

## APPEALS & CHARGES

### **Item 093-02: ACBL Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines – Appendix B - deferred** Deferred from Washington, DC Summer 092 NABC

#### **APPENDIX B** **ACBL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION GUIDELINES** **With Comments Inserted Regarding Changes Under Consideration**

The following range of discipline for conduct and ethics violations is provided as a guide to a disciplinary committee not a mandate. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible infractions but rather to set forth examples. The committee is free to impose on a guilty defendant whatever punishment it deems is appropriate from options described in the CDR. However, a disciplinary committee, which imposes a sanction which is outside the range recommended by these guidelines, must explain why it chose the sanction imposed. **Part A** of these guidelines is intended to apply to the typical case involving a single incident and a defendant who has no previous disciplinary record. If this is not the case, the committee must read **Part B** of these guidelines before deciding on an appropriate discipline.

#### **Part A**

<b>CONDUCT</b>	
<b>OFFENSE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE</b>
C1 Poor personal hygiene or dress (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Probation
<b>Comment C1: While it is doubtful that a charge would be made on a single instance, the range is okay.</b>	
C2 Rudeness in conversation, gesture, or general behavior (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Probation <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Suspension.
C3 Publicly belittle partner or opponent on bid or play (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Probation <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Suspension.
C4 Influence or attempt to influence an entrant to withdraw from an event to improve one's likelihood of winning more masterpoints CDR <u>3.7</u> and 3.12)	Reprimand <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Probation <u>and or up to</u> 90 days Suspension.
C5 <u>Intimidate or harass another player.</u> <del>Harass a tournament director or tournament official.</del> (CDR <u>3.7 and 3.11</u> )	Reprimand <u>or up to</u> 90 days Probation <u>and or up to</u> 30 days Suspension

C6	Deliberately fail to follow instructions given by a tournament director or official including leaving a session without permission of the tournament director or game director. (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	90 days Probation <u>and or up to 30 days Suspension</u>
C7	Fail to report <u>in a timely manner a score that one knows is incorrect</u> <del>a known incorrect score</del> (CDR 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	90 days Probation <u>and or up to 30 days Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C7:</b> <i>This offense is quite serious and difficult to prove. Therefore the discipline suggested should be wider on the severe end.</i>		
C8	<u>Inappropriate comments (including but not limited to obscene comments) made publicly at an ACBL sanctioned event or activity.</u> <del>Publicly made obscene comments</del> (CDR 3.7)	Reprimand <u>and or up to 120 days Probation</u>
<del>C9</del>	<del>Intimidate or harass another player or ACBL official</del> <u>Harass or intimidate a tournament director, tournament official or an ACBL official.</u> (CDR <u>3.7 and 3.11</u> )	<del>90</del> <u>180</u> days Probation <u>and or up to 390 days Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C9:</b> <i>C5 moved here</i>		
C10	Publicly accuse another player of unethical behavior (CDR 3.4 <u>and 3.7</u> )	<del>90</del> <u>180</u> days Probation <u>and or up to 180 days Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C10:</b> <i>Add CDR 3.7. The term of probation suggested and imposed should always be as long as or longer than the term of suspension.</i>		
C11	Threat of abusive or violent contact with another person (CDR 3.7)	<del>90 days</del> <u>1 year</u> Probation <u>and or up to 180 days Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C11:</b> <i>The term of probation suggested and imposed should always be as long as or longer than the term of suspension.</i>		
C12	Abusive or violent contact with another person (CDR 3.7)	<del>90 days</del> <u>1 year</u> Probation <u>and or up to 1 year Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C12:</b> <i>The term of probation suggested and imposed should always be as long as or longer than the term of suspension.</i>		
C13	Knowingly submit false information or deliberately distort facts to an ACBL official or committee (CDR 3.13)	<del>90 days</del> <u>1 year</u> Probation <u>and or up to 1 year Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C13:</b> <i>The term of probation suggested and imposed should always be as long as or longer than the term of suspension.</i>		
C14	Failure of Complainant to appear at hearing <u>without cause.</u> (CDR 3.14)	90 days Probation <u>and or up to 3 90 days Suspension</u>
C15	Appeal a decision from a disciplinary body with no reasonable basis (CDR 3.15)	<del>Reprimand 90 days Probation to 90 days Suspension</del> <u>1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension</u>

