

## CHAPTER III - ADMINISTRATION

### A. UNIT AND DISTRICT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Sale of Financial Management of a Tournament (723-51) R See A 4.1 and B 2.1.1

The Board reaffirms that Units bear the full responsibility for Sectional Tournaments sanctioned to them, and that Districts bear the full responsibility for Regional Tournaments sanctioned to them, regardless of the actual individual or group undertaking Management functions.

#### Costs and Procedures of District Judiciary Committees (733-6A) R See B 2.2

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

#### Resignation of a Unit Board (733-31) R See A 3.5

Regulation IV, D, 2, is amended to read:

If there is no effective governing body of a Unit, whether because of suspension, expulsion, revocation of charter, resignation of the Unit Board, refusal to act, or for any other reason, the CEO shall appoint an Administrator or an Administrative Board to conduct Unit business, to provide for custody of the Unit's assets and to arrange for the resumption of the conduct of the Unit's affairs by a properly elected Board of Directors.

#### District Organizations (743-32) R – See A 1.3.3 and B 1.7

Bylaws and regulations of District Organizations shall not contravene ACBL Bylaws and Regulations. Each District Organization shall submit its Bylaws and Amendments to the ACBL for filing. This supersedes July 1966 action that "District Organization By laws must be approved by the League before becoming effective."

#### Days for Holding Unit-Wide Games (772-34) Rescinded by 953-64

Management is given the prerogative of exempting a Unit from Unit-Wide game regulations pertaining to the sanctioning of these events on different days of the week.

#### District Assessments (793-22) R See B 2.3.1 , B 2.3.2 and B 2.3.2

1. Districts do not have the right to fix dues, whether in the form of assessments or otherwise.
2. Districts may enter into agreements with constituent Units for voluntary contributions for purposes consistent with the objectives of the ACBL and the District, such as, but not limited to, hosting a National or International event or sustaining the District Organization.
3. None of the foregoing shall be construed as prohibiting District Organizations from controlling Regionals, or including, but not limited to, a per-table charge.

#### ACBL Districts (802-62) R See B 1.1

District regulations are approved as follows:

- A. Every District must have a District Organization and District Bylaws.

- B. The Bylaws shall provide for the establishment of a democratically composed District Organization. District Bylaws shall be submitted to the District Supervisor not later than January 1, 1981. Sample District Bylaws will be furnished upon request.
- C. The District Organization must establish a Judiciary Committee.
- D. The District Organization may appoint a District Tournament Coordinator whose job shall be to screen all sanction applications for Sectional tournaments and other special games; advise the Units within the District of any scheduling conflicts, and resolve said conflicts.
- E. Except where regulations give specific authority to the District Director, each District Organization shall have complete supervision over all red point events allocated to that District, including allocation of Regional tournaments to Units or playing area, and supervision of the Grand National Open Teams and Open Pairs.

Membership Games for Units (803-63) **R See A 4.2.1**

Any Unit holding regularly sanctioned Novice games is permitted to conduct a Novice Membership Game on the same basis as any other sanctioned club. Effective with 1982 Membership games.

Unit-wide Championships (882-25) (942-74) **R See A 4.2.2**

A qualified Unit may combine with another qualified Unit to hold a combined Unit-wide game. The game will be charged against the quotas of each Unit. Unit-wide championships may be conducted as stratified events.

Payment of Tournament Funds Due the ACBL (853-27) **R See A 4.1.2**

Sponsoring organizations are required to pay the Director- in-Charge all funds due the ACBL at the conclusion of the tournament.

Educational Committee (881-33) **R See A 2.2.9**

Units and/or Districts shall designate a member to serve as a liaison with the ACBL for the purpose of furthering our Educational programs. Management shall present a progress report containing the names of the appointees at the 1988 Summer Meetings.

Transfer or Division of a Unit (912-24) **R See A 3.3.8**

When a Unit is divided to form a second Unit or a minimum segment of 20% of a Unit membership is transferred to another Unit, assets of the Unit are subject to division on an equitable basis. If an amicable division of assets cannot be reached voluntarily by the parties and mediation by the District fails, both parties shall submit to bind arbitration. All costs for the arbitration process shall be paid for from Unit funds.

Membership of a Unit for ACBL Elections (921-21) (921-24) (973-53) **R see D 3**

The membership of a Unit shall consist of its active members (to include those members who are Life Members or who hold reduced price memberships) in determining the allocation of votes to Units for ACBL-wide and District-wide elections. For this purpose, educational/promotional members will not be counted.

Tournament Directors Serving on Unit and District Boards (922-24) (923-24) **R see A 2.6.1 and B 2.6**

Active, rated Tournament Directors may not serve on Unit and District Boards as a voting member.

B. The regulation which prevents active rated tournament directors from serving as voting members on Unit and District Boards (Item 922-24) is reaffirmed. In addition, an active rated tournament director may not serve as a proxy to vote at Unit and District Meetings.

Late Charge for Reports Overdue from Unit-wide Games, Unit Special Games and Special Events Games (931-48) **R part A only See A 4.2.3 Leave Part B & C in for now. They should be included in Chapter V Section C Clubs when that is done.**

A. A Unit that is late in reporting Unit-wide games or Unit Special games will be sent one follow-up letter that allows 15 days for submitting the report and monies due. If after 20 days ACBL has not received the report and monies due, a \$25.00 late charge will be assessed. All subsequent Unit games will be suspended until the appropriate report and monies are received at Headquarters.

