

NCTTA Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Sunday, September 30, 2007
Via Gotomeeting.com software

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM ET by President Willy Leparulo

Other board members present:

Mike McFarland (MM)
Wassim Chao (WC)
Michael Meier (MSM)
David Del Vecchio (DD)
Joe Wells (JW) (arrived 9:52pm ET)
Seemant Teotia (ST) (arrived 10:01pm ET)

Guests:

None

Missing:

Liang Liu (LL)

Agenda:

I. About.com/Willy situation

- NCTTA President Willy Leparulo made statements on a message board at TableTennis.About.com that could be detrimental to NCTTA as a whole, and college table tennis as a movement
- Willy has publicly apologized for his comments, especially ones specifically regarding USATT President Sherri Pittman and has ceased posting publically on Table Tennis forums
- Willy hopes his comments will not jeopardize the reputation of NCTTA; if NCTTA's reputation is negatively affected; Willy will evaluate his future effectiveness as an executive board member
- Attempts by Joe Wells to contact the USATT Board regarding its specific position on NCTTA has gone unanswered
- NCTTA will look into updating its official "Code of Ethics"

II. Update from Liquid Drink Sponsor (Mike Meier)

- Mike Meier will bring information regarding this at next month's meeting

III. Committee updates

- Media Relations (Vacant)*: John McInerney asked to chair the committee
- Marketing (Michael McFarland)*: Template of 2007 College Table Tennis National Championships website will soon be available online
- Alumni Development/Collegiate Relations (Liang Liu)*: Liang absent

--2008 World University Championships (Willy Leparulo): Willy emailed organization nine times with no response; no official indication that table tennis will be a sport part of this event

--Michael McFarland will contact organization if possible for USA & NCTTA to host the table tennis event

--2009 World University Championships will be held in Belgrade

--*Disabled Athletes (VACANT)*: interested desired

IV. Divisions update (McFarland and Willy)

-- Kansas, Texas and Northern California have not submitted dates for Fall Division Meets

V. Discussion of Intra divisional tournament proposition in Carolina/GA/FL

-verified with Seemant Teotia (Ratings Director) that inter divisional tournament would indeed count towards overall ratings

-Dalton Hoffine (Carolina division director) suggested some prizes, but at this point in time nothing has been developed

VI. Hub stuff (Willy)

--Discussion of NCTTA Group Hub, whether or not it is worth continued usage

--**MOTION MADE BY MIKE MEIER: KEEP THE GROUHPUB**

Secoded by Mike McFarland

Discussion: none

VOTE: Passed 5-0-0

VII. Newgy Affiliate program and its promotion

http://www.newgy.com/aboutnewgy/affiliate_program.asp

-Sean O'Neill suggested we should support the Newgy Affiliate program to our membership to help out NEWGY with their new program

-David brings up legally according to TTP/NCTTA contract is it ok to do so since TTP sells Newgy Robots

-WL will send an email to Sean asking for more specifics on this area and then after contact Karen Chang if need be.

-McFarland will contact Larry Thoman to discuss specifics if all is correct on this area

-it should be noted that NCTTA does NOT have issues with promoting this program for Newgy but does want to stay in accordance with their previous League contract with TTP

VIII. Update from last meeting (Willy)

A. NCTTA Newsletter

--Complaints regarding rankings; mostly from teams who did not submit their information

--**MOTION by David Del Vecchio: send newsletter once a month**

Secoded by Willy Leparulo

Discussion: Mike Meier: have it sent every fourth Tuesday of the month

VOTE: Passed 5-0-0

B. TTP/Killerspin Sponsorship Agreement

- check has been received by NCTTA
- Balls have been sent out to teams, but barriers have not been received
- NCTTA/TTP logo updated on NCTTA website; will soon be updated on Facebook and MySpace pages
- Killerspin President Robert Blackwell is extremely excited to be the official equipment supplier of college table tennis

C. "Balls of Fury" (Willy)

- Mike McFarland: received several calls from people wanting to play after seeing the movie

- Mike Meier: renewed interest by active players because of movie

IX. 24 Hour Fitness Partnership (Mike Meier)

- Mike Meier will investigate possible sponsorship/partnership from 24 Hour Fitness; will email board with his findings
- Willy: provided NCTTA statistics – an estimated 2,800 participants at 100+ schools in 30+ states, as well as Puerto Rico and Canada)

X. NCTTA Donation Project update (Willy)

- Willy has manually compiled email list from USATT Membership Directory; looking to use it for NCTTA fundraising
- Specific benefits for certain donation is recommended; McFarland will contact sponsors regarding that
- Ideas what fundraising will support: individual schools, scholarships, championships, NCTTA operational costs

XI. NCTTA 2007-08 Budget (David)

- Financial Committee has submitted proposed budget for 2007-08
- David: New idea by Financial Committee to give championship winners tee shirts and hats
- David: Sponsor could pay for nice championship trophy, with their name added to it
- McFarland: heading up trophy company provider search
- McFarland: American Airlines and Northwest Airlines only airlines that fly directly into Rochester, Minnesota for 2008 College Table Tennis National Championships; looking into group rates
- Meier: Recommended sportsmanship award for male and female athletes at Championships; Willy will present it to the Championship Committee and come back to us regarding their decision
- David: Should we keep video production part of budget? Most agreed
- David: Division training camp explanation
- Willy: did not like the division training camp explanation as it seemed to only cater to advanced players

--Motion to approve 2007-08 Budget (Willy)

Seconded: McFarland

Discussion: various

Pass 6-1-0 (Mike Meier abstain)

XII. RockStar Games tour with Nintendo Wii (Joe and Willy)

--Joe did conference call with representatives from RockStar Games and marketing firm Spectre; NCTTA's role would be to help publicize the tour

--tour will help NCTTA recruit new school since tour visits several non-NCTA schools

--NCTTA would like its logo on Spectre/RockStar games tee shirts

XIII. NCTTA/Vision (Joe)

--Vision has not responded to inquiries

Meeting Adjourned 11:07 PM ET