

# **NCTA MEETING MINUTES**

15 October 2011

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Russell Ahn  
Alex Antipa  
Tim Ghormley  
Kent Kitagawa  
Vincent Lo  
Michael Shea  
Dan Chuang (phone)

## **TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR 2012**

### FUTURE IDEAS

#### **Background**

Realistically, we need to worry about the skill and experience levels of the competitors that we send to international competitions. We currently have a wide range of skills and experience: it costs \$130,000 to send a full team to an international competition, and we don't have the money (or means) to send athletes to train on the job. For those newcomers to the National Team with no experience, we are necessarily training to compete: other international teams are training to win. Other countries' training also often includes international experience, something our less experienced athletes do not have.

How, then, do we determine – or identify – those athletes whom we should send, given our limited resources? Traditionally, it has been through National Championships, and Team Trials. Perhaps it is time to expand our pool?

#### **Point System**

Tim Ghormley proposed a point system, through which athletes would rack up points throughout the year. There would be a minimum threshold for making the National team. To avoid losing athletes to a rigid system, there might be some flexibility or perhaps a wild card system; however, it would be imperative to pay close attention to such a system, since any set of conditions on a policy opens it up to abuse.

The proposed point system would serve both as a requirement system, and also as a means by which athletes would gather experience. As the administrators of the requirement system, it would be the onus of this organization to provide the opportunities to gain the requisite experience.

### **Point System: Training Camps**

A repeated concern was that due to the proximity of the NCTA Championship to the WUTC, we don't have time for team training, or team camps, after the NCTA team selection.

It was proposed that we provide our athletes regionally based training camps (East Coast, West Coast, Central American) – two per region if possible – in between now and the NCTA Tournament. The camps would be an athlete's major source of earning points towards Team selection. If possible, there would be an international component in the form of visiting international teams coming to train and compete during these camps. In any event, some international component would be almost critical to the success of the system as a means of training international competitors.

More details: previous National Team members might have their participation fees waived (both to encourage them to return and compete, and also to encourage them to share their experiences with aspiring team members).

In response to the question of Team Coaching selection, it was proposed that Team Coach selection could also be a part of the point system, or at least a part of the training camps.

The goal of these camps is obviously to be a goal to incentivize team members, but the idea is to have room for undiscovered potential team members, and it might also be a source of some fundraising (or at the very least cost-offsetting).

### **Point System: Other**

As a new proposal, it is on the NCTA officials to help determine the point system, from weights to scale. The idea would be that the camps might be weighted such that they were functionally (but not literally) mandatory for team selection.

That said, training camps should be considered only one of other facets, for (non-limiting) example:

- NCTA Tournament Medalist
- Past National Team member
- Any participation in an international competition
- Any international ranking

## **Discussion**

The obvious positive from the proposed system is to incentivize people who want to compete internationally. The potential for abuse is that athletes could play off the (final) numbering system to avoid tournaments, or to avoid performing to prerequisites by already starting with the requisite numbers (in the case of returning athletes) – up to and including avoiding the NCTA Championship. Care would have to be taken to ensure that the point system would come second to fundamental requirements.

The main point of discussion on the topic was the question of the desirability of a full team of less-experienced athletes vs. a smaller team of more experienced athletes. That question spawned two counter-questions: would developing athletes on a team take away from the time spent training the seasoned athletes, and with the USA's reputation hit at the last international competition, is a full but inexperienced team the best way to repair it?

Asked against that debate was: if unchallenged athletes are willing to pay their own expenses, is there any harm in letting them compete on the team? Discussions of limited coaching resources and potential of leaving out budding athletes ensued, but the final point made was that if the proposed system was sound, and if it worked, then it would ideally render most preparatory/qualification questions moot.