Membership Residency Requirements (931-86) **Rescinded by 032-75**

Members of the ACBL are normally expected to belong to the Unit in which they reside. If a member chooses to belong to a Unit in which he/she does not reside, the member must specifically make this request in writing to the ACBL stating the Unit of preference and the reasons for the request. Further, if the Unit is not in the same District as where he/she resides, both Districts must approve the membership in the other District. The following are some of the reasons why a member would be given permission to belong to a Unit outside the District of residence:

1. Plays at least once a month in a club in that Unit, or
2. Attends STaCs or Sectionals in the Unit at least twice a year, or
3. Attends the annual Unit dinner and/or membership meeting, or
4. Participates in Unit special events, or
5. Serves on the Unit Board and/or Unit committees, or
6. Serves on the District board and/or District Committees, or
7. Has been a member of that Unit and wishes to remain.

If it is determined that a member requests a change of Unit membership for the sole purpose of Grand National Teams (GNT) or North American Pairs (NAP) play, the request must be denied.

The membership approval granted by a District in which the member does not reside will be reviewed by that district every five years to assure the above criteria continue to justify non-residency membership.

Minimum Table Requirement for Unit-Wide Games (941-43) **R see A 4.2.4**

Effective immediately, a minimum of five tables are required at each site for Unit-wide games.

Playing Directors at Unit Games (943-71) **R See A 4.2.5**

A playing director is permitted at Unit championships that do not have combined site overall awards.

Handbook of Rules and Regulations (952-65)

A. Chapter 3, Section Two, II, final paragraph of the ACBL Handbook is amended as follows:

"The unit may run games on behalf of ACBL and/or the district where there is a void." **R see A 4.2.6**

B. Chapter 3, Section Five, Paragraph 2, second sentence is replaced with: "It is ACBL policy that unit bylaws and any subsequent amendments, deletions or additions be approved by the unit's membership." **R see A 2.2.3.1**

Audit of Districts and Units (971-105) **R See B 2.4 and A 2.2.10**

All units and districts are strongly urged to conduct an annual audit of their financial records. If an external audit by an independent professional is deemed too expensive, it is recommended that units and districts appoint an internal audit committee to, as a minimum, verify cash and cash equivalents and test major income and expense items.

Unit-Wide and Unit Championship Games (972-68) **R See A 4.2.7**

Current policy is amended to allow more than one unit-wide championship game to be held on the same day of the week.

Unit Officer Elections (993-48) **R See A 2.2.6.2**

A unit is allowed to elect its officers either by vote of the general membership or by vote of the unit board.

Electronic Business Methods (002-50) **R See B 2.5 and A1 3 11**

Management is authorized to require, at its discretion, business between ACBL and Districts or Units to be conducted electronically.

Elections of ACBL Director, Alternates & Representatives (012-45) **This should be in the Elections Section D. Make sure it is and then rescind it here.**

The following is to clarify some Election procedures:

Declaration of Candidacy

Present regulation reads:

"The declaration must be received by the Director of Elections (D.E.) Prior to June 1st of the year in which such Director or Representative will be elected".

For this purpose "received" will be defined as: received at ACBL Headquarters later than 5 p.m. CDT on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Should May 31 be a Saturday or Sunday, then it will be the first business day following May 31. Receipt can be by mail, fax, delivery, e-mail

(postmarked prior to June 1st, but received after May 31 will not be considered as received on time).

In the physical absence of the D.E., the CEO of the ACBL (or his nominee) will act as D.E. on the last day designated to receive declarations. Candidates should request written confirmation from the Director of Elections that their declaration had been received by the ACBL. In the absence of such confirmation the onus of proof of timely filing rests with the candidate.

Unit Special Games (012-133) **Leave in for now. This belongs in Chapter V Sec D and we'll rescind it when we work that chapter**

Each ACBL-sanctioned Unit will be allowed during Junior Month in February to hold one Sectional-rated game to benefit the Junior Fund, and a Unit will be allowed to hold one Sectional-rated Charity/International Fund game during each ACBL Charity/International Fund week, provided either that the Unit is sanctioned to hold a game on the date and session requested, or that there are no clubs within a 25 mile radius of the Unit game site that regularly hold a game on the date and session requested.

Unit Rebates (043-137) **R See 2.3.5**

Units will receive 11% of full dues payments and Life Master Service fees paid by their members.

Criteria for Maintaining Unit Status (052-23) **R replaced by 082-88 which will now be A 2 – 2.5.1**

The following regulations for Units are adopted.

A. Minimum Unit Requirements:

1. Must conduct a Sectional tournament (STaCs do not meet this requirement) at least once every two years unless exempted by the District Organization;
  2. Must have an approved set of Bylaws and file a copy with ACBL Headquarters;
  3. Must hold an annual membership meeting;
  4. Must elect a Board of Directors for a specific term as stated in its bylaws;
  5. Must produce a written annual financial report and make it available to its District Director and any of its members upon request;
2. Must have at least one club running sanctioned games in the unit;
  3. Must have enough ACBL members to accomplish 1-5 above.

B. Unit Privileges:

1. Receive a share of the ACBL membership fees;
2. Conduct Unit Championship sessions (currently up to 16 per year);
3. Vote in District elections;
4. Earn additional Sectional tournaments through membership growth;
5. Hold Charity games (currently up to four Sectional-rated sessions per year).

C. Loss of Unit Status and Privileges:

Units must comply with the minimum requirements set forth in A. Failure to do so will result in an initial penalty of the withholding of a Unit's share of membership fee rebates until it is in compliance with this regulation. Continuation of non-compliance shall result in further action up to and including revocation of the Unit Charter.

#### D. Voluntary Dissolution of a Unit

If a Unit chooses to dissolve it should take the following steps:

1. Notify ACBL and the appropriate District Director of the intent to dissolve.
2. Apprise ACBL of all Unit assets and liabilities.
3. Apprise ACBL of one of the following:
  - a. With which unit or units the dissolving unit wishes to merge.
  - b. To which other units the unit members wish to be reassigned.
  - c. There is no preference for reassignment.
4. Assets of the Unit will be distributed according to relevant law.

