

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

**Wednesday, October 2, 2002
8:00 A.M. CDT - Via Conference Call**

Directors Present: President Michael Becker, Arnold Jones, Dan Morse, Nick Nickell, Alan Popkin, Shawn Quinn, Bruce Reeve

Others Present: Charlotte Blaiss, Gary Blaiss, Galen Hardy, Peter Rank

Call to Order and Quorum Established

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 4, 2002 meeting with revisions suggested by Dan Morse, were approved.

JITTC Committee

Jade Barrett, Henry Bethe, Anne Hoffman, Bob Rosen and Blair Seidler were approved to be on the JITTC captain's list.

The Board appointed Mike Cappelletti, Jr., as Captain of USA Junior I and Bob Rosen as Captain of USA Junior II.

The Board noted the ACBL's resolution on junior fund money (Exhibit 1). Morse thought that this resolution would allow management to have more direct control over the junior funds. Reeve believes the resolution will not pass.

Charlotte Blaiss was asked to develop a USBF Code of Conduct for use by the captain and players representing the USBF abroad.

Blair Seidler was appointed to the JITTC.

Tournament Committee

There was a discussion about a USBF Resident who did not fill out a USBF Resident form. The Board decided that the person must fill out the form prior to the Reisinger to be eligible for positioning points as provided in the USBC Conditions of Contest.

The Board approved that the USBC will take place from June 1 to June 9, 2003, at the East Memphis Hilton. Card fees will not increase.

World Relations Committee

The Board decided against becoming involved in recommending certain candidates over other candidates, or asking for a designated slot in the ACBL's WBF delegate election.

The Board urged WBF delegates to work toward keeping the five delegates already allotted to Zone II. The Board would like the ACBL's delegates to be responsive to the wishes of all of the ACBL's NCBOs.

The World Relations Committee should meet with members of the ACBL's International Events Committee prior to and/or during its Phoenix meeting, via conference call.

The USBF Board should be put on the electronic distribution list to receive the ACBL Management Report, the Journal (agenda for the subsequent ACBL Board Meeting) and the WBF Representative report.

The Board reaffirmed to wait until a formal report was received on the player that refused a drug test in Montreal before considering any response.

Becker reported that Jay Baum requested and received the requirements to host a WBF Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup. Baum reported that Damiani is interested, but asked that they wait until Phoenix to discuss further.

The Board resolved to suggest that the ACBL and its NCBOs form a committee to discuss national, zonal, and international drug policy and issue a report and recommendation to all the entities by February 15th. Exhibit 2 is a resolution for consideration by the ACBL Board at the Washington meeting, however, it was tabled until the Phoenix meeting. The USBF President will appoint any representatives to such a committee. Becker thinks that a doctor and lawyer should be on the committee. Becker provided the results of an online survey on the drug issue (Exhibit 3), but the results were inconclusive. After a long discussion it was agreed that this was a complex issue.

The Board tabled the issue of composing a drug certification letter (as previously provided by the ACBL) until after the suggested joint committee issued a report.

Dan Morse will forward a report from the Netherlands on mind sport drug policy.

Elections Committee

The Elections Committee is working to prepare the ballot, ballot cover letter, return envelope and bio enclosures for Nov 7th mailing.

Board Turnover

Becker led a discussion of how to turnover the old Board to the new Board. It was agreed to supply the following information to new members:

1. USBF Organizational Chart, Bylaws and Rules
2. Election Time Line Document (not written yet)
3. Contact lists and list of Board and committee members
4. Minutes of (only) the previous Board meeting

Rank said that the new Board's first meeting in January shall be organizational, where the officers are elected, and perhaps, committee chairpersons are appointed.

Rank also said that all committee members serve at the pleasure of the Board, and that the new Board could review committee composition.

In addition, new Board members will be invited to the Board's December 18th meeting.

Miscellaneous

The Board agreed that meetings are not open, but Board members may invite people to attend. Becker reported that he has received suggestions that the term "athlete" be redefined to include players who have won or done well in world events, but not through a Trials.

Future Meetings

The next Board meeting will be at 8:00 A.M. CDT on Wednesday, November 13th.

A meeting in Phoenix is scheduled for 10:30 am CDT on Thursday, December 5th

The final meeting of the Board will be at 8:00 am CDT on Wednesday, December 18th. Newly elected Board members will be invited to this meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am CDT.

