

**UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION**  
I/I TC Review Sub-Committee  
Wednesday, May 26, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

**Members Present**

Russell A. Sheldon, Co-Chairman  
Dr. Bruce Wells, Co-Chairman  
Kim Syme  
Tom Wisehart  
Danny Scheraga  
Megan Judge  
Lou Lopez  
Peter Rizzo  
Cindy Halle

**Guests**

Duncan Huyler  
Caitlin Tufts  
Amy Wisehart

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:04 PM ET. Russ Sheldon, Co-Chair, presided over the meeting.
- II. Russ began by welcoming members and guests.
- III. Approval of minutes – none, first meeting
- IV. Old Business – none, first meeting
- V. New Business
  - A. Review list of proposed items
    - a. Russ Sheldon began by asking if anyone felt that any item on the Structure Review Sub-Committee list needs to be reviewed by the Tournament Conditions (TCs) Review Sub-Committee. Danny Scheraga commented that if there is a change to the tournament seeding procedure the TC Review Sub-Committee needs to have input.  
Russ Sheldon agreed with Danny and noted that currently there is a tournament format sub-committee of the Structure Review Sub-Committee in place. They will address tournament format as well as any seeding issues. The sub-committee will present their recommendations to the Structure Review Sub-Committee. He also noted that changing the seeding and tournament system could be a multi-year process.  
Russ also reminded everyone that there will be a joint teleconference between both review sub-committees at the end of the summer.
    - b. Danny Scheraga suggested that the chairman of each Regional Host Tournament Committee (RHTC) be a voting member of the National Host Tournament Committee (NHTC). Peter Rizzo stated that there is an NHTC member on all RHTCs and that that NHTC member communicates with the other two RHTC members. Peter's feeling is that this is working effectively. Russ agreed.

- c. Russ Sheldon continued reviewing the items on 2009 tournament review list of topics. He asked if any of the items that were marked “done”, needed any further discussion. Tom Wisheart commented that some of “dones” may change if the current tournament format changes.

MOTION: Danny Scheraga moved to approve those items listed as “dones” complete. Seconded by Peter.

Lou Lopez questioned if a “qualified player” needs more defining.

Kim Syme clarified that “Qualified Player” is currently defined and that it is a separate topic from the student eligibility which is on the current 2010 list for Review.

Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Russ Sheldon confirmed that Item #4- dates for required forms- will be discussed. Kim Syme agreed with the explanation that schools have later drop dates than the current USPA Feb. 1st deadline.

There was no objection to item #4 staying on list.

- e. Danny Scheraga would like to re-visit the rule on “hardship”.

Russ Sheldon doesn’t feel it necessary to open the discussion of hardships and feels that it was covered under the Student Eligibility ruling.

Danny used the example of a specific case with an IS Teams, where two students dropped from a team of 3, and the one remaining player was not allowed to join another team. He would like to see more leeway for the NHTC to allow exceptions for IS teams.

Cindy Halle commented that she heard it from a number of people that IS teams should be allowed more inclusive rules on eligibility.

Russ Sheldon suggested that coaches need to be offered some guidance when forming teams and that perhaps the coach needed to combine his two teams early on rather than form two separate teams.

Cindy Halle commented that it may be people may have other opinions on the matter had the player in question been strong.

Russ Sheldon commented that we require an intent to compete form by Dec. 1 but the official roster is not required until Feb. 1.

- f. As an order of business, Russ Sheldon asked if the sub-committee members preferred that the length of these meetings should be 1 hour or 1.5 hours. Megan Judge prefers one hour. Others would be willing to stay on for the extra half hour. Russ Sheldon there needs to be an effort to stay on topic and that we would shoot for an hour but would continue to 1.5 hours if necessary.

- B. Prioritize list of items - Russ Sheldon confirmed that the revisits from 2009 are items 4, 5, 6, 13 (if format change). All in agreement. All also agreed to prioritize list as presented as all topics needed to be discussed.

C. Discuss Item 1 – Intercollegiate Individual Eligibility - TC III. B 1)

- a. MOTION: Danny Scheraga made a motion to change wording in regards to student membership to read “Fall” and “Spring” rather than note the years, so that each year it doesn’t need to be changed. Bruce Wells seconded the motion. All in favor.
- b. Peter Rizzo commented that the wording of “college that he/she represents” may be confusing. Peter asked if “represents” should be replaced with “enrolled”. Danny Scheraga does not think this is an issue nor does Russ. All agreed.

- c. Russ does not think USPA should start dictating how individual schools run their programs as schools have different grade point averages, etc. Cindy added that it is likely different for a varsity sport than it is for a club sport.

MOTION: Bruce moved to leave the wording as is. Seconded by Danny. All in favor.

- d. Peter Rizzo began by expressing the need to discuss the word 'on' campus. This is a very specific word and needs to be considered given the different programs and internet classes available today. He also stated it needs to be clarified who signs off on eligibility forms. After some discussion by the group, Tom Wisehart suggested that a sub-committee be formed to address all the eligibility definitions and present the entire eligibility section as a whole to this sub-committee for review. The Sub-Committee will consist of Tom Wisehart, Lou Lopez, Danny Scheraga and Duncan Huyler.
- e. All agreed with wording.
- f. All agreed with wording.
- g. All agreed with age limit.
- h. Team Eligibility - MOTION: Cindy moved to insert the section on the team eligibility form referring to violations of eligibility into the TCs and to also create wording referring to a student in violation TC III. B. 1) f. Russ Sheldon second. All in favor.
- i. All agreed with gender section.

D. Discuss item 2 – III. 2) c. - Tabled for later. Kim will provide input from umpires regarding this TC.

E. Discuss item 3 - Discussion on re-wording/clarifying spare horse procedure. Kim and Amy, with Cindy's assistance will work on proposed wording.

F. Discuss item 4 – "Unconditioned" Horses – most felt that the word fatigued was enough as it encompasses many different reason for needing shortened chukkers or breaks.

MOTION: Danny Scheraga moved to strike word "unconditioned" from rule. Cindy Halle seconded. Russ Sheldon opposed. Remainder agreed. Motioned carried.

VI. Announcements – Next Scheduled teleconference- June 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon ET

VII. Adjournment at 1:30 PM ET