

Mar 4, 2024 | Competitions and Conventions Committee

Attendees:

Jeff Ford (Chair)

Danny Sprung

Jeff Meckstroth

Franco Baseggio

Owen Lien

Sabine Auken

David Grainger

Doug Doub

Dennis Carman

Larry Sealy

Doug Couchman

Richard Popper

Steve Gaynor

Lee Lin

Bronia Jenkins

McKenzie Myers

Sol Weinstein

Chris Weigand

Notes

1. Jeff Ford was elected as chair.
2. The November minutes were approved.
3. Trick 1 Committee: Proposal made by the committee to regulate tempo of trick 1 which read:

"For NABC+ events played behind screens, we will modify the "Special Conditions for the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens" (aka Appendix G). The exact language is pending the outcome of this vote, but the gist is:

a) After dummy comes down, declarer may pause for 20 seconds at trick one for any or no reason.

b) When declarer does pause for about 20 seconds (or longer), 3rd hand should usually play in a deliberate tempo, 3-6 seconds. Playing slower or faster may create UI. Playing slower also invites declarer to infer that there is a technical problem on that trick; when there is none, it may be illegally deceptive.

c) When declarer does not so pause, 3rd hand may still create UI or deception if they clearly break tempo beyond 23-26 seconds after dummy appeared."

This would initially only apply to NABC+ events behind screens. Issues raised were difficulty in measuring actual time used, and that this policy would entitle declarer to know whether 3rd hand is thinking about trick 1 or the hand as a whole if 3rd hand thought past the time specified. Other NBO policies were consulted. Norway approach is similar to the stop card approach, that is 3rd hand should try to use roughly 10 seconds. An alternative draft proposal will be written for future discussion that allows third hand to think for as long as they want about either the current trick or the full hand.

4. Grand Life Master Committee

The committee is considering a proposal to reach GLM via multiple high-placings rather than only via a win. No concrete proposal was presented. There was a discussion about whether Trial events that qualify for GLM now should have a minimum entry to qualify which was also tabled for future discussion.

Proposal was made and passed that grants GLM-qualifying status to the winners of the Senior and Mixed trials starting in 2024 provided a minimum of 6 entrants and cannot be held entirely online. This passed unanimously.

5. NAP/GNT flights: A 4th flight may be added to NAPs starting in 2025. There were IT issues with adding it this year. Likely brackets are Open / 6000 / 3500 / 750-NLM. GNT strats will match NAP. Would take effect 06/01/2025. Further discussion of this will occur at summer meeting.
6. Qualifying percentages for smaller national events: Left at the discretion of the directors to enable a suitably-sized final session.
7. Proposed changes to convention and alert charts approved by consensus.
8. Polling procedures

Concerns raised by Sabine include:

- a) hard to find unbiased peers and ask them the exact same question
- b) some pollees ask questions which result in a slightly different picture resulting in a different answer and this information is not shared with other pollees.
- c) Pollees frequently distracted as they are in the middle of playing themselves and don't give their full attention to the poll at hand.
- d) Pollees don't follow proper procedure and answer the question as posed. Instead they often say things such as: "well, if there was a BIT, there's no way I can bid."

Sabine suggested having an off-site polling pool that can be contacted electronically.

Concerns raised include ability to get a timely response or having enough qualified players not in attendance that can be easily contacted. Further research will be made into the feasibility of this proposal.

9. "More Unusual Events"

Event-within-an-Event: When players from a lower event are folded into a higher event because their event didn't attract sufficient entries, directors already have authority to create an additional strat with masterpoint awards for players that qualify for it.

"Danish" Pairings: Matching 1st against 2nd, 3rd against 4th, etc. regardless of whether they have previously played each other during that stage. Current ACBL CoC's disallow this, so the committee believes those would need to be reviewed and changed before further consideration of this.

Oversized Top Brackets: Creating a 2nd strat within an oversized top bracket of a bracketed team event.

10. Spingold Pre-Registration

Teams eliminated from NABC+ knockout events are allowed to enter the limited NABC knockout event starting the next day even after the pre-registration deadline. McKenzie stated there were basically no logistical issues with this as seeding is based strictly on masterpoints. Teams would not be required to maintain the same roster.

11. Playing Up Proposal

This proposal was made:

"A team playing in a KO or round robin may state the number of masterpoints they would like to be bracketed as (in addition to their actual masterpoint total). This must be more than their actual number of masterpoints. This must be done at the time of initial entry. The directors will place the team in a bracket as if they had that many points unless doing so would cause a disruption to the event."

Proposal adopted by consensus.

12. There was a question about whether players can change systems mid-session, and the directors clarified that adding or removing a convention is generally allowed, but not a wholesale change.

13. Anti-Cheating Committee

Sabine Auken, Doug Doub, and Jeff Meckstroth are members.

Purpose of committee is to improve methods of detecting and catching cheaters and their methods, to find the manpower to do so, to advise directors on who to watch for and new methods being used, among others.