

**UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**  
I/I Joint Review Sub-Committees  
Wednesday, July 28, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Dr. Bruce Wells, I/I Co-Chairman  
Russell A. Sheldon, I/I Co-Chairman  
Kimberly M. Syme, I/I Program Director  
Peter Rizzo

**Structure**

David Eldredge  
Clyde Waddell  
Duncan Huyler  
Jim Burton

**Tournament Conditions**

Megan Judge  
Danny Scheraga  
Lou Lopez  
Tom Wisehart

**GUESTS**

Amy Wisehart

I. Call to Order

Russ Sheldon, Co-Chair, presided and called meeting to order at 12:05 PM ET.

II. Approval of Minutes

David Eldredge made a motion to approve the July 14<sup>th</sup> Structure Review Minutes. Second Bruce Wells. All in favor. Danny Scheraga made a motion to approve the July 21<sup>st</sup> TC Review Minutes. Second by Bruce Wells. All in favor.

III. Old Business

Structure Review Items:

- A. Tournament Format - Russ Sheldon gave an overview of the tournament sub-committee's recommendation to keep the format as is, but to enhance it by holding more pre-regional (preliminary) tournaments to encourage more participation of all level of teams while equaling playing abilities at all levels. The addition of more prelims also allows for shorter tournaments which means less school missed.
- Discussion: David Eldredge noted that the tournament calendar would need to start in early February and end in late April to accommodate all tournaments. Tom Wisehart noted that each year the NHTC/RHTCs would need to assign teams to either the prelim or the regional depending on ability of team. Danny Scheraga asked why Girls teams would still get byes to the National while other played in a prelim. This fits the model presented (lower seeded teams play through prelim to encourage participation). Kim Syme noted that there is still a big difference between the lower teams and the upper teams and that the girls division is not ready to be split into regionals. Clyde Waddell asked who decides which teams are placed in the lower division and how that decision will be made. David Eldredge noted that it is based on the Win/Loss record. Kim Syme added that teams would continue to be seeded as they are now and then split into prelim and regional assignment. Clyde Waddell questioned the subjectivity of the seeding. Kim Syme referenced the tournament condition that refers to seeding of teams. Clyde Waddell also questioned the re-assignment of teams to different regionals. Russ Sheldon reminded Clyde that this was a task for the sub-committee he was heading and again noted that we will continue with the same tournament format, only with the inclusion of more preliminary tournaments.
- B. Entry fees and Travel assistance – No changes. It was noted that the committee decided there would be no travel assistance offered at this time, other than reimbursing for horse transportation. Tournament entry fee amounts will also remain the same at this time.

- C. Length of National Tournaments – It was noted that the length of the tournaments depends on the number of teams participating and that the only way to shorten the tournaments is to have more horses available which is not a viable option at this time. One way to lessen the days of school missed is to hold the final games on Sunday mornings rather than on Saturday.
- D. Tournament Calendar – Kim Syme created a mock calendar for all to review. Tournaments will need to start in early February. The proposed calendar has all IS tournaments being held first and then the IC tournaments. The proposed calendar has the NIC being held in late April. The attempt is to allow more weekends for all tournaments to be held without going into May, as this will begin to run into college finals and college graduations. Megan Judge noted that this may create a problem for those schools on the quarter system. Kim Syme asked Megan to forward Cal Poly's academic calendar as reference when scheduling 2011 tournaments.
- E. Team Meeting with umpires and HTC - Procedure not formalized. Will likely be put into practice this year to see how it works and tweak as needed for a formalized procedure next year.
- F. Required Forms - Committee recommended a \$100 non-refundable deposit when submitting intent to compete forms on the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- IC Student Eligibility and Registrar Verification Form – The proposed IC Registrar Verification Form was presented to the Cal Poly and Cornell Registrars for input. David Eldredge noted that passing average can not be verified through the Registrar as that is defined by individual colleges within the university. This is something that would need to be verified by the team's "official representative".
- Discussion: Online courses that are taken at the student's university show up as part of the student's course load. Those that are taken at another university will not show up on that transcript unless the credits have been transferred, which would be after the fact. Russ Sheldon suggested that the online course column/question from the Registrar Verification form and section in the tournament conditions be removed. All agreed. There was question as to whether a column for a student's GPA could be included.
- Discussion: Schools have different GPA scales so requesting this information may not confirm whether a student maintains a passing average. Clyde Waddell questioned whether this was a violation of privacy. Russ Sheldon recommended it ask if student is on academic probation.
- MOTION: Russ Sheldon made a motion to make the following changes to the Registrar Verification Form: Remove 'Online Courses' column and replace with 'Is the student on academic probation?'
- Seconded by Bruce Wells. All in favor.
- The form will be revised and re-submitted to committees for comment. Jim Burton noted that the TC should match the columns on the form.
- G. NHTC Term Limits – There was discussion of term limits for NHTC members and of the discrepancy it would create in the definition of the NHTC in the USPA Tournament Conditions. It was noted that volunteers are hard to come by and limiting the amount of time served will cause a loss of experience that takes time to learn. Danny Scheraga and Clyde Waddell agreed that there needs to be some continuity from year to year and that it takes 3 to 6 years to understand the I/I Program. Russ Sheldon noted that currently, all committee members serve 1 year terms with no limit to the number of terms served. Danny suggested that the Coaches Sub-Committee create a process and recommendation for the removal of NHTC and RHTC members if needed and present to the NHTC for review.
- MOTION: Clyde Waddell made a motion that all NHTC and RHTC members serve a 1 year terms.
- Second by David Eldredge. All in favor.
- H. I/I Magazine – Clyde Waddell asked who will be responsible for following up with schools for getting submissions to the I/I Magazine. Peter Rizzo noted that it will be a collaborative effort but the magazine will be a project of Amy Wisheart's. Kim Syme noted that information will be included in the Fall Info Pack, on the I/I Bulletin, sent by email and posted on Face Book. It was also noted that the I/I magazine will go out to the entire membership with PPE next year.

