

MINUTES
of
the FIRST DELEGATES MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING
National Wheelchair Basketball Association
April 2, 1997
Birmingham, AL

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Executive Officers present:

Marvin Lapicola, President
Tip Thiboutot, 1st Vice-President
Joe Luceri, 2nd Vice-President
Deborah Dillon Lightfoot, Secretary
Jay Kennedy, Treasurer
David Kiley, Commissioner

I. Call to Order

President Marvin Lapicola called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

The roll call was taken and 51 teams (28% of the membership) reported present.

III. Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Dickie Bryant, Charlotte Hornets to approve the minutes from the meetings of the 48th National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament held in Portland, OR. The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Jay Kennedy presented the annual Treasurer's report. He thanked Morris Gardner for Morris' assistance during the Treasurer's office transition. his wife Jayne for her support, the Commissioners Office and Charlotte Institute for their in-kind services, Frank Burns and USA Basketball.

V. Audit Report

George Veenstra submitted an audit of the Association's books related to international competition expenditures. The general fund was audited by a certified public accountant; the Treasurer has copies of this report.

VI. President's Report

Marvin Lapicola presented his annual President's Report. He received a request from WSUSA asking for a player representative to represent Basketball. Trooper Johnson was nominated by the

Executive Committee in conjunction with the Commissioner. A motion was made by Bill Duncan, Golden State Warriors and seconded by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers to approve the nomination of Trooper Johnson to the WSUSA committee. The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

Marvin also reported the deaths of the following NWBA friends - Bill Johnson, Julie Bell and Leon Strurz. George Conn, former President of the NWBA, had bypass surgery and is doing well. Marvin extended thanks to everyone for attending these meetings and to everyone involved in making the Association run. He also reported that we need a new Fundraising Committee Chairman - since his retirement, Marvin feels he does not have the same contacts and that we need a new approach. Marvin also reported that the Executive Committee approved a process to enable past members the ability to receive mailings for a \$50 annual fee.

VII. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner David Kiley presented his annual report (see attachment A). Roger Davis Jr. presented information on the numbers of teams within the Association - 182 Teams Overall (142 Men, 30 Youth, and 11 Women). The Transition of the National Office from California to North Carolina went smoothly although David did not have a secretary until January. Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation has been a significant sponsor to the NWBA (in a 6 month time period there were 1520 calls made, 441 calls received, 672 faxes sent out, 186 letters typed, 180 letters mailed). Officials Development Committee working on plans to address the officiating within our Association (instructional video, guide for an officials workshop, plan for improved approbation process). Commissioner raised approximately \$14,000 for the Associations account. DS Medical sponsor of NWBA with a major presence at the NJWBT. A marketing plan has been developed where all the proceeds go to Youth Division. BankShots has hit a little bumpy road this year; it's a very intense program to manage out of the National Office. There were many changes in personnel at ZIA PVA. We're looking at plans to improve BankShots. One article in BankShots focused on the NBA relationship with NWBA.

The Commissioners Office dealt with many disputes and protests this season:

Magee Spokesmen roster including Jim Leatherman and Jim Turner - out of town player,
Indianapolis Racers, out of town player
Richmond Rimriders, out of town player
Ann Arbor Thunderbirds/Eric Corsault, conflicting bylaws regarding same season transfers
Horizons Team from Wisconsin, application submitted late to TSC
Grand Rapids Pacers/Paul Schulte, Class III player played as Class II
Austin Rec'ers, lack of appropriate personnel at scorers tables
Bryan Bryant protest, player ruled ineligible

VIII. Committee/Division Reports

Hall of Fame Chairperson Saul Welger will present his committee report Saturday night at the banquet.

Nominations Chairperson Lew Shaver presented his report. The official nominations for the two offices up for election were as follows - (Vice-President - George Veenstra and Tim Stout and Secretary - Deborah Dillon Lightfoot). After his name was submitted in nomination, George Veenstra withdrew his name from consideration.

A motion was made by Lew Shaver, Nominations Committee and seconded by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers to close nominations for the office of Secretary. The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Al Youakim and seconded by Tina Williams, Dallas Mavericks to nominate Roger Davis Sr. for the office of First Vice-President.

A motion was made by Mike Neville and seconded by Susie Grimes, Western Grizzlies to nominate Morris Gardner for the office of First Vice-President.

A motion was made by Pat McCoy, Nevada Basketball Club and seconded by Randy Ward, Carolina Express to close nominations for the office of First Vice-President. The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

Fundraising We are looking for a new Chairperson.

Rules Chairperson Ralph Smith submitted a written report (see attachment B) on the activities of the Rules Committee. Ralph thanked Harry Vines for his work on the Officials Development Committee, Jim Olson for grading the officials exam and the Commissioner and the Executive Committee for their support. Ralph announced that he will be resigning as Chairperson of the Rules Committee at the end of the 1997-1998 season.

Intercollegiate Dan Byrnes submitted a written report (see attachment C) on the activities of the Intercollegiate Division.

Player Classification Chairperson Gretchen Backer submitted a written report (see attachment D) on the activities of the Player Classification Committee.

Tournament Selection Chairperson Bruce Russell apologized for not getting rankings out to teams. He is still experiencing difficulties with hosts bidding for sectional/regional tournaments. Seventy-one teams (48 Division II, 16 Division I, 7 Division III) competed in post season play this season. The TSC Committee wants to continue seeding in the same manner as they have been (All Teams can be included in Top 25 with a separate Top 20 Division II list).

Women's Division Chairperson Susie Grimes presented the women's division report. Ed Danskin elected Commissioner last year. Ten women's teams participated in the NWWBT, Casa Colina Shooting Stars were champions, Western Grizzlies second, Minnesota Timberwolves third and the University of Illinois fourth. In terms of outreach, the division hopes to increase their numbers by two teams per year. Many people are working on this ambitious goal. Areas have been identified

that could potentially form/support a women's team - Columbus, OH; Omaha, NE; Atlanta, GA; Tucson, AZ; Albuquerque, NM; Central Florida; University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; Birmingham, AL Boston, MA; Nashville, TN; Charlotte, NC. Women's Division has a liaison with BankShots to supply news. Women's Division applied and received a grant from WSUSA to hold the 1st Women's Wheelchair Basketball Camp for 40 players. The application of the IWBF Minimal Disability definition to Women's Division resulted in 40 players participating in the NWBA. In terms of international competition, the goal is to get back the gold medal. Ed Danskin will be the Head Coach for a team going to Stoke this summer and Deb Sunderman has been appointed to the Head Coaching position for the upcoming Gold Cup Team.

Youth Chairperson Bob Szyman not in attendance. Marvin Lapicola attended the Junior tournament held in Charlotte, NC and reported that it was a well run tournament.

Division I Chairperson Ron Williams submitted a written report (see attachment E) on the activities of Division I.

Division II Chairperson Brad Hedrick submitted a written report (see attachment F) on the activities of Division II.

Division III Chairperson Dick Bryant reported on the activities of Division III. To date, there are fifteen teams participating in Division III. The Committee consists of Dick Bryant, Tim Stout, Chuck Molnar, Randy Ward and Paul Cowans. They are looking for more teams/people to get involved. The 1st SouthEastern Regional Games were held this year - eight teams participated in fifteen games. The Charlotte Wheelchair Hornets won the tournament. The Division would like to hold more of these tournaments around the country.

IX. Old Business

Tabled Motion from 1996 NWBT - A motion to untable TC-4 from the 1996 Annual Meeting was made by Jeff Bradford, Charlotte Hornets and seconded by Tim Stout, Heart of Illinois Hiwaymen. Dickie Bryant withdrew the motion in favor of the current TC-15.

1996 NWBA/PVA Summer Camp, Champaign/Urbana, Illinois This report was deferred until tomorrow.

1996 Paralympic Games Competition for Men, Atlanta, GA The Men's team won the bronze medal at the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta. The team, head coach Brad Hedrick and Assistant Coaches Lew Shaver and Rick Swauger were commended for their hard work.

