

2007.3 NABC – San Francisco, CA
ITT COMMITTEE – MINUTES OF MEETING
San Francisco Marriott Hotel
Rose Meltzer’s Suite, November 28, 2007, 10:30 a.m.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: David Berkowitz, Peter Boyd, Russ Ekeblad, Chip Martel, Jan Martel, Rose Meltzer, Jo Morse, Lou Ann O’Rourke, Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Larry Simon, Danny Sprung, John Sutherlin, Adam Wildavsky, Howard Weinstein

Becker called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. The committee thanked Rose for hosting the meeting.

2008 Conditions of Contest

The draft 2008 CoCs were presented by Becker.

- The Committee re-discussed granting an exemption from the Preliminary Event to an all junior team that had a majority of members who had medaled in a WBF championship event. (This issue was tabled at the previous ITTC meeting.) Boyd suggested that juniors who had medaled in a WBF championship junior event should receive SPs that could be used toward receiving an exemption from the Preliminary event and/or K/O seeding. The matter was referred to the CoCC for a recommendation as to how to proceed.
- Becker reported that the CoCC recommended that the amendment to the Pre-Registration section, added at the last ITTC meeting, be removed (Exhibit 1 in the Agenda). After some debate, it was decided to leave the paragraph in the 2008 CoCs, (because the cycle had started), but to delete the paragraph, beginning with the 2009 cycle.
- Becker described the layout of the P.G.A. Resort, the site of the 2008 USBC, both within the hotel and the surrounding area. The website will publicize that a car is necessary to get to off-site restaurants and grocery stores.

2009 Format Report

Becker reported that “Option A,” (the USA 2 bracket begins with the R16 losers - Exhibit 2 in the Agenda), had been recommended by a majority of the CoCC, but noted that the length of the event in the USA 1 and 2 brackets could still be tweaked. The committee approved “Option A,” and referred the tweaking back to the CoCC for presentation at the next meeting. Also, the CoCC will suggest any revisions in the PPs and bye structure by the Spring Meeting.

Lou Ann O’Rourke said that some experts proposed that the USBC begin with the top 16 or 17 teams, determined by SPs, playing a complete RR of 15 board matches over 4 days to reduce to 8 teams, followed by a straight K/O. Becker said that many movement

methods have been considered and reconsidered by the ITTC. He added that the CoCC is an open committee, that whoever wished to suffer through a few thousand emails a year is welcome to contribute their ideas to find the best formats.

GCoC Amendments

Jan Martel presented the proposed changes to the GCoC, (Exhibit 3 in the Agenda). Of special mention was a new rule that forbids providing an inducement to a player to NOT participate in a USBC, and a new rule that a participant must intend to compete in the WBF championship for which the USBF Championship is a selection trial. The changes were all approved.

3 or 4 USBC's Every 4 Years

61% of trialists responded to the USBF's poll on whether there should be a USBC every year, or 3 out of every 4 years. Jan reported that 77% of those polled favored holding a USBC every year. Further analysis of voting patterns suggested that this view was held by pros and amateurs, although 6 of the 8 clients favored the 3-out-of-4 year viewpoint. The USBF Board reaffirmed that there shall be a USBC every year.

USBF-ITTC Relationship

Becker asked and the USBF Board re-affirmed its relationship with the ITTC in the USBF's Board minutes (Exhibit 4 in the Agenda). The USBF Board takes primary responsibility for site selection, hotel negotiation, finances and hospitality. The USBF Board will normally accept ITTC recommendations regarding the Conditions of Contest.

2009-2010 USBC Location

Jan mentioned that the 2009 USBC will be in White Plains, but the site for the 2010 USBC has not been determined. A west coast location is preferred, but so far, Las Vegas hotels are unwilling to empty guest rooms to make room for bridge tables. Becker mentioned that the 2008 USBC had an anonymous donor who was contributing \$10,000 to hold the USBC in Florida. Pratap questioned whether corporate sponsors could be found. Jan said that Gallery Furniture sponsored the Houston USBC for about \$25,000 and that the name of the Vugraph was once sold for \$5,000.

USBF Finances

Jan reported that the USBCs are breaking even. The \$1.95 ACBL tag line provides about \$50,000 a year in revenue. The ACBL International Fund (funded by players who contribute to it thru card fees) provides about \$200,000 a year. Overall, without any ACBL support, the USBF would come up about \$1,000,000 short every 4 year cycle. In addition, starting next year, the ACBL will pay \$1.00 per member per year to the WBF (up from \$0.50 a year this year).

Grievance Procedures Resolution

The following resolution was approved:

The ITTC recommends to the USBF that:

1. it review the Grievance Committee Procedures and the infractions that cause that committee to convene in light of the Shanghai incident involving the Women's USA1 team.
2. all U.S. participants in WBF events* shall sign a form containing a "Code of Conduct," similar to the form used in 2002, but more detailed.

Jan mentioned that the USBF Board will form committee(s) that will revise the Grievance, Appeals & Disciplinary Procedures, develop a code of conduct and perhaps review the By-laws.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Monday, July 16, 2007 Nashville meeting were approved.

Adjournment

Rose Meltzer's offer to hold the Detroit ITTC meeting in her suite was accepted. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM on the 64th birthday of its chairman. Should the ITTC have a mandatory retirement age of 65 for chair persons?