

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

7:00 PM EST

BY ZOOM CALL

Directors Present: Lynn Baker, Steve Garner, Xin Ge, Eric Gettleman, Geoff
Hampson, Amber Lin, Aaron Silverstein

Others Present: Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Suzi Subeck, Mckenzie
Myers, Julie Arbit

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Aaron Silverstein at 7:00 pm EST.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DEC. 5, 2024 BOARD MEETING

Aaron moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2024 Board meeting. Lynn seconded. Passed unanimously.

III. ELECT OFFICERS

The Board unanimously **approved** the following USBF officers for 2025:

President: Aaron Silverstein. Lynn nominated, Steve seconded. **~~Passed unanimously.~~**

Vice President: Steve Garner. Lynn nominated, Aaron seconded. **~~Passed unanimously.~~**

Secretary: Jan Martel

Assistant Secretary: Max Schireson

Chief Financial Officer: Max Schireson

Chief Operating Officer: Jan Martel

Recorder: Jack Oest

IV. ASSIGN MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

The Board discussed committee assignments. The Board agreed with Jan's suggestions for changes and additions to committees.

They also discussed the role of the financial committee and the possibility of a new committee to **deal with** the issue of USBF dues to the WBF (more details below) but ultimately decided this is an issue for the Board to handle as a group.

The Board also discussed the role of the Marketing Committee and the need to clarify this further going forward. As part of this committee's responsibilities, they discussed the possibility of running an online event to function as a fundraiser, that would also award Individual Positioning Points, which may help seeding at the bottom of the USBC fields.

A new Technology committee will be formed to improve the USBF website; the Board discussed the option of hiring interns to assist with this.

Aaron moved to approve the committee list with slight amendments. Xin seconded, passed unanimously. See Attachment A for the full 2025 committee list.

V. SAJUSBC REPORT

Joe and Amber reported on the SAJUSBC. The event lasted for five days with 115 competitors. Amber and Kevin ran a 2-day training camp beforehand. Joe congratulated Amber on a hugely successful event and cutting costs with a grant from the ACBL Education Foundation and offering an "opt **in**" for airfare reimbursement.

Amber reported on financials and the selection process for U26W and U16. Costs were around \$100,000, slightly below the \$120,000 budget. Amber described the format and rationale for the pairs events as well as the selection process. Overall, the format was successful but the biggest hindrance is the amount of effort and coordination required.

Amber will conduct a junior survey, track success of selected players, and consider input from the Selection and Junior committees to inform any changes to all JUSBC events for next time.

The Board discussed current eligibility requirements for US competitors in the 2025 WYTBC and proposed establishing a stated policy on this matter for future events.

Aaron moved to approve the US teams for the 2025 WYBTC (see Attachment B). Lynn seconded. Steve, Xin, and Amber in favor. Eric abstained. Geoff opposed. Motion passed.

Following additional discussion, the Board unanimously voted to rescind this motion and revisit the approval of teams at their next meeting.

The Junior committee reported on NPCs for the WYTBC, affirming their policy on not allowing parents to NPC their child's team, allowing for exceptions after individual consultation with all players.

Geoff moved to approve the NPCs for the 2025 WYTBC (see [Attachment C](#)). Lynn seconded. All were in favor; Aaron abstained. Motion passed.

The Board discussed U31. A U31 JUSBC will be held if more than two teams enter by Feb. 8, 2025. The USBF will cover that and the cost of entries and uniforms. The Board will revisit a discussion of covering expenses for U31 before the next cycle.

VI. 2025 USBCs

Jan reported on 2025 USBCs. The format will mirror that of 2024, except that all matches **in the Open USBC** will be two days long. Reservations are open at the Hyatt.

The Board discussed eligibility requirements for USBCs in the context of the WBF allowing anyone listed as representing the U.S. in their database to play for the U.S. regardless of their residency.

The Board also discussed a potential new policy/bylaws update as part of eligibility requirements stating that playing in a selection event for a different country would disqualify a player from entering the USBCs selecting for the same year.

VII. WBF DUES

Max continued the report on the USBF dues owed to the WBF. The U.S. reports many more members than other NBOs because it is based on ACBL membership. Historically, the ACBL has contributed to these dues, but no longer does so. The WBF has stated that the U.S. sending a second team for **odd year** world championships hinges on the USBF paying a specific dollar amount in dues. Historically, it was implied that the second team was allowed due to the success of U.S. teams. The WBF is also raising member dues from \$1.00/player to \$1.15/player.

The Board agreed that an additional meeting on this topic is necessary before Memphis. WBF officials will attend Memphis and meet with ACBL officials and USBF officials on this matter.

