

Monday, September 7th, 2009
Grapevine, Texas
USTSF Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Pat Ryan
Jim Waterman
Bruce Nardoci
Ed Geer
Cissi Whipple
Larry Davis
Mark Winker

Announcement of newly elected members to the Board of Directors

At-large members: Cissi Whipple and David Radack
Secretary of the USTSF: Pat Ryan
Treasurer of the USTSF: Ed Geer
Male Player Representative: Tony Alvaro
Female Player Representative: Shelly Langley

Report from the President

Presented by Larry Davis. Mr. Davis welcomed the new members of the board of directors, and encouraged all members of the board, as well as the State and Regional Directors to read through the information on the USTSF website and become more much more thoroughly knowledgeable of the resources available (through the USTSF). Mr. Davis reiterated the need for better use of the State and Regional director network for communication to and from the local player bases. He also touched upon the structure that has been put into place with the USTSF and the need to utilize the current resources, as well as continue to build upon what is there, to help the USTSF succeed.

Submission of the Minutes

Presentation of the minutes from the last meeting (March 2009), and *a vote to accept the minutes as published* – Passed Unanimously

Financial Reports

There are no new financial reports to present since the last meeting.

Old Business

Synopsis of ITSF decisions

Report of the votes from the ITSF were presented for review by the board.

Topics for Discussion, and from the Committees

Regional and State Directors Program

The Regional and State Directors program is still being implemented. We have 34 states represented, and we now have a Director for each of the 10 regions. The Directors contact list is still incomplete, making communications with and via Directors problematic. More effort is needed to keep the State and Regional Directors engaged.

Status of merger of certain USTSF, USTSA/VIFA organizational responsibilities

Discussion ensued regarding the old topic of merging certain duties and responsibilities from USTSA/VIFA, specifically ratings, newsletter/magazine, and referees. The board discussed the merits of working with the existing personnel regarding these duties, but came to the conclusion that working together with USTSA/VIFA on these in the manner in which we have done so far is not a good course of action for the USTSF. The fundamental reason is that the USTSF should not do the work involved in maintaining these things without having full control over them (and/or without being compensated to do so). Each of these issues will be addressed individually later during the meeting. A vote was taken in this regard. *The motion put to a vote was that the USTSF should not continue to attempt to “merge” these duties, but should rather be able to act independently on them in order to maintain control over the processes involved* – Passed Unanimously

Warrior Table Soccer

Equipment sanctioning/endorsement by USTSF of the Warrior Table Soccer table was again tabled until such time as Warrior Table Soccer is ready to seek equipment sanctioning from the USTSF. There are still open communications with the company, and goodwill between the parties. *A vote was taken to table the vote on equipment sanctioning until a later date* – Passed Unanimously

FAST software usage

F.A.S.T. Software was discussed regarding its ease of use, capabilities, player acceptance, etc. After receiving feedback from both players and tournament staff perspectives, there are some positives and drawbacks. The user interface for the player seemed to work well (very few problems). The backend of the software (from the staff perspective) works well, but is lacking some of the features needed to perform great. Overall, FAST is an acceptable system for use at tournaments in the USA, though there would still need to be some changes made to make it better for all involved. *A vote was taken to make the FAST software available to promoters who wish to utilize it* – Passed Unanimously

New Business

USTSF Committee Chairperson nominations/confirmations

There are currently none, but the board will be notified and shall vote via e-mail as they arise.

Documents for review

There are no documents for review at this time. *A proposal was made by Bruce Nardoci and seconded by Larry Davis to amend the Bylaws (and other applicable codes as necessary) to tighten the conflict of interest policy regarding candidates for positions on the Board of Directors of the USTSF. The specific wording of the change is to be voted on by the Board once the text is prepared. The general premise is that any person who wishes to be considered for a position on the USTSF Board of Directors cannot have strong financial ties to any table manufacturer. A vote was taken in this regard and – Passed Unanimously*

