

Appeals & Charges

Item: 163-02: CDR Section 5.2.13

CDR Section 5.2.13 be removed.

~~5.2.13 When Management receives a hearing report in which the committee has imposed a discipline that contravenes or is inconsistent with the CDR, ACBL Management shall notify the committee chairperson in writing. The committee shall then reconvene on the matter of imposition of discipline.~~

Effective immediately

Bridge Review

Item 163-44: Barry Crane Top 500

Chapter I Membership B. Rankings, Masterpoints and Races Section 3. Masterpoint Races

Section 3.1.1 Barry Crane Top 500

3.1.1.4 Online points shall not be included in the tabulation of total points earned for the Barry Crane Top 500 List.

Effective January 1, 2017

Item 163-45: Hall of Fame Operating Procedure

The attached HoF Operating Procedure dated November 2016 be adopted.

Effective immediately

Item 163-46: On line Events

Chapter IX - Regional Tournaments, C. Events / Schedules be amended as follows:

Section 7: On-Line Events

- 7.1 A District may run on-line events at their Regional bridge tournament. Participation by players outside the host district is subject to the approval of the district in which the players reside. Approval for the event shall be governed by the ability of the District to meet all provisions contained in the Conditions of Contest – Pair Events for on-line events.
- 7.2 ACBL Management will discuss the application for the on-line event with the DiC of the tournament. Approval will be conditioned upon the DiCs ability to provide adequate staffing to run the event.
- 7.3 Masterpoints will be awarded pursuant to the General Formula.
- 7.4 Tournament Organizers are responsible for all ACBL sanction fees, TD session fees, and online host fees that result from this event.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR PAIR EVENTS

Appendix I: On-Line Events

1. This event will be conducted at a variety of playing sites, and hosted online by an ACBL approved host.
2. Regarding any of the below, the decision of the Director in Charge (DIC) will be final. The DIC is empowered to remedy any omissions in these CoC. Unless specifically noted below, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the ACBL Convention Charts, the ACBL Alert Chart, General CoC for pairs events and ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy shall govern this event.
3. The DIC must be an ACBL Director, hold the rank of Tournament Director or higher, and shall have the authority to assign his own staff.
4. The Tournament Organizer will provide a format for the event which includes contingencies for any number of pairs.
5. Contestants at each site will play the same deals as all other contestants.
6. Each Contestant shall have access to these CoC and the event's format (#5 above). Failure to have reviewed these conditions, or lack of proficiency with computers or the software used by the online host does not excuse any irregularity, or violation of these conditions.
7. Each pair must pre-register by one week prior to the announced date of the contest. Pairs participating at the tournament site shall not be required to pre-register. Late entrants may be accepted for the convenience of the movement and only at the discretion of the DIC. At

the time of pre-registration, pairs are required to submit funds for participation and the following information for each pair member: Name ACBL Number User ID for online host Site of participation Any special needs addressed by these CoC.

8. In the event a Contestant is handicapped, where he is unable to use a computer, and in all cases where a Contestant does not have the requisite computer skills, said Contestant may bring an Operator to relay calls, plays and explanations thereof. Communication between the Contestant and his Operator is to be conducted in writing. Any notes from a Contestant/Operator interaction may be used to settle disputes. The Operator must be named in preregistration, and is subject to the approval of the DIC.
9. Should a technical difficulty arise which delays play for one or more tables, play in all unaffected tables shall continue and 15 minutes will be allotted to resolve the issue before play is suspended. If play is suspended for longer than 15 minutes, the decision of the DIC about the continuation of the event shall be final.

Security

1. Each Contestant must preregister to participate at a particular site, and no Contestant may participate from a physical location other than a site designated by the Tournament Organizer, and approved by the DIC. The DIC shall be informed, no later than 2 days after the close of registration, of each designated site.
2. The Tournament Organizer will designate at least one Monitor for each playing site. The DIC shall be informed, no later than 2 days after the close of registration, of the proposed Monitor for each site and their contact information. The proposed Monitor is subject to approval by the DIC.
3. Monitors shall ensure the enforcement of these CoC and will be primarily responsible for the enforcement of any security-related issues at their designated location.
4. Monitors need not be Directors and may not rule on any irregularity occurring during play nor penalize a Contestant for any violation of these conditions. Monitors must immediately inform the DIC of any irregularity or violation of which they become aware in any manner.
5. Contestants are not permitted to be in possession of any electronic communication devices while they are competing. All electronic devices must be turned over to the monitor before the start of play. VIOLATION OF THIS CONDITION WILL RESULT IN A MANDATORY

PENALTY OF ONE FULL BOARD, AND A SECOND VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN THE PAIR'S DISQUALIFICATION.

6. Contestants may only run the following applications during the play period: A. Online Host Software; or B. An internet browser for the purpose of accessing the Online Host and/or (in Mid-Chart events only) for the purpose of accessing the ACBL's defense database.
7. Monitors shall ensure that Contestants cannot view the "computer screens" of other Contestants within their own flight.
8. Monitors shall ensure that Contestants, competing at the same site as their partner, are seated in positions which obscure their view of one another.
9. Contestants must not relay, through chat visible to partner or at the monitoring site, any extraneous information.

The Play

1. Contestants are required to post a complete convention card, in ACBL format, inclusive of any supplemental notes.
2. The ACBL Mid-Chart may apply at the Tournament Organizers discretion. Tournaments utilizing the ACBL Mid-Chart must advertise its use on their tournament flyer. Pairs playing methods requiring a written defense must pre-alert their opponents, and post a written description of the method(s) along with their convention card. Contestants opposing a pair playing such methods are permitted to access the ACBL's defense database and keep said defenses open in their internet browser.
<http://www.acbl.org/play/defenseDataBase.html>
3. If the ACBL Mid-Chart is not used, the ACBL General Convention Chart applies.
4. The Director must be summoned electronically for any irregularity which occurs during play. Once the Director has been summoned, all play and bidding shall cease until the Director authorizes its continuation.
5. Contestants are required to alert and explain their own calls (not their partner's). When one makes an Alertable call, the bidder must give a full explanation of the agreement to his opponents (and only his opponents.) Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.
6. Any Contestant may request, but only at his turn to call or play, information concerning an opponents' methods. Such inquiries may be asked of either or both opponents, but must be asked in a private chat. Replies to these inquiries must be given in a private chat.

7. Violations of conditions, which make available to one's partner extraneous information by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert, failure to alert, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism (Security 9-11 & The Play 5 & 6), shall be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and are subject to procedural penalties. The Monitors and Contestants must report any such violations to the DIC.
8. Any deviation in tempo does convey extraneous information and is subject to rectification under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Any Contestant experiencing technical difficulties which may be construed as conveying extraneous information should immediately inform the Monitor or Director.
9. Claims, concessions, agreement thereto and contention or cancellation thereof will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
10. Unintended calls or plays will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. If a Contestant makes an unintended call or play he should summon the Director immediately. As in live play, undoes are permitted only upon instruction of the Director.

E2.3

Requirements for ACBL approved Online Host

1. Online Hosts must be accessible to all of the events participants.
2. The Host must have the ability to run three separate strats.
3. The Host must have the capability to run distinct random deals for each session.
4. The Host must ensure the conditions of each deal are consistent with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge (Laws 1, 2, 4-6)
5. The Host shall ensure that each participant may chat with either or both of his opponents, and with all of the Contestants at his table, but not privately with partner.
6. All deals, auctions, play and chat shall be recorded and available for review, in real time, by the Director.
7. If feasible, the auction should appear for each Contestant three bids at a time.
8. The Host must have the capability of running a pairs movement, where each board is played simultaneously at each table.

Bridge Integrity Task Force

Item 163-06: Forfeiture of Masterpoints/Titles for Unethical Behavior.

the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations be modified as follows:

4.1.8 Forfeiture of Masterpoints/Titles for Unethical Behavior.

(a) Any participant(s) in an ACBL sanctioned event convicted of premeditated or collusive cheating **in an ACBL sanctioned event**, or any participant(s) who admits to such action or actions, shall forfeit all masterpoints, titles and ACBL status ranks or other ACBL related awards theretofore earned by said participant(s) through participation in all ACBL **sanctioned** events.

The partners and teammates of said participant(s) shall forfeit all masterpoints, titles and **ACBL** status ranks **or other ACBL related awards** earned while playing with said participant(s) during the four years preceding the admission or finding of guilt.