#### ACBL Units (053-31) (061-26) R See A 1.3 – 1.3.10

A. The relationship between ACBL and each of its chartered units is that of independent organizations.

B. The application for and acceptance of a charter constitutes an agreement to the following:

**A Unit in good standing of the ACBL shall agree to the following:**

Units of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) are authorized by and accountable to the ACBL Board of Directors and ACBL management in the operation of sanctioned bridge activities by means of a charter process. Units must be organized and operated in accordance with the purposes of ACBL. They must comply with ACBL Bylaws, rules and regulations, as well as with all governmental (national, state, provincial and local) laws, rules and regulations. Failure to comply may result in censure, suspension, expulsion or other discipline in accordance with regulations established by the ACBL Board of Directors.

The relationship of the ACBL to each of its chartered Units is that of an independent organization. This relationship shall not create any association, joint venture, partnership or agency relationship of any kind between a Unit and the ACBL. Unless expressly agreed to in writing, neither party is authorized to incur any liability, obligation or expense on behalf of the other, to use the other's monetary credit in conducting its activities or to represent to any third party that either is an agent of the other.

A Unit warrants that it is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in good standing or that it is an unincorporated association in good standing as defined by the state or other government authority in which the Unit has its primary place of business, and that it shall remain in good standing.

A Unit shall support the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the ACBL as appropriate to the Unit.

A Unit accepts and acknowledges that it has been granted a conditional Charter under the authority of the ACBL. Further, this Unit accepts and acknowledges that the privileges granted to the Unit under this conditional Charter may be withdrawn according to the rules and regulations of the ACBL.

A Unit shall bear sole and complete responsibility and liability for its financial affairs. On an annual basis, any excess of unit revenues over expenditures shall remain under the control of this Unit. This Unit also shall bear sole and complete responsibility for any deficit of unit revenues over expenditures.

C. By acceptance of its portion of membership dues reimbursement, each existing chartered unit shall re-affirm its agreement to the above.

Unit Requirements, Privileges and Responsibilities (082-88) **R See A 2 – 2.5.1**

The ACBL Handbook, Chapter 3, Section Two and Section Three, is amended as follows:

## **SECTION TWO: REQUIREMENTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

A unit functions as an organization chartered by ACBL, which, in accordance with its charter, supervises and promotes many, but not all, aspects of ACBL bridge within its boundaries. (See the ACBL Unit agreement.) It has the exclusive right to conduct all sectionals held within its territory. In addition, it may obtain sanctions from ACBL to organize and conduct other games such as unit championships, unit-wide games, unit charity games and extended team events, and club games. The regulations that govern these events appear in Chapters 4 and 5.

### **I. UNIT REQUIREMENTS**

A unit must meet the following ACBL requirements to receive and maintain its ACBL charter:

Hold an annual membership meeting.

Produce a written annual financial statement and make it available to its district director and any of its members upon request.

Adopt bylaws that are consistent with those of ACBL and file a copy with ACBL. On request, ACBL will provide copies of typical unit bylaws.

Conduct at least one sectional tournament every two years. (A waiver, for cause, may be granted by the district.)

Select a standing disciplinary chairperson and otherwise comply with Section 1.1 of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. See Chapter 11.

Elect a unit board of directors in accordance with its bylaws.

Process reports of dishonest or unethical conduct by participants in sanctioned games at clubs under its jurisdiction, and discipline members guilty of such conduct in a manner fully consistent with the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. See Chapter 11 and Appendix D.

Process reports of dishonest, unethical, or improper conduct by participants in sanctioned games at unit events or tournaments under its jurisdiction and discipline members guilty of such

conduct in a manner fully consistent with the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. See Chapter 11 and Appendix D.

Select a designated unit electronic contact (UEC).

## **II. UNIT PRIVILEGES R See A 2.3**

As an organization chartered by ACBL, the unit has certain privileges. The Unit receives a share of ACBL membership fees as established by the ACBL Board of Directors and may:

Conduct up to 16 (note: up to 24 effective 1/1/09) unit championship sessions per year.

Hold up to four sectional-rated charity sessions per year.

Run games on behalf of ACBL and/or the district where there is a void.

Participate in elections for District Director, First and Second Alternate Directors and Board of Governors Representatives.

## **III. UNIT ACTIVITIES R See A 2.4**

A unit is encouraged to carry out the following:

- Conduct sectional tournaments and regional and/or NABC tournaments when authorized by the district.
- Perform basic marketing functions as established by the ACBL Board of Directors.
- Encourage people to conduct ACBL-sanctioned club games within the unit.
- Promote the development and enrollment of bridge players as members of ACBL.
- Promote interest in duplicate bridge by providing a continuous and attractive program of bridge events to supplement those offered by clubs with sanctioned games.
- Cooperate with the district and ACBL in the promotion of district-wide and ACBL-wide tournaments.
- Establish and maintain amicable relations with neighboring units, the district and conferences, thus fostering cooperation on matters of mutual interest.
- Select people to fill the positions of Education Liaison, Tournament Coordinator and Intermediate/Newcomer Coordinator.
- Conduct other activities in keeping with its purposes.

## **IV. LOSS OF UNIT STATUS AND PRIVILEGES R See A 2.5**

Units must comply with the requirements set forth in I above. Failure to do so will result in an initial penalty of the withholding of a Unit's share of membership dues and service fee rebates until it is in compliance with this regulation. Continuation of non-compliance may result in further action up to and including revocation of the Unit's Charter.

## **SECTION THREE:**

### **III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS R see A 2.6 – 2.2.6.5**

Unit members elect the unit board of directors for the terms of office defined by the unit bylaws. All unit board members must be active ACBL members and must belong to ACBL through the units they represent. The unit board manages and conducts the affairs of the unit. Should a board member leave office before his or her term expires, vacancies will be filled according to the unit's bylaws.



Active, rated tournament directors and any other permanent ACBL employees may not serve as voting members of unit and/or district boards.

