

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2011 Spring Meeting in Louisville, KY
Monday, March 14, 2011 – 10:30 AM

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Bill Arlinghaus
Steve Beatty
Mildred Breed
Doug Doub
Joan Gerard
Bob Hamman
Barry Harper
Ellen Kent
Jeff Meckstroth
Elaine Said
Linda Trent
Sol Weinstein

Also Present:

Al Levy, District 24 Director
Jim Miller, National Recorder
Sam Whitten, Assistant National Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Committee members discussed the minutes from the Orlando meeting. A motion to approve the Orlando minutes was made and seconded. The Orlando minutes were unanimously approved.
2. David Berkowitz and Eric Kokish gave a report from the Foreign Player Subcommittee. The last Toronto NABC in 2001 had in excess of 128 teams entered in the Spingold. This is significantly more than any Spingold since 2001. There is likely to be a large number of quality Canadian teams entering the Spingold with very few seeding points. Subjective seeding would enable the committee to more effectively seed these Canadian teams. The mechanics of subjective seeding was explained. Subjective seeding does not affect seeds numbered one through sixteen. The Committee noted that subjective seeding is already done in all events with players who have not entered NABC team events before but have a significant history abroad. These players are seeded by discussing their abilities from other players from their country/continent.

3. The report from the Foreign Player Subcommittee reported that they believe that a subjective seeding system significantly improves the overall seeding process.
4. Sol Weinstein brought up the problem of seeding regular ACBL players who are significantly better or worse than their current seeding points indicate. He also pointed out that this will be a problem in Toronto with Canadian teams with undervalued seeding points. He suggested that it might be better to grant seeding points to these players so that the objective system will seed them appropriately.
5. The Committee unanimously approved the objective seeding method used in Louisville to be permanently adopted in ACBL events. The Committee also unanimously approved the use of the subjective seeding method on a trial basis in Toronto.
6. The Committee discussed ACBL policy regarding moving teams in bracketed knockout teams based on player requests. No consensus to modify current policy was achieved.
7. The Committee discussed a 2♠ opener showing 10-14 HCP, 6+ clubs and no 4 card major. The Committee decided that this convention should be mid-chart legal. The Committee approved revising item number 9 on the mid-chart to read: "Transfer opening bids at the two level or higher showing a five-card or longer suit." This item was sent to the convention defense subcommittee for consideration of the proper defense.
8. The Committee discussed whether to revise the deadline for submitting scoring changes in a qualification event. Currently, scoring corrections can be submitted up until one-hour before the beginning of the next session. It was suggested that this creates a problem for the players in terms of knowing whether they have qualified for the next day. Most of the committee believed that the priority should be getting the score right. The committee decided not to change the current deadline in these events.
9. The Committee discussed the difference in language and format between the Alert Procedures and Alert Definitions documents with regard to a natural call. The Committee decided to revise the Alert Definitions document to mirror the current Alert Procedures document.
10. The Committee discussed a suggestion to extend the time to view the previous trick. The Committee believed that this was an issue more properly considered by the Laws Commission.
11. The Committee discussed a petition signed by ACBL members requesting approval of the Multi convention for use in NABC+ pair events. Currently

Multi is allowed in Mid-Chart events that play at least six boards per round. The Committee decided that the Multi convention imposes a large burden on the opponents to develop their defense and should not be allowed in pair events. The Committee noted that the WBF restricted the use of Multi in Philadelphia to team events.

12. The Committee discussed the necessity of developing standardized procedures for the placement of bidding cards. The Committee decided that this issue was adequately dealt with by the “The Laws of Duplicate Bridge”.
13. The Committee discussed the use of large round-robins to avoid byes in the beginning day of a knockout team event. No consensus about the use of round-robins was achieved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Whitten