

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021
12:30 PM EST
BY ZOOM CALL

Directors Present: Dave Caprera, Aaron Silverstein, Steve Garner, Mark Aquino, Sheri Winestock, Lynn Baker, Kate Aker

Others Present: Julie Arbit, Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Brad Moss, Suzi Subeck

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Brad Moss at 12:30 pm EST.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

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. ELECT 2021 OFFICERS

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

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

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

IV. APPROVE COMMITTEES

Dave moved to approve the following committees. Committee changes can be made by President and Vice President throughout the year if needed. Unanimously approved.

Ethics Investigation Committee

Dana Berkowitz
Eugene Hung
Roger Lee
Chip Martel
Steve Weinstein
Jenny Wolpert

**Tournament Policy Committee and
Tournament Technical Committee**

Chair: Jeff Aker

Tournament Systems Committee

Jeff Aker, Chair
Sam Dinkin
Al Hollander
Danny Sprung
Chris Willenken

Bylaws Committee

Marty Harris, Chair
Jack Oest
Josh Parker
Lynn Baker

Nominating Committee

Marty Fleisher, Chair
Lisa Berkowitz
Geoff Hampson
Sylvia Moss
Josh Parker

Elections Committee

Brad Moss, Chair
Dave Caprera
Sheri Winestock

Finance Committee

Jan Martel, Chair
Kate Aker
Dave Caprera
Sheri Winestock
Stan Subeck

Junior Committee

Joe Stokes, Chair
Dave Caprera
Owen Lien
Jan Martel
Michael Rosenberg

Stipend Committee

Josh Parker, Chair
Kate Aker
Mark Aquino
Jan Martel
Stan Subeck

Credentials Committee

Kevin Bathurst
Cheri Bjerkan
Bart Bramley
Ira Chorush
Marty Fleisher
Gail Greenberg
Sue Picus
Kerri Sanborn
Lew Stansby
Peggy Sutherlin
Howard Weinstein

Tournament Appeals Coordinators & Tournament Appeals Committee

Panel:

Suzi Subeck
Mark Aquino
Martha Katz

Panel list at <https://usbf.org/usbf-committees/tournament-appeals-committee-panel>

Tournament Planning Committee

Jan Martel, Chair
Lisa Berkowitz
Matthew Granovetter
McKenzie Myers
Sylvia Moss
Tom Reynolds
Suzi Subeck

Tournament Hospitality Committee

Lisa Berkowitz, Chair
Kate Aker
Julie Arbit
Martha Katz
Suzi Subeck

Vugraph Committee

Jan Martel
Oren Kriegel
Danny Sprung

Joe Stokes

V. USBF INVITATIONAL 1

Because of the recent Adjudicatory Committee Decision, Dave moved to vacate the USBF Invitational 1 title, and leave it vacant. The Board unanimously approved. The Board then discussed whether the same procedure should be followed if this comes up in the future for an event that is not selecting USBF international teams, and agreed that it should. Aaron moved to vacate any place earned by a team that was either disqualified or withdrew in a future event that doesn't select international teams, and to leave all other placings unchanged. The Board unanimously agreed.

The Board noted that there are already procedures in place to deal with a team that is disqualified or withdraws in a selection event, and those do not need to be changed.

VI. 2021 USBCS

The WBF has tentatively scheduled the 2021 World Championship in Salsomaggiore, Italy for Aug 21-Sep 4, 2021. This includes all events - Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Senior Bowl, Mixed Teams. If the 2021 events are canceled, the WBF has currently said that the World Bridge Games (former Olympiad) will be held in 2022, the World Bridge Team Championships in 2023, and the World Bridge Series ("Rosenblum") in 2024, but this is subject to change.

Without holding an official vote, the USBF Board decided in principle to host USBCs beginning in May 2021, unless the 2021 WCs are canceled or postponed before then. The Board directed Jan to make specific proposals and to consult with the hotel people about what would be possible.

The initial stages of all events would be online. Live play would begin in Schaumburg starting as early as the Round of 8, but perhaps the Round of 4 for some or all events. The women's USA1 Semifinal would overlap the beginning of a semifinal of another event (open or senior's).

Live play would be socially distanced, using individual tablets, with only two screenmates in a room together. Many more safety protocols would be used, and consequences established for disregarding the required safety procedures.

If the WC is canceled before online play starts, the events will be canceled.

If the WC is canceled after online play starts but before face to face play starts, the events will be completely online.

If the WC is canceled after face to face starts, the events would be completed, and the winners would either receive some reward - either the right to be USA1 in 2022 if it is a 2-team year, or guaranteed byes to late stages (Semifinal, or Quarterfinal) in the 2022 USBCs, or some monetary support for any player who

competes in the next Rosenblum, McConnell, Senior or Mixed event in a World Bridge Series. Exactly what will happen is to be discussed at a future meeting.

Suzi is hopeful that a WBF Management Committee meeting will be scheduled soon that will provide more concrete information about the WC plans.

Mark moved to formalize an intent to host 2021 USBCs with preliminary online stages and subsequent live play. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm EST.