



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES**

**June 12, 2017**

The Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Anne Cribbs at 7:07 p.m. EDT.

### **Roll call**

The following board members attended:

Anne Cribbs (Chair), Larry Hodges, Ed Hogshead, Tara Profitt, Carolyne Savini, Rajul Sheth (7:14 pm), Deepak Somarapu, Erica Wu.

Also attending:

Gordon Kaye (CEO), Dennis Taylor (General Counsel and Secretary)

A quorum was established. No conflicts were reported.

### **Update from World Championships and ITTF meetings**

The USATT team performed very well, with Lily Zhang and Wu Yue going all the way to the QF of the Women's Doubles before running into the eventual runners-up from China. Lily and Kunal Chodri also gave the Chinese a scare, losing 4-3 in a very close match in mixed doubles to the eventual bronze medal winners (Fan Z. and P. Solja). All four US women advanced to the main draw (with Lily going to the round of 32 and Yue going to the round of 64). The US men also put up a heck of a fight. Kanak beat Adrian Crisan (WR #63) in the round of 128, only to lose a very close match in the round of 64 to Mattias Karlsson (SWE, WR #28). Gordon received amazingly positive reviews from both the team and parents in attendance regarding the work that Coaches Jörg Bitzigeio and Stefan Feth did at the tournament – the team was well organized, well prepared, and well coached.

USATT has received a significant honor by being invited to host the 2018 ITTF Hopes Championships. The event, which hosts 32 qualifiers from around the world (ages 11-12), will be held in early June. The event will be conducted at the UW Health Sports Factory in Rockford, IL. Due to ITTF's narrow time constraints, it was not possible to conduct a bidding process for the location. This invitation is yet another way the ITTF is showing support for, and belief in, the North American market

Many in Dusseldorf expressed enthusiasm for the 2018 World Veterans Championships, to be conducted in Las Vegas, NV. Sponsorships and logistical arrangements are progressing nicely,

and participant projections appear to be on schedule. Over 1200 competitors and over 3000 room nights were locked in during the Worlds.

### **2017 Supermicro National Championships**

Currently, 753 players have registered to compete in the 2017 Supermicro National Championships. That is up from last year (748) and down from 2015 (771). With the slight increase in registration fees, USATT is on target to hit its budget numbers for the event entries. The Finals will be held at the Silverton Resort about 10 minutes off the strip. The selection was made after a review of 32 potential sites. USATT will provide complimentary transportation from the Convention Center and LINQ hotels for attendees. Ticket prices will be the same as last year (\$60 for VIP, \$25 for general admission), with US National participants getting \$10 off per ticket. The Silverton has also agreed to aggressively market the event to their (mostly local) database and user groups – USATT is very excited to introduce table tennis to a wider audience in the Las Vegas community.

### **Review and approval of Minutes**

**MOVED to approve the Dec. 2016, Jan. 2017, Feb. 2017, Mar. 2017, Apr. 2017, and May 2017 Minutes, as amended.**

**Movant:** Larry Hodges      **Second:** Ed Hogshead

**Approved:** 8-0-0

Discussion: Anne Cribbs requested that the May Minutes be amended to include that she would like CEO to invite an expert on board etiquette and responsibilities to the September meeting.

### **Review and Approval of Nominations to the Tournament Committee**

**MOVED to approve Dan Seemiller, Joey Cochran, and Allison Wong as members of the Tournaments Committee, with an elite athlete to be appointed by the AAC.**

**Movant:** Carolyne Savini      **Second:** Deepak Somarapu

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:29 to discuss a personnel matter. Minutes are not kept during Executive Session. The Board returned to General Session at 7:35.

**The Motion was withdrawn.**

## Review/Approval of two proposed amendments to Bylaw 10.7

### **MOVED to approve the two proposed amendments to Bylaw 10.7**

**Movant:** Ed Hogshead      **Second:** Deepak Somarapu

**Approved:** 7-0-1 (Larry Hodges abstained)

Discussion: The Board was concerned about the lack of penalties in the second proposed amendment.

Text of Proposals: The current bylaw 10.7 reads:

#### Section 10.7. Conduct of the Proceeding.

The Hearing Panel shall rule on all motions and other matters raised in the proceeding. If the complaint is not dismissed, the hearing panel shall hold a hearing on the complaint. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Any party may have a record made of the hearing. A court reporter may be present at the hearing at the request of a party. The court reporter shall be paid for by the party requesting the court reporter, or if mutually agreed, the cost may be equally divided. Any transcript shall be paid for by the party requesting the transcript.

