

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2015
10:30 AM MST
DENVER

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz, Brad Moss, Josh Parker (by cell phone) Sue Picus, Howard Weinstein

- I. Others Present: Jan Martel, Greg Humphreys, McKenzie Myers, Jack Oest (by cell phone) Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President, Eric Laurent from EBL, David Harris, WBF Counsel
ACBL Representatives: Sharon Anderson, Roger Anderson, Bonnie Bagley, Robert Hartman, Bob Heller, Paul Janicki, Kevin Lane, Al Levy, Ken Monzingo, Jay Whipple

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 10:05 am MST.

III. 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.

IV. VIDEO FROM USBF & ACBL EVENTS

Jan gave a brief report on video plans – we will be doing video from all Vugraph tables and also from some tables that are not on Vugraph (we do not know exactly how many of those). Howard introduced our video consultant, Marcin Waslowicz, who is in Denver observing the ACBL video set-up and working on the set-up to be used in USBF events, which will be very similar. To see the video, go to YouTube and search for ACBLNABC to get to Fall NABC Denver, where there are files with video from the Senior Knockout. The URL (maybe) is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdR1LkLWMhveezFaFgzdBWA>.

The Board discussed the format of the video and whether we could also use it for things like “instant replay” for the directors when there is a question about how long something took (yes) and edit it to have a shorter, faster version for future viewing (yes, but someone has to do it).

V. MIXED TEAM SELECTION

The sub-committee reported that they plan to try to have online qualifying to reduce to 4 teams for face to face Trials in Washington after the Summer NABC.

The Board discussed how many teams we might expect for the online qualifying and how to deal with it if we have a very large number. Greg suggested that we might run the online qualification in two stages, the first with less onerous proctoring to cut down to 16 teams and then the second stage with more rigorous proctoring to get to the 4 teams for the face to face competition. Stan suggested that we might survey people competing in the Mixed Swiss this weekend to find out whether they might participate.

The Board approved the concept of having a 2-stage online qualifying, with more rigorous proctoring of the second (16 team) stage.

We will circulate a questionnaire in the Mixed Teams this weekend and investigate logistics for proctoring online and for the face to face stage.

VI. BYLAW REVISIONS

Josh reported that he and Jack are working on re-writing the Bylaws, starting pretty much from scratch. They have eliminated the Olympic concerns to make the Bylaws simpler and will have a draft of new Bylaws in another month or two.

At its last meeting, the Board approved having the Recorder be an officer. On motion by Bob Katz, the Board unanimously approved amending the Bylaws to add the Recorder to the list of officers.

VII. D & O INSURANCE

Marty reported that he has looked into improving our D&O insurance. Howard reported that WBF seems to have good D&O coverage and Marty has planned to look into that. Stan reported that he had looked into adding USBF to the ACBL D&O policy and that wasn't possible. Marty will continue to follow up on this.

VIII. REPORT ON ACBL & WBF ACTIONS ON CHEATING

Howard reported that ACBL has appointed a task force to make recommendations on cheating and the task force is meeting here. WBF has asked the High Level Players Committee to address this issue and that committee has met once here and is meeting again. Howard expressed our hope that the different organizations would be able to coordinate their efforts.

IX. USBF SECURITY ISSUES

Howard asked whether there is anything else USBF should be doing for more security at our events.

Bob asked whether we have anything about reciprocity with other organizations. Howard reported that ACBL just passed something about reciprocity and probably we should also have some reciprocity. Al Levy reported that the ACBL reciprocity provisions have two exceptions – one is if the penalty imposed is less than the WBF recommended penalty and the other is if the procedures at the hearing were not proper. WBF minimum penalties are that a pair convicted of

collusive cheating are not allowed to play together for life and each player is suspended for 10 years.

Bob also raised the question of communication of what is done at hearings of different entities. Howard reported that that is being worked on.

Marty raised the question of whether USBF would be bound by a finding of either guilt or innocence by another entity, and suggested that USBF should be able to reconsider what has been decided by another entity. David Harris reported that if a USBF person is disciplined by WBF, the WBF would report the discipline to USBF. Robert Hartman reported that many other entities (EBL for example) have provisions that prevent expulsion for a first offense. Howard reported that one possibility might be for us to be able to accept the finding of fact of another entity and impose a heavier penalty. Brad suggested that if someone admits guilt there could be less stringent penalties.

Josh and Jack are working on this area and Howard asked whether they had any questions to raise with the Board. Jack asked whether the Board wants to separate discipline and credentialing and if so, what should be where. Bob said that he thinks credentialing should be limited to whether someone is a USBF member and has paid dues and is eligible to compete. Howard said that we do have credentialing issues with players who are added to a team. He also suggested that if someone has an issue at a tournament in another country and is put on probation there might be a problem. There was general agreement that only ACBL probation would affect eligibility for USBF events.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Marty asked whether WBF has any rules about trans-gender players. There is a male US player who is undergoing a change to become a female and may want to enter the Women's USBC. David Harris said that WBF does not presently have a policy about trans-gender people, but that they would probably follow the Olympic rules, which are very strict. Robert Hartman reported that ACBL uses a self-identification rule – if someone says they identify as a specific gender, they will be allowed to enter a Women's or Mixed event. USBF is bound by WBF rules.

Paul Janicki mentioned that hotels in Wroclaw may be crowded during the 2016 World Championship and recommended that people get reservations soon.

Bob Heller reported that he has made motions to the ACBL Board that WBF representatives should no longer be elected by the ACBL Board. The motion was withdrawn this year, but it will be reconsidered. His idea is that the USBF should elect 4 representatives and the CBF should elect 1 representative. He raised the question of whether there is any procedure that could be presented to the ACBL Board in Reno. Brad reported that he strongly supports Bob's position. Both Brad and Bob Katz ran for the WBF representative positions this year; Paul Janicki & Al Levy were elected as WBF representatives (both of them are incumbents on the WBF executive committee as well as ACBL Board members). Bob Katz further suggested that ACBL would like to maintain some input on this. Howard

suggested that perhaps there could be a voting entity that included both the ACBL Board and USBF and CBF Boards. Bob Heller suggested that one possibility might be to have the 7 USBF Board members, the 5 members of the ACBL Executive Committee and one representative of the CBF serve as the electors.

Sharon Anderson suggested that if the ACBL Board is electing WBF representatives, they need better information about the candidates.

Al Levy suggested that the NBO's should have more say with the ACBL when it is acting as the Zonal Organization. There is already a provision that USBF and CBF members serve on the ACBL International Committee and can make motions to that committee.

Ken Monzingo expressed his support for the suggestions made by Bob Heller and Al Levy. He suggested there should be an open forum in Reno to discuss relations between ACBL, WBF, USBF and CBF. He also plans to appoint Howie to an ACBL committee and has asked Howie to report to the ACBL Board at an early meeting next year.

XI. NEXT MEETING

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Howard thanked the ACBL Board members who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 pm MST.