

Appeals & Charges

Item 122-02: Cheating - Deferred from Spring 2012 – Memphis, TN

Additional (supplemental) penalties to players found guilty of severe conduct violations and/or ethical violations. (Attachment D)

Above are the 19 conduct defined offenses and the 20 ethics violations. It is proposed that anyone found guilty of unethical/cheating in addition to probation/suspension or expulsion also lose masterpoints and those masterpoints be replaced with placement points(1).

The penalties are three types:

- 1) Minor – 10% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. Appropriate ranks removed.
- 2) Major 2nd degree – 50% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. Appropriate ranks removed.
- 3) Major 1st degree – 100% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. All ranks removed and all National titles removed

Referring to Appendix B part A Conduct section

- C4) Minor
- C8) Minor
- C13) Minor

Referring to Appendix B Ethics section

- E1) minor
- E2) minor
- E5) minor
- E6) minor
- E7)
 - a) Major 1st degree
 - b) Major 1st degree
 - c) Major 2nd degree
 - d) none
- E8 9 an 10) minor
- E11) Major 2nd degree
- E12 13 14 15) Major 1st degree
- E16 and 17) minor
- E18) minor, major 2nd degree or major 1st degree decision by committee
- E19) minor

Item 122-03: CDR Appeal

Section Seven of The Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) be amended by adding section 7.7.6 as follows:

7. Appeal Procedures

- 7.7 Each party to an appeal or review under this CDR 7 shall be entitled to:
 - 7.7.1 Receive written notice of date, time and place of the appeals hearing.
 - 7.7.2 Be represented at the hearing by another person who shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors. The person charged may be represented by an attorney outside the hearing room.
 - 7.7.3 Make statements on his or her behalf.
 - 7.7.4. Be present during the entire hearing, except during procedural determinations and deliberation on verdicts and sentencing.
 - 7.7.5 Question persons testifying through the Chair, at the Chair's discretion.
 - 7.7.6 All appeals heard under this section shall be heard by a committee of at least three persons.

Item 122-04: CDR Automatic Review

Moved that:

7.2.6 All disciplinary cases where:

A suspension of one (1) year or longer is imposed,

Expulsion is imposed or

A discipline for an ethical violation is imposed;

shall be automatically reviewed by the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee at the next NABC. On such automatic review, the Appeals and Charges Committee may increase or reduce discipline as well as affirm, reverse or modify the disciplinary determination or remand for further proceedings. The Appeals & Charges Committee shall not conduct a new hearing, but shall review the previous hearing to ensure that: (1) procedures were followed in accordance with the CDR; (2) the decision and discipline imposed was supported by the evidence; and (3) a fair hearing was conducted. The Appeals & Charges Committee may increase or reduce the discipline imposed.

Conditions of Contest

Item 122-25: 2013 Conditions of Contest

2013 Conditions of Contest are approved.

Item 122-26: NABC and NABC+ Matchpoint Events

All conditions of contest for NABC and NABC+ matchpoint events at NABCs be amended to permit the DIC (1) to combine as many sections as logical and practical for scoring, expected to be typically four to six sections, and (2) to qualify contestants for subsequent stages based on overall standing in the entire field, regardless of section and/or direction.

Item 122-27: Unit Team Game

The Annual Unit Extended Team Championships, Sanctioning and Reporting Guide, December 2010 be amended as follows:

I. Team Size, Substitutions & Replacements

Teams can be comprised of four, five or six members. Substitutes and Replacements are allowed at the discretion of the director, but should not appreciably strengthen a team. In teams with more than four members, a substitute should come from within the team. Team members, by entering the event, are committing to participate throughout the event. As this event takes place over multiple sessions, they should be aware of the scheduled play dates and times, and make plans to attend. If they are aware of a scheduling conflict, they should notify both their team captain and the director to see what accommodations can be made. This includes arranging a substitute or replacement ~~(who becomes an additional member of the team, provided this does not make the team exceed the six player limit)~~ or arranging an alternate play date. Substitutes may be allowed by the DIC of the event, even if the team already has six members, but are only eligible to receive match awards.

Item 122-28: NAP Online

The 2012-13 Conditions of Contest for the North American Pair Event be amended to allow an online District Final at District option. All expenses for an online District Final shall be borne by the District. Implementation of this provision is subject to management negotiation and approval of an online host.

