

NCTTA Board of Directors, April 6, 2014

In attendance: Willy Leparulo (WL), Chris Wang, (CW), Randy Kendle (RK), Kagin Lee (KGL), Kevin Li (KL), Ed Toomey (recruitment chair), Keith Lam (Great Lakes), Joe Wells (JEW), Fede Bassetti (FB), Sam Huang (SH)

Absent: Brayden Glad, Wei Li, Dan Wang, Linda Leaf, Seemant Teotia, Ryan Hsu, Ethan Danahy

Mtg Minutes passed from March 7-0-0;

Mtg started 8:03pm eastern

1. Election of Board Positions

- Vice President, Athlete Rep and Treasurer run out at end of June
- WL went over logistics of how elections are done; suggested to have an open period June 1st to 15th to have an open period to accept statement of interests and then June 15th to June 23th have votes and eventual training/replacement (if needed)
- Dan Wang is generally the elections coordinator

2. Connect Conference and BOD face 2 face

- conference in Orlando; August 24th Sunday of a face to face meeting
- great conference for cities for our champs and getting our BOD all in one place
- Fede could go for Kagin; Chris Wang could go for Joe (who is very close)

3. NCTTA Staff

- Division Directors; Regional Directors missing
- Regional Directors: South, Midwest (maybe) and Northeast
- WL will look to get South covered and Ed Toomey and Willy will look to see who is free for Northeast
- CW is working at empty DD's is requesting FEDE's help via his position HR REP
- Kevin Li stated he could do Midwest Regional Director if becomes open
- Fernando Yamazato could be a suggestion for Upper Midwest; Fede though is going to look for facilities so that whomever is the DD will have that already done
- Nelson Gore seems to not be returning as Northeast RD; Ethan Danahy would be good to have in any position

4. Committee Chairs/Members

- need to have terms; NOTICE for next bod mtg to adjust bylaws on this area
- KGL would like to see each of them reaffirm what they have done and will do
- FB talks about not being in the Tech, coaching committee and suggested that Alan Chu should be coaching chair and would like to see term limits; KGL mentions automatic 2 year terms

Motion: to request from each committee member and chair a formal statement of intent, activities, future plans, purpose. Also want us to either re affirm or not each committee member.

Proposed: KGL

Seconded: WL

Motion withdrawn

5. Three school division rule

- Current NCTTA rules stipulates that each division must have 3 schools in each area
 - What happens if a school flakes out? Can we have a solution?
 - maybe change our league schedule?
 - our rules are set so that every division is equal, but do they have to be?
 - discussed merging of the divisions and creation of clauses that will protect divisions from failing to qualify a school
 - a) FB mentions that the division switches into a transitional division for a limited amount of time, if they can't get out of that status then they are dissolved...basically put them on (academic) probation before dismissing them.
 - b) RK says "when does it stop". We used to have 4 schools as a minimum then we dropped to 3"; when does it stop?
 - CW stresses to all Divisions to always maintain 4, that 3 is dangerous; Happened to Kansas, Canuck and now Michigan. It doesn't happen often, but our current rules forces DD's and schools to grab/recruit another school.
 - c) CW states, maybe the rule could only be min. number has to be met in Fall division tournament and not in Spring tournament—you would only get the schools that have a chance to show up and retention numbers would suffer (WL)
 - d) Can extend the division deadline perhaps, but leave it at 3 teams (RK)
- Tabled for later discussion in NCTTA Rules/Regulations*

6. Future Championship Discussion

General ideas:

- a) **TMS** stated that we should have more spectators;
 - Board stated that team event is the most important and thus conversation entered about changing the schedule to reflect this.
 - Kagin vehemently disagrees that spectators have been made a priority; we don't charge enough to worry about this or bring in local schools or resources for spectators
 - WL disagrees and states our membership wants to see our best event and b/c of streaming we need to be conscious of this aspect and FB mentions b/c of TMS too this aspect needs to be looked at
 - b) CW states that **Singles event** will be sparse if we put it on Sunday; end the tournament on Saturday so maybe start earlier in the week—(WL) says stress on recruiting volunteers for a work days of Thursday and Friday is an issue
 - c) WL doesn't like **teams defaulting** b/c it is flagrantly ignoring rules about when to leave
 - d) RK suggest to forget about **historical perspective** and do what we think is best; # of schools don't have to be 24 and 16, could be more with a different format or doesn't have to be progressive either. We could come up with a schedule, they play a little bit less and we can target it when to be done by a certain time. RK suggests having different tiers but that means certain schools will never play the really high teams, it compacts the tournament to a Lakeland type of tournament (Willy Reference)
 - e) Suggestion to go after **TT cities** vs having cities bid for us
 - WL states we may lose out on freebies (free facility, subsidies, grants)
- KGL suggests BOD figures out what we want out of the Championships FIRST

