

NCTTA Board of Directors Mtg, July 11, 2015 in Las Vegas, NV 9:41am

In attendance: Willy Leparulo (WL), Kevin Li (KL), Randy Kendle (RK), Chris Wang (CW), Kagin Lee (KGL), Joe Wells, (JEW), Sam Huang via conference call
Mtg Minutes approved 6-0-0; 1 non vote CW

1) NCTTA Budget

- The Board wants to maximize the opportunity to bring in more volunteers.
- The Board looked at the 2015-16 budget line by line.
- NCTTA will not renew RingCentral and CW will create an alternate service.

a) Membership Benefits

The Board would like to add more NCTTA Membership benefits, such as:

- Discounts on table tennis equipment
- Discounts to USATT events
- Discounts or free USATT club membership; access to insurance
- We provide as many teams as the division fits--membership benefit

The Board unanimously decided on the following fee schedule:

- Returning schools = \$250
- Women's schools = \$0
- Division Singles = \$30
- Regional Singles = \$35
- Coed Regional Team = \$60
- Women's Regional Team = \$50
- Late fee = \$100

Additional Fees for Coaches at Championships

- No limit to coaches allowed for 2016
- \$150 for each additional coach

ACTION ITEM: Willy: Follow up with a) Joola about membership benefits and b) with Gordon Kaye about USATT club membership at discount and USATT tournament discount

ACTION ITEM: Chris Wang: Contact Double Fish about membership benefits and ask when balls will arrive for next season

Motion to approve the budget as presented - Kevin Li

Seconded by WL

Discussion: KGL would like a balanced budget. Changing the number of schools from 150 to 165 is a recruitment target and balances the budget.

Motion approved unanimously, 7-0-0

2) Contracts for paid staff

- Karen, our pro bono lawyer, stated we should have contracts for those contractors that we pay; contracts will be created for Kagin Lee, Ed Hogshead and others.
- NCTTA Board must approve expenses paid by contract employees.

ACTION ITEM—WL to create the contract for Ed Hogshead’s new position.

3) National Table Tennis Scholarship Program sponsored by Newgy

- RK would like us to eliminate official transcript and mailing address to simplify things.

Decisions:

- The Board had previously voted that a person can only win one scholarship in their lifetime.
- Newgy requests that scholarships be awarded to US Citizens.

ACTION ITEM: Marketing Committee to find a second scholarship donor for this program, as Newgy is the only one; with this one: <http://www.nctta.org/scholarship/contribute.html>

High school Direction

- RK, KL stated that the purpose of the scholarship is to encourage high school seniors to play table tennis in order to earn scholarships. This helps the recruitment of high school students to college table tennis and maybe indirectly helps high school table tennis.
- The details of how to apply for scholarships was discussed. Targeting US high school students is more of a high school grassroots approach.

-ACTION ITEM: Kevin Li will create a new scoring system for scholarship judgment.

a) 2016-17 scholarship deadline (early spring deadline of 2016)

- US Citizen
- Incoming College Freshmen
- awarded after participation in their first NCTTA season

b) NCTTA Scholarship Committee: Randy Kendle and Kevin Li will serve.

4) NCTTA Committees:

- The Board would like to get more production from committees; in their current form, committees are too reliant on board members.
- Committees should define milestones and set deadlines.

a) Website Committee- Tae wants to know which Drupal modules we use and don’t use.

ACTION ITEM: have Tae contact Chris to figure out which modules work on NCTTA Drupal website

b) Committee action ; ACTION ITEM: WL email all committees with narrow goals.

- Marketing will follow up with JEW; Website will follow up with RK; Recruiting/PR with WL; Women with Chris Wang; Coaching with WL
- Half year review
- Ask each committee chair to recruit for their committee
- 15 more schools would be recruitment committee goal

5) Bylaw Change

a) Election language

Motion to Change 14e to “If there is only one candidate running then no vote will be needed or cast” and to change 15c to say “If there is only one candidate running then no vote will be needed or cast. Should there more than one candidate then elections will be conducted until the announced voting deadline”.

Proposed by WL

Seconded by KL

Discussion: The board discussed how many votes are necessary in order for an election to stand as legal, and what happens if only one person runs. Joe Wells will work on language, but there are certain stipulations already in place in that NCTTA Board members must have been previous Division Directors.

Motion to amend previous motion of 14 e, delete section 14e and 15c, and add in its place in 14e the following: “Should a candidate be unopposed, that candidate shall be automatically elected.”

Proposed by WL

Seconded by Kevin Li

6-0-0; 1 non vote KL (stepped out 4:02pm)

ACTION ITEM: CW to update bylaws and update website

TABLE Election language since there isn't another Election for a year.

ACTION ITEM: Joe Wells to figure out the election committee language of approval so something like “all candidates must be approved by Election committee prior to running for an NCTTA position”.