Item 122-29: Comprehensive Seeding

Appendixes B (Vanderbilt/Spingold), BSR (Baze Senior Knockout), and BW (Wagar Women's Knockout) of the ACBL Conditions of Contest be modified as follows:

Virtual Masterpoints and the Masterpoint Log: Virtual Masterpoints (VPs) shall be awarded to foreign experts who play in the four events listed above. Based on the Masterpoint Log approved by the ACBL Board of Directors in 2010, it now takes 20,360 MPs to reach the cap of 11 seeding points for the master point component of seeding points. Players who received VPs shall have their VPs converted into MPs. Those MPs will be added to Masterpoints actually earned, and then the Masterpoint Log will be applied to the total.

I. Vanderbilt/Spingold Knockout Teams

Subjective Seeding: In the Vanderbilt/Spingold, the event will be seeded objectively, and then re-seeded subjectively by a "Subjective Seeding Committee."

The subjective seeding process is summarized below:

After the Director-in-Charge determines a team's average Seeding Points (SPs) in accordance with the seeding rules, and before shuffling in groups, the Subjective Seeding Committee will review the team's placement in the bracket. The Committee may ask the opinions of other players, especially when evaluating unfamiliar foreign entrants.

The Committee cannot change the seeding group of teams seeded in the top 16. Teams 17-20 may be moved down one "shuffling group." Teams 21 and up can be moved up or down one "shuffling group." Teams in the bottom shuffling group can only be moved up one group. The shuffling groups are 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, then in groups of 8 through team 64, then in groups of 16. For example, a team in the 29-32 group could become seeded 33-40, or become seeded 25-28. For every team changed, another team must be moved reciprocally to replace it.

Any seeding change would be made before shuffling, and require a majority vote of the Subjective Seeding Committee.

II. Baze Senior Knockout Teams

Objective Seeding Points: The Seeding Formula for the Baze Senior Knockout Teams will be based only on Method 1. This includes the use of the new Masterpoint Log.

Seeding for the Senior Knockout Team event will still be capped at 50. Method 1 is identical to the Method 1 used for the Vanderbilt **and** Spingold. and Wagar Knockout.

In addition to the Method 1 used in the Vanderbilt and Spingold:

Four SPs be given for winning the Senior Knockout, prorated for placings in the top eight in the same way as the Vanderbilt/Spingold, and

Two SPs would be given for winning the Wagar Knockout, prorated for placings in the top eight in the same way as the Vanderbilt/Spingold.

The Truscott Senior Swiss, the Women's Swiss and Women' B-A-M, all 4-session events previously included in seeding the Senior Knockout, would no longer be awarded any SPs.

Subjective Seeding: For the Senior Knockout, the event will be seeded objectively (above), and then re-seeded subjectively by a "Subjective Seeding Committee"

The subjective seeding process is summarized below:

After the Director-in-Charge determines a team's average Seeding Points (SPs) in accordance with the Appendix BSR, and before shuffling in groups, the Subjective Seeding Committee will review the team's placement in the bracket. The Committee may ask the opinions of other players, especially when evaluating unfamiliar foreign entrants. The Committee cannot change the seeding group of teams seeded in the top 4. Teams 5-8 may be moved down one "shuffling group." Teams 9 and up can be moved up or down one "shuffling group." Teams in the bottom shuffling group can only be moved up one group. The shuffling groups are 5-8, 9-12, 13-16, 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, then in groups of 8 through team 64, then in groups of 16. For example, a team in the 29-32 group could become seeded 33-40, or become seeded 25-28. For every team changed, another team must be moved reciprocally to replace it.

Any seeding change would be made before shuffling, and require a majority vote of the Subjective Seeding Committee.

Shuffling: With 32 or fewer teams entered, teams 5-6, 7-8 will be shuffled instead of 5-8. In this case, teams seeded 5-6 could not be moved up into a higher group since teams 1-4 are locked.

III. Wagar Knockout Teams

Objective Seeding Points: The Seeding Formula for the Wagar Knockout will be based on the formula listed below plus the Masterpoint Log.

Seeding for the Wagar Knockout will be based, for each player, on the greater of the two seeding point totals (capped at 50) calculated by the following two methods:

- Method 1: The current method (current appendix BW) (based on performance in previous events and masterpoint holding, as amended by 111-36).
- Method 2: WBF open Masterpoint total divided by 100 **plus** WBF open placing point total multiplied by 1.75 **plus** women's WBF Masterpoint total divided by 100 **plus** WBF women's placing point total multiplied by 1.75. (Note this includes open WBF performance and Women's WBF performance)

Subjective Seeding: Subjective Seeding is not recommended for this event because the players actually playing in the event do not favor its use.

Shuffling: With 32 or fewer teams entered, teams 5-6, 7-8 will be shuffled instead of 5-8.

