

**ACBL Board of Directors
Marriott at the Renaissance Center
March 3 – 6, 2008
Detroit, MI**

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Morse on March 3, at 9:00 a.m.

Present: George Retek #1, Jonathan Steinberg #2, Joan Gerard #3, Craig Robinson #4, Nadine Wood #6, Bruce Reeve #7, Georgia Heth #8, Shirley Seals #9, Bill Cook #10, Beth Reid #11, William Arlinghaus #12, Harriette Buckman #13, Sue Himel #14, Phyllis Harlan #15, Dan Morse #16, Jerry Fleming #17, Richard Anderson #18, Donald Mamula #19, Jeffrey Taylor #20, Roger Smith #21, Corinne Kirkham (1st Alternate) #22, and Richard DeMartino #25.

Absent: Sharon Fairchild #5, Gayle Andrews #22, Rand Pinsky #23, and Al Levy #24.

Also

Present: Linda Mamula, Chairman Board of Governors; Peter Rank, League Counsel; Jay Baum, ACBL CEO; Rick Beye, ACBL CTD; Gary Blaiss, ACBL EAO; staff, Julie Greenberg, Jeff Johnston, Jim Miller, Carol Robertson, and Kelley McGuire.

Approval of San Francisco Minutes

The San Francisco CA minutes are approved.

Carried.

Item 081-175: Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on November 24, 2007 are received.

Carried.

The Executive Committee met in the President's suite in San Francisco on Saturday November 24, 2007 at 11:45 a.m.

Present at the meeting were members of the Executive Committee, Sharon Fairchild, President; Harriette Buckman, Chairman; Jerry Fleming, Treasurer (non-voting member) Richard Anderson, Al Levy (Alternate) and Jim Reiman.

Absent: Shirley Seals

Also present: Jay Baum, CEO, and Jim Miller.

Sharon Fairchild called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m.

Moved that the Goren trophy will be reassigned as the player winning the most masterpoints at the Fall NABC. The Herman trophy will be renamed the Paul Soloway trophy and be awarded to the player winning the most platinum points in a calendar year.

Effective January 1, 2008

Carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Item 081-131: Ratification of Audit Firm

Ratification of the Audit firm for 2008 is deferred to the summer 2008 meeting.

Carried unanimously.

Item 081-133: Hall of Fame Committee Appointments

Cecil Cook, Amalya Kearse and Betty Ann Kennedy are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2008 NABC through the end of the Spring 2011 NABC.

Zeke Jabbour is appointed to fill the unexpired term of Fred Gitelman ending Spring 2010.

Item 081-134 Appointment of Competitions & Conventions Committee

Doug Doub, Bob Hamman, Steve Beatty, and Elaine Said are appointed for a one-year term from the end of the Spring 2008 NABC through the end of the Spring 2009 NABC.

Mildred Breed is appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2008 NABC through the end of the Spring 2011 NABC.

081-135: Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments

Denny Clerkin, Bruce Ferguson, Eric Rodwell, John Sutherlin, and Bobby Wolff are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2008 NABC through the end of the Spring 2011 NABC.

081-136: ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointments

Lisa Berkowitz, Nagy Kamel and Tom Peters are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2008 NABC through the end of the Spring 2011 NABC.

081-137: ACBL Laws Commission Appointments

Chip Martel, Jeffrey Polisner and Chris Compton are appointed for a five-year term from the end of the Spring 2008 NABC through the end of the Spring 2013 NABC.

Peter Boyd and Howard Weinstein are appointed to fill the unexpired terms of Mildred Breed and Dan Morse through the end of the Spring 2011 NABC.

ACBL CEO Report

The report of CEO Jay Baum is received. (Attachment A)

League Counsel Report

The report of League Counsel Peter Rank on the status of litigation is received. (Attachment B)

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The meeting was called to order by President Dan Morse on Wednesday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Same as Monday, March 3 with the addition of Roni Gitchel Atkins (1st Alternate) #5 and Al Levy #24.

Absent: Rand Pinsky #23.

Also Present: Same as Monday, March 3.

Item 081-132: Election of ACBL Treasurer

Craig Robinson is elected ACBL Treasurer for a one-year term, May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009.

Carried.

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Executive Session

At approximately 9:10 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session.

The ACBL Board of Directors went into Executive session to consider the Real Estate Committee's recommendation in regard to the location of the League's headquarters. Upon returning to the open session, the Board announced that the matter of location of the League's headquarters is deferred to the Summer 2008 meeting of the Board.

The Board reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL / FEDERATION

Arlinghaus (C)
Anderson, Cook, Gerard, Levy, Retek, Robinson
Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-65: Zonal Authority Action

- A. The American Contract Bridge League (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.

Carried. Nay: 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, 24.

- B. The ACBL requests that the federations in the jurisdiction of Zone 2 adopt regulations disallowing such public statements and demonstrations.

Carried. Nay: 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 24.

JUNIORS

Gerard (C) Anderson (VC)
Himel, Smith, Steinberg, Wood

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-100: Shortened Mini Bridge Program

The ACBL Bridge in the Schools program is expanded to include shorter mini bridge instruction for the years 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

Section I. Mini Bridge Program

- A. The School Mini Bridge program will have the same requirements and benefits as the School Bridge program except that:
 - 1) no text will be provided;
 - 2) the teachers will receive a subsidy of \$200.00 per class for eight hours of instruction and supervised play;
 - 3) the shortened mini bridge Program will be permitted through the 6th grade only.

- B. Management will advertise and promote this program through all methods used to communicate with our members and teachers including, but not limited to
 - 1) The Bridge Bulletin;
 - 2) the ACBL website;
 - 3) all newsletters used to communicate with teachers.

- C. Management will present a progress report to the Board of Directors at the Summer 2009 meeting, the Summer 2010 and the Spring 2011 meeting for the purpose of determining the feasibility of continuing the program.

Section II. Program Funding

- A. Funding will be obtained through the Marketing Department budget or other areas including the Junior Fund.

- B. The cost is expected not to exceed \$8,500 in 2008/2009, \$10,250 in 2009/2010, \$12,750 in 2010/2011.

- C. Should program participation exceed expectations in any given year so that budgeted funds are expended for the shortened course, management may choose to fund the shortfall from other sources including the Junior Fund or return to the Board of Directors to ask for additional funding.

Effective September 1, 2008

Carried unanimously.

MARKETING

Mamula (C) Seals (VC)
Buckman, Harlan, Heth, Levy, Taylor
Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-110: ACBL Club Fund Games (Reconsideration)

The Board of Governors requested that the ACBL Board of Directors reconsider Item 072-106: Maximum Number of Fund Games and ACBL Clubs.

Except for the three designated special months: Junior Fund (February), Charity Fund (April) and International Fund (September), no club may run more than 25% of its sanctioned games held in any one month as Charity, Junior, or International Fund games.

During the three designated special months, Junior Fund (February), Charity Fund (April) and International Fund (September), clubs may hold as many fund games as they have sanctioned sessions.

Motion failed: Aye. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 24, 25.

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Executive Session

At approximately noon the Board went into Executive Session.

The Board reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

APPEALS & CHARGES

Heth (C) Steinberg (VC)
Anderson, Buckman, Fleming, Reeve, Smith
Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-01: Report on Hearings

In the matter of the review hearing of the Unit 190 Disciplinary Committee decision regarding Tom Ciconte, ACBL # Q456003, the decision of the committee was upheld.

Item 081-02: Amendments to the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR)

The CDR is amended as follows:

- 2.1.7 Except for CDR 2.1.1 (d) and 2.1.6, units, districts and ACBL have no original jurisdiction over behavior at club sponsored games. If the unit, district or ACBL is the sanction holder, club manager or club board of directors, the unit, district or ACBL has the same jurisdiction and authority *over behavior* as any other sanction holder, club manager or club board of directors.

- 5.3.2 A disciplinary complaint involving events at a tournament must be brought by a participant in the tournament, by the sponsoring organization recorder or by the Director in Charge ("DIC") or his or her designee, which designation may be written or oral (See CDR 5.3.4 when the subject of a complaint or a charged person is no longer at the tournament.).....

- 5.3.4 Persons charged are not required to appear, and their failure to appear shall not be grounds for further discipline.
 - (a) A complaint about a participant who is no longer at the jurisdiction of the tournament will be reviewed by the DIC in accordance with CDR 5.3.2 above to determine whether to make charges to the appropriate disciplinary body as noted in CDR 5.3.4 (b) below.
 - (b) A complaint and consequent charge against a person who is no longer at the jurisdiction of the TDC shall be sent to the appropriate disciplinary body for a hearing as follows:
 - i. From a sectional tournament or sectional-level event to the unit disciplinary committee in which the sectional was held.
 - ii. From a regional tournament or regional-level event to the district disciplinary committee in which the regional was held.
 - iii. From a North American Bridge Championship (NABC) or an NABC-level event sponsored by ACBL to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee.

DEFINITIONS

Attorney A person who is licensed or has been licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction.

5.1.11 Representation on behalf of ACBL Disciplinary Bodies of Original and Appellate Jurisdiction may be provided at cost, if any, to the disciplinary body, as follows with the only requirement being that the representative at the hearing shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors:

- (a) In matters before TDCs, the DIC may appoint a representative to be an advocate of the complainant or may appoint a representative to be a neutral presenter of facts.

- (b) In matters before Unit or District Disciplinary Committees, the Unit or District President may appoint a representative to be an advocate of the complainant or may appoint a representative to be a neutral presenter of facts.
 - (c) In matters before the Ethical Oversight Committee, ACBL Management may appoint a representative to be an advocate of the complainant or may appoint a representative to be a neutral presenter of facts.
 - (d) In matters before District Appeals, the District President may appoint a representative to be an advocate of the complainant or may appoint a representative to be a neutral presenter of the matters on appeal.
 - (e) In matters before Appeals and Charges Committee, ACBL Management may appoint a representative to be an advocate of the complainant or may appoint a representative to be a neutral presenter of facts.
- 5.2.3 (c) Be represented at the hearing by another person who shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors. The person charged may be represented by an attorney outside the Hearing room.
- 5.3.6 (c) Be represented at the hearing by another person who shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors. The person charged may be represented by an attorney outside the Hearing room.

APPENDIX A –
Section I

C. ADVOCATE

While the complainant is usually responsible for prosecuting or supporting his or her complaint, an advocate may be selected by the complainant, the Unit, the District or ACBL Management to prosecute the complaint. An advocate is the representative of the Complainant. As such, the advocate is not neutral or unbiased. The advocate is free to aggressively prosecute a complaint. The advocate selected to appear at the hearing shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors.

D. PRESENTER

A presenter is an individual who makes or assists with an impartial presentation of evidence to a disciplinary committee upon the appointment by the committee chair. A presenter may be the recorder, tournament director or other party. The presenter may act as an aide to the disciplinary committee to ensure a fair and complete presentation of the evidence for the committee to consider. It is suggested that consideration be given to selection of a presenter when a case is complex and neither party is represented by counsel. The presenter selected to appear at the hearing shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors.

Section V. HEARING PROCEDURES

A. PRESENCE AT HEARING

The complainants and the people charged and/or their counsels (who may not be attorneys or members of the ACBL Board of Directors) are entitled to be present while all evidence is given. Other individuals may remain at the hearing only at the discretion of the chairperson.

DEFINITIONS

“Preponderance of the Evidence” Evidence that is more convincing than the evidence opposed to it.

- 5.1.4 The Committee shall not be bound by legal rules, whether of substantive law, evidence or procedure, and shall be liberal in receiving evidence. The receipt of evidence is not necessarily indicative of the weight or the credit which the Committee may give it in their ultimate determination; thus, hearsay evidence and written statements may be admitted and given such weight as the Committee deems appropriate.