<b>Comment C15:</b> <i>An appeal that had no reasonable basis would appear to include a deliberate distortion of the facts or false information so that the discipline suggested should be the same as C13. At least this point should be considered.</i>	
C16 Initiate disciplinary action against another player with no reasonable basis (CDR 3.15)	<del>30 days Suspension to 90 days Suspension</del> <u>1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension</u>
<b>Comment C16:</b> <i>Consideration should be given to making the guideline for C16 and C15 the same as the violation is similar. In fact the suggested disciplines for C15 and C16 should be the same as for C13.</i>	
C17 Initiate and maintain legal action against the ACBL (including a District or Unit) without first exhausting administrative remedies (CDR 3.10)	<u>1 year Suspension up to indefinite suspension pending reimbursement to ACBL of costs to ACBL to defend if the suit was unsuccessful.</u>
C18 <del>Misappropriate ACBL, Unit or District Funds</del> <u>Non-payment of sums owed ACBL, a unit or a district.</u> (CDR 3.9)	<del>Indefinite Suspension pending return of funds</del> <u>The body imposing the indefinite suspension will determine when, after return of the funds, the indefinite suspension will be lifted.</u>
C19 <u>Misappropriate ACBL, Unit or District Funds</u> (CDR 3.18)	<u>Indefinite suspension up to expulsion. The body imposing an indefinite suspension will determine when, after return of the funds, the indefinite suspension will be lifted.</u>

ETHICS		
OFFENSE		RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE
E1	Deliberately ask for or give information about a board in play after both parties played it (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	Reprimand <u>and or up to 60 days Probation.</u>
E2	<del>Deliberately ask for or</del> Give information about a board in play <u>to a player who has not yet played the board. prior to one or both parties playing the board</u> (CDR 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	30 days Suspension to 1 year Suspension *
<b>Comment E2:</b> <i>Because asking is covered by E11 below, change wording.</i>		
3	Unsportsmanlike and frivolous psyching (CDR 3.2 and 3.7)	<del>Reprimand</del> <u>60 days Probation and or up to 30 days Suspension</u>
E4	Play a convention, system, or treatment knowing it is illegal; Purposefully fail to disclose partnership agreements with intent to deceive. (CDR 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	<del>Reprimand to 3</del> <u>90 days probation and or up to 60 days Suspension *</u>
E5	Bid or play with the specific intent to achieve a poor result on that hand (CDR 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	90 days Probation to 90 days Suspension *
E6	Intentionally change a score or any information that could result in awarding incorrect masterpoints (CDR 3.1 <u>and 3.7</u> )	<del>180 days</del> <u>1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension *</u>
E7	Accidentally gain access to information and then act on it (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	<del>90 days</del> <u>1 year Probation and or up to 180 days Suspension *</u>
E8	Hesitate with an intent to deceive; use intonations and mannerisms that may deceive opponents or help partner (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	1 year Probation <u>and or up to 180 days Suspension *</u>
E9	Deliberately try to see from where an opponent plays his cards (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	90 days Probation <u>and or up to 90 days Suspension *</u>
E10	Actively and deliberately try to see an opponent's cards (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	<del>90 days</del> <u>1 year Probation and or up to 1 year Suspension *</u>
E11	Actively seek advance information about a board in play (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	2-year Suspension to Expulsion *
E12	Prearrange a deal or part thereof including one card (CDR 3.1, 3.2 <u>and 3.7</u> )	2-year Suspension to Expulsion *

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\* If a committee imposes a suspension, then it should also disqualify the pair or team from the event. This will mean the pair or team will lose its place in the event, any masterpoints earned in the event and any other benefits it may have earned from playing in the event. Should this disqualification take place after the correction period for the event has expired, other pairs and teams do not move up - the place formerly held by the disqualified contestant (pair or team) remains vacant.

E13	<u>Intentionally gain access to hand records for an event prior to the event and enter and play in the event and or give the hand records or copies to another person prior to that person entering and playing in the event. (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)</u>	<del>2-year Suspension to</del> Expulsion *
E14	Prearranged partnership collusion by means of signaling to exchange information (CDR 3.1, 3.2 and 3.7)	Expulsion *

### **Part B**

There are three major reasons why the suggested guidelines in Part A might not be appropriate. First, the single violation might be either so slight or severe as to make the suggested sanction inappropriate. Second, the defendant might be convicted for several violations (such as a pattern of behavior). Third, the defendant might have a previous record.

