

**UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
September 15-16, 2007
Holiday Inn Select Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota
Minutes**

APPENDIX M: VP Operations and Marketing Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources – HR Committee assisted the Coaching Committee and Elite Programs in the interviews and selection of Coaching Development Director. Employee reviews were conducted by COO and were submitted to HR committee and approved.

Finance – No action

By-Laws/Legal/Governance – No action

HOF/Athlete Recognition – Committee met by conference call and made recommendations for Team of Year, Male Athlete and Female Athlete of the Year.

Leadership Development – Will make presentation on results from BOD Survey results from 2007 Spring Meeting.

Revenue Development – Revenue Development met many times over the summer by conference call. They discussed, developed and approved USCA 50th Anniversary logo. This logo will be used throughout the USCA in coming year. Logo will also be incorporated in the 2007/2008 Pin Donation Program. Committee has also developed a line of 50th Year merchandise including patches and Nike apparel.

VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS AND MARKETING

Job Descriptions – Finalizing all updates on job descriptions for BOD, committees and staff.

Director's Corner – Thanks to Terry Kolesar on creating a “Director's Corner” on the USCA website. This will be a one stop shopping for all reports, agendas, minutes, etc for BOD meetings. All directors will have access and be able to download and print all reports before meetings.

Stone Committee – Committee under Member Services. Last two sets of WCF stones have been allocated. Willmar, MN has signed contract and will be picking up stones before season. Contract signed between Boise Curling Club and USCA for Boise to purchase two sets of Toronto stones they have had in their possession since 2004.

APPENDIX N: Communications Manager Report

Prepared by Terry Kolesar (September 2007)

Below is an overview of my major projects/assignments for the 2007-08 curling season:

Toby Keith

We continue to foster a relationship with Toby Keith's booking agent in hopes of establishing a long-standing partnership to satisfy both USA Curling and Toby Keith. They have displayed interest in continuing to hone their curling skills and with working with USA Curling on future projects. -

U.S. Curling News

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the USCA, the Curling News masthead has been slightly redesigned for the season. Other new changes this season include new fonts for the main text of the newspaper as well as a new advertising spot on the front page above the fold. These color ad spots are small in size but create strong visibility for advertisers. The 2x2 ads sell for \$350 per issue. It is my hope that this will help boost ad sales slightly.

USCA Web site

The USA Curling website has been redesigned by CurlingZone with a soft rollout on June 1. Work has been done on the website throughout the summer to add content and better organize it. Ad sales on the USA Curling website are stable with the hope that the new re-design will attract additional advertisers this season and in the future. As we continue to roll out the new features of the website, please don't hesitate to email me if you notice something missing or have ideas to share. Feedback is always welcome.

Media Guide & Directory & Media Mailing

The 2007-08 Media Guide & Directory has just printed and will be available at the Fall Board Meeting. Ad sales increased slightly from last season from \$1,600 to \$1,875. In addition, to assist with reducing overhead costs, copies of the Media Guide were burned to a mini CD and distributed to media in this form once again. This helps reduce the cost of copies printed. Once again, my annual media mailing will be sent out via CD this year to reduce the cost of photocopying the content.

Partnership with Compete-At

USA Curling announced in June its partnership with Compete-At to assist with event management. Compete-At functionality addresses the following areas of running a successful event:

- Pre-event planning and promotion: Event staff roles and responsibilities, access rights and privileges, scheduled notifications and tasks
- Administrative tools: Registration set-up, registrations requirements, open and close dates, fee structure, discipline and class structure
- E-commerce store with customizable categories and reporting to sell event apparel, social or event tickets, T-shirts, etc.
- Event cloning for rapid deployment and increased efficiency
- Bonspiel draw library
- Game timing clock

- Social event planning
- Secure credit card processing
- Multi-lingual and multi-currency
- Financial budgeting and reporting

Electronic Newsletters

USA Curling distributes two e-newsletters – Stone Soup and Around the Arena. Stone Soup is published monthly during the curling season and typically once or twice during the off-season. The Around the Arena e-newsletter was unveiled in January and is managed by Sandra McMakin, chairwoman of the Arena Curling Committee. This is a relatively cheap way, at 1/2 cent per email, to send out information prior to events and to promote merchandise sales, upcoming TV shows and athlete biographies.

Korbel Elite Curling Challenge

Taping for the 2007 Korbel Elite Curling Challenge will take place in October at The Rink at Rockefeller Center in New York City. The show, presented by NBC Sports and Korbel, will air Dec. 23 from 2:30-4 p.m. ET (check local listings). This year's show will feature a match between the Pete Fenson team and three-time world champion Peja Lindholm of Sweden.

