



**Umpires and Referees Committee (URC)  
Las Vegas Meeting Minutes  
July 10, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph Yick, URC Chair, at 1:08 pm PST. Roll call was taken, with Mr. Wendell Dillon, Mr. Lee Kondo, Mr. Joseph Yick, and Mr. Dennis Taylor (General Counsel) present. A quorum was noted to be present. Mr. Saul Weinstein joined the meeting at 1:20 pm. Mr. Han Xiao joined the meeting at 2:02 pm.

The URC Chair appointed Mr. Kondo to be URC Secretary, with his responsibilities to include taking URC meeting minutes.

**A. U.S. Nationals Referee**

**URC Action 1. The URC shall first approach Ms. Linda Hsing, then Mr. Ray Cavicchio, to serve as Referee at the upcoming 2015 U.S. Nationals in Las Vegas. If Ms. Hsing elects not to serve, then Mr. Cavicchio shall be asked to serve as Referee.**

Discussion: The URC Chair asked Mr. Dillon for the names of the previous referees for the U.S. Nationals, which were provided. Possible referee candidates were discussed for the upcoming 2015 U.S. Nationals in December. Using the rotation system which has been used effectively in the past, it was noted that Mr. Chris Williams and Ms. Linda Hsing, as National Referees (NRs), were in rotation order to serve as referee. Mr. Williams stated previously that he was unavailable to serve. The URC decided that if Ms. Hsing also was not available, then Mr. Cavicchio would be selected to be Nationals referee.

Mr. Saul Weinstein joined the meeting at 1:20 pm.

**Action approved without objection.**

**B. National and International Umpire Examinations**

**URC Action 2. The URC directs Mr. Dillon to make an email announcement that eligible National Umpire (NU) candidates may take the NU examination at the U.S. Nationals.**

Discussion: Possible qualified candidates for this examination were noted. Since some candidates are present at the U.S. Open, they will be approached regarding their interest in taking this examination. The URC will waive applicable NU examination fees.

**Action approved without objection.**

**URC Action 3. The URC approves the scheduling of an IU examination, preferably an ITTF-approved Advanced Rules Examination (ARE), to be held at the 2016 U.S. Open.**

Discussion: An International Umpire (IU) examination may be scheduled for 2016. The URC has submitted an application to the ITTF to host an ARE examination. Once ITTF approval is received, the URC can schedule the examination to be held at the 2016 U.S. Open. This exam scheduling is anticipated to attract more visiting umpires to the U.S. Open. Possible evaluator candidates for conducting this examination were noted.

**Action approved without objection.**

### **C. USATT Umpire Evaluation Update**

**URC Action 4. The URC shall make it a high priority to improve the performance standards of U.S. umpires and referees. As a step towards achieving this objective, the URC shall consider eligible evaluator candidates in the selection of a possible second evaluator to assist Mr. Dillon in evaluating all U.S. umpires, including IUs, at the U.S. Nationals and Open tournaments. Second evaluator candidates shall be used on a "trial basis" in the near future. Unless selected as Referee for the upcoming 2015 U.S. Nationals, the URC selects Mr. Cavicchio as a "trial basis" evaluator to work under Mr. Dillon's supervision at the Nationals. The URC is considering other eligible evaluator candidates and ultimately will select a second evaluator at a later date.**

Discussion: The URC Chair stated that he wishes to make it a high priority to improve the performance standards of U.S. umpires and referees. Mr. Weinstein asked whether ITTF evaluators might be utilized. However, Mr. Dillon noted that ITTF evaluators would have to be paid. The URC Chair said that USATT tournaments may not meet standards for ITTF evaluations. Historically, Mr. Dillon has served as the assigned Evaluator for U.S. tournaments, and the URC Chair expressed his wishes that Mr. Dillon continue to serve in this capacity. Mr. Dillon routinely performed evaluations for U.S. umpires at the Open and Nationals for several years--these evaluations have generally not included IUs. Dr. Azmy Ibrahim is an active ITTF evaluator and also has done evaluations. The URC Chair said that having all U.S. IUs routinely evaluated would be beneficial. Furthermore, such IU evaluation information could be useful to Selection Sub-committee members who make decisions regarding overseas umpire assignments for umpires.

**Action approved without objection.**

At the URC Chair's request, Mr. Dillon agreed to email updated umpire evaluation report information to the URC. Mr. Taylor noted that dates for the upcoming U.S. Nationals will be available soon.