1996 Paralympic Games Competition for Women, Atlanta, GA This report was deferred until tomorrow.

NWBA Player/Team/Conference Disputes These items were dealt with under the Commissioner's Report.

Anardo Valdez Appeal for Reinstatement Mr. Valdez passed out information. The presentation was deferred until tomorrow.

X. New Business

A. Executive Committee Proposals to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws

EC-1 Nominations Committee A motion to accept EC-1 was made by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Tim Stout, Heart of Illinois Hiwaymen.

The motion was **defeated** by a unanimous voice vote.

EC-2 Nominations Committee/Mail Ballot A motion to accept EC-2 was made by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Pat McCoy, Nevada Basketball Club.

The motion was **defeated** by a unanimous voice vote.

EC-3 International Competitions Committee A motion to accept EC-3 was made David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Pat Donaghey, EPVA Chargers.

The first hand count results (Aye 45 Nay 44). A recount was requested.
The motion was **defeated** by a hand count vote (Aye 44 Nay 57).

A motion to adjourn this evenings meeting and reconvene in the morning was made by Pat McCoy, Nevada Basketball Club and seconded by Randy Ward, Carolina Express. The motion was **approved**.

MINUTES
of
the SECOND DELEGATES MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING
National Wheelchair Basketball Association
April 3, 1997
Birmingham, AL

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Executive Officers present:

Marvin Lapicola, President
Tip Thiboutot, 1st Vice-President
Joe Luceri, 2nd Vice-President
Deborah Dillon Lightfoot, Secretary
Jay Kennedy, Treasurer
David Kiley, Commissioner

II. Roll Call

The roll call was taken and 57 teams reported present.

Anardo Valdez Issue

A motion to overturn the ruling of the Executive Committee regarding Anardo Valdez was made by Pat Donaghey, EPVA Chargers and seconded by Ed Walek, Eastern Conference.

The motion was **approved** by a hand count vote (Aye 56 Nay 50).

Youth Division Report

The US was invited by the IWBF to participate in the first World Junior Championship in Toronto. Youth ages 14-22 are eligible to participate in this competition. Lew Shaver has been selected Head Coach by the Junior Division. We are looking for sponsorship monies to cover the costs. Lew asked for help from the delegate body in order to identify potential juniors.

1996 Paralympic Games - report from Deb Sunderman

Susie Grimes presented a report prepared by Head Coach Deb Sunderman on the 1996 USA Women's Paralympic Team. Susie Grimes and Frank Brasile served as Assistant Coaches, Perry Hendricks as Team Manager and Sue Krovick as Team Athletic Trainer. At the NWWBT, 25 women were asked to attend a try-out camp. Final team selection was made in 1996. Three training camps were held in preparation for Atlanta. The team won the bronze medal in Atlanta.

1997 PVA/NWBA Summer Camp in Springfield, MA

Andy Krieger reported on the PVA/NWBA Camp held last year in Champaign, IL. The 1997

PVA/NWBA Camp will be held in Springfield, MA from July 28-August 2, 1997. Tip Thiboutot has been acting as site coordinator and Lew Shaver will again act as Camp Director.

EC-4 Post Season Application A motion to accept EC-4 was made by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Pat McCoy, Nevada Basketball Club.

The motion was **defeated**.

EC-5 Post Season Application Withdrawn

EC-6 Youth Division Eligibility A motion to accept EC-6 was made by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Cheryl Vines, Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks.

Amend Bylaw Article One, Section 5 by deleting the following:
"or 19 years old and younger as of September 30 of each year."

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

B. Team/Conference/Division Proposals to Amend the Constitution

TC-1 Start of Executive Committee Term A motion to accept TC-1 was made by Cheryl Vines, Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks and seconded by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners.

Amend Constitution Article Six, Section 1 (f) by deleting the following:
The three year term of office shall officially begin on the first day of September following the election.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-2 Start of NWBA Commissioner Term A motion to accept TC-2 was made by Cheryl Vines, Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks and seconded by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Amend Constitution Article 6, Section 2 by deleting the following:
The three year term of office shall officially begin on the first day of September following the election.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-3 One Vote Per Team A motion to accept TC-3 was made by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Dickie Bryant, Charlotte Hornets.

Amend Constitution Article 6, Section 5 (b) to read:

Each conference member and independent team shall be entitled to one vote and may be represented at the meeting by one accredited delegate.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

C. Team/Conference/Division Proposals to Amend the Bylaws and Executive Regulations

TC-1 Deletion of Division I Commissioner A motion to accept TC-1 was made by Ron Williams, Dallas Mavericks and seconded by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine, Section 2 by deleting subparagraph (c).

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-2 Deletion of References to Division I Commissioner A motion to accept TC-2 was made by Ron Williams, Dallas Mavericks and seconded by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine by changing the term "Division I Commissioner" wherever it appears and replace it with "Division I Chairman"

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-3 Sixteen Team Division I National Tournament The proposal was withdrawn.

TC-4 All Tournament Team Selection Committee A motion to accept TC-4 was made by Jeff Bradford, Charlotte Hornets and seconded by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Amend Bylaw Article 3, Section 9 (f) to read:

(f) An All Tournament Team Selection Committee will be appointed by the Commissioner each year to select the All Tournament Team at the national tournament.

1. The Committee will be selected from NWBA members who are attending the NWBT.
2. The Committee will include 2 active players or coaches from Division I, 2 active players or coaches from Division II, and 3 additional NWBA members. The Commissioner will appoint the Chairperson.
3. No member will have any affiliation with a team competing in the NWBT.
4. Committee Members will attend and observe all tournament games and will be provided with statistical reports on each game.
5. Committee members will receive no reimbursement for participation.

For each Division, the Committee will select a 5 player All Tournament First Team which will include at least one player in each classification (I, II, III) and two additional players of any class, and a 5 player All Tournament Second Team which will include at least one player in each classification (I, II, III) and two additional players of each class. The Committee will also select a Most Valuable Player and a Captain James Ure Sportsmanship award recipient.

The Chairperson of the Committee will provide the selections to the Commissioner at an appointed time preceding the awards banquet.

The motion to table was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-5 Committee Composition A motion to accept TC-5 was made by Cheryl Vines, Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks and seconded by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Amend Bylaw Article Five, Section 1 (a)(1) by adding:

At least two (2) members of each committee will be active players of the NWBA, whose names appear on an NWBA team player roster and who participated in at least 25% of the team's games in the previous season.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-6 USA Basketball Competitions Committee Composition A motion to accept TC-6 was made by Dickie Bryant, Charlotte Hornets and seconded by Tim Stout, Heart of Illinois Hiwayman.

Amend Bylaw Article 6, Section 3 by adding the following sentence:

The Executive Committee shall also recommend the appointment of two athlete..... The two athlete representatives will be active players of the NWBA, whose names appear on an NWBA team player roster and who participate in 25% of the team's games in the previous season.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-7 Non-Olympic Non-World Cup Year Competition Committee A motion to accept TC-7 was made by Cheryl Vines, Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks and seconded by Pat Donaghey, EPVA Chargers.

Amend Bylaw Article 6, Section 5 (a)(2) by adding the following sentence:

The Executive Committee of the NWBA will select a committee of five persons..... At least two (2) members of the committee will be active players of the NWBA, whose names appear on an NWBA team player roster and who participated in at least 25% of the team's games in the previous season.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-8 Reimbursement Rate for Officials A motion to accept TC-8 was made by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Dickie Bryant, Charlotte Hornets.

Amend Executive Regulation 5, Section 1 (c) by replacing the following sentence:

(c) Provide round trip travel, lodging, meals and ground transportation for four appointed game officials and pay each official at a rate of \$100 per game.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-9 Revised NWBT Sponsor Responsibility A motion to accept TC-9 was made by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Cheryl Vines, Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks.

Amend Executive Regulation 5, Section 1 (k) by replacing the following sentence:

Provide two new, unused basketballs, as prescribed by the NCAA rules and regulations for use in all games of the tournament.

The motion **approved** was by a voice vote.