Event media operations and other media work

With many of the championship events in the Midwest and North America this season, I hope to be able to more efficiently run some of the on-site media operations to better serve our members and the media to promote our sport nationwide. These plans include live scoring, updated athlete/coach biographies, webcast at the Nationals, press releases after each draw of every championship event, audiotape of athlete interviews on the website as well as more photography in addition to pre-event promotions. My media liaison work extends well beyond the championship events, and I hope to give more attention this season to the feel-good stories surrounding our sport.

Miscellaneous items

Advertising on the USCA instructional brochures was secured for the first time this season. A new poster was designed this summer for clubs to use to help promote their events from open houses to bonspiels. This poster is distributed in the annual Member Services fall mailing.

Jack Kelly Fair Play Award

2007 Wisconsin junior champion Ash Nelson of Medford, Wis., will be honored in October at the United States Olympic Committee's Olympic Assembly as the 2006 recipient of the Jack Kelly Fair Play Award. Nelson was nominated by the USCA for his actions during the 2007 Wisconsin junior men's playdowns. Nelson will be honored at a special luncheon at the assembly in Houston.

Moving Forward

With the U.S. Olympic Team Trials and the 2010 Olympic Winter Games right around the corner, this season I will need to roll out specific plans for success in promoting our sport and 2010 U.S. Olympic team leading up to and after the 2010 Olympic Games. Rick has asked the staff to work together to accomplish five specific goals for the 2007-08 season that I think we've

already made great strides toward completing. We also were asked to create goals related specifically for our department for the next year and beyond. I've found my five-year plan to be a great way to keep myself organized and focused. Keeping in mind the USCA staff's goal of becoming better organized, I plan this season to create a formal communications manager handbook. I had a busy year last season traveling to events managing the USCA's on-site event media operations but still managed to enjoy my work and find new creative solutions.

APPENDIX O: Code of Ethics

UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

PROPOSED September 15, 2007

INTRODUCTION

As the National Governing Body for curling in the United States, and because we operate in public spotlight, we are expected to conform to the highest ethical principles. For these reasons, the USCA requires its volunteers and staff to conduct business with integrity, to maintain a standard of ethical conduct consistent with the regulations of the State of Wisconsin in which USCA is incorporated and to be guided by the knowledge that we are guardians of the Spirit of Curling. Furthermore, because the appearance of impropriety can be just as damaging as actual impropriety, conduct, which appears to be improper, is also unacceptable.

CODE OF ETHICS

Accordingly, volunteers and staff are required to comply with the following USCA Code of Ethics when representing or participating in USCA activities or events:

1. Conduct all dealings with honesty and fairness.
2. Respect the rights of all employees to fair treatment and equal opportunity, free from discrimination or harassment of any type.
3. Know, understand and comply with the laws, regulations and codes of conduct governing the conduct of USCA business – both domestic and foreign.
4. Ensure that all transactions are handled honestly and recorded accurately.
5. Protect information that belongs to the USCA, its members, individual curlers, our donors, sponsors, suppliers and fellow workers.
6. Avoid conflicts of interest, both real and perceived.
7. Never use USCA assets or information for personal gain.
8. Recognize that even the appearance of misconduct or impropriety can be very damaging to the reputation of the USCA and act accordingly.

ENFORCEMENT

Perceived violations should be brought to the attention of the President for review and, if appropriate, recommending sanctions to the Executive Committee (as to volunteers) or the Chief Operating Officer (as to staff). Perceived violations involving the President should be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Finance/Audit Committee for review and, if appropriate, recommending sanctions to the Executive Committee. Any person that violates or condones the violation of the Code of Ethics is subject to disciplinary measures, which may include termination of employment and expulsion from the Board of Directors and/or Committee.

APPENDIX P: VP CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

Our committee held four teleconferences over the summer, and we were able to plow through a large number of issues affecting the formats of our championships. Highlights include:

- Review and adoption of the new WCF rules of curling with some clarifications;
- Implementing online registration for championship through Compete-At
- Adoption of format recommendations for the new Mixed doubles event;
- Increasing the fill policy for junior women to 10 teams;
- Modifications to the Men's Challenge Fill policy (using WCT points to fill any forfeited spot)
- Decision to delay adopting the new stick release point for the 2007-8 season and to further study and test before making a recommendation to the WCF (reversing our earlier decision, in light of Canada's decision to delay the rule).
- Use of draw shot distance to determine hammer for championship competition
- Changes to the travel expense reimbursement formula affecting the Club Nationals, Mixed and Juniors
- Filling the Mixed to 10 teams
- Refining and streamlining the process of developing draws for accordion events.
- Purchasing and repairing sensor handles so that we can provide six sheets of sensor handles; replacement batteries ordered.