Extended Unit Team Games (112-50) **R See**

A unit is entitled to hold three sectional-rated (black points) extended team events per year. Extended is defined for this purpose as requiring at least three sessions of 24 boards each to complete. These events may be played with or without a qualifying stage but a qualifying stage may not award overall masterpoints, only match awards. Some examples of formats for extended team play are: single-elimination KO, double-elimination KO, Swiss qualifying to either type of KO, round-robin qualifying to either type of KO, extended Swiss, extended round-robin, and other types.

Should a unit wish to hold a one-day qualifying event which awards overall masterpoints and also qualifies teams into an extended event, they may use one of their Unit Championship entitlements (Unit Championship-rated) for the qualifying stage and then use an extended-team sanction entitlement for the final stage. For such a combination of stages the number of teams in the extended event is based on the number of teams actually qualified and entered into the extended stage not the number of teams in the qualifying stage.

Should a unit wish to hold an extended event with overall awards, which also qualifies teams into another extended event with its own overall awards, it may do so by using two of its extended event entitlements. Each event must meet the length requirements and the number of teams in the second event is based as outlined above.

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### B. GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION **R Obs**

(Emergency Item approved by the President for consideration.) (711-12)

As soon as possible, Management shall send by registered mail to each Unit and each District Organization maps showing Unit boundaries. These boundaries become established if no objection is received by Management from an affected Unit or District Organization before June 1, 1971. Where all affected parties agree on a change, Management shall effect such change. If case of objection, disagreements shall be resolved by the District Director and/or Organization by September 1, 1971. Effective immediately.

District Affiliation Regulations (723) **R Obs**

It is the sense of the Board that existing regulations relating to membership transfers from one District of the League to another District are sufficient to cover the rules relating to the Grand National Championship. Moved by Gurvich, seconded by Mathe, to amend the motion by adding: "However, it is the recommendation of the National Board of Directors to District Organizations that after November 25, 1972, no transfer of membership be approved by a District Organization for the sole purpose of enabling entries in the Grand National Team Championship."

Relocation of District 2 (741-62A) **Remove from codification but leave in brown pages where it is shown as Item #7**

District 2 is relocated from the Eastern site zone to the Central site zone, provided further that this relocation affects no present allocations of tournaments. Effective immediately.

Redistricting (961-76) **This needs to be somewhere in the codification. It has not been rescinded although when the bylaws were changed last time, this was no longer a part of the bylaws. I don't think it belongs in Chapter III Section B Districts. Seems to me to be more appropriate in Chapter IV Board of Directors, Section A Administration and Policy.**

B. The ACBL President, in those years ending in the numeral zero and in the numeral five, shall establish a Special Committee to review the geographical districting of ACBL and to report to the ACBL Board of Directors their findings and recommendations.

New Unit Formation or Unit Consolidation Regulations (983-50) **R See A 3**

The following actions require that the affected membership express their opinion about a proposed change through petition or a special election which may be conducted by mail:

1. The formation of a new unit.
2. The movement of part of a unit to another unit or a unit from one district to another.
3. The consolidation of two or more units (or parts thereof).

When a unit decides to dissolve, the district is responsible for assigning the members of this unit to other units subject to ACBL Board approval.

Note: The ACBL Board of Directors is the final authority regarding unit boundaries and must approve any changes.

The following established procedures are accepted:

## UNIT FORMATION OR BOUNDARY CHANGES

### 1. Forming a New Unit

There must be at least 100 current ACBL members in the geographical area of the proposed new Unit and also, the area must contain satisfactory facilities for the hosting of at least one Sectional tournament annually.

A petition must be drafted containing the specific geographical area of the proposed new Unit, preferably by counties. Such a geographical area may not isolate any “islands” of ACBL members from their Unit of affiliation. Secondly, the reason for requesting the formation of the new Unit should be specified.

Upon receipt of the petition at the ACBL, the ACBL membership status for each signature will be verified. Please do not have inactive members, non-members or visitors from other areas sign such petitions. Providing zip codes for the entire area involved is extremely helpful. If the number of valid signatures proves to be a majority of the ACBL membership in the area requesting a change of status, the Units involved will be advised of receipt of the petition and their approval requested. For your information, approval of both the District Organization and the District Director will be sought. However, the final decision rests with the ACBL Board of Directors, in whose name all Unit Charters are issued.

If a Unit is divided so as to form a second Unit, assets of the original Unit are subject to division on an equitable basis. If an equitable division of assets cannot be reached voluntarily by the parties and mediation by the District fails, both parties shall submit to binding arbitration. All costs for the arbitration process shall be paid for from Unit funds.

### II. Unit Mergers and Boundary Changes

In general, areas for transfer from one Unit to another should follow county lines.

An area seeking to transfer to an adjacent Unit must include all counties between the proposed area for transfer and the existing area of the Unit being joined. In other words, it would not be in order to transfer an area to a Unit if such transfer would create an “island.”

A majority of the current ACBL members living in the area to be transferred must sign a petition expressing their wishes to be transferred. The petition must state the reasons for the proposed transfer and must include the addresses and ACBL player number of those members signing. The boundaries of the proposed area of transfer must be included on the petition as well as all zip codes in the proposed area to be transferred. Upon receipt of the petition, ACBL will verify the signatures thereon in order to assure that a “sizable majority” of the ACBL members in the proposed area of transfer has signed the petition requesting a transfer of Unit affiliation. As an alternative, the unit may vote at a meeting of the unit membership or by mail (a majority of those

voting or responding is sufficient). This meeting (or vote by mail) must be held in accordance with the unit's bylaws and the results communicated to ACBL by the appropriate unit official.