Proposal One is to insert the words “or other electronic medium” following “teleconference” in paragraph two.

Proposal Two is to insert the following as a new paragraph three:

The Hearing Panel, at its sole discretion, may mandate the appearance of non-parties deemed to have information helpful to the finding of facts relevant to the matter. The Hearing Panel, at its sole discretion, also may determine that such non-parties may participate in the hearing via telephone or other electronic medium.

## **Review/Approval of proposed amendment to Bylaw 9.4**

### **MOVED to Approve the Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 9.4**

**Movant:** Ed Hogshead      **Second:** Deepak Somarapu

**Approved:** 8-0-0

Discussion: none

Text: The current bylaw 9.4 begins:

The term for all standing and other committee members shall be two (2) years.

The proposal is to append the following to the end of the sentence:

beginning March 1st of the applicable calendar year.

The initial sentence would then read:

The term for all standing and other committee members shall be two (2) years, beginning March 1st of the applicable calendar year.

### **Discussion regarding status of SafeSport Policies and Procedures**

Ms. Cribbs encourages all Board members to come into SafeSport compliance, if they are not. Mr. Kaye reported that compliance is progressing well in all categories of Covered Individuals. Ms. Cribbs requested that Mr. Kaye send a thank you letter as each Covered Individual comes into compliance.

Mr. Taylor will be contacting the USOC Athlete Ombudsman's office to discuss whether the automatic suspension, pending a hearing, in the current set of USATT Policies and Procedures is in compliance with USOC and United States Center for SafeSport guidelines.

### **Discussion regarding Lee Kondo memo**

The Board discussed a memo from Ethics and Grievance Committee Chair Lee Kondo. Mr. Kondo requested more rapid posting of Minutes of Board meetings, more latitude for the EGC to grant waivers of the filing fee for grievances, a new liaison for the Umpires/Referees Committee, and that committees other than the EGC be empowered to conduct official investigations. The Board agreed that Minutes should be posted more promptly, but chose not

to take any further actions regarding the other requests. In addition, the Board encourages the EGC to focus on drafting a Code of Conduct for all USATT members.

### **Discussion regarding selection of team members for the Junior Pan American Games**

The Board discussed the selection of the team and coaches for the 2017 Pan American Junior Championships and some misconceptions some USATT members have about the processes. The team was selected under our old “team selection procedures” (for the 2016-2017 Team Year) which gave the authority to the High Performance Director to select teams for International competition. Those procedures created ten-person teams and had no quantifiable measures for athlete selection to compete in any specific event, such as the Junior PanAms.

Given that there is no High Performance Director currently on staff, there was a void in the selection procedures. Ultimately, the Junior PanAms teams were selected jointly by Jörg Bitzigeio, Gordon Kaye, and Carl Danner, and players were notified of their selections. As of the Board meeting, those selections have not been announced publicly. That announcement will be made on June 13, 2017. The procedures for selection of 2017-2018 Junior, Cadet, and Mini-Cadet Teams, as well as the procedures for determining which athletes attend which competitions, will go into effect as of the SuperMicro Nationals.

The Board also discussed the selection of coaches for the Junior PanAms. As with the athletes, the coaches, Jörg Bitzigeio and Gao Jun, were selected by Gordon Kaye and Carl Danner. The Board took no actions on this topic.

### **Proposed USATT rule change – advertising on uniforms**

**MOVED to amend ITTF Rule 3.2.5.9.2 to form a new USATT Rule stating, “Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to not more than 10 clearly separated advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 600cm<sup>2</sup>, on the front, side or shoulder of a shirt, with not more than 6 advertisements on the front.”**

**Movant:** Ed Hogshead      **Second:** Larry Hodges

**Approved:** 6-1-1 (Deepak Somarapu opposed, and Tara Profitt abstained)

Discussion: Note: this rule change only applies to events conducted under USATT Rules; it does NOT apply to events conducted under ITTF Rules.

## **Old Business**

The Board wishes to congratulate the athletes who just competed at the World Championships and the Para athletes currently competing in Europe. The teams have shown skill and grit, promising even more accomplishments in the future. In particular, Jasna Rather was singled out for her efforts in facilitating the extraordinary progress of the Para program.

## **New Business**

The next meeting will be an August 14 teleconference. The Minutes of the June meeting will be sent out for approval via email.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Taylor  
USATT Secretary