As a result of all the work done by the committee this summer, we were able to complete the Championship Rules Book implementing the above changes before the Fall meeting, well ahead of last year's schedule. Judy Maier has lined up sites for all of the events, and it should be an exciting season of competition.

For anyone interested in reading more about these issues and the thinking of the committee in making its decisions, minutes of the meetings are attached.

Jim Pleasants

MINUTES OF FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

May 24, 2007

Present: James Pleasants, Sam Williams, Tom O'Connor, Charissa Lin, Walt Ehrbach, Chris Moore, Paul Badgero, Judy Maier, Kent Beadle, Bob Fenson, Mark Swandby, Jay Packard, Richard Maskel, John Benton (Bev Schroeder-staff)

1. Consideration for approval of additional championship sites. The following were approved: Mankato for Club Nationals; Schenectady for Regional Qualifier east; Fairbanks for regional qualifier west; Waupaca for Midwest south regional qualifier. Bismarck was previously approved for the Midwest north regional qualifier. Bemidji was previously approved for the Mixed Doubles Nationals.

If there are enough women's registrations to require women's regional qualifiers and challenge rounds, they will be held in conjunction with the men's qualifiers at the same sites. Current rules call for only one Midwest regional qualifier for women. The Midwest site chosen was Bismarck, because of the expectation that fewer men's teams would be playing there, so it would be easier to add the women to that event without making it unduly long for everyone.

Hibbing was conditionally approved for the M/W championships. Their bid was conditioned on the USCA being able to obtain stones for the championship from outside the club, and Hibbing was approved subject to that contingency. (Update: Mark Shurek has been contacted regarding the WCT slam stones, and he is checking his schedule as to availability)

2. Mixed doubles recommendations. The recommendations of the working group were approved (attached as **Exhibit A**). As noted by the working group, there are several rules for this new format that need to be clarified. Richard Maskel will work with the WCF to seek clarification of the rules from the WCF so that everyone knows what rules will apply at the World and we can play according to those rules.

The consensus was that we should have a sign-up deadline of November 1, to allow ample time to determine the draw and allow for airplane ticket purchase once the schedule is known. It would be best to use sensor handles, and it appears that can be fit into the schedule. Magnetic strips will be sent to Bemidji.

Prior to registration, it needs to be publicized that there is no guaranteed funding for the world team beyond uniforms (Nike VIK only, the same as for the Seniors), so that people understand they are making a personal financial commitment to go to Finland for the World. Some portion of the entry fees will be made available to defray costs to the champion, but the amount cannot be predicted until the number of entries is known.

3. Definition of returning national champion. The working group on this topic had some discussion and a possible change that would leave the existing rule intact but add an exception for a fifth who plays only minimally. Chris Moore formulated some possible language, and requests input from the AAC before we vote on whether we want to make a change.

4. Adoption of the WCF rules of Curling with any changes or interpretations.

It was decided to adopt the WCF rules of curling with some clarifications but no changes. The consensus was that there is value in having uniform rules of curling throughout the curling world, that the WCF is the body charged with formulating those rules, and that the WCF rules

should be used in the United States unless there is a compelling reason to adopt a different rule for the US.

There are numerous substantive changes.

It should be noted that the committee does not necessarily believe that all of the WCF changes are the best possible rules for the sport, nor are they necessarily the rules that we would choose if we were writing the world rules. When the WCF adopted the new rules, they indicated the rules would be reviewed at the end of the year, and be changed as appropriate. The USCA and its championships and rules committee will monitor the impact of the new rules on the sport and will make recommendations to the WCF regarding any rules we believe are detrimental to the sport or are leading to problems of interpretation or implementation.

The new stick rule, with a release point before the shooter's feet cross the tee line, was the subject of considerable debate. The committee members expressed a variety of opinions as to whether the stick confers an advantage, especially if the release point is the hog line. The committee members agree that the stick should remain a viable option for those who are not able to use the slide delivery because of physical limitations. We also agree that this is overwhelmingly how the stick is currently being used. The committee members agreed that we would not want to see the stick used by able bodied players to gain an advantage, but expressed differing opinions as to whether that is likely to be a real problem. We also heard differing opinions as to whether the new release point will cause serious problems for those who are currently using the stick

A vote was taken on whether to adopt the new stick rule, and it was adopted, with nay votes from Bob Fenson, Sam Williams, and Judy Maier. The motion indicates that the USCA will review the rule through the year, and will make a recommendation to the WCF regarding the rule based on the feedback we receive.

