

CHAPTER VIII - NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. ACBL / HOST ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Host Organization

- 1.1 Once an area has been selected for an NABC, the District Organization becomes the primary host organization. The District, at its option, may delegate the responsibility to a local Unit, but the District Organization retains overall accountability.
- 1.2 The NABC Planning Department will provide the host committee with a complete NABC Tournament Chair's Manual that outlines all roles and responsibilities of the host organization and ACBL Management.
- 1.3 During the three years prior to hosting a NABC, sponsoring organizations shall be permitted to conduct fund-raising events each year with the following conditions:
 - 1.3.1 The District schedules a week for these events, and ACBL notifies all clubs within the District advising them that the events may be held during their regular meeting times.
 - 1.3.2 ACBL club sanction fees will apply. The District sets additional fees. A participating club must remit a sanction fee per table to ACBL with the report form.
 - 1.3.3 These events award sectional-rated black points, with session and overall awards at each site based on the number of tables in play at that site. Open games earn full sectional rating. Invitational/restricted games earn 80% of sectional rating, and newcomer games earn 50%. If the club chooses, these events may be stratified.
- 1.4 ACBL will provide the local organization with sponsorship information used by previous NABC local committees.

Section 2 – Hospitality Funds

- 2.1 Publicity and Public Relations functions - ACBL will prepare all materials with input from local organization. In some cases a professional local public relations person will be hired by ACBL.
- 2.2 Newcomer program - local participation will include fliers, ads, special club incentives or teacher incentives, and mailings.
- 2.3 Player hospitality has certain minimum standards; i.e., a certain number of evening entertainment or food, panel shows, days of hospitality for all players. Host organization can improve to whatever degree they financially wish.
- 2.4 Souvenir program will be prepared by the local organization. ACBL will layout, typeset and print and pages will have a fixed cost. The local organization may sell ads either at cost or as a fund raising endeavor by charging an amount in excess of actual cost.
- 2.5 Baby Sitting - ACBL will provide room, establish hourly charge and pay sitters. Host to arrange for sitters.
- 2.6 Pre-tournament spouse/companion entertainment will be planned by the local organization at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 per NABC.

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B. SITES

Section 1 – Site Selection

- 1.1. ACBL management will present prospective sites for future NABCs to the ACBL Board of Directors. The ACBL Board can approve or disapprove of a suggested site, but cannot propose a motion to hold an NABC at a specific location.
- 1.2. The District President and the District Director will be apprised and consulted prior to preliminary site investigation for future NABCs.
- 1.3. Management may enter into multi-meeting agreements, i.e., agreements for two or more NABCs, with hotels in premiere destination cities. It is expected these agreements will provide a pricing benefit to the players and additional concessions to ACBL.
- 1.4. ACBL will not schedule future NABCs in any city, county, state, province or parish that affirmatively denies gays and lesbians the protection of anti-discrimination legislation.
- 1.5. ACBL Management shall attempt to avoid scheduling the Fall NABC to end on U.S. Thanksgiving weekend.

Section 2 - Housing and Travel Bureaus

- 2.1. Management may use its discretion in contracting with a third party housing bureau for NABCs.
- 2.2. Management may use its discretion in contracting with a third party travel bureau for NABCs.

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C. FINANCES

Section 1 - Host Organization

- 1.1 Approximately one year in advance, Management shall provide a guaranteed table count to the host organization. The Host Organization will receive \$11.50 per guaranteed table. Should the actual table count fall below the guarantee, no funds will be deducted. Should the table count exceed the guarantee, an additional \$11.50 per table will be provided to the host organization.
 - 1.1.1 I/N flyers, incentives for local I/N, registration gift, souvenir program, player hospitality, baby sitting, spouse entertainment will be the responsibility of the Host organization.
 - 1.1.2 ACBL will provide 10 standard rooms and a one bedroom suite for the Host Organization

Section 2 - NABC Free Plays

- 2.1 Following is the NABC free play list. Anyone entitled to free plays will receive totally free plays including surcharges for the entirety of each NABC except for the Educational Foundation game held the first Thursday of each NABC.
 - 2.1.1 ACBL President and spouse or significant other
 - 2.1.2 ACBL CEO and spouse or significant other
 - 2.1.3 Salaried and full-time ACBL employees*
 - 2.1.4 Spouses or significant others of salaried and full-time ACBL employees when the employee is assigned to the NABC or functions conducted in conjunction with the NABC*
 - 2.1.5 Servicemen or women (enlisted ranks only) showing ID cards and wearing proper uniform attire throughout the event. Applies to US, Canada and Mexico.
 - 2.1.6 ACBL Board of Directors members
 - 2.1.7 Chairman of the Board of Governors

