

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015
10:00 AM CST
NEW ORLEANS

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

Others Present: Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Stan Subeck, Joe Stokes, Michael Rosenberg;

ACBL Representatives: Bryan Delfs, Richard DeMartino, Sharon Fairchild, Robert Hartman, Bob Heller, Al Levy, Dan Morse, Suzi Subeck, Merlin Vilhauer

Others: Radislaw Kielbasinski, Simon Fellus, WBF, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 10:00 am CST.

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19 MEETING

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 19 Board meeting.

IV. REPORT ON 2016 WBF OLYMPIAD

Radislaw Kielbasinski, President of the Polish Bridge Union and a WBF Vice President, reported that the Olympiad will be held in Wroclaw, Poland in 2016. Wroclaw is easy to get to through Germany or Switzerland. It's a new, modern city, with excellent hotels and food and less expensive than other Western European countries. Kielbasinski reported on the schedule for the Olympiad. The first week will continue to be the Olympiad teams. Second week will now be a National Pairs event. There is no limit to the number of pairs in the pair event. Kielbasinski hopes that many players will attend.

V. WBF REPORT

Simon Fellus reported that as the new WBF Secretary, he is focusing on communication. He wants to show bridge in a new way. There's a new European

television channel “Sports United” inside EuroNews and he hopes people will send him content to show on that channel. He is looking for information, videos, pictures.

VI. BYLAW CHANGES

Josh reported on the changes that the ByLaws committee proposes to the USBF ByLaws to make the ByLaws more consistent with what we are actually doing. The committee substantially rewrote the Bylaw sections dealing with committees, making the requirements more flexible. They also reduced the number of official “standing committees” to just four: Executive Committee, Elections Committee, Finance Committee and Nominating Committee. The only other change the committee made was to provide that officers serve until the first meeting of each odd numbered year, instead of until January 1 of each odd numbered year. The Board unanimously waived the 30 day notice period for ByLaw changes and unanimously approved the changes recommended by the ByLaw committee.

VII. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Howard & Jan proposed that Jan be allowed to sign hotel contracts. The Board decided to provide that the Board must approve contracts and can also designate the person to sign the contract. The Board approval can be by email.

VIII. 2015 USBC CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The Board unanimously approved the Conditions of Contest as presented by the ITTC, WITTC and SITTC.

IX. 2016 USBC AND SENIOR USBC SITE

The Board unanimously approved the contracts Jan had negotiated with the Grand Hyatt in Denver for the 2016 Open and Senior USBCs.

X. JUNIORS

1. “Scholarships” to help Juniors attend camps and NABCs. The Board discussed whether USBF should support juniors who want to attend camps and NABC’s and agreed that this sort of thing is better done by local units and districts than by USBF.
2. The Board discussed to what extent we ask Juniors to give something back when they have attended World Championships and training camps. Bob Heller mentioned that one year he asked then-juniors Kevin Dwyer and Owen Lien to write the hand analysis for the hand records at the Youth NABC, and they did that. Bryan Delfs reported that several of the USBF Juniors have been very supportive of college bridge programs. Howard proposed having an ad hoc committee meet to come up with a list of things that our Juniors could do to provide a return for the support they have received. Howard appointed Joe, Bryan & Brad to serve on this committee.

3. The Board discussed the extent to which World Championship Junior teams should be required to have 6 players and how much discretion NPCs of Junior teams should have about the number of boards played by each player. In order to receive WBF masterpoints, a player must play one third of the boards in each stage of the event. Josh proposed that the Board should have a flexible procedure that said in the normal case each team must have 6 players and each of the players must play enough to earn WBF masterpoints, but in a specific situation the Junior committee can propose something different and the Board can waive either or both of those requirements. Bob suggested that the NPC should have more flexibility because you never know what is going to happen. Joe pointed out that the situation last year was unusual; most years the pair who is added to a 4-person team is the best pair on the team. Brad reported that he had discussed with some former Junior players whether there should be flexibility. Several of them thought that the solution should be to allow a team of 4 to go to the World Championship. Michael Rosenberg explained the position of the Junior Committee when a 4-person team has qualified to play in the World Championships. We have two different goals when we send a team to the World Championships: one is to win this year and the other is to win in the future. We know that the best way to win this year is to give the NPC discretion. We don't really know what is the best thing for the future.

The Board discussed at length what the default rule should be and whether it should be the same for U21 teams and U26 teams. All agreed that whatever the default rule is, the Board can waive it, and there was general consensus that the Board should give significant weight to the recommendations of the Junior Committee. There was also general consensus that whatever the rule is it should be subject to exceptions for exigent circumstances. The Board will continue to discuss this issue and establish a general rule for Junior teams soon.

XI. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN USBCS

We have a rule that no one can enter a USBC unless they intend to play in the World Championship if they qualify. The Board discussed the reasons for that rule and whether we should consider changing it and also whether the Board should require that the Women's USBC be held after the Open. No conclusions were reached.

XII. NEXT MEETING

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Howard thanked the ACBL Board members who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm CST.