

03.2 NABC – Long Beach, CA
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Sunday, July 20, 2003, 10:30 A.M.

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

Present: Dave Berkowitz, Gary Blaiss, Peter Boyd, Rich Colker, Chris Compton, Joan Gerard, Jan Martel, Chip Martel, Dan Morse, John Sutherlin, Adam Wildavsky, Bobby Wolff

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Philadelphia, PA, Spring 2003 NABC meeting were approved.

USBF Expenses

Wolff, Compton and Becker led a discussion of how and where the USBF's money was being spent.

2003 Conditions of Contest

Becker appreciated the contributions of Compton and Jan Martel in moving the 2004 Conditions of Contest forward, and also noted that a teleconference of the Conditions of Contest Committee went very well.

Becker led a discussion based on suggested changes made by the Conditions of Contest Committee.

1. A revised plan for awarding PPs which was presented by Chip Martel and approved.
2. A discussion of ACBL seeding points awarded to foreign players who then became residents resulted in no change in the way the current conditions are interpreted, but it was suggested that the conditions be clearer.
3. A discussion on capping ACBL seeding points at 40 for RR seeding resulted in no change in the current conditions.
4. A discussion of the RR - K/O Tournament Length and starting dates/times resulted in adopting a new formula based on the initial RR entry ratio to the slots available in the round of 16. When only one or two teams would be eliminated from the RR, there would be a preliminary RR instead, amongst teams with the fewest SPs.
5. The Committee approved a starting date of Friday morning, June 4th for the USBC, but forgot to approve the site. [After the meeting, the Executive Committee approved the same hotel as last year, now called the Double Tree]
6. The Committee discussed whether the current reward for winning the RR sufficient. The committee concluded that perhaps there should be additional perks given to top placings in the RR, but those proposed by Henry Bethe in Exhibit one were too much. Martel thought about ¼ of Bethe's proposal was appropriate. Becker thought the right to re-draw lots for one's opponent should be combined with offering a small number of PPs. The matter was deferred for further discussion.

7. Shenkin proposed that good performance in the USBC should be rewarded with PPs for the next cycle, starting with the 2004 trials. A straw poll of the committee supported the proposal, but because a scale could not be created before the 2004 cycle began, the matter was deferred for further discussion.
8. The Committee agreed to write the ACBL suggesting awarding ACBL seeding points for the USBC and other Trials, including other countries, beginning with the 2004 Trials.
9. Should fees be paid before or after the event in which PPs could be/are earned?
The committee agreed to ask the USBF Board to reconsider its decision to collect Active Member Dues BEFORE an event begins. The Committee supported a compromise plan where those who earn PPs at an event would have a window after the event ended to decide whether to pay Dues and keep PPs for bye purposes.
10. Other Agenda items were not taken up at all:
 - a. Resolving residency matters: for the Board or for the Credential Committee?
 - b. General Conditions of Contest
 - c. Compton and Weinstein proposals on slow play (Exhibit 2)
 - d. VP scale revisions prepared by Bethe's ad-hoc group.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 P.M.

**ITT Conditions of Contest Committee
Minutes of the Conference Call Meeting
Monday, July 8, 2003, 8:00 P.M.**

Michael Becker and Chris Compton conducted the meeting

Present: Ira Chorush, Rich Colker, Chris Compton, Joan Gerard, Henry Bethe, Jan Martel, Chip Martel, Mary Oshlag, Barnet Shenkin, John Sutherlin, Adam Wildavsky, Bobby Wolff, Kit Woolsey

A large group.

1. Adjusting PPs needed for a bye.

The committee approved Chip Martel's recommendation of a change where teams with between 37 and 45 PPs would get byes to the round of 16 when there were less than 6 bye slots taken up. The committee agreed that teams with 37-45 PPs that were tied for the last bye position would not get byes.

2. Seeding points for residents who have been awarded some by ACBL.

It was agreed that and that the conditions should clarify and confirm that any V/S points awarded (not earned in combat) by the ACBL to residents would count in determining a players ACBL seeding points per Appendix B.

3. Capping ACBL seeding points at ...40 SPs for Rd of 16 seeding.

It was agreed that there should be no cap on V/S points, even though there are caps on PPs and MPs.

4. RR - K/O tournament length and starting dates/times.

It was agreed that Becker's proposal revising RR lengths be incorporated into the conditions.

The current definitions of medium, large and extra large entries would be revised.

Becker was asked to draw up a method whereby, in a 2.5 or 3 day RR, some teams may qualify or be eliminated with one day of play remaining.

It was agreed to ask the Hilton to begin the event on Saturday, regardless of RR length.

5. Is the reward for winning the RR sufficient?

The committee asked Henry Bethe to prepare a proposal that awards PPs to top performers in the RR.

The committee rediscussed whether there should be PPs awarded for past trials performance, but no conclusion was reached. It would be discussed at the July meeting of the C-o-t-W.

6. Review small wording changes in conditions.

Several small changes made by Becker and Compton were brought to the committee's attention and approved.

7. Should fees be paid before or after the event in which PPs could be/are earned?

(Kamil team gets bye but can't use it last year because they were not Active members prior to the Vandy).

The CoC Committee recommended to the C-o-t-W that it ask the USBF Board to reconsider charging dues before an event earning PPs. One suggestion, originating from Stansby, suggests that players may join before an event, but allows them to join within a short period after the event for double the dues.

8. Percentage of boards requirement.

It was agreed that the conditions should state that no exemptions from playing requirements will be granted prior to the start of play for any reason. Also, the Conduct and Ethics Committee may sanction a player and/or his team if such player failed to play the required percentage of boards for non-health related reasons.

9. Matters involving slow play and convention filing were tabled.

10. The authority of the ITT Executive Committee after entries close was replaced by committees composed of non-participants.

11. Overview of USBF General Conditions.

Jan Martel is planning to separate all the USBF conditions into a General Conditions and a specific conditions for each event. The General Conditions would include such subjects as: Slow Play, Conventions Submission, Victory Points, Eligibility, Play Requirements, Penalties for Tardiness, Tie Breaks. It was not clear whether the General Conditions would be ready for this year.