- 2.1.8 ACBL retirees (for full-time employees only, at least five years of employment and age 65 or older or 20 years of employment and age 55 or older)*
- 2.1.9 League Counsel
- 2.1.10 Roy and Mary Green
- 2.1.11 Jay Baum and Spouse
- 2.1.12 Appeals Committee Chair or Chairs
- 2.1.13 ACBL Recorder
- 2.1.14 Honorary Member(s) (for one year)
- 2.1.15 Chair of the Goodwill Committee
- 2.1.16 Staff assigned to the NABC. This includes any person assigned to the NABC by ACBL Management and compensated by ACBL for fulfilling that assignment. However, people compensated for caddying, recording the bidding and play of hands, or similar types of assistance are not considered assigned staff.*

* Subject to management policy

Section 3 - Entry Fees

3.1 Youth and Junior Entries

- 3.1.1 Any junior under the age of 26 years who is a full time student (must provide proof of eligibility) will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.
- 3.1.2 Any junior under the age of 21 years will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.
- 3.1.3 Any Junior 19 years and under will be granted free plays for each session of regionally rated events.

3.2 International Fund

- 3.2.1 All NABC+ event entry fees will be the same and will include a \$1.50 surcharge per player per session for the International Fund.

- 3.3 At all NABCs, entry fees for non-members and unpaid Life Masters will be \$2.00 per player per session higher than for ACBL members and Life Masters who have paid their service fee. Charity events and events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints are exempted from this requirement.

Section 4 - Remuneration of Support Staff and Volunteers

- 4.1 The Seeding Chair receives free room and free play privileges for the duration of the tournament.
- 4.2 The Director of Appeals receives free room and per diem for the duration of the tournament.
- 4.3 The Appeals Chair(s) receives free room, per diem and free play privileges for the duration of the tournament.
- 4.4 The Goodwill Chair receives airfare, two nights hotel and free play privileges for the duration of the tournament.
- 4.5 The Volunteer Member of the Year for the Spring NABC receives airfare, two nights hotel, three Days per diem and free play privileges for the duration of the tournament.
- 4.6 Goodwill Member of Year for the Spring NABC receives airfare, two nights hotel, three days per diem and free play privileges on Goodwill Day.

Section 5 -NABC Financial Plan

- 5.1 The NABC Financial Plan is approved.

(See Appendix 3. *NABC Financial Plan*)

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D. EVENTS / SCHEDULES

Section 1 – NATIONALLY RATED EVENTS

- 1.1 Any change made by the Board of Directors in the schedules of the Spring, Summer, and Fall Nationally-rated events will not be effective for at least one year.
- 1.2 The default starting times for the prime-time sessions at NABCs for all events are 1 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. After consultation with District and Unit officials when circumstances (e.g., not many walking-distance restaurants of all types and insufficient cab service available) warrant, management may set the above times to 1 and 8:00 PM. Should Management elect to institute the latter times, the ACBL Board of Directors will be informed twelve months before the NABC. Any other starting times are subject to ACBL Board of Directors approval.
- 1.3 The first session of each NABC+ event will have the same starting times each day throughout the length of the event. There may be an exception for the final Sunday of an NABC.
- 1.4 Except for the Reisinger, which will remain as is, approximately 50% of the field but no less than 40% of an NABC+ event's field will qualify from one level to the next (qualifying to final, qualifying to semifinal and semifinal to final).
- 1.5 For any NABC+ event with or without a set masterpoint award, whenever entry is fewer than 30 tables for three consecutive years, the ACBL Board of Directors must review continuing this event on the National schedule.
- 1.6 In order to participate in a Nationally-rated event at an NABC, a person must be an ACBL member whose service fee or dues is current.
- 1.7 *See Appendix 1, Chapter 8* for the schedule of Nationally Rated events.

Section II – Other Events at an NABC

- 2.1 Regional events at NABCs will be treated as though they are being held at a Regional tournament.
- 2.2 The regionally-rated schedule and conditions at NABCs will be set by Management after discussion with and input from the local organization. For example, reasonable suggestions of scoring method in Swiss Team events, selection of VP scale and length of KO matches.
- 2.3 On the first session of the first day of each NABC, there will be a one-session regionally rated red-point event for the benefit of the International Fund. Proceeds

shall be determined by subtracting actual expenses from revenues. A surcharge of \$1.00 will be made.