Governance / Board Operations / Bylaws

Item 122-45: Chapter IV – Board Procedures – B. Expenses

Chapter IV – Board Procedures – B. Expenses Section 4 – Board of Director's Stipend is amended to read:

- 4.1 The president of the ACBL and each district director ~~and the chairman of the Board of Governors~~ will receive an amount of \$1000 three times per year to reflect travel to District and Unit events, telephone expenses, mailings and miscellaneous office expenses connected with the office of district director. ~~and chairman of the Board of Governors.~~
- 4.2 The chairman of the Board of Governors will receive an amount of \$250 three times per year to reflect telephone expenses, mailings and miscellaneous office expense connected with the office of Chairman of the Board of Governors.
- 4.3 Extraordinary expenses incurred as a committee member will be considered for additional reimbursement.

Item 122-46: Staff Report on Masterpoint Formula

No ACBL Board of Directors vote shall be taken to change any portion of the ACBL masterpoint formula for Sectional and/or Regional tournaments until after the Board has been provided a thorough report from management, including field tournament directors, which addresses at minimum the following issues: what options there are to fix any perceived problems; and the pros and cons of each method. The report should be co-authored by all the field supervisors to reflect the opinions of all areas of the league.

Item 122-47: Chapter 1 Amendments

Chapter 1, be amended as follows:

Section B, 3.1.6.1

3.1.6 Championship Player of the Year

3.1.6.1 The winner of the most Masterpoints earned at NABCs while playing in unlimited nationally rated events including the NAP Flight A and ~~points won~~ in the GNT Championship Flight ~~NABC finals and semifinals.~~

Section D, 1.5.2

1.5.2 The Chairman of the Goodwill Committee shall be reimbursed for his/her actual ticket price using advance non-refundable ticketing reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates, two nights hotel, three days per diem and free plays at NABCs (excluding ~~charity days~~ the Educational Foundation game).

Section D, 3.3.2

3.3.2 The director, when called, shall attempt to determine the facts. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate ~~1/3~~ 1/4 board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive (~~1/3~~ 1/4 board each = ~~2/3~~ 1/2 board) The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.

Section G, 1.1 and 1.4

1.1 ACBL will provide *Bidding in the 21st Century* and Play of the Hand in the 21st Century textbooks, cards, t-shirts and certificates for School Bridge Class lessons under the following guidelines.

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- 1.4.3 The scholarship monies are distributed by the USBF and this program is not administered by ACBL.

Section J, 3.1

- 3.1 All international fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned events conducted by ACBL in the United States for the specific purpose of subsidizing United States athletes in international bridge competition will be forwarded to and retained by ACBL. Upon request of the USBF, the ACBL will disburse funds to the United States athletes. International Fund monies collected at NABCs shall be apportioned to the appropriate International Fund in proportion equal to that country's percentage of ACBL membership. International Funds collected in Canada and International funds collected in Mexico shall be sent to the ~~CBF~~ respective Federations to be disbursed at ~~its~~ their discretion.

Item 122-48: Election Regulations

Moved that:

The 2012 election regulations are amended as follows: [2012ElectionRegulations.pdf](#)

Item 122-49: Chapter IV Board Procedures D – Committees

Chapter IV Board Procedures, D – Committees, Section 1.4 Laws Commission is amended to include the following:

- 1.4.7 The ACBL will send a representative from the ACBL Laws Commission to attend all meetings of the WBF Laws Committee held in conjunction with World Championships.
- 1.4.7.1 The representative will be selected by the ACBL Laws Commission.
- 1.4.7.2 The ACBL will provide air fare actual ticket price using advance non-refundable ticketing reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates, per diem and hotel room.

Item 122-50: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures

Chapter III – Administration, Appendix 2. Hall of Fame Operating Procedures, Subsection 6. Timeline of the ACBL Codification be amended as follows:
[2012 Election Hall of Fame.pdf](#)

Item 122-51: Chapter III A.