1. When the defendant's single violation is either extremely slight or severe, the committee should apply its sound, unemotional judgment. For example, either the experience or mental intentions of the defendant might be a consideration. Please explain on the Hearing Report Form why the violation was considered atypical.
2. When the defendant is convicted of several violations, such as a pattern of behavior, the committee should impose a sanction as if each violation was a separate offense. The Committee should note the separate violations and/or explain the pattern.
1. When the defendant has a prior record, the ~~nature of~~ sanction imposed for the previous offense is not particularly important. The number of prior convictions is important. The reason is that the defendant was already sanctioned for the specific prior violation(s). The committee should pay close attention to how the prior conviction(s) reflects on the defendant's ability to behave according to ACBL standards and explain on the Hearing Report Form the reasons for its decision relative to the offense or offenses for which the committee has to consider another sanction.

#### **Examples:**

1. A person convicted of accidentally gaining access to information and acting on it has one conviction for bad hygiene for which he or she receive 30 days probation. Here the committee would probably disregard the prior conviction in making a decision to issue a sanction.
2. A person convicted of accidentally gaining access to information and acting on it has received 30 days probation for bad hygiene, 30 days

probation for rude behavior, and 30 days suspension for a threat of violent behavior. In this case, the record indicates that this person has a history of violating ACBL regulations and the committee should increase the discipline above the maximum for the offense for which the player was convicted.

Note: Management may make additions or changes to the above motion for the Fall 2009 journal.

### **Item 093-03: ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations**

- 1) The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) is amended to include the following:
  - 3.20 Actions of cheating and similar ethical violations, encompassing actions both at the table and within the context of ACBL sanctioned events.
- 2) Appendix B Part A of the CDR is amended to include the following:

E15 Cheating and similar ethical violations not specifically covered by other sections in this Appendix.	3 month Suspension to Expulsion
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- 3) Appendix B of the CDR is amended as follows:

### **ACBL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION GUIDELINES**

The following range of discipline for conduct and ethics violations is provided as a guide to a disciplinary committee not a mandate. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible infractions but rather to set forth examples. There is no requirement that committees must find a specific violation of an listed offense in Part A. Committees are free to reach their own determinations of offense and are not limited to those enumerated below. The committee is free to impose on a guilty defendant whatever punishment it deems is appropriate from options described in the CDR. However, a disciplinary committee, which imposes a sanction which is outside the range recommended by these guidelines, must explain why it chose the sanction imposed. **Part A** of these guidelines is intended to apply to the typical case involving a single incident and a defendant who has no previous disciplinary record. If this is not the case, the committee must read **Part B** of these guidelines before deciding on an appropriate discipline.

### **Item 093-04: ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations**

The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) is amended to include the following in Appendix B:

In cases where the recommended sanction guidelines would not have the usual impact on a guilty defendant, committees may tailor discipline to meet the specific circumstances of the defendant. For example, a non-resident member who only participates in NABC events may have sanctions adapted to their actual participation pattern rather than specified time periods.

## BOARD OPERATIONS

### **Item 093-20: Section 3 – WBF Representatives**

#### **Section 3 - WBF Representatives**

Reimbursement of Expenses for WBF elected representatives will be from the ACBL General Fund. Following are the regulations governing this reimbursement.

- 3.1. Airfare - Actual ticket price for a 30-day advance purchase ticket, reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates. In addition, reasonable actual expenses for transportation to and from airports at home and at the tournament location. There is no expense reimbursement for spouse/companion.
- 3.2. Per diem - Regular ACBL per diem starting one day prior to the first meeting attended to one day after the last meeting attended. Reimbursement for per diem will not exceed nine (9) days. The ACBL Board will consider paying a higher per diem to the WBF representatives if higher costs are involved due to location of the WBF meetings.
- 3.3 Hotel - Actual double occupancy room cost at the headquarters hotel beginning no sooner than one day prior to the representative's first official meeting and concluding no later than the night of the day when the last official meeting/function was held. Payment for hotel expenses will not exceed seven (7) nights. Exception of this rule may be allowed to secure less expensive air ticket in order to achieve overall savings.

