

## **CHAPTER XIV – CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

- 1.1 All Conditions of Contest will start with the following language: These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of this event.
- 1.2 In interpreting Conditions of Contest, the statement “lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception” is considered to be part of each ACBL Conditions of Contest.
- 1.3 The review and approval of the Conditions of Contest shall be done at the Summer Board meetings for the following calendar year.
- 1.4 English is the international language of bridge. The ACBL recognizes that its membership is multilingual. Every effort will be made to accommodate our membership. However, once hands are removed from the boards, all calls, questions and plays will be in English. Exceptions may be made if both captains, in a team event, or all four players at the table, in a pair event, agree to use some common language understood by all four players. Should problems arise, please call for a Tournament Director.
- 1.5 Each contestant agrees that all, or portions, of the event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the ACBL, and that this documentation may be used without charge by any news medium or the ACBL. Contestants may at times be required to play on Vugraph. Each contestant consents to participate in publicity photo sessions and/or have his photograph taken to publicize the contestant’s standing in the event.
- 1.6 The playing conditions at all tournaments shall be substantially equal for all players in one event insofar as possible given space and other considerations.
- 1.7 When exiting the room or on an errand within the room, a player must avoid wandering about within the room.
- 1.8 Tournament Directors shall make every reasonable effort to accommodate players with special needs (such as, but not limited to, players with physical disabilities). The DIC shall, in his opinion, ensure that no such accommodation provides a special advantage to such a player or significantly impedes the orderly progress of the event. Tournament Directors, in providing an accommodation, must do so in a manner that is reasonably consistent with the intent of the conditions of contest for the event. Except for minor accommodations (e.g. stationary positions), the DIC of the tournament or event must be notified in advance in order to ensure that an accommodation can be provided.

## 1.9 Playing Cards.

- 1.9.1 ACBL playing cards use the traditional playing card design. Any deck in which the faces of the cards do not significantly differ from the ACBL deck may be approved for use by the DIC of the tournament.
  - 1.9.2 Use of specially designed cards (to accommodate players with a disability), which do not approximate the design of ACBL or similar traditional playing cards, must be approved by ACBL management. ACBL management will determine if and how these alternate decks can be used in order to ensure that other participants are not placed at an unreasonable disadvantage.
  - 1.9.3 Decks which have received prior approval are: Braille cards which have traditional-type faces, jumbo decks which have altered the traditional design by enlarging all pips, numbers and letters, or those which use a single large, traditional marking in the center of each card. Other decks which vary from traditional markings and or colors must be submitted to the ACBL (attention: Tournament Department) for approval at least 30 days prior to intended use.
- 1.10 Unless instructed otherwise by a Tournament Director, a member of each side must be present and seated before cards are removed from a board.
  - 1.11 For Barometer-style events, the Tournament Director shall, before the start of each round, advise all players to be seated. No cards shall be removed until the Tournament Director announces that play shall begin.
  - 1.12 All conditions of contest for NABC and NABC+ matchpoint events at NABCs are amended to permit the DIC to combine as many sections as logical and practical for scoring. Qualification of contestants for subsequent stages shall be based on overall standing in the entire field, regardless of section and/or direction.

See ACBL website for the Conditions of Contest: [acbl.org/coc](http://acbl.org/coc).