- 2.4 A Regional-rated knockout team game, held in conjunction with the regular Thursday night Educational Foundation game, shall be added to the schedule for each NABC. Proceeds from the first session only shall benefit the ACBL Educational Foundation.
- 2.5 Management is authorized to set the times for all National-rated events with an upper masterpoint limit on the final Sunday to be concurrent with the scheduled Regional event.
- 2.6 The choice as to number of boards played in Regionally-rated prime-time knockout events at NABCs is up to the host organization. Management will make certain that the host organization's selection is requested and implemented.

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E. OPERATIONS

Section 1- General Information

- 1.1 The designation "North American Championships" shall be changed to include the word "Bridge" (e.g., the 1987 Spring North American Bridge Championships). Units, Districts, etc., hosting a tournament shall be instructed to include the word bridge in all signs and literature concerning the tournament in general.
- 1.2 Increased playing space shall be provided for the second and later days of NABC+ Events to provide more room between the tables.
- 1.3 In pair events at an NABC (even though they may be different pair events) hands shall be duplicated across all sections in play at the same time whenever possible.
- 1.4 Where feasible, the semi-finals and finals of the Reisinger, Spingold, Vanderbilt, Women's KO and Flight A of the GNT events and other events as determined by management shall be shown on vu-graph.
- 1.5 All pair events at an NABC will have two (2) hospitality breaks per session of at least five (5) minutes.
- 1.6 Bid boxes will be used in all events at NABCs.
- 1.7 Management is authorized to adjust starting times for any event of which any part appear on Vugraph.
- 1.8 The distribution of flyers or brochures promoting any product or service not directly related to bridge tournaments and other bridge events at NABCs must be approve by Management.
- 1.9 Travel agents in addition to the "official ACBL Travel Agent" shall be permitted to distribute brochures at NABCs.
- 1.10 ACBL will notify by email (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.
- 1.11 Electronic Devices
 - 1.11.1 Except for health-related equipment, or by permission of the Director-in-Charge of the tournament, cell phones, audible pagers or similar equipment may not be operated or operable in any manner in the playing

area during a session of play at an NABC. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session and must remain off at all times. Sponsoring organizations of other ACBL-sanctioned events are encouraged to adopt a similar policy.

- 1.11.2 The above restrictions apply to all pairs, team members, captains, coaches, kibitzers and play recorders, except those designated by the ACBL and are in force throughout any actual playing session or segment of play.
- 1.11.3 A violation of any of the above restrictions will result in an automatic 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.

1.12 Small Children or Pets in Playing Area

- 1.12.1 Non-participating children under the age of six and pets are not allowed to remain in the playing area of NABC tournaments during play and for 15 minutes before and after play, subject to the following exceptions and restrictions.
- 1.12.2 The tournament DIC shall grant an exception to a player (a “player/owner”) with disabilities who brings a working service dog (“WSD”) to the playing area if the player/owner provides credible evidence to the DIC that his or her WSD performs tasks. The only questions which the DIC may ask are: “Is that a service dog?” and “What tasks does the service dog do?” The DIC may *not* ask questions regarding the player/owner’s disability or request certification or proof of the WSD’s training.
- 1.12.3 The tournament DIC shall grant an exception to a player/owner who brings an emotional support animal (“ESA”) to the playing area if the player/owner submits to the DIC a formal letter of prescription from a licensed mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, counselor or social worker) which indicates the necessity of use of an ESA by the player/owner. The DIC may *not* ask questions regarding the player/owner’s emotional status or request certification or proof of the ESA’s training.
- 1.12.4 The WSD or ESA must remain on a leash in a sitting or lying position within three feet of the player/owner or in a kennel within three feet of the player/owner during the game.
- 1.12.5 The WSD or ESA must wear identification indicating that the dog is a service dog or support animal.