(b) Any participant(s) in an ACBL sanctioned event suspended as a result of ethical transgressions, other than those set forth in ~~this~~ CDR 4.1.8 (a), shall forfeit any masterpoints and titles won in the event(s) in which the offense(s) occurred. Further:

(1) When a suspension of less than one year has been imposed, the committee may remove the masterpoints, titles and ~~/or~~ **ACBL status ranks or other ACBL related** awards won within the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of the offense(s).

(2) When the discipline imposed is a suspension of one year or longer, the committee shall remove, ~~as~~ **at** a minimum, all masterpoints, titles and **ACBL status ranks or other ACBL related** awards won within the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of the offense(s). The committee may remove additional masterpoints, titles and ~~/or~~ ACBL status ranks or other ACBL related awards previously earned by said participants through participation in all ACBL **sanctioned** events as it deems appropriate.

(c) Teammates and partners of (a) participant(s) who suffer(s) penalties as provided in CDR 4.1.7 and 4.1.8 (b) shall forfeit any title(s) and masterpoints won in events in which the offense or offenses occurred.

(d) Titles forfeited ~~in~~ **pursuant to** CDR 4.1.8 (a), (b) or (c) shall remain vacant and there shall be no change in rankings or awarding of masterpoints for other contestants. **First place awards for Unit masterpoint races forfeited pursuant to CDR 4.1.8 (a), (b) or (c) shall not remain vacant. The second place awardee shall move up to first place and lower ranked awards will be filled by a relevant change in rankings for other lower-ranked contestants. Awards for other than first place forfeited pursuant to CDR 4.1.8 (a), (b) or (c) shall remain vacant and there shall be no change in rankings for other contestants**

(e) Management shall assign eligibility points to equal the number of masterpoints that have been forfeited by the disciplinary body's decision.

Effective date: January 1, 2017

Item 163-07: Electronic Devices Penalty Guidelines

The following policy and penalty guidelines relating to electronic devices is adopted.

This policy applies to all events at NABCs. It is strongly suggested that sponsors of Regional and Sectional tournaments adopt and apply it.

Except for health-related equipment, or by permission of the Director-in-Charge, any electronic equipment or device capable of receiving or sending an electronic signal, or capable of communicating in any way, may not be operated or functioning in any manner in the playing area during a session of play. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session and must remain off at all times.

The above restrictions apply to all players, captains, coaches, kibitzers and play recorders, except those persons granted permission by the ACBL, and are in force throughout any playing session or segment of play. Further restrictions and requirements apply in events involving live internet and/or VuGraph coverage.

A violation of any of the above restrictions will result in an automatic penalty, pursuant to Law 91 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, as described below:

First offense, ringing only: one-quarter board, 3 IMPs or 1 VP, at the respective form of scoring.

First offense, answering or initiating a call, texting or browsing: one-half board, 6 IMPs or 2 VP, at the respective form of scoring.

Second offense: two full boards, 20 IMPs or 50% of the maximum available VPs per match, at the respective form of scoring.

Third offense: disqualification of the pair or team from the event.

Kibitzers violating this policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

Sponsors of Regional and Sectional tournaments may choose to substitute a warning in lieu of the penalty for the first offense (ringing or both) or may insert a warning as the first item in the schedule of penalties.

Item: 163-08: CDR Appendix B

CDR APPENDIX B be amended to read as follows:

APPENDIX B
ACBL DISCIPLINARY
SANCTION GUIDELINES

The list below represents the recommended discipline and mandatory masterpoint penalties which are imposed by a committee after rendering a decision which finds a member guilty of a conduct or ethical violation. The first column entitled “OFFENSE” sets forth the offense by Code of Disciplinary Regulations (“CDR”) Section. This column is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible infractions. The second column entitled “RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE” is a guide for discipline to be imposed and is not mandatory. For good cause, expressed, in writing, at the time a sanction is imposed, a greater or lesser sanction may be imposed. ~~not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible infractions. not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible infractions.~~ (See PART C below.) The third column entitled “~~MANDATORY~~ MANDATORY MASTERPOINT PENALTIES” represents a range of masterpoints which ~~must~~ must may, be deducted in accordance with the offense for which the member is found guilty.

A committee may find that there has been a violation of the CDR for which there is no sanction guideline cited in this Appendix. In such cases, the committee is free to impose on a guilty defendant whatever punishment it deems is appropriate from options described in CDR Section 4. ~~However, a disciplinary committee, which imposes a sanction which is outside the range~~

~~recommended by these guidelines, must explain why it chose the sanction imposed. However, a disciplinary committee, which imposes a sanction which is outside the range recommended by these guidelines, must explain why it chose the sanction imposed.~~

Part A of these guidelines is intended to apply to the typical case involving a single incident and a defendant who has no previous disciplinary record. If this is not the case, the committee must consider Part B of these guidelines before deciding on an appropriate discipline.

PART A: CONDUCT

OFFENSE	RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE	MANDATORY MANDATORY MASTERPOINT PENALTIES
C1 Poor personal hygiene or dress (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand and or up to 30 days Probation	None
C2 Rudeness in conversation, gesture, or general behavior (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand and or up to 30 days Probation and or up to 30 days Suspension.	None
C3 Publicly belittle partner or opponent on bid or play (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand and or up to 30 days Probation and or up to 30 days Suspension	None
C4 Influence or attempt to influence an entrant to withdraw from an event to improve one's likelihood of winning more masterpoints (CDR 3.7 and 3.12)	Reprimand and or up to 90 days Probation and or up to 90 days Suspension	40 <u>Up to</u> 50% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
C5 Harass or intimidate another player (CDR 3.7 and 3.11)	Reprimand and or up to 120 days Probation and or up to 90 days Suspension	None
C6 Harass or intimidate a tournament director, tournament official or an ACBL official (CDR 3.7 and 3.11)	180 days Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension	None

C7	Deliberately fail to follow instructions given by a tournament director or official, including leaving a session without permission of the tournament director or game director, egregious slow play or noncompliance with conditions of contest (CDR 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.7)	90 days Probation and or up to 90 days Suspension	None
C8	Fail to notify an appropriate official in a timely manner of a score that one knows is incorrect (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	180 days Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension	0 9 Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
C9	Inappropriate comments (including but not limited to obscene comments) made publicly at an ACBL sanctioned event or activity (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand and or up to 120 days Probation and or up to 90 days suspension	None
C10	Publicly accuse another player of unethical bridge behavior (CDR 3.4 and 3.7)	180 days Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension	None
C11	Threat of abusive or violent contact with another person (CDR 3.7)	1 year Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension	None
C12	Abusive or violent contact with another person (CDR 3.7)	3 years Probation and or up to 2 years Suspension	None
C13	** Knowingly submit false information or deliberately distort facts to an ACBL official or committee when neither E6 nor E7 applies. (CDR 3.13)	1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension	None
C14	Failure of Complainant to appear at hearing without cause (CDR 3.14)	90 days Probation and or up to 90 days Suspension	None
C15	Appeal a decision from a disciplinary body with no reasonable basis (CDR 3.15)	1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension	None

C16	Initiate disciplinary action against another player with no reasonable basis (CDR 3.15)	1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension	None
C17	Initiate and maintain legal action against the ACBL, including a District or Unit, or an ACBL official or employee acting in his or her official capacity, without first exhausting administrative remedies (CDR 3.10)	1 year Suspension up to indefinite suspension pending reimbursement to ACBL of costs to ACBL to defend if the suit was unsuccessful pursuant to CDR Section 4.3.4	None
C18	Misappropriate ACBL, Unit or District Funds (CDR 3.18)	Indefinite suspension up to expulsion. The body imposing an indefinite suspension will determine when, after return of the funds, the indefinite suspension will be lifted	None
C19	Being present in the playing area of an ACBL sanctioned event while serving a term of suspension (CDR 3.2 and 3.5)	Extension of the suspension to twice the original term to Expulsion * #	None

PART B: ETHICS

OFFENSE	RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE	MANDATORY MANDATORY MASTERPOINT PENALTIES
E1 Deliberately ask for or give information about a board in play after both parties have played it (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	Reprimand and or up to 60 days Probation.	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E2 Give information about a board in play to a player who has not yet played the board (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	30 days Suspension to 1 year Suspension* #	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding with no intent. 10-50% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding when intent is
E3 Unsportsmanlike, frivolous or frequent psyching (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	60 days Probation and or up to 30 days Suspension	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E4 Play a convention, system, or treatment knowing it is illegal (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	90 days probation and or up to 60 days Suspension*	10 0-Up to 50% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E5 Purposefully fail to disclose partnership agreements with intent to deceive (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension.*	10 0-Up to 50% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E6 Bid or play with the specific intent to achieve a poor result on that hand (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	90 days Probation to 90 days Suspension*	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E7 Intentionally: a. change a score, b. submit a false result of a hand, round or match, c. change or submit any information that could result in awarding incorrect masterpoints or d. enter an event for which you are not eligible (CDR 3.1, 3.7 and CDR 3.13)	1 to 3 year Probation and or up to 2 years Suspension*	10 0-Up to 50% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.