- I. Office Hours for Kim Syme – This information will be posted on the website as “best time to reach Kim”.

Tournament Conditions Review Items:

- A. Student Eligibility – Forms discussed earlier. David Eldredge suggested that perhaps the eligibility forms should be required in the fall so as to alert USPA and teams of potential eligibility issues. The eligibility forms can be sent in with the first regular season score sheet. David, Megan Judge and Tom Wisehart noted that eligible teams which play a team that believed to be eligible and later found not to be, should not be penalized. Kim Syme referenced the Tournament Conditions defining qualified players and qualified teams and also noted that score sheets must be signed by team coaches/captains verifying team is considered eligible. Peter Rizzo and Russ Sheldon agreed. Lou Lopez noted that he has issue with the two game minimum and the direction that the NHTC gives when being told by a team that they are having difficulty in getting their two games in. Russ Sheldon noted that the NHTC would like for all teams to abide by the same rules and attempt to play their minimum games but will be sure to note any times when these two games cannot be completed due to reasons out of a team’s control. The NHTC will also give those requests prompt responses.

MOTION: David Eldredge moved to not penalize a qualified team that played against a team later deemed unqualified, and to penalize the unqualified team. Peter Rizzo added that if team unknowingly plays an ineligible team, the eligible team shall not be penalized and still have the game count towards the two game minimum. David Eldredge also suggested that the ineligible team not be allowed to play in their tournament, as it is the coach’s responsibility to be current on the eligibility of his/her team. Seconded by Clyde. All in favor.

- B. Penalty 7 – Language change briefly discussed and agreed on.

- C. Spare Horse Procedure – Reviewed and agreed on.

- D. Two Game Minimum - Leave as is. Each region will be encouraged by the coaches’ representatives to hold a teleconference to arrange games at the start of the season.

- E. Seeding of Nationals and Wild Card Teams – There was discussion of seeding regional teams in opposite brackets at Nationals. Many felt that the teams should be seeded accordingly and whether they come from same region or not should not be considered.

MOTION: Bruce Wells motioned to remove the wording referencing placing regional teams in opposite brackets from the Tournament Conditions entirely. Second by Tom Wisehart.

VOTE - Clyde: No, David: Yes, Duncan: Yes, Megan: Yes, Lou: Yes, Tom: Yes, Bruce: Yes, Russ: No, Peter: Yes, Jim: Yes. Motion Carries

- F. Required Forms-

MOTION: David Eldredge made a motion to add the word ‘non-refundable’ to the \$100 tournament entry fee deposit. Seconded by Clyde Waddell. All in favor.

The following dates are approved for submission of items:

December 1 – Intent to Competes, Non-refundable deposit, I/I Magazine advertising deadline

January 1 - USPA Club Dues

February 15 or two weeks prior to tournament (whichever comes first) – General Release, Code of Conduct, Helmet/Facemask Acknowledgment, Individual Eligibility/Registrar Verification Form, Team Eligibility Form, Program Fee, and balance of Tournament Entry fee.

Discussion: Tom Wisehart asked about the arena rules test and questioned why teams should be taking the 201 test when they will be playing by the 2011 rules. Kim Syme noted that 2011 Rule changes will be included in the Fall Info Pack. Russ Sheldon asked if Steve Lane could have the 2011 test available January 1<sup>st</sup>. Peter Rizzo confirmed.

MOTION: Russ Sheldon moved to have the arena rules changes in the fall packet and to have the arena rules answer key to the teams January 1<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Bruce. All in favor.

- G. BPP and BPS: Scores of consolation games to be included. All scores including spares will count.
- H. Require Umpires to wear a helmet –  
MOTION: David Eldredge moved to accept proposed language requiring umpires to wear helmets during I/I games, and noted that we should be promoting safety to the students. All in Favor.
- I. Excessive spurring/whipping – Proposed language accepted.  
Discussion: David asked if we should be regulating the length of poppers as the loud sound is often perceived by the crowd as excessive whipping even when not. Russ Sheldon suggested that this be covered in the opening meeting of the tournament and note that players may be asked to use another whip. All in favor.
- J. Appropriate footwear when working with horses at I/I Events - Participants should wear suitable shoes, closed toed and closed heeled. All in favor of proposed language.  
Discussion: It is the coaches' responsibility that students wear appropriate footwear.
- K. Tournament Committee – Definition of HTC approved for inclusion in Tournament Conditions.
- L. Open Comments – Registrar Verification Form to be modified by Monday and brought to registrars. Revised form to be sent to all committee members for review. Approval process will be conducted by email unless people feel more discussion is needed. Peter Rizzo wanted it clarified that if the school fills out the form properly, will the student be eligible to play with out question. Russ Sheldon answered we will confirm eligibility by the book and he and Tom Wisehart agreed, if form verifies all requested information, yes, student is eligible to play.

IV. Announcements – I/I Committee meeting, Santa Barbara, Thursday, August 26, 2010, 10:30-12:30 PM PT.

V. Adjournment - Russ Sheldon thanked everyone for their time and effort on these committees and made a motion to adjourn at 2:35 PM ET. Seconded by David Eldredge. All in favor.