

CHAPTER VII – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

A. ZONE 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs)

Section 1 - Zone 2 International Regulations

- 1.1 The authority for selecting and subsidizing bridge players who represent the United States, Canada and Mexico in international bridge competition rests solely with the NBOs: United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), respectively.
- 1.2 The ACBL Board of Directors will act as the Zonal Conference for Zone 2, which consists of the following for International WBF Play:
 - a. USBF
 - b. CBF
 - c. MBF
- 1.3 The Bermuda Bridge Federation (BBF) competes through Zone 5 as the ACBL has approved BBF's request to compete internationally as a member of WBF Zone 5 while maintaining ACBL affiliation as Unit 198 in District 2.
- 1.4 The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation competes through Zone 5 as the ACBL approved its request to become an NBO of the WBF as a member of Zone 5 while maintaining ACBL affiliation.
- 1.5 The authority to approve a player and NPC from Canada, Mexico and the US participating in World Bridge Federation or other international competition is delegated to the CBF, MBF and USBF respectively. The player may be approved only if the player meets all Zonal Conference requirements as well as Federation requirements.
- 1.6 Zone 2 requirements for nomination are as follows:
 - 1.6.1 A Zone 2 NBO may nominate a player for invitation to play in a WBF Championship only if he:
 - a. is a citizen or a resident (per the appropriate Federation's regulations) of the United States, Canada, or Mexico as appropriate,
 - b. is a member in good standing of the USBF, CBF or MBF as appropriate,
 - c. meets WBF criteria and/or conditions for nominations,

- d. will not, at the time of the event or trials for the event be under suspension or expulsion from the ACBL or any other NBO,
 - e. will not, at the time of the event or trials for the event be under ACBL or ABA probation where the period of such probation was more than 90 days,
 - f. has not been specifically excluded from playing in such event by an appropriate disciplinary body under ACBL or ABA jurisdiction,
- 1.7 No players shall be permitted to represent any NBO belonging to the ACBL, or Zone 2 of the WBF who has been expelled for cheating or resigned to avoid possible disciplinary action on charges of cheating, for at least ten years following readmission.
- 1.8 A summary of disciplinary action(s) previously made public is available upon request to NBO governing bodies.
- 1.9 The authority for selecting and subsidizing athletes who represent an ACBL country in international bridge competition rests with that country's NBO.
- 1.10 When an on-site accreditation committee is needed, the ACBL WBF representatives will automatically assume this responsibility, with the most senior representative serving as chairman.

Section 2 – NBO Events

- 2.1 The BBF, CBF, the MBF and the USBF may each hold an annual ACBL-sanctioned, national championship in each of the following categories:
- a. Open team
 - b. Women's team
 - c. Senior team
 - d. Open pairs
 - e. Women's pairs
 - f. Junior team
- 2.1.1 The national finals shall be Regional-rated (Regional-rated red and gold points unless otherwise indicated in the ACBL Masterpoint Plan). Qualification events, if any, shall be Sectional-rated (black points).
- 2.1.2 Sanction fees shall be as follows: (a) the then current regional sanction fee for the national finals and (b) \$1 US/table/session for

any stage of the championship conducted prior to the national final.

2.1.3 If the national finals of any of the championships listed above are not held concurrent with an ACBL regional or sectional tournament, each NBO may conduct ACBL-sanctioned sectional-rated black point events concurrent with the national finals. The sanction fee for such an event(s) is \$1 US/table/session.

2.1.4 The Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through and reporting the results to the ACBL Tournament Department.

2.1.5 The championship may be flighted by ACBL masterpoints.

2.2 Each National Contract Bridge Federation in WBF Zone 2 may conduct an ACBL-sanctioned event (Trials) to qualify a team or teams to represent the Federation's country at a World Bridge Federation or Olympic Championship in an appropriate category such as Open, Senior, Junior, or Women, etc.

2.2.1 The sanction fee for any such event is \$2 US per entered team except that such fee is waived for Junior Trials.

2.2.2 The masterpoint award is determined by the ACBL Board of Directors.

2.2.3 Should a national championship as provided in 2.1 above be used to determine the Federation's representative, fees set out above in 2.1.2 shall not apply. The fees and masterpoint award in accordance with section 2.2.1 (this section) will apply.

2.2.4 The Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through and reporting the results to the ACBL Tournament Department.

2.3 Upon request, the ACBL will sanction one regional per year to the ACBL district of the USBF's and/or the CBF's choice.

Section 3 – WBF

3.1 WBF Dues

The United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), and not the ACBL are responsible for the payment of any membership dues to the WBF. In order

to ease the transition of the payment of WBF dues to the NBOs, the ACBL will make additional contributions to the NBOs to support international bridge.

	USBF	CBF	MBF
2018	100,000	16,000	250
2019	80,000	14,000	200
2020	60,000	40,000	150
2021 and thereafter	40,000	10,000	100

Section 4 - Miscellaneous

- 4.1 The ACBL requests that each Zone 2 NBO establish an appropriate dress code for teams representing that NBO in international competition.
- 4.2 The ACBL, acting as the WBF Zone 2 Authority, expresses its disapproval of all non-bridge related public statements and demonstrations by any Zone 2 federation representative participating in an international bridge competition.
- 4.3 The ACBL requests that the federations in the jurisdiction of Zone 2 adopt regulations disallowing such public statements and demonstrations.
- 4.4 The ACBL Board of Directors advises their WBF representatives that it opposes any bylaw changes that would reduce the decision-making power of Zone 2 within the WBF.
- 4.5 At the sole discretion of management, dues to or donations for an ACBL NBO can be placed on the ACBL membership and renewal form.