E8	Accidentally gain access to information and then act on it (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	1 year Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension *	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E9	Hesitate with an intent to deceive; use intonations and mannerisms that may deceive opponents or help partner (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	1 year Probation and or up 1 year Suspension *	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E10	Deliberately try to see from where an opponent plays his cards (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	90 days Probation and or up to 90 days Suspension *	0 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E11	Actively and deliberately try to see an opponent's cards (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension *	10 0-Up to -50% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E12	Actively seek advance information about a board in play (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	2 years Suspension to Expulsion * #	25 0-Up to 100% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E13	Prearrange a deal or part thereof including one card (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	2 years Suspension to Expulsion * #	25 0-Up to 100% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E14	Intentionally gain access to hand records for an event prior to the event and enter and play in the event and or give the hand records or copies to another person prior to that person entering and playing in the event. (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	Expulsion *	100% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E15	Prearranged partnership collusion by means of signaling to exchange information (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	Expulsion *	100% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E16	Playing an ACBL sanctioned event while serving a term of suspension (CDR 3.2 and 3.5)	Extension of the suspension to twice the original term to Expulsion * #	10 0-Up to 25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.

E17	Knowingly partnering or playing on a team with a person who is presently serving a suspension from ACBL or who is presently expelled from ACBL (CDR 3.2, 3.7 and 3.19)	1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension	10 <u>9-Up to</u> -25% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E18	Cheating and similar ethical violations not specifically cited by other sections of this Appendix (CDR 3.20)	90 days Suspension up to Expulsion * #	<u>9-Up to</u> 100% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E19	Attempt to influence a decision of a disciplinary body outside of the hearing process(es) CDR 3.21.	Reprimand and or up to 2 years Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension.	<u>9-Up to</u> 100% of Disciplined Player's total masterpoint holding.
E20	Discussion of the content of the hearing, other than the committee decision, outside the hearing room by a disciplinary body member with any party (whether a party to the hearing or not). The Committee Decision includes the finding of Guilty/Not Guilty and the Penalty Imposed. CDR 3.22.	Reprimand and or up to 2 years Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension	

* If a committee imposes a suspension, then it should also disqualify the pair or team from the event. This will mean the pair or team will lose its place in the event, any masterpoints earned in the event and any other benefits it may have earned from playing in the event. Should this disqualification take place after the correction period for the event has expired, other pairs and teams do not move up - the place formerly held by the disqualified contestant (pair or team) remains vacant.

If a committee imposes a suspension it is encouraged to also impose an appropriate term of probation following the term of suspension.

~~Part B~~Part
B

PART C

There are three major major-primary reasons why the suggested guidelines in Part A PARTS A and B might not be appropriate in a specific case. First, the single violation might be either so slight or severe as to make the suggested sanction inappropriate. Second, the defendant might be convicted for several violations (such as a pattern of behavior). Third, the defendant might have a previous record. A disciplinary body may, for good cause, expressed in writing at the time a sanction is imposed, deviate upwards or downwards from the presumptive discipline set forth in PART B.

1. When the defendant's single violation is either extremely slight or severe, the committee should apply its sound, unemotional judgment. For example, either the experience or mental intentions of the defendant might be a consideration. Please explain on the Hearing Report Form why the violation was considered atypical.
2. When the recommended sanction guidelines would not have the usual impact upon a guilty defendant, a committee may tailor the length of the discipline in order that the discipline will have the desired impact.
3. When the defendant is convicted of several violations, such as a pattern of behavior, the committee should impose a sanction as if each violation was a separate offense. The Committee should note the separate violations and/or explain the pattern.
4. When the defendant has a prior record, the sanction imposed for the previous offense is not particularly important. The number of prior convictions is important. The reason is that the defendant was already sanctioned for the specific prior violation(s). The committee should pay close attention to how the prior conviction(s) reflects on the defendant's ability to behave according to ACBL standards and explain on the Hearing Report Form the reasons for its decision relative to the offense or offenses for which the committee has to consider another sanction.

Examples

- ~~1. A person convicted of accidentally gaining access to information and acting on it has one conviction for bad hygiene for which he or she received 30 days' probation. Here the committee would probably disregard the prior conviction in making a decision to issue a sanctions.~~
- ~~2. A person convicted of accidentally gaining access to information and acting on it has received 30 days' probation for bad hygiene, 30 days' probation for rude behavior, and 30 days suspension for a threat of violent behavior. In this case, the record indicates that their person has a history of violating ACBL regulations and the committee should increase the discipline above the maximum for the offense for which the player was convicted. Examples:~~
- ~~3.—~~
- ~~4. 1. A person convicted of accidentally gaining access to information and acting on it has one conviction for bad hygiene for which he or she received 30 days probation. Here the committee would probably disregard the prior conviction in making a decision to issue a sanction.~~
- ~~5.—~~
- ~~6. 2. A person convicted of accidentally gaining access to information and acting on it has received 30 days probation for bad hygiene, 30 days probation for rude behavior, and 30 days suspension for a threat of violent behavior. In this case, the record indicates that this person has a history of violating ACBL regulations and the committee should increase the discipline above the maximum for the offense for which the player was convicted.~~
- ~~7.2.—~~

Effective immediately

Item 163-09: Forfeiture of Masterpoints/Titles for Unethical Behavior

CDR Section 4.1.8(a) be amended to read as follows

4.1.8 Forfeiture of Masterpoints/Titles for Unethical Behavior.

- (a) Any ~~participant(s) individual(s) in an ACBL sanctioned event~~ convicted of premeditated or collusive cheating in any event sponsored by the ACBL, the World Bridge Federation (WBF), a WBF Zonal Organization, or a WBF National Bridge Organization; or any ~~participant(s) individual(s)~~ who admits to such action or actions shall forfeit all masterpoints, titles and ACBL status ranks or other ACBL related awards. ~~therefore earned by said participants through participation in all ACBL events.~~

The partners and teammates of said ~~participant(s)~~individual(s) shall forfeit all masterpoints, titles and status ranks earned while playing with said ~~participant(s)~~individual(s) during the four years preceding ~~the admission or the earliest~~ finding of guilt and all times thereafter.

Effective immediately

DISCUSSION ITEM

Date: October 21, 2016

DI 163-BI1: How to deal with the results of cheaters and their teammates

Context: In the wake of the cheating scandals, there has been significant discussion about what to do with the results of the cheaters and their teammates. The Bridge Integrity Taskforce has recommended that titles not be left vacant, but that we find a solution to remove the cheaters and fix the results. We would like to find a solution that both the Taskforce and the BoD find palatable, that restores equity to the extent possible and helps erase the stain of this era of bridge.

There are three separate issues — the results of the cheaters themselves, the results of their teammates, and the results of the rest of the field; we will deal with them separately. In some cases, the different types of events (pair games vs. KO, for example) will need to be handled separately as well, as knockout events present unique challenges.

Cheaters

We believe that cheaters' results need to be nullified from the beginning of their partnership. It seems that the BoD had adopted this for the recently convicted pairs. We would urge you to extend this policy to pairs convicted prior to 2016. For example, Sion-Cokin.

The results of a pair that confesses (e.g., Piekarek-Smirnov) should be removed in the same manner as those of a pair that is found guilty. The pair that confesses should receive a lesser sentence, but cheating results are cheating results and should be removed.

Another issue here that warrants discussion is the effective date of suspensions. It should be the date of the conviction. This will maximize the penalty and provide a disincentive for needlessly delaying hearings.

