bruce Reeve, Nick Nickell, Alan Popkin, Arnold Jones, Bob Friend and Dan Morse

Others Present: Members of the ACBL Board of Directors: Chuck Wilkinson, Al Levy, Sharon Fairchild. In addition, Gary Blaiss and Rena

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by Michael Becker, USBF President and the presence of a quorum noted. Guests were welcomed to the meeting.

Becker mentioned that he had asked all present board members to state whether or not they plan to run for election to the board. So far it is known that Becker, Friend and Popkin will not run.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the previous minutes was postponed to the next board meeting.

WBF Residency Rules

Some discussion took place on recent residency rulings from the WBF, but the topic was deferred to the USBF World Relations Committee meeting, Friday, July 19. It is expected that the ACBL WBF representatives will be in attendance to participate in the discussion. Dan Morse presented a copy of the ACBL Board resolution sent to the WBF which asks that residents be permitted to play in WBF events in 2003.

Bylaws Amendment

The amendment to the Bylaws concerning Nominating and Election Procedures for USBF Board members was approved.

Becker related that Rank would incorporate all three recent bylaw amendments and present the document as Restated Bylaws ready for publication on the USBF web site.

Becker led a discussion to consider amending the bylaws to reflect the ability of Regular Members to playing in open WBF international events. He proposed the following wording:

II. Membership

A. Regular Membership.

A Regular Member of the USBF shall receive all publications and notices of the organization, **add: be entitled to represent the United States in international tournaments other than by qualifying through a trials**, shall be on the organization membership rolls, but shall not pay dues, shall not be entitled to vote for members of the Board or Directors or hold office in the USBF and shall not be entitled to compete in USBF trials to qualify to represent the United States in international competition. A Regular Member may be qualified as follows:

Nominating and Election Procedures

The election procedures (appended to these minutes as Exhibit 3) were approved. Jones, on behalf of the board commended Quinn for her quality work on these procedures.

Approval of the nominating procedures will be done via email and voting finalized within 2 days after the end of the Washington DC NABC.

A discussion took place as to the wisdom of the number of nominees equaling twice the number of positions being elected. Some thought it would be difficult to find so many candidates. Others commented that good candidates might not run for election if the number of candidates was large relative to the number of slots available. It was agreed that while the procedures suggested the nominating committee endeavor to reach such a number of nominees, it was up to the Nominating Committee to decide on the number of nominees.

Grievance Procedures

The Grievance Procedures revisions (removal of the word “legal” in the phrase legal counsel, and adding the words, “of the USBF” in one place) were approved. The revised document is appended as Exhibit 4.

Committee Reports

Credentials Committee

Becker noted the Credentials Committee was not fully staffed but Hugh Ross and Gary Blaiss have agreed to be members. The WITTC will be asked to suggest committee members. Becker emphasized the importance of this committee and the need for knowledgeable and respected members.

JITTC

Becker reported that the proposal to recognize 24 junior players as “Olympic quality” and present these 24 players as a “team” for promotion and public relations purposes was referred to the JITTC committee. This proposal is appended to these minutes as Exhibit 5.

Committee Chairs

Becker reported that Bob Rosen was amenable to relinquishing chairmanship of the JITTC and suggested that Jade Barrett, because of his diligence, enthusiasm and connections, should be considered as the chair of the JITTC. The Board decided to leave the decision as to who chairs the committee up to the committee, subject to Board approval. Therefore, it was resolved by the Board that it would appoint Committee and subcommittee chairs taking into consideration the recommendations of the members of such committees and subcommittees.

Letter to Montreal WBF Championships Participants

Becker noted that a letter on USBF letterhead, signed by Becker, had been sent to all USA Montreal participants stating the expectation of compliance with WBF drug policies and standards of behavior. Additionally, the letter included excerpts from the WBF's Conditions of Contest and pointed them to web site for complete Conditions of Contest for this event.

Selection of Participants in IOC Grand Prix and other Olympic-like Events

The Board passed the following resolution:

Olympic teams shall be selected objectively based on competitions as the Board may deem appropriate. Junior teams may be selected for play using subjective criteria for events not requiring qualification through a trials.

In the event there is an IOC Grand Prix held in late 2002 or early 2003 the following team selection method will be used.