APPENDIX A, Section VII

EVIDENCE AND BURDEN OF PROOF

To find a person guilty requires a simple majority of the committee. It shall be the burden of the complainant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the charged party has committed the CDR violation(s) upon which that party is charged. It is not necessary that the evidence be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. If a committee member finds that the evidence of guilt is more convincing than the evidence opposed to it, then that committee member should find the charged person guilty.

Section VIII

9. Disciplines

9.4 A member who resigns his/her membership in the ACBL to avoid possible disciplinary action for unethical conduct 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.

9.5 Readmission of members who have resigned or who have been expelled.

9.5.1 A member who resigns to avoid possible disciplinary action for unethical conduct may be readmitted to membership only by the ACBL Board of Directors. Further, no application for readmission may be considered before five years from the date of resignation and thereafter only once every three years. The Board of Directors may impose such conditions upon readmission as it deems appropriate.

9.5.2 The ACBL Board of Directors will not hear and ACBL Management is instructed not to forward to the Board any request for readmission before five years from the date of expulsion or resignation to avoid possible disciplinary actions for unethical conduct provided that under no circumstances will the ACBL Board of Directors hear a request for readmission in regards to a second expulsion or resignation to avoid possible disciplinary actions or combination thereof.

(a) When a request is heard and denied, the person making the request will be told when and if the Board will hear a subsequent request for readmission.

(b) Should the Board decide to hear a request, 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) Support for readmission from the player's local bridge organization(s).

(c) Additional provisions for readmission shall be at the discretion of the ACBL Board of Directors. Requests for relief from the provisions for readmission shall be made no more frequently than every three years.

9.6 Publication of Names of Suspended or Expelled Members.

9.6.1 When a player is suspended or expelled by the Ethical Oversight Committee and after the appeals process is complete their full name and player number shall be published in the ACBL Bulletin. This will not apply if on appeal the action is reversed.

9.6.2 In cases where a player or players are expelled (1) through actions of the National Appeals and Charges Committee or (2) through actions of the Ethical Oversight Committee that are not appealed, an article may be published in the ACBL Bulletin explaining what occurred. The purpose of this article is to educate the readership on what is and is not actionable behavior. The chair of the applicable committee will oversee the writing of the article. Publication is at the discretion of the Bulletin Editor.

9.6.3 Upon request for information regarding publication of the facts of a disciplinary case, management will advise the requestor of ACBL policy. [NOTE: Current ACBL policy is to publish an individual's name and ACBL player number, and a brief description of their offense after any appeals are exhausted or the time period for an appeal has expired.]

9.7 Any communication that occurs during the meeting of an ACBL Body (as defined below), which relates to matters that have been, are or might reasonably become subjects of business for that particular body, is privileged.

(a) "Privileged" shall mean communication that may not be used as the basis for any complaint under ACBL disciplinary or other regulations.

(b) "ACBL Body" includes the Board of Directors, any ACBL Foundation Board and any ACBL committee or sub-committee appointed by the ACBL President, by the ACBL Board or by any ACBL Board member. It shall also include the Board of Governors, any District or Unit Board within ACBL and any duly appointed or elected District or Unit committee or sub-committee.

9.8 The refusal of a player, pair or team to play in an ACBL sanctioned Sectional, Regional, National or Grand National event against another player, pair or team duly entered in the event shall require the disqualification of the player, pair or team so refusing to play from further

participation in the event and the forfeiture of any Master Points earned by the player, pair or team in the event.

Such refusal, without a medical excuse, shall constitute conduct unbecoming a member of the ACBL and shall be referred to the disciplinary body having jurisdiction for appropriate disciplinary action.

9.9 Expenses in connection with District Judiciary Committees shall not be borne by the ACBL unless specifically authorized by the ACBL.

Effective April 1, 2008.

Full Motion: Carried. Absent: 24.

Attorney Regulations: Carried. Nay 1, 2, 3, 5, 15. Abstain: 4.

Preponderance of Evidence Regulations: Carried unanimously.

Item 081-03: Rescinded Disciplinary Resolutions

The following ACBL Board of Director Resolutions are rescinded effective when the revised Code of Disciplinary Regulations becomes effective:

073-04, 942-2, 002-42, 942-6, 952-4, 973-05, 011-40, 842-96 and 733-6A.

Effective April 1, 2008

Carried. Absent: 24

<p style="text-align: center;">GOVERNANCE</p> <p>Cook (C) Himel (VC) Harlan, Mamula, Reid, Seals, Taylor Committee Report by Chairman</p>
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Item 081-85: ACBL Agenda Items and Amendments

Amendments to motions that create new policy issues will not be allowed. ACBL League Counsel will make the final decision as to whether or not a proposed amendment is, in fact, a new policy item that would require a separate motion to be submitted in a timely manner and reviewed at a subsequent meeting.

Deferred to Summer 2008 meeting and referred to the Board Operations Committee.

Carried. Nay: 1, 2, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 24. Abstain: 4. Absent: 25.

Item 081-86: NABC Goals and Guidelines

The following goals and guidelines for NABC's are adopted:

Mission Statement: ACBL will conduct North American Bridge Championships utilizing efficient and profitable methods while providing outstanding playing facilities, excellent value, unsurpassed service, and geographic accessibility to the most possible members.

A. General Goals

The ACBL holds NABC's in order to:

- 1) provide ACBL members an opportunity to play in an NABC.
- 2) serve a broad spectrum of the membership.
- 3) provide a convenient location for a large number of players while rotating the tournament.
- 4) provide ACBL members satisfaction with the complete NABC experience.
- 5) provide a source of revenue for the ACBL.
- 6) provide promotional opportunities to attract new and social players to duplicate bridge.
- 7) provide a tournament that maximizes the prestige, excitement and fun of a tournament experience.
- 8) provide an environment of cooperation between ACBL and local Units and Districts.

B. Financial Goals

Excess revenue should average \$500,000 per year over a period of several years.

C. Location Guidelines

A site for an NABC may be proposed only by management and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Management and the NABC Advisory Committee will identify:

- 1) Approximately 12 top tier locations to host NABC's about every 6 years.
- 2) Approximately 12 second tier locations to host NABC's about every 12 years.
- 3) Additional sites for an occasional NABC.

D. Rotation Guidelines

It is desirable that an effort be made to rotate NABC's throughout the three zones. Location has a higher priority than rotation.

E. Rating System

Management, in cooperation with the NABC Advisory Committee, will develop and maintain a rating system for NABC sites and locations consistent with the above goals and guidelines. The ratings for a site will be made available to the BoD when a motion to approve a site is on the agenda.

F. NABC History

Management will maintain a spread sheet that shows the history of NABC's that includes financial, table count and room pick-up data.

G. Host Hotel

A host hotel is one with which ACBL has established direct contracts for an NABC.

Effective Immediately.

Carried. Nay: 1.

Item 081-87: Rescinded NABC Goals and Guidelines

The following items relating to NABC Goals and Guidelines are rescinded: 811-151, 963-177, 922-76, 971-48, 971-178, 971-184, 033-110, 003-21, 893-63 (section 1), 052-51 and 993-145.

Carried unanimously.

Item 081-88: Blackwood & von Zedtwitz Awards

ACBL Board of Directors will determine the inductees into the Hall of Fame for the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz awards.

A Board of Director member or a Chairman of the Board of Governors must have been out of office for at least five years before they can be a candidate for induction into the ACBL Hall of Fame.

Motion Failed. Aye: 7, 9, 19, 22.

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Reeve (C)
Arlinghaus, DeMartino

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-55: Conditions of Contest Review

Calendar year Conditions of Contests will only be enacted at the summer BoD meeting. Conditions of Contest for non-calendar year events may be enacted at any BoD meeting that is at least 3 months prior to the start of the event cycle.

Item 003-84 is rescinded.

Effective date: Immediately

Motion Failed: Aye: 13, 17, 18, 19, 20. Abstain: 5.

BRIDGE

Wood (C) Arlinghaus (VC)

DeMartino, Gerard, Kirkham, Levy, Retek, Robinson

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-30: Wide Range No Trump Opening for Mid Chart

The restriction of 1NT opening bids is extended to any (unlimited) range between 10-18 HCP with an all purpose rangefinder (2C) being allowed to determine more precise range within the whole spectrum allowed.

Motion failed. Aye: 6, 7, 17, 22.

Item 081-32: Unit Game Masterpoint Clarification

All the Unit Games, including Unit-Wide Championship and Unit Extended Team Games, are replaced with one class of Unit Championships. The number of games is increased from sixteen (16) to twenty four (24) per calendar year with the applicable sanction fee. The maximum number of Unit Extended team Games allowed is three (3) per calendar year.

Carried unanimously.

Item 081-33: Convention Charts

The following convention charts are approved.

ACBL GENERAL CONVENTION CHART

The conventions listed below must be allowed in all ACBL sanctioned tournament play (other than in events with an upper restriction of 20 or fewer masterpoints and events for which the ACBL conditions of contest state otherwise) and at club-level events with multiple-site overall masterpoint awards. Clubs have full authority to regulate conventions in games conducted solely at their clubs.

DEFINITIONS

1. An opening suit bid or response is considered natural if in a minor it shows three or more cards in that suit and in a major it shows four or more cards in that suit. A

- notrump opening or overcall is natural if not unbalanced (generally, no singleton or void and only one or two doubletons).
2. An overcall in a suit is considered natural if, by agreement, it shows four or more cards in the denomination named.
 3. A sequence of relay bids is defined as a system if, after an opening of one of a suit, it is started prior to opener's rebid.

**ALLOWED – Unless specifically allowed, methods are disallowed –
OPENING BIDS**

1. ONE CLUB OR ONE DIAMOND may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 high-card points.
2. FORCING 1NT OPENING BID indicating a balanced or unbalanced hand and a minimum of 16 HCP.
3. TWO CLUBS ARTIFICIAL OPENING BID indicating one of:
 - a) a strong hand.
 - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP.
4. STRENGTH SHOWING OPENING AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER that asks for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids or trump quality and responses thereto.
5. TWO DIAMOND ARTIFICIAL OPENING BID indicating one of:
 - a) both majors with a minimum of 10 HCP. (See #6 below)
 - b) a strong hand.
 - c) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP.
6. OPENING BID AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER indicating two known suits, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
7. OPENING NOTRUMP BID AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors.
8. OPENING THREE NOTRUMP BID indicating one of
 - a) a solid suit or
 - b) a minor one-suiter.
9. OPENING FOUR-LEVEL BID transferring to a known suit.

