

APPEALS & CHARGES

Item 062-02: Discipline at Sanctioned Games at Clubs

A. The Code of Disciplinary Regulations is amended as follows:

2. Jurisdiction

2.1 Of Units, Districts and ACBL (see also 2.2)

2.1.1 A Unit has jurisdiction over:

- (a) Members of the Unit when such a member is participating in a sanctioned event or other Unit, District or ACBL sponsored activity. For events sanctioned to or conducted by clubs this jurisdiction is only for bridge ethics violations.
- (b) Persons participating in a sanctioned event held within the Unit's geographical boundaries. For events sanctioned to or conducted by clubs this jurisdiction is only for bridge ethics violations.

2.1.2 A District has jurisdiction over:

- (a) Persons participating in a sanctioned event or other Unit, District or ACBL sponsored activity held within its geographical boundaries (District Disciplinary Committee). For events sanctioned to or conducted by clubs this jurisdiction is only for bridge ethics violations.
- (b) Those residing within the District, for appellate purposes only (District Appellate Committee).

2.1.3 The ACBL has jurisdiction over:

- (a) Members of ACBL or others disciplined, for appellate purposes only, except where otherwise specified in the CDR.
- (b) Persons participating in a sanctioned event or sponsored activity held under its jurisdiction. For events sanctioned to or conducted by clubs this jurisdiction is only for bridge ethics violations.
- (c) ACBL members who have been disciplined or sanctioned by any other bridge organization.

2.1.4 A Tournament Disciplinary Committee, as well as the disciplinary committee of the sponsoring organization, has jurisdiction over persons in

attendance at that tournament. Notwithstanding the above, the disciplinary committee of the sponsoring organization has the right to hear a matter within its jurisdiction beyond the date or dates of the tournament. If such right is not exercised, the matter may be referred to the member's Unit pursuant to CDR 2.1.1.

2.1.5 None of the disciplinary bodies noted in CDR 2.2 has jurisdiction over an ACBL employee (member or not) in pursuit of his or her employment with the ACBL.

2.2 Of Disciplinary Bodies

2.2.1 Units have only original jurisdiction, except:

- (a) In hearing appeals of a barring from a sanctioned game at a club.
- (b) When otherwise explicitly stated in the CDR.

B. The ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations, Chapter 4, Section Three, IV, G, is amended as follows:

CLUB DISCIPLINE

Club management should deal promptly and fairly with all cases of improper conduct that occur during an ACBL-sanctioned masterpoint game in the club, including cases of unethical practices. The club manager should either handle these situations personally or establish a standing committee to review all disciplinary problems. Clubs holding non-sanctioned games may deal with problems arising in these games as they see fit.

The club manager can handle many behavior problems by discussing them with the offenders, by issuing a warning, or declaring a period of probation. In extreme cases or cases of repeat offenses, the manager can bar the player from the club game for a stipulated period of time, or permanently.

No open club may bar a player or players as a class, based upon the player's race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, and physical handicap or on his proficiency at bridge. Except as detailed in the previous paragraph, a club may bar a player for whatever reason it deems proper and consistent with ACBL Rules and Regulations and the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. An obnoxious or incompatible partnership may be barred as a pair, but each may be permitted to play with other partners.

To bar a player, club management must notify the player in writing and send a copy of the notification to the ACBL Club Membership Department. The notification must include the player's name and player number and the reason for the barring.

An open club can bar players from its regularly club masterpoint games, membership games, ACBL-wide games, club championships, charity and international fund club championships, and other special events specifically allocated to clubs as outlined above. An open club may also bar players from , Grand National teams, North American Pair events, STaCs, qualifying sessions of a progressive sectional, unit or district competitions, and/or unit- or district-wide championships held at the club.

These regulations also apply to a club with an invitational sanction except that the club has the additional authority to refuse admittance to an invitational game to someone who does not meet the criteria upon which the invitational sanction is based (e.g. a player who has 500 masterpoints is denied admittance to an invitational game that is limited to players with less than 300 masterpoints).

If the player feels that his or her barring does not comply with these regulations prohibiting barring players as a class, religious or political affiliations, race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, physical disability or proficiency at bridge, he or she may appeal the barring to the unit disciplinary committee. Appeals from the unit disciplinary committee may be filed in accordance with and under the authority of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Until the appeal is lodged and heard, the player remains barred unless reinstated by the club unless a stay is granted by the Unit Disciplinary Chairperson.

