

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee Minutes

Date: March 25, 2019

1. The meeting called to order at 10:00AM CDT by Robb Gordon, ACBL National Recorder acting as non-member facilitator in the absence of both outgoing Chairman Tom Carmichael and incoming Chairman Danny Sprung.
2. The minutes from the fall meeting in Honolulu were approved.
3. Board of Directors Report – Dennis Carman
There is a new Masterpoint committee - (Russ Jones, Dennis Carman, Sol Weinstein, David Metcalf and 3 Members from the Board of Governors). First meeting will be at this NABC.

In response to a question about the purpose of this committee ACBL President Russ Jones stated that this was the first part of a process to remove “bridge” decisions from the ACBL Board of Directors so that the BOD can concentrate on “Strategy”.

Appeals & Charges Chairman AJ Stephani stated that many issues came up about cheating.

1. “One Strike and You’re Out” was approved 16-9. This says anybody expelled from ACBL for “premeditated collusive cheating” in an NABC+ event, the ACBL will not entertain a request for readmission.
 2. For other applications for readmission, the Ethical Oversight Committee and the Anti-Cheating Commission will have the opportunity to express their views to the Appeals and Charges Committee when the application is reviewed. A readmitted person will be on Probation for 5 years.
 3. CDR section 2.2.3 was revised to clarify how and why a matter may be elevated to the ACBL Board of Directors.
 4. There were 3 other motions. Two were to strip convicted cheaters of NABC titles as of 8/22/2015 or later. One motion left K/O titles vacant and the other motion moved teams up. The “option” was deferred to Summer.
 5. Also, there was a motion to allow Management to draft Codification that would permit voluntary relinquishment of titles, with the caveat that teams would NOT move up in these cases.
4. Board of Governors Report – Linda Trent
Possible restructuring of BOG to be committee and subcommittee focused.
 5. Management Report – nothing to report.
 6. Alert procedure – Jeff Ford

Committee is Jeff Ford, Sol Weinstein, Matt Smith, Greg Herman, Tom Carmichael, Michael Rosenberg, and Danny Sprung.

The committee met twice by conference call. This is early in the process.

7. Convention Card – Ellen Kent

Working with Linda Trent, they played with a few designs (see attached exhibits) and described in detail. This card is for the “open” chart. Some of the italicized words apply to open+.

They want to put the 1 club and 1 diamond openings in separate places.

Chris Compton reminded us that the mission is to make the card as simple as possible and avoiding “names” for conventions when possible.

Robb promised to contact Marty Harris for his Convention Card contribution. Russ Jones passed on suggestion from Joe Grue and Eric Greco that the sizes of the score boxes be reduced and/or scrambled.

8. Bridge Plus (card distribution machine) – deferred

9. New Conventions and Convention Defenses – new conventions must be approved with suggested defenses. Need someone(s) to review submissions.

New Business

10. Platinum Pairs – Chris Compton stressed the need to have better separation on tables when possible. Also request barometer/simultaneous setup. Generally, space is an issue and we are locked into our locations for the next few years.

Chris Compton moves that Platinum Pairs have a barometer final. Some discussion about barometer vs simultaneous (no scores shown) – motion changed to simultaneous without barometer scoring. Motion passed.

11. Regional events at NABCs – Moved that when there is a two day gap between NABC+ events and/or before major team events that a 4 session KO be scheduled. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Suggestion (Bob Heller) that a small informal committee be established to advise local NABC committees on Regional Events scheduling.

13. Chris Compton moved that Management must approve Regional Scheduling at NABC's.

14. Doug Doub moved to limit any session of the Reisinger Teams to 28 boards. Motion passed.

15. Sol discussed changes to Swiss/Round Robin conditions when there is a tie. One suggestion was to use the “fractional” VP scale, another was to use head-to-head result. Another suggestion was “net IMPs”.

16. Doug Doub - Vanderbilt Teams – 68 teams coming to 64. Multiple byes strands teams for a day with nothing to do. No resolution. Doug will write a suggestion.

17. Sabine brought up a committee ruling in the Platinum Pairs concerning 3rd hand thinking at trick 1. There was some discussion about this and other discussion about titles being decided in committee. It was suggested that in Norway, declarer is obligated to pause 30 seconds at trick 1. Deferred.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 CDT.

Attendees:

Jeff Meckstroth

Russ Jones, ACBL President

Robb Gordon, Staff to Committee and facilitator

A.J. Stephani, ACBL BOD

Dennis Carman, ACBL BOD

Sol Weinstein, Management

Sabine Auken

Linda Trent, Board of Governors

Ellen Kent, Board of Governors

Doug Doub

Jeff Ford

Chris Compton

Bob Heller

Jeff Goldsmith – attending telephonically