

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)  
December 2013 – January 2014

Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair  
April 13, 2014

During December 2013 – January 2014, the HPC did not hold any formal meetings or conference calls. However, the following summary of its actions and discussions is offered to inform USATT members about the HPC's activities conducted by email, and through participation in the other USATT activities.

1. For the cadet boys national team trial event at the Nationals, the adopted procedure provided for the top six players (by rating) to be seeded into the second stage round robins, with six qualifiers to join them. Among the players who entered, there was an exact tie for sixth and seventh place by rating. The HPC conducted an extensive email discussion of possible alternatives for breaking the tie, ultimately deciding that a coin flip would be fair (to decide which player would be required to qualify). A parent of one of the players objected, and hired an attorney to press for an alternative approach. After some further discussion it was agreed that a playoff match would determine the seeding. In the end, both players (including the loser of the playoff match) did qualify for the second stage.
2. The HPC reviewed the USATT High Performance budget for 2014 prior to its consideration by the USATT Board at its Nationals meeting.
3. The HPC reviewed and approved the selection procedure for a team leader / coach to accompany qualifying U.S. athletes to the 2014 Youth Olympic Games.
4. The HPC conducted a wide-ranging email discussion about the playing format for the adult national team trials. Concerns were raised about the integrity of a round robin system with respect to injury defaults, and also situations where a player might have an incentive to lose a match to help another player to gain an advantage in qualifying for a team. To address these concerns, the HPC decided to adopt the approach of multiple-day single elimination tournaments as has been used previously for the Olympic trials.
5. The HPC discussed some options for a multi-event trial system for cadet and junior national team qualification, but did not adopt an alternative approach at this time.
6. For ITTF international tournaments, each country tends to be permitted to enter a certain number of players into the draw. The HPC began a discussion of how to allocate these entries if the number of requests from players exceeded number of entries available to USATT, with the intent to develop criteria for posting on the USATT website.