

Items discussed during Players Meeting at Australian Nationals

March 31st, 2008

The following agenda items were discussed at the Players' Meeting. Recommendations are bolded.

ACA-Mandated Hoop Width

There was unanimous dissatisfaction with the current regulation. Of the 23 players present, all wanted a reduction in the current ACA-mandated target hoop width, "11 with an upward tolerance of 1/32nd". 16 would prefer restating the policy to be "11 +/- 1/64th". 7 would prefer restating the policy to be "11 - 1/32nd" (understood to be the new international standard). **All 23 players (100%) present would like the required width changed to one of the above standards to make hoop running at ACA national tournaments more challenging.**

Hoop Setting

After some discussion, **there was significant support for setting hoops using a tournament ball with a feeler gauge.** Following the discussion, a show of hands indicated 14 of the players present (61%) would like this to become the preferred method of hoop setting. Apparently there are different types of Tru Gauges. There was some feeling that the more recently made Tru Gauges are not as accurate as they used to be and apparently there is some discrepancy in the widths indicated between different gauges. There is also, apparently, a Smaller Tru Gauge that, instead of having a scale from 11/16th to 13/16th, scales from 10/16th to 12/16th. **It was the feeling of the meeting that, when used, this Smaller Tru Gauge would be a superior measurement device for ACA national tournaments than its larger counterpart.**

Other Hoop-Related Issues

All 23 participating players (100%) would like the ACA to provide a hoop-setting course to ACA tournament personnel.

17 of the 23 players present (74%) felt there would be considerable benefit to the ACA purchasing and/or shipping sufficient quantities of 3 11/16th (versus the more common 3 12/16th) hoops to the venues for future ACA National Championships to make hoop setting easier. This view was upheld even after a discussion of the possible logistical and cost implications of such a transition.

Registration of Starting Indices

Of the players present **3 (13%) felt that it is important to document all players' starting tournament indices** to dis-incent players from potentially excluding tournament results from their index cards.

Plate Final

23 of the 24 players (96%) present (one new arrival) felt that **more than just one player should advance from a plate block to a playoff** to maintain the interest of participants longer.

All 24 players (100%) felt that **the tournament program should clearly lay out the intended conditions and format of the plate event.** It was acknowledged that unforeseen time constraints might cause an adjustment in this schedule and that a "plate conditions subject to change at manager's discretion" clause might be necessary. At the same time, all players felt greater description of the planned specifics of the plate would be highly valued by entrants and prospective entrants.

Lawn Size

The Windsor lawns are 80 x 100. There is no recommendation arising from this agenda item.

Eire Cup Scheduling

It was felt by some that the current Eire Cup format disadvantages certain teams (particularly the previous year's third place team) by requiring that team to play at a new venue against an opponent that competed at that venue on the previous day.

8 players (33%) preferred a revised schedule that moves all teams each day (this revised schedule would require one team to play 2 venues in place of the customary 3).

23 players (96%) were in favour of requiring venue managers to swap men's and women's lawn assignments each day to mitigate this potential advantage.

Men's/Women's Format

20 of the players (83%) felt that players in the 11th through 16th places in the knockout should have the opportunity to keep playing to enable a full 1st through 16th placing to be achieved. Players would have the opportunity to stop playing at any time but scheduling the full placings would enable those who would like to keep playing to do so.

AOB

Ahead of Schedule: It was reported that a venue manager ordered **matches to be stopped to avoid getting ahead of schedule. It was felt that the ACA should ensure that this not happen in the future.**

Venue Manager's Preference: It was reported that a venue manager ordered matches not to be started in spite of both players being prepared to play on. It was reported that the rationale given was to enable the venue manager to get home. It was felt that the **ACA should ensure that venues are staffed so that matches can continue contingent upon the agreement of all participating players.**

Re-draws: 20 players (83%) felt that no **re-draw should be done if a seeded player drops out after the publishing of a tournament draw.** 4 players wanted a re-draw.

Warm Up between Games: 15 players (63%) felt that players should be permitted 5 minutes warm up before each game played. 6 players felt that the 5 minutes should only be allowed before each match.

Warm Up before Resumption of Pegged-Down Games: 13 players (57%) felt that players should not be permitted to warm up on their match court before the resumption of a pegged-down game. 7 players (29%) felt that a 5-minute warm up on their match court should be allowed before the resumption of a pegged down game. The general feeling was that warm up on another court should be allowed without restriction.