

Appeals & Charges

Item 162-01: Report on Hearings

(If any)

Item 162-02: CDR – Known Felon

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations be amended as follows:

Section 4.1.9 be renumbered as 4.1.10 and the following new Section 4.1.9 be inserted:

~~4.1.9 Expungement. (a) No ACBL disciplinary body may order expungement as a 16 Effective April 2016 part of a discipline. (b) A discipline which has been issued by an ACBL disciplinary body of original discipline may be expunged from a person's record only by action of an appellate body for good cause when hearing an appeal filed in accordance with CDR 7. (c) The Appeals and Charges Committee may hear a request to have a person's record expunged and order expungement at the Committee's sole discretion.~~

4.1.9. If, after July 21, 2016, a player is found guilty, by any bridge organization, of an ethical violation resulting in a suspension of one year or longer, that player may not play in an ACBL event as a partner or teammate with any other player who has also been found guilty, by any bridge organization, of an ethical violation resulting in a suspension of one year or longer. The player may request a temporary waiver of this prohibition. The sole authority to grant such a waiver rests with the Chief Executive Officer of the ACBL.

~~4.1.10 Expungement. (a) No ACBL disciplinary body may order expungement as a 16 Effective April 2016 part of a discipline. (b) A discipline which has been issued by an ACBL disciplinary body of original discipline may be expunged from a person's record only by action of an appellate body for good cause when hearing an appeal filed in accordance with CDR 7. (c) The Appeals and Charges Committee may hear a request to have a person's record expunged and order expungement at the Committee's sole discretion.~~

Item: 162-03: Suspension Pending Hearing

Sections 6.1 of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) be amended as follows:

6. Suspension Pending Hearing

- 6.1 When charge(s) have been made, a person so charged may play in an ACBL sanctioned event pending hearing unless otherwise directed by the chairperson of the committee which will be hearing the charge(s) or by

the Director-in-Charge of a Sectional or higher-rated tournament when a charge is to be heard by a tournament disciplinary committee. When charges have been brought by another National Bridge Organization, the World Bridge Federation, or one of the Zonal organizations of the WBF, a person so charged may play in an ACBL sanctioned event pending hearing unless otherwise directed by the CEO of the ACBL. Such suspension pending hearings should be rarely issued and only in extreme cases or when a hearing is delayed due to the fault of the person charged. A suspension pending a hearing may not be appealed.

Item: 162-04: Publication of Disciplinary Cases

Sections 9.6.5 of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) be added as follows:

9.6 Publication of Disciplinary Cases

- 9.6.1 In disciplinary cases which result in a finding of guilt, ACBL policy is to publish an individual's name, ACBL Player number, the penalty imposed and the CDR code section.
- 9.6.2 This applies to any decisions of a Unit, District or ACBL level disciplinary committee, and of the Ethical Oversight Committee. It shall also apply to decisions made at clubs regarding ethical violations when the ACBL is made aware of the decision, but does not apply to decisions made by a club disciplinary procedure regarding non-ethical violations.
- 9.6.3 All disciplines will be published on the website for the length of time of the discipline levied. Expulsions shall also be reported in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.
- 9.6.4 Decisions of the Ethical Oversight Committee shall also be reported in the NABC Daily Bulletin.
- 9.6.5 For ethical violations which have a recommended sentence including possible expulsion from the ACBL, (see Appendix B to this code for a list of the relevant offenses), the fact that charges have been brought will also be published on the ACBL website in the disciplinary section. The following information shall be included:

Player Name and ACBL number
CDR section alleged to have been violated
Entity hearing the charges
Hearing date.

If the player is found not guilty of the charges, this fact shall be added to this information and kept on the website for ninety days unless the player asks to have it removed sooner.

Board Publications Review

Item 162-05: Year-end Report by Committee Chairmen

Chapter 4, part D be amended to add the following sentences at the end of the introductory paragraph: At the end of every calendar year, each committee chair shall submit a committee report to the President. This report will contain information on the process of the committee, progress made that year and thoughts of future undertakings.

Bridge Review

Item 162-06: Notrump Opener

The ACBL General Convention Chart be modified as follows:

DEFINITIONS

...

2. A notrump opening or overcall is natural if, by agreement, it is balanced (generally, no singleton or void and no more than two doubletons) it contains no void, at most one singleton which must be the A,K or Q and no more than two doubletons.

Conditions of Contest

Item 162-07: KO Participation

The General Conditions of Contests for KO Teams require all members of a team to play at least 50% of each match, with the exception of the 1st match, to be eligible for overall awards. This would be applicable for all KOs unless superseded by specific conditions of contests for NABC KO events to be amended as follows: Currently, the General CoC for KO Teams reads as follows:

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. For any given overall award, a player must play at least 50% of **each match** ~~all boards~~ of a KO (excluding **1st round** ~~play-off boards~~) **and 50% of the total boards** played by the team. No contestant may play any match after it has become mathematically impossible for him to play at least 50% of the boards (excluding play-off boards) played by his team **OR failed to play in at least half of each match other than the first.**

~~In order to be entitled to the first place award, a player must also play at least 50% of the combined boards in the semi-final and final matches. For any given overall award, a player must have played at least 50% of the boards in the match in which that award was earned by the team.~~

Item 162-08: NABC KO Participation

To amend the specific Conditions of Contests for NABC KO events to require all members of a team to play at least 50% of each match within four-way matches

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

2. Every team member must play at least half the boards of each match, exclusive of playoffs, in order to continue on that team for the remainder of the event. In the case of a four-way round robin, each match will be treated as a separate match and a contestant must play half of **EACH** the matches. The team captain may submit an application for exemption from the requirements of this paragraph to the DIC but must do so (other than for emergencies) prior to entering the team.

