

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015**  
**9:00 PM EDT**  
**BY CONFERENCE CALL**

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

Others Present: Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Beth Palmer, Greg Humphreys

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 9:02 pm EDT.

**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. WELCOME BOARD MEMBERS-ELECT**

Howard welcomed Beth and Greg, whose terms start on January 1, 2016.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2015**

The Minutes of August 10, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**V. JUNIOR TRIALS**

Joe reported that the Junior USBC will be starting Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta. There are 15 teams playing. Michael Rosenberg raised the money to support the Junior USBC, about \$60,000. The plan is to use the USBC to select 2 Under 26 teams, one Under 21 team, and one young women Under 26 team. After the USBC, the Junior Committee will select an Under 15 team. After the teams have been selected, we will select NPCs and possibly a chaperone.

**VI. REVISED BYLAWS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

Josh reported that he and Jack Oest had planned to work on Bylaws and Disciplinary Procedures, but with what has happened the last two months, they decided to defer that until after ACBL decides in Denver what to do about discipline going forward. Howard suggested that procedures having to do with conduct matters should perhaps be clarified more promptly. Howard suggested that there should be something people sign when they enter a USBF event, saying that they understand that they are expected to behave properly. The

Board discussed that this is perhaps too vague and wide-ranging. The Board agreed to make sure that the General Conditions of Contest covered acting appropriately but not to have a separate document to be signed.

The Board discussed whether conduct other than behavior in a bridge event should make a person ineligible to compete in a USBF event. The Board discussed the fact that the Olympic movement has driven some things relating to qualification to compete. No decision was reached.

Howard suggested that USBF should have a reciprocity provision regarding discipline imposed by other organizations. The Board decided that since our Bylaws require that people not be under ACBL discipline and ACBL pays attention to discipline by other bridge organizations, it isn't necessary for USBF to change anything.

#### **VII. USBF RECORDER TO BE CORPORATE OFFICER**

Howard proposed that the USBF Recorder should be an officer, so that he would be covered under the USBF D&O policy. The Board unanimously approved the concept of doing this. Josh will work on the exact language to revise the Bylaws.

Howard suggested that we should talk with Mark de Pauw from the WBF & EBL about whether there is any possibility we could be added to their policy(ies) or whether their carrier might be willing to provide better coverage than we have been able to find. Marty will contact him and discuss.

#### **VIII. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REIMBURSEMENT FOR EARLY RETURN**

The stipend paid to teams representing USBF at World Championships is for the number of days the team plays plus 3 (2 before the tournament to acclimate to time change and 1 after the team finishes play to organize and leave). For teams eliminated before the Semi-Finals, there may be airline change fees and hotel penalties to return home early. In 2013, USBF reimbursed these up to some amount. In 2015, the stipend committee recommended and the Board agreed that USBF not reimburse these. Should there be a general rule about it?

The Board agreed to pay an additional one day of per diem for teams that lose prior to the Semi-Finals, subject to review by the Stipend Committee, in lieu of paying airline change fees and hotel cancellation fees.

#### **IX. ELECTRONIC DETECTION AND CAMERAS FOR USBF EVENTS**

Electronic detection – Howard reported that the WBF is looking into doing something to detect electronic communication during a tournament. The Board agreed that USBF should look into what is being done and how expensive and complicated it would be. Jan will discuss it with Maurizio Di Sacco in Denver.

We have seen recently that video from bridge events has been extremely helpful in evaluating possible cheating. Jan would like to start using video cameras at Vugraph tables and possibly also at other tables at USBCs. ACBL has purchased 10 video cameras, 10 heavy duty tripods, 10 new computers and will be purchasing 10 microphones. For USBCs, Jan would like to be able to cover all of

the tables in the Round of 16, so would like USBF to purchase 6 additional cameras, tripods and microphones. The cameras cost about \$70 each. The microphones are about \$100 each. We can use relatively light-weight tripods just for the cameras and attach the microphones to the screen instead of to a boom, which needs a much heavier and more expensive tripod, so tripods will cost less than \$100 each. There is also an alternative approach Jan wants to explore that might be less expensive and also easier to set up. This can be discussed more in Denver.

Additionally, Jan would like to hire Marcin Waslowicz, a bridge player and director from Poland who has done really high quality video broadcasts (Polish Premier League) as well as experimenting with other options, to advise us. Marcin will sell us his expertise for \$2000 and is also willing to come to the Fall NABC if we will cover his expenses. ACBL has agreed to provide him with a hotel room for Denver. Airfare, per diem and some miscellaneous costs (airport transport, visa fee) should be a little less than \$2000.

The Board unanimously authorized Jan to spend up to \$4000 to hire Marcin Waslowicz to help us set up video coverage of USBF events.

#### **X. WBF & CHEATING**

The Board discussed whether to make a statement similar to the one sent to WBF by the Netherlands Bridge organization. Howard appointed Josh, Brad, Marty & Greg to draft a letter expressing the USBF's disappointment with WBF's statements. The committee will circulate a draft to the rest of the Board in the next few days.

#### **XI. WORLD MIXED TEAM EVENT IN 2016**

The Board agreed to send a team to the World Mixed Teams championship and discussed how to select the team. Jan proposed that we hold a 4 team Trials in Washington, DC on the three days after the Summer NABC, and that the 4 teams should be selected either with online competition or using a voting method similar to the SportAccord voting we've done in the past. Howard appointed the chairs of the three xITTCs, Jeff Aker, Beth Palmer, and Bob Katz & Jan to formulate a plan for reducing to 4 teams and report back to the Board.

#### **XII. WADA DISCUSSION**

Deferred to a future meeting

#### **XIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be in person in Denver on Monday morning, Nov. 30th.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 pm EDT.