

Changes to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations Approved November 2015

Effective Immediately

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations is amended by removing the following section:

~~9.6 Publication of Names of Suspended or Expelled Members.~~

~~9.6.1 When a player is suspended or expelled by the Ethical Oversight Committee and after the appeals process is complete their full name and player number shall be published in the ACBL Bulletin. This will not apply if on appeal the action is reversed.~~

~~9.6.2 In cases where a player or players are expelled (1) through actions of the National Appeals and Charges Committee or (2) through actions of the Ethical Oversight Committee that are not appealed, an article may be published in the ACBL Bulletin explaining what occurred. The purpose of this article is to educate the readership on what is and is not actionable behavior. The chair of the applicable committee will oversee the writing of the article. Publication is at the discretion of the Bulletin Editor.~~

~~9.6.3 Upon request for information regarding publication of the facts of a disciplinary case, management will advise the requestor of ACBL policy. [NOTE: Current ACBL policy is to publish an individual's name and ACBL player number, and a brief description of their offense after any appeals are exhausted or the time period for an appeal has expired.]~~

Effective Immediately

CDR – Section 2, F, Jurisdiction be amended as follows:

2.2.3 (f) When an ACBL member has been disciplined by another bridge organization for an ethical violation, the CEO of the ACBL may refer the matter to the Ethical Oversight Committee for resentencing purposes, but only if the sentence imposed was less than that contained in the suggested sentencing guidelines enacted by the World Bridge Federation. In all other cases, the ACBL shall honor the discipline imposed, enforcing it in ACBL events, unless the ACBL member requests a hearing under ACBL rules and regulations and provides substantial evidence that 1) he was not accorded a fair process in the hearing held by the other bridge organization and/or 2) the penalty imposed is grossly inappropriate for the violation proven. If the rehearing is granted, the sanctions will not be enforced until and unless the findings and sanctions are confirmed by the ACBL. The decision as to whether or not substantial evidence of a lack of a

fair process was provided or that the penalty imposed was grossly inappropriate shall be made by the CEO of the ACBL with the advice of League Counsel. If a new hearing is requested, the ACBL is entitled to impose its own sentence if the conviction is affirmed or it is found that the penalty imposed was inappropriate. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the ACBL from initiating a disciplinary process for ethical violations in ACBL sanctioned events.

Effective January 1, 2016

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations is amended as follows:

1.5 The Ethical Oversight Committee shall, upon charges being brought by ACBL Management whether based upon a complaint submitted by ACBL or another entity or individual, hear original cases of alleged cheating by use of signals, other unauthorized information, other forms of cheating, or serious breaches of ethics. League Counsel, the ACBL President and District Director of the person charged shall be notified of a decision to hold an Ethical Oversight Committee hearing. The results of its hearings shall be reported to the parties, the Board of Directors and ACBL Management.

1.5.1 The ACBL National Recorder shall be the complainant and the ACBL CEO shall be the charging party.

Effective January 1, 2016

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations is amended 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 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 participants through participation in all ACBL events.

The partners and teammates of said participant(s) shall forfeit all masterpoints, titles and status ranks 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 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 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 a minimum, all masterpoints, titles and 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 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 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.

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

Effective January 1, 2016

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations is amended as follows:

5.1.12 If a complaint against a person based on the person's sexual harassment of a full-time or part-time ACBL employee or a unit or district tournament employee, is brought before an ACBL Disciplinary Body or to the Director-in-Charge (DIC) of a sectional or higher rated tournament, the Disciplinary Body or the DIC shall immediately forward the matter, in writing, to ACBL Management for action as follows:

(a) ACBL Management shall expeditiously investigate the matter referred, including interviews of the complainant and accused, and make a decision to:

- Exonerate the accused and take no action.
- Require counseling
- Impose a warning, which, although not a discipline, shall be maintained in the person's disciplinary file and may be used as evidence if future complaints of sexual harassment are made against this person.
- Impose a reprimand.
- Impose probation.
- Impose suspension.
- Impose expulsion.
- Any combination of the above.

(b) A written notice of the decisions of ACBL Management and the reasons therefore shall be provided to the accused person and the Appeals and Charges Committee.

(c) At its first meeting subsequent to an ACBL Management decision to impose discipline, the Appeals and Charges Committee shall make an automatic review of the discipline imposed by ACBL Management. Such reviews shall be consistent with the procedures at appellate review, except that the accused party shall be entitled to present evidence and witnesses at the review hearing and ACBL Management shall be entitled to present evidence and witnesses in response thereto.

Effective January 1, 2016

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations is amended as follows:

9.5 Readmission of members who have resigned or who have been expelled.

9.5.1 A member who resigns to avoid possible disciplinary action may be readmitted to membership only by the ACBL Board of Directors. Further, no application for readmission may be considered before ten years from the date of resignation and thereafter only once every three years. The Board of Directors may impose such conditions upon readmission as it deems appropriate. In addition, there shall be no statute of limitations on the possible disciplinary action related to the resignation.

9.5.2 The ACBL Board of Directors will not hear and ACBL Management is instructed not to forward to the Board any request for readmission before ten years from the date of expulsion or resignation to avoid possible disciplinary actions provided that under no circumstances will the ACBL Board of Directors hear a request for readmission in regards to a second expulsion or resignation to avoid possible disciplinary actions or combination thereof. If the individual who was expelled admits to the factual basis of the charges prior to the commencement of the hearing on those charges, he may apply for readmission after five years.