

## USTA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**COMMITTEE** Adult/Senior Competition II  
**CHAIRPERSON** Kathy Langer  
**DATE/LOCATION** March 21, 2010/Hotel InterContinental Dallas, Dallas, Texas; 8:30-11:15AM

### Committee Members in Attendance

Kathy Langer (Chair), Dina Ingersole (Vice Chair), Frank Kelly (Vice Chair), Dan Casey, Carol Clay, Steve Duffel, Susan Habeeb, Steve Hayden, William Kellogg, Roz King, David Mathews, Carolyn Nichols, Richard Perry, Sue-Anne Stuntz, Linda Temple, Lydia de la Rosa (ED Liaison), Laurie Covert (Council Chair), Karin Buchholz (Board Liaison), and Theresa Bowen (Staff).

Absent: Ken Robinson, Kline Sack

### Approximate Number of Observers – 15

### Decisions Made (and primary rationale)

- **Open bidding** - Richard Perry moved, seconded by Dan Casey that **open bidding** be allowed for all National Championship tournaments beginning with the 2012 schedule. This change will add competition to the bid process, which should result in better quality bids and tournaments. **The motion passed.**
- **Category II** - Carolyn Nichols moved, seconded by Dan Casey that the Category II description (and bid application) be amended to include: "Should have a  $\frac{3}{4}$  playoff and some form of consolation." **The motion passed.**
- **Tournament Entry Fees** - William Kellogg moved, seconded by Carolyn Nichols that this committee may allow tournament directors to adjust tournament entry fees up to two (2) months prior to start of entry acceptance, subject to committee approval, beginning with 2011 events. Under the present system, tournament directors are required to set the entry fee as far as 18 months in advance of the event. This change gives them an opportunity to revise the fee, with committee approval, based on current conditions. **The motion passed.**
- **ITF Seeding** - William Kellogg moved, seconded by Frank Kelly that this committee recommends the ITF increase the number of wildcards for seeding in draws of 17 or larger and that only those players with an ITF ranking in the top 100 shall be considered. This will help address player concerns with seeding in the larger draws. **The motion passed, with two abstentions.**
- **Ranking Certificates** - Carolyn Nichols moved, Carol Clay seconded that only those players with a national ranking in the top 25 for singles, top 25 for individual doubles, and/or top 10 for team doubles shall receive a **Ranking Certificate**. Staff mails over 8,000 certificates under the current system. **The motion passed with one opposed.**

### Items Discussed Requiring Future Action

- **Standards and Procedures** - Richard Perry and Steve Duffel. Under the current system, once a sanction is awarded for an event, the tournament continues unless there is a major problem. The proposed annual open bid procedure would: add competition to the bid process, make it easier to eliminate marginal tournaments, allow for schedule changes to best suit player needs, and may result in new sites offering to host events. New challenges would be: multi-year sponsorships, increased staff and volunteer time requirements. Several representatives from the Southern Section – Roy Barth (Chair, Southern Adult Sanction and Scheduling Subcommittee), Sandy Hastings, Southern Staff – provided details and insight on the Southern process. While they use open bidding, they rarely move an existing tournament unless there are documented problems; even then it usually is a two-year

process. Midwest has a similar process - <5% change in tournaments each year. Laurie Covert noted a legal interpretation that a tournament cannot be issued multi-year sanctions.

- A cornerstone of this process is the creation of a list of **tournament standards and criteria** that will be used for new bids and to evaluate existing tournaments that receive competing bids for the 2012 schedule. Drafts of these documents will be posted to SharePoint for committee comment and review prior to the 2010 Semiannual Meeting.
- **Sanctions and Schedule** – The Sanction and Schedule subcommittee will review all 2011 tournament bids/on-line sanction applications prior to the 2010 Semiannual Meeting.
- **Category II** - Carolyn Nichols reported that three tournaments were contacted regarding their continued status as Category II events: Kansas City, Claremont, and Public Parks. ITF issues with the Fiesta Bowl have been addressed. ITF status for additional tournaments and increasing the number of Super Category II events will be evaluated before the end of the year. Any website updates will be made after the National server change is complete in June/July. In an effort to provide more national assistance to tournaments, Kathy Langer contacted Dave Matthews about sponsorship opportunities with Head/Penn. Dave asked for an official letter from the committee stating the request with details - number of Cat II events, potential number of matches, etc. He will follow up with Theresa and Kathy.
- **Circuit Chairs** - Dan Casey and Carol Clay reported that the training and education of circuit chairs and tournament directors on ITF requirements continues to be the major focus. Top concerns are seeding issues, white badge officials, uncertainty as to which rules – ITF or USTA- apply to which draws, and trainers. Brett Schwartz, tournament director, expressed his concerns about the wild cards and seeding having a negative impact on participation. The ITF issue will be re-evaluated at the end of the year.
- **ITF** - Carolyn Nichols gave a status report. New seeding worked well at the first Women's National Championship. Wildcards seem to work best in smaller draws. She stated that we have made a big impact on the ITF in the past year. It is important that we stay involved and continue to help adjust and create rules. The ITF will go to a computerized system in 2012 – begin ranking doubles, possibly giving points for consolation play and  $\frac{3}{4}$  playoffs (issues that are of concern to our players).
- **Points Per Round** - Frank Kelly -. No significant changes noted as a result of changes to the PPR tables in an analysis of 2008 versus 2009 standings. Monitoring will continue.
- **Special Projects** - Sue-Anne Stuntz gave the report. The Tournament Homepage Checklist is now available on the A/S website as well as SharePoint. A review of tournament homepages using the checklist is underway.
- **Staff Report** - Theresa Bowen - The 2011 tournament director's workshop is tentatively scheduled for February, exact date TBD. There are now 46 White Badge officials. Active.com priorities: t-shirt sizes captured at time of registration, web based TDM program. Complete report to be posted to SharePoint.
- **New Business:**
  - **Doubles Rankings:** Committee requested that staff continue to post both individual and team doubles rankings. Tournament directors utilize both in seeding players/teams.
  - **Family Divisions in Category II events:** Carolyn Nichols and Linda Temple will explore adding Category II events with Family Divisions and/or adding Family Divisions to existing Category II events.
  - **Suspended players:** At this time, suspended players cannot be blocked from entering tournaments through the Active.com system.

Prepared by Sue-Anne Stuntz