The ACBL will contact the parent Unit, the Unit of proposed affiliation, the District Organization and the District Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors seeking the opinion of each regarding the proposed transfer. Should all parties agree that it is in the best interest of "all concerned" to effect the proposed transfer, the ACBL will take the necessary steps to make the change including ACBL Board of Directors approval. All parties will be informed of the effective date of transfer and new Charters distributed. Should either the Unit or the District Organization disagree as to the proposed transfer, the matter will be referred to the ACBL Board of Directors for final disposition.

When a segment of 20% or more of a Unit membership is transferred to another Unit, assets of the Unit are subject to division on an equitable basis. If such division of assets cannot be reached voluntarily, and if mediation by the District fails, both parties shall submit to binding arbitration. All costs for the arbitration process shall be paid for from Unit funds.

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### C. LEGAL

#### Actions for Wrongful Use of Legal Process (831-2) **R See C 1.3**

Whenever ACBL successfully defends a legal action instituted by a member or any other person, and League Counsel determines that the litigation was from the beginning without substantial merit, ACBL shall consider all remedies available to it including, but not limited to, the institution of an action for wrongful use of legal process.

#### Civil Actions vs. ACBL by Members (012-44) **R See C 1.1 and C 1.2**

Commencing August 1, 2001, any ACBL member who files a civil action for damages (the "action") against the ACBL shall be automatically suspended from the ACBL upon the occurrence of any of the following (this does not apply to civil actions brought by ACBL employees for anything concerning their ACBL employment):

- (a) a judgment in the action which is favorable to the ACBL;
  - (b) a dismissal of the action by the court with or without prejudice;
  - (c) failure by the ACBL member to prosecute the action for any consecutive six month period after filing of the action; or
  - (d) a settlement of the action which does not specifically waive the provisions of this paragraph.
- Such suspension shall be lifted only upon the occurrence of one of the following:
- (a) payment by the ACBL member of costs incurred in the action by the ACBL, its officers, agents, representatives and insurers; or
  - (b) resolution by the ACBL Board of Directors absolving the ACBL member of payment of such costs. "Costs incurred in the action" shall mean all lawyers fees and expenses, witness fees and expenses, court costs and other costs related to the defense of the action. The ACBL Board of Directors or its designee, the Appeals and Charges Committee, shall make all determinations and decisions relating to the case by case implementation of this paragraph.

Effective Date: 8/1/2001 Chapter 3, C.2

#### ACBL Seal and Emblem (052-25)

- A. The seal of the ACBL shall be composed of two concentric circles between which shall appear the name "The American Contract Bridge League, Inc."; within the inner circle shall appear the year: 1937, together with the name of the state (New York) in which the ACBL is incorporated.
- B. The emblem of the ACBL shall be composed of two concentric circles between which shall appear the initials "ACBL" on a blue field; within the inner circle shall appear a black spade pip on a white field.

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This is now E, not F, in new codification

**F. ACBL NCBOs**

CNTC Fees (821-26) **R See E 2.1.1**

The ACBL shall retain \$2.00 per team from the Canadian National Teams Championship (CNTC) sanction fees (as long as the ACBL GNT sanction fee does not exceed \$6.00). The remainder of the sanction fee shall be retained by the CBF

National Team Championships for Bermuda and Mexico (852-34) **R See E 3.1**

Bermuda and Mexico are authorized to hold an annual national team championship with sanction fees and Master Point awards on the same basis as the Canadian National Team Championship. Conditions of Contest must be presented for ACBL approval.

NCBO Open Pairs Championship (832-26) (862-11) **R See E 1.1**

- A. Each NCBO within the ACBL may hold an annual open pairs championship.
- B. The national finals shall be regionally rated (red and gold points as per Regional Open Pair events). Qualification events shall be sectionally rated (black points). Sanction fees shall be appropriate to the rating of the event.
- C. The Request of the CBF for qualification events to be held in September of each year is approved. **This Item C is now E 2.2.1**

CBF Requests (862-12) **R See E 1.2.1**

- B. No ACBL member in good standing may be denied eligibility to participate at the club level in ACBL sanctioned national championship events in the country of the member's domicile.

Virgin Island Bridge Federation and C.A.A.C.B.F. (863-44) **R See E 4.1**

The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation's request to become an NCBO of the WBF as a member of Zone V while maintaining ACBL affiliation is approved.

Sanction Fees for Canadian Team Championships (863-63) **R See E 2.1.1**

ACBL sanction fees for the Canadian Ladies Team Championship (CLTC) will be the same as the Canadian Team Championship (CNTC) sanction fees. The ACBL shall retain \$2.00 per team from the CNTC and the CLTC sanction fees (as long as the ACBL GNT sanction fee does not exceed \$6.00). The remainder of the sanction fee shall be retained by the CBF.

Canadian International Fund Games (912-23) **R See E 2.1.2**

The Canadian Bridge Federation shall establish sanction fees for Canadian International Fund Games held in Canada.

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- B. The national finals shall be regionally rated (red and gold points as per Regional Open Pair events). Qualification events shall be sectionally rated (black points). Sanction fees shall be appropriate to the rating of the event.
- C. The Request of the CBF for qualification events to be held in September of each year is approved. **This Item C is now F 2.2.1**

#### CBF Requests (862-12) **R See F 1.2.1**

- B. No ACBL member in good standing may be denied eligibility to participate at the club level in ACBL sanctioned national championship events in the country of the member's domicile.

#### Virgin Island Bridge Federation and C.A.A.C.B.F. (863-44) **R See F 4.1**

The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation's request to become an NCBO of the WBF as a member of Zone V while maintaining ACBL affiliation is approved.

#### Sanction Fees for Canadian Team Championships (863-63) **R See F 2.1.1**

ACBL sanction fees for the Canadian Ladies Team Championship (CLTC) will be the same as the Canadian Team Championship (CNTC) sanction fees. The ACBL shall retain \$2.00 per team from the CNTC and the CLTC sanction fees (as long as the ACBL GNT sanction fee does not exceed \$6.00). The remainder of the sanction fee shall be retained by the CBF.