TC-10 Women's Classification Exception A motion to accept TC-10 was made by Susie Grimes, Western Grizzlies and seconded by Ella Chafee, RIC Express.

The results of the first count (Aye 51 Nay 58). A recount was requested.

The motion was **defeated** by a hand count. (Aye 50 Nay 58)

TC-11 Team Registration Clarification A motion to accept TC-11 was made by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Dick Bryant, Charlotte Hornets.

Amend Bylaw Article One, Section 4, (a)

Change to: Each **conference** team or club.....

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-12 Team Roster Addition of Division III A motion to accept TC-12 was made by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners.

Amend Bylaw Article One, Section 6

Change to: ... Novices may be added to Division II or Division III rosters at any time during the season. Players over 40 years of age or novices shall not be considered part of the 15 accredited players for Division II or Division III teams.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-13 Editorial Changes A motion to accept TC-13 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by John Sikora, Keystone Conference.

Amend Bylaw Article One, Section 10, (c)
Strike: "(s)" after team.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-14 Addition of Class IV A motion to accept TC-14 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by ,North Carolina.

The motion was **defeated** by a voice vote.

TC-15 Player Transfers A motion to accept TC-15 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by Tim Stout, Heart of Illinois Hiwaymen.

Amend Bylaw Article Two, Section 3, (b)

Change to: ... Sufficient cause is interpreted principally as relocation of residence owing to employment, education or training, hospitalization or family reasons. A player may not be approved for membership on a team if ... No same season transfer will be approved if application for such is made after **January 1** of the same season in question. **Players from a team which folds after the season has officially started shall not be eligible for a same season transfer. These players can apply for a between season transfer at the conclusion of the season.**

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

By resolution it was approved that this bylaw not apply to Division I.

TC-16 Addition of Class IV This proposal was withdrawn.

TC-17 Editorial Changes A motion to accept TC-17 was made by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Dickie Bryant, Charlotte Hornets.

Amend Bylaw Article Three, Section 1

Change to: ... or tournaments leading to **regional** and national ...

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-18 Selection of US Team This proposal was withdrawn.

TC-19 Change to Top Twenty (20) A motion to accept TC-19 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by Roger Bogh, San Diego Xpress.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine, Section 3

(a) Division I shall include the **top twenty (20)** teams as ranked by the Tournament Selection Committee at the end of each season. All of the **top twenty (20)** teams shall automatically be considered Division I teams for the following season unless they have been granted exclusionary status from Division I. Any of the **top twenty (20)** teams which feels it has ...

(b) Any team which is not in the **top twenty (20)** teams ...

The motion was **approved** by a hand vote. (Aye 65 Nay 33)

TC-20 Division I Rosters A motion to accept TC-20 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by Tim Stout, Heart of Illinois Hiwaymen.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine, Section 4, (b)

Change to: **Rosters for Division I teams are to be sent to the office of the Commissioner by September 30 after which teams may not amend or add players to their roster. No same season transfers will be allowed in Division I.**

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-21 Editorial Changes A motion to accept TC-21 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by John Sikora, Keystone Conference.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine, Section 5

(d) Post-season play shall consist of four **Regional** tournaments....

(e) Teams desiring a berth in the **Regional** tournaments ...

(g)(3) a more favorable draw in the **Regional** Tournament.

(j) They shall also determine the teams feeding into each **Regional** Tournament ...

(k) The Division I **Regional** tournaments shall be scheduled ... The **Regional** tournaments

shall take the format ... The winner of each **Regional** tournament shall advance ...

- (1) **Regional** tournaments are designed ...
- (m) The sites of the four **Regional** tournaments ...

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-22 Editorial Changes A motion to accept TC-22 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by John Sikora, Keystone Conference.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine, Section 6

- (b) The assignment of game officials to the **Regional** tournaments....
- (e) Travel expenses for game officials for **Regional** tournaments.....
- (f) Game fees, lodging and meal expenses of the officials assigned to **Regional** tournaments shall be covered by the sponsor of the **Regional** Tournament.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-23 Editorial Changes A motion to accept TC-23 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by John Sikora, Keystone Conference.

Amend Bylaw Article Nine, Section 7, (a)

Change to: The tournament director for each **Regional** Tournament ...

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-24 Player Eligibility Division II A motion to accept TC-24 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Delete Bylaw Article Ten, Section 3, (c) and renumber d-f to c-e.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-25 Player Eligibility Division III A motion to accept TC-25 was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by David Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers.

Delete Bylaw Article Eleven, Section 4, (d)

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

TC-26 Division II Membership A motion to accept TC-26 was made by Mickey Toombs, Richmond Rimriders and seconded by Pat Donaghey, EPVA Chargers.

The motion was **defeated** by a voice vote.

TC-27 Division II Rosters to Conference Commissioners A motion to accept TC-27 was made by Mickey Toombs, Richmond Rimriders and seconded by Jayne Eagle, Magee Spokesmen

The motion was **defeated** by a voice vote

TC-28 Division I Top 16 A motion to accept TC-28 was made by Jimmy May, Richmond Rimriders and seconded by Jayne Eagle, Magee Spokesmen.

The motion was **defeated** by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners to adjourn for lunch.
The motion was approved by a hand count vote. (Aye 59 Nay 48)
The meeting will reconvene at 1:30.

The meeting reconvened at 1:37 p.m.
The roll call was taken and 56 teams reported present.

A motion was made by Jeff Bradford, Charlotte Hornets and seconded by Dickie Bryant, Charlotte Hornets to implement the newly approve All Tournament Committee immediately for this tournament. The motion was **approved**.

D. Player Classification Committee's Proposal to Amend the Bylaws
PCC-1 Probationary/Permanent Classification Withdrawn

PCC-2 Limitation on Probationary/Permanent Classification Withdrawn

E. Hall of Fame Committee's Proposals to Amend the Bylaws
HF-1 Hall of Fame A motion to accept HF-1 was made by Bill Duncan, Golden State Warriors and seconded by Tim Stout, Heart of Illinois Hiwayman.

Delete Article V, Section 1 (c):

The Hall of Fame Committee shall submit to the Executive Committee before March 1 of each year, the names of the competitors and non-competitors for induction into the Hall of Fame.

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

HF-2 International Competition A motion to accept HF-2 was made by John Ross and seconded by Ed Walek, Eastern Conference.

The motion was **defeated** by a voice vote.

F. Rules Committee Proposals to Amend the Case Book

RC-1 Clarification of Equipment Timeout A motion to accept RC-1 was made by Dave Van Buskirk, Sioux Wheelers and seconded by Mickey Toombs, Richmond Rimriders.

Add to Rule 2, Section 12:

"Ten seconds before the expiration of the forty-five second time limit to fix or replace a player's equipment or to replace the player or the player's wheelchair, a warning signal will be sounded. The signal also shall be sounded at the end of thirty seconds to fix or replace a player's equipment or to replace the player or the player's wheelchair."

The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

Bids for the 50th NWBT

Vena McCormack from Nashville presented a bid for the 50th NWBT.

A motion was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by Cheryl Vines (that once the Executive Committee receives a formal bid) to accept the Nashville bid for the 50th NWBT. The motion was **approved**.

Bids for the 51st NWBT No bids submitted

Dates and Bids for the 1998 Sectional Tournaments

Bids need to be submitted to the Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner.

Dates and Bids for the 1998 Regional Tournaments

Bids need to be submitted to the Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner.

1997 NWBA/PVA Summer Camp, Springfield, MA

1997 Stoke Mandeville Games This competition is designed for women 25 years and under. It's a junior women's team combination camp and competition. Looks like there will be 7 to 8 teams with seven players and two coaches.

1997-98 Proposed Budget Changes to Proposed Budget

XI. Other New Business

XII. Elections

First Vice-President

Roger Davis Sr. defeated Tim Stout and was elected First Vice-President of the NWBA.

Secretary

A motion was made by Pat McCoy, Nevada Basketball Club and seconded by Bob Trotter, Youth Division to re-elect Deborah Dillon Lightfoot as NWBA Secretary. The motion was **approved**.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bruce Russell, Twin City Spinners and seconded by Pat McCoy, Nevada Basketball Club. The motion was **approved** by a voice vote.

