

2018 NHPA Annual Business Meeting

July 15th 8:30 AM Florence Center, Florence, South Carolina

The meeting was called to order by President Stuart Sipma at 8:30 am. NHPA Chaplain Ken Heinritz opened the meeting with a prayer.

Following a review, a motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting rules. The motion passed. The Minutes Approval Committee was introduced. They include Phyllis Quist (WA), Brian Fisher (OH), and Ron Highley (MO).

NHPA Secretary/Treasurer David Sidles presented a financial report. He detailed how the dissolution of Game Related Sales affected the report presented to the delegates as opposed to the accountants report. David reported the NHPA had made a modest amount of money for the past 3 years mainly due to the World Tournament. No questions were asked and a motion was made and approved to accept the report.

A delegation from Monroe, LA gave a report on preparations for the 2020 World Tournament. They reported now having a local club formed and 12 outdoor courts built since 2011. No accommodation information was available.

The credential report was given. A total of 109 votes were represented by delegates present at the meeting.

A delegation from Wichita Falls, TX presented an update on preparations being made for the 2019 World Tournament. It was indicated that at this time there were plans for 12 indoor practice courts. Adult and junior activities were outlined. Roger Vogel told the delegates that a host tournament committee had been set up to assist in the preparations for the tournament. The host hotel was reported as the Fairfield Inn and Suites approximately 3 miles from the arena.

Gary Roberts presided over the Rules change presentations and voting. Summaries and voting results are as follows;

1. PRC 1. Reduces the number of shoes pitched in a sanctioned league from 400 to 200 to qualify as a NATSTATS event. Passed 102 – 7.
2. PRC 2. Specifies the number of shoes pitched in a sanctioned event in order to receive NATSTATS credit with additional wording that you must pitch against an opponent. This proposal was tabled pending the outcome of the vote on PRC 5 which would define a tournament as requiring at least four (4) contestants.
3. PRC 3. Describes a procedure to allow players to continue to practice until all games of a given round in a schedule are finished. An amendment was made that substantially changed the proposal. This wording would now allow players to remain on the court they just completed a game on until all games of the current round are completed. The amendment passed by show of hands. A second amendment also passed to make this proposal specific to the World Tournament. The proposal as amended passed 109 – 0.

4. PRC 4. Adds some additional wording to the section dealing with determining class winners and breaking of ties. This proposal was intended to clarify that total points could only be used as a class tie-breaker in handicapped Count-All games. Passed 93 – 16.
5. PRC 5. A new rule to provide a definition of a sanctioned tournament as requiring a minimum of four (4) contestants. Failed 66 – 43.
6. PRC 6. A proposal to separate the Cadets division into a Cadet Boy's and a Cadet Girl's division. Failed 70 – 39.
7. PRC 7. A proposal to change NHPA tournament/league participation requirements to allow additional suggested member levels (Provisional and *Trial*) as outlined in the proposal. It was noted that should this proposal pass a change would have to also be made to the Bylaws Article III Section 3. It was decided to add some additional wording to the recommendation that would restrict new Provisional members from ever having been a NHPA adult member. Passed 80 – 30.
8. PRC 8. A proposal to allow non-sanctioned courts to be used for sanctioned play with certain restrictions. Failed 46 – 61.
9. PRC 9. A proposal to allow juniors to be offered and receive awards with immediate and/or deferred monetary value. Passed 90 – 18.

An open discussion of the World Tournament was held. Concerns were expressed about how the photos were being done. It was suggested to have onsite printing available. The delegates were asked if adding the cost of photos to the entry fee was a viable option and it was clear the delegates were not in favor of doing that. A suggestion was made to offer instructional classes to the public. Having a large leader board visible in each pitching area was suggested. A point was made to the delegates that too many people are not willing to help out with scorekeeping and judging.

The World Tournament format was opened for discussion. One suggestion was to have the Championships played during the middle weekend of the event. Seeding the top players was suggested as was a minimum qualifying standard. A ladder type playoff to determine championships was put out as an idea.

Officers and Directors each gave reports.

