

# Appeals & Charges

## **Item 171-02: Anti-Cheating Commission**

The Anti-Cheating Commission be, and hereby is, approved as a non-Board committee and that the following be added to Codification Ch. IV.D. Section 5 – Other ACBL Bodies:

### 5.11 Anti-Cheating Commission

The Anti-Cheating Commission shall address the issue of collusive cheating and/or other serious ethical violations as follows:

- 5.11.1 The purpose of the Anti-Cheating Commission shall be to deter, detect and prosecute collusive cheating or other serious ethical violations.
- 5.11.2 The ACBL National Recorder may submit evidence or player memos to the Anti-Cheating Commission for evaluation or recommendation. The National Recorder will regularly provide any relevant player memos regarding ethical violations or other serious ethical violations or other evidence to the Anti-Cheating Commission. The Anti-Cheating Commission may utilize additional experts as needed. The committee shall provide a copy of any evidence that it develops (or receives from experts) to the ACBL National Recorder.
- 5.11.3 The Anti-Cheating Commission is charged with evaluating player memos and any other relevant evidence of unethical conduct in conjunction with the Office of National Recorder. As needed, the committee may investigate, utilizing any tools it has available, with or without the National Recorder, any situation where collusive cheating or other serious ethical violation is suspected. Among other things, the committee is tasked with developing investigatory protocols and statistical models to examine past practices that may uncover illegal methods of partnership communication.
- 5.11.4 The Anti-Cheating Commission may investigate any situation where collusive cheating or other serious ethical violation is or may be reasonably suspected. The investigative team assembled by the Anti-Cheating Commission may engage experts in any field to assist the investigation. The committee must notify the ACBL National Recorder in writing prior to any commencing any formal investigation. Any expenditure must be approved by the ACBL National Recorder.

- 5.11.5 All Anti-Cheating Commission opinions will be provided to the ACBL National Recorder in writing. Based upon its recommendation, the National Recorder (or a designee) may take a complaint to ACBL management alleging collusive cheating or other serious ethical violations against any one or more ACBL members (or non-member participating in an ACBL sanctioned event). Decisions regarding filing formal complaints against specific players shall be at the sole discretion of the ACBL.
- 5.11.6 The Anti-Cheating Commission shall consist of at least five (5) members but no more than nine (9) members. All members will be appointed by the ACBL Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) in consultation with the then Anti-Cheating Commission chairman. They should be bridge players of the highest caliber with a long history of success in NABC+ events who are above ethical reproach. At least two of the members must be located outside North America. The National Recorder shall be an *ex officio* non-voting member of the committee and shall not be counted in assessing the five (5)-member requirement.
- 5.11.7 Each member shall serve in staggered three-year terms, except that during the first year of appointments the ACBL CEO may assign members to a term of fewer than three (3) to allow for such staggered terms.
- 5.11.8 The activities of the Anti-Cheating Commission are highly confidential. Accordingly, each member must sign a non-disclosure agreement with the ACBL prior to beginning service on the committee.
- 5.11.9 The Anti-Cheating Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members by a simple majority vote. The chairman may not serve more than three (3) consecutive one- year terms.
- 5.11.10 Anti-Cheating Commission members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. Their term of office will begin one day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.
- 5.11.11 Members of the Anti-Cheating Commission may be removed without cause by the ACBL CEO. In addition, the ACBL CEO and the Anti-Cheating Commission chairperson may call a meeting of the Anti-Cheating Commission and, by majority vote, remove a member of the committee.

- 5.11.12 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his or her entire term for any reason, the vacancy created will be filled by the ACBL CEO. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 5.11.13 The members of the Anti-Cheating Commission will be compensated in the value of a two-session entry into a NABC+ event for each day the committee meets at a NABC.

# Bridge

## **Item 171-07: Subsidy 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and 4<sup>th</sup> Place NAP District Final**

(Reconsideration from Board of Governors Fall 2016, Orlando FL)

Item 163-49 Subsidy 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and 4<sup>th</sup> Place NAP District Final be reconsidered.

A \$200 subsidy be provided to all 3<sup>rd</sup> place NAP District Final individual finishers in each flight to help offset expenses associated with participation in the North American Pairs National Finals.

A \$100 subsidy be provided to all 4<sup>th</sup> place NAP District Final individual finishers in Flights B and C from each district in each flight to help offset expenses associated with participation in the North American Pairs National Finals.

**History: Item 163-49 Motion failed: Aye: 1, 3, 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 25 Abstain: 2, 12 Orlando FL 2016 Fall meeting; Reconsideration by Board of Governors Carried by BoG**

## **Item 171-08: Masterpoint Awards for Four Session Regional Events**

Appendix 13-B Masterpoint Awards Compilation Book, Section 3 C. Regional Regulations  
Unrestricted events be amended to read:

3. Four Session Regional Events for those four session Regional events, other than Knockouts, where another unrestricted event of the same type but fewer sessions starts on ~~the same~~ **either** day, the Masterpoint awards computed by formula shall be increased by 40%.

**History:** Carried by Board of Governors at 2016 Fall Orlando meeting

## **Item 171-09: Entry Fees**

Item 161-91 be rescinded.

~~For team events held at an NABC in which all team entrants receive full overall masterpoint awards, entry shall be charged on a per person basis. For team events in which the overall award is calculated~~

as a percentage of a players participation, entry fees shall be charged on a per team basis at a rate equivalent to four players on that team. Effective immediately Carried. Absent: 3

**History:** Carried by Board of Governors at 2016 Fall Orlando meeting

**Item 171-10: Playing Cards**

ACBL purchase/use new playing cards in all boards at the beginning of each NABC.