Or if the “candidate is failed to be confirmed by NCTTA election committee then that candidate will not be permitted to run in the election”. Could add to 14 a or b

6) Rules and Regulations Update

a) Length of Eligibility

- The Board discussed whether participation of transitional schools should count for eligibility or not; why would a transitional school come in knowing that this ½ semester count for eligibility? The reason is because most come in for singles. It could reduce the number of schools because they are using a year of eligibility by playing a match in the spring.
- No decision made by BOD on transitional schools.

Proposal made by Kagin: to change 2.9 to mention: “*An NCTTA player may compete in NCTTA competitions for a maximum of four (4) academic years. A player has competed in an academic year if he or she has played at least one match for a varsity team (see section 4.2) or in NCTTA singles/doubles in any NCTTA competition held that academic year.*” This essentially removes the grandfathered rule of 2007.

Unanimously agreed by the Board.

b) Co-op Programs

- The Board discussed the eligibility of students in co-op programs, and agreed that there should be a case by case decision by Eligibility Committee after being presented with an advisor's or department head's letter.

c) Uniforms

- The Board would like to mandate that each team have two uniforms of distinct colors for presentation purposes.

- WL would like to be liberal at first on the rule; KGL agrees.

- Could coordinate with sponsors on uniforms.

- Divisional and Regional competitions could be more lax; nationals would be mandated.

- NCTTA will define home/away.

- Team captains' meetings are now critical to discuss this uniform change

The board agreed to add the following language to the rules and regulations:

“All schools are required to have 2 uniforms, home and away, of distinctly different main colors. Schools are encouraged to contact NCTTA for approval of their uniforms prior to purchasing by emailing info@nctta.org. Home and away uniforms are used to distinguish between teams during video broadcasting.”

d) DC division director approved:

Daniel Gardner approved as the DC DD

7-0-0

Sam Huang leaves meeting at 4:47pm local time

e) Clarifying Rules

- With respect to Rule 6.5: Players must have represented the school in at least one division competition in a varsity team or women's team contest (in that year). University of Miami complained that they didn't know the player was required to compete in this competition year.

- The Board was opposed to changing anything in this section of the rules since the rules are changed every year for every competition season; every part of the rules implicitly applies to this competition year.

f) Remote school participation waiver (RSPW)

- The Board considered special cases in which a very remote school could be given special qualification based on judgment that participation is a hardship. The principle is that any NCTTA school that must drive more than 8 hours or must cross an ocean to attend a given divisional tournament is eligible to apply for a waiver of participation.

- Each application will be reviewed by an eligibility committee and must be submitted two weeks prior to the divisional tournament date.

- Schools that have been granted a RSPW must still submit eligibility forms and rosters prior to the divisional tournament.

- A school can be granted a RSPW a maximum of three times consecutively.

GOAL: That schools will form a division in their remote area and stop spending so much money to travel.

RSPW Regional Championship qualification

a) Teams

- If RSPW is used for both divisional tournaments in the same season, all players on the team must have participated in at least one national governing body (USATT/TTCAN) sanctioned tournament between September 1st and Dec 31.

- Any team using at least one RSPW can only qualify for the regional tournament through wildcard qualification rules.

b) Singles

- A singles player using RSPW must have participated in at least one national governing body (USATT/TTCAN) sanctioned tournament between September 1st and Dec 31.

- A singles player using RSPW can only qualify for the regional tournament through wildcard qualification rules.

ACTION ITEM: CW will update the rules and regulations document accordingly.

g) Women's Team at Championships and the 3 person requirement

The Board discussed whether or not 3 player women's teams helps or hurts college table tennis:

CON: Forcing a school to have 4 women creates a hardship on a small school club due to the costs of hotel, travel and food for a fourth player who is not as dedicated.

PRO: Requiring 4 players brings more people into college table tennis.

- In 2015 Champs there were 2 three player teams out of 14/15 total teams

- Willy, Randy, Kevin and Chris would like 4 player teams to be mandatory for both coed and women's teams at the National Championships; Kagin and Joe are against this rule.

h) Injury rule

The Board discussed the effects/penalties of an injured player in team competition.

- If special allowance is given to an injured player, should that player be required to sit out for the remainder of the tournament?

- If the 1st player in the lineup defaults, what should happen with the remaining players on the team? All other players move up and 4th singles and doubles is defaulted.

- CW and WL disagreed whether a player can rest and claim a default, this goes more towards a school team being better organized and having more than just the four minimum players.

Tabled at 6:41pm local time

Sunday July 12th, Board of Directors Meeting resumes 9:01am local time Las Vegas, NV

Gordon Kaye, USATT CEO, joined the meeting.