Item 162-09: Regionals and Sectionals

Codification for Regional and Sectional events be changed as follows:

Chapter IX, Regional Tournaments, Finance:

3.1 Except for charity events or events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints, and except for active members of the American Bridge Association:

Chapter X, Sectional Tournaments, Finance:

1.3 Except for charity events or events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints, and except for active members of the American Bridge Association:

Item 162-10: Collegiate Conditions of Contest

ACBL Collegiate Conditions of Contest would change as follows:

2016/2017 North American Collegiate Bridge Bowl Conditions of Contest

REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

- A. Any number of teams from a college or university in North America may enter the Qualifying Events, which will be held in October 2016 and February 2017.
- B. Eligible students must be currently enrolled at the start of the qualifying event in which they play and be born no earlier than January 1, 1992.
- C. Each team must consist of four to six players from the same college
- D. Each team will select a team captain, who will submit an entry form to education@acbl.org containing the full name of the school; school address; and the team roster including the team name, name of the captain, players' full names with addresses and e-mail addresses plus registered Bridge Base names for each. Those who do not have a Bridge Base account can sign up for free.

- E. Each participant will sign the "Agreement of Fair and Sportsmanlike Participation." All forms must be completed and submitted before a team is considered registered.
- F. The ACBL reserves the right to adjust the result on any board or the result of a match under the laws of duplicate bridge and/or these Conditions of Contest of the Collegiate Bridge Bowl. Teams may request in writing to education@acbl.org to the Director in Charge, the review of a hand or match where an allegation of an irregularity has occurred. All written requests will be reviewed by the Director in Charge and/or an ACBL designated Committee.

QUALIFYING STAGE

- A. Two qualifying events will be created. Qualifying Event I will be October 22 & 23, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. PT. Qualifying Event II will be February 4 & 5, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. PT. Each event is two days long.
- B. The ACBL General Convention Chart will govern play.
- C. Qualifying Event I and Qualifying Event II will award regionally-rated red masterpoints for both overall and match awards.
- D. Qualifying Event I (October 2016):
 - 1. Teams will log in to Bridge Base. An ACBL Tournament Director or Representative will set up team matches to be played. No kibitzers will be allowed to watch the match.
 - 2. The same four players who start a match, must finish that match; no substitutions of players may take place in the middle of the match.
 - 3. There is no minimum number of boards a player must play to qualify.
 - 4. Day 1, each team will be included into random round robin brackets and will play live on BBO. Each match will consist of a minimum of 12 boards and game results will be converted to the 20 Victory Point scale. Total number of rounds will be decided based on the number of teams entered and published at least 24 hours in advance of this Qualifying Event. The top team from each bracket will qualify to day 2. Other teams with the highest VP totals may also qualify based on the number of brackets and teams entered. A total of 8 teams will qualify to Day 2.
 - 5. Day 2, the top 8 teams will be put into two brackets of 4, avoiding as many replays as possible. Each team will play three matches of 12 boards. The top two teams from each bracket will qualify for the finals at the Summer NABC in Toronto 2017.
 - 6. Remaining teams from the two brackets who did not qualify for the finals at the Summer NABC in Toronto 2017 may play again in Qualifying Event II in February.
- E. Qualifying Event II (February 2017):
 - 1. Conditions of Contest for Qualifying Event I, paragraphs D1 through D5, will govern this second qualifying event.

2. All teams who participated in October 2016 are automatically entered in Qualifying Event II. Any changes in the team rosters, including contact information, must be reported to education@acbl.org prior by January 31.

FINALS STAGE

- A. Teams attending the Collegiate Bridge Bowl Finals must comprise four to six original members of the team. Teams of only four members may have one replacement, which must be an eligible student from the same participating college. A replaced player forfeits all rights earned in the competition. The ACBL invitation is extended specifically to players, not teams. Therefore, a player being replaced must be unwilling or unable to participate in the finals, and the replacement must be approved by the ACBL. No team shall have the right to replace a player who is willing and able to participate in the finals.
- B. No teams will be given the ability to augment additional players.
- C. Each member of the qualifying teams must be an ACBL member with a membership date not later than June 1, 2017.
- D. Eligibility for awards and masterpoints will be as prescribed by the general Conditions of Contest for KO events
- E. Qualifying players will be invited to the Summer NABC in Toronto to compete in the finals of the Collegiate Bridge Bowl. Each participant receives:
 - a. Economy round-trip airfare up to \$500
 - b. Lodging for three nights, double occupancy
 - c. Expense supplement for meals
- F. Day 1-Session 1, teams will be randomly split into two 4 team brackets. Each team will play 8-boards against each other team in the bracket. Matches will be converted to the 30 VP scale. The team with the lowest VP total from each bracket will be eliminated.
- G. Day 1-Session 2, teams will be randomly split into two 3 team brackets. Each team will play 12 boards against each other team in the bracket. Matches will be converted to the 30 VP scale. The team with the lowest VP total from each bracket will be eliminated.
- H. Day 2-Session 1, teams will be assigned to a head-to-head match. If possible, both matches will comprise teams that have not played each other. If this is not possible, matches will be decided by random draw. Each team will play 24 boards.
- I. Day 2-Session 2, the winning teams from the first session will play for first and second. The losing teams will play for third and fourth.
- J. Scholarship prizes will be awarded to first and second place, the amount to be determined based on the total scholarship monies available.
- K. The ACBL General Convention Chart will govern play.
- L. The Collegiate Bridge Bowl Finals will award 30 gold masterpoints for first place, 20 for second, 10 for third and 5 for fourth. The match for third and fourth must be played in order to receive masterpoints.