RESPONSES AND REBIDS

1. ONE DIAMOND as a forcing, artificial response to one club.
2. ONE NOTRUMP response to a major suit opening bid forcing one round; cannot guarantee game invitational or better values.
3. CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES WHICH GUARANTEE GAME FORCING OR BETTER VALUES. May NOT be part of a relay system.
4. TWO CLUBS OR TWO DIAMONDS response to third or fourth-seat major-suit openings asking the quality of the opening bid.
5. SINGLE OR HIGHER JUMP SHIFTS AND/OR NOTRUMP BIDS AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER to indicate a raise or to force to game.
6. JUMP RESPONSES TO AN OPENING BID OF ONE IN A SUIT that show one known suit with a minimum of five cards and one other known suit with a minimum of four cards.
7. ARTIFICIAL AND CONVENTIONAL CALLS after strong (15+ HCP), forcing opening bids and after opening bids of two clubs or higher. (For this classification, by partnership agreement, weak two-bids must be within a range of

7 HCP and the suit must contain at least five cards – *See #7 under DISALLOWED.*)

8. ALL CONSTRUCTIVE CALLS starting with the opening bidder's second call.
9. CALLS THAT ASK for aces, kings queens, singletons, voids or trump quality and responses thereto.
10. ALL CALLS AFTER A NATURAL NOTRUMP opening bid or direct overcall, EXCEPT for natural notrump opening bids or overcalls with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges). *See #7 under DISALLOWED.*

COMPETITIVE

1. CONVENTIONAL BALANCING CALLS.
2. CONVENTIONAL DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES and responses (including free bids) thereto.
3. NOTRUMP OVERCALL for either
 - a) two-suit takeout showing at least 5–4 distribution and at least one known suit (At the four level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.) or
 - b) three-suit takeout (at least three cards in each of the three suits.)
4. a) JUMP OVERCALLS INTO A SUIT to indicate at least 5–4 distribution in two known suits and responses thereto.
b) SIMPLE OVERCALLS INTO A SUIT to indicate a minimum of 10 HCP, at least 5-4 distribution in two known suites and responses thereto.
5. TRANSFER ADVANCES (responses to overcalls) where the call shows length or values in the suit of the transfer.
6. CUEBID of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak (fewer than 10 HCP) directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
7. DEFENSE TO:
 - a) conventional calls (except see #10 RESPONSES and REBIDS above and #7 under DISALLOWED below),
 - b) natural notrump opening bids and overcalls, except that direct calls, other than double and two clubs must have at least one known suit.
 - c) opening bids of two clubs or higher.
8. Numbers 4 through 10 under RESPONSES AND REBIDS above APPLY TO BOTH PAIRS.

DISALLOWED

1. Conventions and/or agreements whose primary purpose is to destroy the opponents' methods.
2. Psyching of artificial or conventional opening bids and/or conventional responses thereto. Psyching conventional suit responses, **which are less than** 2NT, to natural openings.
3. Psychic controls (Includes ANY partnership agreement which, if used in conjunction with a psychic call, makes allowance for that psych.)
4. Forcing pass systems.
5. Relay (tell me more) systems.

6. Opening one bids which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 HCP. (Not applicable to a psych.)
7. CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES, REBIDS AND A CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE TO AN OPPONENT'S CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE after natural notrump opening bids or overcalls with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges) and weak two-bids which by partnership agreement are not within a range of 7 HCP and do not show at least five cards in the suit.

CARDING

Dual-message carding strategies are not approved except on each defender's first discard. Except for the first discard only right-side-up or upside-down card ordering strategies are approved. Encrypted signals are not approved. In addition, a pair may be prohibited from playing any method (such as suit preference systems at trick one), when they are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo (much like dual message signals). This decision may be appealed to the tournament committee.

ACBL MID-CHART

This chart applies to:

1. All NABC+ events with no upper masterpoint restrictions played at an NABC.
2. All unrestricted Flight A regionally rated events at an NABC.
3. Any bracket of a bracketed KO at an NABC which contains no team with a bracket designator (average masterpoints of the entire team) of less than 1500 points.

This chart (or any part) may apply to any sectionally or regionally rated event or tournament at sponsor's option provided that this has been included in tournament advertising. (The requirement for advertising does not extend to use in Flt. A or high brackets of KOs.)

When using a method permitted by the Mid-Chart but not by the General Convention Chart, a pair is required to:

1. Pre-Alert the method(s)*
2. Have a written description of the method(s) available for the opponents.
3. Except for those methods authorized by sections #1 - 5 below with an asterisk, have a copy of the approved suggested defense available for each opponent.
approved defenses are available in the ACBL defense database at www.acbl.org.

A defense to a method which requires the above pre-Alert (whether the approved one or one provided by the opposing pair) may be referred to during the auction by both pairs.

To get a defense approved, a complete written explanation of the method and a complete written defense must be submitted to ACBL in Memphis, electronically to the Competition and Conventions Committee at candc@acbl.org

NOTE: Weak artificial openings, or bids which require a defense of more than one page, are unlikely to be approved for two board segments.

ALLOWED – Unless specifically allowed, or listed on the ACBL Defense Database site, methods are disallowed –

1. * All of the ACBL General Convention Chart.
2. * Relay (tell me more) systems that promise game-forcing values.

3. * All other constructive rebids and responses are permitted – except for:
 - a. relay systems that show less than game-forcing values,
 - b. conventional calls after natural notrump opening bids or overcalls with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP (*see #10 under RESPONSES AND REBIDS and #7 under DISALLOWED on the General Convention Chart*) – however, this prohibition does not extend to notrumps that have two non-consecutive ranges neither of which exceeds 3 HCP – and
 - c. conventional calls after a weak two-bid with an agreed range of more than 7 HCP or an agreement where the suit length may be four cards (*see #7 under RESPONSES AND REBIDS and #7 under DISALLOWED on the General Convention Chart*). THIS APPLIES TO BOTH PAIRS.
4. *Defenses to natural notrump opening bids and overcalls.
5. *Any strong (15+) opening bid.

The following items are approved for all Mid-Chart events of the specified round length (2, 6 or 12), but pairs playing them must bring two copies of the approved written defense, offering a copy to each opponent.

<http://www.acbl.org/play/defenseDataBase.html>

6. A 4 level minor opening showing an unspecified major. (2)
7. Opening two hearts showing at least 10 HCPs, 3 suits, short diamonds. (2)
8. Opening two spades showing at least 5 – 5 in the minors. (2)
9. Transfer opening bids at the two level or higher showing a weak bid in the suit being transferred to. (2)
10. Opening two clubs bid showing a weak two diamond bid (5+ cards) or a strong hand. (2)
11. A 3 level opening bid showing an unknown solid suit. (2)
12. Opening two hearts or two spades showing a weak two bid, with a 4-card minor. (2)
13. Opening 4NT to show a strong minor suit. (2)
14. A two heart opening showing 5 – 5 (or more) in the majors. (2)
15. A 2NT opening bid showing an unspecified minor. (6)
16. A two heart opening showing 5 – 4 in the majors. (6)
17. Opening two diamonds showing a weak two in either major; may include additional strong meanings. (6)
18. Opening two spades to show an unspecified minor. (6)
19. A two club opening showing a limited hand with a major. (12)
20. Opening one heart to show spades with 11 – 21 HCPs. (12)

Additional Mid-Chart approved bids, defenses and segment approvals can be found at <http://www.acbl.org/play/defenseDataBase.html>

DISALLOWED

1. Conventions and/or agreements whose primary purpose is to destroy the opponents' methods.
2. Psyching of artificial opening bids and/or conventional responses thereto.
3. Psychic controls. (Includes ANY partnership agreement which, if used in conjunction with a psychic call, makes allowance for that psych.)

4. Forcing pass systems.
5. Relay (tell me more) systems except those that are game-forcing.
6. Opening one-bids which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 HCP. (Not applicable to a psych.)
7. Psyching a conventional agreement which may show fewer than 10 HCP and which is not permitted by the General Convention Chart. This includes psyching responses to or rebids of these methods.
8. Any weak opening bid which promises an unknown suit may not include as the unknown suit the suit named (the suit opened).

CARDING

Same as listed on the General Convention Chart.

ACBL SUPERCHART

This chart applies to all NABC+ events with no upper masterpoint limit played at an NABC in which contestants play segments (no change of opponents) of 12 or more boards. This chart (or any part) may be used at a sectionally or regionally rated event or tournament at sponsor's option in any event with 12-board or longer segments provided this has been included in tournament advertising. Pre-Alerts are required for all conventional methods not permitted on the ACBL General Convention Chart.

Description of, and suggested defenses to, such methods must be made in writing. A defense to a method which requires the above pre-Alert may be referred to during the auction by opponents of the convention user. For NABC+ events in which this chart is permitted, pairs playing SuperChart methods must furnish the above descriptions of their methods to the Director-in-Charge of the event the day prior to the session in which they choose to play them.

ALLOWED – System notes and defenses are required –

All of the ACBL MidChart plus any other non-destructive convention, treatment or method except that:

1. Artificial weak bids at the two or three level (including those with strong adjuncts) must possess,
 - a) a known suit or
 - b) one of no more than two possible suits not to include the suit bid.
2. Defenses over opponents' natural suit bids must promise,
 - a) for non-cuebids showing a single suited hand, one of no more than two possible suits
 - b) a cuebid which could show a weak hand with four or more cards in the suit bid must promise four or more cards in another known suit.
3. The prohibitions contained in item #10 under RESPONSES AND REBIDS on the General Convention Chart are effective for this Chart. (However, this prohibition does not extend to notrumps that have two non-consecutive ranges neither of which exceeds 3 HCP.)

DISALLOWED

1. Conventions and/or agreements whose primary purpose is to destroy the opponents' methods.
2. Psyching of artificial opening bids and/or conventional responses thereto.

3. Psychic controls (includes ANY partnership agreement which, if used in conjunction with a psychic call, makes allowance for that psych).
4. Forcing pass systems.
5. Opening one bids which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 HCP. (Not applicable to a psych.)
6. Psyching a conventional agreement which may show fewer than 10 HCP and which is not permitted by the General Convention Chart. This includes psyching responses to or rebids of those methods.

CARDING

Same as listed on the General Convention Chart.

ACBL LIMITED CONVENTIONS

(May be used in games with an upper limit of 20 or fewer MPs)

CLUBS

Club management shall determine the conventions permitted in club games with an upper limit of 20 or fewer masterpoints.

LOCAL & HIGHER EVENTS

The sponsoring organization of local and higher rated tournaments may determine the conventions permitted in games with an upper limit of 20 or fewer masterpoints.

OPENING BIDS

A one club opening bid may be both artificial (says nothing about clubs) and forcing (partner must respond at least once), but opener must have at least 10 HCP. A negative one diamond response may be used. A two club opening bid may be artificial and strong. It may be balanced (a hand stronger than a traditional 2NT opening) or unbalanced (a hand with which you would open a strong two-bid if playing that way). Further bidding will describe the hand. A 3NT opening bid may show a hand with a long, solid suit (gambling).

RESPONSES AND REBIDS

A jump shift of one or more levels (into a suit or into notrump) may be used either to force to game or to show a raise of partner's suit. Any meaning may be given to the responses and rebids after an opening bid of 1NT. Exception: if the 1NT opening has a point range which exceeds 5 HCP, or if the 1NT opening has an agreed lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP, responses and rebids may not be conventional — they must be natural. Any meaning may be given to the responses to and rebids after an opening bid of two clubs or higher. Exception: if the opening bid is a weak two-bid with (a) an agreed point range of more than 7 HCP, (b) an agreement that the bid suit can contain fewer than five cards, or (c) an agreement that the hand can contain fewer than 5 HCP, responses and rebids may not be conventional — they must be natural. Any call may be used to ask partner or to respond to partner about aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids or trump quality with the exceptions noted above.

COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS

Any meaning may be given to a double or a redouble. A notrump overcall or jump overcall may be used to show a two-suited hand (at least 5–4 distribution in the two suits). At least one of the suits must be known. The second suit may be known or unknown. Any meaning may be given to the cuebid of an opponent's suit. Any meaning may be given to calls used to defend against opponents' conventional calls or opening

bids of two clubs or higher. Any meaning may be given to calls used to defend against natural notrump opening bids or overcalls except that direct calls other than double and two clubs must have at least one known suit.

DISALLOWED

Conventions and /or agreements with a primary purpose of destroying the opponents' methods are not allowed (e.g., a bid telling nothing about the bidder's hand, made simply to use up bidding space). Agreements allowing the partnership to open the bidding at the one level with fewer than 8 HCP are not allowed. This does not preclude a psychic opening bid. Psyching of artificial opening bids or conventional responses to artificial opening bids is not allowed. Psychic controls (bids designed to determine whether partner has psyched or to clarify the nature of the psych) are not allowed. Relay systems (one player tells nothing about his own hand while interrogating partner about his hand through a series of conventional calls) are not allowed.

