

**ACBL Board of Directors  
Online meeting via GoToWebinar  
May 28, and May 30, 2020  
Special Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Thursday May 28, 2020 at 12:06 p.m. (EST).

Present: Leo Weniger #1, Paul Janicki #2, Carlos Muñoz #3, Joann Glasson #4, Brian Ellis #5, Margot Hennings #6, Mike Kovacich #7, Georgia Heth #8, Jeff Overby #9, Ned Irving #10, AJ Stephani #11, Dennis Carman #12, Suzi Subeck #13, Sharon Anderson #14, Warren Smith #15, Paul Cuneo #16, Cindy Shoemaker #17, Claire Jones #18, Julie Smith #19, Laurie Rowe #20, Jackie Zayac #21, David Lodge #22, Kevin Lane #23, David Moss #24 and Bob Bertoni #25

Also Present: Richard Popper, Chairman Board of Governors, Joe Jones, Executive Director, Peyton Dodson, Linda Dunn, Mary Stratton, Susie Cordell, Nancy Boyd, Stephanie Threlkeld, Solly Weinstein, Robb Gordon and Kelley Trejo, Secretary.

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<b>APPEALS &amp; CHARGES COMMITTEE</b>
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Stephani (C), Overby (VC)	
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Carman, Hennings, Janicki, J. Smith, Zayac	
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	Staff: Gordon
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As reported by Committee Chair

**20S-06: Report on Hearing(s) if any**

In the matter of Brigitte and Ronald Friedman, the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of CDR § 3.20: Cheating and other Ethical Violations. They agreed to a Suspension of 90 days followed by a Probation of 2 years. They will be Members “Not in Good Standing” during the length of their Probationary period.

In the matter of Vincent Messina and Noreen Pitts the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of CDR § 3.20: Cheating and other Ethical Violations. They agreed to a Suspension of 180 Days Suspension followed by a Probation of 3 years. They will be Members “Not in Good Standing” during the length of their Probationary period.

In the matter of Bill Malin and Sue Malin, the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of CDR § 3.20: Cheating and other Ethical Violations. They agreed to a Suspension of 90 days followed by a Probation of 2 years. The Committee rejected the stipulation that Bill Malin be permitted to direct club games during his Probationary period, but accepted a prior NR in which that stipulation was omitted. They will be Members “Not in Good Standing” during the length of their Probationary period.

**Item 20S-03: Online Ethical Oversight Committee**

Chapter IV – Board Procedures, D. Committees – Section 4 – Other ACBL Bodies

- A. The Online Ethical Oversight Committee shall consist of fifteen members. Five members shall be appointed each year for staggered three-year terms by the ACBL President.

During their tenure in office, members may not be dismissed except for grossly inappropriate behavior. If the President of the ACBL or the Chairman of the Online Ethical Oversight Committee call together the members of the Committee, they may, by majority vote, remove a member of the Committee.

- B. The President appoints Online Ethical Oversight Committee members. Appointments are subject to Board approval.
- C. The Committee elects the Online Ethical Oversight Chairman from among its members, however, for the first year, the President will select the Chairman. The Chairman may not serve more than 3 consecutive one-year terms.
- D. The Online Ethical Oversight Committee members shall initially be appointed by the President in three classes and confirmed at the next Board of Directors meeting. Starting in 2021, they will be appointed and confirmed at the Summer NABC. The term of office will begin when confirmed and starting in 2021 on the day following the end of the Summer NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Summer NABC.

The Online Ethical Oversight Committee will consist of 15 members. Five members will be appointed each year for staggered three-year terms by the ACBL President.

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

Effective immediately  
Carried unanimously

**Item 20S-04 CDR - Online Bridge Oversight Committee**

The CDR be amended as follows:

1. ACBL Disciplinary Bodies

1.10 Online Ethical Oversight Committee (OEOC).

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1.1 SIZE OF DISCIPLINARY PANELS

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1.1.1 All ACBL Disciplinary Bodies, whether exercising original or appellate jurisdiction, must consist of a minimum of 3 members.

#### 4.4 SUSPENSION PENDING HEARING

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##### 2.2.6 Original Jurisdiction of the Ethical Oversight Committee.