Education/Marketing

Item 162-11: \$5 Junior Membership

Chapter I, Section 1 of the Codification is amended as follows:

CHAPTER I – MEMBERSHIP G. EDUCATION

Section 1 – School Bridge Program

- 1.1 The ACBL will provide materials needed to run School Bridge Lessons under the following guidelines:
 - 1.1.1 Students must be under 26 years of age.
 - 1.1.2 Students who have graduated from high school must be enrolled full-time at a two-year or four-year college.
 - 1.1.3 There must be at least four students. It is recommended that all classes have at least 12+ students.
 - 1.1.4 Students may not be charged for teacher's time.
- 1.2 A stipend of \$350 will be paid to teachers of School Bridge Lessons if the following conditions are met.
 - 1.2.1 All classes must be registered in advance with the ACBL Education Department or stipends will not be paid.
 - 1.2.2 A minimum of eight students must graduate from each class.
 - 1.2.3 The lesson series must be taught over a minimum of 16 hours.
 - 1.2.4 No one shall be denied the teacher stipend from the School Bridge program based solely on the receipt of payment from another source; however, the amount received from the School Bridge Program when added to compensation from other sources shall not exceed US \$500.00.
- 1.3 Teachers will be paid for a maximum of five classes per semester with no more than 10 paid classes per year (spring/summer and fall/winter).
- 1.4 A \$5 Junior membership will be available to all youngsters under the age of 26.
 - 1.4.1 In lieu of a hardcopy monthly Bulletin, Junior members will have access to the Bulletin online via MyACBL.

Finance

Item 162-12: Canadian Organizations

Submitted by: Board of Governors

The ACBL Board of Directors consider ways of providing financial alleviation to Canadian Organizations to minimize the impact on members and players. CARRIED

Item 162-13: Non-Member Fees Applicable Currency

Chapter IX-Regional Tournaments, B Finance, Section 3 – Non Dues Paying Players Surcharge and Chapter X-Sectional Tournaments, B Finance, Section 3 – Non Dues Paying Players Surcharge of the ACBL codification are amended as follows:

CHAPTER IX – REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

B. FINANCE

Section 3 – Non-dues Paying Players Surcharge

3.1 Except for charity events or events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints:

- a. For all regionals, the sponsoring organization will charge a mandatory additional fee of at least \$4.00 per person per session for non-members and non-service fee paying LMs. For tournaments which are hosted in Canada the fee will be collected in Canadian dollars.
- b. It is suggested that the sale signage present this as a discount to members.
- c. The additional fee shall be remitted to the ACBL. Fees collected in Canadian dollars will have that amount converted to US dollars before being remitted.

CHAPTER X - SECTIONALS

B. FINANCE

1.3 Except for charity events or events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints:

- a. The sponsoring organization shall charge a mandatory additional fee of at least \$3.00 per person per session for non – members and non - service fee paying LMs. For tournaments which are hosted in Canada the fee will be collected in Canadian dollars.
- b. It is suggested that the sale signage present this as a discount to members.
- c. The additional fee shall be remitted to the ACBL. Fees collected in Canadian dollars will have that amount converted to US dollars before being remitted.

Item 162-14: Club Game Fees Waived

Chapter VI, Section A., Section 3.3.4 be rescinded

Section 3 – Cost of a Sanction

3.1 New Club Games

- 3.1.1 The ACBL considers a club game new if it has not been sanctioned previously at the specific location for which it is applying, if it failed to renew its sanction by January 31, if it is on inactive status, or if it has not conducted regularly scheduled duplicate games during the preceding calendar year. However, if a club moves to a new location in the same area and retains its club

number, the ACBL does not consider it new. Should a new club game sanction be denied, a specific reason will be given.

3.2 Annual fee

3.2.1 The annual sanction fee per sanctioned game shall be \$11.50.

3.2.2 When a club files its annual sanction application, it must include the fee for each regularly scheduled game session. This fee is paid once a year. Games that operate for a short time during the year (for example, during summer months) are subject to this fee, just as if sessions were held throughout the year.

3.3. Table Fees

3.3.1 Regular game table (18+ boards) fees are \$1 and short game (12-17 boards) table fees are \$.55 per table.

3.3.2 A club must pay a fee for each sanctioned game session held plus a fee for each table in play. The ACBL charges only one game session fee if different levels of games are held simultaneously.

3.3.3 Clubs will be charged an additional \$2 per game fee if they either mail a hard copy of the monthly masterpoint and financial reports or submit reports using an outdated version of ACBLscore. Small clubs can request an exemption from these additional fees. New clubs requesting sanctions will be required to report electronically using ACBLscore.

GNT/Special Events

Item 162-15: ACBL Wide Special Event

No ACBL wide Special Events held at clubs be scheduled on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday except for International Fund Game # 1 which is to be permanently held on the Saturday afternoon of Super Bowl weekend. CARRIED

Item 162-16: High School Bridge Sectional Championship

Each unit may hold one high school team (HS) sectional championship event annually.

Chapter X, Sectionals, Section A, Sectional Tournament Allocations, of the Codification is amended as follows:

- 1.3 Sectionals must be at least two days and no more than five days in duration, with the exception of Limited/Junior Sectionals, High School Championships, and Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs.)
- 1.4 Limited/Junior Sectionals and High School Championships must be at least one day and no more than five days in duration. A Limited Sectional is defined as a sectional with a masterpoint limit of no more than 0-500.