#### Canadian International Fund Games (912-23) **R See F 2.1.2**

The Canadian Bridge Federation shall establish sanction fees for Canadian International Fund Games held in Canada.

## CHAPTER III – ADMINISTRATION

### G. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### Distribution of Agenda to Board of Governors Members (733-33) **R Obs**

Any elected member of the Board of Governors may receive, upon application to ACBL Management, a copy of the Agenda for the next meeting of the National Board of Directors. Effective immediately.

#### Expenses for Board of Governors Members (741-3) **R See G 2.5**

The Board of Directors has carefully considered the request of the Board of Governors that some expense of Governors who attend the Board of Governors Meeting be borne by the League. Inasmuch as it was found that this would be in violation of Article VII, E, of the ACBL Bylaws, the Board recommends that District Organizations and/or Units subsidize, in part, the expenses of Governors who attend the Board of Governors Meetings. Effective immediately.

#### Board of Governors Right of Referral of Matters Arising Within Its Own Quorum to the National Board of Directors (741-11) **R See G 1.3**

In response to the request of the Board of Governors for clarification of its rights in connection with matters arising within its own quorum, the Board of Governors is advised as follows: The Board of Governors has the right to establish and enforce those procedural rules necessary for it to discharge its duties provided that, in doing so, it does not assume powers vested in another body of the League. For further clarification, it is suggested that any specific question in this regard be directed to League Counsel. Effective immediately.

#### Board of Governors the Sole Judge of its Own Membership (743-33) **R See G 1.4**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Governors of the American Contract Bridge League is the sole judge of its own membership, except in the case of First and Second Alternate Directors to the Board of Directors.

#### Interpretation of Bylaws Article XIV, A, (1), (b) (773-14) **R OBS This has been made obsolete due to numerous Bylaws changes since 1977**

In the opinion of the Board of Directors of the American Contract Bridge League, the amendment to Article VI of the ACBL Bylaws approved on November 14, 1977, which add "H. No person shall be a voting member of the Board of Governors while serving as a member of the Board of Directors", supersedes and repeals the portion of Article XIV, A, (1), (b) which states that a Chairman of the Board of Directors who is not an elected Representative of his District shall have the right to cast his vote at all meetings of the Board of Governors.

#### Relationship of Board of Governors to ACBL (803-53) **R See G 2.1**

Meetings of the Board of Governors, usually held three times a year at North American Championships, are open to any member of the ACBL although only official representatives to the Board of Governors, as defined in the ACBL Bylaws, may vote.

The Board of Governors, through its right to make recommendations to the Board of Directors, provides an alternate organizational vehicle by which members, through their representatives, may propose changes in the operation or policies of the ACBL. In accordance with ACBL



Bylaws, the Board of Directors may accept, modify, or reject proposals from the Board of Governors and must report on the action taken.

Information from ACBL Board of Directors (902-12) **R See G 2.4**

Whenever the Board of Directors Minutes reflect that a report is accepted, the Chairman of the Board of Governors shall present the report, or a summary thereof, to the Board of Governors.

League Counsel's Attendance at Board of Governors Meetings (902-63) **R See G 2.2**

League Counsel shall provide a written report on the status of pending litigation to the ACBL Board of Governors and will attend its meetings when practical.

Revision of Article XVII of the ByLaws of the ACBL (972-50) **R See G 2.3**

The Board of Governors is requested to verify that those persons voting in Bylaw changes, elections and other important matters are verifiable members.

Board of Governors NABC Hotel Accommodations (022-40) **R See G 2.6**

ACBL will notify by mail (at least one month prior) all Board of Governor members of their ability to make their NABC host hotel reservation in the week before the official opening of the general reservation period.

Board of Governors Electronic Information (022-48) **R See G 2.7 This not in brown pages**

ACBL will send the Board of Governors information electronically when possible.

## CHAPTER III - ADMINISTRATION

### H. ACBL LAWS COMMISSION

#### Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997 Revision (963-05) R OBS

B. The Board of Directors confirms the decision of ACBL Laws Commission in accepting the 1997 Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. This revision, along with the regulations in Part A above, is effective for Zone 2 on May 26, 1997. However, Law 93 and the regulation pertaining to Law 93 B become effective on March 1, 1997.

The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (002-130) PLEASE check out all this very carefully. It would appear to be obsolete or else something that would fall under management only. It probably needs to be deleted, but I don't feel that it is my decision to do it. Leave it up to you two.

The ACBL Board of Directors requests that:

A. The ACBL Laws Commission encourage promulgating a revision of the Laws prior to the customary ten year cycle.

A. The ACBL Laws Commission review the specific laws dealing with “card laid-card played” philosophy in both bidding and play for the revision above.

A. Management review its procedures, interpretations and implementations of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge to increase as much as legal and appropriate under the current laws the “card laid-card played” philosophy.

#### ACBL Laws Commission Representative to WBF Laws Committee (011-43) See new motion on Chapter IV D 1.4.7

The ACBL will send a representative from the ACBL Laws Commission to attend all meetings of the WBF Laws Committee held in conjunction with World Championships. The representative will be selected by the ACBL Laws Commission. The ACBL will provide a supersaver air ticket, hotel room, and per diem.

#### Competition & Conventions / Laws Commission Compensation (022-21) R OBS Now in Chapter IV Section D Committees

Effective immediately, members of the C & C Committee and members of the Laws Commission who are not otherwise compensated will receive a token of appreciation from the Board of Directors at the conclusion of their meetings at each NABC. Only those in attendance for all required meetings will be compensated.

(Otherwise compensated means Board of Directors, employees, and heads of committees who might already be compensated).

A. For members of the Laws Commission, a two session entry to an NABC+ event or lower. Good for one year from date of receipt.

B. For members of the C & C Committee, two (2) session entries to an NABC+ event or lower. Good for one year from date of receipt.

