

Rules & Officiating Committee Meeting
Saturday, April 3, 2004

Minutes

Present: Directors Cousins, Johnson, Maier, Moore, Silver (in place of C. Brown), Swandby, West (Chair), Guest Director Maskel and Staff Schroeder.

The Committee discussed rules and interpretations for the 2005 Championship Rules booklet. These included:

Section I.A. *Wheelchair* – The USCA will not restrict team membership by club or by region.

Section IV.A.3.(2) and drawing – The hack is to be positioned so the lowest point of the beginning of the upward slope is over the hack line.

Section IV.A.5.(1) – ~~At the start of a competition every team shall be composed of four players;~~ Teams must start their first game of each level of competition with four (4) athletes playing on the ice. If a team chooses to forfeit its first game because it cannot field four (4) players, it may play the remaining games with three (3) players. ~~Each player plays two stones and playing each stone alternately with his/her opponent~~

Section IV.A.12.(6) – When a team decides to concede the game before the completion of an end, the game shall finish only when it is the conceding team's turn to play. The score for that end shall be determined at that time and recorded on the scoreboard. If this occurs prior to the final end of the game, the remaining ends shall be recorded by an X.

Section IV.A.8.(12) – If the extender cue is to be used by an athlete as his/her delivery method for stones, another method may not be used by the athlete for the entire game.

Section I.A.2 – If a "Request for Ruling" is received in the USCA National Office prior to 48 hours before the first game of the competition involved in the ruling request, the Rules & Officiating Committee will process the request. Within 48 hours of the first game, the On-Site Board of Review, which may not be on site, will process the request.

Section III.C.2 – All games will be scheduled ten ends, ties are full extra ends, ~~no minimum number of ends required~~ playoff games, not including tie breakers, shall be not less than six (6) ends. All games that may influence the final outcome of the event must be played.

Section II.J.2 – At each level of play, the Chief Umpire Rules & Officiating Committee shall appoint, prior to competition, a three-member On-site Board of Review including one impartial athlete and not to include the Chief Umpire or the Event Chair. As a practical matter, the Committee does not have to be on site and the athlete need not be appointed prior to the competition but appointed as needed. ~~For the Men's and Women's Nationals and the Junior Men's and Junior Women's Nationals, the President of the USCA shall appoint the On-site Board of Review before the event, and inform the Chief Umpire and the local chairperson as the members of the Board. A representative of the Athletes Advisory Council will serve as the athlete.~~

The AAC will work with the Rules & Officiating Committee to formulate guidelines to be used when forming On-site Board of Reviews. The Executive Committee must accept the final version of these guidelines before they can become part of the Rules & Officiating policies.

The Committee Chair was directed to contact David Garber about a possible WCF rule concerning the use of a three step and release use of the cue. The Committee believes rules governing the use of the cue are needed as they may be used in all competitions not leading to a World competition including our Mixed, National Championship and club and regional playoffs leading to the National.

In response to numerous inquiries asking what criteria the Rules & Officiating Committee Request for Ruling subcommittee uses to make its decision on residency, the following will be posted on the web site with the RFR form:

Factors, including but not limited to, used to make RFR decisions on residency, not in order of importance are:

- Prior determinations in similar circumstances
- Where athletes actually play regularly
- Competitive balance
- The team's preference

The Committee went into closed secession to discuss promotion of officials and preliminary assignments for next season. The Committee Chair will communicate with officials as to outcomes.