1.5 A unit may not schedule more than three one-day Limited Sectionals in any calendar year.

1.5.1 A unit may not schedule more than one High School Championship per year.

1.8 Sectionals may be Open, Senior, Limited by masterpoints (specifically, 0-100; 0- 200; 0-300; 0-500) Junior, Youth, High School Championship, Progressive Style or STaC.

1.8.1 A High School Championship is open only to Youth players currently enrolled in a 3 or 4 year High School, public or private, or those who have graduated within three months of the start of the High School Championship and are not attending college full-time.

1.8.2 High School Championships shall consist of teams of 4 to 6 players, all from the same High School.

1.8.3 The conditions of contest shall be determined by the sponsoring unit, provided they are in accordance with ACBL conditions. An exception will be permitted for an online qualifying stage provided adult supervision is present at each site.

Item 162-17: High School Bridge Regional Championship

Each district may hold one high school team (HS) bridge regional championship event annually.

Chapter IX, Regionals, Section A, Regional Tournament Scheduling and Sanctioning, of the Codification is amended as follows:

2.2 Each district is allocated four annual regionals which may be open or senior. Each district is allowed to split one regional. In addition, a district is allocated three limited regionals which may be any of the following:

- a. Junior regional
- b. Youth regional
- c. Non-Life Master regional with an upper limit of 750 masterpoints (Effective January 2016)
- d. High School Regional Championship – no more than one per year

2.2.1: A High School Championship is open only to Youth players currently enrolled in a 3 or 4 year High School, public or private, or those who have graduated within three months of the start of the High School Championship and are not attending college full-time.

2.2.2 High School Championships shall consist of teams of 4 to 6 players, all from the same High School.

2.2.3 The conditions of contest shall be determined by the sponsoring district, provided they are in accordance with ACBL conditions. An exception will be permitted for an online qualifying stage, provided adult supervision is present at each site.

Governance/Board Operations

Item 162-18: Election Rules - Ballots

Donald Mamula, district 19 and seconded that the ACBL Board of Directors reconsider Item 161-115: Election Rules – Ballots.

Motion Item 161-115: Election Rules - Ballots

The ACBL Codification Chapter III: Administration, Section D: Election is revised as follows:

Section 9 – Return of Ballots

9.3 Ballots are not opened until counting commences for each contested position. Before the results are formally released, the Director of Elections will make every effort to verbally communicate the outcome to all candidates.

9.3.1 District Director ballots will be counted on the first business day following September 15, followed by an audit of the initial count.

9.3.2 First and Second Alternate ballots will be counted on the first business day following September 15, followed by an audit of the initial count.

9.3.3 Board of Governors ballots will be counted on the first business day following September 15, followed by an audit of the initial count.

9.4 The votes by Units in District-wide election will be kept confidential.

9.4.1 The Director of Elections will release the total number of individual votes received by each candidate within the District as well as the total percentage of the weighted votes received.

(Effective January 1, 2016, Carried unanimously, CARRIED)

Item 162-19: Two-year term for President

Chapter 4 of the codification A Administration Section 2.2.1 be amended to read: The ACBL President is elected by the Board of Directors for a two-year term commencing on January 1 of the following year.

Item 162-20: Recorder Regulations

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations be amended to include the following:

Appendix C - Recorder Regulations and Procedures

GOAL

The ~~aim~~ Recorder System is to establish a method of dealing with complaints intended to handle matters that:

- A. by themselves do not warrant the filing of formal charges;
- B. are very serious ~~but there is~~ where only the implication of wrongdoing exists without the substantial evidence required to bring formal charges;
- C. are a request to have the Subject's behavior modified by counseling and/or education.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Appointing Body: The entity (ACBL, District or Unit) that appoints, hires, or designates the Recorder.
- B. Assistant Recorder: A person authorized to act on behalf of a Recorder. Unless otherwise noted every reference to a Recorder applies equally to an Assistant Recorder.
- C. Complaint: A written accusation by an ACBL member, a non-member playing in an ACBL sanctioned event, ACBL management or a Unit or District alleging conduct in violation of CDR Section 3 and requesting that charges be made to the appropriate disciplinary body.
- D. File: The collection of written or digitized documents that include the player memo, any response, all investigative notes and other documents.
- E. Player Memo: A written document informing the Recorder about an incident. This is not a complaint but may be used as the basis for a complaint.
- F. Recorder: The person with the ultimate responsibility for carrying out the duties outlined in these guidelines.
- G. Reporter: The person who signs and files the player memo.
- H. Subject: The person who is the subject of the player memo.
- I. Temporary Recorder: A person authorized to act on behalf of a Recorder for a specified time period.

APPOINTMENT

- A. With the exception of the ACBL National Recorder, a Recorder is an official of the Appointing Body. Such Recorder may be removed from office by whatever reasonable procedures are established by the Appointing Body. Each Appointing Body should establish procedures for appointment and replacement of Recorders, Assistant Recorders and Temporary Recorders. These procedures should be constructed to distance the position and person of Recorder from the political arena.

