

DRAFT

MINUTES

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ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2012 Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California
Monday, November 26, 2012 – 10:00 AM

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Doug Doub
Joan Gerard
Ellen Kent
Jeff Meckstroth
Barry Harper
Dan Morse
Craig Robinson
Linda Trent
Sol Weinstein

Also Present:

Sharon Anderson, ACBL President
Mike Flader, ACBL Tournament Director
Ken Horwedel, ACBL Manager of Bridge Quality & Systems
Christina van Leeuwen, ACBL Assistant National Recorder
Don Mamula, ACBL President-elect
Sam Whitten, ACBL Manager of Bridge Administration

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Committee members discussed the minutes from the Philadelphia meeting. A motion to approve the Philadelphia minutes was made and seconded. The Philadelphia minutes were unanimously approved.
2. The Committee received the ACBL Board of Directors report. A report was given on changes by the Board of Directors for Senior KO seeding. The changes included a reduction in Baze seeding points from 20 to 10, a reduction in Senior Swiss seeding points from eight to four, and a change in the size of shuffling groups from four to two. A report was given on the new four session 0-10,000 Swiss Team event to be played in St. Louis. This event will award 10% platinum, up to a maximum of 10 platinum points, and 90% gold for overall awards and 100% gold for section awards.
3. The Committee received a report from the Board of Governors. The report discussed a proposal to increase the age of senior events to 60 years old with no grandfathering provision.

4. Jeff Meckstroth brought up the issue of the award for the five-day Grand National Teams, Championship Flight. He argued that a 100 MP award for first-place was inequitable as compared to the other NABC+ events.
5. Craig Robinson brought up the issue of awards for pair events and Swiss events. Craig pointed out that the award is equal for both and that it is tougher to win the pair event. Jeff Meckstroth agreed with the proposal and favors increasing pair awards. The Committee approved raising the awards in pair events.
6. The Handicap Formula Subcommittee gave a report on their work to develop a revised ACBL policy on handicapping KO events. The subcommittee prepared a questionnaire which was sent to all District Presidents and ACBL Field Supervisors about current policy and practice with regard to handicapping KO events. The subcommittee has been discussing the responses received and will continue to work on this issue between meetings.
7. The Committee discussed the USBF Victory Point Scale. The USBF has been using this scale for several years and the WBF just adopted it for use in their events. The Committee approved a motion to suggest that the ACBL Board of Directors adopt the USBF Victory Point Scale for use in NABC Swiss events. The motion passed unanimously.
8. The Committee discussed the new NABC event 0-10K Swiss and the four new proposed 0-10K events: 10K Vanderbilt, 10K NABC Pairs on the first Saturday & Sunday of the Summer NABC, 10K Mixed Swiss on the last Saturday & Sunday of the Summer NABC, and the 10K Fast Pairs on the last Saturday & Sunday of the Fall NABC. The Committee recommended making the 10K Fast Pairs event into an open event. Other than the recommended change to the 10K Fast Pairs the Committee voted in favor of all five events and approved awarding 10% platinum points for overall awards.
9. The Committee discussed the Board of Governors motion to increase the age of Senior events to 60 years of age. The Committee endorsed the proposal but voted to include a grandfathering provision to make all players currently eligible for Senior events to retain their eligibility.
10. The Committee discussed starting times for NABC KO events when screens are in use. The Committee approved a motion to change the starting times for NABC KO events when screens are in use from 1:00 & 8:00 to 12:00 & 7:00.
11. The Committee discussed implementing set starting times for the second and fourth quarters of NABC KO events. There was no agreement that this proposal would improve slow play problems.

12. The Committee considered three proposals submitted by Steve Bloom:

(1) Once a convention is approved, then any lower-level bid showing the same thing is automatically allowed, provided the pair supply an appropriately modified defense.

(2) We distinguish between calls with multiple meanings including weak components and calls that show very specific holdings. Any opening bid promising 10+HCP with either a known long suit or two known suits should be GCC. Any call in competition showing either a known suit or two known suits should be GCC. Any weak opening bid showing either a known long suit or two known suits should be mid-chart, but legal without the database requirement.

(3) Multiple meaning actions on the second round of an auction should always be legal, but multiple meaning responses to an opening bid, like my example 3, particularly if they include less than game-forcing values, need regulation.

The Committee discussed all three proposals. In each case, the proposals were advocating allowing conventions that had been recently denied by the Committee. The Committee felt that approval of these three proposals would substantially increase the number of difficult conventions that are allowed under the GCC & Mid-Chart. There was no support on the Committee for adopting the three proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Whitten