As there being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Dillon Lightfoot

Deborah Dillon Lightfoot, Secretary, NWBA

NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Commissioner's Report

- 19 Conferences
 NWBA Men's Teams (133)
 17 Division I
 99 Division II
 17 Division III
- 1 Womens' Division (10 teams)
 1 Youth Division (35 teams)
 1 Intercollegiate (7 teams)

Transition of National Office from California to North Carolina

- No secretary until January, 1997
- Limited communication until that time

National Office Energy and Expense Absorbed by Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation

Phone Calls Made 1,520
 Phone Calls Received 441 = 55%
 Faxes Sent 672 = 78%
 Typing - 186 letters and other memoranda = 63% of all typing in office
 Mailings - 180 letters and mass mailings
 (Mass mailings = 300 pieces x 6 mailings x \$1 postage = \$1800)
 Photocopying - represents 85% of total photocopying done in our office

Officials Development

Through Harry Vines leadership and his committee, there has been some significant movement forward in this area. Development with regards to officials is one of the highest priorities that the National Office has. Harry has accomplished the following on behalf of the NWBA:

- (1) Completed and produced an instructional video for conferences and individuals to use.
- (2) Wrote and produced a guide to implement an Officials' Workshop, available to all conferences and members.
- (3) Proposed a plan to be discussed at the Conference Commissioners' and Presidents' meeting for developing and approving officials.

Fundraising

- \$12,000 GNLD
- \$1,000 NWSF
- \$1,000 To Youth Division by Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation's Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program
- Raised approximately \$10,000 to fund US Training Camp in Charlotte, NC

- Secured Reebok shoes for both Men's and Women's USA Paralympic teams, coaching staff, and support staff
- Indirectly have saved thousands of dollars through Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation's support and by strict management of personal expenses as well as office expenses
- Corporate Relationships - In an attempt to link companies to the NWBA, I have nurtured a relationship that will benefit the Youth Division for the upcoming year. DS Medical is a personal-care products company (urological supplies). On a sliding scale for sales attributed to the NWBA, DS Medical will give funds for sponsorship of the Youth Division. I will ask the delegate body to use DS Medical for their supplies to ensure funding for the Youth Division's future. After one year we will negotiate more globally for the NWBA.

Bankshots

To date, Bankshots has paid for itself with little or no expense. However, the energy involved in its publication has become too much of a project for my office at this time. The organization needs to ensure the survival of such a magazine. During the off-season, I will devise a plan to make it work.

NBA Information

A comparison was done of all teams with NBA affiliations and was published in Bankshots. Ongoing communication is taking place with the NBA for an opportunity to make national presentations at national community relations events.

Disputes and Protests

1. The following teams were allowed to transfer from Division II to Division III, for the following reasons:

Quint City Roughriders - Loss of Key Personnel and Financial Reasons

(From letter dated October 3, 1996)

2. Magee Spokesmen's roster on October 7, 1996 reflected two out-of-town players: Jim Leatherman and Jim Turner. The players were ruled as being in conflict with Division II bylaws and the Magee Spokesmen were told they would become a Division I team or they would need to remove the two players from their roster. The Magee Spokesmen appealed the decision on the basis that Baltimore Ravens would not allow Jim Leatherman and Jim Turner to play, they should have the choice to play for the Spokesmen instead of the NRH Ambassadors, which was the next closest team. During the delay of the Executive Committee actually hearing the appeal, Jim Turner took himself out of the appeal and joined the Ravens. After an unfortunate delay in the appeals process, the Executive Committee ruled 3-2 to

A

uphold the Commissioner's decision. The Spokesmen then decided to keep Jim Leatherman on its roster and moved to Division I.

3. The following teams were allowed to transfer from Division I to Division II, for the following reasons:

- Toledo Silverstreaks - Loss of Key Personnel
- U. of Illinois (men) - Loss of Key Personnel
- Nevada Muckers - Financial Reasons
- NRH Ambassadors - Loss of Key Personnel and Financial Reasons
- Utah Wheelin' Jazz - Loss of Key Personnel and Financial Reasons
- Johnstown Flood City Rollers - Financial Reasons
- EPVA Chargers - Loss of Key Personnel

(From letters dated October 18, 1996)

4. Music City Lightning's request to add Richard Crawford to its roster was denied. The request was made after the September 30, 1996 deadline required by Division I. Mr. Crawford was required to remain on the roster of the Division III Lakeshore Chariots.

(From letter dated November 20, 1996)

5. In November, Joe Gschwender, Jr. (Commissioner of the Mid America Conference), successfully dealt with "out-of-town player" violations with the Indianapolis Racers. After appealing the decision, the Racers decided to keep the players in question and requested to enter into Division I.
6. After review of the Richmond Rimriders roster, it was determined that the Richmond team was in violation of Division II legislation pertaining to the geographics of Joe Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler's residence was in Virginia Beach, and he was rostered on Richmond's team. Commissioner Kiley ruled Mr. Wheeler to be an "out-of-town" player. This decision was appealed by the Rimriders to the Executive Committee, where the Commissioner's decision was upheld by a vote of 5-0.
7. Denver Nuggets were granted Division I status. Since the team did not become a Division I team until after the September 30 deadline to add new players, the Nuggets were allowed to add Chris Young and Paul Lawrence to its roster. The team's roster was then frozen as of that date (November 20, 1996).

(From letter dated November 20, 1996)

A

8. Fresno Flyers omitted the name of Juan Rios from their 1996-1997 roster. Mr. Rios played for the Houston Rockets in the 1995-1996 season. Since the Flyers omission of Mr. Rios' name was due to an administrative oversight, Commissioner Kiley gave Mr. Rios two weeks to get his name added to the roster of his former team only, the Rockets.

(From letter dated December 30, 1996)

9. Due to conflicting bylaws and the folding of the Ottawa Royals Division I team, the following players were allowed to transfer to the following teams:
1. Dave Durepos was allowed to transfer to the New Brunswick Mavericks Division II team.
 2. Erick Corsaut was allowed to transfer to the Ann Arbor Thunderbirds Division II team. (The London Forest City Flyers did not wish to add Mr. Corsaut to their team.)

The conflicting bylaws are as follows:

1. Article One, Section 6 - "No additions of veteran players may be made after January 1 unless a same season transfer has been granted."
Article Two, Section 3(b) - "No same-season transfer will be approved if application for such is made after January 15 of the same season in question."
2. Article Ten, Section 3© - "Players from a team which folds after the season has officially started shall not be eligible for an in season transfer."

**Commissioner Kiley later reversed his decision allowing Mr. Corsaut to transfer, based on information that the closest team after London (Buffalo EPVA Chariots) would have been interested in having Mr. Corsaut play for them. The Executive Committee reversed the Commissioner's second decision on March 4, 1997, with the effect being that Mr. Corsaut is now a member in good standing of the Ann Arbor Thunderbirds.

10. Lakeshore Pioneers were allowed to add Kip Odell to their roster. A timely request to add Mr. Odell, who had moved to the Birmingham area, was received by the national office.

(From letter dated January 15, 1997)

11. Heart of Illinois Hiwaymen are in violation of Division II legislation that requires that Division II teams be comprised of local players. Rich Dieker and Dan Hall

both currently reside in the St. Louis area, where there is already a Division II team. Due to the failure of the Commissioner's office to notify the Hiwaymen in a timely manner, Commissioner Kiley allowed the team to remain in Division II for the remainder of the season. However, the team must either delete Mr. Dieker and Mr. Hall from its roster for the 1997-1998 season, or the Hiwaymen will be moved to Division I.

(From letter dated February 12, 1997)

12. Horizons neglected to submit an application for post-season play before the Tournament Selection Committee meeting, and petitioned the Commissioner to grant an exception to the bylaws, allowing them to participate in the post-season. Commissioner Kiley, although sympathetic to the situation, denied the Horizons' request, based on input from the TSC and the Executive Committee. "Any deviation from [current legislation] would be an injustice to the teams where this legislation was enforced in the past." The Commissioner has recommended to the Executive Committee to change the legislation with penalties and/or fines.