- 1.12.6 The DIC may exclude a WSD or an ESA from the playing area when the behavior of such dog or animal, in the judgment of the DIC, poses a direct threat to the health or safety of persons in the playing area.
- 1.12.7 The player/owner must clean up (or assure that clean up is performed) after his or her WSD or ESA. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be documented by the DIC, and may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.
- 1.13 When there is a Vugraph presentation at an NABC, the room of the presentation shall be called the Peter Pender Memorial Vugraph Theatre.
- 1.14 There shall be a strictly enforced Closed Room during the last three rounds of NABC+ Knockout events. With the exception of a Tournament Official, NO PERSON may enter or leave at any time without an authorized escort.
- 1.15 Dress Code
 - 1.15.1 Informal or casual dress is acceptable and appropriate at NABCs. While specific standards would be difficult to both formulate and enforce, conformity to generally acceptable standards of decency and cleanliness is expected.
 - 1.15.2 Tournament Directors may, subject to consultation with the DIC, refuse to sell an entry to a person or persons inappropriately dressed. Subject to consultation with the DIC, Tournament Directors may remove from the tournament area anyone who is inappropriately dressed.
- 1.16 Smoking Policy at NABCs
 - 1.16.1 Smoking is not permitted in the playing area during any bridge playing event at an NABC.
 - 1.16.2 Distinctly separate smoking areas will be provided at NABCs as allowed by state and local ordinances. These areas will not be the hallways immediately outside the playing area, near restrooms or snack bars or in any area where non-smokers may be exposed.
- 1.17 Management is instructed to remind tournament directors to refrain from placing hand records on the table prior to game time and prior to all players being seated.
- 1.18 Management is authorized to adjust starting times for any event of which any part appears on VuGraph using Pendergraph.
- 1.19 Child Care
 - 1.19.1 Child care services will be offered at all NABCs.

- 1.19.2 Management shall control cost of the child care program in a fiscally responsible manner. Costs of this program are included in the overall tournament budget.
- 1.19.3 This program should include providing a guest room for the child care parent-coordinator, appropriate space for the child care program itself and funding as determined by management for supplies and administrative expenses. ACBL's exposure to liability should be reduced by using licensed and bonded caregivers and by requiring signed releases by the parent coordinator and parents/guardians of children in the program.

Section 2 – Goals for an NABC

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The ACBL holds NABC's in order to:
 - 2.2.1 provide ACBL members an opportunity to play in an NABC.
 - 2.2.2 serve a broad spectrum of the membership.
 - 2.2.3 provide a convenient location for a large number of players while rotating the tournament.
 - 2.2.4 provide ACBL members satisfaction with the complete NABC experience.
 - 2.2.5 provide a source of revenue for the ACBL.
 - 2.2.6 provide promotional opportunities to attract new and social players to duplicate bridge.
 - 2.2.7 provide a tournament that maximizes the prestige, excitement and fun of a tournament experience.
 - 2.2.8 provide an environment of cooperation between ACBL and local Units and Districts.
- 2.3 Financial Goal - Excess revenue should average \$375,000 per year over a period of several years.
- 2.4 Location Guidelines

- 2.4.1 A site for an NABC may be proposed only by management and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 2.4.2 Every effort will be made to rotate to the following cities every six years due to their popularity: Orlando; San Diego; San Francisco; Toronto; Washington, DC, Las Vegas and the state of Texas.
- 2.4.3 Management and the Advisory Committee will consider additional cities that meet NABC criteria.
- 2.5 Rotation Guidelines - an effort be made to rotate NABC's throughout the three zones. Location has a higher priority than rotation.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Host Hotel - A host hotel is one with which ACBL has established direct contracts for an NABC.

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F. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR NABC+ EVENTS

Section 1 – Red, Blue and Silver Ribbon Event Qualifications

1.1 Red Ribbon Qualification

- 1.1.1 First through eighth in all North American Bridge Championship knockout events with an upper master-point limit of at least 300 and not more than 1500.
- 1.1.2 First through 10th and ties in Non-Life Master North American Bridge Championships of four or more sessions.
- 1.1.3 First and second (including ties) in all regionally rated red or gold point events of two or more sessions that have an upper limit of at least 300 points and of no more than 1500 masterpoints.
- 1.1.4 Members of the Flight B and the Non-Life Masters District Champions in the Grand National Teams.
- 1.1.5 First and second (including ties) in North American Flight B and Non-Life Master single-site District finals; first-place pairs at each site in split-site District finals.
- 1.1.6 10th overall or better in the North American Junior Pair Championship for players who do not receive Blue Ribbon qualification.
- 1.1.7 First and second (including ties) in the North American Youth Championship.
- 1.1.8 First and Second place finishers in the National Final of Flight B and Non-Life Master Flight of the GNT and the North American Pairs (NAP).
- 1.1.9 Players with a Blue Ribbon or Silver Ribbon qualification provided they do not have more than 2000 masterpoints as of the last point notification prior to the event.
- 1.1.10 First and second in any bracket of a bracketed KO which does not award 100% gold points for overall placing when no member of the team has more than 1500 masterpoints.
- 1.1.11 Qualifications that were won previous to 1991 that expired and/or were credited to a player entered in a Blue Ribbon Event prior to 1991 no longer count as a Red Ribbon Qualification. No qualification earned

previous to 1986 may count.