~~A club may extend the barring of a player from Grand National teams, North American Pair events, STaCs, qualifying sessions of a progressive sectional, unit or district competitions, and/or unit or district wide championships held at the club. A player so barred may appeal the extension of the barring under the process described in the previous paragraph. In such cases, the written notice to the person barred must include the person's right to appeal the action to the Unit Disciplinary Committee in which the club is located within thirty days of the action taken by the club. Such written notice is required, otherwise the barring shall not be effective. The club may not impose partnership restrictions on such players for these events unless the unit, district or ACBL first imposes them.~~

Item 062-03: Recourse from a Bridge Appeal Committee Decision

A further appeal to the National Authority (ACBL) in accordance with The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge may be allowed only as follows:

1. On a point of law to and at the discretion of the ACBL Laws Commission.
2. On an allegation of bias of a committee member or members to and at the discretion of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee. The appellant is required to present evidence that the bias was not known at the time of the hearing.
3. The appeal must be filed within seven days of the decision of the bridge appeals committee that heard the issue.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Item 062-120: Educational Program for BoD

The ACBL Board of Directors engages in an educational program at the March 2007 Board meeting in St. Louis. The program should last one or two days, be conducted by outside consultants, and emphasize teambuilding skills. If two days are needed, the BoD would come in one day early and the rest of the board meeting would only last three days. If only one day is needed, we would use one of the regularly scheduled days.

Item 062-121: Board of Directors Communications

All communications between members of the Board of Directors and employees in Memphis will be by e-mail. Phone calls of an emergency nature will be sent to and through the CEO or his appointee.

FINANCE & BUDGET

Item 062-15: 2007 Preliminary Budget Assumptions

The preliminary budget assumptions for 2007 are approved.

Item 062-16: TD Fees

ACBL will charge non-ACBL organizations the actual cost (salary plus benefits) for Tournament Directors.

GOVERNANCE

Item 062-25: ACBL Laws Commission (061-128)

- A. The ACBL Laws Commission members shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chairman subject to Board confirmation.
- B. The Laws Commission Chairman is elected by the Committee subject to Board confirmation.

Item 062-26: ACBL Disciplinary Committee (061-29)

- A. The ACBL Disciplinary Committee members shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chairman subject to Board confirmation.
- B. The Chairman is elected by the Committee subject to Board confirmation.

Item 062-27: ACBL Competition and Conventions Committee (061-130)

- A. The Competition and Conventions Committee members shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chairman subject to Board approval.
- B. The Chairman is elected by the Committee for a one year term, rotating at least every three years. The Chairman is subject to Board confirmation.

Item 062-28: Ethical Oversight Committee (061-31)

- A. The Ethical Oversight Committee members shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chairman and shall be subject to Board approval..
- B. The Chairman is elected by the Committee and subject to Board approval.

Item 062-29: Hall of Fame Committee (061-32)

- A. The Hall of Fame Committee members shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chairman subject to Board confirmation.
- B. The Chairman is elected by the Committee for a three year term subject to Board confirmation.

Item 062-30: ACBL Foundation (061-37)

The members of the Charity Foundation and the Educational Foundation (the ACBL Board of Directors) shall meet in a special session to discuss the combining of the two foundations into a single Foundation. This new “combined” Foundation shall fund educational, charitable, social, scientific and historical endeavors that either promote bridge or are for the benefit of bridge players.

Item 062-31: ACBL Senior Event

The minimum age to be able to play in an ACBL senior event shall be sixty (60) years of age.

Item 062-32: Membership Residency

Item 032-75 (Membership Residency Requirements) is amended as follows:

Members of the ACBL ~~are normally expected to~~ belong to the Unit in which they reside. If a member ~~chooses~~ desires to belong to a Unit in which he/she does not reside, the member, ~~appropriate club manager, or a Unit or District official~~ must specifically make this request in writing (e-mail is permissible) to the ACBL stating the Unit of preference and the reasons for the request.

Further, if the Unit is not in the same District as where he/she resides, both Districts must approve the membership in the other District.

The following are some of the reasons why a member would be given permission to belong to a Unit outside the District of residence.

To warrant consideration, a player should meet at least two of the six reasons listed:

1. Plays at least once a month in a club in that Unit.
2. Attends STaCs or Sectionals in that Unit at least twice a year.
3. Attends the annual unit dinner and/or annual membership meeting.
4. Participates in Unit special events.
5. Serves on the Unit Board and/or Unit committees.
6. Serves on the District Board and/or District committees.

If it is determined that a member requests a change of Unit membership for the sole purpose of Grand National Teams (GNT) or North American Pairs (NAP) play, the request must be denied. The membership approval granted by a District in which the member does not reside may be reviewed by that District ~~at least every five years~~ from time to time to assure the above criteria continue to justify non-residency membership.