**History:** Carried by Board of Governors at 2016 Fall Orlando meeting

**Item 171-11: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures**

Chapter 4, ACBL Board of Directors, Appendix 4D-2: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures be amended as follows:

**Table of Contents**

1. Powers and Purpose .....	<del>3</del> 1
2. Committee Composition and appointment.....	<del>3</del> 1
3. Committee Records.....	<del>4</del> 2
4. Nomination Criteria, Rules and Procedures.....	4 2
5. Election Procedures.....	<del>6</del> 3
6. Timeline .....	<del>8</del> 3
7. Committee Operating Procedures.....	<del>10</del> 5
8. The Hall of Fame <del>Banquet</del> <u>Award Ceremony</u> .....	<del>11</del> 5
Appendix I — Hall of Fame Performance Chart Criteria. <del>12</del>	
Appendix II— Hall of Fame Electors.....	<del>14</del>

**1. Powers and Purpose**

The ACBL Hall of Fame Committee (HoFC) is charged with the oversight of the Hall of Fame program, selection of the recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards, and nomination of members in the Open category. It shall establish ~~have responsibility for setting~~ criteria for selecting nominees, establishing nomination and election procedures, overseeing the induction ceremonies at the Hall of Fame ~~Banquet~~ Award Ceremony and provide, in addition to providing input to ACBL ~~Management~~ on the Hall of Fame Gallery at ACBL ~~Headquarters~~ and Hall of Fame ~~Online~~.

The HoFC shall report to the ACBL Board of Directors (~~the Board~~) prior to the institution of any a major change in any of the above areas, and shall generally keep the Board **or its designated representative** informed on all matters concerning the Hall of Fame. The Board shall have final ~~ultimate~~ approval on all matters except choosing nominees to be placed on the Hall of Fame ballot ~~and/or~~ choosing recipients of the Blackwood or the von Zedtwitz ~~A~~awards.

**2. Committee Composition and Appointment**

The ACBL President and HoFC ~~e~~**Chair** shall endeavor to employ a balanced approach to composing the Hall of Fame Committee, taking into account variations in age, gender and area of residency. At least one member of the HoFC shall ~~should~~ be from Canada, Mexico or Bermuda.

However, suitable committee candidates shall ~~should~~ not be eliminated from consideration **merely** because ~~as a result~~ of the desire for a balanced committee.

The HoFC **shall consist of nine voting members. Each member is appointed for a** ~~will have staggered three-year terms. with three members being appointed every year.~~ In addition ~~to its nine voting members,~~ the ACBL President and CEO shall be permanent non-voting members of the ~~Hall of Fame Committee~~ HoFC.

A member of the HoFC must be an ACBL member **in good standing** who has been actively involved in bridge tournament activities (either as a player, in an administrative capacity, or as a member of the press) for at least 20 years and is familiar with the **history and achievements** ~~activities~~ of possible nominees.

A ~~HoFC member or chair~~ may not serve for more than two **consecutive** full terms. A retired ~~HoFC member or chair~~ may be reappointed ~~as a committee member or committee chair~~ after a **minimum** one-year (1) hiatus. ~~The~~ A chair must have at least one year of ~~previous~~ service on the committee **prior to appointment as chair. In the event that no qualified replacement is available or willing to serve for a member who is otherwise term limited, then the ACBL President may reappoint such term limited member for a maximum of one year.**

The three-year term of appointed members shall begin at the conclusion of the Spring NABC at which they are ~~were~~ appointed and end at the conclusion of the Spring NABC three years later.

The HoFC shall recommend possible HoFC members and a chair to the ACBL President prior to the Spring NABC.

### **3. Committee Records**

ACBL Management will maintain a HoFC Document Archive that includes:

- a. Form letter to Open nominees,
- b. Ballot template,
- c. Performance chart template,
- d. Biographical ~~Bi~~ criteria,
- e. Cover letter to ~~the~~ electors,
- f. List of previous inductees into the Hall of Fame,
- g. Form letter to recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards,
- h. Minutes of previous meetings,
- i. HoFC contact list which **includes** ~~shows~~ appointment terms,

The HoFC may amend the form or content of the above documents.

New committee members shall receive a copy of the operating procedures **as well as** ~~and~~ the above documents (~~last two years of minutes~~).

#### 4. Nomination Criteria, Rules and Procedures

##### Nomination Criteria

The ACBL Hall of Fame Award, in any category, shall be given to distinguished individuals who are held in high regard for their ethics, deportment and sportsmanship, while residing in the territory administered by the American Contract Bridge League **ACBL**. **The primary basis for consideration in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories is the player's North American and international record and achievements as a member and representative of the ACBL. An individual's personal history, whether good or bad, should be considered in nominating candidates or recipients. A proposed nominee's ACBL disciplinary record may be reviewed as part of the process of determining whether that person meets the criteria to be nominated for admission into the Hall of Fame. Upon request, the HoFC will be provided with information as authorized by ACBL Board Resolution 033-02 as amended. No current HoFC members shall be nominated or considered for nomination or selected as a recipient of any Award while serving on the HoFC.**

##### Open Award

The ACBL Hall of Fame Open Award shall be given annually to living individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record. **Nominees must have attained the age of 60 by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the induction ceremony.** They shall be elected by electors, as described in Section 5 **herein** of these operating procedures.

