

2018-19 Tour Director Annual Report

Shannon Vinson

Resources Used

Executive Director

Live Streaming

Umpires

Men's and Women's Ranking

Men's and Women's Players

Mission Statement

Working with the local tournament directors, create a consistent and successful grand prix and national championships tour for all players, sponsors, spectators and volunteers while managing the expectations of all sponsorship agreements, the local tournament committee and the on-site APTA representatives.

Goals and Accomplishments, 2018-19

The Goals:

~ Continue to develop a stream-lined way to deliver favors to local TD's and players, FUZION, including a contract to be signed between FUZION and the APTA. Introduce FUZION to all TD's of APTA events and encourage them to use them as their single source for favors.

~ At the end of each tournament, the local TD and their committee to see a true merit to the APTA being there with a single point person for both the players and the tournament representatives.

~ To continue to foster the concept of players coming to one source for information, reporting of issues, etc.

~ Ensure that the players respect that these events have rules to be followed, including timeliness to matches, and continued or blatant disregard or abuse the rules will result in sanctions.

~ On-site training for the new tour director; watching the events unfold is the best training you can have for this job.

The accomplishments of this year are as follows:

~ FUZION had another great season with us and a contract was signed. All APTA NRT TD's were sent a letter introducing FUZION and I know several have contacted them for this upcoming season

~ All 5 GP's and the National Championship used FUZION and a paddle specific bag was developed for Nationals as the favor and was a HUGE hit from the feedback we heard. FUZION also had a "pro shop" on site and it was really well received.

~ All Players continued to know who to contact pre, during and post the event(s) with any questions, concerns, tardiness, etc. Not all players used this offering and it definitely created some issue but they all **knew** the contact was available.

~ Players Committees continued to receive reports with any issues from the weekend for them to discuss, implement and notify players when violations have occurred. Any sanctions handed down are 100% the decisions of the players committees. The men deleting the ban from tournaments for defaulting definitely helped quiet the noise this year.

~ Players seem to really understand the time rule now; only one major time penalty had to be given out this year. This is huge break through from the past!!!

~ New tour director was handed the reigns at the conclusion of the 2019 National Championships; Good Luck to Jackie Cameron and I wish her well!

~ Stayed under budget!

Disappointment for 2017-18

~ The lack of timely communication to the tour director regarding the drastic changes to the Short Hills Invitational caused some management issues that could have been avoided. I would suggest going forward that the front line person be involved much earlier in these conversations to point out potential issues so that they may be addressed long before an event is released to the players. Trying new formats is fine but there are logistical impacts that need to be addressed and many were missed making execution of the event much more difficult; we did it but it was a rocky road with many behind the scenes issues that could have been avoided.

Goals for 2019-20

~ For the correct locations to be awarded the GP events for next season. We need to continue to support those who work well with us, support us and ride out the bumps with us. If we don't support those who support us, we cannot continue to ask for their support.

~ For Jackie Cameron to have a smooth ride this year with the events.

~ For local TD's to continue to want to be selected as a GP or National Championship event specifically due to the support that the APTA the offering/sending their way.

~ For the local TD to continue to not feel like the APTA is there to "take over" rather welcomes, not fights, the pre-event assistance.

~ To continue the players respect for the professionalism we are driving into these events, including honoring the timeliness rule.

~ To continue to meet and exceed, or where necessary to manage the expectations, including early communication of site limitations, etc., of sponsorship agreements.

Issues to Resolve for next season:

~ Set and release known way to apply to host GP or Nationals with deadline so all can be considered to host prior to Tournament Committee starting the conversation.

~ Making sure that all asked host sites can meet or exceed the minimal requirements to host.

~ Making prize money mandatory to host a GP Event; do we really want to do this?

~ One day events. It is important for ALL to understand that it is only a 1-day event IF all players are local. If you have to travel to the event outside of 2 hours, it is a 3-day event by the time you get there, play all day the next day (start early and end late) and travel home the next day. I know the complaints on the men side were limited when we tried the format that for them had the top players protected but the women's side had MANY issues with this 1-day

format. Not sure it is right for a GP event to be crammed into one day and 100% sure that you will start to lose most of the players that live outside of the 2-hour radius.

Big Picture Issues for 5 Year Plan:

~ National Championships; limit the draw thus making it an invitational/qualification event or remain 128+ draw on each side of the open draw. This continues to be a question/debated topic.

~ If remain an open draw, name one/two site(s) for the national championships that can truly host an event this massive.

~ If name one/two site(s), create a method for all regions to contribute to the "other revenue" component to hosting this event.

~ Presidents Cup:

~ Qualification: Should there be consistent national requirements for qualification not regional?

~ Visit with players committees on format and timing; should there be some changes to future events? President's Cup was a hot topic this year and many are starting to lose faith in the event due to format, timing and continued dominance of a couple of regions. To date, I have heard from 4 regions that are in discussions amongst themselves regarding participation in future events if the format remains the same. It is getting harder to recruit players for what is becoming just an all-day beat down for some when they could 1. Save their bodies and 2. Not take an extra day /night away from family and work.

On a personal note, I thank you for your support within all my roles (Grants and Loans, Sponsorship and Tour Director) over the last 6 years of serving on this board. We have had some great times and some interesting ones but through it all we accomplished some of the goals we set out. I will forever be proud of what we did together in creating this Tour Director role for our major events and I believe that we set the course well in these events for the future of our sport.

I wish each of you GOOD LUCK as you move forward in your roles and goals during your time on the APTA Board and will be cheering you all on from the bar! (You know I can't be sentimental for too long or you will all wonder who really wrote the last two paragraphs.)

GOOD LUCK to all and have a great 2019 Board Meeting!