CARDING

A discard (a card played while not following suit) can convey a message to partner. The message can pertain to the length of the suit of the card discarded, to the attitude toward that suit (desire to have partner lead that suit) or to another suit (no information about the suit of the card discarded). A pair may decide to attribute the attitude message (good-bad) to the cards on either a higher-to-lower basis (a higher card is more positive than a lower card) or a lower-to-higher basis (a low card is more positive than a higher card). A discard may carry more than one message, but only at each defender's first discard of the deal. Dual-message discards are not permitted as second or subsequent discards. Encrypted signals (the order and /or message is based on information known to the other defender but not yet to declarer) are not allowed at any time.

Effective July 28, 2008

Carried. Nay: 7, 8.

Item 081-34: Laws of Duplicate Bridge

- A. The Laws of Duplicate Bridge as reviewed and promulgated by the ACBL Laws Commission and published and copyrighted by ACBL are accepted with the following elections:
1. 12 C 1 (e) The provisions of law 12 C 1 apply for ACBL sanctioned events, while the provision of law 12 C 1 (c) will not apply for ACBL sanctioned events.
 2. Law 18 F: The ACBL Board of Directors authorizes sponsoring organizations in ACBL sanctioned events to use bidding boxes. Any alternative method which is necessary to enable a person with a disability to compete is authorized subject to the approval of the Director in Charge.
 3. Law 40 B1 and B 2 (a): An opening bid of one notrump and an opening bid of one in a suit which, by partnership agreement, could show fewer than eight high-card points is designated a special partnership agreement. These two special partnership agreements are disallowed in all ACBL sanctioned events.

4. Law 40 B 2 (a): Both members of a partnership must employ the same system that appears on the convention card.
 - a. During a session of play, a system may not be varied, except with permission of the tournament director. (A director might allow a pair to change a convention but would not allow a pair to change its basic system.)
 - b. At the outset of a round or session, a pair may review the opponents' convention card and alter its defenses against the opponents' special understandings and preemptive bids. This must be announced to the opponents. The opponents may not vary their system after being informed of these defensive alterations.
5. Law 40 B 2 (b) Defenses to methods permitted by the ACBL Mid-Chart and/or SuperChart may be referred to by any player whenever it would be appropriate to refer to an opponent's convention card.
6. Law 40 B 2 (c): In addition, a player is permitted to consult an opponent's convention card at his RHO's turn to call.
7. Law 40 B 3: A partnership, by prior agreement, may not vary its understanding during the auction or play following a question asked, a response to a question or any irregularity.
8. Law 93 C (1): A further appeal to the National Authority (ACBL) may be allowed only as follows:
 - a. On a point of law to and at the discretion of the ACBL Laws Commission.
 - b. On an allegation of bias of a committee member or members to and at the discretion of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee. The appellant is required to present evidence that the bias was not known at the time of the hearing.
 - c. The appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days of the decision of the Bridge Appeals Committee that heard the issue.
9. Law 93 C 3 (a): Except as noted in 8. above, the final responsibility of dealing with any appeal of a director's decision is that of the tournament's bridge appeals committee.

B. The Laws of Duplicate Bridge as accepted and approved in A above go into effect for ACBL sanctioned events on September 8, 2008.

Carried unanimously.

Item 081-35: Masterpoint Plan

The following reduction factors are implemented for Knockout Team events. Any event with 8 or fewer teams will be played as a three-session event. This is reflected in the KO Reduction Factors chart below.

KO Reduction Factors

<u># of Teams In Bracket</u>	<u>Reduction Factor</u>
16	1.000
15	0.960
14	0.920
13	0.880
12	0.840
11	0.800
10	0.760
9	0.720
8	0.600
7	0.525
6	0.450
5	0.375

New Formula Table

Bracket Team Average Masterpoints (AVG MP)	Computed Award	Comments
< 500	6.00	
500 - 1000	6 + 5 (AVG MP - 500) / 500	
1000 - 5000	11 + 11 (AVG MP - 1000) / 4000	Fixed Award = 11 at 1000
5000 - 10000	22 + 7 (AVG MP - 5000) / 5000	Fixed Award = 22 at 5000
10000 - 25000	29 + 19 (AVG MP - 10000) / 15000	Fixed Award = 29 at 10000
25000 - 40000	48 + 17 (AVG MP - 25000) / 15000	Fixed Award = 48 at 25000
40000 +	65.00	

Avg MP Per Team = 4 x Team Masterpoints / # of Players on Team (Maximum per team = **45,000**)
 AVG MP (Bracket) = Σ Avg MP Per Team / Number of Teams in Bracket

Effective as soon as can be implemented by Management.

Carried unanimously.

* * * * *

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Morse on Thursday, March 6, at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Same as Wednesday, March 5.

Absent: Same as Wednesday, March 5.

Also Present: Same as Monday, March 3.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Harlan (C) Wood (VC)

Buckman, Gerard, Himel, Kirkham, Levy, Reid, Seals, Steinberg, Taylor

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-20: Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy

B. EXPENSES

Expenses Policy for ACBL Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board of Governors

Section 1 - ACBL President Expenses

The image of the ACBL is paramount in all of the activities of the president. In keeping with such premise, the following statement of policy sets forth the duties, responsibilities and restrictions by which the president will be guided.

- 1.1 The president will be granted a president's expense allowance which for the year 2007 will be \$51,800 and each year thereafter said fund will be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index fluctuation.
- 1.2 The following guidelines are provided for the president to use in budgeting his expenses during the year.
 - 1.2.1 Attending tournaments (sectionals, regionals, WBF) 50%
 - 1.2.2 Functions at NABCs (receptions, etc.) 22%
 - 1.2.3 Administrative items (faxes, postage, telephone) 12%
 - 1.2.4 President's dinner 12%
 - 1.2.5 Miscellaneous 4%
- 1.3 In addition to the usual administrative functions which the president of most organizations performs, there are additional special responsibilities attached to the office of ACBL President. These include, but are not limited to:
 - 1.3.1 Attending regional and sectional tournaments of his choosing to bring the ACBL to its members. In addition, at those tournaments the president is expected to host local volunteers in his suite or at a meal function.
 - 1.3.2 Hosting certain social functions at NABCs involving the members of the Board of Directors and special groups in his suite, holding special committee meetings in his suite and one president's dinner at the NABC of his choice. At the other two NABCs, the president will host a

welcoming buffet/reception for Board members and special guests in his suite.

- 1.4 The president may be accompanied by his spouse or other guest(s) throughout the year who will help the president in the performance of his duties. The expenses of such person(s) will be charged to the president's budget.
- 1.5 The president is expected to travel the most economical way to any tournaments, meetings or for other ACBL business. Airfare, using advance non-refundable ticketing, will reflect the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates whenever possible. The president will be reimbursed for travel to only one bridge event outside Zone 2 per year.
- 1.6 Travel and other expenses related to a specific activity (especially special committee meetings) will be charged to Board expenses not to the president's expenses.
- 1.7 In addition to serving as ACBL President, the president also continues to serve as his district's representative on the Board of Directors and, therefore, will receive the trimester expense reimbursement identical to that provided all other Board members.
- 1.8 For accounting purposes, the president's travel expenses, per diem and expenses for the president's suite for the number of days the president is at the NABC through the first Sunday will be charged to Board expenses. Per diem and suite expenses for the remaining days the president is at the NABC will be charged to president's expenses.

Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses

This policy pertains to Board members, Chairman of the Board of Governors, the General Counsel, and any other non-staff member required to attend ACBL meetings or functions. The ACBL will reimburse the following expenses:

2.1 Travel Via Air

- 2.1.1 Actual ticket price using advance non-refundable ticketing reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates. Travelers may upgrade to business/first class so long as no additional expense is incurred by ACBL.
- 2.1.2 On an individual basis, when authorized by the president, spouse/companion airfare to a meeting will be paid when needed.

2.2 Travel Via Automobile and Rail

- 2.2.1 Subject to advance approval of the treasurer, board members will be reimbursed at the applicable United States IRS rate for automobile travel provided it is a reasonable amount.
- 2.2.2 Tolls and ferries en route and parking at the meeting site for the number of days calculated for per diem reimbursement will also be reimbursed by ACBL.
- 2.2.3 No meals or rooms en route will be reimbursed.
- 2.2.4 ACBL will reimburse the cost of train fare not to exceed the cost of equivalent airfare.

2.3 Hotel

- 2.3.1 Board members will be reimbursed at the ACBL host hotel negotiated room rate incurred beginning with the night before their first officially scheduled meeting and continuing through the night the Board meetings conclude; however, if the board member attends the Board of Governors meeting, the reimbursement will extend through the first Saturday night of the NABC.
- 2.3.2 In order to qualify for reimbursement, the attendees must have paid the ACBL host hotel for the appropriate number of room nights.
- 2.3.3 Board members who share a room with another board member will only receive reimbursement at the ACBL host hotel negotiated room rate for one room, not two.
- 2.3.4 Board members may not charge a fee for use (or sharing) of their room for which they are receiving ACBL reimbursement.

2.4 Per Diem

- 2.4.1 Per Diem for ACBL Board of Directors will follow the same guidelines as those for ACBL employees including tournament directors.
- 2.4.2 The per diem rate at Board meetings is allocated 25% for breakfast, 25% for lunch, and 50% for dinner. Full per diem will be paid for the days of travel to and from the meetings.
- 2.4.3 Board member per diem will not be affected by the presence or absence of concierge privileges.

- 2.4.4 Board member per diem will not be reduced for lunches provided by ACBL except when lunches are for the entire board and have been announced before a meeting.
 - 2.4.5 On the day of the annual president's dinner, one-half of the per diem will be deducted from each board member who attends the dinner.
 - 2.4.6 Board members and their spouse/companion are welcome to attend the volunteers dinner at each NABC. Attendance is not required. One-half of the per diem for that day will be deducted from each board member who attends the dinner. The balance will be paid for by the ACBL. Seating assignments will be encouraged.
- 2.5 Additional Reimbursable Expenses
- 2.5.1 Attendees will be reimbursed for reasonable actual costs of baggage handling, storage expenses and gratuities to porters, bellmen and other service personnel.
 - 2.5.2 Ground transportation to and from airports at home and at the NABC location plus reasonable tips will be reimbursed.
 - 2.5.3 Parking of the attendee's personal automobile at the airport will be reimbursed for the same number of days as the per diem reimbursement.
 - 2.5.4 Airport departure taxes will be reimbursed.
 - 2.5.5 Expenses incurred in exchanging non-U. S. dollars will be reimbursed at the exchange rate prevailing when incurred. In addition, credit card and other currency conversion charges will be reimbursable.
- 2.6 Entry Fees - Each board member will receive complimentary entry fees to all events at NABCs except on the first day of the NABC (usually Thursday) when proceeds from the games are designated for the International Fund, Educational Foundation or Charity Foundation.
- 2.7 Request for Reimbursement - Reimbursement requests by ACBL Board Members and the Chairman of the Board of Governors will be submitted to ACBL within 30 days of the completion of the tournament at which the expense occurred. Failure to do this will incur a penalty of 1/2 of the trimester stipend payable prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. Reimbursement requests must include a copy of air ticket(s) showing name, dates of travel and price and paid hotel bill if reimbursement is requested for hotel stay. Receipts are also required for any individual expenditure equal or greater than \$75.