Teammates

Results won with a tainted pair should be forfeited. The 4-year window the BoD has imposed seems inconsistent — why remove the cheaters' results to the beginning of their partnership but not their teammates'? No ethical bridge player wants to win unfairly; many of the teammates of the recent cheaters have renounced their titles. It seems to be what the majority of players want, and it feels like the right thing to do. Our recommendation is that teammates' results also be forfeited back to the beginning of the cheaters' partnership. As above, a confession should not affect this policy.

Imposing an arbitrary lookback window raises a couple of unnecessary side issues. The first is when that window starts. If there is to be such a window, it is essential that it start as early as possible — the first event for which there is substantial evidence of cheating. It absolutely cannot be the date of conviction, as this provides an incentive for the cheating pairs to postpone their hearings. For example, an unscrupulous sponsor who won the Vanderbilt 4 years ago with a cheating pair might encourage them to delay their hearing from the Spring NABC to the summer so that he could keep his title.

Another issue created by an arbitrary lookback period is what happens when teammates whose results fall outside that window wish to renounce their titles. Many of the teammates of the cheaters have indicated their desire to forfeit their titles, and many others are intending to do the same if the ACBL does not do it for them.

The ACBL currently has no procedure for voluntarily forfeiture of results. This will create both an administrative and political headache. It would seem we have to allow players to forfeit results when we have acknowledged they were ill-gotten by convicting their teammates and stripping them of said results. Do we really want to put the onus on the players? Will others not feel pressured to do the same? Do we want to allow someone to accuse a former teammate of cheating, without a conviction, by forfeiting a title? A much simpler solution is to forfeit the results automatically and have a policy that results cannot be voluntarily forfeited. Once a hearing is concluded and guilt determined, the results will be struck. If a pair is not brought up on charges or is found innocent their teammates should not be able to forfeit their results. If the system works, there is no need to voluntarily forfeit results.

This brings up an important issue: what should be done during the limbo period between accusation and verdict? Our recommendation is that all masterpoints and seeding points won with the cheating pair (or, if there must be a lookback period, the masterpoints and seeding points that would be lost should the pair be convicted) be “frozen” — not officially removed yet, but subtracted from players’ totals for purposes of seeding. We believe this is what the Seeding Committee did during 2016, but we would like to see this policy formalized and publicized.

There is a separate but related issue of how to properly seed clean players who have had their results stripped because they were teammates of cheaters. (Helgemo-Helness is a good example.) A vindictive approach would suggest doing nothing to “correct” their seeding status, but that is an injustice to the field; the point of seeding is to accurately gauge a pair’s/team’s likely results and spread strength out evenly. It would be silly to give Helgemo-Helness no seeding points and have them face a top seed in the Round of 64. We recommend that the Seeding Committee be given authority to confer a one-time deposit of seeding points to teammates of former cheaters (much as it has the ability to assign seeding points to foreign players).

The Field

The most contentious issue seems to be what to do with the results of the rest of the field once the cheaters’ results are nullified. Our contention is that having so many winner-less events is a shame and a black mark on the game. From 2011 to 2015, of the 10 winning teams in the Reisinger and Spingold 7 included convicted cheaters and would be vacated. Yes, the game has been stained, and yes, there is no way to truly determine who would have won had the cheaters not cheated. But we know who came closest to winning, and if that’s the best we can do it is much better than having a bunch of vacant titles. And we should provide some closure to all the teams who played against the cheaters. Of course we will never know what might have been, but let’s not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. The players who competed on an uneven field for all those years deserve some rectitude, and the game deserves a winner for these events.

For events with overall rankings — Pairs, Swiss, and BAM — we recommend removing any cheating pairs/teams and moving everyone else up a spot. This benefits not only the people at the top, but those in the middle and bottom of the overalls. Someone who finished 51st gets to be upgraded into the overalls. It’s no substitute for a clean event, but it’s something. A similar approach of removing cheaters and moving everyone else up could apply to masterpoint races.

For knockouts, the best we can do is move the teams that lost to the cheaters up one spot (with the increase in masterpoints and seeding points that go along with the new result). So if a team including cheaters won the Spingold, the team they beat in the finals would be the winner, the team they beat in the semis would be the runner-up, the team they beat in the quarterfinals would get credit for making the semis, etc.

Conditions of Contest

Item 163-47: Drop-Ins Team

Drop-ins not be allowed from team events to premier pair events.

History: Summer 2016 Board of Governors, Washington meeting, Jonathan Steinberg, Carried: 28 – 24 Washington meeting.

Item 163-48: Drop-Ins

ACBL look into allowing drop-ins from an extended team event to Day 2 or any three-day Swiss Team event with carryover approximately in the middle.

History: Summer 2016 Board of Governors, Washington meeting, Jonathan Steinberg, Tabled Carried.

Item 163-49: Subsidy 3rd Place NAP District Final

A \$200 subsidy be provided to all 3rd place NAP District Final 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 4th place NAP District Final 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.

Effective June 1, 2017

Item 163-50: GNT Special Conditions of Contest - incentives for adding a 2nd qualifying team

ACBL Grand National Teams Special Conditions of Contest would change as follows:

2017/2018 North American Collegiate Bridge Bowl Conditions of Contest

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2017-2018 ACBL SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

GENERAL

1) This is a team event in which each ACBL district will name a district champion in each category by means of a fair competition that is not necessarily the same from district to district. In districts in which there were at least 8 teams competing in a given flight in the district final, the second place finishers in that flight will also be considered eligible to compete in the national final of their respective category.

2) A player may represent the district in only one flight at the national final. First and eligible Second Place Teams in the national final will not be subsidized in any way by the ACBL.

Effective January 1, 2017

Finance

Item 163-10: 2017 Operating and Capital Budget

The 2017 operating budget and the 2017 capital budget are received.

Item 163-11: Board of Directors Expenses 2.5.1

Chapter IV: ACBL Board of Directors, Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses, 2.5 Additional Reimbursable Expenses, 2.5.1 is amended as follows:

CHAPTER IV - BOARD PROCEDURES

Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses

2.5 Additional Reimbursable Expenses

2.5.1 Attendees will be reimbursed for reasonable actual costs of baggage handling, and storage expenses and gratuities to porters, bellmen and other service personnel. Attendees will also receive the allowable daily Incidental Expense amount included in the daily per diem allowance.

Item 163-12: Board of Directors Expenses

Chapter IV: ACBL Board of Directors, Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses, 2.4 Per Diem Meals, 2.4.4 is amended as follows:

CHAPTER IV - BOARD PROCEDURES

Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses

2.4 Per Diem Meals

2.4.4 Board member per diem will be reduced for meals provided by the ACBL and for meals received that are directly related to a Board member's position on the ACBL Board of Directors.

Item 163-13: Board of Directors Expenses

Chapter IV: ACBL Board of Directors, Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses, 2.5 Additional Reimbursable Expenses, is amended as follows:

CHAPTER IV - BOARD PROCEDURES

Section 2 - Board of Directors Expenses

2.5 Additional Reimbursable Expenses

...

2.5.6 In occurrences where checked luggage is not included in the price of air tickets attendees will be reimbursed the cost of checking one piece of luggage while travelling to and from meetings. In special situations where more than one piece of luggage is required for attendance the Treasurer may, with advance notification, authorize those expenses.