~~If a player has been a member of that Unit and wishes to remain and does not participate in GNT and NAOP events in that District, permission may be granted by the District without the player meeting any of the above six criteria.~~

Item 062-33: ACBL Mailing Lists

- A. Items (913-103) (942-44) (973-68) (003-195) (022-42) (041-51) (933-57) are rescinded.
- B. Management is authorized to provide members of the ACBL Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board of Governors, unit and district board members or officials and club managers with the wherewithal to obtain free electronic listings of members appropriate to their positions and needs. The listing will be sent as an attachment to an e-mail.
- C. Management is authorized to set fees that will cover costs for any other method (e.g. diskettes, hard copy) of providing lists and/or labels for any of the above and set prices and conditions for commercial use.

Item 062-34: Hard Copy of Materials for Volunteers

Board resolution 031-48 is rescinded.

Item 062-35: Model Bylaws for Incorporated Units

The following documents be approved by ACBL and sent to units requesting assistance with writing appropriate bylaws.

Bylaw Questionnaire

Model Bylaws

Item 062-36: Elimination of Charity Games Requirements for ACBL Sanctioned Games at Clubs

- A. The following resolutions of the ACBL Board of Directors are rescinded:
- One Charity Club Tournament Annually (742)
 - One Charity Club Tournament Annually (743-11)
 - One Charity Club Tournament Annually (751-22)
 - Charity Foundation Activities (753-11)
 - Annual Charity Game for Clubs Holding 12 Games Annually (762-32)
 - Additional Annual Charity Game (903-73)
- B. The first ACBL sanctioned charity game, if any, conducted by a club in a calendar year must be for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation or, in Canada, the CBF Charitable Fund. Subsequent ACBL sanctioned charity games may be for the benefit of any governmentally-recognized charity, charity foundation or charity fund.

Item 062-37: National Conduct Committee

A National Conduct Committee is formed to hear behavior cases that arise during the NABC's.

Item 062-38: Classification of Committees

- A. Items 963-39 and 983-45 are rescinded.
- B. There are five types of committees: standing, permanent, special, management, and other ACBL bodies.
- C. Unless there is specific legislation to the contrary appointments to a committee requiring approval by the ACBL Board of Directors will be made by the incoming President.
- D. Unless there is specific legislation to the contrary, the terms of appointment in C above are from the day following the Spring NABC through the following Spring NABC.

Item 062-39: Goodwill Committee Appointment

A Goodwill Committee appointment is a lifetime appointment as long as the member remains in "good standing." If a member loses good standing the members appointment shall be suspended until the member regains good standing. Expulsion from the ACBL will result in removal from the Goodwill committee.

Good standing is described below.

1.1 An ACBL member shall be deemed to be in “good standing” when such member’s dues or fees, if dues or fees are required, are current and such member is not:

Expelled,

Serving a term of suspension,

Serving indefinite probation,

Serving a probation, the initial term of which was twenty-four (24) or more months,

Serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of ninety (90) days.

Item 062-40: Mid Week at NABCs

The mid week day at NABCs designated as Educational Foundation day / International Fund day be eliminated.

BRIDGE

Item 062-55: Bridge Status Report

Management’s status report is received.

Item 062-56: Appendix R (Section III 1 & 2)

Appendix R (Ribbon Event Eligibility) Section III will be changed to:

1. First through eighth in the Vanderbilt, Spingold, Women's, or Senior Knockout Teams at NABC Championships. First through 16th when these events run 7 days or longer.
2. First through 10th and all ties in all other nationally rated events that have an upper masterpoint limit of more than 1500 masterpoints. First through 15th and all ties in a nationally rated six session event with no upper masterpoint limit.

Item 062-57: Gender Events

NABCs no longer include gender exclusive events with the exception of Mixed Pairs and Mixed BAM.

Item 062-58: Ribbon Qualification

All ribbon qualifications shall expire three years after being earned.

Item 062-59: CoC - MiniSpingold

The CoC for the Mini-Spingold are changed as indicated below.

2. . . . The captain, or their designee, must enter the team ~~prior to the official closing time of one hour prior to the published starting time of the first session;~~ prior to the evening session on the day preceding the start of the event. except that a later entry may be accepted, at the discretion of the Director-in-Charge of the event, if it is beneficial for the event. At that time, the completed entry must include a listing of the names and player numbers, one of whom is designated captain.