- 2.8 The treasurer, in consultation with the president, will adjudicate any disputes to whether travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement.

Section 3 - WBF Representatives

Reimbursement of Expenses for WBF elected representatives will be from the ACBL General Fund. Following are the regulations governing this reimbursement.

- 3.1. Airfare - Actual ticket price for a 30-day advance purchase ticket, reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates. In addition, reasonable actual expenses for transportation to and from airports at home and at the tournament location. There is no expense reimbursement for spouse/companion.
- 3.2. Per diem - Regular ACBL per diem starting one day prior to the first meeting attended to one day after the last meeting attended. Reimbursement for per diem will not exceed nine (9) days. The ACBL Board will consider paying a higher per diem to the WBF representatives if higher costs are involved due to location of the WBF meetings.
- 3.3 Hotel - Actual double occupancy room cost at the headquarters hotel beginning no sooner than one day prior to the representative's first official meeting and concluding no later than the night of the day when the last official meeting/function was held. Payment for hotel expenses will not exceed seven (7) nights. Exception of this rule may be allowed to secure less expensive air ticket in order to achieve overall savings.

Section 4 - Board of Director's Stipend

- 4.1 The president of the ACBL, each district director and the chairman of the Board of Governors will receive an amount of \$1000 three times per year to reflect travel to District and Unit events, telephone expenses, mailings and miscellaneous office expenses connected with the office of district director and chairman of the Board of Governors.
- 4.2 Extraordinary expenses incurred as a committee member will be considered for additional reimbursement.

Section 5 - Other Expense Reimbursement

- 5.1 Each first-term member of the Board of Directors will be invited to the meeting prior to joining the Board. In order to encourage new members to attend and become familiar with the workings of the board and provide a smooth transition, they will be compensated for transportation, hotel and per diem expenses in the same manner as serving board members, however, hotel reimbursement will be paid only through the night the Board meetings conclude. Per diem will be paid

for the days of travel to and from the meetings and during the days of the meetings.

5.2 Expenses for non-board members and board members traveling on ACBL business other than Board and WBF meetings will be reimbursed. No per diem will be paid but all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed. There will be no reimbursement for expenses of guests.

Item 072-26 is rescinded.

Effective Immediately.

Carried. Nay: 19

Item 081-21: Hotel Reimbursement Expense Policy

Presidential Expenses and Clarification of Reimbursement of Expenses Policy for Members of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board of Governors 072-26, Part B, section 2, 2.3.1 (Hotel) a. is amended as follows:

a. Directors (attendees) will be reimbursed at the ACBL host hotel negotiated room rate incurred beginning with the night before their first officially scheduled meeting and continuing through the first Saturday night of the NABC.

Motion Failed. Aye: 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 15, 21, 22, 24, 25.

Item 081-22: Chapter IV – Board Procedures – A. Administration

CHAPTER IV – BOARD PROCEDURES

A. ADMINISTRATION

The Mission of the ACBL is to serve the bridge-related interests of its members and to promote and sustain the game of bridge.

Section 1 - ACBL Board of Directors

1.1 Role

1.1.1 The ACBL Board of Directors exists to act as trustees for the members' interests as representatives of all the members.

1.1.2 The Board of Directors will direct, oversee and inspire the organization through careful deliberation and establishment of policies.

- 1.1.3 Policies will be statements of values or strategies that address outcomes (what benefits, for whom, at what cost) the boundaries of prudence, effectiveness, ethics and legality to be observed by staff, board roles and responsibilities, and the board-staff relationship.

1.2 Duties

- 1.2.1 Establish an ACBL Mission Statement, in cooperation with ACBL Management, which defines the purpose for existence of the association known as The American Contract Bridge League and which further defines the general goals that the ACBL will strive to achieve.
- 1.2.2 Establish specific goals and objectives, in cooperation with ACBL Management, and ensure that plans and policies are in place to enable their achievement.
- 1.2.3 Monitor the organization's progress against its goals.
- 1.2.4 Provide for required operating and capital resources to be available and ensure that appropriate controls are in place.
- 1.2.5 Hire and review the Chief Executive Officer.

1.3 Responsibilities

- 1.3.1 The Board should require of itself those disciplines needed for excellence in governing. These are among the expectations for Board members:
 - 1.3.1.1 Regular and timely attendance, adequate preparation and careful attention at Board meetings.
 - 1.3.1.2 The ability to communicate electronically via computer to facilitate communication between meetings.
 - 1.3.1.3 Polite, pertinent discussion on the topic and addressed to the Chair.
 - 1.3.1.4 Polite treatment of Board members and Board actions during and between meetings.
 - 1.3.1.5 Newly elected Board members will be expected to attend an orientation program to be held in the Memphis office at a date in January or February following their election.

1.3.1.6 Board members are expected to protect confidentiality of information.

1.4 Special Considerations

1.4.1 NABC Level of NAP and GNT

Members of the ACBL Board of Directors may not represent their districts at the National level in either the NAP or the GNT or in any event that conflicts with regularly scheduled Board meetings. Such restriction is waived for the evening sessions of the GNT when the Board of Directors has no official scheduled function where attendance is expected.

1.4.2 Unit and District Appeal Committees

Members of the Board of Directors may serve on Bridge Appeal Committees in Unit and District events.

Section 2 - Officers

2.1 Board of Directors

The term of office of a director will commence January 1 following the year of election and will continue for a period of three years or until a successor is declared elected and certified by the Board of Directors.

2.2 President

2.2.1 The ACBL President is elected by the Board of Directors for a one-year term.

2.2.2 Guidelines outlining the duties, responsibilities and authority of the ACBL President are in Appendix 1 Duties, Responsibilities and Authority of the president.

2.2.3 The current ACBL President and companion when invited by the host organization will be allowed to play in any Senior sectional or regional or any restricted-by-masterpoint sectional or regional. If not otherwise qualified, no masterpoint awards will be issued.

2.2.4 Vacancy

2.2.4.1 If a vacancy occurs in the office of president, or of president-elect subsequent to election but prior to assumption of office as president, the Board of Directors will act to elect a replacement in not less than 15 nor more than 45 days after the vacancy

occurs. Declarations of candidacy will be required within 14 days.

2.2.4.2 These time periods will start to run with the date the Board of Directors is notified in writing, by any means including electronic transmission, of the vacancy. Notice may be provided by the office-holder, an officer of the corporation, or a member of ACBL Management.

2.2.4.3 Should a regular scheduled meeting occur during this time span, the election will occur at that meeting, otherwise the acting president will conduct an election ballot by alternative means.

2.3 Chairman

The Chairman of the Board of Directors is the immediate past president of the ACBL. He will serve for a period of one year beginning at the expiration of his term of office as president or until his successor takes office. The chairman will preside over the meetings when the president is unavailable.

2.4 Treasurer

2.4.1 The ACBL Treasurer is elected by the Board of Directors for a one-year term.

2.4.2 In addition to the duties set forth in the ACBL Bylaws, the treasurer will:

2.4.2.1 Authorize (at his discretion) all investments on behalf of the Board of Directors;

2.4.2.2 Together with the chairman of the Finance Committee, review Management's proposed budget before presentation to the Board of Directors; and

2.4.2.3 Present a financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors.

2.4.2.4 A vacancy in the office of treasurer will be filled by the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

2.5 ACBL President Emeritus

Duties and Privileges

2.5.1 Is invited to attend all Board of Directors meetings, committee meetings and Board functions.

2.5.2 May be assigned as a substitute on the Executive Committee at the direction of the president.

2.5.3 Has no vote except when otherwise allowable in the following election(s):

- a. ACBL Honorary Members
- b. ACBL Goodwill Committee Chairman
- c. ACBL Charity Foundation Trustees
- d. ACBL Educational Foundation Directors

2.5.4 Membership dues/Life Master service fees are waived.

Section 3 - Elections

The Board of Directors nominating and election procedures for officers and other elected positions follow.

3.1 Nominations

An eligible ACBL member desiring to be a candidate for ACBL President, ACBL Treasurer, WBF Representative or any other position elected by the ACBL Board of Directors, may declare his own nomination by notifying the Executive Assistant to the CEO. In addition, a Board member may declare or nominate an eligible candidate from the floor at the time of the election.

3.2 Voting Procedures

3.2.1 All voting will be by secret ballot.

3.2.2 Single seat available.

3.2.2.1 One person nominated: No vote is necessary; the nominated person is elected.

3.2.2.2 Two people nominated: Voting continues until one of the two nominees gains a majority of members present.

3.2.2.3 Three or more people nominated: Voting will proceed as follows:

- a. On the first ballot, each elector casts one vote. The nominee with the highest number of votes, if a majority, is elected.

- b. If there is no nominee with a clear majority on the first ballot, the one nominee, if any, with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and another vote is taken. If there is no single nominee with the fewest number of votes, then no nominee is eliminated and another vote is taken.

3.2.3 Two or more seats available.

3.2.3.1 Voters will vote for one position at a time. If the terms are different, the positions will be filled in order of term length starting with the longest or longer.

3.2.3.2 The voting will proceed as follows:

- a. On the first ballot, each elector casts one vote. The candidate with the highest number of votes, if a majority, is elected.
- b. If there is no nominee with a clear majority on the first ballot, the one nominee, if any, with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and another vote is taken. If there is no single nominee with the fewest number of votes, then no nominee is eliminated and another vote is taken.

3.2.3.3 Once the first position is filled, the process is repeated for the second and any subsequent position.

3.3 Counting Ballots

League Counsel, if available, and a member or members of Management designated by the ACBL President will count the ballots. The vote count will be announced.

Section 4 – Communications

4.1 Board/Management Communications

4.1.1 Communication between ACBL Board of Directors members and Management and staff will be courteous, responsive, respectful, and polite at all times. Board members should not expect instant replies and should convey that message. Staff should let the Board member know when it will be convenient for them to furnish information. In all cases the following procedures will be followed.

4.1.1.1 All ACBL Board members will have direct access to the CEO. Should any problems or complaints regarding work product or

the conduct of any employee arise, they will be discussed only with the CEO. If necessary, they will be transmitted in writing to the CEO who will investigate, take whatever appropriate action he deems necessary, and inform the complainant of the action taken. Under no circumstances will a member of the Board personally chastise any employee for any reason.

4.1.1.2 Board Members wishing to contact Management or staff with all matters relevant to the committees of the Board of Directors may do so only through the committee chairman. The committee chairman, in appropriate cases, will arrange for direct contact with the relevant member of staff that is assigned to that committee as staff liaison ("CSL"). Committee Chairs may directly contact their CSL on all committee matters.

4.1.1.3 Board Members desiring to communicate with staff on all business matters other than committee matters are encouraged to use e-mail whenever practicable; however, telephone calls are permitted. Telephone calls requesting significant amounts of information or requiring significant time of the employee being called must be cleared with the CEO.

4.1.1.4 Any board member who fails to follow the above procedures will be subject to immediate review by the Board Oversight Committee and subject to the appropriate consequences found in the Board of Directors Behavioral Code.

4.2 The president or his designee will be the official responder to any correspondence addressed to the Board of Directors. Copies of the correspondence with the reply will be sent to all Board members.

4.3 E-mail

4.3.1 Routine correspondence and reports from management to the Board of Directors will be via e-mail. Routine correspondence may be defined as, but not limited to, Management reports, monthly suspension reports, monthly rank changes, and any other non-critical report.

4.3.2 E-Mail sent to Board of Directors members, League Counsel and/or chairman of the Board of Governors will be considered confidential if marked as confidential by the sender.