(From letter dated February 20, 1997)

13. Grand Rapids Pacers played Paul Schulte as a Class II, knowing his official class is a Class III. Although the Pacers have officially petitioned to change Mr. Schulte's classification, the team is in violation of NWBA rules. As such, Commissioner Kiley has penalized the Pacers as follows:
 1. The Pacers will register a forfeit for every game (14) that Paul played as a Class II.
 2. The Pacers were dropped from the #3 seed in the Division I Eastern Regional to the #4 seed.
 3. The Pacers will pay a fine of \$200, made payable to the NWBA.

(From letter dated March 4, 1997)

14. Mobile Patriots filed a protest to their Division II Southern sectional game against the Austin Wreckers. This protest was based on the fact that three officials were used (two from the Wreckers conference and one from the Patriots conference) and inconsistency in the staffing of the shot and score clocks. After receiving written statements from both teams, Commissioner Kiley ruled that the game should be replayed prior to the Southern Regionals in Nashville, TN.

National Wheelchair Basketball Association

NWBA Rules Committee

1996-97 Annual Report

Submitted by Ralph Smith, Chair

1. The printing and distribution of the 1996-97 Rules and Case Book was complete on schedule this season, with rules documents sent to the Commissioner's office (and mailed to officials) during the first week of October. Again this year, as he has for the past 20 years, Henry Berzofsky designed the cover for the Rules and Case Book. Thanks is also extended to Quickie Designs of Sunrise Medical for printing (free of charge) the rules books again this year.
2. No rule changes were adopted for the 1996-97 NWBA season; however, one new situations was added to the 1996-97 Case Book. This situation (#1002E) clarified that "jumping" of the wheelchair during play constitutes a physical advantage foul (PAF).
3. This year, 469 exams were sent to officials or Conference Commissioners, which is 28 more than the total distributed in 1995-96. By the deadline for submission, 207 officials (44%) had returned their exams, which was considerably lower than last year's return rate (56%). This year's exam was considered to be more challenging than previous versions, and the results reflected the increased difficulty. The percentage of officials who passed the exam was *by far* the lowest we have had since the exam's inception. Only 83% of those returning exams passed with a grade of 80% or higher. The fact that 17% failed an open book, true-false exam indicates that many officials may not be making a concerted effort to learn and understand how to interpret the NWBA's rules of play.
4. Two rules change proposals for the 1997-98 season were submitted to the committee, but only one of those was considered appropriate for consideration at the 1997 Annual Meetings. This proposal would provide guidelines for administering the time out to repair or replace a damaged wheelchair.
5. Most Rules Committee members responded promptly to my requests for assistance, and their input has been instrumental in improving NWBA rules. Special thanks is extended to Jim Olson, who arranges for grading of exams and notifies officials of their performance, and to Harry Vines and his Officials Development Committee for their efforts to upgrade the quality of officiating in the NWBA. The results of this year's exam underscore the need for this important committee. The Rules Committee and I would also like to thank the NWBA's Commissioner and Executive Committee for their continued support of our work.
6. Finally, Mr. President, the time has come for me to announce my resignation as Chair of the NWBA's Rules Committee effective at the end of next season (1997-98). My rural location and family obligations have made it increasingly difficult for me to keep "up to speed" on developments in the game. Moreover, I anticipate that I will become even more removed from the sport after our twins are born in May or June. To make the transition a smooth one, I am requesting that you call for applications from individuals interested in assuming leadership of the NWBA's Rules Committee. If the person selected is appointed as Vice-chair of the committee for the 1997-98 season, he or she would be in an excellent position to assume full leadership effective after the 50th NWBT in 1998.

**National Wheelchair Basketball Association
Collegiate Division
Annual Report
March, 1997**

Submitted by : Dan Byrnes, Assistant Commissioner - Central Intercollegiate Conference

Central Intercollegiate Conference (CIC)

Membership:	(Institution)	(Team Rep)
	University of Texas-Arlington,	(Jim Hayes)
	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater,	(Mike Frogley)
	University of Nebraska-Lincoln,	(Shad Dahlgren)
	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale,	(Rich Swanson)
	Edinboro University of Pennsylvania,	(Jim Glatch)
	University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	(Maureen Mausser)
	Southwest State University-Marshall (MN)	(Charles Clausen)
Non-Members:	Temple University (PA),	(Tribit Green)
	Ohio State University	(Kim Martin)
	Wright State University (OH)	(Chris Price)
	University of Arizona	(Alan Strauss)

Conference season: Two weekend tournaments were held involving round robin play between two conference divisions. The November tournament was at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the January tournament was at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

20th National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Championships:

Site:	University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale	
Host:	University of Southern Illinois Salukies	
Director:	Rich Swanson	
Date:	March 2, 1997	
Results:	University of Texas-Arlington	67
	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	58

All Tournament Team:

Jeff Glassbrenner	UWW
Enoch Ablorh	UTA
Jack Ricks	UTA
T.K. Donnelly	UTA
Javier Gonzales	UTA

Most Valuable Player:

Jeff Glassbrenner	UWW
-------------------	-----

Sportsmanship:

Dan Ferreira	UWW
--------------	-----

Collegiate Updates:

Rich Swanson (SIU-C) has been elected as Vice President of the Central Intercollegiate Conference (CIC).

For the 1996-97 season, the CIC accepted and welcomed its newest conference member, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Jim Glatch has spearheaded the development of wheelchair basketball at Edinboro.

The members of the CIC voted into their constitution significant changes with regard to the academic the eligibility of its athletes. In an effort to expand the number of institutions and the pool of potential players, the CIC adopted a less stringent set of eligibility requirements. Prior to this legislation, the CIC followed NCAA Division I standards. The purpose of the legislation was to find a consistent and equitable set of requirements for the variety of institutions represented, as well as requirements that would maintain academic integrity and allow for continued growth and expansion.

The conference will continue its two tournament schedule with weekends set aside in November (7th-9th, UW-W) and in January (30th-1st, SIU-C).

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has been awarded the 21st NIWBT to be held at a date to coincide with other NWBA post-season play.

Mike Frogley, head coach of University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and recently appointed as head coach of the Canada Men's Gold Cup Team, will be departing UWW this summer to pursue a doctorate degree in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Illinois.

Wright State University is making attempts to resurrect its program under the leadership of Recreation Director, B. Jean Denney. They have recently received significant institutional support to expand the program and to hire a professional, full time person to serve the athletic needs of its disabled students.

Summary:

The collegiate division continues to develop and promote its purpose, that is to provide academic and athletic opportunities to qualified and motivated individuals. The collegiate division of the NWBA provides tremendous player development opportunities. Through the leadership provided by the coaching staffs in the CIC, the collegiate division continues to provide the NWBA with the most thorough player development process in the association. This is most evident by the success of collegiate teams at the Division I and II levels of regular and post season play. Further testimony can be found in the number of collegiate players being recruited by the top teams in the country and by the number of players receiving invitations for national team try-outs. We are proud of the accomplishments of our collegiate division and appreciate the continued support of the association.

**PLAYER CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE
1996-97 ANNUAL REPORT**

1. 1996-97 Classification Protest Activity

- 4 new protests were filed with the Commissioner's office.
- 1 protest that was filed at the 1996 NWBT was acted upon.
- 1 protest was remaining from the 1995-96 season.
- 1 protest appeal was acted upon following bylaw amendment at the 1996 meeting.

As a result of protest evaluations, 3 classifications were changed, including 1 player being deemed ineligible due to not meeting minimum disability criteria. One protest was denied, as the player had undergone a previous protest less than 3 years prior. Contact was unable to be made with the player whose protest was remaining from the 1995-96 season, a letter will be forwarded to this player advising that if no response is received within a set period of time, the application for protest will be nullified. The 2 remaining protests will be addressed upon the completion of the season. These 2 were filed by the player or their team after the June 30th deadline.