WBF representatives, whether ACBL Board members or not, are expected to attend all regular WBF meetings held during the seven (7) days for which their hotel is reimbursed per 3.3 above, starting with the first meeting, and any special meetings called by the WBF President during that time period. In addition, WBF representatives are expected to attend WBF committee meetings of which they are members, also during that time period. Failure to do so will result in a reduction in the amount of expense reimbursement allowed, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as illnesses, as determined by the ACBL Treasurer. Sightseeing tours or playing bridge during scheduled meeting times, for example, are not acceptable extenuating circumstances.

### **Item 093-21: Election of ACBL President**

The following rule in Chapter IV of the Codification “Board Procedures” be amended as set forth below:

#### **Election of ACBL President** (021-46)

Elections for the office of ACBL President will be held at the ~~Summer~~ Fall meeting rather than at the Summer meeting of the Board of Directors.

<b>BRIDGE</b>
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### **Item 093-30: Special Games at Clubs**

**Deferred from Washington, DC Summer 092 NABC**

The masterpoint rating of the following Special Games at Clubs be changed from 100% sectional-rated black points to 90% sectional-rated black points: Club Charity Games, Club Junior Fund Games, Club International Fund Games, Club Educational Foundation Games, and Club GNT Fund Raiser Games.

### **Item 093-31: Trophy Assignments**

**Deferred from Washington, DC Summer 092 NABC**

Part A: The following trophy assignments are suggested:

<b><i>SUMMER Bridge Events</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Trophy Name</i></b>	<b><i>Original Trophy Name</i></b>
*GNT – Championship Flt	Morehead	Morehead
GNT – Open Flight A	Goldman (Bobby)	Coffin
Fast Open Pairs		
Open Swiss	Roth	Rothschild
<b><i>FALL Events</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Trophy Name</i></b>	<b><i>Original Trophy Name</i></b>
Senior KO Teams	Baze	
Mini Blue Ribbon	Kay	Howard
Non-LM Pairs	Manfield	Miles
<b><i>Names assigned, need trophies reassignment</i></b>	<b><i>Trophy Name</i></b>	<b><i>Trophy</i></b>
Mini LM Pairs (LM 0-5000)	Bruce	Marcus
Mini LM Pairs (LM 0-500)	Young	Kem Card

\*This trophy was given to the Grand National Teams winner. When the Flight B was added it was given to the Flight A or top-flight winner. When the 0-5000 flight was added and given the name Flight A, the trophy should have gone with the championship or top flight. This should be corrected now.



### **Item 093-32: NABC Bracketed Knockout Teams**

The “Mini-Spingolds” be converted into a “Bracketed KO” of 32 team brackets playing full day matches. The events would then run five days in total and all players in the event would have finished in time to play in the second weekend Swiss. I believe that this would be attractive both at the higher MP end of the field for people who want to play a quality KO event without “butting their heads” against the top end of the Spingold field on the first or second day and in particular at the lower end of the field where as we know many players prefer to play against their “peers”.

#### **Proposed Conditions:**

**Entry:** Entry would be open to teams of four, five or six players none of whom may have more than (7500) masterpoints. *Alternative: Entry is open; another possibility would be to limit the masterpoints of the top four players to, say, 36,000 to minimize professional entry.*

**Bracketing:** Teams will be ranked in order of average masterpoints. The top 32 teams will form Bracket 1, the next 32 Bracket 2, and so forth. Adjustments to bracket size will be made in the lowest bracket(s) such that no bracket has fewer than 24 teams. *Additional idea: Teams may indicate on their entry their desire to “play up” or their willingness to “play down”. Only teams in the bottom third of their bracket will be permitted to play down. No team may be moved up or down more than one bracket.*

**Seeding:** Teams will be seeded in each bracket in order of team masterpoints. Team masterpoints are the total masterpoints of all members of the team times four and divided by the number of players on the team.

**Match lengths:** In any bracket where the team masterpoints of the top seeded team is 6000 or more, matches will be 56 boards, In brackets where the team masterpoints of the top seeded team is less than 6000, match lengths will be 48 boards.

**Masterpoint Awards:** Masterpoint awards would be calculated similarly to the awards in any bracketed team event with the following adjustments:

- i) The bracket size factor would be the square root of the number of teams in the bracket divided by 16. Thus a 32 team bracket would have a factor of 1.414... (square root of 32/16.)
- ii) The strength factor would be based on the team masterpoints of the top eight teams in the bracket. (Rationale: the top eight teams represent the difficulty of winning two matches and thus getting overall awards.)
- iii) The Match length factor would be 1.5

**Pigmentation:** In any bracket where the top seeded team has 15,000 or more MP, the overall awards would be platinum. In brackets where the top seeded team has between 6,000 and 15,000 MP the overall awards would be gold. In brackets where the top seed

has fewer than 6,000 MP the overall awards would be half gold and half red. In all cases match awards would be half gold and half red.