Item 163-14: ACBL Investment Policy Statement

Chapter II – Business Management, Section A Finance be amended as follows:

CHAPTER II – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

A. FINANCE

Section 1 - ACBL Investment Policy Statement

1.1 PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this investment policy statement is to communicate to the ACBL Board of Directors, the investment manager, and other interested parties a clear understanding of the investment goals and objectives of the investment assets (the "Portfolio"). This statement outlines the responsibilities and guidelines for the investment manager and establishes the review and control procedures to be used in evaluating investment manager performance. A separate working capital reserve shall be set by management and held in a segregated cash account.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

- 1.2.1 The preservation of capital
- 1.2.2 Competitive Investment yields greater than those produced by 100% insured CDs.
- 1.2.3 Minimal investment risk

1.3 PORTFOLIO STANDARDS

- 1.3.1 Assets Classes. The ACBL Board of Directors will determine which asset classes are to be used in the Portfolio. The following asset classes are approved:

~~1.3.1.1~~ Stocks

1.3.1.~~2~~ Fixed Income Securities

1.3.1.~~3~~.~~2~~ Cash Equivalents

- ~~1.3.2 Rate of Return. Total Portfolio performance will be measure against a balanced market index.~~

~~1.3.2.1 The Portfolio is to be balanced, composed of equity, fixed income, and cash equivalent securities and is intended to be more~~

~~aggressive than fixed income oriented portfolios and less aggressive than equity oriented portfolios. The term “aggressive” relates to such investment vehicles, diversification among economic and industry sectors and individual securities, expected long term rates of return and reduced volatility. The investment objectives are stated below:~~

1.3.3 Risk. Market risk will be defined for each of the asset classes in the Portfolio.

~~1.3.3.1 STOCKS. Risk for the entire equity portion of the Portfolio will be defined in terms of beta, using the S&P 500 as the appropriate market index and a one-year time frame. The investment manager may alter beta within the range of 0.85-1.25 as changes in the financial markets are anticipated. Adjustments in beta can be achieved through modification of the mix of equities held in the Portfolio.~~

1.3.3.21 FIXED INCOME. Risk for fixed income portion of the Portfolio will be defined in terms of standard deviation, using the Merrill Lynch 1-5 Year Gov't/Corp. Index as the appropriate market index and a one-year time frame. The standard deviation of the fixed income portion of the Portfolio should not exceed 1.25 times the standard deviation of the Merrill Lynch 1-5 Year Gov't/Corp. Index.

1.3.3.32 An investment in master limited partnerships and/or preferred stock in an amount up to ~~5~~10% of our investment portfolio shall be considered “fixed income” investments.

1.3.4 Asset Allocation. The ACBL Board of Directors will determine the allocation of each of the approved assets classes in the Portfolio within certain broad ranges. The Investment Manager has complete discretion to determine the allocation of each asset class within these broad parameters.

~~1.3.4.1 Stocks — Up to 25 percent of the Fund’s assets may be invested in core equity (generally large cap, high quality) securities.~~

- ~~a. Small Capitalization issues — Up to 5% of the Portfolio's assets may be invested in small capitalization issues (defined as \$2.5 billion market capitalization or lower).~~
- ~~b. International Equities — Up to 5% of the Portfolio's assets may be invested in international equity issues.~~

1.3.4.2 Fixed Income – ~~At least 75~~ **100%** percent ~~but no more than 90 percent~~ of the Portfolio's assets should be invested in fixed income securities, **with no more than 10% invested in master limited partnerships and/or preferred stocks.**

1.3.5 Miscellaneous. Other standards guiding management of the Portfolio by the investment manager are as follows:

1.3.5.1 Private placements or other investments without active trading markets will not be made

1.3.5.2 There are no restrictions relating to dividends or earnings of the stocks held in the Portfolio.

1.3.5.3 Securities turnover is warranted by the need to alter strategy as prospects for the financial markets change. Since transaction costs represent a reduction of assets, and also reflect again the performance of the Portfolio, turnover will be maintained at the lowest level consistent with implementation of strategy.

1.3.5.4 There are no requirements for, or restrictions against, realization of net investment gains or losses during any calendar year.

1.3.5.5 There are to be no short sales, trading on margin, lending of securities, or purchase or sale of options other than covered calls.

1.3.5.6 Corporate High Yield Bonds, Non-Investment Grade Bonds (i.e., less than BBB quality) are not permitted at time of purchase.

1.3.5.7 None of the portfolio may be invested in securities except as authorized by these Guidelines

1.4 PORTFOLIO EVALUATION

1.4.1 The appropriate market indices to be used to evaluate each asset

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Index. A&C

Heth (C)

Bagley, Carman, Fairchild, Hennings, Morse, Subeck

Staff: Whitten

category's performance are as follows:

- a. ~~Equities The S&P 500 Index~~
- b. ~~The Russell 2000 Index~~
- c. ~~The MSCI EAFE Index~~
- d. A. Fixed Income Merrill Lynch 1-5 Year Gov't/Corp. Index
- e. B. Cash Equivalents Three Month U.S. Treasury Bills

1.5 PERIODIC REVIEW

1.5.1 Standards established for the Portfolio reflect our mutual agreement as of the date of the guidelines. Guidelines will be reviewed at least annually, and more frequently as required. The investment manager will promptly advise the ACBL Board of Directors at any time these guidelines no longer seem appropriate. A compelling reason would be significant change in the evaluation by the investment manager of the expected real return or risk over the longer term for the assets that comprise the ACBL Board of Directors' preferred investment universe. Upon mutual agreement, the standards for the portfolio will be changed to assure the latitude necessary for exercise of special skills of the investment manager in active management.

GNT/Special Events

Item 163-52: Chapter 4A 1.4.1 NABC Level of NAP and GNT

Chapter 4A 1.4.1 of the codification be amended as follows:

1.4.1 NABC Level of NAP and GNT

~~Members of the ACBL Board of Directors may not represent their districts at the national level in either the NAP or the GNT or in any event that conflicts with regularly scheduled Board meetings. Such restriction is waived for the evening sessions of the GNT when the Board of Directors has no official scheduled function where attendance is expected.~~

Members of the ACBL Board of Directors may not play in any event that conflicts with regularly scheduled Board meetings - especially those NAP and GNT events which are scheduled in direct conflict with scheduled board meetings. Board members are allowed to play in multiple-session team events which have individual sessions that conflict with regularly scheduled board

meetings provided the board member only plays in those sessions which do not conflict with regularly scheduled board meetings or other functions where attendance is expected.

Effective immediately

Governance/Board Operations

Item 163-16: Spouse Excursions

Moved that:

Appendix 8-C, page 3 of the Codification is amended to delete the following paragraph:

~~ACBL provides funds for pre-tournament entertainment activities. This money is to provide up to two functions for the spouses and guests of the ACBL Board of Directors on Monday and/or Tuesday prior to the start of the tournament. This is separate from NABC funds.~~

Effective immediately

Item 163-17: Chapter I - Section A. 1.1.2 of the Codification

Chapter I - Section A. 1.1.2 of the Codification be amended as follows:

1.1.2 The membership application for each individual shall include a provision requiring disclosure of any prior discipline by any other bridge organization for a new member. **Acceptance of a membership application that omits disclosure of one or more prior disciplines, whether by ACBL or another bridge organization, shall be regarded as contingent only. Upon discovery of any error or omission, Management, with the approval of the CEO, may revoke any such contingent membership as of the date of application or Management may charge the person with a violation of CDR 3.13.:“Knowingly submitting false information to a tournament official, ACBL official, or ACBL body”** ~~Failure to disclose such discipline shall be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the ACBL.~~

Effective immediately

Item 163-18: Voting on Motions with Unanimous Votes from Committees

Moved that:

Chapter IV, C Meetings, Section 2-Conduct of Meetings of the ACBL Codification is amended as follows:

...

2.5 Consent Calendar - The Board of Directors will utilize a consent calendar.

2.6 Motions that are approved or refused unanimously by a committee with no substantive changes may be placed on the consent calendar. One vote is sufficient to remove a motion from the consent calendar.

2.7 Motions with no substantive changes that are approved or refused unanimously by a committee constituted of 8 or more members shall require a 2/3 (two-thirds) vote of the Board to reverse the committee decision.

Item 163-19: Standing Rules for Meetings and Committees

The following is added to Chapter IV: Board of Directors as Appendix 4A-4:

Appendix 4A-4—Standing Rules for Meetings and Committees

In forming committees and appointing members thereto, the president shall strive to adhere to the following rules and principles. Although he shall have the power to depart from these, it is expected that he will do so only in extraordinary circumstances.

- 1) Board meetings should last no more than 3 (three) days.
- 2) Only the Audit, Finance, Bridge, Appeals and Charges, Governance, Strategic and CEO Review Committees should routinely be allocated meeting time at Board meetings.
- 3) All committees, including those in (2) above, should conduct as much business as possible between Board meetings.
- 4) No one may be appointed as Chair or Vice-Chair of any committees listed in (2) above who has not served at least 2 (two) years on that committee.
- 5) The Chairs of Finance, Bridge and CEO Review shall be appointed for two-year terms by the president serving in odd numbered years beginning in 2017; the Chairs of Audit and Appeals and Charges shall be appointed for two-year

terms by the president serving in even numbered years beginning in 2018. No term limits shall apply.