ACBL Committee Meeting Absences (073-28) **R OBS now in Chapter IV Section D Committees**

Any member of the ACBL Laws Commission, Hall of Fame Committee or 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.

Laws of Duplicate Bridge (081-34) **Leave for now. This will probably be put into some other area when the entire codification is redone. We don't want it to fall through the cracks by rescinding it now and then not be able to find it later.**

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 B 1 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.
  1. 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.

## CHAPTER III – ADMINISTRATION

### I. AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ABA/ACBL Points and Games (912-127) (943-78) (951-85) (043-138) **All these need to be rescinded except that only Part II of 043-138 should be rescinded. See I 1.2.1**

An ABA member who joins ACBL for the first time will receive 10% of his total ABA points as a credit in ACBL red points to a maximum of 200 points. Note: The following policies are still in effect: **See I 1.2.2**

1. For purposes of seeding, handicapping, eligibility to masterpoint limited events, etc., ABA points will be converted to ACBL points at the ratio of two ABA points to one ACBL point and added to the player's ACBL masterpoints. **See I 1.2.3**
  2. An ABA Life Master will be treated as an ACBL Life Master when it involves any of the items in #1 above. **This Part B is part of 943-78, all of which should be rescinded. See above comment.**
- B. The Board approves in principle the development of a joint ABA/ACBL bridge event. A committee appointed by the ACBL President will work with the ABA and make a progress report at the 1995 Spring Board meetings.

Credit to ABA Member (952-43) **Rescind obsolete**

Credit that is given to an ABA member who joins ACBL for the first time of 10% of his total ABA points up to a maximum of 200 ACBL black points will be extended to all players who have dual membership.

ABA/ACBL Points of Contact (961-48) **Rescind obsolete**

Each district shall designate an individual as the point of contact for coordination of ABA/ACBL joint activities. The ABA Liaison's name, address and phone number will be included with the list of district officers and committee chairpersons that is sent to ACBL each year. Management will send the list of the district ABA Liaisons to the ABA each year and will update the list and inform ABA when changes occur.

Participation of Eligible members of the American Bridge Association, Inc. in Junior

Program activities of the American Contract Bridge League. (961-96) **Rescind Obsolete**

Management shall establish procedures which will insure that the American Bridge Association, Inc. is invited to participate in all Junior Program activities.

ABA Members (982-37) **Rescind See I 1.1.1**

- A. All current members of the American Bridge Association who are not now or have not been a member of ACBL for at least five years and who meet other eligibility requirements be invited to purchase a one (1) year membership to ACBL for \$10 or its Canadian equivalent including CBF fees.
- B. The duration of this policy will be at the discretion of management.

ABA Coordination Committee (982-41) **Rescind Obsolete**

Members of the ABA Coordination Committee are appointed for three year terms (staggered) and at least two members are from the ACBL Board of Directors.

#### CHAPTER III - ADMINISTRATION

#### **B. GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION R Obs**

(Emergency Item approved by the President for consideration.) (711-12)

As soon as possible, Management shall send by registered mail to each Unit and each District Organization maps showing Unit boundaries. These boundaries become established if no objection is received by Management from an affected Unit or District Organization before June 1, 1971. Where all affected parties agree on a change, Management shall effect such change. If case of objection, disagreements shall be resolved by the District Director and/or Organization by September 1, 1971. Effective immediately.

#### District Affiliation Regulations (723) **R Obs**

It is the sense of the Board that existing regulations relating to membership transfers from one District of the League to another District are sufficient to cover the rules relating to the Grand National Championship. Moved by Gurvich, seconded by Mathe, to amend the motion by adding: "However, it is the recommendation of the National Board of Directors to District Organizations that after November 25, 1972, no transfer of membership be approved by a District Organization for the sole purpose of enabling entries in the Grand National Team Championship."

#### Relocation of District 2 (741-62A) **Remove from codification but leave in brown pages where it is shown as Item #7**

District 2 is relocated from the Eastern site zone to the Central site zone, provided further that this relocation affects no present allocations of tournaments. Effective immediately.

#### Redistricting (961-76) **This needs to be somewhere in the codification. It has not been rescinded although when the bylaws were changed last time, this was no longer a part of the bylaws. I don't think it belongs in Chapter III Section B Districts. Seems to me to be more appropriate in Chapter IV Board of Directors, Section A Administration and Policy.**

B. The ACBL President, in those years ending in the numeral zero and in the numeral five, shall establish a Special Committee to review the geographical districting of ACBL and to report to the ACBL Board of Directors their findings and recommendations.

#### New Unit Formation or Unit Consolidation Regulations (983-50) **R See A 3**

The following actions require that the affected membership express their opinion about a proposed change through petition or a special election which may be conducted by mail:

1. The formation of a new unit.
2. The movement of part of a unit to another unit or a unit from one district to another.
3. The consolidation of two or more units (or parts thereof).

When a unit decides to dissolve, the district is responsible for assigning the members of this unit to other units subject to ACBL Board approval.

Note: The ACBL Board of Directors is the final authority regarding unit boundaries and must approve any changes.

The following established procedures are accepted:

## UNIT FORMATION OR BOUNDARY CHANGES

### I. Forming a New Unit

There must be at least 100 current ACBL members in the geographical area of the proposed new Unit and also, the area must contain satisfactory facilities for the hosting of at least one Sectional tournament annually. A petition must be drafted containing the specific geographical area of the proposed new Unit, preferably by counties. Such a geographical area may not isolate any “islands” of ACBL members from their Unit of affiliation. Secondly, the reason for requesting the formation of the new Unit should be specified. Upon receipt of the petition at the ACBL, the ACBL membership status for each signature will be verified. Please do not have inactive members, non-members or visitors from other areas sign such petitions. Providing zip codes for the entire area involved is extremely helpful. If the number of valid signatures proves to be a majority of the ACBL membership in the area requesting a change of status, the Units involved will be advised of receipt of the petition and their approval requested. For your information, approval of both the District Organization and the District Director will be sought. However, the final decision rests with the ACBL Board of Directors, in whose name all Unit Charters are issued. If a Unit is divided so as to form a second Unit, assets of the original Unit are subject to division on an equitable basis. If an equitable division of assets cannot be reached voluntarily by the parties and mediation by the District fails, both parties shall submit to binding arbitration. All costs for the arbitration process shall be paid for from Unit funds.