4.4 Materials and Reports

4.4.1 The Board will maintain confidentiality of personnel matters.

- 4.4.2 Management will provide copies of all pertinent materials to a District Director on any matters in which his District is involved.
- 4.4.3 Documents created by committees are the property of ACBL. The CEO is responsible for determining the appropriate disposition with the exception of the disposition of documents created by the CEO Review Committee.
- 4.4.4 The following board operations documents will be reviewed every two years. They are found in the appendices to this chapter.
 - a. The Welcoming Pamphlet for New Board Members
 - b. Board of Director's Job Description
 - c. Board Member Protocol
 - d. Skills Assessment
 - e. Board Member Standards of Conduct
- 4.4.5 Information that is sent to the Board of Directors that is not of a business nature should also be sent to League Counsel and the chairman of the Board of Governors.

Section 5 - ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code

- 5.1 The Board of Directors is Sole Judge of the deportment of its members.
- 5.2 Other than as relates to Board duties, no Board member will use his Board member status to receive preferential treatment from League staff and, where possible and appropriate, will take reasonable, affirmative steps to avoid receiving such preferential treatment.
- 5.3 The Board of Directors may at any time consider charges against one of its members. Upon an affirmative vote of three-fourth of all Directors for the purpose of such consideration, the president will appoint a committee to investigate such charges. Such committee will report to the Board at its next regular or special meeting, and the Board, after consideration thereof, may by a three-fourths vote censure, publicly reprimand, expel or otherwise discipline such member. In the event of expulsion, the procedures set forth in Article 5.6 of the ACBL Bylaws will apply.
- 5.4 Violations of the League's standards of conduct must be reported promptly to the Chief Executive Officer who will promptly pass this information on to the president or, in his absence, the chairman. If the president has violated the standards, this will be reported to the chairman.
- 5.5 Members of the Board of Directors who violate these standards may, depending on the severity of the violation, be subject to oral admonishment or removal from the Board pursuant to the League's Bylaws.

- 5.6 There will be an oversight committee of the Board whose duties will include addressing issues of conduct by Board members. The Board Oversight Committee will consist of the three most recent past ACBL Presidents who are still members, but are not officers, of the Board of Directors. The most recent ACBL President who is a member of this committee will serve as the chairman.
- 5.7 The Board Oversight Committee will receive complaints from the ACBL President, any member of the Board of Directors or the CEO concerning inappropriate behavior of a board member. The committee will review the facts of the case, make any necessary inquiries of the parties involved and then make a recommendation to the ACBL President or to the Board of Directors about consequences. In some cases the committee may decide that no consequences are appropriate. Nothing in this resolution will replace or abrogate ACBL Human Resources policy or the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations in regards to sexual harassment of ACBL, District or Unit employees.
- 5.8 Offenses for which board members may be referred to the Board Oversight Committee include, but are not limited to:
- 5.8.1 Inappropriate communication with any ACBL employee by telephone, mail, email or in person. Inappropriate communication includes but is not limited to condescending, rude or insulting remarks, and requests for significant amounts of information without going through the appropriate committee chairman. A committee chairman who does not request information through the CEO also falls in this category.
 - 5.8.2 Sexually explicit remarks or behavior toward any employee.
 - 5.8.3 Condescending, rude or insulting remarks made to another board member (or chairman of the Board of Governors) in a board meeting, by phone, mail, or email.
 - 5.8.4 Public statements or actions that would embarrass or damage the credibility of the ACBL or the Board of Directors.
 - 5.8.5 Repeatedly filing late expense reports.
 - 5.8.6 Adding recipients to the list of any email not listed by the original sender of the email or forwarding the email without their permission.
 - 5.8.7 Discussing any personnel matter, other than in a private conversation, in any forum except an Executive Session of the Board of Directors.
 - 5.8.8 Breaching the confidentiality of an Executive Session.

- 5.8.9 Breaching the confidentiality of any ACBL business discussion designated as confidential.
- 5.9 Any board member accused of an offense will have the right to address the Oversight Committee before any action is taken.
- 5.10 Consequences which may be recommended by the Board Oversight Committee include, but are not limited to:
 - 5.10.1 Submission of a motion to the Board of Directors for a private censure in an Executive Session.
 - 5.10.2 Submission of a motion to the Board of Directors for a public censure to be included in the minutes. The motion will only say that the board has censured the member.
 - 5.10.3 Recommendation to the ACBL President that the board member be removed from any Committee Chairmanships.
 - 5.10.4 Recommendation to the ACBL President that the board member be removed from any or all committees except those dictated by other motions. (Example: the Election Protest Committee)
 - 5.10.5 Recommendation to the ACBL President that the board member not be allowed in the president's Suite.
 - 5.10.6 Recommendation to the ACBL President that the CEO instruct employees to have no communication with the board member.
 - 5.10.7 Recommendation that board members have no unnecessary communication with the offending board member.
 - 5.10.8 Submission of a motion to the Board of Directors for removal of the board member for cause. If such a motion is introduced, procedures in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised for Trial of Members, should be followed.
- 5.11 Any board member accused of an offense will have the right to address the Board before any action is taken.

Section 6 – Employment of Board of Directors

- 6.1 No member of the ACBL Board of Directors, or candidate for such position, if elected, or chairman of the ACBL Board of Governors, or the spouse, child, parent, brother, or sister, by blood or marriage, of a Board member or chairman of the Board of Governors, will be employed as a permanent or temporary employee of the ACBL in any capacity other than that of tournament director until at least one year after leaving said position.
- 6.2 The requirement that a past Board member or chairman of the Board of Governors be out of office for at least 12 months will not apply to employment as a tournament director or independent contractor situations where sole payment is on a sales commission formula for quantifiable benefits brought to the ACBL.

Section 7 – Redistricting

- 7.1 The Board recognizes the problems inherent in any plan to redistrict that would change traditional alignments of ACBL's various Units into administrative Districts for the purpose of promoting bridge. Therefore, changes in District alignments will be considered only at the request of a Unit(s) or District(s).
- 7.2 At least once every five years the Board of Directors will review the geographical districting of the ACBL.

Section 8 - Conflict of Interest Policy

8.1 Purpose

The purpose of these standards is to provide safeguards to members of the Board of Directors of the American Contract Bridge League (the "League") from (1) using their positions for purposes that are, or give the appearance of being, motivated by a desire for private financial gain for themselves or others such as those with whom they have family, business or other ties, (2) from violating their duty to the League by inappropriately disclosing confidential information about the League, and (3) from any other acts which may constitute, or may appear to constitute, a conflict of interest. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace the League's bylaws and applicable state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest.

8.2 Private Financial Gain

8.2.1 Financial Interests

- 8.2.1.1 No member of the Board of Directors of the League may participate in the selection, award or administration of a contract

in which he or his immediate family has a direct or indirect financial interest or with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.

8.2.1.2 No member of the Board of Directors or spouse, child, parent, brother, or sister, by blood or marriage of an employee may vote on any matter which may directly or indirectly result in financial gain to that individual member, or which may conflict with that member's obligations to another organization or to his employer, it being understood that Board members may vote on matters which have a financial effect applying equally to all Board members. Provided that the member of the Board of Directors has first disclosed a conflict or potential conflict, and abstains from voting in that regard, he may make a presentation to the Board of Directors relating to that matter and may participate in the discussion.

8.2.2 Compensation to Members of the Board of Directors

8.2.2.1 The League may reimburse members of the Board of Directors for reasonable expenses actually incurred by reason of their participation in Board activities such as travel expenses, meals and incidentals.

8.2.2.2 The League will not compensate members of the Board of Directors for services rendered in the ordinary course of service as members of the Board of Directors. If a member of the Board of Directors, or an immediate family member, employer (or prospective employer), or business associate of such Board member, is qualified to perform services for the League, the League may consider contracting with that person (or entity) for such services, provided that: (1) the League's procurement policies will be adhered to; (2) the affected member of the Board of Directors will not participate in the discussion or vote on the selection; (3) the contract is in all respects "arms-length" and (4) the contract is determined to be in the best interests of the League.

8.2.3 Gifts/Gratuities

The members of the Board of Directors of the League may not solicit or accept gifts, gratuities, favors or anything of value from contractors or potential contractors of the League. A gift means anything offered directly by or on behalf of a contractor other than promotional materials of little or nominal value such as pens, calendars and other items intended for wide distribution. Any member of the Board of Directors will decline or

return any gift and notify the Corporate Chief Executive Officer and the president or in the absence of the president the chairman of the Board of such gift.

8.3 Confidential Information

8.3.1 Members of the Board of Directors may gain access to confidential (i.e. non-public) information by virtue of their position within the League. Confidential information includes (but is not limited to) information relating to the League's business practices.

8.3.2 Members of the Board may not communicate confidential information about the League to anyone who is not also a member of the Board, respectively, absent the explicit authorization of the president or Chief Executive Officer. If, as a result of negotiations in which the League is engaged, a member of the Board gains access to confidential information of another entity, the member of the Board may not communicate this information about the other entity to anyone who is not also a member of the Board, without the authorization of the president or Chief Executive Officer. If the League executes an agreement with another entity which agreement includes provisions governing confidentiality of information, all members of the Board are bound by those provisions and required to comply with them.

8.4 Disclosures

8.4.1 The League requires that all members of the Board of Directors disclose in writing (and update at least annually) all business and family relationships which might potentially create a conflict of interest on a form similar to that attached to this policy.

8.4.2 If a member of the Board of Directors believes that he, a member of his immediate family or partner has a direct or indirect financial interest in a contract of the League, he must immediately disclose this in writing to the Chief Executive Officer. Disclosures by members of the Board of Directors must also be made to the president (and if it is the president who has such a financial interest, he must make disclosure to the chairman).

8.5 Political Activities

8.5.1 No member of the Board of Directors may use the League's name, facility, or resources in connection with political activities.

8.5.2 Members of the Board of Directors may not solicit political support in any manner which might suggest that the League supports any political party or candidate. No member of the Board of Directors will, in any manner,

solicit financial assistance or subscription for any political party, candidate, fund, publication, or for any other political purpose from League employees in the workplace or otherwise in an employment-related setting.

Effective Immediately

Carried. Nay: 1, 7.

Item 081-23: Rescinded Board Procedures – Administration

The following items relating to Board Procedures - Administration are rescinded:

713-53, 752-13, 822-11, 842-34, 883-001, 903-11, 911-26b.,931-62, 961-04, 961-67, 963-04, 971-177, 972-40, 973-59, 981-69, 982-39, 983-45, 991-46, 992-41, 992-46, 993-47, 011-49, 011-50, 013-45, 032-53, 032-54, 042-48, 042-54, 043-55, 051-141, 063-29, and 063-121.

Effective Immediately.

Carried unanimously.

Item 081-24: Chapter IV – Board Procedures – D. Committees

CHAPTER IV - BOARD PROCEDURES

D. COMMITTEES

The Board will utilize committees to help accomplish its work. The committees will assist by recommending policy, actions or alternatives for Board deliberations. There are five types of committees: Standing, Permanent, Special, Management, and Other ACBL Bodies.

Section 1 – Standing Committees

The following are Standing Committees named within the ACBL Bylaws.

1.1 Executive Committee

1.1.1 Purpose

1.1.1.1 The purpose of the Executive Committee is to transact business of a time sensitive nature requiring immediate action between Board of Directors meetings. The Executive Committee is answerable to the Board of Directors and subject to its general

direction. It will have additional powers as the Board may delegate to it from time to time.

1.1.1.2 When the committee determines that exigent circumstances exist, the committee may act for the Board on matters otherwise requiring two readings.

1.1.2 Composition

1.1.2.1 The committee is comprised of the president of the ACBL and chairman of the Board of Directors who are ex officio members with full voting rights, the treasurer of the ACBL, who will be an ex officio member without voting rights, and three elected members of the Board of Directors.