6) Board meetings should be devoted primarily to strategic issues.

Effective date:

Item 163-20: Committees

Chapter IV, D. Committees of the ACBL Codification is amended as follows:

...

1.2 Finance Committee

1.2.1 The Finance committee examines all financial-related matters and determines whether proposed expenditures may be made within board guidelines for liquidity and capital preservation. (It is management's function to allocate money according to policy set by the board and objectives created under strategic planning).

1.2.2 The president appoints the chair and members at the beginning of his term.

1.2.3. ~~Membership is comprised of board members.~~ **The chair and vice-chair shall be board members.**

...

1.5 National Appeals and Charges

1.5.1 The Appeals and Charges Committee reviews and hears disciplinary cases on behalf of the full board. In addition to those responsibilities of hearing appeals and reviewing cases, the Appeals & Charges committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for any agenda items dealing with conduct, deportment and ethics and any regulations involving same.

1.5.2 The president appoints the chair and members at the beginning of his term.

1.5.3 **Up to 2 members of may be non-board members. These individuals shall be required to submit to the confidentiality and conduct rules applicable to board members and shall be subject to removal upon violation of**

such rules. ~~Membership is comprised of board members.~~ **The chair and vice-chair shall be board members.**

...

Item 163-21: Relocation and Rescheduling of Fall NABCs Meeting

Moved that:

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 ~~each to the Spring and Summer~~ NABCs at the sites of the NABCs. The Board will meet prior to the Fall NABCs at the site of NABCs Headquarters during the first week of November. If a Board of Governors' meeting is held at the site of the Fall NABCs, 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 – NABCs President Expenses _The image of the NABCs 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 ~~the Spring and Summer~~ each

NABCs. One-half of this expense will be charged to Board expenses and one-half to president's expenses

1.10 Travel by the president to attend the Fall Board of Governors' meeting if held at the Fall NABC shall be charged to the president's budget.

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 Treasurer, Chair of the Board of Governors or General 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.

...

Item 163-22: Unit 173 to Unit 254

The petition of ACBL members requesting the creation of a new ACBL Unit comprised of the state of Guanajuato, Mexico is granted (see attached map). The Unit affiliation of ACBL members in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico will be changed from Unit 173 to Unit 254.

Effective January 1, 2017

International

Item 163-24: Chapter VII International Bridge Section 1, A. Zone 2 NBO's

Chapter VII International Bridge Section 1 A. Zone 2 NBO's 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 athletes who represent the United States, Canada and Mexico in international bridge competition rests with the United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF), respectively.
- ~~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)~~
- 1.32 The Bermuda Bridge Federation (**BBF**) competes through Zone 5 of the eight Zonal Conferences comprising the World Bridge Federation (WBF) as the ACBL has approved BBF's request to compete internationally as a member of WBF Zone 5 while still maintaining ACBL affiliation as Unit 198 in District 2.
- 1.43 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 5 while still maintaining ACBL affiliation.
- 1.54 The authority to approve a player and Non-Playing Captain from Canada, Mexico and the United States participating in World Bridge Federation WBF or other international competition is delegated to the CBF Canadian Bridge Federation, MBF Mexican Bridge Federation and USBF, United States Bridge Federation respectively. The player may be approved only if the player meets ~~all Zonal Conference requirements as well as~~ his or her Federation's requirements.
- 1.65 Zone 2 requirements for nomination are as follows:
- 1.65.1 A Zone 2 NBO may nominate a player for invitation to play in a WBF Championship only if (s)he:

- 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 **American Bridge Association (ABA)** probation where the period of such probation was more than 90 days; **and**
- f. has not been specifically excluded from playing in such event by an appropriate disciplinary body under ACBL or ABA jurisdiction;

1.76 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.

1.87 A summary of **pending** disciplinary action(s), **and disciplinary actions** previously made public, ~~is~~ **will be made** 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.~~

1.408 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 (NO CHANGE)

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.~~

The United States Bridge Federation (USBF), Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) and Mexican Bridge Federation (MBF) are responsible for the payment of dues to the WBF.

~~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.~~

3.21 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 \$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.

3.21.3 Payments ~~to~~ **will** 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 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.~~

4.31 The ACBL requests that the ~~F~~federations in the jurisdiction of Zone 2 adopt regulations disallowing such **non-bridge related** public statements and demonstrations **by any Zone 2 Federation representative participating in an international bridge competition.**

~~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 form.~~

Effective immediately

Legal Services

Item 163-26: CDR Attorney

CDR 5.2.3 be amended to read as follows:

5.2.3 A person charged with a violation of CDR 3 shall be entitled to:

- (a) Receive written notice of the date, time, and place of hearing.
Should a person admit to a charge, a hearing shall be held in order to determine and impose appropriate discipline.
- (b) Be furnished with a written statement of the charge(s), the complaint upon which the charges are based or a summary of the facts of said complaint, and the name of the complainant(s).
- (c) For hearings at the Unit or District level or any Tournament Disciplinary Committee, be represented at the hearing by another person who shall not be an attorney or a member of the € Board of Directors. The person charged may be represented by an attorney outside the hearing room.
- (d) For hearings at the € Ethical Oversight, Disciplinary and Appeals and Charges Committees, be represented at the hearing by another person who shall not be a member of the Board of Directors.
- (e) Produce evidence and make statements on his/her own behalf.
- (f) Be present during the entire hearing, except during procedural determinations and deliberation on verdicts and sentencing.

(g) Question persons testifying through the Chair at the Chair's discretion.

Effective immediately

Item 163-27: CDR Grounds for Discipline

CDR Section 3 be amended to read as follows:

3. Grounds for Discipline

- 3.1 Violation of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge.
- 3.2 Violation of ACBL regulations. Administrative regulations such as rules pertaining to sanctioned games at clubs are exempted.
- 3.3 Leaving a session prior to completion of play without either good cause or the permission of the tournament or game director.
- 3.4 Accusations of unethical bridge conduct at an ACBL sanctioned event, not made privately to a tournament director or other tournament official. Private and confidential conversations are not within the ACBL's jurisdiction even if they take place at a tournament site.
- 3.5 Violation of CDR 4.4.
- 3.6 Betting on the results of any ACBL sanctioned event.
- 3.7 Actions or behavior unbecoming a person participating in an ACBL sanctioned tournament or event; or a person attending (at the time and site of) an ACBL sanctioned tournament or event or ACBL activity (including a unit or district activity).
 - 3.7.1 "Site" includes, but is not limited to, parking lots, elevators, restaurants and hotels at or around the location of such tournament, event or activity.

- 3.7.2 A private and confidential conversation is not within the ACBL's jurisdiction even if it takes place at a tournament site.
- 3.7.3 E-mails or letters sent to an ACBL official or entity (such as a unit or district Board of Directors) may constitute a violation of 3.7.
- 3.7.4 E-mails or letters sent to private individuals shall not constitute a violation of 3.7.
- 3.8 Non-payment of a valid hotel bill when the person participating in an ACBL sanctioned tournament stays at such hotel during that ACBL sanctioned tournament.
- 3.9 Non-payment of any sums owed ACBL, Districts, or Units. (For example: bad checks.)
- 3.10 Filing formal legal action against a Unit, District or the ACBL without first exhausting ACBL administrative or other internal remedies.
- 3.11 Improper conduct toward any official or body of ACBL in performance of their ACBL duties or functions.
- 3.12 Influencing or attempting to influence an entrant or entrants other than one's partner or teammates to withdraw from any ACBL-sanctioned event.
- 3.13 Knowingly submitting false information to a tournament official, ACBL official or ACBL body.
- 3.14 Failure to appear before a disciplinary committee in violation of CDR 5.2.5, 5.3.3 and 5.3.5.
- 3.15 Initiating disciplinary action against another with no reasonable basis or appealing the decision of a disciplinary body with no reasonable basis. (The rejection of a complaint is not equivalent to a finding that there was not a reasonable basis.)

