

MINUTES OF THE ACBL LAWS COMMISSION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
July 22, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chip Martel, Co-Chairman
Ralph Cohen, Co-Chairman

Jim Kirkham	Matt Smith
Dan Morse	John Solodar
Eric Rodwell	Roger Stern
	Adam Wildavsky

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Blaiss	Joan Gerard
Rick Beye	Bill Schoder
	Roger Smith

The meeting was called to order by Chip Martel at 7:35 PM.

The Pittsburgh minutes were approved as amended.

Jim Kirkham, appointed to fill the seat vacated by Bob Friend upon his resignation, was welcomed to his first meeting as a member. ACBL President, Roger Smith, was welcomed and thanked for his attendance.

Ralph Cohen and Bill Schoder gave a progress report on the status of the work of the WBF laws drafting committee. In the opinion of a majority of the members of the drafting committee, the current draft is not yet close to final. In addition, the process and procedure being used is proving to be less effective than desirable.

After considerable discussion, the commission arrived at a consensus on the following suggestion for the drafting committee:

1. Changes to the existing laws should be incremental.
2. The structure, format and numbering of the current laws should be maintained, in so far as possible.
3. The prior practice of presenting the revisions side by side with the current laws noting deletions and additions should be used. This procedure makes it easy to see how the laws have evolved.
4. As in the past, the proposed changes should be circulated to the NBOs and Zones for review and comment.
5. When a nearly final version has been updated in response to comments from the consultation with the NBOs, there should still be a further review by the drafting committee, before the proposed laws are submitted to the Executive Council for a vote.

Chip Martel suggested that Bill Schoder submit, for the Denver meeting, 3-6 revised laws about which there is no resolution to the ACBL Laws Commission for its review and comment. These should be sent as soon as possible after the drafting committee's meeting in Estoril.

The wording in the present law 69 was discussed. There was a consensus that the reference to play was to the play of the acquiescing side. It is suggested that this wording be clarified in the next version.

Law 12 C 3 was discussed. The only consensus reached was that, if this law is in place, both directors and committees should have the authority to use it.

There was a brief discussion that rules and regulations related to tournament details are best left to the zonal or sanctioning authorities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.