

## **CHAPTER I – MEMBERSHIP OPERATING GUIDELINES**

### **J. ACBL BRIDGE FEDERATIONS**

#### **Section 1 – Zonal Representation**

- 1.1 The ACBL recognizes the North American Bridge Federation (NABF) as the Zonal Conference for Zone 2 of the World Bridge Federation, which consists of the following for international WBF play:
  - 1.1.1 United States Bridge Federation (USBF)
  - 1.1.2 Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF)
  - 1.1.3 Federación Mexicana de Bridge (FMB)
- 1.2 The Bermuda Bridge Federation (BBF) competes through Zone 5 by virtue of the following:
  - 1.2.1 ACBL approves BBF's request to compete internationally as a member of WBF's Zone 5 while maintaining ACBL affiliation as Unit 198 in District 2.
- 1.3 The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation competes through Zone 5 per its request to become an NBO of the WBF as a member of Zone 5 while maintaining ACBL affiliation.

See also Ch. VII – International Bridge, A. Zone 2 NBOs.

#### **Section 2 – Player Approval to Compete Internationally**

- 2.1 The authority to approve a player and/or non-playing captain (NPC) from Canada, Mexico and the US participating in World Bridge Federation or other international competition is hereby delegated to the Canadian Bridge Federation, Federación Mexicana de Bridge and United States Bridge Federation, respectively.
- 2.2 The player may be approved only if the player meets all Zonal Conference requirements as well as the particular Federation requirements.
- 2.3 Zone 2 requirements for nomination to represent a country in international competition are as follows:
  - 2.3.1 When an on-site accreditation committee is needed in the future, the ACBL WBF representatives shall automatically assume this responsibility. The most senior representative will serve as the chair.

- 2.3.2 An ACBL NBO may nominate a player for invitation to play in a WBF Championship only if he or she:
  - 2.3.2.1 is a citizen or a resident (per the appropriate Federation's regulations) of the United States, Canada, or Mexico, as appropriate;
  - 2.3.2.2 is a member in good standing of the United States Bridge Federation, Canadian Bridge Federation or Federación Mexicana de Bridge, as appropriate;
  - 2.3.2.3 meets WBF criteria and/or conditions for nominations;
  - 2.3.2.4 will not, at the time of the event, be under suspension from ACBL or any other NBO;
  - 2.3.2.5 will not, at the time of the event be under ACBL or ABA Probation where the period of such probation was more than 90 days; and/or
  - 2.3.2.6 has not been specifically excluded from playing in such event by an appropriate disciplinary body under ACBL or ABA jurisdiction
- 2.4 The authority for selecting and subsidizing athletes who represent an ACBL country in international bridge competition rests with that country's Federation.
- 2.5 No member shall be permitted to represent any NBO belonging to the ACBL or Zone 2 of the WBF who has been expelled for cheating, or who has resigned to avoid possible disciplinary action on charges of cheating, for at least 10 years following readmission and an application for permission has been approved by at least 75% of the ACBL Board of Directors present and voting.

### **Section 3 – International Fund Monies**

- 3.1 All International Fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned events conducted by the 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 the 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 respective Federations to be disbursed at their discretion.

- 3.2 Money raised by and from ACBL-sanctioned events for the benefit of the International Fund shall be divided among and disbursed to members of all teams representing that Federation at the sole discretion of the Federation.

See also Ch. VII – International Bridge, C. International Fund, Section 2 – International Fund Monies.

#### **Section 4 – Junior Fund Monies**

- 4.1 As approved by the ACBL Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation, an all-inclusive Junior Fund was established. (See also Ch. I Membership, I. Juniors, Section 3 – Junior Fund Games.) All funds derived from Junior Fund games held in North America shall be held by the ACBL. In accordance with regulations established by the ACBL Board of Directors, the Junior Fund shall be used to finance Junior programs and activities, promote the game of bridge to Juniors and allocate funds to Junior teams representing NBOs located in WBF Zone 2 in Junior/Youth World Championship events (as defined by the WBF), including University World Championship events. ACBL management shall indicate income and expenses for Junior/Youth activities as separate line items in the budget and financial statements. Funds derived from Junior Fund Games will be used only to fund activities and programs limited to Junior and Youth players.
- 4.2 It will be the duty of ACBL management to research and determine the feasibility of amounts determined to be reasonable expenses. ACBL management shall present its report and recommendations to the ACBL Board at its Summer Board meeting for approval.  
  
The Junior Fund shall financially support teams representing NBOs located in WBF Zone 2 for World Championship events only. Funding will be made as equally as possible on a per team basis to all NBO teams.
- 4.3 Any person under the age of 19 receiving a subsidy must be a high school graduate, have received a high school equivalency certificate or be a student attending school and making orderly progress toward graduation.
- 4.4 All Juniors receiving a subsidy shall be held to the ACBL Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy and Code of Conduct developed by ACBL management and In-House Counsel.
- 4.5 Teams receiving subsidies from the Junior Fund must ensure that all members of the team play sufficient boards to be eligible for medals won by the team unless there are physical, extenuating circumstances.

## **Section 5 – ACBL Sanctioned Events Regarding Federations**

- 5.1 The BBF, CBF, FMB and the USBF may hold an annual ACBL-sanctioned, national championship in each of the following categories:
- a. Open team
  - b. Women's team
  - c. Senior team
  - d. Open pairs
  - e. Women's pairs
  - f. Junior team
- 5.1.1 The National finals shall be Regional-rated (Regional-rated red and gold points unless otherwise indicated in the ACBL Masterpoint Awards Rules & Regulations (a/k/a Masterpoint Book)). Qualification events, if any, shall be Sectional-rated (black points).
- 5.1.2 Sanction fees shall be as follows:
- 5.1.2.1 The then current Regional sanction fee for the National finals, and
  - 5.1.2.2 \$1.00US/table/session for any stage of the championship conducted prior to the National final.
- 5.1.3 If the National finals of any of the championships listed in subsection 5.1(a)-(f) above are not held concurrently with an ACBL Regional or Sectional tournament, each NBO may conduct ACBL-sanctioned Sectional-rated black point events concurrent with the National finals. The sanction fee for such an event(s) is \$1 US/table/session.
- 5.1.4 The Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through, and reporting the results to, the ACBL Tournament Department.
- 5.1.5 The championship may be flighted by ACBL masterpoints.
- 5.2 Each National Bridge Organization in WBF Zone 2 may conduct an ACBL-sanctioned event (Trials) to qualify a team or teams to represent the Federation's country at a World Bridge Federation or Olympic Championship in an appropriate category such as Open, Senior, Junior, Women or Men, etc.
- 5.2.1 The sanction fee for any such event is \$2 US per entered team, except that such fee is waived for Junior Trials.
  - 5.2.2 The masterpoint award is determined by the ACBL Board of Directors.

- 5.2.3 Should a national championship as provided in subsection 5.1 above be used to determine the Federation's representative, subsection 5.1 fees shall not apply. The fees and masterpoint award in accordance with this subsection 5.2 will apply.
- 5.2.4 The Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through and reporting the results to the ACBL Bridge Administration Department.
- 5.3 ACBL shall be solely responsible for establishing sanction fees for International Fund Games sanctioned by ACBL.
- 5.4 Upon request, ACBL will sanction one Regional per year to the ACBL District of CBF's choice.

## **Section 6 – Miscellaneous Regulations Regarding Federations**

- 6.1 At the sole discretion of ACBL management, dues to or donations for an ACBL Federation can be placed on the ACBL membership and renewal forms.
- 6.2 A summary of disciplinary action(s) previously made public is available upon request to NBO governing bodies.