(a) The Ethical Oversight Committee has original jurisdiction over limited matters involving any ACBL member or non-member participating in any face-to-face event that awards ACBL masterpoints, ~~and over non-members participating in an ACBL sanctioned event.~~ This includes the face-to-face part of ACBL sanctioned events that occur online but are subsequently played face-to-face. (See also CDR 2.2.3(f).)

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##### 2.2.8 Original Jurisdiction of the Online Ethical Oversight Committee.

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(a) The Online Ethical Oversight Committee (OEOC) has original jurisdiction over all matters involving any ACBL members and non-members participating in any online event that awards ACBL masterpoints. In events that occur online but are partially played face-to-face, the Online Ethical Oversight Committee shall have jurisdiction over incidents occurring online.

(b) The Online Ethical Oversight Committee shall, upon Charges being brought, have original jurisdiction of all ethics-related cases arising from online play.

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(c) In-House Counsel, the ACBL President and the District Director of the Charged Party shall be notified of a decision to hold an OEOC hearing. The results of its hearings shall be reported to the parties, the Board of Directors, the District Director of the Charged Party, In-House Counsel and ACBL Management.

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4.4.1 *Policy.* When Charges have been brought against a person, such Charged Party may play in an ACBL sanctioned event pending the hearing *unless* otherwise directed by the (i) ~~chairperson of the Disciplinary Body which will be hearing the Charges~~ Executive Director, (ii) DIC of a Sectional or higher-rated tournament when a Charge is to be heard at that tournament by a Tournament Disciplinary Committee, or (iii) Executive Director when a Tournament Disciplinary Committee has recommended additional discipline pursuant to CDR 5.3.14. When charges have been brought by the World Bridge Federation, a NBO or one of the Zonal Conferences of the World Bridge Federation, such person so charged may play in an ACBL sanctioned event pending hearing *unless* otherwise directed by the ACBL ~~CEO~~ Executive Director.

However, if directed not to play, it is a “Suspension Pending Hearing.” Such Suspension Pending Hearing should be rarely issued – only in extreme cases or when a hearing is delayed due to the fault of the person charged. A Suspension Pending Hearing may not be appealed.

##### *4.4.2 Requirements when Suspension Pending Hearing is in effect*

(a) If a case is before a District-level Disciplinary Body, the hearing must commence within sixty (60) days *unless* the person charged causes a delay.

(b) If a case is before the Tournament Disciplinary Committee, the hearing must commence no later than sixty (60) minutes after the conclusion of the final session the day after the Suspension Pending Hearing was imposed or no later than sixty (60) minutes after the conclusion of the final session of the tournament, whichever is earlier, *unless* the person charged causes a delay.

If the matter is not heard at the tournament due to the delay of the Charged Party, the Suspension Pending Hearing will remain in effect until the proper Disciplinary Body hears the matter or lifts the Suspension Pending Hearing. If the matter is not heard at the tournament for any other reason, the Suspension Pending Hearing must be lifted and the matter must be referred to the appropriate Disciplinary Body to be heard. (See CDR 5.3.14.)

(c) If a case is before the Appeals and Charges Committee, ACBL Disciplinary Committee or Ethical Oversight Committee, the hearing must commence at ~~or before~~ the next ensuing ACBL Board of Directors' regular meeting or NABC, or 60 days, whichever comes first, consistent with adequate notice, *unless* delay is caused by the person charged.

5.1.18 *Advisor for Committees of Original Jurisdiction.* Due to the simplified procedures of these informal hearings, an advisor for committees of original jurisdiction is not routinely required. If a committee of original jurisdiction feels that it needs assistance on procedural matters, it may ask to have an advisor provided to assist it. The advisor shall be selected by and paid for (if any cost is incurred) by the organization responsible for the cost (i.e., District Boards for District Disciplinary Committees and ACBL Management for the ACBL Disciplinary Committee, the Ethical Oversight Committee, the Online Ethical Oversight Committee and the Appeals and Charges Committee). The advisor for the ACBL Disciplinary Committee and the Ethical Oversight Committee shall be chosen jointly by the chairperson of that committee and ACBL Management. The advisor selected shall not be an employee of the organization choosing the advisor (current or former) and shall be impartial. The advisor shall not participate in the determination of guilt or the discipline to be imposed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, In-House Counsel may serve as the advisor to the Appeals and Charges Committee.

