

**NCTTA Board of Directors MTG
December 20, 2010**

In attendance: Joe Wells (JEW), Willy Leparulo (WL), David Del Vecchio (DD), Randy Kendle (RK), Chris Wang (CW), Francois Charvet (FC)

Mtg started at 9:02pm

1) League/Championship Document

- WL asked if DD and JEW can update the document, taking out monthly payment
- document may be adapted after redevelopment

2) 3 Goals request

- DD asks that each BOD create 2 ideas for each of the 3 goals: Growth/Recruitment, highschool TT, scholarship schools
- Highschool Hub created

3) Championship fees

- 120 per plus 20 per player was agreed upon
- discussion was should it be 120 per team or per school and it was decided to have it per team vs per school but there will be incentive for women's schools to come

Redevelopment Recommendations For NCTTA Board presented by Randy Kendle on behalf of

(Christian Lillieroos, Willy Leparulo, Stephanie Shih, Mike Babuin, David Livings)

RETENTION/RECRUITMENT (FUTURE GROWTH)

The Redevelopment effort is designed to keep the common college table tennis player involved in competition by offering them more local opportunities in which to compete. The focus needs to be on smaller Division sizes with less travel for the players. An increase in the number of colleges participating is likely to occur if we make it more convenient for them. Hosting the singles competition at the same time as the Teams competition is one simple example of convenience. Offering them a Regional competition will make the less highly ranked teams feel more competitive as they battle against nearby teams and players for a shot at the Nationals. Teams that finish second in their Division will no longer feel like their season has ended by a dominating Division opponent.

ELIGIBILITY

Continue to use the same eligibility criteria that is being used for the Teams competition. A year played in any NCTTA event is a year of eligibility used for both Teams and Singles. Any NCTTA event is defined as participating on the “official” A-team for a school in the Division Teams competition, Regional Teams competition, or National Teams competition; as well as competing in any NCTTA Singles competition since there is no distinction between an “official” and “unofficial” singles match. All Singles matches are “official”.

RATINGS

NCTTA ratings will take precedence when one is available. If a player does not yet have a NCTTA rating, any other reliable information, including past USATT or foreign ratings, may be used by the Ratings committee to estimate their initial NCTTA rating. A player that has no rating will need to be given an accurate initial NCTTA rating by someone familiar with that particular player’s ability and agreed to by the NCTTA Ratings committee.

TIMELINE

Division Directors must have the flexibility to determine what is best for their particular situation. Players must be enrolled for the Spring semester in order to be eligible to compete in the Regional and National competitions. A deadline of February 16th (or earlier) should be established for the completion of the Division competition. A deadline of March 9th (or earlier) should be established for the completion of the Regional competition.

Communication of these Redevelopment changes should be made available to everyone in early 2011.

DIVISION SIZE

The Division size should be decreased from a minimum of four teams to a minimum of three teams. Divisions will be allowed to advance one school for every three schools competing in the Division to the Regional competition. Divisions should target for no more than six schools so there is adequate time to host both the Teams competition as well as the Spring Singles competition.

GEOGRAPHIC MAPPING

Regionals should target to have 3-4 Divisions feeding them. The minimum number of tables should be set to 8. Convenient locations with good facilities should be reserved early in the season. Consideration should be given to off-campus locations that are run by USATT-sanctioned clubs.

TEAMS

Regional competition should target 8 schools. Wildcards will be used to reach the number of 8 if the Divisions advancing schools is less than 8 total. The Regional competition should be divided into two groups of four schools. Schools advancing from the same Division should be separated into different round robin groups. If one Division advances three teams to the Regional competition, then the 2nd and 3rd place teams will compete in the same round robin group. The top two schools from each round robin move on to single elimination crossover semifinals. The winning school from round robin "A" will play the 2nd place school from round robin "B". The winning school from round robin "B" will play the 2nd place school from round robin "A". The finalists will play for 1st and 2nd. The losing semifinalists will play for 3rd and 4th. The third place finishers in each round robin will play for 5th and 6th. The fourth place finishers in each round robin will play for 7th and 8th.