### II. Unit Mergers and Boundary Changes

In general, areas for transfer from one Unit to another should follow county lines. An area seeking to transfer to an adjacent Unit must include all counties between the proposed area for transfer and the existing area of the Unit being joined. In other words, it would not be in order to transfer an area to a Unit if such transfer would create an “island.” A majority of the current ACBL members living in the area to be transferred must sign a petition expressing their wishes to be transferred. The petition must state the reasons for the proposed transfer and must include the addresses and ACBL player number of those members signing. The boundaries of the proposed area of transfer must be included on the petition as well as all zip codes in the proposed area to be transferred. Upon receipt of the petition, ACBL will verify the signatures thereon in order to assure that a “sizable majority” of the ACBL members in the proposed area of transfer has signed the petition requesting a transfer of Unit affiliation. As an alternative, the unit may vote at a meeting of the unit membership or by mail (a majority of those voting or responding is sufficient). This meeting (or vote by mail) must be held in accordance with the unit’s bylaws and the results communicated to ACBL by the appropriate unit official.

The ACBL will contact the parent Unit, the Unit of proposed affiliation, the District Organization and the District Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors seeking the opinion of each regarding the proposed transfer. Should all parties agree that it is in the best interest of “all concerned” to effect the proposed transfer, the ACBL will take the necessary steps

to make the change including ACBL Board of Directors approval. All parties will be informed of the effective date of transfer and new Charters distributed. Should either the Unit or the District Organization disagree as to the proposed transfer, the matter will be referred to the ACBL Board of Directors for final disposition. When a segment of 20% or more of a Unit membership is transferred to another Unit, assets of the Unit are subject to division on an equitable basis. If such division of assets cannot be reached voluntarily, and if mediation by the District fails, both parties shall submit to binding arbitration. All costs for the arbitration process shall be paid for from Unit funds.



## CHAPTER III – ADMINISTRATION

### G. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### Distribution of Agenda to Board of Governors Members (733-33) **R Obs**

Any elected member of the Board of Governors may receive, upon application to ACBL Management, a copy of the Agenda for the next meeting of the National Board of Directors. Effective immediately.

#### Expenses for Board of Governors Members (741-3) **R See G 2.5**

The Board of Directors has carefully considered the request of the Board of Governors that some expense of Governors who attend the Board of Governors Meeting be borne by the League. Inasmuch as it was found that this would be in violation of Article VII, E, of the ACBL Bylaws, the Board recommends that District Organizations and/or Units subsidize, in part, the expenses of Governors who attend the Board of Governors Meetings. Effective immediately.

#### Board of Governors Right of Referral of Matters Arising Within Its Own Quorum to the National Board of Directors (741-11) **R See G 1.3**

In response to the request of the Board of Governors for clarification of its rights in connection with matters arising within its own quorum, the Board of Governors is advised as follows: The Board of Governors has the right to establish and enforce those procedural rules necessary for it to discharge its duties provided that, in doing so, it does not assume powers vested in another body of the League. For further clarification, it is suggested that any specific question in this regard be directed to League Counsel. Effective immediately.

#### Board of Governors the Sole Judge of its Own Membership (743-33) **R See G 1.4**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Governors of the American Contract Bridge League is the sole judge of its own membership, except in the case of First and Second Alternate Directors to the Board of Directors.

#### Interpretation of Bylaws Article XIV, A, (1), (b) (773-14) **R OBS This has been made obsolete due to numerous Bylaws changes since 1977**

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#### Relationship of Board of Governors to ACBL (803-53) **R See G 2.1**

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Bylaws, the Board of Directors may accept, modify, or reject proposals from the Board of Governors and must report on the action taken.

Information from ACBL Board of Directors (902-12) **R See G 2.4**

Whenever the Board of Directors Minutes reflect that a report is accepted, the Chairman of the Board of Governors shall present the report, or a summary thereof, to the Board of Governors.

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Board of Governors NABC Hotel Accommodations (022-40) **R See G 2.6**

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Board of Governors Electronic Information (022-48) **R See G 2.7 This not in brown pages**

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## CHAPTER III - ADMINISTRATION

### H. ACBL LAWS COMMISSION

#### Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, 1997 Revision (963-05) R OBS

B. The Board of Directors confirms the decision of ACBL Laws Commission in accepting the 1997 Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. This revision, along with the regulations in Part A above, is effective for Zone 2 on May 26, 1997. However, Law 93 and the regulation pertaining to Law 93 B become effective on March 1, 1997.

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A. The ACBL Laws Commission review the specific laws dealing with “card laid-card played” philosophy in both bidding and play for the revision above.

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#### ACBL Laws Commission Representative to WBF Laws Committee (011-43) See new motion on Chapter IV D 1.4.7

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#### Competition & Conventions / Laws Commission Compensation (022-21) R OBS Now in Chapter IV Section D Committees

Effective immediately, members of the C & C Committee and members of the Laws Commission who are not otherwise compensated will receive a token of appreciation from the Board of Directors at the conclusion of their meetings at each NABC. Only those in attendance for all required meetings will be compensated.

(Otherwise compensated means Board of Directors, employees, and heads of committees who might already be compensated).

A. For members of the Laws Commission, a two session entry to an NABC+ event or lower.

Good for one year from date of receipt.

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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:

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## CHAPTER III - ADMINISTRATION

### I. AMERICAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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