9) USATT/NCTTA College Alumni Event

- An NCTTA task force met to design this competition and recommend a set of rules.
- The purpose of the event is to bring collegiate and alumni players together in one event and closer to USATT.
- USATT to offer a player party and one free event to anyone that enters this event.
- Player party could be used to corral ex- and current NCTTA players and sell our organization (volunteers, sponsorship, etc.) and to market NCTTA to people who don't know about it.
- Timing of the event may be an issue on Sunday afternoon/Monday morning, starting on Tuesday or Wednesday to allow for the cheap hotel rate.

Format:

- The task force wanted doubles to be the third match since it is the most different and unique, recalling the excitement of doubles in NCTTA in competition. CW, KGL are against this, giving the opinion that doubles is exciting in NCTTA competition because it is the final match.
- KL mentions it is difficult to find 4 people for a team, how do we deal with this issue?

Changes:

- BOD made across the board changes to the event: leniency in the 1st year, permitting teams of 3 and having doubles as the final match.
- USATT must regulate entries such that teams of only 3 or 4 players enter.
- NCTTA must send a technical delegate, who will oversee the operation of the event (so the NCTTA rules are followed)
- Open issue: When a 3 person team plays against a 4 person team, what happens to 4th player that paid 125 dollars too?

ACTION ITEM: Kevin Li to finalize the wording for Alumni/Collegiate event

The Board voted unanimously to approve NCTTA Collegiate/Alumni Event at the US Nationals.

10) USATT Ratings and Registration

- Gordon offered NCTTA the use of the USATT system for NCTTA registration and ratings.
- The NCTTA Board would like to have full control in any system due to specific changes that are made, such as direct access to source code.
- RK wants to be prepared for the time when the current rating system goes away.

ACTION ITEM: Randy to find out what we need to do when Robert Mayer turns off his web service for ratings.

11) Injury Rule (continuation from previous discussion)

Options:

- a) Allow players to default for any reason without penalty to the team other than losing the individual match.
- b) If a player is injured, fatigued or lazy, their team will incur the 3 player penalty.

KL, KGL states NCTTA could face liability issues if it “forces” people to play injured. WL argues that they have a choice, may not be a good choice, but there is a choice. In addition, WL argues that our rules allow for teams to include extra players in the roster.

ACTION ITEM: CW to correct the word document to change the format and footers.

12) Divisions and Regions

- The Board considered what to do with smaller divisions that are at risk of becoming transitional: Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Rocky Mountain (split of Utah and Colorado), Virginia, New Jersey.

-Big Division split up of Upstate NY: Keith Lam and CW to follow up with Ariel

Options:

a) Small divisions can come in as 3 teams in the fall, and if one drops off in the spring the division winner could potentially qualify as a wild card.

b) Grant an exception due to weather.

ACTION ITEM: WL to post on the hub for further discussion at the August board meeting.

Midwest Region

- Potentially move Ohio into Midwest Region and have JD run the Midwest region.

Texas Division Geography lines

- Dan Reynolds of South Texas suggests there should be a line between Texas and South Texas moving forward; the South RD should draw the line.

Rocky Mountain – Split into Utah/Colorado

- There is a possibility of this split, but haven’t heard so much lately.

Regional Championship Invitations

- CW says that some schools get invite too late.

- Create a waitlist perhaps, so regional directors will be trained differently to include a bigger list.

- WL shared idea that he emails the periphery schools 3-4 deep to notify them to be ready if an invited school declines.

Regional Championship Quality

- The potential of having live streaming at Regionals was discussed. This would involve sending a crew to each Regionals.

- Umpires and other volunteers should be stressed more in RD training.

- Scoreboards for Regionals were lacking, but we now have enough for 2 per region.

- The Board discussed the internet requirements at the host facility in order to enable live streaming.

ACTION ITEM: WL, CW: change RD handbook to include 2 days in the facility, and add information for streaming.

13) Championships

Championship ACTION ITEM: Figure out budget with respect to championships transportation etc.

Championship ACTION ITEM: make Ed H production/logistics manager; Kagin is competition manager, Chris Wang is Technical Delegate; WL tournament director; Randy K in results.

ACTION ITEM: Joe Wells to update 2017 Champs document for earlier release.

14) NCTTA Coaching Certificate

- The Board discussed the creation of a certificate program for NCTTA coaches.
- Discussion between what coach in college vs. what a traditional coach does; the former includes lots of administrative duties 70/30 administration vs. on table things.
- Alan Chu, coaching chair, is more interested in creating guidelines for a club mentor.
- WL would like to create a certification to maintain a collegiate table tennis club, either varsity or club sports.

ACTION ITEM: WL to assign NCTTA coaching committee this task.

15) Online forums

ACTION ITEM: Kevin Li to hook up with Ponguniverse.

16) Ratings update from USATT

- The Board discussed a potential import of ratings from USATT.
- An optional import would be done during registration in September.

ACTION ITEM: Randy and Chris: Find the google doc directions, and advertise during NCTTA Registration, by October 1st

Mtg Adjourned 12:41pm local time