



Tournament Committee
Minutes
June 9, 2020

The following members were present: Wendell Dillon, Chair; Vinod Kambrath, Jim Butler Athlete rep; and Larry Thoman, National Sanctioning Coordinator (NSC); Absent: Chunyen Liu, Vikash Sahu and Tim Wang, Athlete rep; Guests: Virginia Sung, USATT CEO, Mark Thompson, COO and Craig Krum, Omnipong.

The meeting was an open discussion on the US Nationals and US Open

1. The meeting was called by Virginia Sung to discuss operations of the Nationals and US Open.
2. Jim Butler provided the only advance information, see attachment.
3. Virginia announced that there would be a US Open Veterans Championships Dec 14-16 and the Nationals 16-20 at the Mandalay Bay. There will be no US Open this year.
4. Non-Vegas residents will be required to stay at the tournament hotel.
5. We discussed qualifications for the Nationals; championship events must be US citizens; rating and other non-championship events must be US residents but not necessarily citizens. It was suggested that all players must be citizens. Jim Butler suggested that because of the virus we should defer changing until next year to encourage attendance. All agreed.
6. Various safety measures were discussed.
7. Craig Krum and Jim Butler were advised to privately discuss Butler's recommendations for the Nationals. Attached.
8. Automatic disqualification from an event for a default was discussed. Virginia asked for a recommendation by the Tournament Advisory Committee.
9. The committee will meet in the next two weeks to advise on the above subject and other tournament subjects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04

Wendell Dillon

Wendell Dillon, Chairman
enclosure

Tournament Committee Meeting, June 9, 2020

Recommendations from Jim Butler, Athlete Representative

As far as an agenda, I would like to suggest one. I was very motivated to be put on this committee because I would like to see changes at our US Nationals and US Open. Although there are many areas that need improvement, I would like to focus on these areas first.

I believe that we need to completely change the way we schedule our events, and the way we feature our events. Here are some of the issues I have experienced, and here are some suggestions to make it better:

1. The Men's and Women's Singles Final is currently being played at a time when a good number of entrants in our Nationals have already gone home. We have a built-in audience because we get around 800 plus entrants. We need to schedule our Semi and Finals at a time when everyone is still competing in the Nationals. We have half the crowd size that we should have for the Semis and Finals because of poor scheduling. The Men's/Women's Singles Semi and Final should be one of the first events to finish in the tournament, NOT THE LAST. I would also like to discuss the possibility of having the semis and finals being played alone, while making sure other events are not scheduled during this time, so we can maximum the crowd size for the Semis and Finals.
2. The scheduling for our other events like Men's/Women's Over 40, Over 50, Over 60, Juniors Under 18, Under 16, Hopes events, (and many others) needs to be looked at as well.
3. We need to completely rethink the way we set up our courts and spectator seating. It is being done very poorly right now. I'm not happy with the Men's/Women's Singles Semi and Final court, and I am even less happy with the other courts throughout the convention center. Besides redoing our main feature court, I would like to discuss having a number of "mini" featured courts throughout the convention center. These "mini" featured courts will each have at least one or two rows of chairs that surround the court entirely. They will be placed in good traffic areas according to the convention center layout. I'm suggesting we feature the finals of our hopes events, our junior events, our senior events, etc. Every final of all events should be featured on these mini featured courts. We need to make our entrants feel special if they make a final, and we also need to do a better job of showcasing the finals of our events to the spectators and people in the convention center. This should include an inexpensive stand or apparatus next to the "mini" featured court that we can place a sign on that says the event that is being played. Right now its a free for all. Matches are going on everywhere, nobody knows what or who is playing, and often times there isn't even a scorekeeper.
4. From the moment a person walks through the convention center door, they should be met with signs that tell them the feature match of the day. They need to know where that match is being played, and why it would be a fun match to see. We need to spoon

feed the people walking in the doors. We cant expect them to go to a draw sheet, figure out when and where matches are being played, and then navigate the convention center on their own.

These are some talking points I would love to discuss with all of you.

Thanks,

Jimmy Butler