

CHAPTER VIII – NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

E. OPERATIONS

Section 1 – General Information

- 1.1 The designation "North American Championships" shall be changed to include the word "Bridge" (e.g., the 1987 Spring North American Bridge Championships). Units, Districts, etc., hosting a tournament shall be instructed to include the word 'bridge' in all signs and literature concerning the tournament in general.
- 1.2 The hand records used in any National-rated events shall be used only in those events. This applies to all sessions (qualifying and final).
- 1.3 Where feasible, the semi-finals and finals of the Reisinger, Spingold, Vanderbilt, Women's KO, Championship Flight of the GNT and other events as determined by ACBL management shall be shown on Vugraph.
- 1.4 All pair events at a NABC will have two hospitality breaks per session of at least five minutes.
- 1.5 Bidding boxes will be used in all events at NABCs.
- 1.6 ACBL management is authorized to adjust starting times for any event of which any part appears on Vugraph.
- 1.7 The distribution of fliers or brochures promoting any product or service not directly related to bridge tournaments and other bridge events at NABCs must be approved by ACBL management.
- 1.8 Electronic Devices
 - 1.8.1 The electronic device policy at NABCs allows players to bring electronic devices into the playing area. Except for health-related equipment and/or by permission of the Director-in-Charge of the tournament, all such devices must be inoperable and turned off.
 - 1.8.2 Any device capable of either sending or receiving electronic signals must not be visible during the session.
 - 1.8.3 This policy applies to all pairs, team members, captains, coaches, play recorders and kibitzers with the exception of those persons designated by the ACBL. This policy is in force throughout any actual playing session or segment of play.

1.8.4 A violation of the policy will result in an automatic penalty, pursuant to Law 91 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, of one full board at matchpoints/ Board-a-Match, 12 IMPs at IMP Pairs/knockouts or 20% maximum of VPs available per match at Swiss Teams for the first offense. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event for the pair/team. Kibitzers violating this policy will be required to leave the playing area for the remainder of the session.

1.9 Small Children or Pets in Playing Area

1.9.1 Non-participating children under the age of six and pets are not allowed to remain in the playing area of NABC tournaments during play and for 15 minutes before and after play, subject to the following exceptions and restrictions.

1.9.2 The tournament DIC shall grant an exception to a player (a “player/owner”) with disabilities who brings a working service dog (“WSD”) to the playing area if the player/owner provides credible evidence to the DIC that his or her WSD performs tasks. The only questions which the DIC may ask are: “Is that a service dog?” and “What tasks does the service dog do?” The DIC may *not* ask questions regarding the player/owner’s disability or request certification or proof of the WSD’s training.

1.9.3 The tournament DIC shall grant an exception to a player/owner who brings an emotional support animal (“ESA”) to the playing area if the player/owner submits to the DIC a formal letter of prescription from a licensed mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, counselor or social worker) which indicates the necessity of use of an ESA by the player/owner. The DIC may *not* ask questions regarding the player/owner’s emotional status or request certification or proof of the ESA’s training.

1.9.4 The WSD or ESA must remain on a leash in a sitting or lying position within three feet of the player/owner or in a kennel within three feet of the player/owner during the game.

1.9.5 The WSD or ESA must wear identification indicating that the dog is a service dog or support animal.

1.9.6 The DIC may exclude a WSD or an ESA from the playing area when the behavior of such dog or animal, in the judgment of the DIC, poses a direct threat to the health or safety of persons in the playing area.

- 1.9.7 The player/owner must clean up (or assure that clean-up is performed) after his or her WSD or ESA. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be documented by the DIC and may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

- 1.10 When there is a Vugraph presentation at a NABC, the room with the presentation shall be called the Peter Pender Memorial Vugraph Theatre.

- 1.11 There shall be a strictly enforced Closed Room during the last three rounds of NABC+ knockout events. With the exception of a tournament official, no person may enter or leave at any time without an authorized escort.

- 1.12 Dress Code
 - 1.12.1 Informal or casual dress is acceptable and appropriate at NABCs. While specific standards would be difficult to both formulate and enforce, conformity to generally acceptable standards of decency and cleanliness is expected.

 - 1.12.2 Tournament Directors may, subject to consultation with the DIC, refuse to sell an entry to a person or persons inappropriately dressed. Subject to consultation with the DIC, Tournament Directors may remove from the tournament area anyone who is inappropriately dressed.

- 1.13 Smoking Policy at NABCs
 - 1.13.1 Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is not permitted in the playing area during any bridge playing event at a NABC. This includes electronic smoking devices.

- 1.14 ACBL management is instructed to remind Tournament Directors to refrain from placing hand records on the table prior to game time and prior to all players being seated.

- 1.15 ACBL management is authorized to adjust starting times for any event of which any part which appears on PenderGraph.

Section 2 – Goals for a NABC

- 2.1 Mission Statement: ACBL will conduct North American Bridge Championships utilizing efficient and profitable methods while providing outstanding playing facilities, excellent value, unsurpassed service, and geographic accessibility to the most possible members.

- 2.2 The ACBL holds NABC's in order to:
- 2.2.1 provide ACBL members an opportunity to play in a NABC.
 - 2.2.2 serve a broad spectrum of the ACBL membership.
 - 2.2.3 provide a convenient location for a large number of players while rotating the tournament.
 - 2.2.4 provide ACBL members satisfaction with the complete NABC experience.
 - 2.2.5 provide a source of revenue for the ACBL.
 - 2.2.6 provide promotional opportunities to attract new and social players to duplicate bridge.
 - 2.2.7 provide a tournament that maximizes the prestige, excitement and fun of a tournament experience.
 - 2.2.8 provide an environment of cooperation between ACBL and local Units and Districts.

2.3 Location Guidelines

- 2.3.1 A site for a NABC may be proposed only by ACBL management and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 2.3.2 Every effort will be made to rotate to the following cities every six years due to their popularity: Orlando; San Diego; San Francisco; Toronto; Washington, DC, Las Vegas and the state of Texas.
- 2.3.3 ACBL management and the Advisory Committee, if any, will consider additional cities that meet NABC criteria.

See also Ch. VIII – NABCs, B. Sites, Section 1 – Site Selection.

2.4 Rotation Guidelines

- 2.4.1 An effort be made to rotate NABC's throughout the three zones (East, Central and West). Location has a higher priority than rotation.

2.5 NABC History

2.5.1 ACBL management will maintain a spreadsheet that shows the history of NABC's that includes financials, table count and hotel room pick-up data.

2.6 Host Hotel

2.6.1 A host hotel is one with which the ACBL has established direct contracts for a NABC.

See also, generally, Appendix 8A *North American Bridge Championships*