WILDCARDS

A number of wildcards are to be set aside to be used for "special" Teams and Singles invitations to the Regional Championships and the National Championships. The specific number of wildcards may vary each year based on the level of participation for both the Teams and the Singles competition. The actual numbers will be decided when the number of teams/players have been registered. A wildcard will only be used after a Team/Player has competed in the required events, but failed to qualify for the Regionals or the Nationals. A wildcard is NOT to be used as a substitute for not competing when a readily available competition was offered. Wildcards will be determined using NCTTA ratings.

A wildcard for the Teams will be available for the host school of the Nationals if the competition is held on their campus. One wildcard for men's singles and one wild card for women's singles will also be made available to the host school.

In the event that wildcards are needed in singles, every effort should be made to have the players play out the competition rather than just using a NCTTA rating to determine who gets the wildcard. For example, if 5 players are to advance, then the losing quarterfinalists should play against each other to determine the true 5th place finisher(s). Then wildcards might be made available to the other losing quarterfinalists to fill up the draw.

SINGLES

Division singles competitions should be required to be held in the Spring semester. Division singles champions (both men and women) will be given direct entry into the National singles competition so that there is representation from every Division. No limit will be placed on the number of entrants for the Division competitions.

Regional singles targets of 24 men and 8 women are to be considered. There should be 6 groups of 4 players each for the men and 2 groups of 4 players each for the women. In each of the round robin groups, the top 2 will advance to single elimination crossover play. The top 4 men will have automatic byes to the quarterfinalists while the other 8 men

will compete in the round of 8. Geographic separation will be considered when snaking the round robin groups. Geographic consideration will also be used when making the “expected” single elimination crossover draw. Any upsets will simply have the winning player take the place of the “expected” player’s position in the draw. The single elimination draw will be made before the round robin competition begins. All Regional singles competitions should follow the same format to ensure consistency.

SEEDING OUT OF PLAYERS

The top NCTTA rated players should be seeded out of the preliminary round robin singles competition at the Nationals. The National tournament referee should make the final decision on the number of players to seed out based on the number of entries. The first opponent for a seeded out player should be a qualifier out of the preliminary round robin. All singles matches should be best of 5 games until the semifinals where it should be best of 7 games.

NON-NCTTA PARTICIPATING SINGLES PLAYERS

Singles players that are not on NCTTA teams will be placed into the singles competition where the player would have competed if the player’s school was participating in the Teams competition.

DOUBLES

Doubles (Men’s, Women’s, Mixed) will be limited to same school partners only. There will not be a limit as to the number of doubles pairs an individual school may enter into the competition as long as those players identified have qualified for the National championships either by being on the National Teams roster or be a National Singles qualifier for that particular school.

COST

Team costs should be separate from Singles and Doubles costs. Any player competing from a member school, regardless if they are part of that member school team/club, should be charged the same member school amount. Any singles player competing from a college/university that is not already a member of the NCTTA must first register and pay for NCTTA school membership. The initial cost will be the transitional school membership fee of \$25 for signing up in the middle of the season during the Spring singles semester. The following year any players from this school will pay the returning school membership fee of \$100 for the right to compete in the competition. After securing NCTTA membership, then these singles players will pay the same amount as any other player to compete in singles/doubles.

Cost recommendations for specific competitions are as follows...

(\$20 each) 2012 Spring Division Singles
(\$30 each) 2012 Regional Singles
(\$50 each) 2012 National Singles
(\$20 each) 2012 National Doubles
(\$50/Team) 2012 Regional Teams

Division trophies for the Teams competition should be handed out at the Regional competition. Regional trophies for both the Teams and the Singles competitions as well as the Division Singles awards should be handed out at the Nationals, along with the National trophies themselves.

Consideration should be given to centralizing the procurement and distribution of these Division awards across North America to ensure consistent quality and timeliness.