##### von Zedtwitz Award

The ~~ACBL Hall of Fame~~ von Zedtwitz Award shall be given to living or deceased individuals~~(s)~~ who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record but who may not have been in the limelight for a significant period of time. A deceased person must be deceased for three years before becoming eligible for selection. **This, but this** rule may be waived if at least six HoFC members vote to do so. **Up to** Each year, ~~as many as two (2)~~ recipients may be selected **per year** by the HoFC ~~whenever deemed appropriate.~~

##### **Blackwood Award**

The ~~ACBL Hall of Fame~~ Blackwood Award shall be given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge without necessarily **meeting the qualifications required for the Open and von Zedtwitz Awards.** **Only** being world class players. Whenever deemed appropriate each year, up to one ~~(1)~~ recipient **per year** may be selected ~~by the HoFC.~~

In either the von Zedtwitz and ~~or~~ Blackwood category, in a year where the HoFC believes that an additional award is clearly warranted, the Board may, upon receiving appropriate rationale from the HoFC in advance, vote to allow an additional award for that year.

~~Nominees in the Open category must have attained the age of 60 by January 1 of the year of the induction ceremony.~~

~~The primary basis for consideration in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories is the player's~~

~~North American and international record and achievements as a member and representative of the ACBL.~~

~~An individual's personal history, whether good or bad, should be considered in nominating candidates or selecting recipients.~~

~~A proposed nominee's ACBL disciplinary record may be reviewed as part of the process of determining whether that person meets the criteria to be nominated for admission into the Hall of Fame. Upon request, the committee will be provided with information as authorized by (ACBL) Board Resolution 033-02 as amended.~~

Individuals shall give their consent for nomination in the Open category **and for** selection for the von Zedtwitz or Blackwood Awards. The HoFC will not replace an individual who has declined nomination in the Open category, but may replace an individual who ~~has declined~~ to receive the von Zedtwitz or Blackwood Award.

~~Admission to the ACBL Hall of Fame may occur in one of the following ways:~~

- ~~a. Election as a member in the Open category by the electors~~
- ~~b. Selection for the Blackwood Award by the ACBL Hall of Fame Committee~~
- ~~c. Selection for the von Zedtwitz Award by the ACBL Hall of Fame Committee~~

## Nomination Rules and Procedures

ACBL members may suggest names to be nominated in the Open, von Zedtwitz and Blackwood categories.

The HoFC **shall select up to a maximum of** ~~members shall not be nominated or considered for nomination for the Hall of Fame while serving on the Hall of Fame Committee. The HoFC shall determine the number of nominees in the Open category. There shall not be more than 15 nominees in the Open category. Any person~~ The voting will be conducted on a straight voting method. ~~In the Open category, a nominee receiving less than 10% of the electors' votes for three consecutive years shall not be nominated for the next three consecutive years.~~

In the Open category, the HoFC will abide by the following voting procedures, starting with the list of proposed nominees agreed to before the fall meeting:

- ~~a. The committee discusses each proposed candidate.~~
- ~~b. All voting HoFC members rank proposed candidates from one (best) to #x (worst).~~
- ~~c. Votes are tabulated and those with the lowest totals are nominated. The committee determines the number of candidates that will appear on the ballot, based on any gaps in the voting totals.~~

In **selecting nominees and recipients, the HoFC may use such methods as are consistent** ~~the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz categories, there will be two votes, starting with the intent list of these operating procedures. However, no proxy voting by committee members shall be allowed. At a minimum, potential candidates agreed to before the Committee should fall meeting:~~

- a. **Discuss** ~~The committee discusses each proposed candidate nominee,~~

- b. Establish a voting procedure which ranks the proposed candidates from best to worst, and ~~The committee votes, using the ranking procedure above.~~
- c. ~~The committee eliminates all but~~ **Determine** the number of candidates ~~two to be placed upon~~ **four best nominees (based on any gaps in the ballot voting totals and the recipients original number of nominees being considered)** of the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood Awards if any.
- d. ~~The committee re-votes, using the ranking procedures above. The nominee with the lowest total is the recipient of the award.~~

~~Blackwood Award and von Zedtwitz Award winners are full fledged Hall of Fame members. Details of Nomination Procedures are incorporated into the Timeline.~~

## 5. Election Procedures

### Electors for the Hall of Fame

The Electors for the Hall of Fame ~~are~~ **shall** be determined according to the criteria ~~as defined in~~ Appendix II.

**They must** also ~~Electors must~~ be members in good standing and permanent residents of Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, or United States including any territories. Life Members must **be current on** all ~~have paid their service fees.~~ If an elector does not vote for two consecutive years, the elector shall be removed from the ~~HoF electors'~~ list. The elector may be reinstated by requesting of the ACBL to be reinstated. No (fax, email, letter, or phone message) to be re-instated to ACBL. Any member who has been suspended for six months or more for ethical violations shall ~~not~~ be an elector.