We recognize that leagues or bonspiels may choose not to implement this rule for particular leagues or bonspiels. However, we would like stick curlers to try the new rules and give us feedback on how workable it is, so that we can make an appropriate recommendation to the WCF for next year.

The clarifications involve sweeping rules for rocks set in motion by the delivered stone (omitted in the WCF rules) and a clarification regarding sweeping of rocks that reach the tee line but then are deflected back to in front of the tee line.

James Pleasants reported that we are close to reaching an agreement with Compete-at for online registration for championships

EXHIBIT A: Mixed Doubles sub-committee recommendations

Scrape between every draw – *Proposal is to scrape between every other draw*

Registration fee for Mixed Doubles – *Propose \$250*

Max number of games/day for a single team – *Proposal three okay to be scheduled, four under extenuating circumstances*

Draw format – *proposal is to follow same basic structure as any other accordion event*

Determining the format for future years, esp. as to whether a preliminary round is appropriate, when and where? *Proposal that the championships committee be prepared to revisit this after this year's event – e.g. have a meeting specifically scheduled to discuss this issue immediately following this year's event*

Clarifying the rules, esp. sweeping – *Richard* to follow-up with WCF and keep sub-committee in-the-loop regarding process

Substitution rules

Coaching rules

4th end break

Timeouts

Draw shot challenge vs. coin toss

Is there such a thing as a skip or vice-skip (can you throw at an empty house)

Players to place rocks initially – Bemidji will need to put marking in to indicate location

Submit a detailed set of questions to WCF asking for clarification

Creating a trophy and awards for this event

Winning medallions (like senior's) – Nicole will make sure it's in her budget

Just do medallions unless someone is willing donate a trophy (trophies for club

Nationals donated) – Charrissa to look into a notice on USCA website to solicit trophy

Getting draws made ahead of time (as many as possible) – *Charrissa/Derek*

Officiating – *proposal is to have a minimalistic officiating structure – head umpire, timers, couple of on-ice officials/other helpers; hoglines to be essentially honor system (if problem, head umpire will send someone out to monitor) – unless the USCA agrees to budget in incremental cost of using sensor handles. Sensor handle discussion: do we need to acquire more sensor strips for sensor handles (or reallocate strips from club nationals site to mixed doubles site); would need to use AIT VIK to ship; Kent to look into budget to cover shipping for sensor handles and cost for extra sensor strips*

Funding for the Mixed Doubles World Team – *no funding available from USOC; need to communicate to competing teams that they will only potentially receive a minimal amount of funding from entry fees – communication will need to be on website when entries are solicited, other?. Entry fees need to cover host site and small administrative fees. Might be able to do to VIK for jacket and two shirts.*

How long should pre-game practice be for two people? *Rules on USCA website say 5 min per team*

How many games/draws in a day at a facility? *2hrs for game and practice (practice is 12 min, plus 5-10 min before game, game is 48 min per team or 1 hr 36 min), 0.5 hr buffer in case of extra end, 1 hr for scrape - total draw timeblock of 3.5 hours. Could do 4 hours to be safe. 8am, 12pm, 4pm, 8pm. 8am, 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm, 10pm – not practical. 4 draws seems to be most you can fit in a schedule if scraping every draw. 5 draws if scraping is every other draw.*

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP TELECONFERENCE (July 11, 2007)

Rules and Officiating

1. **Holding an officiating class** by teleconference (Wis-line) and requiring all officials to participate in order to officiate this coming year (for those who can't participate live, the material can be saved and accessed later). The rules have changed substantially, and everyone needs to get up to speed. We need to develop a curriculum and teacher(s) for this. It was agreed that this class should be held and should be required for anyone planning to be a head official or assistant this coming season. Estimated cost will be \$20. We will try to keep the cost to a minimum sufficient to cover our costs. Bill Forsythe will be in charge of putting together the curriculum/speakers for this class.

2. **International Officials Symposium in Perth, Scotland.** WCF is sponsoring this symposium and we will send three participants. We should send them our questions and get their feedback after the conference. (August 31-September 1). We will be sending Bill, George, and Donna.

