

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019**  
**8:00 PM EST**  
**BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Directors Present: Kate Aker, Mark Aquino, Marty Fleisher, Brad Moss, Beth Palmer, Josh Parker; Absent: David Caprera

Others Present: Jan Martel, Stan Subeck

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Fleisher at 8:05 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 JANUARY 28, 2019**

The Minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

**IV. BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The Board discussed the proposed new Bylaws, decided to change "Trials" to "USBCs" and to eliminate the requirement that a person not be on 90 days probation to be a regular member. With those changes, the Board tentatively approved the new Bylaws, but will vote on them formally in Memphis.

**V. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

The Board unanimously voted to reorganize the Tournament Committee into a USBF Tournament Policy Committee, which essentially replaces the ITTC, the WITTC, the SITTC as an overall Policy Committee for all four USBF events; and a USBF Systems Committee to review systems rules and systems filings for all four of the USBCs; and a Technical Committee to deal with technical Conditions of Contest issues for all four USBF events. Jeff Aker has agreed to remain as Chair of all 3 committees.

**VI. NABF DIRECTORS**

The Board will discuss by email how to choose NABF Directors.

**VII. WBF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES.**

Deferred to email discussion and a subsequent meeting.

**VIII. SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP**

Kate discussed publicity to encourage people to become Supporting Members. The Board agreed to help with getting articles in local publications to encourage people to be Supporting Members. We will update the USBF website to include a page describing the Supporting Member category and there will be a link to that page from the ACBL dues page where ACBL members can become USBF Supporting Members.

**IX. 2019 USBCS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

Deferred to Memphis meeting

**X. NPC STANDARDS**

The Board discussed what objective standards would be appropriate. The NPC Subcommittee report is attached. The Board agreed to discuss further in Memphis and also to have someone contact the members of teams that qualify for the World Championships to discuss the importance of having a good NPC.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be at the Memphis NABC on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am..

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 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