(Exhibit 1) ACBL Board resolution

Submitted by: Jonathan Steinberg Date: September 9, 2002

Item 023-165: Junior Fund Money

Moved that:

Effective immediately, all junior fund money shall be treated as marketing funds specifically targeted for junior programs and junior players. ACBL management shall have complete control over how the money is spent.

This is an effort to turn over control of the Junior Fund to management (to spend as it see fit). At this time the ACBL BOD with input from USBF directs how the money should be spent. In my opinion, all 3 groups (Management, ACBL, & USBF) want the funding of he Junior teams to continue.

Dan Morse

(Exhibit 2) Drug Policy

A. ACBL Item 022-116: Eligibility for WBF Championships

An ACBL NBO is encouraged to nominate a player for invitation to play in a WBF Championship only if he or she:

1. is a citizen of the United States or a resident of the United States according to ACBL Management criteria or a citizen or resident of Canada, or Mexico, as appropriate,
2. is a member of good standing in the USBF, CBF or Mexican Bridge Federation,
3. meets WBF criteria and/or conditions for nomination, ignoring participation in multinational events,
4. will not, at the time of the event, be under ACBL suspension,
5. will not, at the time of the event, be under ACBL probation where the period of such probation was more than 90 days,
6. has not been specifically excluded from playing in such event by an appropriate disciplinary body under ACBL jurisdiction,
7. has not been refused nomination by the Board of Directors for reasons of personal hygiene, dress, deportment or ethics,
8. has not played in events in more than one NBO, in which he or she was eligible for qualification to represent that NBO in the same WBF Championship (same event and year),
9. has submitted a signed and dated certification statement, provided by management of the applicable NBO concerning the use of illegal drugs and inappropriate behavior during the course of any event requiring nomination and approval by the applicable NBO credential committee

Deferred to Fall 2002 meeting.

Carried: Abstain: 7

(Exhibit 3)

Dear ITTC, WITTC, SITTC, JITTC member:

There has been some Internet buzz re: WBF drug policy lieu of:

1. a USBF player refusing to be tested in Montreal and being disqualified and stripped of her medal, and
2. the IOC Program committee recommending to the full IOC that bridge not be recognized as an Olympic sport.

As you know, the WBF administers random drug tests to participants in late rounds of major events identical with Olympic drug tests. The tests are expensive and administered by an independent authority. The tests cover drugs that may enhance physical or mental performance. Many of the medications that people "our age" take are banned, but the WBF historically has not taken action for testing positive for prescribed medications. USBF members representing the US through a trials have been required to sign a statement saying that they will not test positive for illegal or performance enhancing drugs (to be defined) at an upcoming world championship.

Below is the WBF Press release (which started the buzz), followed by comments made by ACBL Board members and me. I said I would ask "the top players" for comments on the WBF's drug policy. Hence, you are now in the loop.

This is not a big (x)ITTC issue yet. Feel free to comment or not comment as you wish, although **a yes or no to the five questions below would help "inform" the ACBL and USBF Board as to our feelings about drug tests.**

THE FIVE QUESTIONS:

Please answer the following questions **yes or no**:

Note, there is a requirement (see 1 in the press release below) that to be recognized by the IOC as a "sports federation" that the WBF administer drug tests.

1. I support the WBF drug tests as they are presently structured, regardless of whether they are required for the WBF to be recognized as a sports federation or not.

RESULT: Yes 4 No 9

2. I support whatever drug tests the WBF requires, but only if necessary to comply with the efforts for bridge to become an Olympic sport.

RESULT: Yes 5 No 8

3. I support WBF drug tests if the tests are only for drugs that may be performance enhancing...for bridge players.

RESULT: Yes 5 No 7 (1 abstain)

- 4 The ACBL should administer random drug tests (that test for performance enhancing drugs for bridge players) to participants in NABC events.

RESULT Yes 5 No 8

5. I do **not** support drug tests of bridge players.

RESULT Yes 4 No 9

Based on the first four answers, I think that the respondents did not answer question five correctly because it was posed in the negative.

Just email me back one line: consisting of yes or no to each question.

REFER TO EMAILED DOCUMENT THAT CONTAINS EMAIL DISCUSSION OF DRUG POLICY OF WBF, ACBL, USBF