BOD discussed goals for Championships

Kevin Li Goals:

- Team competition: facilitate them to play; “college kids playing TT for their school”
- Schedule: Limit the factors that would have them default
- Athlete satisfaction (player satisfaction)
- sponsorships

Kagin Lee Goals:

- Competition: to be a part of the league season (final part);
- Local growth: encourage local growth of the sport of the city of the championships
- Develop college TT in general

Fede Goals:

- Athlete Satisfaction: make championship and key events (champs, semi's) make a memorable experience measured by: attendance, participation, streaming views, comments and clicks
- Sponsorship and possible measurement: increase of booth expo at venue and dollar amounts in sponsorships; having an end of tournament event after banquet (more fun)

Willy Goals:

- Teams is our main emphasis; having our teams and membership be able to see our marquee event and remembering what the foundation we were founded on (Team play)
- placement: sport club is the key of our organization and schools being able to bring back a Championship ranking helps them stay afloat, get more funding, etc.
- Spectator attendance: whether it is our own athletes or outside. Any sport not utilizing the ability to be seen or heard is doomed to fail.

Randy Goals:

- growth in numbers (players, schools) and the Tier level system at our championships vs the current format; do not cater towards the high end, numbers are with the middle of the road players/teams

Chris Goals:

- Competition: Ensure the highest level of competitiveness in both teams, singles and make sure they are able to qualify and attend
- Expansion: growth in terms of numbers, geography, outside of North America, i.e. Mexico

Sam Goals:

- Athlete Satisfaction: This tournament is about a lot of fun and we need to keep it that way; players by word of mouth will be our best promoters of this tournament b/c we are “fun” through competitiveness, player satisfaction also needs to be looked at
- banquet is very important

Keith Lam Goals:

- Athlete Satisfaction**: Customers; Athletes, player satisfaction: timing of event, cost, appreciation (having ppl there to watch their matches)-spectator
- Develop: Events as a way to promote Table Tennis

Joe Wells Goals:

- Competition: Fostering good competition
- Spectator support
- Sponsorship: raise sponsorship dollars to eventually move event around to better populated cities

General Summary:

- Athlete Satisfaction, (spectators, ppl watching them, cost, timing of event)
- Competition, (having the best ppl to play which equals “fun”)
- Team play (what NCTTA is founded on and again equals “fun” and is our “brand”)
- Sponsorship (to have the monies to be able to put on such an event)

2015 Championships in Eau Claire nothing has been decided about the schedule-tabled for further discussion via the goals decided

Division Director Recruitment/Logistics

- FB wishes to make the process easier and lessen the burden on board to gather information and get USATT umpire tests and such by making new DD's to pay for own Umpire test and then get reimbursed
- in theory is a good idea, but when the organization is pleading with ppl to take the positions it creates a de incentive to have to pay money and wait to get reimbursed
- WL states that we are pleading with ppl to take positions as it is.

Modification of Team Ranking

- Kagin to work on a system to adjust/change team rankings but wanted an assurance from board that will consider this change and will be a solution
- technical details to be considered in the future
- to more accurately reflect a teams ranking instead of just adding numbers of ratings

Motion: Resolve to modify the team ranking system, to use a system which simulates team contests and ranks them accordingly, to replace our current arithmetical formula, with the technical details to be presented at a future meeting. This is a non-binding resolution.

Proposed by Kagin Lee (KGL)

Seconded by Kevin Li (KL)

Motion Approved 7-0-0

Ratings processing

- KGL brought this up and RK supports performing ratings processing internally.
- point people are Randy Kendle and Kagin Lee
- Dan's database is the key

Mtg Adjourned at 11:31pm eastern time