

CHAPTER VIII - NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

G. APPEALS / RECORDERS

Section 1 – Committees at an NABC

- 1.1 The Tournament Appeals Committee is composed of the Director of Appeals, Chair (s) of Appeals, and members selected by the Director and Chair
 - 1.1.1 For NABC+ events, questions involving determination of facts upon appeal from a director's ruling shall be heard by the Tournament Appeals Committee.
 - 1.1.2 Disciplinary questions involving conduct shall be heard by the NABC Tournament Conduct Committee.
 - 1.1.2.1 The NABC Appeals Committee Chair will appoint the committee from:
 - 1.1.2.1.1 A list of names supplied by the ACBL President that has been submitted by the district directors;
 - 1.1.2.1.2 The membership of the NABC Appeals Committee;
 - 1.1.2.1.3 The membership of the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee; and/or
 - 1.1.2.1.4 The membership at large, if needed.
 - 1.1.3 Disciplinary questions involving ethics shall be referred by the Tournament Appeals Committee to a select committee to be appointed by the Chair of the Tournament Committee.
 - 1.1.4 Compensation for the Chair(s) of NABC Tournament Appeals committees, only while serving at the tournament, shall be as follows:
 - 1.1.4.1 Each shall receive a hotel room.
 - 1.1.4.2 Each shall receive per diem (at the rate paid to tournament directors).
 - 1.1.4.3 Each shall be allowed free play privileges.

- 1.2 The NABC Tournament Committee is composed of ACBL Board of Director members still in attendance at the NABC. A minimum of five members is required and additional board members may be teleconferenced to meet this minimum.
 - 1.2.1 Management shall, upon review of the conditions of contest, determine if there is a need to convene the National Tournament Committee.
 - 1.2.2 The Chair of the Tournament Committee shall be determined by the following order: President of ACBL; Chair of the Board of ACBL; Chair of the Tournament Committee of the Board of Directors; Senior member of the Board of Directors of the ACBL.
- 1.3 Questions involving determination of facts upon appeal from a director's ruling for non-NABC+ events will be heard by a Tournament Director panel.
- 1.4 At NABCs, appeals without merit points will be assessed by appeals committees, but only when the experience level of the player(s) warrants.

Section 2 – Publication of Appeals Cases

- 2.1 The complete names and positions of all players involved in NABC Appeals Committee Hearings and from NABC+ or Flight A events will be published in the appeals reports in the Daily Bulletin and in any other reports of these hearings. The names of the Committee members will also be published along with a minority opinion, if requested.
- 2.2 Management shall ensure that the following functions are performed:
 - 2.2.1 Appeals from an NABC will be compiled and readied for publication on the NABC website as soon as possible after each NABC.
 - 2.2.2 A description of each appeal will be posted.
 - 2.2.3 Each appeal should include commentary.
 - 2.2.4 Management shall publish descriptions of likely cases of interest in the Daily Bulletin of the NABC at which the decision took place when submitted by the Editor and the Chair of National Appeals.
 - 2.2.5 The commentators for the Appeals will be selected, and the number of commentators determined by the Director of National Appeals and management. Either the Director of National Appeals or management may

require that a specific commentator not be used.

2.2.6 Management may include appeals cases from events conducted by the USBF, CBF and MBF, which qualify contestants to International competition.

2.2.7 Appeals shall be reviewed and approved by in house counsel, the Director of National Appeals and management before they can be published.

Section 3 – Zero Tolerance Policy

3.1 The ACBL Board of Directors and management is committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. In accordance with Laws 74, 80B2(f), 81C4, 90A, 91 and 92A “Laws of Duplicate Bridge”, the following policy outlines what is expected of all players during NABCs and other ACBL sponsored events, as well as in the playing area before and after each session.

3.2 The ultimate purpose of the ZT policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our NABCs. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

3.2.1 Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.

3.2.2 Greeting others in a friendly manner.

3.2.3 Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.

3.2.4 Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)

3.3 The following are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

3.3.1 Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.

3.3.2 Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.

3.3.3 Gloating over good results.

3.3.4 Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.

- 3.3.5 Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.
- 3.4 If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, **the director should be called immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.
- 3.5 The following procedures have been given to the tournament directors for implementation.
- 3.5.1 At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament will be observing ZT for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.
- 3.5.2 The director, when called, shall attempt to determine the facts. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board EACH = $\frac{1}{2}$ board). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.
- 3.5.3 If it is determined that a second offense has occurred in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from future competition in that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event, no masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made. In the case of a serious offense and in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a tournament, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the tournament and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.
- 3.5.4 Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.
- 3.5.5 In accordance with the "Laws of Duplicate Bridge", a director's decision to

impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's decision, but could *recommend* that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary committee.