

BATTF Team League Meeting
India Community Center, Milpitas
January 20, 2008, 6:30 pm

Present: Michael Boot, Fernando Chang, Mario D'Ortenzio, Mark Johnson, Annie Li, Bruce Liu, Barry Or, Rajul Sheth, Lewis Wei.

Open Division

The Open Division has been replaced by the BATTF Elite Division. It will be referred to as "The BATTF Elite Division, presented by [sponsor name]."

Participation will be by invitation only. Players who have committed include Stefan Feth, Nan Li, Zheng Jiaqi, and Guo Xi, among others. There are between 20 and 30 slots available. Rosters will be predetermined, but not fixed.

Ties will be scheduled once monthly, and play will follow a team format. In the case of a 2-player team, play will be conducted per the Davis Cup format. The Olympic format will be used when 3-player teams are involved. Bruce Liu will schedule the ties.

Five venues will be selected based on the quality of the site and on the availability of spectator seating. Ideally, matches should be showcased as the only activity going on; this would prove difficult and unpopular to implement because regular play and coaching sessions would be compromised. Possible club sites include India Community Center, Milpitas TTC, Tri-Valley TTC, Palo Alto TTC, and the Cupertino YMCA.

There will be no entry fee. Players will compete for prize money. The amount must be determined. Moreover, how the money will be awarded must be decided. Alternatives include winner-take-all and an amount per match won. The latter provides the incentive to play every match.

BATTF will sponsor one team to compete in the Open Division in USATT Team League ties. However, sufficient prize money will have to be offered. Eligible Open players will be those whose rating is 2350 and above, those who cannot play in other divisions, and females on the US National Team. Nan Li and Whitney Ping are examples. It was suggested that the list include players from Southern California.

Team League Structural Matters

Season:

The "season" is defined as beginning in February and ending in June.

Scheduling:

There are lots of teams in each division. In order to get all ties played in the allotted time, it was suggested that, for scheduling purposes, the divisions be split into two sets of teams (for example, an 8-team division would be divided 4 and 4), with some crossover matches, and that if at all possible, the split should be made on a regional basis to reduce travel time and expense. The top two teams in each division split would go to playoffs.

Michael Boot is the Chief Scheduler and in charge of scheduling the U4800 division ties. Other division schedulers shall provide him with finalized schedules and all club information he requires.

Division Schedulers:

- U6600: Fernando Chang
- U5700: Barry Or
- U4800: Michael Boot
- U3900: Rajul Sheth

Often, more than one tie will be scheduled on the same day at the same venue.

Format:

We will follow the Olympic Format. For our purposes, it was decided, as a practice, to designate the home team players as A,B,C, and the visiting team players as X,Y,Z.

Much discussion centered on the idea of waiting until singles matches were done before designating the C and Z players. The rationale was that such a practice would enable team captains to strategize toward a stronger competitive advantage. The idea was eventually voted down because it strayed too far from the Olympic format, and because for some players it would overcomplicate matters. Doubles partners can still be determined after singles is done, and once made, the doubles team cannot be changed for a given tie.

Results:

The home team's captain shall gather the results and e-mail them to Bruce Liu in a set format that Bruce will provide. It will be a kind of e-mail template. Michael Boot shall receive the format as well.

Prizes:

In each division (other than Open/Elite), one trophy each shall be awarded to the first- and second-place finishers. All players on those teams shall receive medals specially created with the BATTF designation. We should all come up with additional prize ideas (money clips, etc.).

Awards shall be presented during an end-of-season banquet or other kind of gathering.

Uniforms:

Uniform shirts are required. Teams shall arrange to be dressed appropriately, and can order their own specially-designed shirts.

Players not in uniform shall be assessed a \$5 penalty, to be collected by the home team and forwarded to Bruce Liu.

Lateness:

"Lateness" means arriving 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the first match of a tie. A late player shall be assessed a \$15 penalty per occurrence. The home team shall collect the money and forward it to Bruce Liu.

If a team cannot show up, the captain is required to notify the other team at least 24 hours in advance. Failure to so notify shall result in a \$25 penalty per occurrence.

Communication between the captain and the players is vital if ties will occur as scheduled.

Balls:

Rajul Sheth will obtain the balls. They will be Nittaku 3-Star Premium orange balls. Each club will be provided 2 boxes of 3 balls; the home team shall provide the balls for the ties.

Drop-In Fees:

Visiting teams must pay the home site's drop-in playing fee. All clubs shall inform Michael Boot of their drop-in fees.

Sponsors:

Everyone be on the lookout for corporate sponsors!

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Minutes prepared by Michael Boot