The following section from the new Chapter 3. A. be eliminated:

3.3 Unit Transfers and Boundary Changes

- 3.3.1 In general, areas for transfer from one Unit to another should follow county lines. An area seeking to transfer to an adjacent Unit must include all counties between the proposed area for transfer and the existing area of the Unit being joined. It is not permitted to transfer an area to a Unit if such transfer would create an island.
- 3.3.2 A majority of the current ACBL members living in the area to be transferred must sign a petition expressing their wishes to be transferred.
- 3.3.3 The petition must state the reasons for the proposed transfer and must include the addresses and ACBL player number of those members signing.
- 3.3.4 The boundaries of the proposed area of transfer must be included on the petition as well as all zip codes in the proposed area to be transferred.
- 3.3.5 Upon receipt of the petition, ACBL will verify the signatures thereon in order to assure that a majority of the ACBL members in the proposed area of has transfer as signed the petition requesting a transfer of Unit affiliation.
- ~~3.3.6 As an alternative, a majority of the members polled by mail or voting at a meeting of the unit membership must vote for the transfer or boundary change. Any such meeting must be held in accordance with the unit bylaws.~~

Item 122-52: Chapter 3 – Administration

Moved that:

The subchapters in Chapter 3 of the Codified Minutes are replaced with the following:
[CHAPTER III Administration.pdf](#)

Item 122-53: Chapter III Rescinded Items

The following motions listed in Chapter Three of the Brown Pages be rescinded:

Section A - 711-51, 723-1, 753-2, 753-2, 761-42, 763-61, 771-21, 772-34, 773-21A, 72-22, 783-32, 783-33, 791-21, 803-51, 813-41, 841-83, 881-21, 892-81, 911, 912exec, 912-62, 921-13, 922-22, 922-23, 922-57, 923-23, 931-86, 931-65, 971-46, 973-69, 973-53, 983-50, 002-52, 003-106, 031-48, 032-75, 062-32, 091-31

Section B - 712-12, 901-91

Section C - 831-3, 832-1, 842-2

Section E – 751-98, 752-33, 752-92, 763-103, 781-92, 783-13, 783-21A, 793-92, 801-44, 802-21, 832-26, 833-47, 862-12, 912-103, 913-144

Section G – 733-33, 963-32

Section I – 872-125, 912-127, 951-85, 961-71, 963-168, 983-175, 012-47

Item 122-54: Section 3 – Zero Tolerance

Chapter 1. D. be amended as follows:

Section 3 - Zero Tolerance

3.1 Zero Tolerance ("ZT") Policy

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~~3.3.6 A ZT report form shall be available for players to report incidents which occur away from the table; and for directors to document complaints and action taken. The DIC shall provide a summary report of all behavioral penalties to the Tournament Chairman and/or Recorder.~~

Item 122-55: Establish and Define Purposes of the Grass Roots Fund

Upon approval of the ACBL Board of Directors, *an ACBL Grass Roots Fund shall be established.* The Grass Roots Fund shall be used to augment individual district support of the existing (GNTs and NAPs), support new grass roots events, and promote grass roots programs that encourage participation in bridge both at the local level and in tournaments/NABCs.

Initial sources of income for the Grass Roots Fund will include:

- Net revenues from ACBL GNT sanction fees and ACBL NAP table fees. Fees shall be at current levels with no change.
- Table fees from Grass Roots Fund Month club games. *A Grass Roots Fund Month* (specific month yet to be determined), with club games to have the same masterpoint awards and table fees as the Junior and International Fund months, *shall be designated* to provide an additional revenue source for grass roots events.
- Table fees from enhanced, regionally rated games at sectionals. *The Grass Roots Fund shall be considered an additional, eligible beneficiary* from these games *under Item 112-58* along with the ACBL Charity, Educational, International and Junior Funds.

Management shall indicate income and expenses for grass roots events as separate line items in the budget and financial statements. It will be the duty of the Special Events Task Force working with ACBL Special Events staff to administer Grass Roots Fund resources in furtherance of the Fund's purposes.

Note: Italicized phrases indicate three distinct new items requiring BOD approval.

Item 122-56: Unit Mergers and Boundary Changes

Item (983-50) be amended as follows:

II. Unit Mergers and Boundary Changes

In general, areas for transfer from one Unit to another should follow county lines. An area seeking to transfer to an adjacent Unit must include all counties between the proposed area for transfer and the existing area of the Unit being joined. In other words, it would not be in order to transfer an area to a Unit if such transfer would create an “island.”

A majority of the current ACBL members living in the area to be transferred must sign a petition expressing their wishes to be transferred. The petition must state the reasons for the proposed transfer and must include the addresses and ACBL player number of those members signing. The boundaries of the proposed area of transfer must be included on the petition as well as all zip codes in the proposed area to be transferred. Upon receipt of the petition, ACBL will verify the signatures thereon in order to assure that a “sizable majority” of the ACBL members in the proposed area of transfer has signed the petition requesting a transfer of Unit affiliation.

The signatures on the petition will be verified as of the date indicated on the petition. All signatures on the petition must be obtained within six months of the date indicated on the petition.