QUALIFICATIONS

A Recorder must be qualified to perform the duties outlined in these guidelines. These qualifications are not absolute. However, an ideal candidate will have the following:

A. Unimpeachable ethics, integrity, honesty, and demeanor;

B. The ability to discuss without offending the Subject, all matters including the most serious ethical concerns;

C. Excellent communication skills;

D. Acknowledged bridge ability;

E. The ability ~~Must be able~~ to act in a non-political manner;

F. Familiarity with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

~~B. Since ACBL members must have the highest confidence in the persons appointed as recorders, the system will operate successfully only if there is a general belief that a recorder will perform the duties of the office honestly and impartially.~~

~~C. To adequately perform the duties of the office, a recorder should have familiarity with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.~~

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES of a Recorder are:

A. To receive, investigate and evaluate Player Memos;

B. To check a Subject's history upon receipt of a new Player Memo involving said Subject;

C. To educate Reporters and Subjects about proper demeanor and ethical behavior in accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations;

D. To communicate with those involved in a reported incident, particularly the Reporter and Subject;

E. To maintain a record of all Player Memos including investigation and resolution;

F. To make or assist with an impartial presentation of evidence to a disciplinary committee;

G. To prosecute the Complaint on behalf of his appointing organization ~~or his her own behalf~~ when selected or appointed to do so.

LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY

- A. A Recorder has no disciplinary authority and MUST not give any indication to the contrary.
- B. A Recorder, as a means to resolve a Player Memo or Memos, may file a complaint against a Subject with an appropriate disciplinary body.
- C. A Recorder may choose to inform a Subject that a Complaint may be filed in the future should the undesirable behavior continue.

~~In either case the recorder must ensure that the authority of the office of recorder is not abused.~~

ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER BRIDGE OFFICE

- A. A Recorder should not, during the tenure of office, serve on any disciplinary body created under authority of that Recorder's Appointing Body. If already a member of such a body, a Recorder must assume inactive status or resign.
- B. A Recorder should not, but may, be a member of a disciplinary committee for another Appointing Body. ~~For example, a District Recorder may serve on a Unit or Sectional tournament disciplinary committee and vice versa.~~ A Recorder must ~~may~~ not participate in any case in which the facts may present a conflict of interest, and must not be a member of the disciplinary committee for any case that he investigated as a Recorder.
- C. A Recorder may be a member of any disciplinary committee after leaving office, but shall not hear any case with which he was involved while serving as a Recorder.
- D. A Recorder may be a member of any bridge appeals committee so long as this service does not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- E. A Recorder should decline to serve on a bridge appeals committee when other qualified individuals are available.

TOURNAMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Recorder should be available for any tournament sponsored by his Appointing Body. If not available, the Recorder or the Appointing Body is responsible to nominate a qualified assistant to perform all recorder functions. The Assistant Recorder is subject to all limitations imposed on the Recorder. In the event that no Recorder is available at a tournament, the Director-in-Charge (DIC) will act as an on-site Recorder. The DIC is responsible for sending any and all Player Memos to the organization's Recorder.
- B. The DIC of the tournament shall ensure that a copy of all Player Memos are forwarded to the ACBL National Recorder for review.

GUIDELINES FOR EXECUTION OF DUTIES

A. The Recorder must make his best effort to maintain the confidentiality of the ~~process in speaking to people about~~ Player Memos. Unless confidentiality is waived by the Reporter, the Recorder should maintain, as confidential, the identity of the Reporter, even if this precludes speaking with the Subject of the report. Such information may be revealed only when necessary to the investigation and in maintaining files and records. Violating the confidentiality of the process is a basis for removal from office. This responsibility is of the highest priority and must continue even after his duties have ended.

B. The Subject and ~~to a lesser extent,~~ the Reporter are entitled to privacy regarding the reported incident subject to the needs of the investigation. If the Recorder files a Complaint based, in part, upon a Player Memo, that Player Memo becomes evidence and the Reporter becomes a witness, if available, subject to the Reporter's continuing right to assert confidentiality. Further confidentiality and privacy, if any, are determined by the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

C. A Recorder should ~~inform leave instructions~~ club managers, tournament chairpersons and tournament directors of the proper procedures for delivery of Player Memos to the Recorder.

D. Upon receipt of a Player Memo, a Recorder should make an initial assessment as to whether the subject matter and related current or prior reports could form the basis for a Complaint or whether the Player Memo should simply be recorded.

E. Upon receipt of a Player Memo that could be the basis for a Complaint, the Recorder ~~either~~ investigates the matter or refers the Player Memo to the appropriate Recorder to investigate. Matters that could involve ethical breaches should be referred to the ACBL National Recorder for evaluation prior to the start of an investigation. If the confidentiality of the Reporter has been waived, the Recorder may discuss the case with the Subject and give the Subject an opportunity to reply to the report in writing. As appropriate and as confidentiality permits, the Recorder may investigate further by interviewing witnesses and holding additional meetings with the Reporter or the Subject.

F. After a complete investigation, the Recorder makes an evaluation.

1. If a Recorder will be filing a Complaint, the Subject ~~and Reporter~~ should be so informed. If the Reporter may be a witness or his report may be used as part of the Complaint, he should be so informed. If the Reporter requests confidentiality, the Recorder must prepare the Complaint without reference to the Player Memo. The Complaint is filed with the appropriate organization's Charging Party.

2. When the Recorder is recording the Player Memo, he should retain a copy of the file ~~for at least ten years~~ and send a copy of the file to the ACBL National Recorder. If the Player Memo contains any possible indication of wrongdoing, it should be recorded and filed.

~~3. If the recorder decides not to record or file a complaint, the reporter should be so informed and the closed file should be kept in an administrative file for a reasonable time period.~~

G. A Recorder should communicate with the Reporter regarding the status of a Player Memo. Given the circumstances of any case and the need to preserve the Subject's rights of confidentiality, the Recorder has discretion to limit the amount of information given to the Reporter. This includes the discretion to tell the Reporter only that (1) the Player Memo was received and is being appropriately addressed or (2) the Player Memo was received and the Recorder has concluded the investigation stipulating one of the following results:

a. The incident was recorded.

b. The incident was referred for discipline.

c. No further action was taken.

