

DRAFT
2011.3 NABC – Seattle, WA
ITT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Wednesday, November 30, 2011 - 10:30 a.m.

Michael Becker, ITTC Chairman, conducted the International Team Trials Committee Meeting.

6 others were Present: David Berkowitz, Peter Boyd, Mark Feldman, Bruce Rogoff, Mike Rosenberg, Howie Weinstein.

Becker called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Size of Meeting

The all-time record low turnout was disappointing, especially since many new Google Group members were added since Toronto. Becker welcomed Bruce Rogoff and Mike Rosenberg, new attendees emerging from internet discussions. Due to the small size of the meeting, if an ITTC Google Group member questions or disagrees with any of the matters agreed to at the meeting, they should make their beliefs known.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Monday, July 25, 2011, Toronto meeting were approved.

2012 CoCs

Becker went over the redlined changes to the 2012 CoCs made at the Toronto meeting. These changes (eliminating Appendices A, B and D) were approved. No further changes have been proposed since the Toronto meeting. The 2012 Conditions are "probably" finished, subject to some tweaking of Appendix C after entries close April 9, 2012.

2013 CoCs

Becker reported that after 470 emails over 3 months, the ITTC Google Group passed a motion to hold a USA2 teams repechage in 2013 by a 28 to 11 vote. The committee approved. The discussion of when the teams repechage should begin was tabled, subject to further discussion by the ITTC Google Group.

Online Voting

Revised online voting rules were introduced by Becker. Whether a voter had to be a dues paying Active Member was discussed and rejected. There was a concern that people could sign up late and "pack" the vote, without having followed the discussion. The following wording was approved:

"Eligible voters are those who have subscribed to the USBF-ITTC Google Group well before a particular vote* was called.

*The chairman would determine what "well before a particular vote" meant. The chairman intends to consult with the TC before making decisions on voting eligibility.

Further, to be eligible, the voter must have either previously played in a USBC in the past 5 years, or have entered and paid the entry fee for a future USBC, or be an administrator (as determined by the chairman).”

Becker mentioned that he hoped Henry Bethe and Gary Blaiss would vote (they abstained in recent votes), and he would consider them, and possibly others, (depending on the matter being voted upon), as administrators. The USBF B.O.D. and C.O.O. are considered administrators.

Communication

Becker presented several new efforts to communicate with USBC participants, and invite them to participate in ITTC Google Group discussions.

--The USBF will email Active Members and invite them to join the ITTC Google Group and/or attend ITTC NABC Meetings.

--The <http://www.usbf.org/> website has created a link to the ITTC Google Group in its “Committees” section.

--The ITTC Google Group <http://groups.google.com/group/usbf-ittc/subscribe> has created three links to what the voting rules are.

Rosenberg suggested and the committee agreed that the ITTC write Bridge Winners <http://www.bridgewinners.com/> to try to attract additional (and probably younger) ITTC Google Group members.

Committees

Becker mentioned that the **Executive Committee** had not acted in more than 8 years. Its original purpose was to act on behalf of the ITTC on emergency matters that arose in-between ITTC NABC meetings. Becker mentioned that his current procedure, if such matters were to arise, would be to consult with the Technical Committee. It was agreed to disband the Executive Committee.

Weinstein thought that without an Executive Committee, that the ITTC should have a Vice-Chairman, whose primary duty would be to lead the NABC ITTC meetings if the chair was unavailable. Berkowitz suggested Weinstein. Weinstein suggested Boyd. Boyd declined, and suggested Weinstein. Weinstein was appointed as Vice-Chairman by the committee. Weinstein’s suggestion was much appreciated.

The **ITTC Technical Committee**, <http://groups.google.com/group/usbf-tc> as defined in older minutes, is a sub-committee of the ITTC, and deals with matters involving the appendices and other minutia issues. It reports its recommendations to the ITTC, which generally rubber stamps them. (The ITTC deals with “global” CoC and USBC matters). Also, the TC is the body that interprets the USBC CoCs before the Vanderbilt ends or provides input to the DIC after the Vanderbilt ends but before the event starts. Becker said that he has effectively used the Technical Committee for chairmanly matters, such as, recently, how and when to present issues for discussion to the ITTC, writing such presentations, and resolving questions on voting eligibility *during* the voting process. With this in mind, it was agreed to rename the Technical Committee, the “**Technical and Advisory Committee**,” and to expand its powers to aid the chairman on matters of presentation, procedure and process. The USBF-TC Google Group is mechanically set up so that ITTC Google Group members can join by applying to the link above. Unlike the

ITTC Google Group, one has to register to read the discussions. There was an inconclusive discussion as to whether this committee should be an open committee or one whose membership requires approval of the ITTC or the TC or the chairman. The first page of the CoCs will be amended per the above.

NABC Meetings & Google Group Meetings – Which Group is Senior?

With the size of the ITTC Google Group increasing and the size of the NABC ITTC meetings decreasing, the committee reviewed which body has the last word on matters that come before it. Becker described the current procedure, which is that the NABC ITTC Meeting has the “final” say-so, but rubber stamps any internet motion that has been passed by a 60% majority, and approves matters by a simple majority, when all else has failed. This procedure has worked well in the past, and some in-person NABC meetings have resulted in improvements to previously passed internet motions. Boyd suggested, and the committee agreed, that the NABC meeting continue to be the “deciding” committee, but that it not have the power to reverse a carried Google Group motion. The NABC ITTC could remand a motion back to the Google Group for further discussion if it finds good reason to do so.

ITTC CoC Letterhead

Becker brought up the recurring cosmetic issue of which names appear on the first page of the CoCs as ITTC members. The previously agreed procedure was to put on the page the names of those who attend ITTC NABC meetings (even if less than frequently), as determined by the chairman. The committee agreed to add to this list, contributors to the ITTC Google Group discussions, also, as determined by the chairman. The first page of the 2012 CoCs will be amended accordingly.

USBF Update

Weinstein, the only USBF Board Member in attendance, had nothing to report on several matters. Weinstein said that the location of the 2012 Olympiad was still unknown, and that the 2016 Olympiad was likely to be in Rio De Janiero, Brazil.

Subjective Vs Objective Seeding

Berkowitz led a discussion of the importance of subjective seeding, especially for the lower seeded (higher numbered) teams, and that subjective seeding in the V/S had worked well. Boyd stated his preference for objective seeding. Berkowitz complained that the 2010 USBC had unbalanced RR1 brackets, and that subjective seeding could have corrected this problem, but Becker added that Jan Martel’s analysis showed that after the 2010 RR2, each RR bracket produced an equal number of survivors, alternating their placing position in the RR. There was some support for subjectively seeding bottom four teams. The discussion ended with no motion. Berkowitz was asked to lead an internet discussion on the matter. [Berkowitz was asked to lead this same discussion in March and July 2010, and the matter was tabled in November 2010, subject to Berkowitz actually leading the discussion!-MB]

Adjournment and Notice of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 19, 2012, at the Memphis Marriott Downtown a time and room to be announced. The summer NABC in Philly will start all NABC+ events at 10:00 a.m., which may present a problem for scheduling the ITTC meeting. Better to try to avoid having a summer meeting!