

Mar 26, 2025 | 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
Brian Weikle
Mark Aquino

Bronia Jenkins
Margot Hennings

McKenzie Myers
Sol Weinstein
Chris Wiegand
Jenni Carmichael

Notes

1. Jeff Ford was elected as chair.
2. The November minutes were approved without objection.
3. BoD Report
 - a. How to “right-size” our NABCs given lower attendance
 - b. Asks C&C to come up with NABC-only schedule for Spring & Fall. Would not take effect before fall 2028.
 - c. New 0-3000 Swiss for Fall NABC

4. Advisory Council Report
 - a. Considering tablets only for bidding portion of major KOs
 - b. A desire that we will work with Anti-Cheating Commission to come up with a plan.
5. Old Business
 - a. Reisinger by Quarters: Directors say it is doable, but won't work well in ACBL score or ACBL live, so they advise against it.
6. New Business
 - a. Smaller NABCs, Jeff asked for volunteers for a subcommittee. Some had already emailed, but those named in meeting are: Grainger, Auken, Bassegio, Lee Lin, Carmichael and Wiegand.
 - b. Perhaps consider a shorter schedule of only 7 or 8 days (though not required). Which events should be kept? Which ones trimmed?
 - i. Most likely get rid of GRIN and regional events.
 - ii. Only intended to target Spring/Fall NABCs. Summer will still be the "big show" as Bronia put it.
 - iii. Danny Sprung raised concern about side effects of disenfranchising less experienced spouses/children.
7. Written Defenses to Multi
 - a. WBF/USBF have removed written multi defenses.
 - b. Nobody in attendance spoke in favor of keeping them in ACBL events.
 - c. Discussion of whether or not to do away with all written defenses. Lien argued in favor of keeping other defenses as these are much less common methods. Meckstroth agreed. Decision to only do away with written Multi defense.
8. Loosening 1NT opening restrictions
 - a. Do we make them more permissive?
 - i. Grainger feels the current regulations impose judgment on players
 - ii. Meckstroth concerned that too many pros would abuse looser restrictions.
 - iii. Issue raised that many players don't call the director for violations of this rule and then questioned if it was a good rule if this to be the case.
 - iv. Alternative rules were deemed too convoluted.
 - v. Straw poll on whether to loosen restrictions was ~50/50 so no changes were made at this time.
9. Changing convention charts
 - a. Lien pointed out many players feel the charts are constantly changing even though they've barely changed since being implemented and that we shouldn't be changing them for the time being.
 - b. Carmichael suggested maybe not such a bad idea to have an NABC+ specific convention chart.

10. Protection after non-alert

- a. When new charts were implemented, it was the intent of the committee to put onus on the side making the alertable bid. e.g. that they are the offending side, and that the non-offending side should be protected no matter how “obvious” because what’s obvious to some isn’t always obvious to others.

11. Automatic Penalties for Illegal Conventions

- a. Should it be capping of result at AVE- or should it be an actual penalty (e.g. $\frac{1}{8}$ board) or both?
- b. Voted for capping at AVE- / AVE+ with no automatic additional penalties. Directors may assign additional penalties if director deems appropriate.

12. Memphis Redux

- a. Duplicated board and bridgemates in Jacoby Swiss were wonderful
- b. Tables were too close together in this event resulting in UI passing between tables.
- c. Pace of play was much better.
- d. Sitouts still had to be reported as players weren’t entering player numbers correctly in bridgemates.

13. Report on Experimental Events

0-6K Pairs	F 2023: 17 tables, F 2024: 36 tables
Women’s Swiss	S 2024: 18 tables, S 2025: 29 tables
0-3K Pairs	F 2024: 26 tables
Senior Mixed	S 2024: 60.5 tables, S 2025: 70 tables
Flipped IMP / Silver Ribbon Pairs	
IMP	S 2024: 101 tables, S 2025: 88 tables
Silver Ribbon	S 2024: 84 tables, S 2025: 83 tables
Moved Red Ribbon Pairs to 2nd Sat/Sun	
2023: 42 tables, 2024 26 tables	
Fast Pairs moved to summer	
S 2023: 58 tables, Sum 2024: 75 tables	
Staggering of Micro/Mini Spingolds	
Sum 2023: 21/13 tables, Sum 2024: 25 / 22 tables	
10K Fast moved to Fall Wed/Thu: 2023: 26 tables, 2024: 36.5 tables	
Mixed Pairs in Fall: 2023: 71 tables, 2024 156 tables	

14. Cuts in swisses with restrictions

Amended to be about $\frac{2}{3}$ of field

15. Trick one pauses

Continued with EBU wording.

16. Slow Play Penalties

These should be evenly applied in major events. Unequal applications in Memphis. ACBL management will discuss at a later time.