



IS THIS AN AUTOMATIC REVIEW OR APPEAL OR BOTH Automatic Review

CHECK THE APPELLANT (party who filed the appeal)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Disciplined Party	Paul Rizza	ACBL #	L957160	Disciplined Party	Jo Watson	ACBL #	5888336
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charging Party	Joseph Jones	ACBL #	5399696	Location of Hearing	Web-Conference using Zoom		
Appellate Body		Appeals and Charges Committee				Date of Hearing	02/17/2022	
Original Disciplinary Body		Online Ethical Oversight Committee				Date of Hearing	12/2/2021	
Original Complainant		Robb Gordon	ACBL #	K652927	Effective date of the CDR consulted		August 15, 2020	

DISCIPLINE BEING APPEALED OR REVIEWED

Disciplined Party	Discipline	Beginning Date	Ending Date
Both Parties	Suspension, 2 years	01/16/2022	01/15/2024
Both Parties	Probation, 2 years	01/16/2024	01/15/2026
Both Parties	Forfeiture of all Masterpoints earned playing together online	09/02/2020	01/11/2022
Both Parties	Member Not in Good Standing	01/16/2022	01/15/2026
Additional comments or description regarding discipline being appealed or reviewed			
Excluded from playing together as partners in ACBL sanctioned events during probationary period.			

BASIS FOR APPEAL (skip this section if this is an Automatic Review)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision not supported by the weight of evidence.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedures were inconsistent with CDR which affected the substantial rights of Appellant or undermined the confidence in the integrity or fairness of the disciplinary process.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discipline inappropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	One or more person(s) on the hearing panel had bias (objection to such bias was raised at the hearing).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO REVIEWED THE MATTER OR HEARD THE APPEAL

Name	ACBL #	Name	ACBL #
A.J. Stephani, Chairman	Q368694	Jeff Overby	O879926
Dennis Carman	O828450	Laurie Rowe	P508832
Deana Liddy	P205082	Larry Sealy	P541643
		Tim White	M029585

ALSO PRESENT (include web-conference (WC), in person (P), telephonic (TP), etc. and include their capacity as witness, expert, etc.)

Name	ACBL #	Via	Capacity	Name	ACBL#	Via	Capacity
David Pearlman	K999285	WC	Adv-Charging P				
Paul Rizza	L957160	WC	Charged Party				
Jeff Edelstein	O200338	WC	Observer				

N/A

COMMITTEE FINDINGS OF FACT (based on the evidence, state the committee’s conclusion as to what happened)

In the matter of Paul Rizza and Jo Watson, the Committee upheld the finding of the OEOC Panel that they violated CDR § 301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating: Other. The Committee also upheld the discipline recommended by the OEOC Panel, with modifications as described below. Accordingly, they will be Suspended for 2 years, followed by a 2-year Probation period, and an Exclusion from playing together as partners in any ACBL sanctioned event during their Probation. The Committee uses the OEOC date of 1/16/22 as the date on which their Suspension begins. They will be Members “Not in Good Standing” during the length of their Probationary period.

See additional explanation in Attachment A.

DECISION OF APPELLATE COMMITTEE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Remanded for rehearing	Disciplinary Body expected to rehear.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision of the original hearing committee is upheld.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision of the original hearing committee is amended as described below:		
	Discipline	Beginning	Ending
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reprimand	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Probation		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suspension		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	N/A	N/A
	Please describe other decision below:		
	The Committee modifies the OEOC recommendation that the Charged Parties "forfeit all MPs earned together during their online play beginning on the date of their first player memo, September 2, 2020" and imposes a forfeiture of 10% of their total Masterpoints. As the Committee has noted multiple times in prior hearing reports, attempting to surgically excise specific Masterpoints won illicitly comes with its own set of problems, and the A&C Committee notes that CDR’s recommendation of a fixed percentage of total Masterpoints is a suitable approach. We strongly urge all ACBL Disciplinary Committees to adopt this method in future cases.		

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED (CHAIRMAN)

/s/ A.J. Stephani		Date:	03/04/2022
Electronic Signature (type name above)	Wet Signature (sign above)		