

CHAPTER VII – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

A. ZONE 2 NBO's

Section 1 - Zone 2 International Regulations

- 1.1 The authority for selecting and subsidizing athletes who represent the United States in international bridge competition rests with the United States Bridge Federation (USBF).
- 1.2 The ACBL Board of Directors will act as the Zonal Conference for Zone 2, which consists of the following for International WBF Play:
 - a. United States Bridge Federation (USBF)
 - b. Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF)
 - c. Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF)
- 1.3 The Bermuda Bridge Federation competes through Zone 5 as the ACBL has approved BBF's request to compete internationally as a member of WBF Zone 5 while maintaining ACBL affiliation as Unit 198 in District 2.
- 1.4 The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation competes through Zone 5 as the ACBL approved its request to become an NBO of the WBF as a member of Zone V while maintaining ACBL affiliation.
- 1.5 The authority to approve a player and NPC from Canada, Mexico and the US participating in World Bridge Federation or other international competition is delegated to the Canadian Bridge Federation, Mexican Bridge Federation and United States Bridge Federation respectively. The player may be approved only if the player meets all Zonal Conference requirements as well as Federation requirements.
- 1.6 Zone 2 requirements for nomination are as follows:
 - 1.6.1 A Zone 2 NBO may nominate a player for invitation to play in a WBF Championship only if he or she:
 - a. is a citizen or a resident (per the appropriate Federation's regulations) of the United States, Canada, or Mexico as appropriate,
 - b. is a member in good standing of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) or Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF) as appropriate,
 - c. meets WBF criteria and/or conditions for nominations,

- d. will not, at the time of the event or trials for the event be under suspension or expulsion from the ACBL or any other NBO,
 - e. will not, at the time of the event or trials for the event be under ACBL or ABA probation where the period of such probation was more than 90 days,
 - f. has not been specifically excluded from playing in such event by an appropriate disciplinary body under ACBL or ABA jurisdiction,
- 1.7 No players shall be permitted to represent any NBO belonging to the ACBL, or Zone 2 of the WBF who has been expelled for cheating or resigned to avoid possible disciplinary action on charges of cheating, for at least ten years following readmission.
- 1.8 A summary of disciplinary action(s) previously made public is available upon request to NBO governing bodies.
- 1.9 The authority for selecting and subsidizing athletes who represent an ACBL country in international bridge competition rests with that country's NBO
- 1.10 When an on-site accreditation committee is needed, the ACBL WBF representatives will automatically assume this responsibility, with the most senior representative serving as chairman.

Section 2 – NBO Events

- 2.1 The Bermuda Bridge Federation, Canadian Bridge Federation, the Mexican Bridge Federation and the United States Bridge Federation may each hold an annual ACBL-sanctioned, national championship in each of the following categories:
- a. Open team
 - b. Women's team
 - c. Senior team
 - d. Open pairs
 - e. Women's pairs
 - f. Junior team
- 2.1.1 The national finals shall be Regionally rated (Regionally-rated red and gold points unless otherwise indicated in the ACBL Masterpoint Plan). Qualification events, if any, shall be Sectionally-rated (black points).

- 2.1.2 Sanction fees shall be as follows: (a) the then current Regional sanction fee for the national finals and (b) \$1 US/table/session for any stage of the championship conducted prior to the national final.
- 2.1.3 If the national finals of any of the championships listed above are not held concurrent with an ACBL Regional or Sectional tournament, each NBO may conduct ACBL-sanctioned Sectionally- rated black-point events concurrent with the national finals. The sanction fee for such an event(s) is \$1 US/table/session.
- 2.1.4 The Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through and reporting the results to the ACBL Tournament Department.
- 2.1.5 The championship may be flighted by ACBL masterpoints.
- 2.2 Each National Contract Bridge Federation in WBF Zone 2 may conduct an ACBL-sanctioned event (Trials) to qualify a team or teams to represent the Federation's country at a World Bridge Federation or Olympic Championship in an appropriate category such as Open, Senior, Junior, or Men, etc.
 - 2.2.1 The sanction fee for any such event is \$2 US per entered team except that such fee is waived for Junior Trials.
 - 2.2.2 The masterpoint award is determined by the ACBL Board of Directors.
 - 2.2.3 Should a National Championship as provided in 2.1 above be used to determine the Federation's representative, fees set out above in 2.1.2 shall not apply. The fees and masterpoint award in accordance with section 2.2.1 (this section) will apply.
 - 2.2.4 The Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through and reporting the results to the ACBL Tournament Department.
- 2.3 Upon request, the ACBL will sanction one regional per year to the ACBL District of the USBF's and/or the CBF's choice.

Section 3 – WBF

3.1 WBF Dues

- 3.1.1 The ACBL will remit to the WBF dues based upon ACBL's membership, which is the sum of all paid members and active unpaid Life Members, excluding members classified as juniors.

- 3.1.2 Management is authorized to comply with the WBF regulation that requires dues be paid on the basis of the current year membership or the year 2000 membership with the proviso that the year 2000 active membership is compared with the current year active membership and the WBF dues paid on the higher number.
- 3.2 WBF Events
 - 3.2.1 The ACBL Board of Directors supports a World Bridge Series Championship in North America in 2018.
 - 3.2.2 The ACBL Board of Directors authorizes a \$100,000 payment to support the running of the 2018 World Bridge Series Championship, if held in North America, provided no title sponsor(s) pays \$300,000 or more in support of the championship.
 - 3.2.3 Payments to be made as needed, but no sooner than January 1, 2018.