**Item 093-33: Additional Strats and Flights in Bridge Events**

That at sponsor option, in club games or tournaments, the allowable number of strats in a stratified event be increased from three to five, and that the allowable number of flights in a flighted event be increased from three to four (or five).

**Item 093-34: Restricting online masterpoints toward rank advancement**

The restriction “No more than 1/3 of the masterpoints that are needed to establish ACBL status level can be from online play” is removed.

**Item 093-35: Modifications to KO Formulas for Inflation**

The factors used for computing masterpoints for KOs are changed as follows:

Basic Award = Computed Award (calculated from the table below) x Reduction Factor

Bracket Team Average Masterpoints (AVG MP)	Computed Award	Comments
< 500	6.00	
500 - 1000	$6 + 5 (\text{AVG MP} - 500) / 500$	
1000 - 5000	$11 + 10 (\text{AVG MP} - 1000) / 4000$	Fixed Award = 11 at 1000
5000 - 10000	$21 + 7 (\text{AVG MP} - 5000) / 5000$	Fixed Award = 21 at 5000
10000 - 25000	$28 + 18 (\text{AVG MP} - 10000) / 15000$	Fixed Award = 28 at 10000
25000 - 44000	$46 + 19 (\text{AVG MP} - 25000) / 15000$	Fixed Award = 46 at 25000
<b>44000 +</b>	65.00	

Avg MP Per Team =  $4 \times \text{Team Masterpoints} / \# \text{ of Players on Team}$  (Maximum per team = **45,000**)

AVG MP (Bracket) =  $\Sigma \text{Avg MP Per Team} / \text{Number of Teams in Bracket}$

**Item 093-36: Robot / Electronic Player Masterpoints**

No masterpoints shall be issued in any game in which robots or other electronic players are involved.

## CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### **Item 093-55: NAP Conditions of Contest**

Effective with the 2011-2012 North American Pairs, Flight B will be raised to 0-2500 Masterpoints

### **Item 093-56: Rule Clarification for Bracketed Swiss Teams**

The following wording be added to the Masterpoint Manual (Page 12) to clarify our rules for computing masterpoints for Bracketed Swiss Team events where there is a separate game for the A (or A/X) players:

For Flighted-Bracketed RR events, the A flight is treated as though the event is a stratiflighted Swiss team event. An X stratum is treated as described for other stratiflighted events. The top bracket of the B flight is considered the second bracket for purposes of counting tables in brackets below, etc., regardless of whether or not an X stratum exists in the A flight.

(An A flight may not be further sub-bracketed, nor may the top bracket of a bracketed event, even when open to entry by request.)

### **Item 093-57: Handicap Restriction**

Items 881-71 and 951-48 be amended as follows:

- A. . . . .
- B. . . . .

For purposes of handicapping, no team whose average masterpoint holding is greater than 5000 per member will receive any handicap. For purposes of giving handicaps, two options are possible:

- 1) (DEFAULT) A team with greater than 5000 point per member average will continue to give handicaps to teams with less than 5000 average on the basis of their actual average.
- 2) (SPONSOR OPTION) For all handicap purposes, once a team achieves an average of at least 5000 points per member, its average is 5000.

## FINANCE & BUDGET

### **Item 093-67: ACBL Investments Policy**

Items 952-11, 863-121, 782-35 and 742-101 be amended as follows:

ACBL Management is encouraged to maximize the yield on its liquid assets by keeping its cash in bank balance to a minimum workable amount and shall be permitted to invest in the following securities whose maturities do not exceed five years from date of acquisition:

- (a) . . . . .
- (b) . . . . .
- (c) Federally Insured Deposits:
  - (1) . . . . .
  - (2) Certificates of Deposit of U.S. financial institutions up to, but not to exceed, ~~\$100,000~~ 95% for each financial institution of the current Insurance Coverage Limit.
  - (3) . . . . .
  - (4) Certificates of Deposits of Canadian financial institutions up to, but not to exceed, ~~€\$60,000~~ 95% for each financial institution of the current Insurance Coverage Limit.