5.2 SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF HEARINGS BY A DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE, THE ETHICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, THE ONLINE ETHICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND THE ACBL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (See also CDR 5.1.)

5.2.1 *Complaint.* A Complaint requesting that Charges be brought to an appropriate Disciplinary Body must be made in writing and submitted to the appropriate Charging Party having jurisdiction, i.e. the District or ACBL (see CDR 2), by any ACBL recorder within the period of limitations described in CDR 5.2.1(a), (b), and (c) below. **Note that a Complaint is the only basis for an official Charge to a District Disciplinary Committee, the Ethical Oversight Committee, Online Ethical Oversight Committee or the ACBL Disciplinary Committee.** Each of these committees receives and acts on a Charge, not a Complaint. (See CDR 5.2.2.)

7.2 APPEALS TO THE APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

7.2.1 *Right to Appeal a Disciplinary Body's Decision.* The Disciplined Person and/or the Charging Party may file a written request to appeal with the chairperson of the Appeals and Charges Committee from

- (a) A decision of the Ethical Oversight Committee;
- (b) A decision of the District Appellate Committee; or
- (c) A decision of the ACBL Disciplinary Committee; or
- (d) A decision of the Online Ethical Oversight Committee

**Appendix A to Code of Disciplinary Regulations**  
*GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS*

**INTRODUCTION**

The **Ethical Oversight Committee** hears original cases involving cheating or serious breaches of ethics in face-to-face bridge events. The **Online Bridge Ethical Oversight Committee** hears original cases arising from online bridge events. The **ACBL Disciplinary Committee** hears cases involving serious conduct violations, disputes between Units, or disputes between Units and Districts. The **Appeals and Charges Committee** is primarily an appellate body that reviews and hears cases on behalf of the ACBL Board of Directors. Decisions of the Appeals and Charges Committee are final (unless amended or reversed by the full Board of Directors).

Effective immediately  
Carried unanimously

<b>GOVERNANCE BOARD OPERATIONS COMMITTEE</b>	
Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC) Anderson, Cuneo, Glasson, Irving, Janicki, Lane, Lodge, Overby, Shoemaker, Stephani, Zayac, Popper	Staff: Dunn

As reported by Committee Chair

**Item 20S-01: Discontinuation of Board of Directors' Stipends for the Remainder of 2020**

In light of the extraordinary times in which we find ourselves at this juncture in 2020 with no face-to-face bridge to play in or travel to, the Board of Directors shall forego the remaining two \$1000 stipends for each of its 25 members and the Board of Governors Chair as provided for in Chapter IV – Board Procedures, B. Expenses, Section 4 – Board of Directors' Stipend, subsection 4.1 of the Codification:

**CHAPTER IV - BOARD PROCEDURES**

**B. EXPENSES**

## Section 4 – Board of Directors’ Stipend

- 4.1 The President of the ACBL, each District Director and the Chair of the Board of Governors will receive an amount of \$1,000 three times per year to reflect travel to District and Unit events, telephone expenses, mailings and miscellaneous office expenses connected with the office of District Director and Chair of the Board of Governors.
- 4.2 Extraordinary expenses incurred as a committee member will be considered for additional reimbursement.

Effective immediately

Carried            Nay: 2, 13        Abstain: 18

### BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Carman (C), Ellis (VC)

Bertoni, Jones, Moss, Muñoz, Rowe, J. Smith

W. Smith, Subeck, Weniger

Staff: Boyd/Weinstein

As reported by Committee Chair

### **Item 20S-02: Proposal for District or Unit Run Online Regionals and Sectionals.**

Districts are allowed to run their Regionals Online (and/or Units if that is the local regional practice) agreed by the district.

Units are allowed to run Sectionals Online.

Pricing will be set by the local Sponsor (Usually in line with their normal fees)

The ACBL will provide support with TourneyTRAX, Advertising, Setup assistance and Live results. BBO will be the online platform.