Max suggested a range of options moving forward on this matter and the Board will continue the discussion by mid-February.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

No qualifying events are necessary in 2026. Jan raised the possibility of hosting an open, transnational event in 2026 instead of the typical **process** every four years of qualifying one Open team in a USBC for the 2027 Bermuda Bowl.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Steve moved to adjourn at 9:15 EST. Lynn B seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Attachment A: 2025 USBF Committee assignments

Committee	2025 Members	Notes
Ethics Investigation	Dana Berkowitz, Chair Eugene Hung Roger Lee Chip Martel Steve Weinstein Jenny Wolpert	No change
Bylaws	Eric Gettleman, Chair Lynn Baker Aaron Silverstein Marty Harris Jack Oest Josh Parker	2025 needs - discipline section and Resident Member rules
Nominating	Aaron Silverstein Amber Lin Joe Stokes Lynn Baker Steve Garner	Committee members serve for 2 years. Lynn Baker, Steve Garner's Board terms are ending. Both have served 2 terms.
Elections	Aaron Silverstein Geoff Hampson Eric Gettleman	Only has to act if there is a contested election.
Finance	Max Schireson, Chair Xin Ge Eric Gettleman Amber Lin Jan Martel	

Junior	Joe Stokes, Chair Julie Arbit Xin Ge Alex Kolesnik Amber Lin Jan Martel McKenzie Myers Michael Rosenberg	
Credentials	See https://usbf.org/about-usbf/usbf-committees/credentials-committee	
Stipend	Max Schireson, Chair Eric Gettleman Geoff Hampson Jan Martel Aaron Silverstein	May work on increasing International Fund with ACBL
Appeals	Suzi Subeck, Chair	Slight restructuring planned
Tournament Planning	Jan Martel, Chair Steve Garner Xin Ge Geoff Hampson McKenzie Myers Tom Reynolds Suzi Subeck	Will work on plan for 2026 and a possible online event
Tournament Hospitality	Jan Martel, Chair Julie Arbit Lisa Berkowitz Marie France Benoit Suzi Subeck	
Vugraph	Jan Martel, Chair Rob Barrington Chris Wiegand	Primary role is recruiting commentators due to switch to LoveBridge
Marketing	Mitch Dunitz, Chair Rob Barrington Tracey Bauer Xin Ge Geoff Hampson Cyrus Hettle Adam Kaplan Amber Lin Aaron Silverstein Suzi Subeck Al Hollander & Jan Martel, staff	

Technology	Jan Martel, Chair Xin Ge Geoff Hampson Al Hollander Amber Lin	New committee - purpose is to try to get new software to handle USBC website things (entries, listing teams, systems, seeding, scoring) and also dues
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Attachment B: 2025 World Youth Bridge Team Championship Teams - Proposed by Junior Committee

U26

USA1 - Winners of U26 USA1 Bracket of the SAJSUBC

Finn Kolesnik - Michael Xu
Harrison Luba - Bo Han (Bruce) Zhu
Michael Hu - Ethan Wood

USA2 - Winners of U26 USA2 Bracket of the SAJUSBC

Stella Wan - Olivia Schireson
Cornelius Duffie - Jacob Freeman
Richard Jeng - Brent Xiao

U21

USA1 - Winners of U21 USA1 Bracket of the SAJSUBC

Avery Silverstein - Daniel Balof
Jack Boge - Ethan Derman
Michael Haas - Sam Pahk

USA2 - Winners of U22 USA2 Bracket of the SAJUSBC

Brandon Ge - Arthur Gong
Charlie Chen - Eric Xiao
Kayden Ge - Brian Zhang

U26W note - players with asterisks qualified by finishing in the top 3 in the SAJUSBC U26W Pairs Event; other players were selected based in part on their performance at the SAJUSBC, and in part on feedback from USBF training mentors. Assignments to pairs and teams were by the

selection committee, except that the SAJUSBC winners were guaranteed to be assigned to USA1.

USA1

Cecilia Ehrlichman* - Katie Hwang*
Helen Chow* - Nicole Qian*
Ava Donnellan - Kyra Helmbold

USA2

Ella Su* - Sharon Chu*
Katie Sullivan - Caroline Zhao
Jasmine Bakhshi - Jessie Cai
(Partnerships may change)

U16 Note - procedure same as for U26W

USA1

Jeff Xiao* - Andrew Chen*
Kyo Chen - Zinnia Meyer
Adam Hemmer* - Alex Shih
(Partnerships may change)

USA2

Jayson Lee - Lee Blocher
Kate Lee* - Alex Xu
Kevin Wei* - Arjun Chaunal*
(Partnerships may change)

Attachment C: Non-Playing Captains for 2025 WYTBC

U16 USA1 - Alex Kolesnik (Steve Chen as Coach)
U16 USA2 - Will Watson
U21 USA1 - Aaron Silverstein
U21 USA2 - Brian Platnick (Xin Ge as Coach)
U26 USA1 - Joe Grue
U26 USA2 - TBD
U26W USA1 - Kent Mignocchi
U26W USA2 - Mitch Dunitz