As an alternative, the unit may vote at a meeting of the unit membership or by mail

(a majority of those voting or responding is sufficient). This meeting (or vote by mail) must be held in accordance with the unit's bylaws and the results communicated to ACBL by the appropriate unit official.

The ACBL will contact the parent Unit, the Unit of proposed affiliation, the District Organization and the District Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors seeking the opinion of each regarding the proposed transfer. Should all parties agree that it is in the best interest of "all concerned" to effect the proposed transfer, the ACBL will take the necessary steps to make the change including ACBL Board of Directors approval. All parties will be informed of the effective date of transfer and new Charters distributed. Should either the Unit or the District Organization disagree as to the proposed transfer, the matter will be referred to the ACBL Board of Directors for final disposition. After the ACBL Board of Directors has denied a request to grant a Unit Merger, Unit Boundary change, or Unit Change of District, the affected Unit may not reapply for a Unit Merger, Unit Boundary Change, or Unit Change of District for at least six (6) months.

When a segment of 20% or more of a Unit membership is transferred to another Unit, assets of the Unit are subject to division on an equitable basis. If such division of assets cannot be reached voluntarily, and if mediation by the District fails, both parties shall submit to binding arbitration. All costs for the arbitration process shall be paid for from Unit funds.

Item 122-57: Special Club Games

ACBL regulation (083-86) Special Club Games is amended as follows:

When a sectional (excluding STaCs) or higher rated event is being conducted within 25 miles of a club game's playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regularly scheduled club masterpoint games (i.e., no special games). This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals.

Item 122-58: Unit 390 Bylaw Waiver

Moved that:

Unit 390 Bylaw waiver be approved. [Unit 390 Bylaws.pdf](#)

Item 122-59: Chapter III Rescinded Items

The following items from Chapter III of the current Codifications be rescinded.
[Chapter 3 Rescinded.pdf](#)

Juniors

Item 122-160: Chapter 1. I. Juniors

Chapter 1. I. Juniors would be amended:

1.1.3.3 Junior Entry coupons will be available at NABCs for all juniors who are ACBL members except those who are players for hire.

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2.3 At all NABCs, Junior coupons will be made available for junior members in good standing except those who are players for hire for entry into events at NABCs.

2.3.1.1 Any junior under the age of 26 years except those who are players for hire who is a full time student (must provide proof of eligibility) will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.

2.3.1.2 Any junior under the age of 21 years except those who are players for hire will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.

2.3.1.3 Any Junior 19 years and under except those who are players for hire will be granted free plays for each session of regionally rated events.

2.3.1.4 Any Junior or Youth player who is a Player for Hire as defined herein shall not be allowed to receive free plays or reduced card fee coupons to enter events held at North American Bridge Championship tournaments. For purposes of this rule, the term "Player for Hire" shall be defined as any player who has received cash, goods, services, or a combination thereof, with a value in excess of \$1,000, during the current calendar year and/or during either of the two immediately preceding calendar years, in exchange for playing with another bridge player or players at any combination of Sectional, Regional and/or NABC bridge events, with the exception that any compensation provided strictly to pay for a Junior or Youth player's hotel accommodations to attend such tournaments and/or to pay for food consumed by the Junior or Youth player while at such tournaments shall not be considered in determining the value of the cash, goods and/or services provided.

Masterpoints

Item 122-80: Masterpoints – Deferred from Spring 2012 – Memphis, TN

Masterpoints be awarded only for sanctioned games that follow the laws of Duplicate Bridge, with the exception of teaching games, where teachers are encouraged and often do use specially prepared hands to establish a lesson point.

Item 122-81: Strength of Field Formula – Deferred from Spring 2012 NABC, Memphis, TN

A Strength of Field (SOF) formula shall be implemented for Regional and Sectional Pair and Swiss Team games. Implementation of the SOF formula will be subject to full board approval of detailed specifications to be delivered to the Board on or before November 1, 2011 meetings.

The Strength of Field committee will continue the development of a SOF award system. This system is to be implemented as early as January 1st, 2012, subject to necessary changes being made to the current or new ACBLscore program.

The Strength of Field committee is directed to deliver a full set of specifications no later than November 1, 2011.

The first year after implementation, the Masterpoint committee may make adjustments to the formula if and when it becomes clear that the new formula is having an unintended effect. Such adjustments are approved by this motion and do not require additional Board action.

Tournament

Item 122-110: Bar Playing Directors in STaC Games

Playing directors in STaC games (contestants in STaC events who either have participated in pre-duplicating boards, who have seen or had access to hand records of boards in play, or who take director calls during the event) and their partners are ineligible to receive overall STaC masterpoint (silver point) awards.