3. Recruiting an official to become an **expert on mixed doubles** and be the head official in Bemidji . This will be done in connection with the letter (see below)

4. **Letter to qualified officials** soliciting their participation in the upcoming championships, to be sent in early August. We should know by the September meeting who is interested in being an official or assistant for each event, so that we can consider them at the September meeting. We should make clear what is reimbursed and what is not. There is reimbursement (for travel and lodging only) budgeted for the M/W National Championship (head official and one assistant), Juniors (head official), Challenge Round (head official), and Mixed Doubles (head official). All others must be local officials or be willing to travel without reimbursement. The letter should also mention the mandatory teleconference (see agenda item #1).

5. Creation of a work group to make recommendations regarding the **organization of our officiating certification process** and review of performance by officials. Bill Todhunter will work with Bill Forsythe to put together a proposal (to be discussed further at the September meeting)

Specific rules issues:

6. **Timing should be uniform across the regional qualifiers.** Regional hosts will be expected to recruit timers for all games (Understanding that there may be circumstances beyond control that make it impossible to officiate a few games at any given event, and that this would not invalidate the game.) Challenge round will also be timed.

7. We will use the **draw shot distance (button shot at the end of practice) to determine hammer for all championships.** We should have an official do the measurements. If the draw shot distance results in a tie, the tie will be broken by the draw shot challenge (team score) if that has been completed. Otherwise, the teams will flip for hammer. The draw master will randomize rock color and first/second practice as much as possible.

8. Practices will be six minutes. Practice will be preceded by one minute of slide time. The draw shot distance will be done at the end of each team's practice.

9. The bronze medal game

A. Page Playoff.

We will not adopt the World method of picking bronze (playoff between the 3-4 loser and the loser of the second round of the page). We will continue to use our current method of determining bronze, which awards it to the team that loses the semi-final game.

B. Traditional Playoff

We have been awarding two sets of bronze medals at the mixed and the club nationals. Hereafter we will award only one set. There will be a playoff game for the bronze medal.

10. Entry fees and reimbursements

We will use the same reimbursement formula for mixed and club nationals, which is to take entry fees minus field of play at \$50 per team (both mixed and club nationals will use the sensor handles) minus USCA expenses and put the remainder into a travel reimbursement pool. Depending on the size of the pool, long distance teams could receive up to \$1,600, and local teams up to \$200, pro-rating to a lesser amount based on the size of the dollar pool. For juniors, the travel pool is budgeted at \$18,000. This was a reduction of approximately \$4,000 from previous junior travel budgets, but this is still a slightly more favorable reimbursement for juniors as compared to mixed and club nationals.

11. M/W National championships

There will be only one change to the format used to pick the Nationals qualifiers. The challenge round will be filled up to 8 teams, using the WCT rankings to fill any spot that is vacant.

It was proposed to address in the Player/Coach agreement whether a team is planning to go to the challenge, by adding language to the agreement (not adopted):

Definition of returning national champion was tabled to the next meeting.

There will be **no hog line officials** at the regionals. The head official would still have the right to post someone at the hog line if there has been a complaint of violation, and to pull rocks if he or she sees a further violation. We are planning to have the sensor handles at the challenge, so it's not an issue there.

Regarding **icemaker at the M/W Nationals**. We have talked to Mark Shurek and Garland Legacie. They are on board with using Mark this year and next year, and then switching over to Garland. The WCT stones are available for 2008. We have budgeted reimbursement for Garland at the Nationals as the assistant ice-maker.

There was discussion regarding changes to the women's championship round if there are fewer than eight teams, to give the women more quality games. Several suggestions were made: a double page playoff; a double round robin if there are six or fewer teams; a second round robin

limited to the top four teams. Nicole will review these suggestions with the AAC and come back with a proposal for the next meeting.

Change to Championship Reimbursement procedure.

Bill Todhunter made a reasonable proposal regarding reimbursement of championship team travel allowance: Allow the teams to designate one of their members to apply for and receive the reimbursement, rather than the current USCA requirement that each team member individually request reimbursement. This can be implemented as an option on the player coach agreement.

FIELD OF PLAY REPORT

Teleconference with Startco. We plan to purchase fifty battery packs, and three new handles. This will bring us up to 6 full sheets of sensor handles with two spares of each color.

Eau Claire bid:

There was discussion of the Eau Claire bid for the challenge round. Some concern was expressed about one of their sheets of rocks. We will look into this with the host, and determine at next meeting whether this is a problem, or can be alleviated.