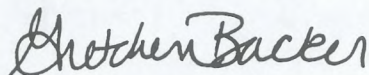
2. Classification Workshops

A classification training workshop was held on Sept. 28, 1996, in Charlotte, NC. As a result 7 new classifiers were certified. The effort and follow-through by Dick Bryant to complete this workshop is greatly appreciated by the Classification Committee. Names of therapists and physicians interested in attending a classification workshop continue to be collected. No other conferences or teams, who expressed interest in hosting a workshop at the 1996 Annual Meeting, followed-through to actually request and arrange a workshop.

3. Proposed Bylaw Amendments

All Player Classification Committee recommended bylaw amendments were accepted at the 1996 Annual Meeting. Of most significance, is the change to allow player classifications protests to recur after a period of 3 years from previous protest. An amendment was also passed defining a June 30th deadline for protests to be filed by a player, his/her team, coach or team member. The Player Classification Committee has proposed 2 amendments for consideration at the 1997 Annual Delegates Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gretchen Backer, PT
Player Classification Committee, Chair

E

DIVISION I COMMITTEE REPORT

The Division I Committee for the 1996-97 season consisted of Ron Williams, Harry Vines, Bruce Russell, Mike Schlappi, Bill Duncan, and Wayne Kunishige.

The committee conducted several conference calls during the season to discuss issues presented to the committee. After the roster filing date of September 30, the committee received requests for noninclusion to Division I for the 1996-97 season from the following 6 teams:

1. EPVA Chargers
2. Richmond Rimriders
3. Toledo Silverstreaks
4. Utah Wheelin Jazz
5. Nevada Muckers
6. Johnstown Flood City Rollers

The committee considered these requests based upon the criteria set out in the Division I Bylaws for petitioning for noninclusion and made the following recommendations:

1. That the petitions of EPVA Chargers, Toledo Silverstreaks, Utah Wheelin Jazz, Nevada Muckers, and Johnstown Flood City Rollers be granted.

2. That the petition of the Richmond Rimriders be denied as it appeared that the Rimriders were consistently ranked through the year from # 19 through # 25 and had not lost any key player personnel. It further appeared that the team was financially able to compete in several tournaments and could play the minimum number of Division I teams to qualify for post season play.

The committee was later informed that the Richmond Rimriders had made player personnel changes to their roster and Commissioner Kiley had granted their request for noninclusion.

Commissioner Kiley also received late requests from University of Illinois and the NRH Ambassadors for noninclusion which he granted based upon key changes in player personnel.

The committee received a request for inclusion in Division I from the Denver Nuggets, which we recommended to the Commissioner be granted.

Also, as a result of the submission of rosters, it was determined that two teams, the Magee Spokesmen and the Inianapolis Racers, had out-of-town players on their roster, which required them to compete in Division I.

Finally, by letter dated December 5, 1996, the Ottawa Royals withdrew from the NWBA due to financial problems.

With these noninclusions and inclusions, Division I for the 1996-97 season consisted of 19 teams.

The Division I Committee would like to compliment the Commissioner's Office on getting out game scores starting in late December. This reflected the best reporting of scores by the NWBA in a number of years.

The Division I Committee would also like to compliment the Commissioner's Office on the format of the NWBA Directory for the 1996-97 season in its inclusion of player rosters in the back of the directory.

At the Division I conference held on April 2, 1997, the following persons were elected to the Division I Executive Committee:

- Ron Williams - Chairman for 1 yr. period
- Jeff Bradford - Vice Chairman for a 3 yr. period
- Bill Duncan - Secretary for a 2 yr. period
- Harry Vines - at large member for a 2 yr. period
- Bruce Russell - at large for a 3 year period -

F

TO: David Kiley, Commissioner
National Wheelchair Basketball Association

FROM: Division II Committee *BDA/BJ*

RE: 1997 Division II Committee Report

DATE: April 1, 1997

As noted in the data tables distributed with this memorandum, the introduction of a divisional structure has clearly been very beneficial to the NWBA in terms of increasing participation and the competitiveness of post-season tournament games. In evidence, we need only note the following trends:

- ***More teams are participating in post-season tournaments.*** From 1992-1994, there was an average of 66 teams participating in post-season tournament competition. Since the introduction of the divisional structure, the number of teams participating in post-season tournaments has increased to 74. In 1997 this included participation in Division III post-season competition.
- ***Post-season tournament games have gotten much closer.*** From 1991 - 1994 the "open" NWBT format was characterized by an average game score differential (margin of victory/loss) of 23.2 points/game, and an average range in game score differentials of 69 (smallest differential minus the largest differential). In contrast, game score differentials over the past two years have dropped by almost 30% to 16.4 for Division I and 16.5 for Division II. The range has also diminished to slightly over 40 for Division I and approximately 50 for Division II.

Thus, the present structure, programming and procedures appear to be effective in producing the outcomes desired.

During the 1996-97 season, the Division II Committee participated in one conference call. The overwhelming majority of the matters addressed pertained to situations wherein players bypassed teams which were more proximal to their residence in order to play for more distant teams. Specifically, the Committee was asked to render decisions relative to Article Ten, Section 2(a), which states: "Teams should be locally based with players permanent residents of the same city, town, or small geographic area." The arguments offered in support of allowing players to play for more distant teams included:

- The players did not get along with the other members of the most proximal teams.
- The players did not mind traveling longer distances to play for more distant teams.
- The players had a history of playing for the more distant teams.

- The distances between the player's residences and the teams in question were not perceived to be significantly different.
- The NWBA has no authority to tell players where they must play.

In reflecting on these matters, the Division II Committee consistently rendered decisions relative to team membership based upon the following principles and/or operational tenets:

- *"Locally based" was interpreted to mean that players should roster with and support the growth and development of the team located closest to his/her place of residence. In application, the Committee emphasized a doctrine of "reasonableness" for decisions based on the distances between the player's residence and the next most proximal teams. Further, the Committee took into account the player's team history, residence, location of team competition/training site, and the relative proximity of the applicable team options.*

For example, when the relative distance to team "A" was 40 miles, and to team "B" was 60 miles, the teams were considered to be equidistant, and the player was allowed to roster with either. However, if the distance to team "A" was 10 and the distance to team "B" was 60, the Committee recommended that the player roster with team A. The greater the differential between the distance to the preferred team and the distance to the most proximal team, the more likely that the Committee recommended membership with the more proximal team.

- *Players should not be allowed to violate the aforementioned condition on the basis of their having been previously rostered with a more distant team (i.e., no grandfather clause allowed).*
- *Before any player is allowed to bypass a more proximal team and join a more distant one, he/she must provide letters from the representatives of the closer teams which state that they decline the option to add the player in question to their rosters, and which offer a reasonable justification for their decision to waive their rights to the player.*
- *The individual rights of a player are never to be accommodated at the expense of the rights of other players or the NWBA community at-large. Therefore, if the request of an individual were deemed beneficial to the individual but harmful to the overall needs of the association, the request was denied.*
- *Participation in wheelchair basketball is not a right, but a privilege for which all players must concurrently assume personal responsibility to support the best interest of the at-large community. Allowing the unbridled pursuit of personal self-interest with regard to team membership would inevitably create the same problems within Division II which stimulated the creation of a divisional structure in 1995. If the association responds by allowing players to migrate to more distant teams when difficulty is experienced in the most proximal teams, we absolve players of any responsibility for promoting the growth*

and development of local teams. Fortunately, the majority of the NWBA Division II members appear to appreciate this philosophy, and the Division II Committee felt it was important that we not undermine their efforts by allowing a minority of players to gain a competitive advantage by simply allowing them to bypass more proximal teams in order to join more powerful clubs.