1.2 Blue Ribbon Qualification

- 1.2.1 First through eighth in the Vanderbilt, Spingold, Women's, or Senior Knockout Teams at NABC Championships.
- 1.2.2 First through 10th and all ties in the Red Ribbon Pairs and all other nationally rated events that have no upper masterpoint limit.
- 1.2.3 First and Second (including ties) in all Gold Point Regionally-Rated Events with no upper masterpoint limit. For bracketed KOs the foregoing applies only to brackets issuing 100% gold points.
- 1.2.4 The 100 players having the greatest total of master-points as of the Sept. 1 ACBL computer cycle.
- 1.2.5 All members of the Championship and A Flight District champions in the Grand National Teams and the winners and zonal champions in the Canadian National Team Championship Open Flight A.
- 1.2.6 Winners of the Canadian Women's Team Championship.
- 1.2.7 First and clear second in single-site District finals of North American Open Pairs - Flight A. First and ties for first in multiple site District finals.
- 1.2.8 First and Second (including ties) in the National Final of the Open Flight of the GNT and the North American Open Pairs (NAOP).
- 1.2.9 All past world champions.
- 1.2.10 Canadian Open Pairs - Regionally Rated (COPC), Mexican Grand National Teams,(MGNTC), Bermuda National Pairs (BNPC), and Bermuda National Teams (BNTC). 1st and 2nd place finishers in the pair events and winners of the team events.
- 1.2.11 Qualifications that were won previous to 1991 that expired and/or were credited to a player entered in a Blue Ribbon Event prior to 1991 no longer count as a Blue Ribbon Qualification. In no instance may a qualification won prior to 1986 be counted.

1.3 Silver Ribbon Qualification

- 1.3.1 Silver Ribbon eligibility will be earned for first and second place (and ties) in the following qualifying events: gold and/or red point, regional and

higher-rated Senior (55 years of age or older) events of at least two sessions with an upper masterpoint limit at least 300.

- 1.3.2 Players with Blue or Red Ribbon qualification provided that they are 55 years of age or older at the beginning of the event.

Section II – Event Regulations

- 2.1 All players entered in the Vanderbilt and Spingold Team Events must play at least 40% of the Boards in every match.
- 2.2 If, because of an emergency, a player withdraws from a team, or is declared ineligible to play further on the team for failure to fulfill the participation requirements established by the sponsoring organization, in a Regional or NABC tournament, that player is ineligible to participate in a Regional or higher rated championship being played concurrently with the team event in which his former teammates are still participating. Any such player may only receive match awards or section awards for his participation in the team event.
- 2.3 Management is authorized to use Barometer play and scoring in the Finals of the Non-Life Master Pairs, the Finals of the Blue Ribbon Pairs and Barometer style play in the Semi-finals and Finals of the Reisinger Team event.
- 2.4 A player may play and earn masterpoints in as many sessions of bridge as possible while not entered in a concurrent or over-lapping event, except as listed below. A player who is on a team that has received a bye is considered entered in that event when that event begins. Morning and evening knockout events are not considered overlapping or conflicting events regardless of times scheduled.
 - 2.4.1 Players on teams with more than four members or teams with byes may play in concurrent one-session events only. For this purpose Continuous Pairs are considered a one-session event.
 - 2.4.2 The players noted in number 1 above may be credited with masterpoints only from the event in which they earn the larger number of points. (This may include overall awards of the Continuous Pairs.)
- 2.5 At the discretion of the tournament director, slow play penalties will be deemed to be either disciplinary (and unappealable) or procedural. If the latter, appeals committees should tend strongly to reject all routine appeals against slow play penalties. Should a committee deny such an appeal, it should consider imposing an additional penalty for a frivolous appeal. The burden is on the appellant to demonstrate that some unusual circumstance makes the penalty inappropriate.
- 2.6 Non - ACBL members who have represented their country in World Championship events organized by the WBF, when playing in ACBL stratified or flighted events,

are required to play in Flight A. Players may request exemption from this rule for valid cause.