H. Nothing in this document shall supersede the provisions of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

RECORDER FILES

A. All files are the property of the investigating Recorder's Appointing Body. Access to that file is by permission of the Recorder or the Appointing Body.

~~B. At least twice every calendar year, a recorder should review all files in his or her possession. If the most recent player memo in the file is at least 10 years old the file shall be discarded — except that memos which note major ethical breaches should be retained indefinitely. During each semiannual~~ Periodically, a Recorder should review all files in his possession. During these reviews, a Recorder should note if more than one Player Memo involves the same Subject. If so, he should evaluate the memos for possible action based on a pattern of behavior.

C. To the extent possible, a Recorder should cross-file the memos under both the Reporter's name and the Subject's name.

NATIONAL OFFICE OF RECORDER

A. The National Office of Recorder is the administrative office of the ACBL National Recorder.

B. Daily administration is under the aegis of the ACBL National Recorder. The primary purpose of this office is to help the ACBL National Recorder perform his legitimate duties ~~of the recorder in the event the ACBL Recorder is not at Headquarters.~~

C. The National Office of Recorder maintains all ACBL recorder files.

~~C. The National Office of the Recorder maintains the files forwarded to it by the ACBL Recorder, any assistant ACBL Recorder and other recorders. The ACBL Recorder reviews all files at least twice annually, discarding a player memo that is 10 or more years if its subject is not also the subject of a later player memo. Memos involving major ethical breaches should not be discarded.~~

~~D. A disciplinary committee may use Recorder Memos from the ACBL National Office of Recorder in determining the severity of the discipline to be issued.~~

~~E D. The files are the property of ACBL.~~

SPECIAL ACBL RECORDER REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. ACBL NATIONAL RECORDER

1. The ACBL National Recorder is selected and hired by ACBL Management. With the approval of ACBL Management, the ACBL National Recorder may appoint assistants.
2. Each Assistant ACBL National Recorder will perform those functions assigned by the ACBL National Recorder. The authority of an Assistant ACBL National Recorder may never exceed the authority of the ACBL National Recorder.

B. ADDITIONAL ACBL NATIONAL RECORDER DUTIES

1. The ACBL National Recorder may submit evidence or player memos to the ACC for evaluation of a recommendation. The National Recorder will regularly provide any relevant ethical Player Memos or other evidence to the ACC.
2. The ACBL National Recorder may also receive information in forms other than Player Memos. These reports may be from any source or sources. The ACBL National Recorder, if appropriate, should then document the information received.
3. The ACBL National Recorder shall have additional duties including but not limited to:
 - a. Advising Unit and District Recorders;
 - b. Conducting seminars for Recorders at NABCs.
 1. ~~Advise Unit and District recorders as necessary.~~
 2. ~~Conduct seminars for recorders at NABCs as appropriate.~~
 3. ~~Supervise the National Office of the Recorder as necessary concerning files.~~
 4. ~~Determine whether to videotape in conjunction with an investigation with the concurrence of the ACBL CEO in accordance with ACBL resolution 042-04.~~

Juniors/Youth NABC

Item 162-21 End of Class Tournament

Chapter I, Section 1.2.5 of the Codification is amended as follows:

CHAPTER I - MEMBERSHIP G. EDUCATION

Section 1 - School Bridge Program

- 1.1 The ACBL will provide materials needed to run School Bridge Lessons under the following guidelines:
 - 1.1.1 Students must be under 26 years of age.
 - 1.1.2 Students who have graduated from high school must be enrolled full-time at a two-year or four-year college.
 - 1.1.3 There must be at least four students. It is recommended that all classes have at least 12+ students.
 - 1.1.4 Students may not be charged for teacher's time.
- 1.2 A stipend of \$350 will be paid to teachers of School Bridge Lessons if the following conditions are met.
 - 1.2.1 All classes must be registered in advance with the ACBL Education Department or stipends will not be paid.
 - 1.2.2 A minimum of eight students must graduate from each class.
 - 1.2.3 The lesson series must be taught over a minimum of 16 hours.
 - 1.2.4 No one shall be denied the teacher stipend from the School Bridge program based solely on the receipt of payment from another source; however, the amount received from the School Bridge Program when added to compensation from other sources shall not exceed US \$500.00.
 - 1.2.5 End of class tournament must be held and results submitted.

NABC Oversight

Item 162-25: Women's Swiss

A team in the semi-finals or finals may meet any other team subject to the general conditions regarding pairing except for the following: During the last two matches of the finals, teams in the bottom half of the field may meet each other for a second time that day. When a choice exists, it shall be the teams with the lowest records.

Item 162-26: Summer NABC Scheduling

- 1 To provide consistency with the current MP limits for the Flight A and Flight B GNTs, change the masterpoint limits of the 0-5,000 LM Pairs, and the 0-5,000 Spingold to 0-6,000 MP and the 0-1,500 Pairs and the 0-1,500 Spingold to 0-2,500.

- 2) To increase attendance and encourage broader competition, stagger the starts of the LM Pairs, the 0-10,000 Pairs, the 0-6,000 LM Pairs, and the 0-2,500 Pairs.
- 3) To reduce from 3 days to 2 days the 0-5,000 LM Pairs, and the 0-1,500 LM Pairs.
- 4) To stagger the start of the Spingold, the 0-6,000 Spingold, and the 0-2,500 Spingold.

Item: 162-27: Appendix G

Appendix G of the ACBL Conditions of Contest be amended as follows:

Special Conditions to the use of Bidding Boxes and Screens

These Conditions of Contest (CoC) may not be changed during the course of an event. Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exemption.

