

## CHAPTER I - MEMBERSHIP

### A. MEMBERSHIP

#### Resignation of ACBL Membership (772-4) (942-6)

A member who resigns his/her membership in the ACBL to avoid possible disciplinary action may not thereafter participate in any National, District, Unit, sanctioned game or other ACBL activity, including but not limited to, (i) acting as non-playing captain, (ii) kibitzing any game or event, (iii) being physically present at the site of a tournament, (iv) participating in the corporate or business affairs of any ACBL affiliated organization.

Further, no application for readmission may be considered before five years from the date of resignation and thereafter only once a year. The Board of Directors may impose such conditions upon readmission as it deems appropriate.

#### Player Agreement Upon Entering ACBL Contests (792-83)

By participating in any ACBL sanctioned event, each contestant, official, or observer of any such bridge contest agrees that said event, or portions thereof, may be filed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the sponsoring organization.

#### Regulations to Implement Bylaws (Membership Dues) (833-11)

Moved, that Regulation II, A (1) "Failure to Pay Dues" of the regulations to implement the Bylaws (1977 Fall Board action) be amended to read as follows:

- a. Membership dues are payable the first day of the month which has been designated as the Renewal Month for each ACBL member and shall be considered delinquent one month thereafter.

#### Former Members Who Rejoin ACBL (842-4)

No member, having once achieved an ACBL Master Point ranking, may thereafter participate in any event, or receive any award, intended for players of a lower ranking, except as specifically authorized in other ACBL regulations.

#### Resignation Procedures (871-4) (Non-Agenda item approved by the Board for Consideration)

Members in good standing who resign from the ACBL shall not be required to apply to the ACBL Board of Directors for readmission. No adverse implication shall attach to such a resignation. For the purpose of this motion, a "member in good standing" is one against whom no discipline is in force, and/or no disciplinary proceeding pending. Any appropriate authority of the ACBL, having jurisdiction in the premises shall initiate, continue or conclude any hearing

or appeal which it would have held in the absence of a member's resignation. If action is taken pursuant to the preceding sentence, the resignee shall not be deemed to have been a member in good standing, unless subsequently exonerated of all charges.

#### Readmission of Expelled Members (942-2)

- A. The following guidelines shall be used in considering the possible readmission to ACBL membership of former members who have been expelled or who have resigned to avoid possible disciplinary action:
1. Admission of guilt.
  2. Appropriate written apology.
  3. An application for readmission to membership shall not be considered before five years from the date of expulsion or resignation and thereafter not more often than once a year
  4. Support for readmission from the player's local bridge organization(s).

Additional provisions for readmission shall be at the discretion of the ACBL Board of Directors.

#### Readmission of Expelled Members or Members Who Have Resigned to Avoid Possible Disciplinary Action (Participation in World Championship Events) (943-2)

- A. Effective immediately, no member shall be permitted to represent any NCBOs belonging to the ACBL or Zone 2 of the WBF who has been expelled for or resigned to avoid possible disciplinary action on charges of cheating, for at least 10 years following readmission and an application for permission has been approved by at least 75% of the ACBL Board of Directors present and voting.
- B. In considering relief from ACBL probation pursuant to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations, Section 14.1, effective immediately the entire disciplinary record of the member shall be considered.

#### Life Member Status (952-66)

The status of Life Member is abolished for (1) those who join ACBL on or after January 1, 1996, (2) former members who rejoin ACBL on or after January 1, 1996, having never become Life Members, (3) all Life Members who resign and after January 1, 1996, who seek to rejoin ACBL. These members, upon meeting the same qualifications and requirements as established by the Board of Directors to become Life Members, shall be reclassified instead as Life Masters upon ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Governors. In all other respects, Life Masters shall have the same rights and privileges as Life Members.

#### Holding Unit for Certain Unpaid Life Members (971-46) (053-30)

Once a month, Management will notify each affected unit and district of all (1) Life Members who have moved out of a unit to an unknown location and (2) unpaid Life Members who have had no contact with ACBL for the previous two years. Unless informed to the contrary, each such Life Member will be transferred into a special holding unit not associated with any of the 25 districts. A list of the Life Members who have been so transferred will be sent each year to the appropriate units and districts.

#### Membership Benefits (002-194)

It shall be the policy of the ACBL that ACBL Life Masters from Zone II NCBOs who are delinquent in their dues or service fees shall not be eligible to write bulletin columns, give lectures or engage in similar paid or voluntary employment by the ACBL.

#### ACBL Members' Civil Actions vs ACBL (012-44) (033-48)

##### Civil Actions vs. ACBL by Members

Commencing August 1, 2001, any ACBL member who files a civil action (which may or may not result in arbitration) or submits a dispute to arbitration for damages (the "action") against the ACBL shall be automatically suspended from the ACBL upon the occurrence of any of the following (this does not apply to civil actions brought by ACBL employees for anything concerning their ACBL employment):

- (a) a judgment in the action which is favorable to the ACBL;
- (b) a dismissal of the action by the court with or without prejudice;
- (c) failure by the ACBL member to prosecute the action for any consecutive six month period after filing of the action; or
- (d) a settlement of the action which does not specifically waive the provisions of this paragraph.