### Voting for Nominees

ACBL Management shall send **all** eligible ~~the~~ electors a ballot package which shall include a cover letter, instructions on how to vote, a ballot, **and** up-to-date biography for each nominee, a list of Hall of Fame members, and a performance chart showing the NABC and WBF performance history **(See Appendix I)** of each nominee while they were a member and representative of the ACBL. ~~(See Appendix I).~~

**Each nominee shall be considered separately by the electors. On the question of whether the nominee shall become a member of the Hall of Fame, the electors may vote yes, no, or abstention for each nominee. If no vote is recorded by an elector for any or all of the nominees, then the ballot shall not be counted in determining the total votes cast for a nominee. Any nominee who receives yes votes representing at least 67% of the total votes cast for that nominee, and having at least 50% of the electors voting having cast a ballot for the nominee, shall be elected to the Hall of Fame.**

~~The maximum number of votes an elector may cast depends on the number of candidates.~~

~~The electors shall vote for a maximum of:~~

- ~~• One (1) if there are 1-3 candidates~~
- ~~• Two (2) if there are 4-5 candidates~~



- ~~Three (3) if there are 6 or 7 candidates~~
- ~~Four (4) if there are 8 or 9 candidates~~
- Five (5) votes for if there are 10 or 15 or more candidates

### **Election Procedures**

~~Electors may cast up to the maximum votes allowed based on the number of candidates by only one vote per candidate. There shall be no cumulative Voting will be conducted on a straight voting, method, i.e., no weighting. Any candidate receiving votes on more than 50% of the votes ballots cast will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.~~

### **Campaigning**

Campaign advertisements in the ~~ACBL Bridge Bulletin~~, The NABC Daily Bulletin or other ACBL media will not be accepted for publication, **nor is it permissible to distribute campaign flyers at ACBL Tournaments. The ACBL will not provide names or mailing lists for use either by or on behalf of candidates.**

Candidates may mention **that** they have been **nominated** selected as a Hall of Fame candidate when being interviewed for a publication.

~~The ACBL will not provide names or mailing lists for use by candidates.~~

~~It is not permissible to distribute campaign fliers at ACBL tournaments.~~

### **6. Timeline**

The HoFC shall meet at every NABC **either in person or by telephone or electronically** and otherwise as needed.

#### **Summer NABC**

**The committee will welcome and orient new members. Preliminary work begins on assembling a list of possible candidates in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories. ACBL staff shall place notices in the July and September ACBL Bridge Bulletin's, the Summer NABC Daily Bulletin and the ACBL website informing eligible ACBL members tht they may submit nominees for the three awards to the ACBL staff person assigned to the HoffC. Nominations shall include the ACBL player number of the person submitting the nomination.**

**The ACBL Hall of Fame Ceremony shall be held at this NABC.**

#### **Fall NABC**

**The committee shall finalize the nominees for the Open category. The Chair, will the assistance of ACBL staff, shall provide a list of nominees with biographies and supporting letters, if any proposed during the public nomination period. The Chair shall also report on its review of proposed nominee's disciplinary files.**

## **Spring NABC**

**The committee shall select the recipients, if any, for the von Zedtwitz and Blackwood awards. Newly appointed members whose terms begin at the conclusion of the Spring NABC may be invited to attend the meeting.**

## **July/August**

- ~~Suggested nominees from eligible ACBL members shall be received from July 1 to September 30 each year.~~
- ~~Notices asking for suggestions shall appear in the July and September Bridge Bulletins, in the Summer Daily Bulletin, and on the ACBL website. An ACBL member making a suggestion shall address his suggestion to the ACBL staff person assigned to the HoFC and shall include his player number.~~
- ~~The ACBL Hall of Fame Banquet shall be at the Summer North American Bridge Championships. (See Hall of Fame Banquet)~~

## **Summer Hall of Fame Committee Meeting** — Proposing Nominees and Recipients.

~~The HoFC welcomes and orients new members. The committee begins its formal work by making a list of proposed candidates in the Open and von Zedtwitz categories, reserving Blackwood Award nominees as a separate group (as per the special criteria for their selection).~~

## **September/October**

~~ACBL management provides the HoFC with a list and biographies of suggested nominee names and/or supporting letters regarding nominees submitted by ACBL members during the nomination period. ACBL staff provides information on suggested nominees where requested by the chair.~~

~~The list compiled at the Summer HoFC meeting is fine-tuned by the committee by conference call. Names suggested by ACBL members are discussed and considered for addition to the list. The HoFC Chair presents a report on the review of proposed nominees' disciplinary files.~~

## **November**

### **Fall Hall of Fame Committee Meeting**

~~At this meeting, the HoFC members finalize the nominees for the open category. Committee members unable to attend the Fall HoFC Meeting in person or telephonically may vote in advance based on this list. However, it is preferred that members not in attendance participate by telephone, and vote after full discussion of proposed nominees. There shall be no proxy voting. An Election~~

~~Package Subcommittee consisting of at least two members of the HoFC and/or consultant(s) chosen by the committee shall review the entire election package for accuracy and completeness, giving final approval to ACBL Management for mailing. The election package shall consist of a cover letter, list of current Hall of Fame members, candidates' biographies, performance chart, ballot, and return envelope to the Director of Elections.~~

## **December**

~~ACBL staff finalizes the masterpoints and rankings using the latest ACBL cycle run and add the Fall NABC tournament accomplishments to biographies and the performance chart. ACBL management~~

mails each Open category nominee their updated encyclopedia biography and performance record for review and editing on or about December 10. The nominee may edit and shall approve the biography and return it to the ACBL.

### **January**

Between January 1 and January 7 the Election Package Subcommittee reviews revisions made by nominees, verifies their accuracy and decides what new material is worthy of inclusion in the biographies. Once the subcommittee review has been concluded, ACBL staff prepares the election packages. The HoFC Chair receives a copy of the election package and approves the distribution of the election materials. ACBL staff distributes the election packages on or about January 10 and specifies the return date deadline, which should be approximately four weeks after the distribution date. There will not be a grace period, and no exceptions will be made for any ballot returned after the return date deadline.

