

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**

**June 27, 2002
8:00 A.M. CST - Conference Call**

Directors Present: Michael Becker, Shawn Quinn, Dan Morse, Bob Friend, Nick Nickell, Arnold Jones, Jay Baum, Bruce Reeve

Others Present: Peter Rank, Jean Patterson, Mary Oshlag

Call to Order and Quorum Established

Mike Becker called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 1 and May 29 meetings were unavailable.

Protecting USBF Logo

A discussion of whether or not to register the USBF logo resulted in no motion being made, but the Board asked Rank to look into improving on Zdancewicz's estimate of \$500-\$1,000 and report back.

Registering Teams for World Championship

Jones and Friend reported that ABA players had experienced difficulty entering the events in Montreal. Becker advised they register to play thru Rena Hetzer, the USBF person in charge of registration. Quinn suggested that we need to have an explanation of how to register for Montreal events on the USBF website.

International Sites for World Events

The USBF Board resolved that it is opposed to WBF events being held in any country where the U.S. State Department recommends that US citizens defer non-essential travel. Becker shall write a letter to the ACBL's WBF delegates expressing this view.

Bylaws Amendment

In the Bylaws amendment presented by email on June 6th, Rank announced some typographical errors. The word "Active" was inserted in three places and "of the USBF" added in one place. The Board is to vote on the Amendment after July 7th.

The Bylaws definition of "Athlete" was revisited. Quinn thought that the definition of an athlete

should include being an ACBL Grand Master or perhaps placing highly in open world events – not having qualified through a trials. No motions were made.

In the “Composition of Nominating Subcommittee and Procedures for Nominations” document, the Board clarified which members of the Nominating Committee can vote for which proposed candidates in the various categories. ABA members of the Nominating Committee vote for the ABA candidates and Athletes. ACBL members of the Nominating Committee vote for ACBL candidates and Athletes. Athlete members of the Nominating Committee vote only for Athletes. Rank will make modifications to the procedures and present them to the Board at its next meeting.

Final Disposition of SLC Matter

Rank reported on the final disposition of a USBF member testing positive for ethanol in Salt Lake City. Since ethanol is not a prohibited substance, the USBF, WBF and IOC have all closed the case. Rank and Becker will inform the player involved of the history and disposition of the matter, provide the person with a letter from the WBF closing the matter, and advise the player to obtain counsel if such player had any questions about the IOC’s file on the matter.

Committees

Tournament Committee

1. Conditions of Contest Suggestions

Quinn suggested that competitors who play Mid Chart conventions must file on time or not play them.

Becker suggested that as part of the play conditions, it should be added that cell phones and pagers are prohibited.

2. USBC Report

Becker reported that the USBF’s first USBC went very well. Participants thought the format of the event was better than in previous USBC’s. There were few complaints about the format. Many suggestions were made to make the event even better next year. Some players reported hotel problems, especially the first day when the hotel was fully booked. The Board congratulated Nickell on his victory.

2. Website Broadcast of USBC

Becker reported that up to 500 people viewed the semi-finals and finals and that the Bridge Base Internet broadcast went well. The difficulty accessing the Bridgebase site thru the USBF site can be corrected. The Board resolved to broadcast all USBC’s thru Bridge Base, a free site, beginning with the Junior Trials this July, and allocated up to \$300 per day to broadcast the last two matches in each event. The Board was grateful to Fred Gitelman for providing his site.

3. Volunteers Appreciated

It was agreed that Barbara Nudelman and Rena Hetzer be sent gifts from Harry & David as token of appreciation for work done.

Volunteers who worked at the USBC will be sent a letter of appreciation and a thank you shall

also appear on the Website.

Fred Gitelman was sent a letter of thanks and appreciation by Quinn and Becker.

4. USJBC Conditions of Contest

After making a small amendment, the Junior Conditions were approved and will be posted on the USBF website quickly.

5. Captains Lists

The Board decided to not keep a captains list for the Open, Women's and Senior US teams representing the US in international play. These teams will nominate their own captains, subject to Board approval. A captains list will be prepared for the Junior USBC winners, even though juniors may submit any name, whether on the list or not. The JITTC shall submit a captains list to the Tournament Committee, and ultimately, the Board, for approval

Elections Committee

The Elections Committee reported that it held its first (organizational) meeting. Much work has to be done. The Board thought that the Bylaws and any nomination and election rules should be as complete as possible before the nomination process begins, even if perfecting the rules delays the election.

Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

On Monday, July 8, a vote on the Bylaws Amendment may be conducted by e-mail.

The USBF World Relations Committee will meet Friday, July 19, at 10:30 a.m.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. CST.