Such suspension shall be lifted only upon the occurrence of one of the following:

- (a) payment by the ACBL member of costs incurred in the action by the ACBL, its officers, agents, representatives and insurers; or
- (b) resolution by the ACBL Board of Directors absolving the ACBL member of payment of such costs. "Costs incurred in the action" shall mean all lawyers fees and expenses, witness fees and expenses, court costs and other costs related to the defense of the action. The ACBL Board of Directors or its designee, the Appeals and Charges Committee, shall make all determinations and decisions relating to the case by case implementation of this paragraph.

Member's Unit Affiliation (013-246)

- A. Management will actively publicize a snowbird=s option to remain a permanent member of one of the units in which he resides.
- B. Management will provide and publicize a simple procedure for recording this choice.

Bulletin for International Members (022-43)

ACBL members residing outside of Zone 2 shall pay an additional amount per year for *The Bridge Bulletin* postage if such member requests the publication to be sent to an address outside of Zone 2.

School Lesson Memberships (023-156)

ACBL will offer a School Lesson Membership (current price of \$5.00) to students until the age of 19 who are graduates of, or enrolled in, a School Bridge Lesson Series program funded by the ACBL and/or the ACBL Educational Foundation.

NABC+ Events Eligibility (031-50)

In order to participate in a Nationally-rated event at an NABC, a person must be an ACBL member whose service fee or dues is current.

Binding and Compulsory Arbitration (032-60)

In accordance with the ACBL bylaws (Article III), every member in each category of membership shall be subject to regulations established by the Board of Directors establishing binding and compulsory arbitration to settle disputes involving the ACBL and its members,

- A. The following policy is adopted.

**BINDING ARBITRATION**

Any dispute which is in any way related to membership in the American Contract Bridge League ("ACBL"), or any action for damages or injunctive relief against the ACBL, or any action to reverse, amend, modify or delay enforcement of a disciplinary action by the ACBL, regardless of the facts or the legal theories which may be involved, shall be resolved by binding arbitration before the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") by a single arbitrator in accordance with the Commercial rules of AAA in effect at the time the arbitration proceeding is initiated. The arbitration hearing shall be held in the AAA's Southeast Case Management Center (located at 2200 Century Parkway, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30345) or at such other location as the parties may agree in writing. The arbitrator shall prepare in writing an award which includes the legal and factual reasons for the decision. The parties shall divide equally the costs of the arbitration and shall pay their respective attorney fees and expenses, but the arbitrator may assess

all such costs and the prevailing party's attorney fees and expenses to the non-prevailing party in the arbitration award. The provisions of the Federal Arbitration Act shall apply to arbitration between the ACBL and its members.

B. Management is instructed to implement and publicize this policy as soon as possible.

#### Membership Residency (032-75) (062-32)

Item 032-75 (Membership Residency Requirements) is amended as follows:

Members of the ACBL belong to the Unit in which they reside. If a member desires to belong to a Unit in which he/she does not reside, the member must specifically make this request in writing (e-mail is permissible) to the ACBL stating the Unit of preference and the reasons for the request. Further, if the Unit is not in the same District as where he/she resides, both Districts must approve the membership in the other District.

The following are some of the reasons why a member would be given permission to belong to a Unit outside the District of residence.

To warrant consideration, a player should meet at least two of the six reasons listed:

1. Plays at least once a month in a club in that Unit.
2. Attends STaCs or Sectionals in that Unit at least twice a year.
3. Attends the annual Unit dinner and/or annual membership meeting.
4. Participates in Unit special events.
5. Serves on the Unit Board and/or Unit committees.
6. Serves on the District Board and/or District committees.

The membership approval granted by a District in which the member does not reside may be reviewed by that District from time to time to assure the above criteria continue to justify non-residency membership.

#### Renewal Fees (042-142)

When members pay their renewal fees within 90 days of their expiration date, the term for which they are paid up will begin from the date that their membership originally expired.

#### Patron Member (042-143)

A. The following items are rescinded: 941-54, 973-67, 003-22

B. Patron Membership Status

1. Dues (in US dollars)
  - a. Individual = \$250

- b. Household = \$350
2. Benefits as below:
- a. Advance hotel reservations at host hotel at NABCs.
  - c. Daily Bulletin delivered to the member's room at the NABC host hotel.
  - d. A complimentary set of Daily Bulletins from all three North American Bridge Championships.
  - e. Express entry for Patron Members only at NABCs.
  - f. A gift certificate of \$50 in merchandise (\$75 certificate for a patron household membership) for any patron member renewal or initial sign-up at the new membership rate. The certificate may be used to purchase merchandise from Baron Barclay.
  - g. A complimentary subscription to the World Bridge News.
  - h. A special ACBL membership badge that identifies this member as a Patron Member.
  - i. A special drawing for ACBL Patron Members only to win an opportunity to play with a top bridge star at a Educational Foundation game during an NABC.
  - j. Fifty percent (50%) discount off the price of a ticket (household 50% off of two tickets) to the Hall of Fame Dinner.
  - k. Patron Members cocktail party in the President's Suite at NABCs.
  - l. Free membership in Hertz Corporation's #1 CLUB Gold.
  - m. Names published annually in The Bridge Bulletin.

