

CHAPTER 8 - ACBL FOUNDATIONS

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Chapter 8 - ACBL FOUNDATIONS

The American Contract Bridge League has a comprehensive program for raising and disbursing charitable funds for two foundations. These foundations are the ACBL Charity Foundation and the ACBL Educational Foundation. The ACBL Charity Foundation was created to help further the work of various charitable organizations. The ACBL Educational Foundation was created to further bridge education among the general public. This chapter describes these foundations.

SECTION ONE: ACBL CHARITY FOUNDATION CORPORATION

The goals of the ACBL Charity Foundation are twofold: (1) to make substantial monetary contributions to a variety of charitable organizations, and (2) to create good public relations for ACBL and its members.

I. ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

The ACBL Charity Foundation Corporation was established on July 1, 1964, to serve as custodian and administrator of all funds raised by or contributed to the Foundation for charitable purposes. The Foundation processes grant applications, makes disbursements, and generally furthers charitable activities.

II. COMPOSITION

In accordance with its bylaws (a copy of which may be obtained by writing to the Foundation, in care of ACBL), the Charity Foundation membership is made up of all current members of the ACBL Board of Directors and other individuals whom the Foundation appoints as needed (such as attorneys). The Foundation members elect a five-member Board of Trustees to administer the operation of the Foundation. The members elect one of these trustees each year for three consecutive years, and every fourth year they elect two; each serves a four-year term. Trustees may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms, after which they must remain off the Board of Trustees for one year before being eligible for election again. The trustees elect the Foundation officers.

III. FOUNDATION EXPENSES

The Charity Foundation pays for all operating expenses, including office expenses, trustee and management expenses, and operating costs of ACBL-wide charity games.

IV. THE CANADIAN CHARITY FUND

The Canadian Charitable Fund is the custodian and disbursing agent for all charitable funds raised by Canadian clubs, units, and districts. This Fund has six trustees who are responsible for processing applications for grants from the fund and for supervising all disbursements.

The ACBL Charity Foundation does much of the administrative work of the Canadian Charitable Fund, for which the Canadian Charitable Fund pays minimal charges to the ACBL Charity Foundation.

V. CHARITY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each club that conducts regularly scheduled sanctioned masterpoint game sessions is entitled to one charity club championship per session per month, except for the months of January, May and September. The points awarded at charity club championships are upgraded.

VI. FOUNDATION/FUND UNIT TOURNAMENTS

ACBL allocates four sessions of sectional-rated foundation/fund events annually to each unit. Included are Charity Championships, Junior Fund, International Fund, Grass Roots Fund and Educational Fund games. These sessions may be run as four one-session events, two two-session events, one two-session and two one-session events, one three-session and one one-session event, or one four-session event. Only Junior Fund games can be run in the month of January, Charity games in April, Grass Roots Fund in May and International Fund games in September.

If a charity event is run, the ACBL Charity Foundation or the Canadian Charitable Fund must be the beneficiary of the first event and two of the first three events. The unit may select any IRS-approved or Revenue Canada-approved tax-exempt charitable organization for the second or fourth event.

VII. CHARITY GAMES AT SECTIONALS

In addition to its unit charity tournaments, a unit may conduct charity game(s) at each of its sectional tournaments.

SANCTION

APPLICATION: The unit must list the charity game on-line sanction application. The game is subject to the same scheduling restrictions as any other one-session championship event.

BENEFICIARY: The unit may conduct the game on behalf of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the Canadian Charitable Fund, the ACBL Educational Foundation, or an IRS-approved or Revenue Canada-approved local charitable organization.

AWARDS: When the ACBL Charity Foundation, the Canadian Charitable Fund, the ACBL Educational Foundation, or an IRS-approved or Revenue Canada-approved local charitable organization is the beneficiary, the game carries full sectional rating.

MINIMUM DONATIONS: When the ACBL Charity Foundation or the Canadian Charitable Fund is the beneficiary, there is a minimum per table donation equal to 100% of the sectional per table sanction fee. When the beneficiary is a local charity, the per table fee goes to ACBL and the remainder goes to the local charity. Any differences between these minimum donations and the actual fees charged may be retained by the sponsors for expenses.

STAFFING: Staffing for this game is the responsibility of the Director-in-Charge of the sectional.

PROCEEDS: The unit must send the entire ACBL Charity Foundation or Canadian Charitable Fund donation to ACBL along with the tournament report form. If the unit conducted the event for a local beneficiary, it must include on the report the name of the beneficiary and the amount donated.

VIII. CHARITY GAMES AT REGIONALS

The sponsoring organization of a regional tournament may conduct charity game as part of the regional schedule. In addition, a one-session event that is run for the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund, or the Canadian equivalent of these may be held during any day of a regional. The minimum monetary contributions for the above-listed fund, foundation or charity games is \$7.00 per table, per session.

All single-session events, except Side Series Pairs on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the Canadian equivalent of these. A Regional may run two-session gold point events on the first day of the tournament. In addition, a Regional may schedule the first two sessions of a KO event on the first day of the tournament. The first session of all two-session, gold point events on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the Canadian equivalent of these. The second session of all two-session, gold point events on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of one of the above-listed funds or a local charity.

The afternoon and evening session pair games held prior to the beginning of a regional may not award gold points.

IX. DISTRICT-WIDE FUND/FOUNDATION GAMES

ACBL allocates four sessions of sectional rated foundation/fund events annually to each district. Included are Charity Championships, Junior Fund, International Fund, Grass Roots Fund and Educational Fund games. These sessions may be run as four one-session events, two two-session events, one two-session and two one-session events, one three-session and one one-session event, or one four-session event. Only Junior Fund games can be run in the month of January, Charity games in April, Grass Roots Fund in May and International Fund games in September.