We are tabling format and fill issues that are specific to the Club Nationals, Juniors, Seniors and Mixed, to be considered at a later teleconference.

**MINUTES OF THIRD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE
HELD AUGUST 2, 2007**

1. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Leland Rich, chair

- **fill policy. We decided to fill both junior men and women to 10 teams, using the existing fill formula** Both junior men and women are currently allotted 10 spots (one of the ten spots goes to the region with the most entries and the other nine are from specified regions) If a region does not field a team, currently the junior men fill to 10 teams, but the junior women only fill to 8 teams. Last year we ended up with 9 junior women's teams (no fill) but 10 junior men's teams (with fill). I received quite a few comments about this, (mostly pointing out that junior women's entries and strength and depth of the junior women's field is much improved and closer to junior men.) In this coming year's budget, we have budgeted equally for both boys and girls, anticipating that it is time to have the same fill policy for both. There may be a small reduction in the amount of travel reimbursement on a pro rated basis. Filling is currently based on the highest number of entries from a state or region. People have talked about filling based on past performance rather than number of entries. There has also been talk about giving a spot to a returning national champion rather than to the region with the highest number of entries. These ideas have merit, but they are tricky to implement in juniors, where it is common to have one or more members of a championship team age out. We decided not to change the fill policy at this time. There is also still a three team minimum for fill.
- **Minimum number of entries. No change.** Currently there is a two team minimum requirement.
- **Teams adding a fifth player from another state who was eliminated in his or her own state's Playdown. We decided to revert to the old rule, which does not allow a team to pick up a fifth from another State or Region. This will apply to both Juniors and Mixed.** Last year, some players who were eliminated in their State playdowns were resurrected as fifth players on teams from another state or region. These fifths were named after state playdowns were completed. Our rules as written last year and the year before allowed for this. Richard Maskel pointed out that we previously had a policy against naming as a fifth an eliminated player from a state or region other than your own. Apparently we never voted to change this policy, but the wording disallowing this was dropped during the general re-structuring of the Men's and Women's championships several years ago. This is an issue that could also arise in Mixed Nationals. Since these teams go to the nationals as a representative of a State or region, we will not allow addition of a fifth who was eliminated in another State or regional playdown except for someone from the team's own state or region.
- **Page playoff No change.** No reason to change. Note that World Juniors has now gone to the page system
- sufficient number of rooms at junior championships (need to review procedure manual for host clubs)

2. SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mark Swandby, chair.

The following draw policies were adopted with regard to the seniors.

Because of the accordion nature of this event, we will have an earlier sign up deadline to give the draw master sufficient time to determine the draw, and post start and end dates for those who need to buy airline tickets. The tentative start date posted in the Rule Book and on the Web site will be Monday, though it may not be necessary to start that early. Exmoor would like to hold a banquet, and that will be worked into the draw. Exmoor will finance the banquet.

1] The overall quality of the championship (optimal format, proper distribution of games, etc.) is more important than shortening the length of the competition. The competition should be as long as needed to achieve these goals.

2] In order to facilitate more favorable draws, there should be serious consideration given to placing the Senior Men and Senior Women at different sites. Under the USCA Format Policy we are likely to need a double round robin for the Women and divisional round robins for the Men. Scheduling both these accordion-in-nature events at one site is a problem. **We will attempt to implement this policy in future years.**

3] In order to allow enough time for ice maintenance, pre-game practice, drawing for hammer, etc. it seems that it is best to avoid scheduling more than four draws per day. We prefer to see teams not have to play more than two games per day with the exception of possible tie-breakers.

4] We recommend more use of the weekend, especially Sunday. With the format currently in use there is a very remote possibility that three rounds of tie-breakers would be needed for the Men. We suggest scheduling time for two tie-breaker rounds with the option to delay the semifinals and finals if three rounds are needed. The purpose of this would be to push more play into Sunday and having the first games of the competition closer to the weekend as possible.

5] Scheduling the Senior Nationals and Junior Nationals to conflict would appear to be an acceptable solution to an already overcrowded calendar.

6] If we ever get numbers (over 24) which would call for a triple knock out under the current rules, we would prefer to have a qualifying round rather than the triple.

7.] If we have two women's teams competing again, we should have them play best 3/5. **This policy was adopted for all national championships in which there are two teams competing.**

3. CLUB NATIONALS

(Kent Beadle, chair):

1) **Should we have a minimum number of teams competing in order for a State or region to retain its spot or allow a single team from a State or region to sign up and go? We decided not to require a minimum number of teams.** Consensus for this event that sign-up and go is OK. The goal is to give new clubs an outlet at a national level. Kent reported that the teams

from new areas added to the event and were thrilled to be participating and the event was better for it, even if some of the games were not close.

