



American Contract  
Bridge League

# Hall of Fame Operating Procedures

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## **1. Powers and Purpose**

The ACBL Hall of Fame Committee (HoFC) is charged with the oversight of the Hall of Fame program, selection of the recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards, and nomination of members in the Open category. It shall have responsibility for setting criteria for selecting nominees, establishing nomination and election procedures, overseeing the induction ceremonies at the Hall of Fame Banquet, in addition to providing input to ACBL management on the Hall of Fame Gallery at ACBL Headquarters and Hall of Fame online.

The HoFC shall report to the ACBL Board of Directors (Board) prior to the institution of a major change in any of the above areas, and shall generally keep the Board informed on all matters concerning the Hall of Fame. The Board shall have final approval on all matters except choosing nominees to be placed on the Hall of Fame ballot and choosing recipients of the Blackwood or the von Zedtwitz Awards.

## **2. Committee Composition and Appointment**

The ACBL President and HoFC chair shall endeavor to employ a balanced approach to composing the Hall of Fame Committee, taking into account variations in age, gender and area of residency. At least one member of the HoFC should be from Canada, Mexico or Bermuda.

However, suitable committee candidates shall not be eliminated from consideration merely because of the desire for a balanced committee.

The HoFC shall consist of nine voting members. Each member is appointed for a three-year term with three members being appointed every year. In addition, the ACBL President and CEO shall be permanent non-voting members of the HoFC.

A member of the HoFC must be an ACBL member in good standing who has been actively involved in bridge tournament activities (either as a player, in an administrative capacity, or as a member of the press) for at least 20 years and is familiar with the history and achievements of possible nominees.

A member may not serve for more than two consecutive full terms. A retired member or chair may be reappointed after a minimum one-year (1) hiatus. The chair must have at least one year of service on the committee prior to appointment as chair. In the event that no qualified replacement is available or willing to serve for a member who is otherwise term limited, then the ACBL President may reappoint such term limited member for a maximum of one year.

The three-year term of appointed members shall begin at the conclusion of the Spring NABC at which they are appointed and end at the conclusion of the Spring NABC three years later.

The HoFC shall recommend possible HoFC members and a chair to the ACBL President prior to the Spring NABC.

### **3. Committee Records**

ACBL Management will maintain a HoFC Document Archive that includes:

- a. Form letter to Open nominees
- b. Ballot template
- c. Performance chart template
- d. Biographical criteria
- e. Cover letter to the electors
- f. List of previous inductees into the Hall of Fame
- g. Form letter to recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards
- h. Minutes of previous meetings
- i. HoFC contact list which shows appointment terms

The HoFC may amend the form or content of the above documents.

New committee members shall receive a copy of the operating procedures and the above documents.

### **4. Nomination Criteria, Rules and Procedures**

#### **Nomination Criteria**

The ACBL Hall of Fame Award, in any category, shall be given to individuals who distinguish themselves by their ethics, deportment and sportsmanship, while residing in the territory administered by the ACBL. The primary basis for consideration in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories is the player's North American and international record and achievements as a member and representative of the ACBL. An individual's personal history, whether good or bad, should be considered in nominating candidates or recipients. A proposed nominee's ACBL disciplinary record may be reviewed as part of the process of determining whether that person meets the criteria to be nominated for admission into the Hall of Fame. Upon request, the HoFC will be provided with information as authorized by ACBL Board Resolution 033-02 as amended. No current HoFC members shall be nominated or considered for nomination or selected as a recipient of any Award while serving on the HoFC.

### **Open Award**

The ACBL Hall of Fame Open Award shall be given annually to living individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record. Nominees must have attained the age of 60 by January 1st of the year of the induction ceremony. They shall be elected by electors, as described in Section 5 herein.

### **von Zedtwitz Award**

The von Zedtwitz Award shall be given to living or deceased individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record but who may not have been in the limelight for a significant period of time. A deceased person must be deceased for three years before becoming eligible for selection. This rule may be waived if at least six members vote to do so. Up to two (2) recipients may be selected per year by the HoFC.

### **Blackwood Award**

The Blackwood Award shall be given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge without necessarily meeting the qualifications required for the Open and von Zedtwitz Awards. Only one (1) recipient per year may be selected.

In either the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood category, in a year where the HoFC believes that an additional award is clearly warranted, the Board may, upon receiving appropriate rationale from the HoFC in advance, vote to allow an additional award for that year.

Individuals shall give their consent for nomination in the Open category and for selection for the von Zedtwitz or Blackwood Award. The HoFC will not replace an individual who has declined nomination in the Open category, but may replace an individual who declines to receive the von Zedtwitz or Blackwood Award.

