

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31, 2018
9:30 PM EDT
BY CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: David Caprera, Marty Fleisher, Greg Humphreys, Bob Katz,
Brad Moss, Beth Palmer, Josh Parker

Others Present: Julie Arbit, Jan Martel

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Fleisher at 9:30 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7/30/18 AND 9/4/18

Minutes of 7/30/18 and 9/4/18 were unanimously approved.

IV. WELCOME TO JULIE ARBIT

The Board welcomed Julie, who will be taking over some of Jan's responsibilities.

V. USBC ELIGIBILITY RULES

Marty explained that the primary reason for this meeting is consideration of a change to the rules regarding whether a person who has qualified in a USBC can enter a subsequent USBC, and also whether a person can drop off a team that has qualified for the World Championships without cause.

David proposed 2 motions:

1. If a player qualifies in a USBC, that player is not eligible to compete in a subsequent USBC for the same World Championship.
2. If a player qualifies in a USBC, and does not play in the World Championship, the player is not eligible to compete in any USBC in the following year without Board approval, which would be based on the reason for the failure to play.

Josh said that he viewed the USBCs as not “Trials” but as National Championships that also give someone the right to represent the United States in a World Championship, and people should be allowed to compete in as many National Championships as they want to.

David said that he viewed the USBCs as our method to choose the best teams to represent the US in World Championships, and the fact that they are a National Championship is secondary. He thinks that allowing players to drop off teams that have qualified conflicts with choosing the best teams.

Bob said that we have taken the position that the “best” team to represent the US is the team that does the best in the USBC, and if we let players drop off teams then we are no longer sending the team that did the best in the USBC.

Vote on Motion 1:

Yes – Caprera, Katz, Palmer

No – Fleisher, Humphreys, Moss, Parker

The motion failed.

Vote on Motion 2:

Yes – Caprera, Katz, Palmer

No – Fleisher, Humphreys, Moss, Parker

The motion failed.

The Board moved on to a discussion of the proposal submitted by Brad that players who have qualified in one USBC may play in a subsequent one and also that a player may drop off of a qualified team for any reason.

Josh said that he was the person who proposed that this regulation should not apply to the Open USBC, and he is willing to withdraw that part of the proposal.

Marty restated the proposal and Jan suggested the two halves of the proposal should be discussed separately.

Part 1 – A player who has qualified to compete in a World Championship is allowed to drop off the team for any reason or no reason, with no penalty.

Yes – Fleisher, Humphreys, Moss, Parker

No – Katz, Palmer

Abstain – Caprera

The motion carried.

Part 2 – A player who has qualified to compete in a World Championship is allowed to compete in a subsequent USBC that selects teams for the same World Championship.

However, if the player qualifies for the second event, the player irrevocably forfeits the right to compete in the first event.

These motions are subject to reconsideration if adequate standards cannot be developed to determine whether a team that has lost a player should remain eligible to compete in the World Championship, and how to select a replacement team if a team is eliminated.

Yes – Fleisher, Humphreys, Moss, Parker

Abstain – Katz, Palmer

No – Caprera

The motion carried.

The Board voted unanimously, with Katz abstaining, to ask the ITTC Technical Committee to come up with an objective standard to decide whether a team that had lost a player should continue to be eligible to compete in the World Championship and if a team does not meet this standard to compete in the World Championship, what team should replace them.

Josh asked whether people should have to announce ahead of time that they planned to drop off. There was general agreement that they should not have to do that.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 pm EDT.