**Tournaments** will be held during the regular sanctioned week for that unit or district. No Additional Sanctions will be given.

**Duration:** Regionals will be scheduled for Minimum 3 days up, and Sectionals 2 days to the Maximum days covered by the current Sanction.

**Starting Times:** Will be set by the local committee. It would be prudent to start then at :15 past the hour to help BBO load balancers get games off easily. Starting the same time as a speedball (i.e.: on the hour may cause some lag or disconnects, so if you run at 10AM and 2:30 consider 10:15 and 2:45. Starting times should be advertised in both local time and BBO Time to avoid confusion. BBO uses EDT/EST So recommend if not in that time zone advertise 10:15 PDT (1:15 BBO Time).

A maximum of 3 daily sessions for Regionals and Sectionals, minimum 2.

**Card Fees:** To be set by the local committee.

Just as in a live event there should be some risk to the District or Unit regard pricing and profitability.

**Fee Splitting:**

25% to BBO

25% to the ACBL

50% To the Sponsor LESS:

Sanction fees paid from Local Share.

**Directors:** Fees will be paid by the sponsoring group. Minimum 2 ACBL TD Per session Regional, IN NO CASE can a TA or PT Director lower the requirement for 2 Full Time TD's to be paid, except at the request of Management. Specific Directors familiar with the Locals can be requested as they are now. 1 additional every 40 additional tables over 80 suggested Minimum 1 ACBL TD per Sectional. Paid For in the recap to the ACBL. Other TD's as needed will be paid by the Sponsor and can be BBOTD, Part time TD, or TA's at the discretion of the sponsor. 2 directors per tournament minimum.

**Eligible Participants:** The sponsoring District and Contiguous Districts, Units running sectional will include touching Units, plus all historical attendance in the last 2 years no matter where from, this will allow it to be closer to the reality of who may actually come and increase the attendance while allowing people who normally travel to your tournament to continue to play.

**Advertising:** Sponsors will require help sending emails to all the eligible participants, the ACBL will provide this help threw Constant Contact, Pianola or whatever method they choose, the cost for this will come from the additional fees given to the ACBL. For example, under this proposal a D25 Regional will also invite D1, D3 and D24 as contiguous districts and we will have the opportunity to have many players that currently attend, while not all previous as some come from D9 also but they would be blocked under this proposal but allow full and easy participation for all other players.

**Registration:** Should open 3 hours before starting times.

**Team Games** at this time are difficult, KO could be done using Preregistration and at least one additional TD, suggest pairs only for the first year. Swiss at this time is impossible.

Effective immediately

Motion Failed            Aye: 1, 2, 3, 15, 25

**Item 20S-05: NABC+ and GLM Qualifying Events**

Item 183-66, effective January 1, 2020, be applied to players retroactively as well as prospectively.

Effective June 1, 2020

Carried unanimously

The ACBL Board of Directors reconvened for break out groups to discuss planning for the rest of this year.

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The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 2:32 p.m.

Present: Same as Thursday May 28

Also Present: Same as Thursday May 28

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The ACBL Board of Directors reconvened for a discussion about planning for the rest of this year, and requested management to use the communications policy attached as Exhibit A.

### **Online Ethical Oversight Committee**

David Caprera, Harold Bickham, Adam Parrish , Becky Rogers and Mike Lipkin are appointed for a one year term from June 2020 through the end of the Summer 2021 NABC.

Sylvia Moss, Ira Chorush, Jordan Chodorow, Greg Humphreys and Martin Hirschman are appointed for a two year term from June 2020 through the end of Summer 2022 NABC.

Jon Brissman, Jan Martel, Ron Smith, Karen Walker and Fred Pollack are appointed for a three year term from June 2020 through the end of Summer 2023 NABC.

Effective immediately

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President Heth created a committee for the Future of Online Bridge. The following have been appointed. Jay Whipple – chairman, AJ Stephani, David Moss, Pete Misslin, Greg Coles, Susie Cordell, Nancy Strohmer, Donna Compton (will be unable to serve if Tuesday is chosen as a meeting day) Silvana Lamy Angelidis.

The Board adjourned sine die at 4:35 p.m.