### **Nomination Rules and Procedures**

ACBL members may suggest names to be nominated in the Open, von Zedtwitz and Blackwood categories.

The HoFC shall select up to a maximum of 15 nominees in the Open category. Any person receiving less than 10% of the electors' votes for three consecutive years shall not be nominated for the next three consecutive years.

In selecting nominees and recipients, the HoFC may use such methods as are consistent with the intent of these operating procedures. However, no proxy voting by committee members shall be allowed. At a minimum, the Committee should:

- a. Discuss each proposed candidate

- b. Establish a voting procedure which ranks the proposed candidates from best to worst
- c. Determine the number of candidates to be placed upon the ballot and the recipients of the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood Awards if any.

## **5. Election**

### **Electors**

The Electors for the Hall of Fame are determined according to the criteria in Appendix II.

They must also be members in good standing and permanent residents of Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, or the United States including any territories. Life Members must be current on all fees. If an elector does not vote for two consecutive years, the elector shall be removed from the electors' list. The elector may be reinstated by requesting of the ACBL to be reinstated. No member who has been suspended for six months or more for ethical violations shall be an elector.

### **Voting for Nominees**

ACBL Management shall send all eligible electors a ballot package which shall include a cover letter, instructions on how to vote, a ballot, and an up-to-date biography for each nominee, a list of Hall of Fame members, and a performance chart showing the NABC and WBF performance history (See Appendix I) of each nominee while they were a member and representative of the ACBL.

Each nominee shall be considered separately by the electors. On the question of whether the nominee shall become a member of the Hall of Fame, the electors may vote yes, no, or abstention for each nominee. If no vote is recorded by an elector for any or all of the nominees, then the ballot shall not be counted in determining the total votes cast for a nominee. Any nominee who receives yes votes representing at least 67% of the total votes cast for that nominee, and having at least 50% of the electors voting having cast a ballot for the nominee, shall be elected to the Hall of Fame.

### **Campaigning**

Campaign advertisements in the ACBL Bulletin, The NABC Daily Bulletin or other ACBL media will not be accepted for publication, nor is it permissible to distribute campaign flyers at ACBL Tournaments. The ACBL will not provide names or mailing lists for use either by or on behalf of candidates.

Candidates may mention that they have been nominated as a Hall of Fame candidate when being interviewed for a publication.

## **6. Timeline**

The HoFC shall meet at every NABC either in person or by telephone or electronically and otherwise as needed.

### **Summer NABC**

The committee will welcome and orient new members. Preliminary work begins on assembling a list of possible candidates in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories. ACBL staff shall place notices in the July and September ACBL Bridge Bulletins, the Summer NABC Daily Bulletin and the ACBL website informing eligible ACBL members that they may submit nominees for the three awards to the ACBL staff person assigned to the HoFC. Nominations shall include the ACBL player number of the person submitting the nomination.

The ACBL Hall of Fame Ceremony shall be held at the Summer NABC.

### **Fall NABC**

The committee shall finalize the nominees for the Open category. The Chair, with the assistance of ACBL staff, shall provide a list of nominees with biographies and supporting letters of those proposed during the public nomination period. The Chair shall also report on its review of proposed nominee's disciplinary files.

### **Spring NABC**

The committee shall select the recipients, if any, for the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood awards. Newly appointed members whose terms begin at the conclusion of the Spring NABC may be invited to attend the meeting.

## **7. Committee Operating Procedures**

### **Agenda**

The chair shall prepare and distribute an agenda prior to each meeting.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of meetings shall be taken and presented for approval at the next regular meeting of the committee. Approved minutes shall be provided to the ACBL staff.

## **Subcommittees**

The chair may appoint subcommittees consisting of committee members and/or non-committee members. Subcommittees are advisory only, and shall report directly to the HoFC as a whole.

## **Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of six (6) or more of the members of the HoFC, including its Chair. A committee member connected by telephone shall be considered present in determining a quorum. If less than a quorum is present, motions may be discussed but not voted on.

## **Voting**

A majority of the committee membership is necessary for the passage of any motion, subject to quorum rules. The committee may, in its sole discretion, require a greater number of votes on particular matters but may not allow a lesser number. Absentee voting and voting by telephone are permitted but proxy voting is not permitted.

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance is not mandatory. The chair may request that a member resign if such member has a poor attendance record or does not participate in committee affairs. The Chair may also recommend to the ACBL President that such member be removed and replaced. As a committee of the ACBL Board of Directors, any member may be removed and replaced for any reason by the Board.

## **Vacancy**

If a vacancy occurs on the HoFC, the chair may replace the former member for the balance of the unexpired term with the approval of the ACBL President.

