

ACBL Board of Directors
Online meeting via Zoom Webinar
August 17, 2020
Special Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Tuesday August 17, 2020 at 2:38 p.m. (CDT).

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, David Johnson #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, Director of Finance, Linda Dunn, In-House Counsel, Greg Coles, Director of Bridge Services, Mary Stratton, Director of Marketing, Susie Cordell, Director of Information Technology, Stephanie Threlkeld, Marketing Manager, Sol Weinstein, Field Manager and Kelley Trejo, Secretary. In addition, members of the Online Task Force: Jay Whipple, Lamy Agelidis and Nancy Strohmer.

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Item 20S3-04: ACBL Laws Commission Appointment

Rui Marques is appointed to the ACBL Laws Commission Committee for the vacated term of Rebecca Rogers ending Spring NABC 2022.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item 20S3-05: ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointment

Melody Bi is appointed to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee for the vacated term of William Schreiber ending Spring NABC 2022.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

ONLINE TASK FORCE	
Whipple (CH) Lamy Agelidis, Donna Compton, Pete Misslin, David Moss, AJ Stephani, Nancy Strohmer, Silvana Morici	Staff: Coles, Cordell

As reported by Task Force Chair

The Task Force Chair and Lamy Agelidis gave an Power Point presentation followed by a discussion with the Board and ACBL management as well as questions and answers. Attachment A

These minutes are not final. They will be approved by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.

TRANSITION TASK FORCE

Lane (C), Overby (VC)
Subeck, Gaynor, Moese, Hennings, Kovacich

Staff: Dodson, Dunn

As reported by Task Force Chair

The Task Force Chair gave an oral PowerPoint presentation followed by a discussion with the Board and ACBL management.

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The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

Present: Same as Tuesday, August 17

Also Present: Same as Tuesday, August 17 with the addition of Robb Gordon, National Recorder and Online Task Force Committee Member Donna Compton.

ONLINE TASK FORCE

Whipple (CH)
Lamya Agelidis, Donna Compton, Pete Misslin, David Moss,
AJ Stephani, Nancy Strohmer, Silvana Morici

Staff: Coles, Cordell

As reported by Task Force Chair

Following review and consideration of the Power Point presentation from Tuesday's meeting, the Task Force Chair discussed the report and answered questions from the Board and ACBL management.

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The Board of Directors convened into executive session at 2:11 p.m.

The Board of Directors reconvened into full board session at 3:20 p.m.

APPEALS & CHARGES COMMITTEE

Stephani (C), Overby (VC)

Carman, Hennings, Janicki, J. Smith, Zayac

Staff: Gordon

As reported by Committee Chair

20S3-06: Report on Hearings

In the matter of Gene Petrey, the committee accepted the decision of the Ethical Oversight Committee that he violated CDR 3.1 and 3.20 and that he should be disciplined under the guidelines in E9 – “Accidentally gain access to information and then act on it.” However, in light of his prior disciplinary record concerning the identical offense, the committee believed that the six-month suspension/ three-year probation imposed by the EOC did not reflect the severity of his actions. Accordingly, the committee imposed a two-year suspension with lifetime probation.

In the matter of Roger Zellmer and Alan Rowen, the committee affirmed the Negotiated Resolution entered into with ACBL management agreeing to a suspension of 30 days with a probationary period of one year following the suspension.

In the matter of Gayle Gerth-Levine, the committee affirmed the Negotiated Resolution entered into with ACBL management agreeing to a suspension of 90 days with a probationary period of two years following the suspension.

In the matter of Sylvia Shi, the committee affirmed the Negotiated Resolution entered into with ACBL management agreeing to a suspension of three years, a probationary period of three years following the suspension, a forfeiture of 25% of her accumulated ACBL masterpoints[®], removal of the status of Grand Life Master and thereafter remaining ineligible unless her eligibility is restored by the Appeals and Charges Committee after five years have elapsed from the end of her suspension.

BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Carman (C), Ellis (VC)

Bertoni, Moss, Muñoz, Rowe, J. Smith, W. Smith, Subeck, Weniger

Staff: Weinstein

As reported by Committee Chair

Item 20S3-01: Appendix O Conditions of Contest for Online Play

Appendix O

1. Cheating: Cheating online is a serious offense, subject to the same penalties as cheating in live play. The following are examples of illegal action, but note that this list is not inclusive of all possible cheating methods: to communicate with your partner during a hand via any means other than chat to the full table, to communicate with a kibitzer during the game, to

play using an account that is not yours, to gain advance knowledge of a deal, to play in one event using multiple accounts, or, to acquire information in any form concerning a deal yet to be played to completion.

Any accusation of improper behavior must be made privately to the director of the event, to the ACBL recorder, or to a reporting mechanism provided by the online platform.

2. Alerts: Alerts (including announcements) are made by the player making the call. An alerted call should be accompanied by an explanation. To alert a bid in an online game, type the explanation of the bid in the “Alert” space provided, before completing the alertable bid. Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient. You are encouraged to explain calls even if those calls do not require alerts. Any call that would be alerted after the auction in live bridge should be alerted at the time of the call.
3. Any contestant may request information concerning an opponent’s methods. Such inquiries should be directed to the player who made the call and must be asked in a private chat. Such inquiries should not be made to both opponents. A player is entitled to the correct agreements of their opponents only. Replies to these inquiries must likewise be given in a private chat. You are not obligated to answer questions about calls made by your partner.

Pre-alerts of any unusual methods for which the opponents need to prepare must be given before the auction period begins on the first board of a round or match.
4. Tempo: In general, bids and plays within 10 seconds are considered to be in tempo. An unusual variation in tempo in a tempo-sensitive moment of the auction or play will generally be deemed a “BIT” (break in tempo), regardless of the reason for the variation. A “BIT” can be an unusually slow call or play or an unusually fast call or play.
5. Claims and concessions: If you reject an opponent’s claim or concession, and continue play, the result of the board will stand as played. Instead of rejecting the claim or concession, you may call the Director for an adjudication of the result.
6. Unfinished hands: A hand that is partially completed when time expires is adjudicated as equitably as possible to both sides. Any doubtful point will be resolved against the partnership that is considered most responsible for not finishing in time.
7. Undos: Unintended calls or plays will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. A contestant who makes an unintended call or play should summon the Director immediately. As in live play, undos are permitted only upon instruction of the Director.
8. Table Chat: All chat is authorized information for opponents and unauthorized information for partner.
9. Convention Cards: Partnerships are encouraged to have a convention card that includes the players’ real names. Pairs without cards will be at a disadvantage in misinformation rulings. A pair without a convention card must preannounce their basic system and explain all their alertable calls in detail. Otherwise, if the system loads a default card for pairs without a convention card, then you should not assume that your opponents are playing those methods.

10. Information Available in the Software: All information provided by the software is authorized. For example, if the software has a button to view your convention card during the hand, then it is legal to use that button to view your own card. Consulting a written defense is allowed in any situation where it would be allowed in face to face bridge. Using any other aid to memory is illegal. Illegal aids include consulting a system notes document or tracking the cards played on paper.
11. Irregularities: The Director must be summoned electronically for any irregularity. Once the Director has been summoned, all play and bidding shall cease until the Director authorizes its continuation.
12. All human substitutes are eligible for Masterpoint awards, subject to playing the requisite number of hands specified in the Conditions of contest, unless their Masterpoint holding disqualifies them from the event. No adjustments to the game scores of human substitutes may be made for the purpose of reducing their Masterpoint awards.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item 20S3-02: Reducing Masterpoint Awards to reflect non-Face to Face Play

In all events conducted online in which ACBL gold, silver or red points are awarded, all masterpoint awards shall be 80% of the amount that would be awarded in a face-to-face game of the same structure, as calculated by the applicable formulas.

Effective date pending second reading
Carried Nay: 13

The Board adjourned sine die at 4:54 p.m. CDT