X. ACBL-WIDE CHARITY GAMES

ACBL specifically assigns two ACBL-wide games each year to the charity program. The Spring ACBL-wide charity game is held in conjunction with the Spring NABC, and the Fall ACBL-wide charity game is held in conjunction with the Fall NABC.

All sessions of these ACBL-wide games, except those conducted at the NABC sites as part of the NABC schedule, fall under the jurisdiction of the clubs in which they are held. See Chapter 5, Section Five-I.B. For information on masterpoint awards and reporting as well as information on other ACBL-wide charity events regulations, See Chapter 4, Section Five, V.

XI. HONORARY AND MEMORIAL FUNDS

A. SPECIAL FUNDS

With the approval of the ACBL Charity Foundation, individuals, non-bridge organizations, clubs, units, and districts may establish special funds in honor of or in memory of individuals and specified groups. Donors should inaugurate these special funds with contributions of \$1,000 or more. The Foundation will recognize establishment of the funds by awarding engraved plaques to the donors or honorees, as may be appropriate to the circumstances. Donors can make the donations in installments if they so desire.

B. MEMORIAL CONDOLENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Many ACBL members express condolences at times of bereavement by giving gifts to the ACBL Charity Foundation. On receipt of condolence contributions, the Charity Foundation sends acknowledgments to the families of the deceased members. The cards contain proper credit to the contributing individuals or organizations.

C. CONTRIBUTIONS AS ANNIVERSARY OR HOLIDAY GIFTS

The ACBL Charity Foundation solicits contributions from those members who, on special occasions, choose to make gifts to charity in lieu of more materialistic gifts to one another. As a service to members making such contributions, the Foundation sends suitable cards of congratulations or holiday wishes to the recipients and sends receipts to the donors. A donor may send the Foundation a list of recipients together with one check to cover the donations for all names on the list. For example, if the donor wishes to contribute \$5.00 to honor each of four recipients, a check for \$20.00 should accompany the list.

D. BEQUESTS

Donors can make bequests to the ACBL Charity Foundation or the Canadian Charitable Fund directly or to specifically approved beneficiaries. The ACBL Charity Foundation administers these bequests. Those who wish to make such bequests should have their attorneys write to the Foundation for details.

SECTION TWO: ACBL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The ACBL Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization funded by tax-deductible contributions and memberships. The Foundation's resources are used exclusively for promoting bridge among the general public. There is a special emphasis on bridge education for children and disadvantaged groups. The Foundation supports the idea that focusing attention on younger generations will contribute greatly to the proliferation of the game in the years to come.

I. COMPOSITION

In accordance with its bylaws (a copy of which may be obtained by writing to the Foundation, in care of ACBL), the Educational Foundation voting membership is made up of all current members of the ACBL Board of Directors. An elected Board of Trustees, consisting of nine members, administers the Foundation. These nine members are elected to three-year terms, with three elected each year. These Trustees, who serve without pay or reimbursement of expenses, meet three times a year during ACBL North American Bridge Championships.

ACBL members are requested to be non-voting members of the Foundation by paying dues to the Foundation. See Appendix G.

II. GRANTS

Since its inception, the ACBL Educational Foundation has awarded grants totaling over \$700,000.

The Foundation has a firm set of procedures in place for allocating funds. Applications for grants are made to the Trustees through the Foundation Secretary. Refer to the ACBL Educational Foundation website for further information.

The Foundation actively supports programs and services that help bridge:

- By encouraging grant applications for bridge education projects and bridge education materials.
- By providing grants to individuals for subsidized lesson and teaching programs.

III. EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

A. SCHOOL BRIDGE LESSON SERIES

This program introduces the benefits of learning bridge and the joy of the game to students in middle schools, junior high schools, high schools and colleges throughout North America. The School Bridge Lesson Series (SBLs) program promotes the development of young bridge players by providing textbooks, trophies and teacher fees for bridge lessons offered to students.

B. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR JUNIOR EVENTS

The Foundation provides scholarships for the winners of the Collegiate Bridge Bowl. See Chapter 9.

C. JUNIOR TEAM TRAINING PROGRAM

The Educational Foundation contributes to the funding for the training of Junior Teams to compete in the World Junior Team Championships.

IV. HONORARY, MEMORIAL FUND AND OTHER BEQUESTS

A. SPECIAL FUNDS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND BEQUESTS

Individuals, non-bridge organizations, club, units and districts may establish special funds in honor of or in memory of an individual or group. Specific education programs can be requested. The Educational Foundation must approve the establishment of these special funds. \$1,000 or more is required to initially establish a special fund. Donors can make the donations in installments if they so desire.

B. MEMORIAL AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Many ACBL members express condolences at times of bereavement by giving gifts to the ACBL Educational Foundation. On receipt of condolence contributions, the Foundation sends acknowledgment cards to the families of the deceased.

C. CONTRIBUTIONS AS ANNIVERSARY OR HOLIDAY GIFTS

The ACBL Educational Foundation solicits contributions from members who on special occasions choose to donate monetary gifts to support bridge education. As a service to members making such contributions, the Foundation sends suitable cards of congratulations or holiday wishes to the recipients and sends receipts to the donors. A donor may send the Foundation a list of recipients together with one check to cover the donations for all names on the list. For example, if the donor wishes to contribute \$5.00 to honor each of four recipients, a check for \$20.00 should accompany the list.

V. FOUNDATION/FUND UNIT TOURNAMENTS

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