### **February**

The election period runs from the election package distribution date to the day when the Director of Elections begins tabulation of the ballots which shall be immediately after the deadline specified in the election package.

Ballots will be processed and counted as determined by the ACBL Director of Elections.

### **March**

~~Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards~~

~~The von Zedtwitz and Blackwood Award recipients are selected by the HoFC.~~

~~Those selected for the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz Awards shall be notified without delay.~~

~~The Spring Daily Bulletin publishes the names of those entering the Hall of Fame in all three categories.~~

~~The ACBL Board approves new members to the Hall of Fame Committee.~~

### **~~Spring Hall of Fame Committee Meeting—Post Mortem and Polishing.~~**

~~Newly appointed members whose terms begin after the Spring NABC may be invited to audit this meeting.~~

~~Between the fall and summer meetings, the HoFC reviews all its activities, rules, and procedures with a view toward making them better. Particular attention should be paid to previous problem areas:~~

- ~~● Ballot package accuracy and content,~~
- ~~● Completing committee and staff tasks in accordance with the timeline,~~
- ~~● Monitoring voting patterns and suggesting changes to the operating procedures when necessary.~~

### **April/May**

~~New members are provided with a copy of the Hall of Fame Operating Procedures, the most recent election package and papers from the Hall of Fame document archive.~~

~~The Bridge Bulletin features an article recognizing the newly elected members to the ACBL Hall of Fame.~~

## **7. Committee Operating Procedures**

**Agenda**

The chair shall prepare and distribute an agenda prior to each meeting.

## Minutes

Minutes of meetings shall be taken **and presented for approval at the next regular meeting of the committee. Approved minutes shall be provided to the ACBL staff.** After each meeting, draft minutes shall be presented to the HoFC members for additions and corrections. Minutes are presented for approval at the next regular meeting of the committee.

## Subcommittees

The chair of the HoFC may appoint subcommittees consisting of HoFC members **committee members** and/or non-committee members. Subcommittees are advisory only, and shall report directly to the HoFC as a whole, ~~which may approve, amend or reject the report of the subcommittee.~~

## Meetings

The HoFC shall meet at each NABC.

## Quorum

A quorum shall consist of ~~five (5)~~ **six (6)** or more of the members of the **Hof FC Hall of Fame Committee**, including its Chair. **A committee member connected by telephone shall be considered present in determining a quorum. If less than a quorum is present, motions may be discussed but not voted on.**

~~If less than a quorum is present, motions may be discussed but not voted upon. A committee member connected by telephone shall be considered present for a quorum.~~

## Voting

A majority of the **committee membership is necessary for the passage of any motion, subject to quorum rules. The committee may, in its sole discretion, require a greater number of votes on particular matters but may not allow a lesser number. Absentee voting and voting by telephone are permitted but proxy voting is not permitted.** ~~votes cast is necessary for passage of any motion, subject to quorum rules. Thus, if nine members serve on the Hall of Fame Committee, five are present, two abstain, and the other three vote, two to one in favor, the motion carries. Absentee voting and voting by conference call is permitted. Proxy voting is not permitted.~~

## Attendance

Regular attendance is **not mandatory.** ~~important to contributing to HoFC decisions and making a quorum.~~ The chair may request ~~ask~~ that a ~~committee~~ member resign if such member has **a poor attendance record or does not participated in committee affairs.** ~~functions, or has a poor attendance record.~~ **The Chair may also recommend to the ACBL President that such member be removed and replaced. As a committee of the ACBL Board of Directors, any member may be removed and replaced for any reason by the Board.** ~~The ACBL Board may remove and/or replace committee members for any reason. Committee members shall make every effort to attend the meetings at NABCs.~~

## Vacancy

~~If for any reason~~ a vacancy occurs on the **HofFC Hall of Fame Committee**, the chair may replace the former member for the balance of the ~~former member's~~ **unexpired** term; **with the approval of the ACBL President.** ~~subject to the ACBL President's approval with due consideration of the guidelines in Section 2.~~

## 8. The Hall of Fame ~~Banquet~~ Ceremony

### **The ~~Banquet~~ Ceremony:**

A black tie optional banquet for inducting new members into the ACBL Hall of Fame will be held at the Summer NABC. ~~The primary focus of the banquet will be the Hall of Fame inductees.~~

### **Master of Ceremonies and Presenters:**

The ~~HoFC~~ Chair and the ACBL CEO; ~~(or his~~ his designated representative) will select the Master of Ceremonies.

Presenters of living inductees will be selected by the inductee, subject to the approval of the ~~HoFC~~ eChair.

Presenters of deceased inductees will be selected by the ~~Hall of Fame~~ Chair, or its ~~his~~ his designated representative, ~~after input from the inductee's family.~~ The Chair shall seek input from the inductee's family.

### **Invitations:**

All ACBL members and guests ~~will~~ shall be invited to the ceremony. ~~Hall of Fame Banquet.~~

### **~~Promotion of Banquet:~~**

~~Staff will present a plan for promoting the banquet to the HoFC at the Spring meeting.~~

### **Awards and Recognitions:**

A plaque or similar ~~/~~award will be presented to each inductee or ~~his~~ their representative. An award shall be presented to the recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard, Jr. Award for Sportsmanship at this ceremony as well.