- 3.16 Refusing any reasonable request for cooperation by a duly appointed recorder or assistant recorder pursuant to the proper conduct of the recorder's duties.
- 3.17 Improper conduct, a breach of ethics or improper behavior by an ACBL member for which another bridge organization has issued a discipline or sanction against said member. This section may be implemented only by the ACBL Executive Committee under CDR 2.2.3 (f).
- 3.18 Misappropriate ACBL, Unit or District Funds.
- 3.19 Partnering or playing on a team with a person who is presently serving a suspension from ACBL or who is presently expelled from ACBL.
- 3.20 Cheating and similar ethical violations.
- 3.21 Attempt to influence a decision of a disciplinary body outside of the hearing process(es).
- 3.22 ~~Discussion of the content of the hearing, other than the committee decision, outside the hearing room by a disciplinary body member with any party (whether a party to the hearing or not~~

Discussion, outside the hearing room, of the hearing content (other than the committee decision) by a disciplinary body member with any other party (whether a party to the hearing or not).

Exception to this rule:

Upon completion of an Ethical Oversight Committee hearing or an ACBL Disciplinary Committee hearing, the members of the hearing committee are permitted to engage in confidential discussion of the hearing content with the other members of the Ethical Oversight Committee or the ACBL Disciplinary Committee respectively.

- 3.23 Unauthorized access to password-protected information or misrepresenting one's identity to access a website and/or electronic data of the ACBL and/or those of Clubs, Units and Districts.
- 3.24 Cyber-attacks or similar intentional electronic disruptions or attempts at electronic disruptions, of websites and/or electronic data systems of the ACBL and/or those of Clubs, Units and Districts.
- 3.25 Unauthorized use of ACBL-provided member data for (a) personal use, (b) financial gain and/or (c) harassment.
- 3.26 Unauthorized use of copyrighted ACBL materials or software.
- 3.27 Unauthorized use of Trademarks registered by the ACBL.

Effective immediately

Item: 163-28: EOC Attorney

Chapter IV-D, Section 5.5 of the Codification be amended to read as follows:

5.5 Ethical Oversight

- 5.5.1 The committee will be a disciplinary body of the ACBL whose responsibilities will include, but not be limited to, adjudicating cases of alleged cheating by use of signals or other unauthorized information.
- 5.5.2 The Ethical Oversight Committee will consist of 15 members. Five members will be appointed each year for staggered three-year terms by the ACBL President.
- 5.5.3 During their tenure in office, members may not be dismissed except for grossly inappropriate behavior. If the president of the ACBL or the chair of the Ethical Oversight Committee calls together the members of the committee, they may, by majority vote, remove a member of the committee.
- 5.5.4 The president, after consultation with the current chair, appoints Ethical Oversight Committee members. Appointments are subject to board approval.

- 5.5.5 The committee elects the Ethical Oversight chairman from among its members. The chairman may not serve more than three consecutive one-year terms.
- 5.5.6 The Ethical Oversight Committee members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. The term of office will begin on the day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the end of the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.
- 5.5.7 If a member of the committee is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the vacancy so created will be filled by the president at the next meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to board approval. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 5.5.8 The Chair of the Ethical Oversight Committee will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with official committee business. Any extraordinary committee member expenses must be pre-approved by the ACBL President or his designee.
- 5.5.9 The Chair of the Ethical Oversight Committee and all members serving on a case will be compensated. The guideline for the amount of the compensation is the value of a two-session entry to an NABC+ event for each day the committee meets.

5.5.10 The ACBL shall retain independent counsel to advise the Ethical Oversight Committee as needed both in and out of hearings. Selection of counsel shall be made in consultation with the Chairman of EOC.

Effective immediately

Item: 163-:29 CDR 5.2.12

CDR 5.2.12 be amended to read as follows:

5.2.12 ~~At the request of ACBL Management~~ In matters coming before the Ethical Oversight Committee, ~~In-House Counsel may be present~~ **that committee may request that the ACBL employ independent counsel that committee may request that the ACBL employ**

independent counsel to advise the Committee as to procedural matters and matters of law.

~~The In-House Counsel shall be impartial and, in no case shall the In-House Counsel act as an advocate for the ACBL or anyone appearing before the Committee.~~ **Selection of counsel shall be subject to the approval of the Chairman of EOC.**

And that CDR 7.8 be amended to read as follows:

- 7.8 In matters coming before the Appeals and Charges Committee, ~~In-House Counsel shall be present at all times~~ **the ACBL shall employ independent counsel** ~~the ACBL shall employ independent counsel~~ to advise the Committee as to procedural matters and matters of law. ~~The In-House Counsel shall be impartial and, in no case, shall the In-House Counsel act as an advocate for the ACBL or anyone appearing before the committee.~~

Effective immediately

Item 163-30: Board Counsel

the position of Board Counsel be established; that a committee of the Board be formed to develop a job description and terms of employment and to conduct interviews and retain Counsel at the earliest possible date.

Effective immediately

NABC Oversight

Item 163-36: Soloway KO Deferred from Spring 2016 NABC

A seven-day KO event named in honor of Paul Soloway be created and included in the schedule for the Fall NABC beginning on the first Friday of the tournament. The only additional change to the Fall NABC schedule is that the Senior KO be moved to begin on the first Sunday of the Fall NABC, after the qualifying period for this new event is over.

Effective date: January 1, 2017

Item: 163-37: Wagar Women's KO Teams

the Wagar Women's KO Teams be removed from the Summer NABC schedule.

Effective June 1, 2017

Item 163-38: Machlin Women's Swiss Team

the Machlin Women's Swiss Teams be removed from the Spring NABC schedule.

Effective June 1, 2017

Item: 163-39: Wagar Women's Pairs

a four session Women's Pairs event be added to the Summer NABC schedule. The two qualifying sessions would take place on Monday and the two final sessions would take place on Tuesday. The event, replacing the Wagar Women's KO, would be named the Wagar Women's Pairs.

Effective: June 1, 2017

Item 163-40: NABC Operations

Codification Chapter VIII (), Section E, Subsection 1.2 be deleted and Chapter VIII, Section F, Subsection 2 be amended to read as follows:

~~1.2 In pair events at an NABC (even though they may be different pair events) hands shall be duplicated across all sections in play at the same time whenever possible.~~

Section ~~H~~2 – Event Regulations

- 2.1 All players entered in the Vanderbilt and Spingold team events must play at least 40% of the boards in every match.
- 2.2 If, because of an emergency, a player withdraws from a team, or is declared ineligible to play further on the team for failure to fulfill the participation requirements established by the sponsoring organization, in a regional or NABC tournament, that player is ineligible to participate in a regional- or

higher-rated championship being played concurrently with the team event in which his former teammates are still participating. Any such player may only receive match awards or section awards for his participation in the team event.

- 2.3 Management is authorized to use Barometer play and scoring in the finals of the Non-Life Master Pairs, the finals of the Blue Ribbon Pairs and Barometer style play in the semi-finals and finals of the Reisinger Team event.
- 2.4 A player may play and earn masterpoints in as many sessions of bridge as possible while not entered in a concurrent or over-lapping event, except as listed below. A player who is on a team that has received a bye is considered entered in that event when that event begins. Morning and evening knockout events are not considered overlapping or conflicting events regardless of times scheduled.
 - 2.4.1 Players on teams with more than four members or teams with byes may play in concurrent one-session events only. For this purpose Continuous Pairs are considered a one-session event.
 - 2.4.2 The players noted in 2.4.1 above may be credited with masterpoints only from the event in which they earn the larger number of points. (This may include overall awards of the Continuous Pairs.)
- 2.5 At the discretion of the tournament director, slow play penalties will be deemed to be either disciplinary (and unappealable) or procedural. If the latter, appeals committees should tend strongly to reject all routine appeals against slow play penalties. Should a committee deny such an appeal, it should consider imposing an additional penalty for a frivolous appeal. The burden is on the appellant to demonstrate that some unusual circumstance makes the penalty inappropriate.
- 2.6 Non - ACBL members who have represented their country in World Championship events organized by the WBF, when playing in ACBL stratified or flighted events, are required to play in Flight A. Players may request exemption from this rule for valid cause.
- 2.7 The eligibility of all players participating in an NABC+ event shall, to the extent possible, be checked by management before the results of that event are declared official.
 - 2.7.1 The same time period that is allowed for the protest of a director's error will be allowed for this purpose.

2.7.2 If a player, pair or team is found ineligible or a position is otherwise vacated within the above correction period, all pairs or teams will move up to fill the vacated position.

2.7.3 From the end of the above correction period until one year after the event, if a player, pair or team is found to be or is declared ineligible or a position is otherwise vacated after the protest period has expired, the position will be vacated but pairs or teams will not be moved up.