Section 4 - Miscellaneous

- 4.1 The ACBL requests that each Zone 2 NBO establish an appropriate dress code for teams representing that NBO in international competition.
- 4.2 The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), acting as the WBF Zone 2 Authority, expresses its disapproval of all non-bridge related public statements and demonstrations by any Zone 2 federation representative participating in an international bridge competition.
- 4.3 The ACBL requests that the federations in the jurisdiction of Zone 2 adopt regulations disallowing such public statements and demonstrations.
- 4.4 The ACBL Board of Directors advises their WBF representatives that it opposes any bylaw changes that would reduce the decision-making power of Zone 2 within the WBF.
- 4.5. At the sole discretion of Management, dues to or donations for an ACBL NBO can be placed on the ACBL membership and renewal

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C. INTERNATIONAL FUND

Section 1 – International Fund Games

- 1.1 The ACBL shall be solely responsible for establishing sanction fees for International Fund games sanctioned by the ACBL.
- 1.2 Three ACBL-wide International Fund Games will be held, one each in February, May and July.

Section 2 – International Fund Monies

- 2.1 All international fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned events conducted by the ACBL in the United States for the specific purpose of subsidizing United States athletes in international bridge competition will be forwarded to and retained by the ACBL.
- 2.2 Upon request of the USBF, the ACBL will disburse funds to the United States athletes.
- 2.3 All NABC+ event entry fees will include a \$1.50 surcharge per player per session for the International Fund.
- 2.4 International Fund monies collected at NABCs shall be apportioned to the appropriate International Fund in proportion equal to that country's percentage of ACBL membership.
- 2.5 International Funds collected in Canada and Mexico shall be sent to the respective NBOs to be disbursed at their discretion.
- 2.6 Money raised by and from ACBL-sanctioned events for the benefit of the International Fund shall be divided among and disbursed to members of all teams representing that Federation at the sole discretion of the Federation.

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D. WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section 1 – Junior Fund Monies

- 1.1 As approved by the ACBL Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation, an all inclusive North American Junior Fund (the “Junior Fund”) is established.
- 1.2 All funds derived from Junior Fund games held in North America shall be held by the ACBL.
- 1.3 In accordance with the regulations established by the ACBL Board of Directors, the Junior Fund shall be used to finance junior programs and activities, promote the game of bridge to juniors and allocate funds to junior teams representing NBOs located in WBF Zone Two in Junior/Youth World Championship events (as defined by the WBF) including University World Championship events.
- 1.4 Management shall indicate income and expenses for junior/youth activities as separate line items in the budget and financial statements.
- 1.5 Funds derived from Junior Fund (JF) Games will be used only to fund activities and programs limited to junior (ages 21-25) and youth (younger than 21) players.

Section 2 – USBF and CBF

- 2.1 Should the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) and the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) wish to receive Junior Fund money to promote international junior/youth participation, they shall submit to ACBL Management, a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of the summer NABC, a proposed budget for the following year. The budget should contain a detailed breakdown of reasonable costs, including coaching, for which they desire funding.
- 2.2 It will be the duty of ACBL Management to research and determine the feasibility of amounts determined to be reasonable expenses.
- 2.3 Management shall present its report and recommendations to the ACBL Board at its summer meeting for approval.
- 2.4 The Junior Fund shall financially support teams representing NBOs located in WBF Zone 2 for World Championship events only.

- 2.5 Funding will be made as equally as possible on a per team basis to all NBO teams.
- 2.6 When approval is granted by the Board, 75% of the approved funds shall be given to the USBF and CBF following the conclusion of the Spring NABC in the year when the Championship takes place.
- 2.7 The remaining 25% will be paid upon presentation of all receipts for approved expenses, if actually spent.

Section 3 – Junior Player Requirements - USBF

- 3.1 In order for the USBF to receive funds from ACBL for subsidy to juniors, any junior receiving such subsidy must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - 3.1.1 Any junior under the age of 19 receiving subsidy must be a high school graduate, have received a high school equivalency certificate or be a student attending school and making orderly progress toward graduation.
 - 3.1.2 All such juniors shall be held to the Code of Conduct developed by ACBL Management and League Counsel
 - 3.1.3 Teams receiving subsidies from the Junior Fund must ensure that all members of the team play sufficient boards to be eligible for medals won by the team unless there are physical, extenuating circumstances.

Section 4 – Disbursement of Junior Funds

- 4.1 The USBF will receive \$22,000 in 2013 from the Junior Fund to assist with recruitment and training to prepare for the 2014 World Youth Championships.
- 4.2 The CBF will receive \$10,000 in 2013 from the Junior Fund to assist with recruitment and training to prepare for the 2014 World Youth Championships.
- 4.3 The ACBL will pay 50% of up to \$30,000 of entry fees for Zone 2 ACBL members in good standing for their pro-rated portion of a pair or team for the 2013 World Youth Congress to be held in Atlanta, GA in 2013.