

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2011 Summer Meeting in Toronto, Canada
Monday, July 25, 2011 – 10:30 AM

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Bill Arlinghaus
Steve Beatty
Doug Doub
Joan Gerard
Bob Hamman
Ellen Kent
Jeff Meckstroth
Howard Weinstein
Jonathan Weinstein

Also Present:

Eric Kokish
Al Levy, District 24 Director
Jim Miller, National Recorder
Sam Whitten, Assistant National Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Committee members discussed the minutes from the Louisville meeting. A motion to approve the Louisville minutes was made and seconded. The Louisville minutes were unanimously approved.
2. The report from the Board of Directors was made: A new objective seeding method was approved based on the suggestions of C & C Seeding Subcommittee. This method utilizes WBF Masterpoints and WBF Placing Points to objectively seed foreign players in the Spingold and Vanderbilt. The motion provided that the player would receive the higher of his Method 1 or Method 2 seeding points. Method 1 was revised by basing the Masterpoint component of the seeding on a Masterpoint log. A second seeding method was created called Method 2. Method 2 equals the player's WBF Masterpoints divided by 100 plus their WBF Placing Points multiplied by 1.75. In addition, an experimental subjective seeding method was approved for use in the Spingold Knockout Teams in Toronto.
3. The Committee discussed the use of a Round-Robin Swiss Qualifying Stage in the Wagar Women's Knockout Teams. The Committee discussed that

based on feedback received from prominent players in the event that many of the players would be opposed to this change. The Committee members were concerned that this change would decrease the attendance in the event. The Committee unanimously recommended against this change in the event.

4. The Committee discussed the addition of a plate-consolation event to the Spingold and Vanderbilt Teams. The Committee members discussed whether players would prefer to play in this event or would rather play in another championship event. The Committee members felt that there would not be sufficient attendance to warrant the event.
5. The Committee discussed adding a second NABC+ Knockout Team event to the schedule several days after the Spingold/Vanderbilt starts. Some committee members felt that this would be more popular than a plate event attached to the Spingold/Vanderbilt. The Committee members defeated a motion to recommend the addition of this event.
6. The Committee discussed the responsibility of tournament non-directorial staff to report errors or irregularities. A motion was made and seconded to allow a vugraph operator to correct the table result by bringing it to the attention of the players or director. The motion passed.
7. Howard Weinstein gave a report on the seeding of the Spingold. He reported that utilizing the subjective seeding method to revise the seeding of the event was a big job. He also reported that the Committee did not move as many teams as they thought they were going to move. He reported that the logistics of utilizing the subjective seeding method needed to be improved including possibly moving up the entry deadline to allow more time for subjective seeding. He recommended that the subjective seeding method be tried again on an experimental basis in Memphis in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. The Committee voted to recommend that the subjective seeding method be used at the Memphis NABC for the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams.
8. The Committee discussed a proposed convention of a passed hand 2♦ in response to partner's 1♣ opening to show an artificial game invitational bid with one or two major suits. The Committee noted that this convention would not be permissible under the ACBL General Convention Chart. There was no support on the Committee to allow this convention on the ACBL General Convention Chart.
9. The Committee discussed the utilization of the ACBL Mid-Chart in the top flight of all District Finals for the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams. A motion was made to recommend that the ACBL Mid-Chart be used for all District Finals in the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams. The motion passed.

10. The Committee discussed the use of three-team round-robins with one survivor in Knockout Team events with troublesome numbers of teams, such as 17, 18, 33, 34, 65, and 66. The Committee members felt that utilizing round-robins with five teams and two survivors was preferable to three team round-robins to get one survivor. The issue was tabled until Seattle.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Whitten