- *The critical issue in maintaining the credibility of Division II is not the actual distance traveled by a player, rather it is regulating the process whereby players bypass more proximal teams to play for "preferred" teams. In addressing the latter concern, the Committee does not see a difference in a player flying coast to coast to play for a Division I team, and a player driving 200 miles, past a number of Division II teams, to play for another Division II team. These actions may differ in cost, modality and distance, but they are identical in that both allow players to bypass more proximal teams to play for a preferred member team.*
- *In that the aforementioned procedures do not deny a player the opportunity to roster with the team of his/her choice, since any team is afforded the option of joining Division I, a conservative response should be used relative to team membership issues to minimize the likelihood that such action would undermine the "spirit" and intent of Division II.*

In summary, in that the current system is clearly promoting the desired outcomes relative to increased membership and closer post-season games, the Division II Committee recommends that the NWBA stay the course and not enact more rigorous, objective qualifiers for Article 10, Section 2(a). The Committee strongly believes that it can continue to make reasonable decisions based upon the aforementioned operating principles which will preserve the integrity of Division II. However, the Committee is equally convinced that the introduction of more restrictive, objective standards (e.g., a mileage radius of say 200 miles within which players may go anywhere to play) will lead to the regional aggregation of talent, and greatly undermine if not destroy Division II. As noted earlier, the difference in driving 200 miles or flying 3000 is one of degree, not substance. Both allow players to bypass teams located nearer to their place of residence in order to play for more distant, and typically more powerful ones.

Finally, the Committee's principle goals for the year ahead are:

- (1.) To perform a detailed review of the NWBA Constitution and Bylaws to identify inconsistencies between the newer Division II Article and those which existed previously, and to formulate amendments to eliminate them.
- (2.) To improve the timeliness and validity of communications with the Conference Commissioners and Division II members relative to the criteria for Division II membership, the roster review process, and action recommendations of the Committee relative to eligibility and team membership issues.