~~Winners of NABC+ events and any ACBL members winning World Championships during the last year will be recognized during the ceremony.~~

~~A trophy will be presented to the recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard, Jr. Award for Sportsmanship.~~

## **Item 171-12: Masterpoint Races**

The following subsections be added to Chapter 1.B. Rankings, Masterpoints and Races, Section 3 Masterpoint Races and the following sections be re-numbered accordingly:

### 3.1.8 Player of the Year

3.1.8.1 The winner of the most platinum masterpoints earned during the preceding calendar year.

### 3.1.9 Player of the Decade

- 3.1.8.1 The winner of the most platinum masterpoints earned during the preceding ten calendar years, beginning with the last year of the immediately preceding decade ending in a “0” and ending ten years later with the calendar year ending with a “9”, such as 2000 – 2009.

### **Item 171-13: Appendix 13-B: Masterpoint Computations**

Masterpoint awards for Regional events at the NABCs will be increased by increasing the factor to 1.8 from 1.4.

### **Item 171-14: Stop Card**

The “Stop Card” is no longer used to indicate a skip in the bidding and that the following changes be made to the Conditions of Contest:

- The ACBL Conditions of Contest Appendix G (Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens)
  - I. BIDDING BOXES (no screens)
    - ...
    - 3. Using bidding boxes, ~~the Skip-Bid Warning is given by displaying the stop card, making a call and then returning the stop card to the bidding box.~~ **no Skip Bid Warning is given.** Following the Skip Bid ~~Warning~~, LHO is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.
- The ACBL Bidding Box Regulation web page ([http://www.acbl.org/tournaments\\_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/bidding-box-regulations/](http://www.acbl.org/tournaments_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/bidding-box-regulations/))

#### THE STOP CARD

**The Stop Card should not be used. No verbal or visual Skip-Bid Warning is required.** ~~Players should protect their rights and the opponent’s by announcing, prior to making any subsequent bid that skips one or more levels of bidding.~~

~~The Skip-Bid Warning is given by displaying the stop card, making a call and then returning the stop card to the bidding box.~~ Following the Skip Bid ~~Warning~~, LHO is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call.

NOTE: If a player accidentally ~~to replace~~ **uses** the stop card, there is no penalty. It is each player’s responsibility to maintain appropriate tempo at all times.

~~If the stop card is placed on the table and a skip bid is not made, the director may judge that the bid card was played inadvertently or not. If the judgment is that the card was played after a “slip of the mind” therefore with intent, then the situation is a Law 16 (Unauthorized~~

~~Information) situation, not an insufficient bid — assuming that the player does not want to make (or did make) a purposeful correction under Law 25 B.2. An example of this situation is; 1H — 2D — (after the stop card is displayed) 2S.~~

- The Tech Files – Same text & changes as the web page

### **Item: 171-15: Wagar Award**

The NABC+ Pairs Award Table of the Masterpoint Awards Computations Book be modified to include:

**Wagar Women's Pairs – 4 sessions-1<sup>st</sup> place award 100 Platinum points – GLM Eligible- Minimum Tables Applies**

### **Item: 171-16: Four Session Events**

Masterpoint Awards Computation Book, Section C, Regional Regulations-Unrestricted Events, paragraph 3 be modified as follows:

#### 3. FOUR SESSION REGIONAL EVENTS

For ~~those~~ four session **open** Regional events, other than Knockouts, ~~where another unrestricted event of the same type but fewer sessions starts on the same day,~~ the Masterpoint awards computed by formula shall be increased by 40%.

### **Item: 171-17: GLM Pair, GLM Team, GLM Knockout Minimum**

Codification Chapter I, Section B, Paragraph 1.6.1 be modified as follows:

#### 1.6 Grand Life Master Qualification:

- 1.6.1 Win a North American Bridge Championship with no upper masterpoint restriction other than the Super Senior Pairs, the Wagar Women's KO won after 2013, or the Machlin Women's Swiss Teams won after 2013, or an Open Team Trials (includes CNTC), or its equivalent, or Women's Team Trials (included CWTC), or its equivalent, or any of the following WBF events: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Rosenblum Cup, McConnell Cup, Open Pairs, Women's Pairs, Olympiad, Women's Team Olympiad, WBF Mixed Pairs, WBF Senior Pairs, WBF World Swiss Teams, WBF World Mixed Teams or WBF Senior Teams.

**Any North American Bridge Championship pair event that is restricted by age or gender must have a minimum of 36 tables to render the event winners eligible for Grand Life Master status.**



**Any North American Bridge Championship Swiss Team or Board A Match event that is restricted by age or gender must have a minimum of 24 teams to render the event winners eligible for Grand Life Master status.**

**Any North American Bridge Championship Knockout Teams that is restricted by age or gender must have a minimum of 16 teams to render the event winners eligible for Grand Life Master status.**

### **Item 171-18: GNT KO Participation**

The ACBL Special Conditions of Contest for Grand National Teams be modified as follows:

Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception to these Conditions of Contest. These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of the event. The general conditions of contest for Swiss team and Knockout teams events will apply to this event subject to the following special conditions of contest.