Laura Lampkin updated the delegates on promotional projects and goals that are currently in process. She described the sports conference process and also revealed problems and issues encountered by potential hosts. Those included things like length of the event and how to deal with the costs of bidding and hosting. Laura also indicated that a membership and a sponsorship committee had been formed. Roger Vogel reported on the sponsorship committee. He described the issues the NHPA faces in securing a sponsor including lack of spectators and media coverage. He also suggested that the NHPA would benefit from being accredited. The costs incurred by potential bidders was indicated as an issue. Roger also pointed out that social media should be more widely

used. Dalton Rakestraw gave an update on the membership committee's work. Items included how the new member t-shirt/gift bag program worked. Laura also described a program to offer new outside club banners.

Jerry Smith gave a report on sanctioned league activities. He thanked the delegates for the contributions made to help offset the costs of league awards and patches.

Rob Hagman reported on IT, website, and stats issues and developments. He invited Kurt Whaley to speak to the delegates regarding future upgrades to HSMaster, NATSTATS and how charters will be communicating with the NHPA. Kurt described this as a three year project and was currently in phase one which is developing a centralized database of member information. Results and stats will be added in future phases.

Gary Roberts reported on overseeing the rules and bylaws process. He voiced concern over the deadline for proposal submissions as limiting time for proper analysis and discussion by his committee. He also pointed that being limited by the bylaws to every three years for rules and bylaws changes was a limiting factor to NHPA growth and improvement.

President Sipma recognized the NHPA Directors.

Junior Director, Aleena Lepak, thanked all the help for making the junior tournament run so well. She announced that she had started a junior's promotion committee and she would continue to work to implement improvements in the junior program.

Mel Yockstick and Bob Dunn gave brief comments.

Gary Roberts then announced the results of the voting on the rules proposals. Those numbers are posted above. With PRC 5 being defeated, it was concluded that PRC 2 could not be acted on as written and was referred back to the rules committee.

Casey Sluys gave a report on the NHPF. He said the building at Wentzville had been re-sided as part of ongoing maintenance. He encouraged everyone to contribute financially to help maintain the NHPA Hall of Fame including brick purchases. He pointed out that all contributions are tax deductible.

Election of Officers was next for the positions of 5th Vice President and President. It was announced the incumbent 5th VP Coyce Allen had to return home due to medical reasons. Candidates for each office were introduced and allowed to speak to the delegates.

During the counting of the election ballots an open discussion was held. Gary Roberts revisited the topic of bylaws changes and the selection of WT sites. He described the expense that bidders have to come to the WT to make presentations as an impediment to the selection process. He went on to say that currently the NHPA is bound to the bylaws regarding site selection. He further pointed out though that there was substantial support on the Executive Council to change this process. To do so at this meeting would require an emergency proposal and in light of the lack of recent bidders, this was considered to be an emergency situation. Declining membership was also mentioned and

it was the feeling of the Council that this too had become an emergency situation. Gary then said it would be up to the delegates to determine whether or not any emergency action should be taken at this meeting. A motion was made to consider making emergency changes to the bylaws. That motion passed. Following discussion, a motion was then made to change Article IX Section 11 to read "The Executive Council shall award by a 2/3 vote, the privilege of hosting a World Tournament at least two years in advance. The Executive Council will publish the criteria utilized to make the selection." This motion also passed.

An appropriate change would be required to Article IX Section 10 regarding the return of any bid money to sites not selected to read after the selection, not after the convention.

Gary then presented a proposal to change the frequency that Rules and/or Bylaws can be amended to read annually. A motion was made and passed to accept the proposal.

Gary also requested a change to the deadline to submit changes to rules or bylaws to Sept 30th each year. (Standing Rule 11.) A motion was made and passed.

There was a discussion on the dates elected officers take office. It was determined that this did not fall under the emergency category.

The election results were then read. Dalton Rakestraw was elected 5th Vice President by a vote of 55 – 54. Stuart Sipma was elected President by a vote of 66 – 43.

A motion was made and passed to destroy the ballots.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sidles

NHPA Secretary / Treasurer