2.8 The hand records used in any National-rated event with no upper masterpoint limit shall be used only in that single event. This applies to all sessions (qualifying and final.)

Effective January 1, 2017

Item 163-41: Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees

Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees, Section 5 be amended as follows:

D. COMMITTEES

Section 5 - Other ACBL bodies

Other ACBL bodies are non-board committees established by the Board of Directors to accomplish goals and objectives deemed appropriate. These entities operate in accordance with, and under the provisions of, the enabling legislation.

~~5.1 NABC Tournament Appeals Committee [Reserved]~~

~~5.1.1 At the beginning of each calendar year, the president will appoint one member of the Board of Directors to serve as Director of the Tournament Appeals Committee at NABCs. The director will not serve on any committee involving conduct or ethics, or involving any other matter that might result in an appeal to the Board of Directors. No other member of the board may serve in any capacity on this committee.~~

~~5.1.2 The Director of Appeals is responsible for the NABC Tournament Conduct Committee and for the NABC Tournament Appeals Committee. The Director of Appeals will:~~

- ~~5.1.2.1 In conjunction with the chair of the NABC Appeals Committee, recommend and approve members for the NABC Appeals Committee and participants on NABC Conduct Committees.~~
- ~~5.1.2.2. Be the liaison among the ACBL Board of Directors, management, and committees.~~
- ~~5.1.2.3 Participate in planning for committees and in education of members of these committees.~~
- ~~5.1.2.4 Be present at NABCs throughout the tournament, participate in the selection of appeals committees for NAP and GNT events, and participate in the selection of committees involving conduct and discipline, other than matters referred to Ethical Oversight.~~
- ~~5.1.2.5 Prepare and present a report of actions from the NABC to the subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors and review reports of appeals before they are posted on the website.~~
- ~~5.1.3 The Director of Appeals will receive one-half room night with tax for each day that he remains at the tournament after the normal board provisions expire.~~
- ~~5.1.4 At the beginning of each calendar year, the president will appoint the chair of the NABC Appeals Committee. The Executive Committee will approve the appointment before the beginning of the Spring NABC.~~
- ~~5.1.5 The Director and chair and/or Co-chair will have the sole responsibility of determining the membership of the NABC Appeals Committee.~~
 - ~~5.1.5.1 The chairman of the NABC Appeals Committee will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with official committee business. Any extraordinary committee member expenses must be pre-approved by the ACBL President or his designee.~~
 - ~~5.1.5.2 Persons who serve on NABC Appeals committees will receive \$10 in bridge bucks for each committee service and \$10 in bridge bucks will be given to the scribe for each Appeals~~

~~Committee. Exceptions to these compensation guidelines may be approved by the Director or Chair of Appeals.~~

5.2 NABC Tournament Conduct Committee

The process for forming an NABC Tournament Conduct Committee will be as follows:

5.2.1 ~~The NABC Appeals Committee Chair~~ **ACBL Disciplinary Coordinator** will **create a roster of** ~~appoint the committee~~ **members** from:

- A. A list of names supplied by the ACBL President that has been submitted by the ~~D~~istrict ~~D~~irectors;
- B. ~~The membership of the NABC Appeals Committee;~~
- C. The membership of the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee; and/or
- D. The membership at large, if needed.

5.2.2 When the committee hears a charge **or charges** relating only to conduct **(not including an ethical violation)**, ~~the chairman~~ ~~the ACBL~~ **Disciplinary Coordinator** will select the committee from available members in categories A ~~and~~ **through C** ~~D~~ above. The ~~chair~~ **committee** will select the person to chair the hearing from among the committee members.

5.2.3 When the committee hears a charge which includes an ~~ethics~~ **al** violation, the **ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee** chair will select the committee from available members ~~from~~ **of** the NABC Appeals Committee and/or the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee and/or, if needed, from the membership at large. The ~~chair~~ **committee** will select the person to chair the hearing from among the committee members.

5.2.4 ~~The chair of the NABC Tournament Conduct C~~committee and all members serving on a case will be compensated. The guideline for the amount of the compensation is the value of a two-session entry to an NABC+ event for each day the committee meets.

DISCUSSION ITEM

DI 163-NABC1: **Regional Event Schedule at NABCs**

Background: The goal of this item is to find a way to ensure that there is at least one two-session regionally rated IMP team game every full day of an NABC.

When Board members were consulted it was pointed out that the Regional schedule at an NABC is one of the few decisions under the control of the NABC Local Tournament Committee (LTC) with consultation from the Director in Charge (DIC). The DIC has a lot of input into the regional schedule, but the final decisions are the Committee's. If that is the case, there are two issues:

- 1) Does the LTC have complete control of the regional Schedule and is that the way it should be? If so, how does the Board affect changes that it thinks could improve the playing experience of a good portion of players that play in regionally rated events.
- 2) There are many players who would choose to play in a regionally rated two session IMP teams event, but due to the schedule are unable to do so on 1-2 days at most NABCs, because of the schedule.

Discussion:

- a) **Responsibility for Regional Schedule:** While most would agree that responsibility for the regional Schedule should remain with the LTC, does that mean that if the Board thinks that something would improve the playing experience of many regional event players, the Board should not attempt to make this change?

It is true that the NOC voluntarily spends many hours working on the NABC and are very regulated in what they can do and have less and less control, but if there is an idea that could improve some players' experience without much disruption to the Regional Schedule, should not the Board be able to get it implemented?

- b) **There will be regionally rated two session IMP team game (Swiss or Compact KO (CKO)) every full day of an NABC:**

The schedules of Washington, Orlando and Kansas City do not have these every day (Washington the 1st Friday, Orlando the 1st and 2nd Fridays, and Kansas City the 1st

Friday and Tuesday). For players that prefer IMPs, and cannot play in a two-day KO for various reasons (e.g. different teammate, KOed from an NABC event with another starting 2 days later or, in the case of the 1st Friday in Orlando the 10K Swiss starting on Saturday), these players are forced to play pairs, arrive a day later, leave a day earlier or take a day off.

There are 2 types of daily regional schedules, prime time (afternoon and evening) and daylight (morning and afternoon). The proposal is that, every day at least one daylight or one prime time event be a Swiss (preferably) or a CKO. The actual schedule responsibility, (including type of Swiss) and times of the events would stay with the NOC. For example, one day could have a daylight Swiss only and another day, a prime time CKO only. There should not be competing regional IMP team games in the same time periods (i.e. a Swiss and a CKO in the same daylight period.)

Possible Benefits: A segment of the NABC playing population would be happier. These include: Some A/X, B and C players who generally play regional events. Players who are waiting to start an NABC event the next day or players waiting for a two day KO.

Players might decide to come a day earlier or leave a day or more later, thereby increasing table count, revenue and possibly hotel room nights.

Possible disadvantages: This may upset LTC members due to one more restriction. But with the daylight and prime time options, it should not be difficult to change 1 of 2 regional pairs games on a day to an IMP teams game, and the LTC has control of what type of game is played (Swiss or CKO) and what times it is played.

Conclusions:

- 1) If the BoD agrees with the merits of a one day regional IMP team game every day, how do we get this implemented?
- 2) If this whole subject is under the control of the LTC, how do we improve the regional schedule?

This seems like an idea that should be easy to implement, that would help some players, and may increase revenue and table count.

If there is a positive outcome to this discussion, this item would hopefully be ratified in Kansas City (with a motion, if necessary). Since Regional Schedules in NABCs are printed 2-3 NABCs in advance, this probably couldn't be implemented until 2018. If a motion is not deemed to be necessary (e.g. an action item) this could be implemented sooner.

Online Bridge

Item 163-34: Daylong Robot Tournament Deferred from Summer 2016 NABC

- A. Sanctioned daylong online robot games be held. Up to 24 hours are allowed for play. Each daylong game will play a minimum of 24 boards. Sections of 15 or more allowed. Section awards capped at 25 tables. Play formats to be decided.
- B. Multi-session online robot games will be piloted. This event will have a qualifying stage followed by a final stage.
- C. Masterpoint awards to be established.
- D. Sanction fees to be decided.

Technology Oversight

Item 163-32: Live Streaming

All ACBL Board of Directors and Board of Governors meetings be recorded and placed on a web site such as ACBL site or U-Tube.

History: Summer 2016 Board of Governors, Washington meeting, Joann Sprung, Carried.