<b>GOVERNANCE</b>
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**Item 093-75: Club Review**

**Deferred from Washington, DC Summer 092 NABC**

A Management / Board committee will be formed to examine and suggest changes to the relationship of clubs and Management:

- Regarding members' complaints about actions of the club directors and managers.
- Regarding payment of monies due the League from Clubs.
- Regarding recognizing club directors who have directed X number of games much like our recognition of players
- Regarding club managers and directors who attend classes to brush up on skills or learn new skills.

An interim report will be due at the Fall meeting of 2009 and a final report due with the Spring meeting 2010.

This committee should include non-Board members as well as Board and Management members.

NOTE: A subcommittee will be formed to examine the relationship of ACBL to clubs running sanctioned games; Reid (c), Heth, Monzingo, and Buckman.

**Item 093-76: Additional Restrictions for a Member Not in Good Standing**

**Definition of a Member in Good Standing (962-04, 973-13 and 052-02) is amended as follows:**

An ACBL member shall be deemed to be in “good standing” when such member's dues, if dues *are* required, are current and such member is not currently:  
expelled,  
serving a term of suspension,  
serving indefinite probation,  
serving a probation the initial term of which was twenty-four or more months or  
serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of ninety days.

A member who is not in good standing as defined herein shall not be entitled to:

- a. Serve in any elected or appointed position in ACBL.
- b. Receive any subsidy or remuneration from ACBL.
- c. Participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races.
- d. Receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint rankings on the ACBL web site or in its official publication..
- e. Have an article published on the ACBL web site or in its official publication.

**Item 093-77: Enhancement of Identification of ACBL as an Organization  
Promoting the Game Of Bridge**

Part A            All signs, brochures, flyers, etc., relating to activities conducted by ACBL will prominently feature the word "bridge".

Part B            Consideration will be given to designing a new logo to more clearly reflect our stated mission to promote the game of bridge.

**Item 093-78: Transfer of Colfax County in NM**

Colfax County in New Mexico be transferred to Unit 381 from Unit 383. Both units are located in District 17.

**Item 093-79: Administrative Guidelines for ACBL Club Games and ACBL Club  
Director Accreditations**

Item 072-60 Sanctions for ACBL Games at Clubs and ACBL Club Director Accreditations be amended as follows:

The ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations is amended as follows:

- A. ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations Chapter 4, Section One, V., F. is deleted; Section One, IV. D. is added as follows:

D. Cancellation of Sanction

1. ACBL management has the right to cancel or suspend a club game sanction for cause upon thirty days notice to the club manager. Any one of the following shall constitute “cause” for cancellation or suspension:
  - operation of a club out of compliance with ACBL regulations
  - unsuitable club venue
  - ~~discriminatory practices as set forth in this Handbook~~

C. Cancellation of Accreditation

1. ACBL management has the right to cancel a club director’s accreditation for cause upon thirty days notice to the club director. Any one of the following shall constitute “cause” for cancellation of accreditation: direction of a club game out of compliance with ACBL regulations; or unsuitable club venue; ~~or discriminatory practices by the club director as set forth in this Handbook.~~ A cancellation of accreditation is for a fixed period of time whereupon the club director may apply for reinstatement of accreditation (a new examination may be required by ACBL management for reinstatement); or, a cancellation may be permanent without the possibility of reinstating accreditation.

**Item 093-80: National Appeals Committee**

The honorarium given to members of National Appeals Committees shall be increased to \$15.00 per committee.

<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>
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**Item 093-140: Beginner, Newcomer Games**

The minimum number of boards required for a Newcomer Game be reduced to six.

Chapter 4 of the *ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations* be amended as follows:

III. NEWCOMER GAMES

A newcomer game is limited to players who hold fewer than 20 masterpoints, although a club can set a lower maximum, such as 1 masterpoint, if it so desires.

A newcomer game is conducted to acquaint new players with duplicate bridge and to encourage participation by inexperienced players.

A newcomer game must consist of at least two and one-half tables. However, there are masterpoint awards for two-table newcomer games conducted as individuals or team games. **AT LEAST 40 SIX BOARDS MUST BE PLAYED.**

Any club with a sanctioned game may conduct a newcomer game session. The game session may be run any time, even if another regular club game session is running concurrently. However, the club must list the newcomer game session on the sanction application and the monthly report.

