

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020
9:00 PM EST
BY CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Kate Aker, Mark Aquino, Lynn Baker, Huub Bertens, David Caprera, Brad Moss, Josh Parker;

Others Present: Marty Fleisher (part of the meeting), Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck, Julie Arbit (part of the meeting)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Fleisher at 9:02 pm EST.

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. APPROVE MINUTES OF DEC. 14, 2019

The Minutes of the December 14, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. ELECT 2020 OFFICERS

Josh nominated Brad Moss as President. There were no further nominations. Brad was unanimously elected.

Brad nominated Kate as Vice President. There were no further nominations. Kate was unanimously elected.

Josh nominated Jan Martel as Secretary, Stan Subeck as Treasurer, and Jack Oest as Recorder. There were no further nominations. Jan, Stan, and Jack were unanimously elected.

V. NABF DIRECTOR TO REPLACE BETH PALMER

Josh nominated Marty Fleisher to replace Beth Palmer as a member of the NABF Board. There were no further nominations. Marty was unanimously elected

VI. JULIAN ROTARU APPLICATION AS A RESIDENT MEMBER

The Board unanimously approved Julian Rotaru's application to be a resident member of the USBF.

VII. SECOND U-16 TEAM

Lynn raised the issue of monetary support for a second U-16 team, where the parents have offered to provide funding for the team. Lynn stated that she thinks the members of the team should have the same experience as members of other teams in the World Junior Championship. Joe explained that he will be making hotel reservations for all of the teams, but may be asking players to deal with their own travel. It may not be possible to have all the teams at the same hotel.

Joe pointed out that this was a very unique situation: there was a clear 2nd team here and there was no other possibility of a second team; the 2 teams were very close. David raised the point that this should not be considered a precedent; if another equally unusual situation arises in the future, it would have to be considered on its merits. Brad asked what we want to do going forward. Joe commented that he believes this should not set any precedent and any other issues should be resolved by the Junior Committee.

The Board unanimously voted to have the USBF should nominate the Ge team as USA2 In the Under-16 division of the 2020 WYBTC, with the understanding that it does not set a precedent for the future, that the USBF will not provide any funding for the team, and that the parents pay the USBF the funds to pay for the entry fee, uniforms & room & board for the team in advance. Joe will communicate with the team and the WBF.

VIII. U-31 EVENT.

David explained that the WBF added an Under-31 event to the WYBTC for this year, and that the Junior Committee was generally in favor of sending two U-31 teams but not providing any funding in excess of the entry fee and uniforms. The Board discussed whether USBF would want to use the Trials for this event as a way to test on-line Trials and whether to limit entry to players between 25 & 31 or allow anyone under 31 to enter.

David moved that the USBF send 2 Under-31 teams to the 2020 WYBTC, with the only USBF monetary support being payment of entry fees and providing uniforms. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board voted not to limit eligibility for the U31 event to players who are eligible for the Under-31 event and not eligible for the Under-26 event.

In favor – Aquino, Caprera, Moss

Opposed – Aker, Baker, Bertens, Parker

The Board voted that all players who were born in 1990 or later are eligible to represent the USBF in the U31 event.

Aye – Aker, Baker, Bertens, Parker

Opposed – Aquino, Caprera, Moss

The Board voted to use an online event to reduce the original entry in the U31 Trials to 4 teams and that if only 3 or 4 teams enter the event or after reducing to 4 to have a face to face event in Schaumburg to select 2 teams from those 3 or 4. The Opposed voters wanted to have the entire selection process online.

Aye – Aquino, Aker, Baker, Bertens, Moss

Opposed - Caprera, Parker

IX. BYLAW AMENDMENT

In the past, several Bylaws amendments have been discussed and favorably received, but have not yet been adopted. The Board discussed that one of these corrections should be adopted immediately because, due to recent changes in ACBL's rules, that provision now arguably negates other Bylaws and conflicts with the Conditions Of Contest. The other proposed amendments will be considered further at the next meeting. All Board members voted to waive the 30-days' notice requirement for this one amendment. The Board initially voted 5-1-1 (Josh against, Lynn abstaining) to amend Bylaws section II.A by deleting Subsection A.3. Subsequently, the Board unanimously voted to correct the precise wording of Subsections A.1 and A.2 to conform to what was discussed at the 1/14 meeting, after all Board members unanimously consented to consider and vote upon that correction via email. As amended, Section II.A of the Bylaws now reads as follows:

A. Regular Member

A Regular Member of the USBF shall receive all publications and notices of the organization, shall be eligible to represent the United States of America ("USA") in events that do not require qualification through a trials, and shall be listed on the USBF's membership rolls. However, a Regular Member who is not an Active Member for the year in question (i.e., who does not pay the annual dues for that year) shall not be eligible, during that year: to vote for members of the Board; to hold office in the USBF; to compete in USBF trials to qualify to represent the United States in international competition; or to represent the USA in a World Championship or Olympic competition. A person qualifies as a Regular Member if s/he meets either of the following criteria:

1. He or she is a citizen of the USA; is a member in good standing of the American Contract Bridge League ("ACBL") or the American Bridge Association ("ABA"); and is not under expulsion, suspension, or probation for ninety (90) days or more by either of those bodies, for any

reason other than a minor financial dispute. Any person who satisfies these criteria is automatically a member of the USBF; or

2. He or she is a citizen of the USA; is not under expulsion, suspension, or probation for ninety (90) days or more (by ACBL or ABA) for any reason other than a minor financial dispute; and the Board grants his/her application for membership in USBF.

