Board of Directors Teleconference
November 19, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. EST by Chair Peter Scudner. This meeting was a special meeting, called pursuant to Bylaw §7.14, for the purpose of discussing the procedures for replacing National Junior Team athletes unable to attend the 2012 World Junior Table Tennis Championships (“WJTTC”).

Members present:

Peter Scudner, Chair
Mike Babuin
Anne Cribbs
David Del Vecchio
Ashu Jain
Jim Kahler
Christian Lillieroos
Attila Malek
Han Xiao

Also in attendance:
Mike Cavanaugh, Chief Executive Officer
Dennis Taylor, General Counsel, Secretary
Teodor Gheorghe, Chief Operating Officer

I. Background

1. Mr. Gheorghe provided the background of the situation.
   a. The US qualified to send a boys team and a girls team to the 2012 WJTTTC by winning the play-off match against Canada during the North American Championships in August - September, 2012.
   b. Mr. Gheorghe contacted members of the 2012 Boys and Girls National Teams for their availability to attend the WJTTC. Michael Landers, Ariel Hsing, and Erica Wu indicated that they had school and SAT commitments preventing them from attending.
   c. Mr. Gheorghe contacted Ross Brown, Chair of the High Performance Committee (“HPC”) with the suggestion to select replacements from the 2012 Cadet National Teams. Mr. Brown agreed.
   d. Because two of the Cadet Boys were already on the Junior team, there were two candidates for the Boys position. Because one of the Cadet Girls was already on the Junior team, there were three candidates for the Girls positions. Mr. Gheorghe based selections on the world ranking of the candidates, the international competition results of the candidates, and Mr. Gheorge’s observations of recent form.
e. Mr. Gheorghe, acting with the approval of Mr. Brown, Head Coaches Shigang Yang and Lily Yip, and Mr. Cavanaugh, chose Kanak Jha, Isabel Chu, and Crystal Wang as the replacements.

f. Some parents of other Junior athletes complained about the replacement process.

2. Discussion ensued. The principal points raised in the discussion included:
   a. The replacement policy had not been committed to writing.
   b. Past replacements had always involved replacing athletes who had been removed from the National Team. In these past situations, the replacement athlete was the next highest finishing athlete at that Team’s trials. Replacing athletes for a specific competition was not analogous.
   c. The nearest precedent for the current situation was the use of Cadets to fill the additionally available competition positions for the 2012 US ITTF Junior Circuit, for which USATT, as the host country’s association, was allowed to enter twelve athletes per gender.
   d. The 2012 Junior Boys Team, Junior Girls Team, Cadet Boys Team, and Cadet Girls Team each are composed of four athletes, not the eight athletes per team listed on the USATT web site.
   e. Mr. Gheorghe believes that the replacements chosen provide the best team to represent the USA at the WJTTCC.
   f. The HPC was not consulted at any point in the decision process.
   g. The lack of replacement procedures in the 2012 team selection rules is problematic. Unfortunately, USATT recently published selection procedures for the 2013 Boys/Girls Junior/Cadet Teams. They suffer from the same deficiencies as the 2012 procedures.
   h. With the exception of the 2012 replacement athlete procedures, the selection procedures for each year are prepared by Mr. Gheorghe, with the approval of the HPC. The Athletes Advisory Council (“AAC”) does not have a formal role in the approval of these procedures. The AAC’s only current formal role is the approval of selection procedures for the Olympic, Pan Am, and Para National Teams.
   i. Section 9.16(c)(1) charges the HPC with the responsibility of “develop[ing] selection procedures as needed for international events.”
   j. The HPC was not consulted in regard to the 2012 athlete replacement procedures.

Mr. Kahler and Ms. Cribbs left the call at an unknown time.

3. The Board went into executive session for the consideration of legal issues. Minutes are not kept of executive sessions.

**MOTION 1:**
MOVED to offer the athletes listed on the USATT website as the 2012 Boys and Girls Junior B Teams the opportunity to attend a junior ITTF event in 2013.

Movant: Ashu Jain
Second: Han Xiao
Discussion: One member suggested not taking the entire B Teams, just those who have written complaints to USATT

MOTION PASSES 6-0-1-0

In Favor: Mr. Babuin, Mr. Del Vecchio, Mr. Jain, Mr. Malek, Mr. Scudner, Mr. Xiao
Opposed: n/a
Abstain: Mr. Lillieroos
Not Voting: n/a

MOTION 2:

MOVED to adopt as process that the Athlete Advisory Council must approve all team selection procedures and approve all changes in team selection procedures in order for the procedures to be effective.

Movant: Ashu Jain
Second: Han Xiao

The Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION 3:

MOVED that all 2013 National Teams selection procedures will be reviewed by the High Performance Committee and subject to Athlete Advisory Council approval before being effective for 2013.

Movant: Christian Lillieroos
Second: Ashu Jain

The Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Taylor, Secretary