Item 062-60: CoC – MiniLM Pairs

The CoC are changed as indicated below:

1. Each event will consist of six sessions, two qualifying and two semi-final and two final. ~~If either or both events having an original entry of less than 60 tables will consist of four sessions, two qualifying and two final.~~

Item 062-61: CoC – Women’s Swiss

The CoC are changed as indicated below:

2. The event consists of two qualifying and two final sessions. Four seven board matches will be played in each session of the qualifying. Three nine-board matches will be played in each session of the final session, with the following exception: in the case of eight qualifying teams seven seven-board matches will be played. Late round playbacks will be assigned to make the best possible matches among the leading teams. Victory point scoring (20 point scale) will be used throughout.

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Item 062-75: Conditions of Contest

The 2007 Conditions of Contest are approved.

Item 062-76: NABC Senior Knockout Teams (061-55)

The Senior Knockout Teams at the Fall NABC will start on Friday instead of Sunday. Pre-registration will close at 11:00 AM the day of the event. The special conditions allowing a re-scheduling of the final will be deleted.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Item 062-160: GNT Conditions of Contest 2006 - 2007

The Conditions of Contest for the Grand National Teams 2006/2007 and beyond be amended as follows:

REPLACEMENTS AND SUBSTITUTIONS:

1. Issues regarding replacements and/or substitutions not addressed by the District conditions of contest are resolved as follows: Every team member must play at least half of the boards of each match (exclusive of play-offs) in order to continue participating on that team for the remainder of the event. The team captain may submit an application for exemption from the requirements of this paragraph to the District Coordinator who will then submit the request to the Director in Charge of the NABC but must do so (other than for emergencies) prior to arrival at the NABC for the GNT's.
2. A team member granted an exemption under the previous paragraph must still play at least 40% of the boards, (excluding play-off boards), for as long as the team survived to qualify for overall masterpoint awards and other privileges. No contestant may play any match after it has become mathematically impossible to play at least 40% of the boards (excluding play-off boards) played by the team.
3. An ineligible player is disqualified. The ineligible player's team will be disqualified unless the Director-In-Charge determines that teammates were unaware of the deficiency of the disqualified member. Any team reduced to fewer than three original members due to disqualification of ineligible players is disqualified.
4. Substitutes will be permitted at the discretion of the Director-In -Charge of the NABC. No more than two substitutes at a time will be permitted on a team
5. A team reduced to three members for cause at the site of the NABC will be permitted a replacement at the discretion of the Director- In- Charge. A replacement for the Finals receives match awards only. In no case is a team permitted to replace more than one player at the site of the NABC.

TOURNAMENT

Item 062-90: NABC Appeals

ACBL Tournament Directors shall hear and rule upon all appeals filed at North American Bridge Championships. All NABC+ appeals shall be heard by Tournament Director Panels in a manner similar to regional appeal hearings (Ref: 983-02, 992-02). All conduct and Ethics matters shall be referred to and heard by the NABC Tournament Committee or to their assignees.

Item 062-91: NABC Appeals Committees

The following ACBL Board of Director actions are rescinded

761-92 (Committees at NABC)
873-118, 982-202, 053-33 (Chairman of Tournament Appeals)
911-73, 982-41 (Compensation)
952-1 Part A (Appeals Handbook)
983-02, 992-02 Part B, Sentence 1 (NABC+ appeals)

Item 062-92: Regional/Sectional Tournament Scheduling & Sanctioning

Item 053-50 Regional/Sectional Tournament Scheduling & Sanctioning be amended as follows:

Change section B5f to read “Mesa – D17”. This request would change the Mesa regional from a senior regional to an open regional. The tournament would continue to be a permanent site regional outside Districts 17’s existing allocation.

MARKETING

Item 062-105: Marketing/Publicity Status Report

The marketing/publicity status report is received.

Item 062-106: Bridge Education Status Report

The bridge education status report is received.

Item 062-107: Intermediate/Newcomer Status Report

The intermediate/newcomer status report is received.

Item 062-108: Patron Membership

Item 951-31 which reads; The sum of \$20 per year shall be deducted from each Patron Membership and \$10 each shall be given to the ACBL Charity Foundation and the Educational Foundation is rescinded.

FULL BOARD

Item 062-177: Reconsideration of Item 061-59 Masterpoint Holdings

The ACBL Board of Directors reconsiders item 061-59, Masterpoint Holdings:

The ACBL web site, which lists the all time top MP holders, shall include the names of the deceased.

Item 062-178: Reconsideration of Item 061-140 WBF Dues

The ACBL Board of Directors reconsiders item 061-140 WBF dues.

The WBF will be informed that our Board believes that the dream of being part of the Olympics is not going to come to pass and the increase in dues from ten cents to fifty cents per member is no longer warranted. We believe that the dues beginning in 2007 should be reduced substantially.