

THE RED BARON SPEAKS

November 2009– Larry Creakbaum

The 2009 NASC'S at Reno are over and I just returned to my little condo in Avon, Indiana. I played in an event of every session for which I was qualified and that is to hard on my aged, disease riddled body. There were many players my age and older who also played that much but they are healthy. The first event I will drop will be the singles as two out of three is too much. A lot of California players appeared to come over for a week end or both and return home in the middle of the week. Some of the established players from the south were not there but establishing players from the south did come. The east and mid west were about normal except for Indiana which was very light. There were 138 in the pro-am, 128 in the singles, 158 in the AB draw, 156 in the 4-person bring and 132 in the doubles.



The championship events were pretty well ran with a about every event starting on time. I liked the idea of not having a set time until the day before and posting it on the board for the next days events. I was able to program rest periods which I seldom used and when I got to the doubles my partner had to suffer through my poor performance because of lack of rest.

And now for the play and the rules. First I want to congratulate the staff for providing a printed copy of which there were changes from 2008. I know I asked for a copy several years ago and was provided an incomplete set. I only know of only one other player besides myself who read and studied the changes. Every event director or promoter needs to adopt the same set of rules, and I propose the TSA rules as the Federation rules are very similar, and then if they want to make changes, do it by addendum. That way a player only has to study a short document to be up to date.

I was going to write about the most violated or worst violation of the rules, but there were too many candidates for that honor so I will go thru the rule book as written. I am not even going to discuss the four call as it was a judgment decision, or lack of depending on which side of the weight you are on. The bottom line is it had little effect on the game as the team it went against had a commanding lead.

General:



The rules mention tournament director, tournament officials, board adjuster, bracket official, and others. At this large of event a list of who these persons are should be posted. Those of us who have attended for years pretty well know but first timers don't. Also an event that last this long the tournament director cannot be on site all the time and an assistant should be named to make certain decisions and a schedule worked out so one is always available.

Sportsmanship:

1.2-has been changed to separate physical and verbal. Physical is self explanatory while verbal may have a gray area.

1.7-has been removed which was a disclaimer statement and not totally necessary.

Boards, Weights, etc:

2.4-players use everything but a scoop shovel for this. The containers supplied are too small and players revert to the larger containers including yours truly. Then they go to waxing every shot which is too much. The container used should match the intended purpose. I see nothing wrong with using your hands as long as you keep it light and have not just returned from the bath room. Just use common sense.

Roll Call:

There has to be a better way as there is too much time between roll call and the sponsor sale. Try a sign in sheet the thirty minutes before roll call and then only call the ones who have not signed in.

Slow Play and Time Out:

The game is generally not played any where close to this rule. There are team meetings before 10 points are scored, discussion is not held at the middle of the board, and more than three meetings per game per are held. This rule needs to be rewritten. I would suggest one meeting in the first five points and one the second five points not to exceed thirty seconds. The meetings could be accumulated and both used in the second five points. The last five points, one meeting a frame that could be accumulated and all used in the later frames. Two meetings could be one minute but the remainder limited to thirty seconds. The idea of the rule is to save time but the rule is not enforced. What I have suggested is closer to how a *few* of the players are playing the game.

Play in progress:

A sentence was added to the 2009 rules from the 2008 rules in 10.7. The sentence contradicts 9.3.

Hangar Weights

I have read and reread this rule drunk, sober, sleepy and awake and have come to the conclusion I don't know what it says. I think it would be ok if the "not" in the last line of 11.2 were removed. The TSA wording seems more appropriate to me.

Ten days and nine nights is a long time, but I guess if you have to travel half way across the country to get there, you should make it worth while. I will be back but I will not play in five events again.

Now to play a couple of local events and plan for Houston.