1.1.2.2 The president of the ACBL is the chairman of the committee. In the absence of the president, the chairman of the Board of Directors serves as chairman of the committee.

1.1.3 Term of Office

1.1.3.1 Elected members serve a three-year term beginning January 1.

1.1.3.2 An elected representative is not eligible for election to an immediate successive term. This proviso does not preclude serving in one of the ex officio positions.

1.1.4 Election

1.1.4.1 One representative will be elected from each of three zones: Eastern (Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 24, 25); Central (Districts 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16) and Western (Districts 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23). If the treasurer is a zonal representative, he will have voting rights in his capacity as an elected representative.

1.1.4.2 A member of the Board will be nominated and elected to the Executive Committee by a majority vote of the District Directors of the applicable zone. In the event of a tie vote on the first ballot, the Directors of the applicable zone will have a second ballot. If a tie remains after the second ballot, the full Board will decide between the nominees in accordance with the Board of Directors election procedures.

1.1.4.3 Each zone will elect an alternate representative to serve on the committee when the primary committee member is

unavailable. Alternates will be nominated and elected in the same manner as the primary committee member.

- 1.1.4.4 In case an elected zonal member of the Executive Committee resigns, or his term as District Director expires during his term as a member of the Executive Committee and he is not reelected to another term as District Director, or if the elected zonal member becomes a voting ex officio of the committee, the vacancy will be filled by the alternate zonal representative.
- 1.1.4.5 Directors from the affected zone will elect a new alternate. If a tie for the new alternate remains after a second ballot, the full Board will decide in accordance with the Board of Directors election procedures.
- 1.1.4.6 Election of zonal representatives will be at the fall meeting of the Board of Directors, with the following rotation:

Western zone	Fall 2007	Term 2008 through 2010
Central zone	Fall 2008	Term 2009 through 2011
Eastern zone	Fall 2009	Term 2010 through 2012

This rotation will repeat on a three year cycle.

1.1.5 Meetings

- 1.1.5.1 Meetings may be called by the president or by a majority of the voting members of the committee. Meetings (and therefore voting) may be held only in person or by conference call.
- 1.1.5.2 A majority of the voting members of the committee will constitute a quorum.
- 1.1.5.3 Notice to all members and alternates of the committee should be delivered by e-mail, telephone, first class mail, facsimile transmission, or in person at least 72 hours in advance, if possible. Meetings may be called on shorter notice at the discretion of the president or a majority of the committee. There will be a stated time limit for the committee member to respond to the notice. The notice will include a statement of the purposes of the meeting, and the business transacted at such meeting will be limited to those stated purposes. Committee members will acknowledge receipt of notice as soon as possible.

1.1.6 Reporting: The minutes of the Executive Committee will be submitted to the Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting.

1.2 Finance Committee

1.2.1 The Finance committee examines all financial-related matters and determines whether proposed expenditures may be made within Board guidelines for liquidity and capital preservation. (It is Management's function to allocate money according to policy set by the Board and objectives created under strategic planning).

1.2.2 The president appoints the chairman and members at the beginning of his term.

1.2.3 Membership is comprised of Board members.

1.3 Audit Committee

1.3.1 The Audit Committee provides independent oversight of internal controls within the ACBL, determines whether there are problems that should be reported to the Board, confers independently with the internal auditors and the independent accountants, reviews non-audit services to be performed by the independent accountants, and determines the fees for audit and non-audit services performed by the independent accountants, and recommends the appointment of outside auditors.

1.3.2 The president appoints the chairman and members at the beginning of his term. The committee will be comprised of three members of the Board of Directors who are not currently officers of the board and who have not been officers during the current year and previous year.

(See Appendix 3 for the *Audit Committee Charter*)

1.4 Laws Commission

1.4.1 There will be an ACBL Laws Commission which will prepare the Laws under which both duplicate and rubber bridge games will be governed. These Laws may be reviewed and revised periodically by the Commission.

1.4.2 The Commission will consist of a minimum of nine (9) members and a maximum of fifteen (15) members. The committee will elect the chairman of the Laws Commission from among its members. The members will be appointed by the president of the ACBL with the

approval of the Board of Directors and each will serve for a five (5) year term.

1.4.3 The Commission members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. The term of office will begin on the day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.

1.4.4 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the vacancy so created will be filled by the president at the next meeting of the Board of Directors and is subject to board approval. The newly appointed members will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

1.4.5 Members of the Laws Commission who are not members of the ACBL Board of Directors or employees of the ACBL will receive one two-session entry to an NABC+ event or lower. Good for one year from date of receipt at the conclusion of their meetings at each NABC. Only those in attendance for all required meetings will be compensated.

1.4.6 Any member of the ACBL Laws Commission that has an unexcused absence as determined by the committee chairman for three consecutive meetings will be considered as resigned and the president will appoint someone to finish out the remaining term.

1.5 National Appeals and Charges

1.5.1 The Appeals and Charges Committee reviews and hears disciplinary cases on behalf of the full Board. In addition to those responsibilities of hearing appeals and reviewing cases, the Appeals & Charges committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for any agenda items dealing with conduct, deportment and ethics and any regulations involving same.

1.5.2 The president appoints the chairman and members at the beginning of his term.

1.5.3 Membership is comprised of Board members.

1.5.4 Disciplinary Hearing - When a disciplinary hearing is held before the Appeals and Charges Committee, the following rules will apply:

1.5.4.1 When witnesses are being heard, all Board members are permitted to be present, but only members of the Appeals and Charges Committee will ask questions of the witnesses or otherwise participate directly in the proceedings.

1.5.4.2 All findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Appeals and Charges Committee will be made by vote of only the members of the committee.

1.5.5 Rights of Members

1.5.5.1 The Board of Directors delegates to and confers upon the National Appeals and Charges Committee the right and power to act in the Board's behalf in all matters referred to it under the Bylaws and Regulations, provided, however, that in any case which the committee deems proper, it will refer the matter to the Full Board for disposition.

1.5.5.2 Adequate procedures and regulations are in effect to protect the rights and conveniences of members who are unable to personally appear before the committee. Specifically, without limitation, such procedures include:

- a. The consideration of affidavits and other evidence.
- b. The appointment of its special representatives to conduct fact finding investigations.
- c. The conduct of its own hearings at any time, and at any place, which seems appropriate.

1.5.5.3 Adequate regulations and procedures are in effect at all playoffs and national championships, so that the ACBL can have hearings and make rulings on the spot at such tournaments. In no event would it be necessary to call a Board of Directors' meeting to consider any action in the case of infractions of rules, appeals of any kind whatsoever, including discipline felonies, as such decisions are rendered promptly on the spot and are considered final for purposes of the event involved.

1.5.6 Reports

1.5.6.1 In reporting to the Appeals and Charges Committee on Tournament Committee proceedings involving a player, Management will include a summary of prior reports and other pertinent matters concerning that player.

1.5.6.2 The Appeals and Charges Committee will review all reports involving players and advise the Board when action of any kind is indicated.

1.5.7 Conflict of Interest

1.5.7.1 No District Director will serve on a committee hearing an election protest or appeal from his/her own district involving that person, nor will he/she be allowed to vote on such an appeal if said appeal comes before the ACBL Board of Directors.

1.5.7.2 All parties to the appeal may be present during a committee or ACBL Board hearing and allowed to speak.

1.5.8 Jurisdiction of Disputes: The Appeals and Charges Committee will act for the ACBL Board of Directors on all matters involving discipline brought to the Board of Directors, unless the committee declines, in which case such matter will be heard and decided by the full Board or when the ACBL Board of Directors decides to act itself. All matters of a non-disciplinary nature will be decided by the Board.

Section 2 – Permanent Committees

- 2.1 A permanent committee is a body established by the Board of Directors to address a functional area for which there is a need for continuing evaluation. It will report the results of its deliberations to the Board of Directors at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 2.2 The president appoints the chairman and members at the beginning of his term. Membership is comprised of Board members.
- 2.3 Each of the committees (except Appeals and Charges) will participate in planning and will recommend policies. Each committee may have subcommittees whose members need not be members of the committee.
- 2.4 The effectiveness of committees may be improved if reports to be made to the full Board (i.e., CEO, League Counsel, and Treasurer) are heard before committee meetings commence, as these reports may impact on discussion.
- 2.5 The chairman of a Board of Directors committee or his designee is responsible for presenting his committee's motions to the Board as a whole for consideration or vote. Other duties of chairman continue to rest with the ACBL President or his designee.
- 2.6 The committee chairman coordinates the activities of that committee and keeps the president and/or CEO informed of its progress toward achieving the purpose for which it was established.

- 2.7 Permanent Bylaws committee.
 - 2.7.1 The purpose of this committee is to review the ACBL Bylaws as needed and suggest appropriate revisions.
 - 2.7.2 The committee will consist of seven people appointed as follows: Four members of the board of directors (one of whom will be the chairman) to be selected by the president; one member to be selected by the Board of Governors and two members to be selected by the ACBL CEO. The presidential appointments of four board of directors members to the ACBL Bylaws committee are restricted to Board members and do not require Board approval.
- 2.8 CEO Review Committee - The term of office for each CEO Review Committee will be from the end of the Spring Board of Directors meeting to the end of the Spring Board of Directors meeting of the following year.
- 2.9 National Tournament
 - 2.9.1 Management will, upon review of the conditions of contest, determine if there is a need to convene the National Tournament Committee.
 - 2.9.2 The chairman of the Board Bridge Committee will be the chairman of the National Tournament Committee.
 - 2.9.3 The National Tournament Committee will have a minimum of five Board members. If there are fewer than five Board members at the tournament site who can serve on the committee, a conference call will be used to include enough additional Board members to meet the five Board member requirement. Members of the Bridge and Tournament Committees of the Board of Directors will be the first ones called for this duty.

Section 3 – Special Committees

- 3.1 A special committee is a body established by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, or the president to address a special purpose. It will meet, exist and report as required by the provisions of the enabling legislation. Enabling legislation will include commencement and termination dates/events.
- 3.2 Meetings of special committees held other than at the site of an NABC must be authorized by the president.
- 3.3 The president appoints the chairman and members of special committees.

Section 4 – Management Committees

- 4.1 A Management committee is a body established by the CEO to accomplish functions assigned to the staff by appropriate authorities.
- 4.2 The CEO appoints employees of ACBL as staff liaison or as members to committees subject to the provisions of the enabling legislation under which the committee is established. Staff liaison provides assistance to that committee, coordinates input to that committee from other staff elements and keeps the CEO informed of the workload placed on other staff elements and its progress toward achieving the purpose for which the committee was established.

Section 5 - Other ACBL bodies

Other ACBL bodies are non-Board committees established by the Board of Directors to accomplish goals and objectives deemed appropriate. These entities operate in accordance with, and under the provisions of, the enabling legislation.

- 5.1 NABC Tournament Appeals Committee
 - 5.1.1 At the beginning of each calendar year, the president will appoint one member of the Board of Directors to serve as Director of the Tournament Appeals Committee at NABCs. The Director will not serve on any committee involving conduct or ethics, or involving any other matter that might result in an appeal to the Board of Directors. No other member of the Board may serve in any capacity on this committee.
 - 5.1.2 The Director of Appeals is responsible for the NABC Tournament Conduct Committee and for the NABC Tournament Appeals Committee. The Director of Appeals will:
 - 5.1.2.1 In conjunction with the chairman of the NABC Appeals Committee, recommend and approve members for the NABC Appeals Committee and participants on NABC Conduct Committees.
 - 5.1.2.2 Be the liaison among the ACBL Board of Directors, Management, and Committees.
 - 5.1.2.3 Participate in planning for committees and in education of members of these committees.
 - 5.1.2.4 Be present at NABCs throughout the tournament, participate in the selection of appeals committees for NAP and GNT events, and participate in the selection of committees involving conduct and discipline, other than matters referred to Ethical Oversight.