(a) BIDDING BOXES (no screens)

1. Players must choose a call before touching any card in the bidding box. A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching, or nearly touching, the table — or maintained in such a position to indicate that the call has been made.
2. A call may be changed without penalty, under the provisions of Law 25A, only if a player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and the player corrects or attempts to correct his mistake without pause for thought and the player's partner has not made a call.
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. 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.

(b) SCREEN PROCEDURES

At tables with a VuGraph operator present, players and kibitzers shall surrender all electronic communications devices to the VuGraph operator before beginning play. These devices will be returned upon completion of all the boards in the segment.

The purpose of the screen is to prevent information from being transmitted from one side to the other. Players should strongly endeavor in all situations to ensure that sounds of any kind are not heard on the opposite side of the screen during the auction.

The screen is placed diagonally across the table in such fashion that North and East, South and West are screenmates (unless otherwise required as a reasonable accommodation to a disabled player). The board is placed in the middle of a moveable tray. The screen is closed so that the bidding tray can just pass under it. The players remove their cards from the board and make their calls.

Beginning with the dealer, players place bidding cards silently on their section of the tray from the extreme left-hand edge, neatly overlapping so that all calls are visible and faced towards partner. A call is considered to have been made when a player releases it onto the tray (but law 25 may apply). North or South slide the tray under the screen after his screenmate has called, and the tray should be placed so that all calls are visible on the other side. There will be no oral communication during the auction. After three consecutive passes, all players remove their bidding cards. At this point, the declaring side may offer information about their own explanations.

During the auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal timing by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced in front of, but not on, the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray. It is not proper for a player to use this procedure where the overall time taken to pass the tray may create the perception of a sufficient hesitation where the opponent may view this as unauthorized information. One should also endeavor to refrain from asking questions where the answer to those questions is not relevant at that time, and where the time taken to ask and respond to those questions may create the perception of a sufficient hesitation where the opponent may view this as unauthorized information.

~~Opening leader's screenmate shall announce that the lead has been made; a defender shall raise the screen, and play shall proceed. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see the cards.~~

~~At tables with a VuGraph operator present, each player and kibitzer will give his cell phone or other communications device to the VuGraph operator before beginning play. Players may retrieve their cell phones after completing all boards of the segment. The opening lead shall be made face down.~~

The opening leader's screenmate shall raise the screen aperture or indicate for the screen aperture to be raised. The opening leader's screenmate is entitled to delay the opening of the screen for up to fifteen seconds after a lead has been made. During that period and throughout the play the leader may not take any action to indicate to the other side that his lead was delayed by the declaring side. The screen is raised only to a level that permits all players to see the cards. The opening lead shall be made face-up on the table. The defending side should refrain from touching the opening lead until it becomes a quitted trick. (It may be touched by the declaring side.)

If the tray is removed from the table, only the declaring side may do so.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge North American Edition are in effect except as specified below:

LAW 9A(2)(b)(1); LAW 42B(3); LAW 43A(1)(b):

Dummy may call attention to a defender's card prematurely exposed.

LAW 13:

The Adjusted Score and Possible Penalty prescribed in Law 13B shall apply only if the call has been transmitted to the other side of the screen.

LAW 16:

- a When a player takes more than a normal time to make his call, his screenmate should not inform those players on the other side of the screen. The screenmate should not report the delay to the director prior to the completion of the hand.
- b If a player on the side of the screen receiving the tray considers there has been a break in tempo and consequently there may be unauthorized information under Law 16B2, he should reserve his rights or call the Director. He may do so without prejudice at any time before the opening lead is made and the screen is opened.
- c Failure to do as (2) provides may persuade the Director that it was the partner who drew attention to the break in tempo. If so, he may well rule there was no perceived delay on the other side of the screen and thus no unauthorized information.

LAW 20:

Review of the Auction: Until the bidding cards are removed from the tray, a player obtains a review of the auction by inspecting them. At trick one, when a player is still entitled to obtain a review and an inspection of the bidding cards is no longer feasible, a player obtains a written review of the auction from his screenmate.

EXPLANATION OF CALLS:

1. During the Auction:

- a. At any time a player may request, in writing, of his screenmate a full explanation of an opponent's call. The reply also is in writing.

2. Prior to the Opening Lead:

- a. The opening leader is permitted to ask for clarification in writing from his opponent on the other side of the screen.
- ~~b.~~ Preferably before the opening lead, the declaring side is strongly encouraged to confirm explanations given on the two sides of the screen if there is any possibility those explanations might have been different. If the explanations were different, the director must be summoned to ensure the

defenders both have access to the information to which they are legally entitled. In cases where one side's explanations were different as a result of the other side giving different explanations of their own calls, the director shall protect the non-offending side from misinformation as the Laws provide. If in such cases the exchange of information across the screen resulted in the defenders becoming aware of their own misunderstanding, the director shall protect the declaring side from the resulting unauthorized information. The declaring side may, on its own initiative, confirm explanations given on the other side of the screen and is encouraged to do so for complex and potentially ambiguous auctions.

3. After the screen is raised:

a. Third hand (opening leader's partner) is permitted to ask for clarification in writing.

b. If based upon the appearance of dummy, declarer has reason to suspect there may be need for clarification of explanations, before playing from dummy, those remedies provided in 2.b. are also in effect.

4. During the Play Period:

Questions during the play period should be in writing with the aperture closed. The screen is raised after the response has been made in writing.

5. Misunderstandings:

Failure to provide a written response may be resolved in favor of MI or both sides may be ruled against.