Approval of tournament software

It was discussed and decided that a committee (or subcommittee) be formed to explore the criteria for approval of tournament software for use at USTSF sanctioned competitions. It was further decided that contact should be made with the following persons, and ascertain their willingness to serve in the committee, and well as to allow them to gather other committee members (Ed Geer, Ben Kennon, Ali Sharooz, Mike Sames, Ed Willis, Ron Escobar, Mark Winker). A vote was taken – Passed Unanimously

Pay/Compensation to lead ratings administrator (the one actually doing the computations and coding reconciliations)

Further to the vote of the Board meeting in March 2009, it was re-affirmed that each promoter having their own system should document and submit their ratings system criteria and precisely how it is adjusted (if at all) to USTSF in order for it to become a USTSF authorized/approved system. However, action on the previously approved USTSF stand-alone system is to be temporarily tabled until such time as the USTSF has the resources to compensate its own lead ratings administrator. Discussion ensued, further to the earlier vote this day to not merge the responsibility of ratings with the USTSA/VIFA. It was decided that since the major promoters, that run the tours for each of the 3 major tables in the USA, want to maintain control over their systems, the USTSF should steer clear of running independent rating systems for each table type. *And thus not authorize pay and/or compensation to someone who is working under the control of, or at the direction of, the promoters (not the USTSF). – Passed Unanimously*

Authorization to hire an office administrator

Cissi Whipple presented a few scenarios regarding potential financial assistance regarding the paying of staff positions. *It was decided that 3 job descriptions be developed for the various scenarios that could happen, based in available finances. The possible positions would be: a full time administrative position, a part-time (20 hours per week) administrative position, and an even further scaled back part-time administrative position (5-10 hours per month). The duties would vary based on the financial constraints of the USTSF. – Passed Unanimously*

Authorization to hire a full time fundraiser (independent contractor)

A proposal was made to hire a full time sponsorship/fundraiser contractor, who would be paid on either a percentage or tier-level basis. A vote was taken and – Passed by a vote

of 4 in favor and 1 against (with the following stipulation, that before any hiring, a comprehensive marketing/strategy plan needed to be presented to and approved by the Board before moving forward with the hire).

Resubmitting Non-Profit incorporation papers in a state other than the State of Washington

It was decided that further research is needed before making such a change, due to various state laws governing non-profits and public charities (of which the USTSF is classified as). Specifically, restrictions on the use of “United States” in the name of the Corporation, as well as filing requirements, and tax implications for the USTSF. As Secretary of the USTSF, Pat Ryan was tasked with gathering more information in this regard and reporting back to the board. The vote was tabled until more information is provided.

Other new business before the Board

Implementation of a USTSF newsletter (to hopefully lead to publication of a magazine in the future)

It was decided to publish an electronic newsletter on at least a bi-monthly basis. That it should start simple. That a person should be found to head up the project, and that they be given control over its implementation. Suggested ideas would be monthly contact with all of the State and Regional Directors to get short reports and stories of the goings on in their area, with some corresponding pictures. Going forward, possibly adding longer articles and other items. *A vote was taken to begin publishing a USTSF Newsletter with a vote to follow regarding approval of the person heading the project – Passed Unanimously*

Implementation of a Referee system to be established independent of promoters, tours, and other outside influences

It was decided to assemble and activate the Referee/Officiating Committee. And that the Committee would have the authority to design and implement the referee system of the USTSF. This would include the training, certification, recertification, and administration of Referees, under the Authority of the USTSF. That contact should be made with Tom Yore regarding staffing of the committee, and administrative funding be allotted as necessary to implement such a system. – A vote was taken and – Passed Unanimously

Software Committee (or Sub-Committee)

That the Software committee (who’s establishment was previously approved) be tasked with the following: Establishing a Players guide for using the FAST software, to aid in the use of FAST at tournaments in the future. To work toward having people in each region who are trained in operating the various approved tournament software systems that are approved by the USTSF. To ascertain the equipment needed to run the various systems. To come up with a pricing structure for renting equipment packages to promoters who wish to use the various software packages. A vote was taken and – Passed Unanimously