**If the format used for Grand National Teams competition at any level is a Knockout, all of the KO General Conditions of Contest apply, with the exception of the requirement that each member participate in at least 50% of each match except the first match, unless in the opinion of the DIC of the particular event, it is necessary to modify this condition due to the event lasting over a time period of greater than one week.**

### **Item 171-19: KO Bye Rule**

The Masterpoint Awards Computations Book, Section NABC+ Events, Paragraph C.1.Match Awards be modified as follows:

The Match Awards shown in the table above are for playing the full day (2 sessions). In 3-way and 4-way matches, 2 wins is the full match award and 1 win is ½ of the full match award.

~~Note: In the Spingold KO, the Vanderbilt KO, Baze Senior KO, the Wagar Women's KO and any future knockout events on the NABC calendar, if a team is awarded a bye, it will not count as a win toward its two win requirement to place in the overalls.~~

### **Item: 171-20: Sectional Strats**

Chapter XIII, Section F, Paragraph 1.1.7 of the Codification be modified as follows:

#### 1.1.7 Sectional Strat/Flight Upper Masterpoint Limits

Same strat/flight rules apply to pair and team games as in 1.1.6, ~~with the exception that each flight can have only two strata when there are multiple flights.~~

## **Item: 171-21: Club Maximum MPs**

The Club Section of the MP Book be modified as follows:

Club games with more than one section may issue overall awards comparing all the sections. Club games with a single section exceeding fifteen tables may also issue overall awards. Awards may not exceed ~~2.50~~ **4.00** for Open clubs, ~~2.00~~ **3.20** for Invitational clubs and ~~4.67~~ **3.00** for Newcomer clubs. Second place would be 75% of first, third 75% of second, etc. through a maximum of six places.

## **Item 171-22: Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations**

Chapter VII International Bridge Section 1 A. Zone 2 NBO's of the codification be amended as follows:

### CHAPTER VII – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

#### **A. ZONE 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs)**

##### **Section 1 - Zone 2 International Regulations**

1.1 The authority for selecting and subsidizing **bridge players** who represent the United States, **Canada and Mexico** in international bridge competition rests **solely** with the **NBOs: United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), respectively.**

...  
...

1.8-A summary of **pending** disciplinary action(s), **and disciplinary actions** previously made public, is **will be made** available upon request to NBO governing bodies.

##### **Section 2 – NBO Events (NO CHANGE)**

##### **Section 3 – WBF**

##### **3.1 WBF Dues**

**The United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), and not the ACBL are responsible for the payment of any membership dues to the WBF.**

##### **3.21 WBF Events**

3.21.1 The ACBL Board of Directors supports a World Bridge Series Championship **contemplated to be held** in North America in 2018.

3.21.2 The ACBL Board of Directors authorizes a **one-time** \$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 **that** championship.

3.21.3 Payments ~~to~~ **will** be made as needed, but no sooner than January 1, 2018.

The current section 3.2 is deleted in its entirety.

# Finance

## **Item 171-26: NBO support for International Competitions**

If motion 171-22 Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations passes it is moved that the following motion be presented:

To assist the North American NBOs in international competitions ACBL will continue to raise funds via the International Fund month, membership check-off boxes, and Junior Fund support. ACBL will also make these additional monetary donations from the general account or international fund-raisers.

	USBF	CBF	MBF
2017	\$100,000	\$16,000	\$1,000
2018	\$ 80,000	\$14,000	\$ 750
2019	\$ 60,000	\$12,000	\$ 500
2020 & beyond	\$ 40,000	\$10,000	\$ 250

Total ACBL savings:

2017: \$49,130

2018: \$71,380

2019: \$96,630

2020: \$115,888

## **Item 171-27: 401k Trustees**

Chapter II – Business Management C. 401k and Registered Retirement Savings Plans Section 1 of the Codifications be amended as follows:

1 – 401k Plan

- 1.1 ACBL employees are eligible to serve as trustees of the ACBL 401K Plan. At least two one of the three 401k trustees will be a member of the ACBL Board of Directors.  
**The Trustees shall be composed of two ACBL employees and one ACBL Board of Director.**

## **Item 171-28: Treasurer Responsibilities**

Chapter II – Business Management A. Finance, Section 3 – Management Functions, Section 6 – Financial Statements and Audit, Chapter IV – Board Procedures A. Administration, Section 2 – Officers, Chapter IV - Board Procedures B. Expenses, Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees, Section 2 – Permanent Committees, Appendix 4A-2 Board Member Welcome Packet of the codification be amended as follows:

### **Chapter II – Business Management A. Finance, Section 3 – Management Functions**

- 3.2 Management, ~~in consultation with the ACBL Treasurer,~~ is authorized to maintain a checking account balance in excess of \$100,000.

### **Section 6 – Financial Statements and Audit**

- 6.1 The Audit Committee shall cause there to be an audit of all funds, properties, accounts, and liabilities of the ACBL. Said annual audit report shall be provided to the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors and be made available to the membership for its consideration at the annual membership meeting. Upon the request of any member of the ACBL, for a reasonable fee, the ~~Treasurer~~ **Chief Financial Officer** shall furnish said member with a copy of said audited financial statement. A summary of the audited financial statement ~~together with the Treasurer's report~~ shall be published in the Bridge Bulletin and posted on the ACBL website.
- 6.3 The ~~Treasurer~~ **Chief Financial Officer** shall provide both the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors with a complete financial report of the ACBL.