Fig. 1
Impact of Divisional Structure on NWBT Participation and Game Scores

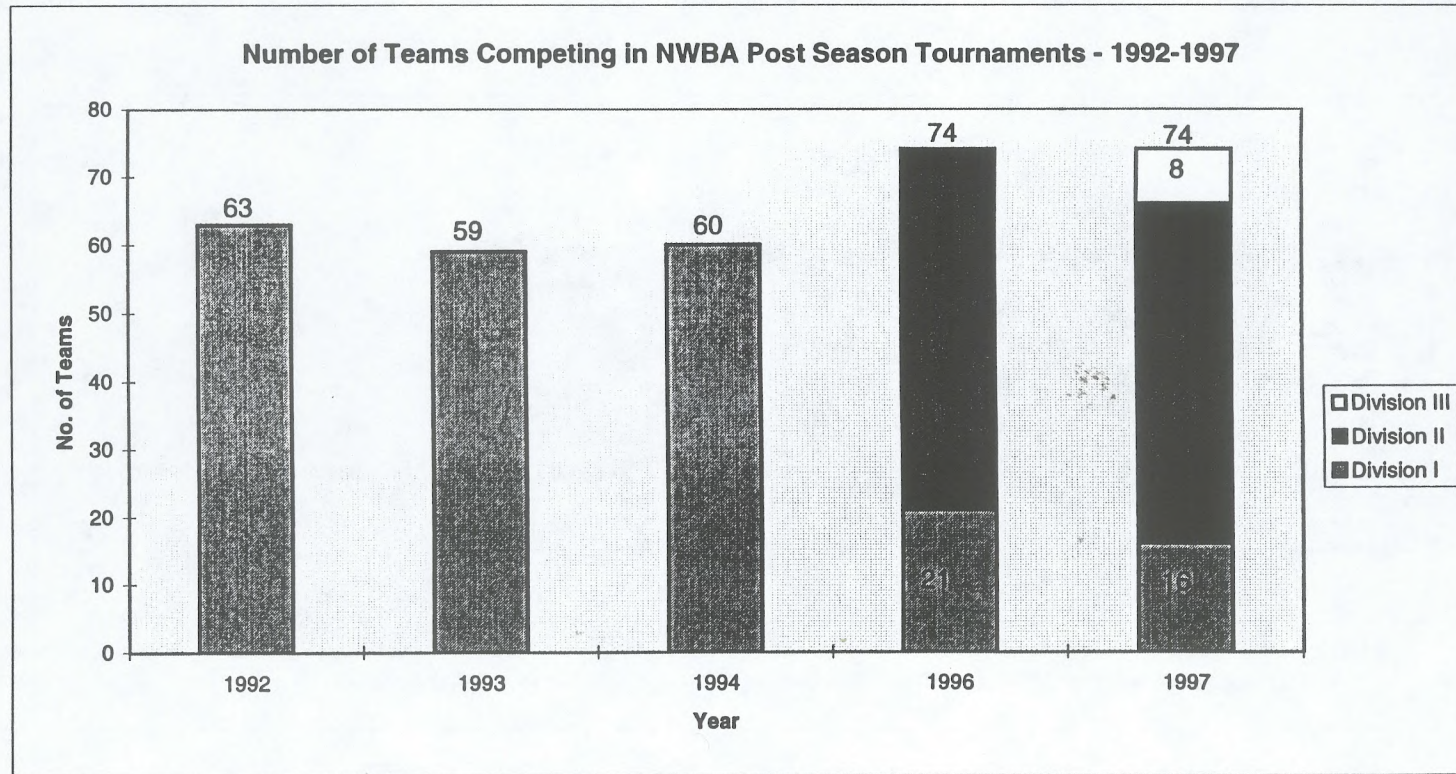


Fig. 2
Impact of Divisional Structure on NWBT Participation and Game Scores

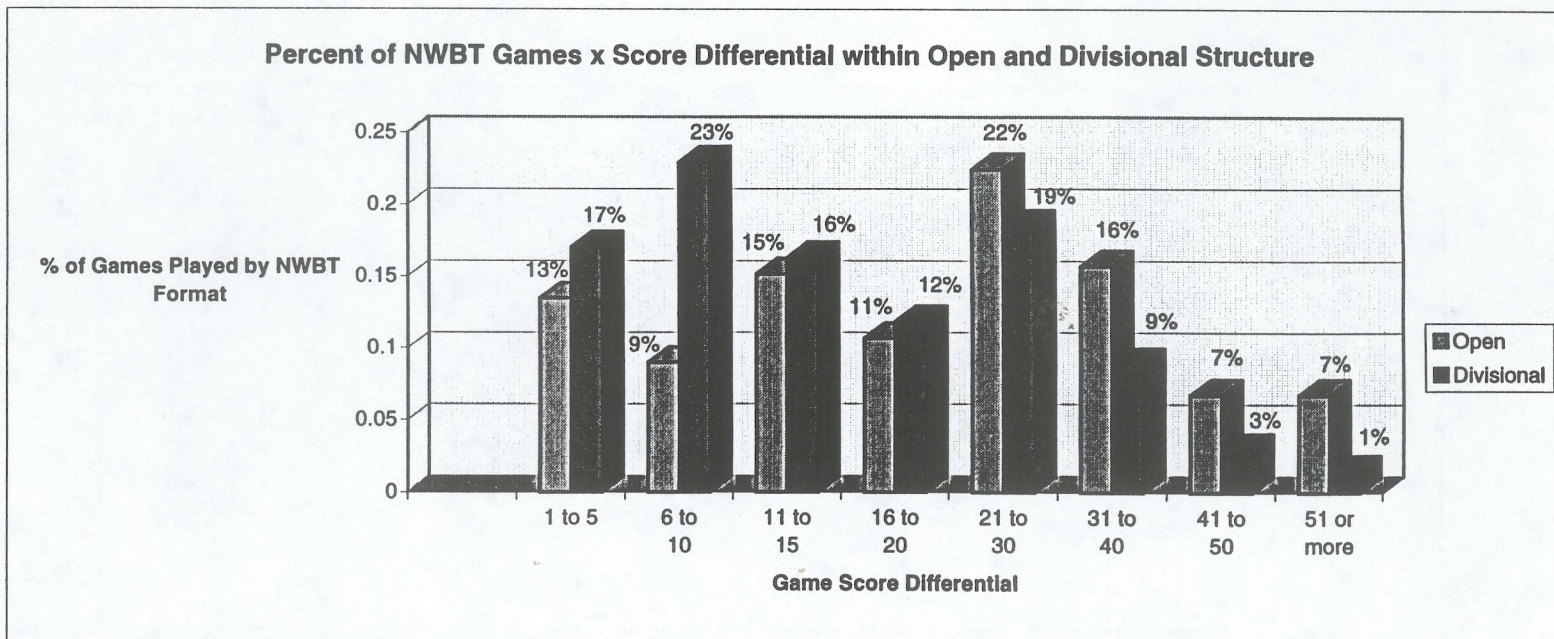


Fig. 3
Impact of Divisional Structure on NWBT Game Scores

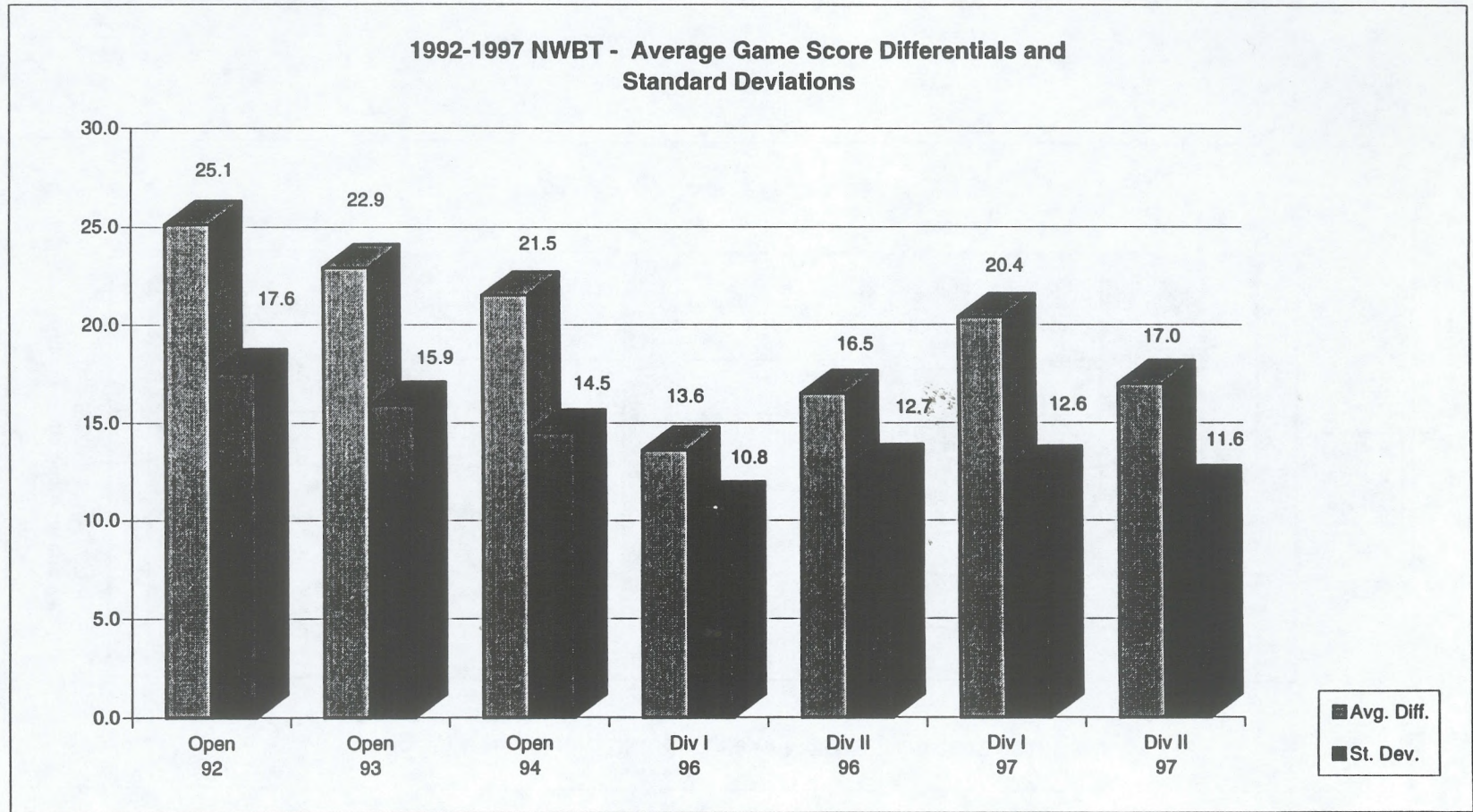
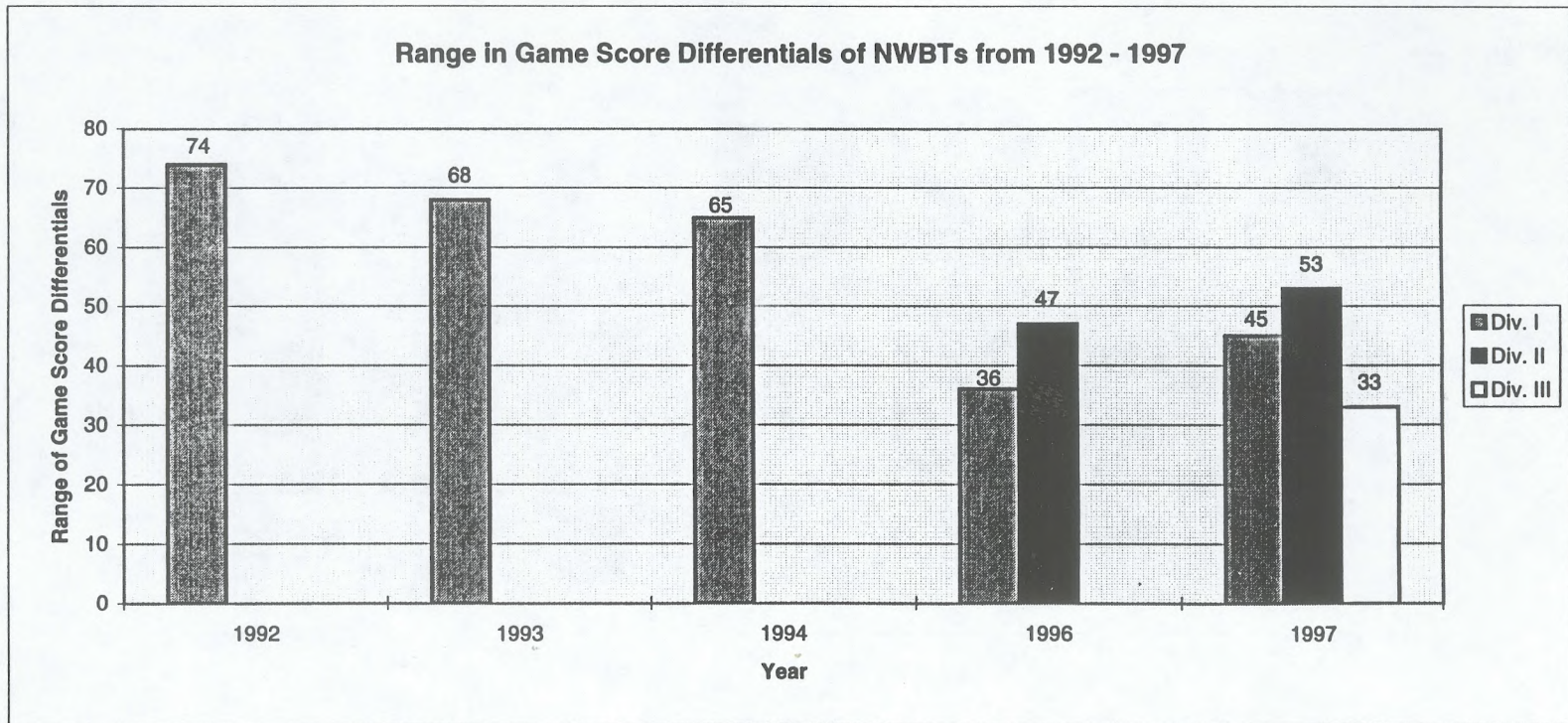


Fig. 4
Impact of Divisional Structure on NWBT Participation and Game Scores



F