Management may at its discretion, from time to time eliminate or add benefits as it determines appropriate.

#### Century Club (051-24)

A Century Club will be established for our members who reach 100 years of age, and an appropriate mention will be made in the Bulletin of this achievement.

#### Member in Good Standing (962-04) (973-13) (052-02)

##### Definition of "Member in Good Standing"

An ACBL member shall be deemed to be in "good standing" when such member's dues, if dues are required, are current and such member is not:

- expelled,
- serving a term of suspension,
- serving indefinite probation,
- serving a probation the initial term of which was twenty-four or more months,
- serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of ninety days.

A member who is not in good standing as defined herein shall not be entitled to serve in any elected or appointed position in ACBL.

#### Classes of ACBL Membership (052-27)

In accordance with Article III, 3.2 of the ACBL bylaws, following voting rights, term, characteristics, rights, limitations and obligations shall attach to each class of membership as follows:

##### **General Member:**

1. Shall be a member as long as dues are current;
2. Shall have the right to vote in any election in which the general membership is the electorate as long as he or she is a member in good standing;
3. Shall have an obligation to adhere to the rules and regulations of the ACBL;
4. Shall have such limitations as imposed by rules and regulations of the ACBL or actions of an ACBL disciplinary body;
5. Shall be able to run for an elected ACBL position as long as he or she is 18 years of age or older, and there are no other age requirements for the position.

##### **Life Member:**

1. Shall be a member through the member's life time;
2. Shall have the right to vote in any election in which the general membership is the electorate as long as he or she is a member in good standing;
3. Shall have an obligation to adhere to the rules and regulations of the ACBL;
4. Shall have such limitations as imposed by rules and regulations of the ACBL or actions of an ACBL disciplinary body;
5. Shall be able to run for an elected ACBL position as long as he or she is 18 years of age or older, and there are no other age requirements for the position;
6. Shall be required to remit an annual service fee in order to receive the following services:
  - a. Receive official publication of ACBL.
  - b. Participate in some ACBL-sanctioned events.
  - c. Receive any subsidy or remuneration from ACBL.
  - d. Participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races.
  - e. Have an article published on the ACBL web site or in its official publication.

##### **Honorary Member:**

1. Shall be a member through the member's life time;
2. Shall have the right to vote in any election in which the general membership is the electorate as long as he or she is a member in good standing;
3. Shall have an obligation to adhere to the rules and regulations of the ACBL;
4. Shall have such limitations as imposed by rules and regulations of the ACBL or actions of an ACBL disciplinary body;
5. Shall be able to run for an elected ACBL position as long as he or she is 18 years of age or older, and there are no other age requirements for the position;

6. Shall be exempt from the payment of dues or service fees during his or her life time and shall continue to receive all services throughout his or her term of membership.

**Junior Member:**

1. Shall be a member as long as dues are current;
2. Shall have the right to vote in any election in which the general membership is the electorate as long as he or she is a member in good standing;
3. Shall have an obligation to adhere to the rules and regulations of the ACBL;
4. Shall have such limitations as imposed by rules and regulations of the ACBL or actions of an ACBL disciplinary body;
5. Shall be able to run for an elected ACBL position as long as he or she is at least 18 years of age.

Application for ACBL Membership (052-28) (092-07)

Any person may apply for ACBL membership or renewal or reinstatement of ACBL membership in accordance with administrative procedures established by Management. ACBL Management may grant such an application unless there is cause to refer the application to the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee to conduct a hearing (the "Hearing") and render a decision on the application.

Causes for referral by Management include, but are not limited to, previous expulsion from ACBL or previous expulsion or suspension from another bridge organization or a non-ACBL bridge event.

The Hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations for disciplinary hearings. The decision of the Appeals and Charges Committee shall be final and shall be reported promptly to the Board of Directors.

The Appeals and Charges Committee shall make one of the following decisions:

1. Accept the person's membership application.
2. Deny the person's membership application with instructions that this person shall not be permitted by Management to join ACBL for a specified period of time or indefinitely. The committee may also prohibit the person from playing as a non-member in any ACBL sanctioned event that has a sectional or higher ranking.
3. Deny the application with permission to reapply after a specified time. The Committee may instruct Management upon such reapplication, if any, to: (a) accept the application without referral if there has been no new cause for referral; or (b) refer the reapplication to the Appeals and Charges Committee for a second hearing. The Committee may also prohibit the person, upon reapplication, from playing as a non-member in any ACBL sanctioned event which has a sectional or higher ranking.

The membership application for each individual shall include a provision requiring disclosure of any prior discipline by any other bridge organization for a new member, and of any since the last renewal for renewing members. Failure to disclose such discipline shall be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the ACBL. Management shall establish and maintain a list of names of people who it will refer as above should a person placed on the list submit an application as above.

Patron Membership (062-108)

Management will add check-off boxes for \$10 (or other) contributions to the ACBL or Canadian Charity Foundations and ACBL Educational Foundation to the Patron Member Membership and Renewal Forms.