

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)
April – May, 2014

Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair
November, 2014

During April – May 2014, the HPC did not hold any formal meetings. However, the following summary of its actions and discussions is offered to inform USATT members about the HPC's activities conducted by email and conference call, and through participation in the other USATT activities.

1. In preparation for the World Team Championships, the HPC had a discussion with the Men's and Women's national team coaches about their approaches for preparing the teams for the competition, and what expectations would be reasonable for the final placement of our teams. Among the points raised were the following: We have only one full-time adult player on either team; direct seeding into a higher division (for the men in particular) would be very useful and could be achievable if more funding was available for international competition to raise our players' international rankings; and, some of the younger players continue to have school-related conflicts that affect their availability for training and preparatory competition. For the men, the goal was to place in the top three teams in the group, and thus compete to win the third division and gain promotion. For the women, the goal was a finish between 16th and 20th place. HPC members noted that our goal for the World Championships should be the highest finish possible, as compared to the use of some other international events for giving players developmental experience. HPC members also emphasized the importance of a greater commitment to training and competition, since strong international results are unlikely unless our national team members are fully committed to the sport.
2. HPC members continued their prior discussion about how to implement a multiple-trial system for membership on junior national teams, considering various approaches that could be used to include the Nationals and U.S. Open as two trial events. HPC members observed that conflicts seemed likely to continue between school obligations and training and competition, but that alternative schooling approaches (such as home-schooling, charter or private schools) might be helpful choices for young players desiring to compete at the highest levels.
3. Applicants for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) coach/team leader position were screened, and the finalists were notified of the mandatory program of training and competition for the team. The finalists were interviewed through conference calls with the HPC. The HPC deliberated at considerable length in reviewing the credentials of the finalists, and their specific plans for preparing the athletes and assisting them in the competition. Ultimately, the HPC selected Lily Yip as the

YOG coach, based on her outstanding qualifications and availability for the full program of training and competition.

4. A disciplinary matter was brought to the attention of the HPC Chair, who provided advice to the relevant national team coach and other USATT officials.