- 5.1.2.5 Prepare and present a report of actions from the NABC to the subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors and review reports of appeals before they are posted on the website.
- 5.1.3 The Director of Appeals will receive one-half room night with tax for each day that he remains at the tournament after the normal Board provisions expire.
- 5.1.4 At the beginning of each calendar year, the president will appoint the chairman of the NABC Appeals Committee. The Executive Committee will approve the appointment before the beginning of the Spring NABC.
- 5.1.5 The Director and chairman and/or Co-chairmen will have the sole responsibility of determining the membership of the NABC Appeals Committee.
 - 5.1.5.1 The chairman of the NABC Appeals Committee will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with official committee business. Any extraordinary committee member expenses must be pre-approved by the ACBL President or his designee.
 - 5.1.5.2 Persons who serve on NABC Appeals committees will receive \$10 in Bridge Bucks for each committee service and \$10 in bridge bucks will be given to the scribe for each Appeals Committee. Exceptions to these compensation guidelines may be approved by the Director or chairman of Appeals.

5.2 NABC Tournament Conduct Committee

The process for forming an NABC Tournament Conduct Committee will be as follows:

- 5.2.1 The NABC Appeals Committee Chairman will appoint the committee from:
 - A. A list of names supplied by the ACBL President that has been submitted by the District Directors;
 - B. The membership of the NABC Appeals Committee;
 - C. The membership of the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee;
 - and/or
 - D. The membership at large, if needed.
- 5.2.2 When the committee hears a charge relating only to conduct, the chairman will select the committee from available members in categories A and D

above. The chairman will select the person to chair the hearing from among the committee members.

5.2.3 When the committee hears a charge which includes an ethics violation, the chairman will select the committee from available members from the NABC Appeals Committee and/or the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee and/or, if needed from the membership at large. The chairman will select the person to chair the hearing from among the committee members.

5.2.4 The chairman of the NABC Tournament Conduct Committee and all members serving on a case will be compensated. The guideline for the amount of the compensation is the value of a two-session entry to an NABC+ event for each day the committee meets.

5.3 ACBL Disciplinary Committee

5.3.1 The committee will hear cases regarding matters specified in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) or other original cases when so instructed by the ACBL Board of Directors.

5.3.2 The committee will consist of nine members appointed by the president for three year staggered terms.

5.3.3 Should there be a need for this committee to hear a case per the CDR, management will notify the committee chairman. The chairman will seat a committee of five or seven members from among the membership of the Disciplinary Committee to hear the case.

5.3.4 The president, after consultation with the current chairman, appoints the ACBL Disciplinary Committee members. Appointments are subject to Board approval.

5.3.5 The committee elects the chairman for a one-year term from among its members.

5.3.6 The ACBL Disciplinary Committee members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. The term of office will begin on the day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.

5.3.7 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the vacancy so created will be filled by the president at the next meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to board approval. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

5.3.8 The chairman of the ACBL Disciplinary Committee and all members serving on a case will be compensated. The guideline for the amount of the compensation is the value of a two-session entry to an NABC+ event for each day the committee meets.

5.4 Competition and Conventions

5.4.1 The purpose of the Competition and Conventions Committee is to review conventions and the convention charts, the alert procedure, the convention card and conditions of contest plus any other competitive aspects of bridge play, such as timing and procedures. The committee will meet at each NABC. A report of each meeting will be distributed to the Board of Directors as soon as practicable.

5.4.2 The Competition and Conventions Committee will consist of at least six and a maximum of eleven members who will be appointed by the president in consultation with the C & C committee chairman. The term of office for each member will be as follows: three members will be permanently assigned, the positions of chief tournament director, chairman of the Board Tournament committee, and the chairman of the Board Bridge committee; four experts given three-year terms (staggered); and the remainder of the committee (a maximum of four additional positions) given one-year terms.

5.4.3 The president, after consultation with the current chairman, appoints Competition and Conventions Committee members. Appointments are subject to Board approval.

5.4.4 The committee will elect the chairman of the ACBL Competition and Conventions Committee from among its members for a one year term, rotating at least every three years.

5.4.5 The Competition and Conventions Committee members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. The term of office will begin on the day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.

5.4.6 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the vacancy so created will be filled by the president at the next meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to board approval. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

5.4.7 Members of the Competition and Conventions Committee who are not members of the ACBL Board of Directors or employees of the ACBL will receive one two-session entry per meeting to an NABC+ event or lower. It

is good for one year from date of receipt. Only those in attendance for all required meetings will be compensated.

- 5.4.8 Any member of the Competitions and Conventions Committee that has an unexcused absence as determined by the committee chairman for three consecutive meetings will be considered as resigned and the president will appoint someone to finish out the remaining term.
- 5.4.9 The Board of Governors will appoint three members to attend the Competitions and Conventions Committee meetings as non-voting members. The representatives will receive the same compensation as the voting members of the committee.

5.5 Ethical Oversight

- 5.5.1 The committee will be a disciplinary body of the ACBL whose responsibilities will include, but not be limited to, adjudicating cases of alleged cheating by use of signals or other unauthorized information.
- 5.5.2 The Ethical Oversight Committee will consist of fifteen members. Five members will be appointed each year for staggered three-year terms by the ACBL President.
- 5.5.3 During their tenure in office, members may not be dismissed except for grossly inappropriate behavior. If the president of the ACBL or the chairman of the Ethical Oversight Committee calls together the members of the committee, they may, by majority vote, remove a member of the committee.
- 5.5.4 The president, after consultation with the current chairman, appoints Ethical Oversight Committee members. Appointments are subject to Board approval.
- 5.5.5 The committee elects the Ethical Oversight chairman from among its members. The chairman may not serve more than 3 consecutive one-year terms.
- 5.5.6 The Ethical Oversight Committee members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. The term of office will begin on the day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.
- 5.5.7 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the vacancy so created will be filled by the president at the next meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to board approval. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

- 5.5.8 The Chairman of the Ethical Oversight Committee will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with official committee business. Any extraordinary committee member expenses must be pre-approved by the ACBL President or his designee.
 - 5.5.9 The Chairman of the Ethical Oversight Committee and all members serving on a case will be compensated. The guideline for the amount of the compensation is the value of a two-session entry to an NABC+ event for each day the committee meets.
- 5.6 Hall of Fame Committee
- 5.6.1 The Hall of Fame Committee will be a nine-member committee with staggered three year terms, with one member from Canada, Mexico, or Bermuda. A committee member may only serve two consecutive terms but may be reappointed after a one-year hiatus.
 - 5.6.2 The president, after consultation with the current chairman, appoints the Hall of Fame Committee members. Appointments are subject to Board approval.
 - 5.6.3 The committee will elect the chairman from among its members for a one-year term.
 - 5.6.4 The Hall of Fame Committee members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. The term of office will begin on the day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.
 - 5.6.5 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the vacancy so created will be filled by the president at the next meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to board approval. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
 - 5.6.6 Any member of the Hall of Fame Committee that has an unexcused absence as determined by the committee chairman for three consecutive meetings will be considered as resigned and the president will appoint someone to finish out the remaining term.
- 5.7 ACBL 401k / Pension Plan Trustees
- 5.7.1 401k Trustees will consist of two persons elected at Spring board meetings for four-year terms, which start immediately after election. The ACBL CEO, or his designee, will serve as a 401k Trustee.
 - 5.7.2 401k Trustees will be elected to staggered terms in odd-numbered years.

5.7.3 Pension Fund Trustees will consist of two persons elected at Spring board meetings for four-year terms, which start immediately after election. The ACBL CEO, or his designee, will serve as a Pension Fund Trustee.

5.7.4 Pension Fund Trustees will be elected to staggered terms in even-numbered years.

5.8 NABC Seeding Committee

At the beginning of each calendar year, the chairman of the Seeding Committee will be appointed by the president. The Executive Committee will approve the appointment before the beginning of the Spring NABC.

5.9 Goodwill Committee Appointments

5.9.1. A Goodwill Committee appointment is a lifetime appointment as long as the member is a member in “good standing.” If a member loses good standing, the member’s Goodwill Committee appointment will be suspended until the member regains good standing.

5.9.2 Expulsion from the ACBL, suspension for one year or longer or probation for two years or longer will result in permanent removal from the Goodwill Committee.

Section 6 - Establishing New Committees

6.1 A committee may be proposed to the Board of Directors for consideration:

6.1.1 by the Board of Governors

6.1.2 by a member, members or committee of the Board of Directors

6.1.3 by management

6.2 On an emergency basis a new committee may be established by the Executive Committee on the recommendation of the president.

Section 7 - Management of Committees

7.1 Management will maintain a record of committees currently active. An updated notebook, Committees and Special Appointments, which includes all standing, permanent, management, special, and other ACBL bodies appointed by the ACBL President, or ACBL Management (when the committee is to work with the Board of Directors) will be maintained. Any reimbursements and/or compensation will be included.

7.2 The CEO will provide the required staff support to committees as approved by the president.

Effective Immediately.

Carried. Nay: 1

Item 081-25: Rescinded Board Procedures – Committees

The following motions relating to Chapter IV - Board Procedures - D. Committees are rescinded:

761-102, 763-1, 771-2, 771-3, 873-118, 873-48, 893-62, 952-69, 952-106, 961-05, 961-110, 963-38, 972-202, 973-117, 981-47, 982-41, 003-55, 013-40, 022-21, 023-36, 023-43, 031-49, 032-52, 033-47, 043-49, 051-141, 053-33, 061-39, 062-25, 062-26, 062-27, 062-28, 062-29, 062-38, 062-121, 063-26, 063-29, 071-120, 071-29, 072-16, 073-25 and 073-28.

Carried unanimously.

FINANCE / BUDGET

Fleming (C) Robinson (VC)
Cook, DeMartino, Kirkham, Reid, Retek
Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-40 STaC Fees

Management's plan for STaC charges is as follows. The director fees and a sliding scale for table fees are combined.

Effective March 31, 2008

Carried. Nay: 3, 6, 12, 24, 25.

AUDIT

Retek (C), Reid
Committee Report by Chairman

Item 081-10: Audit Regulations

The Audit Committee is updating its regulations and guidelines and will report at the Summer 2008 meeting.

Carried unanimously.

* * * * *

081-138: Education Status Report

The Education status report is received.

Carried.

081-139: Special Events Status Report

The Special events status report is received.

Carried.

Electronic /Devices

The following policy will apply to all NABC events, effective July 1, 2008.

Electronic devices, excluding health related equipment, capable of sending or receiving communication, including but not limited to, headphones, earphones, cellular phones and minicomputers:

- 1) will not be allowed in the playing areas, adjacent hallways, rest rooms or accessible break areas; and
- 2) will not be used during a session.

These restrictions will apply to all pairs, team members, captains, coaches, recorders and kibitzers and will apply throughout any actual playing session or segment.

A violation of this policy will result in a disciplinary penalty of one full board (12 IMPs at that form of scoring) for the first offense. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event for the pair / team.

Kibitzers violating this policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

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Closing Remarks

It was moved by Retek and carried unanimously that the Board expresses its thanks to District 12 and its units, District Director and Tournament Co-Chair Bill Arlinghaus, and Co-Chairs Sandy Arlinghaus and Ron Horwitz, and all of the other chairpersons and numerous volunteers. We also thank the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center Hotel for its fine cooperation.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned *sine die* at 11:20 a.m.