LAWS 26-32; LAW 34; LAWS 36-39:

For the infractions covered by these laws, the following procedures are used:

A. Tray not passed:

Before the tray is passed, the offender's screenmate shall call attention to the infraction and summon the TD. The TD shall see that the infraction is rectified without penalty. These calls may not be accepted.

B. Both sides at fault:

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player — North or South — moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the TD. In situations where the laws permit LHO to accept the infringing call, it is accepted on behalf of the non-offending side when the screenmate passes the tray (Law 23 may apply). Otherwise, the TD shall return

the tray to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity without penalty. These calls may not be accepted.

C. Only one side at fault:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen with only one side at fault (the player who committed the bidding infraction — East or West — also moved the tray improperly), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the TD. The TD shall return the tray to the offending player for rectification of the irregularity and the appropriate penalty is applied. These calls may not be accepted.

D. Irregularity not noticed:

When the infringing call is passed across the screen and neither player draws attention to it, the tray eventually being returned to the side of the screen where the bidding irregularity was committed, the auction stands without penalty or rectification. However, in the case of an inadmissible call, Law 35 applies.

E. Information:

Authorized or not: Information from withdrawn calls is unauthorized for any partnerships at fault but authorized for a player or partnership that has committed no irregularity.

LAW 33:

The subsequent call is canceled without penalty.

LAW 40:

Alerts: When an alertable call is made, the player alerts his screenmate silently. The preferable way to alert is to silently place the alert card over the alertable call and then remove it after receiving acknowledgement. It is the responsibility of the person alerting to ensure that the alert has been noticed. When the tray is passed, both players should immediately alert partner's alertable call. There are no delayed Alerts when playing behind screens.

LAW 41A:

Opening lead out of turn: The offender's screenmate should attempt to prevent any opening lead out of turn. A faced-down lead out of turn is retracted without penalty. A faced opening lead out of turn is retracted without penalty if the screen has not been raised. When the screen has been raised after a faced-opening lead out of turn — through no fault of the declaring side:

a) and, the other side has not yet led face up, the lead is considered to be out of turn and Law 54 applies.

b) and, the other side has also led face up, the card becomes a major penalty card. When the declaring side has incorrectly opened the screen, the lead is accepted. The TD shall award an adjusted score if he considers that the player who opened the screen could have known that it would be to his advantage to accept the lead.

LAW 73D:

During the Auction period, after an opponent has acted quickly, it is proper to adjust the tempo back to normal by either delaying one's own call (place the bidding card faced in front of, but not on, the tray) or by waiting before passing the tray. It is not proper for a player to use this procedure where the overall time taken to pass the tray may create the perception of a sufficient hesitation where the opponent may view this as unauthorized information.

It is considered that normally there can be no implications if a tray returns after ~~25~~ 20 seconds or less (this period may be extended in the later stages of a complicated or competitive auction without necessarily creating implications). However, if the players have not been controlling the tempo of the auction as recommended above or if the nature of the auction makes it apparent that only one side could reasonably have been thinking then even a delay of materially less than 20 seconds may well be regarded as significant.

LAW 76:

Spectators may not sit so they can see both sides of the screen.

Online Bridge

Item 162-23: Live Streaming

The ACBL Board of Directors will live stream all open board sessions. CARRIED

Item 162-24: Daylong Robot Tournaments

- 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. Overall awards are capped at 15 masterpoints for first place. Play formats to be decided.
- B. Multi-session online robot games be held. This event will have a Swiss qualifying stage followed by a KO stage.
- C. Masterpoint awards to be established.
- D. Sanction fees to be decided.

Technology Oversight

Item 162-28: Feasibility Study

ACBL will conduct a feasibility study of developing a suite of Apps for mobile devices as described in this paper by partnering with commercial enterprises that create bridge software and Apps. The study will be organized, led and staffed by volunteers who will keep ACBL management informed of the progress. The study will be completed by the 2017 Spring NABC in Kansas City for presentation to the ACBL Board of Directors at their meeting.

Tournament Oversight

Item 162-29: General Tournament Information

Chapter XIII General Tournament Information G. Tournament Directors, Finance and Tournaments Assistants, Section 1 Duties, Responsibilities and Remuneration is amended:

- ~~1.8~~ ~~At sectional and regional tournaments, local directors and/or scorers may be used upon approval of their competency by the Chief Tournament Director.~~
- ~~1.9~~ 1.8 Morning and Midnight games are excluded for the purpose of calculating the tables per director-session statistic. (Including morning Knockout sessions).
- ~~1.10~~ 1.9 Management is given the authority to include or exclude the head director in considering the staffing guideline for larger tournaments. Chapter 13, G.2
- ~~1.11~~ 1.10 Each director will be required to be certified in accordance with his/her rank.

Chapter XIII Section G of the Codification Section 3 - Tournament Assistants (Formerly entitled Tournament Computer Operator Technicians in Canada) is amended as follows:

- 3.1 Tournament sponsors may choose to hire a tournament assistant to work at their tournament. He or she must have passed the ACBL tournament assistant accreditation exam and meet the approval of the tournament DIC. All employment issues such as compensation, payroll taxes, insurance, etc. are the responsibility of the sponsoring organization. A form must be submitted to ACBL acknowledging acceptance of these employment issues.
- 3.2 The Tournament Assistant Exam is offered to those members who have previously been certified as a club or certified director.

~~3.2~~ 3.3 There is no geographic restriction on the use of Tournament Assistants.

~~3.3~~ 3.4 The Director-in-Charge shall not recruit or initially recommend Tournament Assistants for a sanctioned tournament.