

Southern Arizona Friendship Cup Meeting

On April 25th at approximately 1:00 PM a meeting was held at the Tucson Armory to discuss and agree upon several items for the **Southern Arizona Friendship Cup**.

In attendance;

Larry Smith, Les Jones, Linda Jones, John Banot (Sierra Vista)

Jeremiah Sbarra , Bob Trent (Green Valley / Quail Creek)

Greg Hlushko (Saddlebrook)

Lev Vays, Misha Chernobelskiy (Tucson Armory)

Oro Valley and Tucson Udall were not present. I (Larry Smith) will contact Barner (Udall) to find out their status. Greg will contact Peter (Oro Valley). Greg believes that Oro Valley may merge with Saddlebrook to make one team.

On 4/27 Greg contacted me and said Oro Valley should have their own team soon. Peter will contact me shortly with the information.

These items and agreements are as follows.

1. “No Senior Left Behind”

1. Some were concerned about how to let a very low rated player participate without jeopardizing the teams chances to win.
 1. It was decided , after much discussion, that the best way was to have two divisions. The first division would play for score (presumably the best 4 – 6 players) and the second division would play without contributing to the score, allowing lower rated players an opportunity to play players from other teams without the feeling of hurting their team. This should allow for many more members from each club to become part of the team without the stresses involved in competitive play.
2. What about uneven team numbers?
 1. If one team has more players than the other we can use several methods to accommodate the larger team
 1. We could play against each other with uneven numbers. Scoring will still work out fairly for both teams.
 1. Scoring will be done in a conventional Round Robin format.
 2. We could use some of the “extra” players strictly for a doubles match.
 3. We could trim the larger team to the size of the smaller team, using the extra players in the second division.
 2. Possibilities 1 and 2 above were the most favored.
3. Should we have a doubles match for each tournament?

1. It was decided that we would try to accommodate a doubles match whenever possible but it would not be a requirement.
4. What should our season be?
 1. After looking at the number of possible teams, the fact that several teams have winter visitors and that we would like to have matches often enough to keep the interest up, it was decided that we would have a winter season, October through April.
5. Start times?
 1. While we decided to schedule with start times of 11:00 AM on Saturdays, it was further agreed that this could be altered by the team captains to best suit the needs of the opposing teams at the time. For example, the time could be changed to any agreeable time and the day could even be changed to any agreeable day.
6. How many games for a match?
 1. This discussion centered around the fact that all team members are seniors and not all want to compete at the same level as USATT tournaments.
 2. It was decided that a match of 2 out of 3 games would keep the competition to a level that would allow the highest number of players from each club to participate.
7. Can we add new players after the season begins?
 1. We will keep doors open to new players and they can sign-up for the team at any time.
 2. If a new team desires to participate, we will include them and make every effort to schedule them for as many tournaments as possible.
8. What kind of schedule will we have
 1. With 4 – 6 teams we should play approximately every 3 – 4 weeks.
 2. I, Larry Smith, will make a tentative schedule for approval of the team captains by June 15, 2009.

This concluded the topics of discussion about the format we would like to use for our Team Competition.

We did discuss, in general terms, other aspects of the **Southern Arizona Friendship Cup**.

First and foremost, This competition is centered around building friendships within our sport throughout Southern Arizona. Second, we want everyone to have fun.

With this in mind, we decided to use these decisions for our format as a guide to begin. Each team captain, in discussions with opposing team captains may alter the format as needed to insure that they accommodate as many of their team members as possible.

This may include changing the start time, day of play, or location as long as it is mutually agreed upon by both captains and is in the best interests of both teams.

I wish to thank all those who attended our meeting and contributed to our discussions.

Thank you

Larry Smith
Interim Director
Southern Arizona Friendship Cup