2) Should the host club receive reimbursement for the use of their ice?

This is a 10 team RR men's and women's combined championship. Should a portion of the entry fees be paid by the USCA to the host club in order to offset expenses and to facilitate more interest in hosting the event? Reimbursement to the Club was not approved. We will look into reimbursement policy at events across the board and try to make a coherent policy for future years. The suggestion was to reimburse if there was still money available from registration fees after reimbursing the USCA expenses and team travel. This was not adopted but the idea will be reviewed as part of a comprehensive review of reimbursement policy for future discussion.

3) Should we continue to fill to 10 teams when a region fails to field a team for its slot? We will continue to fill to 10 men's and women's teams using the existing fill policy. (3 team minimum for fill slot still in effect)

4. As decided at the last meeting the bronze medal game will be played and only one bronze medal awarded

4. MIXED NATIONALS

Paul Badgero, chair

- **Fill policy. We will fill to 10 teams.** Current policy is to fill to 8 teams based on number of entries, with a three team minimum to be considered for a fill spot. Same fill formula, but will now fill to 10 teams.
- **Should we require all players on mixed teams to be from the same state/region?** Not at this time. Currently not required, although a majority must be from same region unless a request for ruling is filed (e.g. on 2 and 2).
- **Should we waive any requirement that a state/region have more than one team playing down, or should we allow them to sign up and go even if only one team signs up from that State or region. Decision: no change.** Current policy requires a minimum of two teams playing down in order to retain the spot.

5. RETURNING NATIONAL CHAMPION

Chris Moore, Chair

AAC recommendation for returning national champion was that a fifth player may be ignored in the determination only if he or she has never played at any level leading to and including the national championship. **It was decided not to change the definition of returning national champion.**

6. Changes to M/W championships

The AAC suggested a change that would have required a team to state in advance whether they would or would not play in the challenge round if they qualified for the challenge based on order of finish. Certain consequences to the fill policy and to playoff games for challenge spot would have followed depending on whether the team had opted out of the challenge. This proposal was not adopted in full. However, the following part of the proposal was adopted:

The challenge round will be filled to up to eight teams based on order of finish. (There may be additional teams who qualify as RNC or on WCT points.) All teams will be reminded in the player coach agreement that they are expected to participate in the entire championship process, and to play all games. If a team declines to play in the challenge despite otherwise qualifying for it by order of finish, the declined spot will be filled based on WCT ranking, regardless of the regional in which the next qualified WCT team played. If there is no team with WCT points that is not already qualified or in the challenge, the declined spot will be filled by re-running the proportional algorithm to assign a spot to one of the regionals, and the next qualifying team from that regional will be offered the vacated spot.

7. The Eau Claire bid for Challenge was approved. Eau Claire has agreed to check in to any troublesome rocks and to attempt to match them or to borrow rocks if possible.

Still To Do:

Complete championship rule book

Complete posters and pamphlets for clubs with new Rules of Curling

Set deadline dates for entry fees

Work with Compete at on the registration web pages

MINUTES FOURTH CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE (9-5-07)

1. Stick Release Point

It was reported that the Canadian Curling Association decided not to adopt for this year the new WCF rule on release point for stick players, potentially leaving the US and Canada with different stick release points. In light of this new development, we decided to re-visit our previous decision to implement the rule in the US this year. It was moved by Sam Williams with a second by Judy Maier that the USCA delay for the 2007-8 curling year the implementation of the new WCF release point pending further study of the new rule and alternatives. The Motion passed by a vote of 8 to 7. It was the decision of the committee on a closely divided vote that we retain the old hog line release point for this year. The CCA will also be studying this question, and the USCA will appoint a study committee to work in cooperation with the CCA group to test various release points and make a report to this committee. Our goal is to be able to make a solid recommendation to the WCF regarding stick release point by February 2008, when the WCF will be reviewing the Rules of Curling it passed in Spring 2007.

2. Challenge fill policy if there are no teams with WCT Points

We previously voted to fill vacated challenge slots to eight using WCT points. If a team that qualified declines to advance to the challenge, that spot would be filled from the next highest team on the WCT list that had not already qualified for the Nationals or the Challenge, regardless of which regional the team played in. A question was raised about what to do if there are no teams left with WCT points who are not already going to the challenge/nationals. We decided in that case not to fill the spot vacated by a declining team. This avoids the problem of having to determine (after the fact) ranks beyond the allotted slots at the qualifiers in case someone declines their spot.

