

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION

Friday, March 31, 2023

4:00 pm EDT

By Zoom

Directors Present: Lynn Baker, Steve Beatty, Steve Garner, Eric Gettleman, Tom Reynolds, Sheri Winestock

Others Present: Marty Harris, Jan Martel, McKenzie Myers, Stan Subeck, Suzi Subeck

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Lynn Baker at 4:10 pm EDT.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session and invited Marty Harris, Jan Martel, and McKenzie Myers to join.

The Board came out of Executive Session.

III. REQUEST BY BOB & ELLEN KENT

The Board, with one member recusing, voted to reject the request of Bob Kent and that of Ellen Kent for a waiver of Bylaws provision II.A.1.c (iii), which provides that a person who has confessed to or been found guilty of an ethical violation is not eligible for USBF membership.

IV. 2023 USBCS

A. FORMATS

Jan reported that entries have now closed for all 4 of the 2023 USBCs, subject to Open entries remaining open until April 2nd in order to allow a 16th team to enter. All 4 USBCs will be held entirely face-to-face in Schaumburg. Entry numbers and formats are:

1. Open - 15 (or 16) teams, selecting one. There will be 4, 2 day KO stages: Round of 16 (Nickell team, which has the most Positioning Points will have a bye if there are 15 teams), Quarterfinal, Semifinal, Final.
2. Mixed - 10 teams, selecting two. This will start with a 2-day Round Robin to qualify the top 4 teams for the USA1 Semifinal, qualify teams

5-8 for USA2 Stage 1, and eliminate the bottom 2 teams. If any team withdraws, reducing to 9, the format will be the same. If 2 teams withdraw, reducing to 8, the first 2 days will be a KO USA1 Quarterfinal. USA1 will continue with 2 day KO Semifinal and Final. USA1 losers will drop into USA2. USA2 will continue with a 2-day KO Stage 1, then 1-1/2 day (90 board) KO Quarterfinal and Semifinal, and then a 2-day Final.

3. Seniors - 9 teams, selecting two, will be the same as Mixed.
4. Women's, 4 teams, selecting two. This will start with a 2 day USA1 Semifinal (random draw), then 2 day USA1 Final and USA2 Semifinal, and finish with 2 day USA2 Final.

The formats for the Mixed and Seniors were arrived at after discussion with team captains and are different from those originally planned, which would have had online Round Robins to reduce the field to 8 teams. The Board discussed the fact that we'd prefer not to change the format after entries have closed, but there were strong reasons to do so this year and after the 2023 USBCs are over, the Board will consider how to resolve the problems that surfaced for future years.

B. COVID MEASURES

Jan reported that she and McKenzie have discussed what we want to do this year. We will continue to have air purifiers in most of the playing rooms and the office and hospitality suite. We also continue to require proof of vaccination and have asked players to sign a new waiver.

Masks will be optional except that if the hospitality volunteers want people to be masked in the hospitality suite we will require that, and if a masked player asks his or her screenmate to mask, we will require that.

V. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Aaron was unavoidably unable to attend the meeting and will present proposed committee assignments by email.

VI. WBF CONDITIONS OF CONTEST RULE CHANGE

Jan reported that the WBF Management Committee, at its meeting in Phoenix, changed the provisions of their Conditions of Contest to provide that if two teams from the same NBO (realistically that means two US teams) make the KO stage of a championship, they must play each other in the Quarterfinal. This is a significant departure from the previous rule that forced two US teams to meet in

the Semifinal and has many problems. After we asked for reconsideration, the Management Committee deferred the matter for this year, and it will be raised in the WBF Executive Committee. Board members will review the list of Executive Committee members and try to explain privately to as many as possible why this is a bad idea.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Steve Garner moved, Eric seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:45 pm EDT. Passed unanimously.