### **Next Steps – by late February / early March:**

- Reach out to athletes, coaches about the proposed system
- Help Tim Ghormley nail down point system numbers, and post on NCTA website
- Should be able to host one East and one West coast camp between now and NCTA Championships
- Look to Dan Chuang to work out which events might provide Poomsae points towards such a point system

## **NCTA MEMBERSHIPS & SURVEY**

### **General**

We should try to identify Universities with Martial Arts memberships or programs. We would also like to expand the NCTA to include High Schools as well – the consensus was that this is an untapped source of membership. We should not limit our attentions to Martial Arts clubs, but Martial Arts PE classes, and look into using these as either fundraising or membership drives.

## Membership Levels

We might consider having different levels of membership:

- General
- Lifetime
- Supporting

Potential tiered-level benefits:

- T-Shirts, website recognition, free admission to NCTA events
- Membership cards (with picture, school, possibly more)
- Group insurance

The last point is important: we should absolutely look into annual group insurance as an NCTA benefit.

## Coach Levels

Coaches can (and should?) be recognized as NCTA members, with an eye towards sending/qualifying to international events. See “Training Camps”, above.

## Action Items

- Develop a Survey for National programs
  - o Brian Wright from GWU
  - o To work with Russell Ahn and Rex Harrison
  - o Shooting for 5 – 600 schools
- Look into the feasibility of HS training events, sponsored and/or led by the NCTA
  - o Outside school schedule might be best
  - o December? Post-finals, Pre-holiday break
  - o Location
    - Dan Chuang to look at best East Coast location
    - Dan is on record as **not** signing up to drive such an event...
    - Dan will look into the names and ideas mentioned, more are welcome.
- HS as a pool for NCTA membership?
  - o Start with USAT members aged 14 – 17
  - o Market to Dojangs local to NCTA member schools
- Future – Western Collegiate
  - o (too late for this year)
  - o Alex Antipa to look into a potential West Coast combined seminar
  - o Russell Ahn to look into bringing Korean team to the UCOpen
  - o Look into seeding Central Collegiates

## **FUNDRAISING IDEAS & PLANS**

### **Sponsorships**

See Appendix A. for outline of ideas Tim Ghormley brought to the meeting.

We should be looking at sponsorships for the NCTA. Martial Arts suppliers like Vision or Daedo are obvious; perhaps less obvious are national chains like Kinko's, coffee chains, or restaurant chains – anything serving some (or most) of NCTA schools (or schools that might join the NCTA).

In the case of the point system proposed (above), Open events might also serve as fundraisers. HS and Team competitions might also serve as fundraisers.

### **WRAPPING UP SU SHENZHEN**

- NCTA is \$4500 short as a result of expenses paid out vs. received
  - o The urgency of reimbursing these monies is unknown.
- A seminar in December is our nearest possible source of income
- It was discussed that a USAT sanction was not worth the cost
- Daedo scoring system was used in Korea, which means that we can use Daedo for future NCTA events, at which there was some rejoicing.

### **NEXT YEAR'S WUTC IN KOREA**

Travel Visas are apparently unnecessary for competitors, which is a comfort.

Due to the short timeframe in between NCTA Championship and WUTC, we will likely use the WUTC/Korean eligibility form for the NCTA. Likewise, to participate, athletes will (probably) be asked to have a valid passport at the time of the NCTA competition.

Also, the close timing means we need to know if there will be any changes to athlete or coach selection, and soon.

### **Action Items**

- Russell Ahn to determine the brand of electronic hogue to be used, with an eye toward using it for the NCTA.
- Russell Ahn to be aware of (and report back) any major procedural changes in the WUTC

## **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS / GLOBAL INTERNSHIP FOR TAEKWONDO**

There is some interest on the part of Korean Taekwondo institutions (particularly, Universities) to send students to America, both to gain teaching experience and to learn English. We (as NCTA member schools) can help by hosting students. For all those interested (NCTA or otherwise), contact NCTA officials (specifically, Russell Ahn) for details.

## **2ND PAN AM UNIVERSITY TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP**

Will be scheduled at the next NCTA General Assembly Meeting. The scheduling (and hence the NCTA GA Mtg) will require 45 days notice, be on a Saturday afternoon, and include a proposed budget for sending athletes to the WUTC. It was agreed to be scheduled for 10 December 2011.