1. First, any medal winning teams of four eligible players in the Rosenblum or McConnell at the Montreal WBF Championships
2. Then, in order of high ranking, teams of four eligible players in the 2002 Spingold and 2002 Wager KOs. Ties shall be broken by the number of citizens and then by lottery.

This method will be used until the 2003 USBC or USWBC is held, at which time the winner of those trials will substitute for the selection method above.

Disciplined ABA or ACBL Members Joining the Other's Organization

It was agreed that in cases of disciplined members of either organization that better communication of such discipline between ACBL and ABA was needed to aid each organization in the proper handling of such matters. It was further agreed that in any case, a member suspended by either organization would not be eligible to represent the United States in international competition. The Bylaws shall be amended to reflect the above as below:

The Board approved a proposed bylaws amendment to read as follows: Article II. A.:

1. A person who is a citizen of the United States of America and who is a member in good standing of the American Contract Bridge League ("ACBL") or the American Bridge Association ("ABA") **add: and shall not be under suspension or discipline by either** is automatically a member in the United States Bridge Federation.

Sheri Winestock Application

The Board deemed Sheri Winestock as eligible to represent the United States in the Montreal Championships. (Exhibit 7), providing she has applied for or obtained a green card. Becker will write the WBF requesting an exception for Ms. Winestock similar to the exception made for Gitelman and Fallenius due to their participation in the 2000 Bermuda Bowl Championship.

USOC Committee Members

The list of USOC Committee members will be copied and distributed at the World Relations Committee Meeting.

Elections Committee Report

Becker and Quinn reiterated that the elections time line is as follows:

1. Approval of Nominating Procedures
2. Posting of election notice and restated bylaws on the web site and start of 60 day clock
3. 45 Days into clock Nominating Committee to interview those who express interest
4. At end of 60 day notice period Nominating Committee selects and announces slate
5. 30 day clock starts for petition candidates
6. Ballots prepared and mailed after 30 day petition clock ends
7. 30 days after ballots mailed the voting is closed and the ballots counted. (receipt of vote not postmark determine timeliness)

Perhaps the candidates will have a session at an NABC.

Finance Committee

1. Becker reported that the \$1.95 check off donation produced \$4,500 in one month and it appears that the revenue from this source will substantially exceed budgeted expectations.
2. The Board asked the Finance Committee to draw up a repayment plan of the \$50,000 loan from ACBL.
3. The Board asked the Finance Committee to budget subsidies for the Open, Women's, Senior and Junior international teams for 2003. Each category will be sending two teams to world championships.
4. The Finance Committee was asked to recommend USBF policy towards cash prizes won at junior and other international events where subsidy was provided by either the USBF, ACBL or ABA or private donations.

Miscellaneous

1. There is no progress on a new donation letter.
2. Rank owes a report on the cost of registering the USBF Logo.
3. The Fund Raising Committee was asked to pursue the Trump Trophy idea.
4. Quinn, Blaiss and Baum will meet and attempt to come up with a fund-raising event where projected net revenues will be substantial enough to justify the cost and effort of producing the event.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was called for Tuesday August 6th 8:00.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 P.M.

The World Relations Committee convened Friday, July 20, 2002.
Present were Morse, chairman, and Becker, Buckman, Friend, Gerard, Hetzer, Jones, LeBendig, Meyers, Nickell, Nudelman, Quinn, Reeve, Retek, Wood, Bowling

It was agreed that the ACBL's WBF delegates would solicit USBF input on matters of concern to the USBF. The USBF Board's resolution on playing in countries on the State Dept's restricted travel list was discussed. The Board was distressed at the WBF motion these delegates voted for that recommended passports as the criteria used for representing one's country. The delegates agreed to represent the USBF's position on residency.

The delegates would try to find out whether the IOC cared about non-citizens representing their country in WBF events in non-Olympic years prior to the WBF being included in the Olympics, and after being included in the Olympics.

The ACBL Board was requested to consider all applicants for positions of WBF delegates, whether from the ABA or the ACBL. The delegates suggested that any ABA members interested in being a WBF delegate should apply to the ACBL. Becker cautioned that the ACBL has historically appointed members of its own Board and that it seemed improper and suggested it appoint other qualified applicants from time to time.

The ABA and ACBL will work closely on apprising the USBF of members who are disciplined.