A budget category should be established whereby Division Directors and Regional Directors could request funds from the NCTTA for expenditures required to run an excellent event. Expenses such as U-haul rental for additional tables, facility fees for additional time to complete the singles event, and travel reimbursement for necessary volunteers are likely examples.

STAFFING FOR REGIONALS

Division Directors should attend their Regional competition to assist with running the tournament and get further training on the use of submitting the Excel spreadsheet with the results. Consideration should be given to getting local USATT-certified referees and umpires to assist where needed.

ENTERING SINGLES RESULTS

An Excel spreadsheet will be used to capture the results from both the Teams competition as well as the Singles competition at both the Division competitions and the Regional competitions. While the Tournament Directors will have the right to run the tournament as they see fit, they will be required to submit the results of the competition via the Excel spreadsheet to the Ratings committee.

This Excel spreadsheet will automatically format the results into the correct import format to be directly uploaded into RatingsCentral.com without having to re-key in data. Updated NCTTA ratings will be a key component on what Teams and what singles players are given invitations to the next round of competition. Timeliness and accuracy will be critical as college table tennis continues to grow.

SINGLES ONLINE ENTRY

(TBD)

Questions from NCTTA BOD

1) Eligibility

-questions about if it was the same as teams, and it is

2) TIMELINE

-concerns about not having enough time between end of division meets, start of Regional competition and National Championships

-Regional dates are flexible

-big question can regional singles and teams be at the same time? (this is the hope but not a mandate)

-most of the board agrees that it should be at the same time

The WHEN of singles tournament

-only 1 singles tournament, but when? Some on the board believe that Divisions should have more flexibility and should be allowed to do it in the Fall

-some on the board believe it causes more complexity than needed

-more discussion on hub

Divisions splitting up

-Under this area for some reason, the question about “who” is splitting up the divisions and how, when, where

-Recruiting more DD's is essential

-CW brings up that the number of DD's to train and manage may become difficult to do and a suggestion of a different organization chart

-DD suggests don't force the division to split if they don't want to

3) Geographic Mapping

3-4 Divisions feeding 1 Regional

-DD: What happens when you get more than 8 (schools)?

-RK: won't allow divisions to get that large

-RK: guidelines must be set up if there are more than 3-4 divisions feeding into 1 regional

4. Wildcard Singles

-players compete first and where possible; then ratings come into play

-discussion about the fairness of it all and where ppl place

-after much discussion it seems that the discussion was decided on just using ratings to decide it all, but still will be taken up for further discussion on hub

5. Singles Numbers

-24 for men

-8 for women

-big discussion about why only 8 for women

a) Should encourage as many women to play as possible, push up number to 16 yells
DD

- b) then why have a regionals if everyone qualifies yells WL right back
 - c) FC comes in as the face of fairness and flexibility to dictate a compromise of 12.
- No consensus is reached and to the hub it goes
-further discussion on hub

6. Seeding out players

- DD: why aren't players seeded out at the Regionals too and only at Nationals?
- WL: we make them play
- further discussion on hub

7. NON NCTTA players

WL: comments about how deciding what random non NCTTA player will go in what division may need coordination

8. Doubles

- a) Same school partner-no complaints
 - b) No limit for doubles: DD, WL finally agree on something that it will be too many pairs and take too long
- also cost of 40 per couple could be too much (RK: help deter numbers)
-further discussion on hub

9. Trophies within Regional/Division levels

- logistically is it possible to have one company create trophies and ship it out to all division and regionals?
- generic trophy or not
- who, where, when, how much
- who organizes this for each division and regional?
- further discussion on hub

10. Staffing Regionals

- DD: who is charge of Regionals?
- CW: 4 Divisions represented means 4 DD's why do we need outside person?
- WL: maybe within 4 Divisions there are not a couple of competent DD's available at that date
- further discussion on the hub

11. Excel sheet presentation on Ratings

- Randy discusses with board different results excel sheet for both singles and team events that DD's must learn about
- DD points out that results are different then ratings and that we need to have it streamlines with Dan's system on the NCTTA website
- RK: points out that CW is working with Dan on that

MTG Adjourned at 12:17am