- 2.7 The eligibility of all players participating in an NABC+ event shall, to the extent possible, be checked by Management before the results of that event are declared official.
 - 2.7.1 The same time period that is allowed for the protest of a director's error will be allowed for this purpose.
 - 2.7.2 If a player, pair or team is found ineligible or a position is otherwise vacated within the above correction period, all pairs or teams will move up to fill the vacated position.
 - 2.7.3 From the end of the above correction period until one year after the event, if a player, pair or team is found to be or is declared ineligible or a position is otherwise vacated after the protest period has expired, the position will be vacated but pairs or teams will not be moved up.

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G. APPEALS / RECORDERS

Section 1 – Committees at an NABC

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

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

Section 2 – Publication of Appeals Cases

- 2.1 The complete names and positions of all players involved in NABC Appeals Committee Hearings and from NABC+ or Flight A events will be published in the appeals reports in the Daily Bulletin and in any other reports of these Hearings. The names of the Committee members will also be published along with a minority opinion, if requested.
- 2.2 Management shall ensure that the following functions are performed:
 - 2.2.1 Appeals from an NABC will be compiled and readied for publication on the NABC web site as soon as possible after each NABC.
 - 2.2.2 A description of each appeal will be posted.
 - 2.2.3 Each appeal should include commentary.
 - 2.2.4 Management shall publish descriptions of likely cases of interest in the Daily Bulletin of the NABC at which the decision took place when submitted by the Editor and the Chair of National Appeals.
 - 2.2.5 The commentators for the Appeals will be selected, and the number of commentators determined by the Director of National Appeals and Management. Either the Director of National Appeals or Management may require that a specific commentator not be used.

- 2.2.6 Management may include appeals cases from events conducted by the USBF, CBF and MBF, which qualify contestants to International competition.
- 2.2.7 Appeals shall be reviewed and approved by League Counsel, the Director of National Appeals and Management before they can be published.

Section 3 – Zero Tolerance Policy

- 3.1 The ACBL Board of Directors and Management is committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. In accordance with Laws 74, 80F, 81C4, 90A, 91 and 92A (*Laws of Duplicate Bridge*), the following policy outlines what is expected of all players during NABCs and other ACBL sponsored events, as well as in the playing area before and after each session.
- 3.2 The ultimate purpose of the ZT policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere in our NABCs. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:
 - 3.2.1 Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
 - 3.2.2 Greeting others in a friendly manner.
 - 3.2.3 Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.
 - 3.2.4 Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents. (This one is a regulation, not just a nicety.)
- 3.3 The following list are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:
 - 3.3.1 Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.
 - 3.3.2 Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
 - 3.3.3 Gloating over good results.
 - 3.3.4 Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
 - 3.3.5 Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.
- 3.4 If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, **the director should be called immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other

conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by Law 74A. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

- 3.5 The following procedures have been given to the tournament directors for implementation.
 - 3.5.1 At the start of each event, the director shall make an announcement that the tournament will be observing ZT for unacceptable behavior. It is requested that the director be called whenever behavior is not consistent with the guidelines outlined above.
 - 3.5.2 The director, when called, shall attempt to determine the facts. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate $\frac{1}{4}$ board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ($\frac{1}{4}$ board EACH = $\frac{1}{2}$ board). The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.
 - 3.5.3 If it is determined that a second offense has occurred in the same event, then the offender(s) shall be ejected from future competition in that event. An offender removed from an event shall be deemed to have not played in the event, no masterpoints will be awarded and no refunds will be made. In the case of a serious offense and in the case of multiple offenses (three) during a tournament, a disciplinary committee may be convened to determine whether the offender(s) should be allowed to play in other events at the tournament and/or whether additional sanctions may be appropriate.
 - 3.5.4 Warnings are strongly discouraged and will be given only when there is no clear violation or in cases where the facts cannot be determined. Offenders are to receive immediate penalties. Regardless of who may have initiated unacceptable behavior, ALL offenses are punishable. Retaliatory behavior is a punishable offense. Frivolous accusations will also be considered as offenses under this policy.
 - 3.5.5 In accordance with the *Laws of Duplicate Bridge*, a director's decision to impose a disciplinary penalty is final; however, all such decisions may be appealed. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's decision, but could *recommend* that the director reconsider the imposition of a penalty. It should be noted that the committee may feel that the penalty assessed was not severe enough and may refer the matter to a disciplinary