#### **Item 093-141: NAP Flight A Event**

Add a flight A to the North American Pairs event with a masterpoint range of 0-5000. Change the name of the flight for players over 5000 masterpoints to Championship Flight.

<b>TOURNAMENT</b>
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#### **Item 093-160: Rescinding Resolutions**

Player Agreement Upon Entering ACBL Contests (792-83) and Equality of Playing Conditions for All Players (713-71) are rescinded.

#### **Item 093-161: NABC Event Schedule**

Item 042-123 NABC Event Schedule be amended as follows:

E. A ~~four~~ six session (two qualifying sessions, two semifinal sessions and two final sessions) Mini-Blue Ribbon (for players with a Blue Ribbon qualification with no more than 5000 masterpoints) will be added to the Fall NABC to run concurrent with the ~~first two days (Tuesday and Wednesday)~~ of the Blue Ribbon Pairs.

#### **Item 093-162: Amendments to General Conditions of Contest**

The ACBL General Conditions of Contest are amended as follows:

##### ENTRY AND PARTICIPATION

1. ....

.....

5. Each contestant agrees that all, or portions, of the event may be filmed, recorded or otherwise documented or publicized at the discretion of the ACBL, and that this documentation may be used without charge by any news medium or the ACBL. Contestants may at times be required to play on Vugraph. Each contestant consents to participate in publicity photo sessions and or have photograph taken to publicize the contestant's standing in the event.

6. The playing conditions at all tournaments shall be substantially equal for all players in one event in so far as possible given space and other considerations.

7. When exiting the room or on an errand within the room, a player must avoid wandering about within the room.

8. Tournament directors shall make every reasonable effort to accommodate players with special needs (such as but not limited to players with physical disabilities). The director in charge (DIC) shall, in his opinion, ensure that no such accommodation provides a special advantage to such a player or significantly impedes the orderly progress of the event. Tournament directors in providing an accommodation must do so in a manner that is reasonably consistent with the intent of the conditions of contest for the event. Except for minor accommodations (e.g. stationary positions), the DIC of the tournament or event must be notified in advance in order to ensure that an accommodation can be provided.

9. Playing Cards.

ACBL playing cards use the traditional playing card design. Any deck in which the faces of the cards do not significantly differ from the ACBL deck may be approved for use by the Director-in-Charge of the tournament.

Use of specially designed cards (to accommodate players with a disability), which do not approximate the design of ACBL or similar traditional playing cards, must be approved by ACBL Management. Management will determine if and how these alternate decks can be used in order to insure that other participants are not placed at an unreasonable disadvantage.

Decks which have received prior approval are: Braille cards which have traditional-type faces, Ajumbo@ decks which have altered the traditional design by enlarging all pips, numbers and letters or those which use a single large, traditional marking in the center of each card.

Other decks which vary from traditional markings and or colors must be submitted to ACBL (attention: Tournament Department) for approval at least 30 days prior to intended use.

**Item 093-163: Event Eligibility**

A player's eligibility for participation in an ACBL sanctioned event is determined by his masterpoint total (including eligibility points) as of the monthly cycle (run at midnight on the 6th of each month) prior to the start of the event or for a tournament the start of the tournament (excluding events which are set per their conditions of contest).

**Item 093-164: Electronic Device Policy**

The electronic device policy be revised as follows:

1. The following policy ~~will apply~~ applies to all NABC+ rated events at NABCs.



Electronic devices, including but not limited to, phones, cameras, PDAs, and others capable of sending or receiving electronic communication are excluded from the playing areas during any session of play. This does not apply to health related equipment.

2. The following ~~will apply~~ applies to all events at an NABC other than a NABC+ rated event.

Except for health-related equipment, ~~or by permission of the Director in Charge of the tournament or event~~, cell phones, audible pagers or similar equipment may not be operated or operable in any manner in the playing area during a session of play. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session. Sponsoring organizations of other ACBL-sanctioned events are encouraged to adopt a similar policy.

3. These restrictions ~~will~~ in numbers 1 and 2 above apply to all pairs, team members, captains, coaches, play recorders ~~except those designated by ACBL~~ and kibitzers and ~~will apply~~ are in force throughout any actual playing session or segment of play.
4. A violation of ~~this policy will~~ any of the restrictions in numbers 1 and 2 above will result in a disciplinary penalty of one full board (12 IMPs at that form of scoring) for the first offense. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event for the pair / team. Kibitzers violating this policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.