

ACBL revises disciplinary regs

The ACBL's revised Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR), the disciplinary process affecting anyone participating in ACBL-sanctioned events charged with conduct or ethical violations, was approved at this tournament by the ACBL Board of Directors. The document has been simplified and significantly revised to streamline the disciplinary process at the unit, district and national level. Highlights of the revised guidelines include:

- The CDR is the definitive document regarding disciplinary matters and, if there is a conflict between the CDR and the Codification, the CDR takes precedence. Apply the CDR in effect at the time of the alleged incident regarding the violation charged and the appropriate discipline to be imposed; for procedural issues, apply the CDR in effect at the time of the hearing.
- There is no motion practice except in very limited circumstances, merely a pre-hearing conference with the parties, if necessary, and a hearing.
- Discovery is limited to reports and statements received or prepared for the investigation of the charges or referred to in the charges.
- Appeals require a factual basis and are limited to the issues raised in the notice of appeal.
- Charges are brought by a charging party after review of the complaint. Complainants and hearing committees are no longer parties to any appeal.
- Negotiated resolution of charges prior to the hearing are permitted.
- All disciplines imposed are a matter of public record published on the ACBL website except for reprimands and expungements.

The time to bring forward complaints to a charging party, involving a single incident, has been lengthened from 30 days to 180 days following an incident. A recorder has 60 days to file a recorder complaint following receipt of a player memo but that player memo must be submitted to the recorder within 120 days of the incident.

- The procedures for reporting and pursuing incidents of sexual harassment of ACBL, unit or district tournament employees have been clarified.
- The advisor, if any, to the Ethical Oversight Committee and the ACBL Disciplinary Committee will be chosen jointly by the respective committee and the ACBL management and that advisor will not be a current or former ACBL employee.

The changes are effective Aug. 1, 2017. The updated CDR may be found on the ACBL website after that date. Flow charts and sample forms and templates are being prepared and will be available for use by disciplinary committees shortly. In the meantime, committees should feel free to email Sabrina Goley at sabrina.goley@acbl.org for guidance.

The CDR revision was a six-month project undertaken by a working group comprising District 8 Director Georgia Heth, In-House Counsel Linda Dunn, and Compliance Coordinator Sabrina Goley. The working group solicited comments from every district and unit disciplinary chairperson and recorder, the national disciplinary committees, as well as select members of the ACBL and considered every comment submitted.