X. GABRIELLE SHERMAN

Gabrielle asked that the Board allow her to compete in the 2020 USBCs even though she is currently under probation by the ACBL for more than 90 days.

The Board voted unanimously to deny the request.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session and invited Jan, Stan & Marty to join. The Board came out of Executive Session.

XII. NPCS FOR ONLINE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Board unanimously approved David Caprera as NPC of the U-26 team, Max Schireson as NPC of the Women Under 26 team, and Qiang Zhang as NPC of the Under-16 team for the 2020 World Online Championships.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 pm EST.

NPC Subcommittee Report:

Policy:

The role of the non-playing captain is very important as can be seen by the attached list of duties. The USBF will look at the list of duties and how they think the person will perform the duties in determining whether to approve a captain. Players who have successfully served as captains in the past (based not just on results but on the job they did as a captain) will generally be approved unless there were concerns about the job they did. Significant consideration will be given to a team's choice as the team must respect and work well with the captain. However, a team's preference will not necessarily be determinative as the team may not realize how much is required at the event and how an inexperienced captain may not be aware of this or be able to cope with it. Factors to consider in approving an inexperienced captain will include: the NPC's high level bridge experience – has he or she played at the World Championship level and learned what is required; the NPC's organizational skills and attention to detail; and the NPC's ability to get along with people, both team members and opponents, directors, WBF official, etc. The NPC should not be on another team or have significant other duties at the World Championships. If the NPC has other duties, it is incumbent on the NPC to satisfactorily convince the USBF that these duties would not interfere with the very extensive duties of a NPC. If the person does not have high level bridge experience the presumption is the NPC will not be approved. In order to overcome this presumption, the NPC must make a case for how they will cope with the duties of a NPC, especially the requirements to go to Committees and deal with WBF officials. One way to accomplish this might be to establish that there will be a coach or other person available to help them with the duties which require bridge expertise.

NPC Duties

Before World Championship

1. Coordinate uniforms (color of shirts for play all days; pants or skirts and blazer for opening and closing ceremony only. Coordinate with USBF (Jan) to order shirts)
2. Make sure everyone gets approval for and submits TUE form timely (drug exemption)
3. Make sure everyone submits WBF card by timeline
4. Make copies of team members WBF cards to have extras in case they lose theirs
5. Make a book with opponents WBF cards – either for each person or partnership. Have a copy for yourself in case players lose them between round robin and KO's
6. If you can, prepare a 1 page summary of each opponent's convention cards – just the things your players will want to know before a Round Robin match. More complete for teams you expect to meet in the KO.

7. Highlight unusual bids (and defenses to 1NT, big club, etc) or prepare a separate sheet with this info; make a sortable list of these and sort in Round Robin match order when the Round Robin draw is known.
8. Prepare defenses against unusual conventions
9. Find out before hand if people have preferences – ie when they play, who they play against, which way they sit, anything else
10. Find out what snacks people like to have
11. Get everyone to sign a form WBF requires to play
12. Forward any info from USBF (via Jan) or WBF to players
13. Read and become familiar with the WBF General Conditions of Contest, the Special Conditions of Contest for the event, and the WBF Systems Policy.
14. When the Round Robin draw is available, make a chart with which teams your team plays when and make a tentative plan for who will play against which teams.

At World Championships

1. Make sure everyone always has copies of convention cards and defenses which are allowed at the table (to Multi and HUM methods) Also make sure they have copies of defenses you prepared
2. Turn in lineups electronically by the required time frames (make sure you put people in the seats they want ie north etc
3. Right after the match check the accuracy of the score and make corrections as needed
4. Make sure the players know start times and which segment(s) they are playing.
5. Be there at game time to make sure everyone is there and is set. Also be there after the session to provide handrecords, check scores, etc.
6. Go to captains meetings

7. Determine seeding at the captains meetings for knockout phases
8. Timely file an appeal if necessary. Check with other experts if needed. Apprise team of what you are doing.
9. Go to appeals committees with players involved
10. Deal with any other issues with WBF – there always seems to be some. i.e. accusations against a pair for non-disclosure, hygiene issues, etc which are some that have come up in the past.
11. Make sure players have drinks and snacks etc before they play if they need it, especially if there is a short time between matches, and be a general go for
12. Determine who will play when. The captain may and should consult with team members and the team may decide this without acrimony. If not the Captain must decide. Take into account whether having a schedule for the day either for the round robin or KO's is better than constantly changing it.
13. Watch the opponents either in person or on vugraph to obtain information about the frequency and reliability of count signals, aggression, etc.
14. Consult with your pairs about whether they want you to watch them. Some people like to have the captain kibitz and others don't.
15. Keep track of which directions the opponents sit. Does one pair always sit NS etc. This can be useful in determining lineups, especially in Round Robins when there is no seeding and in KO also.
16. Serve as sounding board for players who might be having issues with partner or teammates – This is important to keeping team harmony. Some people need to have someone to vent to. Make sure team gets along
17. Keep players apprised of emails from WBF – they send them frequently during the event to the captains