### **D. U.S. Nationals Outstanding Umpire Selection Procedure**

**URC Action 5. The URC shall use the same outstanding umpire selection procedure as used previously by the Official and Rules Advisory Committee (ORAC). In this procedure, the URC Chair, referee representative, chief umpire, selection committee representative, and athlete representative select the outstanding umpire for the U.S. Nationals event--the selection shall be based upon his/her outstanding umpire performance at that tournament. A plaque and check are generally given. This outstanding umpire will be invited to umpire a main event in the finals program.**

Discussion: Mr. Dillon presented the outstanding umpire selection procedure used previously by ORAC. This procedure was discussed.

**Action approved without objection.**

#### **E. URC Selection Sub-Committee Procedure and Operations**

The URC Chair noted that procedurally, possible edits/changes in the URC Selection Sub-committee Procedures can be addressed at URC meetings (e.g., in person, teleconference) or via email communications. Mr. Taylor, USATT General Counsel, said that the URC Chair, at his option, may address these procedures either point-by-point or as a whole. The Chair decided to consider each section A, B and C as a whole.

#### **Motion 1: MOVED to approve Selection Sub-Committee Procedure, sections A and B, as amended.**

Movant: Wendell Dillon  
Second: Saul Weinstein

Discussion: The URC approved sections A and B of the Procedure as amended. In paragraph 1 of the Procedure, since the URC only makes officials selection for 5 star tournaments, "all 4" should be deleted. 4 star tournaments are run by TDs. Specific 4 and 5 star tournaments were discussed. The URC Chair said that a report should be obtained regarding names of all referees for 5 star tournaments. Mr. Weinstein asked about educational programs for officials (e.g., umpires). In response, the URC Chair said that funding is not needed for them, and lectures might be held at specified times (e.g., noontime) during which umpires' questions can be answered by the instructors (e.g., Dr. Azmy Ibrahim). The Procedure will be revised to include more abbreviated "URC Actions," as used in this present meeting, in addition to "Motions" to facilitate conducting URC business.

Mr. Kondo inquired about the availability of Rules Committee decisions regarding tournament situations falling outside of any well defined ITTF rules (e.g., acceptability of opponent's navy blue vs. black shirt). The URC Chair said that Mr. Kagin Lee, Rules Committee (RC) Chair, planned to release these decisions to officials in the near future, adding that umpires for umpired matches will enforce these rules.

Mr. Kondo noted that if further discussion is needed, the URC has the flexibility to choose to pass Sections A and B of the Procedure as amended, tabling Section C's discussion and approval to a future date. Sections A and B can also be posted on the website as approved.

Mr. Han Xiao joined the meeting at 2:02 pm.

**The motion passed by unanimous vote, 5-0-0.**

#### **Motion 2: MOVED to continue operations of the URC Selection Sub-Committee on an interim basis with its current existing members continuing to serve.**

Movant: Wendell Dillon  
Second: Han Xiao

Discussion: Regarding his version of section C, Mr. Dillon noted that the current Sub-committee composition consists of 5 voting members (including Mr. Dillon as Chair) and 2 alternates. When a voting member becomes a candidate for an umpiring assignment, he/she is replaced by an alternate

who votes as a substitute voting member. Mr. Dillon said that under ORAC, he himself, as Sub-committee Chair, served for two year terms at the pleasure of the ORAC Chair. Whether the Sub-committee Chair should be a voting or non-voting member of the committee was discussed. Also the Sub-committee Chair could serve a one year term expiring at the end of each calendar year. Thus, in each two year period, a Sub-committee Chair could serve either 1 or 2 years at the pleasure of the URC Chair. The URC Committee will discuss the remaining issues at its next teleconference meeting.

On a temporary interim basis, URC decided to continue operations of the Sub-Committee with its current existing members continuing to serve on it. The URC plans to continue to discuss Section C issues via teleconference call at a later date.

**The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0.**

#### **F. Selection Sub-Committee Publication of Assignments**

**URC Action 6. The URC shall publish annually its Select Sub-committee's list of assignments of officials (i.e., referees, umpires) for domestic and overseas tournaments.**

Discussion: The URC Chair suggested that the Selection Sub-committee's list of assignments of officials (i.e., referees, umpires) for domestic and overseas tournaments be published once a year. Notations would be made regarding whether the official was provided with USATT funds for travel or, alternatively, financed travel to the event himself or herself. The USATT General Counsel noted such annual publication would be consistent with a policy of transparency of URC operations.

**Action approved without objection.**

#### **G. Old Business**

None.

#### **H. New Business**

It was noted that the ITTF recently passed a new rule permitting coaching throughout games in a match. Germany experimented with this rule and prefers it to the longstanding current rule. However, implementation of this rule remains problematic. Particularly since the ITTF has yet to provide specific wording for this rule, this topic was tabled, to be addressed at a later date.

#### **I. Next Meeting**

The next URC meeting via teleconference call will be scheduled for either September or October, 2015.

#### **J. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lee Kondo  
URC Secretary