### **Chapter IV – Board Procedures A. Administration, Section 2 - Officers**

#### 2.4 Treasurer

- 2.4.2 ~~In addition to the duties set forth in the ACBL Bylaws, t~~ **The treasurer will shall fulfill the duties set forth in the ACBL Bylaws.:**

2.4.2.1 ~~Authorize (at his discretion) all investments on behalf of the Board of Directors;~~

2.4.2.2 ~~Together with the chairman of the Finance Committee, review management's proposed budget before presentation to the Board of Directors; and~~

2.4.2.3 ~~Present a financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors.~~

2.4.2.4 **1** A vacancy in the office of treasurer will be filled by the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

## Chapter IV - Board Procedures B. Expenses, Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses

2.8 The ~~treasurer~~ **Chief Financial Officer**, in consultation with the President **and the Treasurer**, will adjudicate any disputes to whether travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement.

## Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees, Section 2 – Permanent Committees

2.4 The effectiveness of committees may be improved if reports to be made to the full board (i.e., CEO; In House Counsel, and ~~Treasurer~~ **CFO**) are heard before committee meetings commence, as these reports may impact on discussion.

### Appendix 4A-2 Board Member Welcome Packet

~~Subject to advance approval of the Treasurer,~~ **B**oard members will be reimbursed at the applicable United States IRS rate for automobile travel provided it is a reasonable amount. Tolls and ferries en route and parking at the meeting site for the number of days calculated for per diem reimbursement will also be reimbursed by the ACBL. No meals or rooms en route will be reimbursed. The ACBL will reimburse the cost of train fare not to exceed the cost of equivalent airfare.

# Governance

## Item 171-35: Relocation and Rescheduling of Fall NABCs Meeting

(Reconsideration from Board of Governors Fall 2016, Orlando FL)

Item 163-21 Relocation and Rescheduling of Fall NABCs Meetings be reconsidered.

Chapter IV-Board Procedures, C. Meetings, and B. Expenses of the NABCs Codification are amended as follows:

### C. MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet prior to the Spring and Summer NABCs at the sites of the NABCs. The Board will meet prior to the Fall NABC at the site of Headquarters during the 10 (ten) days of November. If a Board of Governors' meeting is held at the site of the Fall NABC, the President and Treasurer shall attend. The goal of the members of the Board of Directors is to have shorter meetings with more work being done in advance electronically and otherwise. The length of each meeting will be determined by the NABCs President in consultation with management.

### D. EXPENSES

**Section 1 – ACBL President Expenses** The image of the ACBLs is paramount in all of the activities of the president. In keeping with such premise, the following statement of policy sets forth the duties, responsibilities and restrictions by which the president will be guided.

6.8 The president will be granted an annual president's expense allowance of \$45,000

The president and the treasurer may, prior to the Spring NABCs, agree to increase this allowance by not more than \$5,000 based upon relevant circumstances

1.8 Travel to and from the Spring and Summer NABCs will be paid for up to two individuals acting as hosts at the president's suite during NABCs. One-half of this expense will be charged to Board expenses and one-half to president's expenses

## **Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses**

This policy pertains to board members, Chair of the Board of Governors, and General Counsel, for ACBL meetings or functions. The ACBL will reimburse the following expenses:

2.9 Pursuant to Chapter IV, C., if the President, Treasurer, Chair of the Board of Governors or In-House Counsel is required to attend a Board of Governors meeting at the site of the Fall NABC he shall be reimbursed for roundtrip travel, two hotel nights and appropriate per diem.

**History:** Item 163-21 Motion failed Aye: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 Abstain: 16; Orlando FL 2016 Fall meeting; Reconsideration by Board of Governors **Carried by BoG**

## **Item 171-36: Board of Directors Fall NABC Meeting**

If reconsideration of Item 163-21 (having all fall BoD meetings at headquarters) fails, then it is moved that the 2018 Fall BoD meeting be held in the area of ACBL Headquarters.

**History:** Carried by Board of Governors at 2016 Fall Orlando meeting

## **Item 171-37: Chapter II Business Management, B Employees and Consultants, Section 5 CEO Succession Plan**

Chapter II Business Management, B Employees and Consultants, Section 5 CEO Succession Plan be amended as follows:

### **Section 5 CEO Succession Plan**

5.16 ~~Recommend candidate for approval to the ACBL Board of Directors.~~ **Recommend at least two candidates to the Board of Directors, who will then select one to be the CEO.**

## **Item 171-38: Director of Elections Duties**

Chapter III Administration, D. Election, Section 9 Return of Ballots be amended as follows:

9.2 The Director of Elections ~~will count ballots at ACBL headquarters~~ **and one additional member of the professional staff selected by the CEO will jointly be responsible for**

**counting election and recall ballots.** Each candidate, or his representative, is entitled to witness the opening and counting. An ACBL employee may not represent a candidate for this purpose. **The rules for counting ballots for elections and recalls shall be the same.**

### **Item 171-39: Article VIII Bylaws – Election Procedures**

Article VIII of the ACBL Bylaws be amended as follows:

Article VIII Election Procedures

8.1 Electors.

.....

8.2 Elections.

.....

#### **8.3 Term Limits.**

**Members of the ACBL Board of Directors are limited to four consecutive three-year terms. if an alternate assumes the position of District Director and is in office for a period of six regular meetings or more, is shall count as a full three-year term.**

**Terms served or started prior to January 1, 2018 shall not be counted towards the four consecutive three-year terms.**

Effective January 1, 2018

Estimated cost/savings: N/A

**History:** Board of Directors Chicago 2015, Item 152-95 Article VIII Bylaws – Election Procedures, Submitted by Bob Heller, District 7.