3. Problem of Conflict between WUGS and our National Championship/Olympic Qualifier in 2009.

We previously voted at the Spring 2007 meeting to hold our National Championship/Olympic Selection Feb 21-28, 2009. Our bid and site selection process proceeded with those published dates. We recently became aware that the World University Winter Games will be held at the end of February, 2009, instead of the end of January, as was the case in 2007. We considered the problem of conflicting dates in light of an athlete's right to compete under the Ted Stevens Amateur Athletics Act. Changing the date of our National Championship to allow an athlete to play in both the WUGS and the National Championship was considered. The drawbacks of changing the dates are significant. Our Regional Qualifiers would have to start in Mid-December, with Nationals in early February, leaving less time to get games in before the qualifier round and considerable dead time between the Nationals and the World. Our ADD did not believe that was an ideal scenario for choosing the team that would go to the 2009 World and the 2010 Olympics. In addition, the sites who had bid for the event expressed concern and difficulty if the dates were changed. No decision was made to change the date of our Championship. We reserved the question of whether we would choose to participate in the 2009 WUGs, in light of the conflict.

APPENDIX Q: 2007-2008 National Championship Sites

2007-2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SITES

	<u>SITE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Mixed Doubles Championship	Bemidji	Dec. 6-9
World Wheelchair Team Selection	Individual	
Junior M/W National Championships	Portage	Feb. 2-9
M/W Senior National Championships	Exmoor	Jan. 16-20
Men's Qualifier		
East	Schenectady	Jan. 3-6
Midwest North	Bismarck	Jan. 3-6
Midwest South	Waupaca	Jan. 3-6
West	Fairbanks	Jan. 3-6
Women's Qualifier		
East	Schenectady	Jan. 3-6
Midwest	Bismarck	Jan. 3-6
West	Fairbanks	Jan. 3-6
M/W Challenge	Eau Claire	Jan. 24-27
M/W National Championships	Hibbing	Feb. 16-23
M/W Club National Championships	Mankato	Mar. 1-8
Mixed National Championships	Detroit	Mar. 15-22

WORLD EVENTS - 2008

World Juniors	Ostersund, Swed.	Mar. 1-9
World Wheelchair	Sursee, Switz.	Feb. 2-9
World Men	Grand Forks	Apr. 5-13
World Women	Vernon, BC, CA	Mar. 22-30
World Seniors	Vierumaki, Fin.	Mar. 8-16
World Mixed Doubles	Vierumaki, Fin.	Mar. 9-15

2008 – 2009 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Senior National Championships	Rice Lake, WI - approved by Champ. Com.
Mixed National Championship	Medford, WI – approved by Champ. Com.
M/W Championships/Olympic Trials	Denver – approved by Champ. Com

9/15/07

APPENDIX R: USWCA Report

The incoming USWCA President is Linda Draper of Seattle Granite Curling Club. The fall meeting will be held September 21-22, 2007 in Seattle.

The Friendship Tour between the USA and Canada was held in November 1-14 with the USWCA teams curling in the province of Manitoba. Once every thirty years, both the Friendship Tour and the Scot Tour take place the same year. On November 3rd, the Scot Tour traveled to Scotland where they curled for the next three weeks. Both tours curled well and capably represented the United States.

Funding for travel for junior curlers participating in the Junior Bonspiel is available but must be requested. The USWCA currently is reviewing funding policies with a view to making funds available to defray the cost of providing and maintaining ice for the bonspiel.

The USWCA continues to promote junior curling through its junior competitions at the club level. ~~In addition,~~ it is important to note that since 2003, the Promotions Committee has donated \$11,368 to junior programs across the United States.

In addition to efforts at the junior level, the USWCA continues to provide an opportunity for women of all ages to curl at the regional, national and international levels without having to be an elite level curler. New non-elite curlers are extremely important to the future of curling as those are the people who will provide the support which allows clubs to successfully grow. The USWCA has five new clubs. They are Portland, Oregon, Knoxville, Tennessee, Portage, Wisconsin, San Francisco, California and Glenshaw, Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh).

Schedule for 2007-2008 is as follows:

The Senior National Bonspiel will be held January 10-14, 2008 at Duluth Curling Club, Duluth, Minnesota. The National Bonspiel will be held February 13-17, 2008 at Chesapeake Curling Club in Easton, Maryland.