# **8. The Hall of Fame Banquet**

## **The Ceremony:**

A black tie optional ceremony for inducting new members into the ACBL Hall of Fame will be held at the Summer NABC.

## **Master of Ceremonies and Presenters:**

The Chair and the ACBL CEO (or designated representative) will select the Master of Ceremonies.



Presenters of living inductees will be selected by the inductee, subject to the approval of the Chair.

Presenters of deceased inductees will be selected by the Chair, or its designated representative. The Chair shall seek input from the inductee's family.

### **Invitations:**

All ACBL members and guests shall be invited to the ceremony.

### **Awards and Recognitions:**

A plaque or similar award will be presented to each inductee or their representative. An award shall be presented to the recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard, Jr. Award for Sportsmanship at this ceremony as well.

## **Appendix I**

### **Events on the Hall of Fame Performance Chart**

A. Finishing first or second (including ties) in the ACBL events listed below will be shown on the Hall of Fame Performance Chart.

#### **ACBL OPEN NABC ++ EVENTS**

- Vanderbilt Knockout Teams
- Platinum Pairs
- Spingold Knockout Teams
- von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs
- Reisinger BAM Teams
- Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs

#### **ACBL WOMEN'S NABC ++ EVENTS**

- Machlin Women's Swiss Teams
- Wagar Women's KO Teams
- Sternberg Women's BAM Teams

#### **ACBL OTHER NABC + EVENTS**

- Silodor Open Pairs
- Jacoby Open Swiss Teams
- Rockwell Mixed Pairs
- Whitehead Women's Pairs
- Baldwin North American Pairs
- Lebhar IMP Pairs

- Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs
- Freeman Mixed BAM Teams
- Morehead Grand National Teams
- Wernher Open Pairs
- Roth Open Swiss Teams
- Truscott Senior Swiss Teams
- Fast Pairs
- Nail Life Master Pairs
- Smith Life Master Women's Pairs
- Mitchell Open BAM Teams
- Keohane North American Swiss Teams

B. Finishing first, second or third (including ties) in the WBF events listed below will be shown on the Performance Chart.

**WBF OPEN EVENTS**

- Bermuda Bowl
- World Olympiad Open Teams
- Rosenblum Teams
- World Open Pairs

**WBF WOMEN'S EVENTS**

- McConnell Teams
- Venice Cup
- World Olympiad Women's Team
- World Women's Pairs

**WBF OTHER EVENTS**

- World Transnational Mixed Pairs
- World Transnational Mixed Teams
- Transnational Open Teams
- Mixed Transnational Teams
- Senior Bowl

## **APPENDIX II**

### **Hall of Fame Electors**

#### **The Electors of the ACBL Hall of Fame will be as follows:**

- A. All living Hall of Fame Members
- B. Paid-up ACBL members in good standing, who reside in the U.S., Canada or Mexico, and have won at least five (5) of the ACBL/WBF events shown below:

#### **ACBL ++ EVENTS**

- Vanderbilt Knockout Teams
- Platinum Pairs
- Machlin Women's Swiss Teams
- Silodor Open Pairs
- Jacoby Open Swiss Teams
- Rockwell Mixed Pairs
- Baldwin North American Pairs – Flight A
- Whitehead Women's Pairs
- Lebhar IMP Pairs
- Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs
- Spingold Knockout Teams
- von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs
- Wagar Women's KO Teams
- Wernher Open Pairs
- Roth Open Swiss Teams
- Morehead Grand National Teams – Championship Flight
- Freeman Mixed BAM Team
- Senior Swiss Team
- Reisinger BAM Teams
- Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs
- Sternberg Women's BAM Teams
- Nail Life Master Open Pairs
- Mitchell Open BAM Teams
- Keohane North American Swiss Teams
- Smith Life Master Women's Pairs
- Truscott Senior Teams

#### **WBF EVENTS**

- Bermuda Bowl

- World Olympiad Open Teams
- Rosenblum Teams
- World Open Pairs
- World Mixed Pairs
- Senior Bowl
- Senior International Cup
- Transnational Open Teams
- Transnational Mixed Teams
- McConnell Teams
- Venice Cup
- World Olympiad Women's Team
- World Women's Pairs

Placing second in the following events counts as a win for determining the players that have won five events:

- Vanderbilt Knockout Teams
- Spingold Knockout Teams
- Reisinger B-A-M Teams
- Wagar Women's Knockout Teams
- Bermuda Bowl
- World Olympiad Open Teams
- Rosenblum Teams
- McConnell Teams
- Venice Cup
- World Olympiad Women's Teams

C. Up to five journalists, to be selected by the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) Executive Committee.

D. ACBL Grand Life Masters (Life Members must have paid their service fees).

E. World Grand Masters