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**PANEL REPORT
 NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION REVIEW
 BEFORE THE APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE**

Date of Review	5/16/2024		Case No.	2024-ACBL-68				
CDR Version	2/1/2024	CDR Violation	<p>301(B)(1): Score Alteration. "Score alteration" is any revision of a reported result, or the score assigned to that result, not expressly approved by the DIC or his authorized representative, including changes made to scores or results in any form or by any means other than those accurately reflecting what occurred in actual bridge play at the table.</p> <p>301(B)(2): Submitting False Information to ACBL. A charge under this section requires the knowing submission of false information for the purpose of changing the outcome of a competition or event eligibility. This section requires that false information be submitted to an ACBL Official or Disciplinary Body, which do not include ACBL sanctioned clubs. False information submitted to the ACBL for reasons unrelated to bridge competition are Administrative Violations charged under the CDR.</p>					
Disciplined Party	Steve Kaessner		ACBL #	N492521	District	20	Unit	457
Disciplined Party	N/A		ACBL #	N/A	District	N/A	Unit	N/A
Disciplined Party's Advocate	N/A		ACBL #	N/A				
Charging Party	McKenzie Myers		ACBL #	Q799024				
Charging Party's Advocate	Jeff Edelstein/Justin Coniglio		ACBL #	O200338/Q809461				
Panelists	Larry Sealy		ACBL #	P541643				
	Tim White		ACBL #	M029585				
	Jackie Zayac		ACBL #	P386273				



SUMMARY OF REVIEW:

The Panel reviewed the following documents: Negotiated Resolution, Membership Profile, Charge Letter, Recorder Complaint, and a written submission from the Charged Party.

Players expect our games to be run fairly and our directors to have the utmost integrity. The Panel recognizes that this violation was not for personal gain nor done out of malice. However, scoring changes deprived some players of Masterpoints® they legitimately earned and rewarded others with MPs they did not deserve. This egregious action damages the integrity of our game. We see no mitigating factors that justify such a large deviation from the recommended discipline in the CDR.

Therefore, the Panel unanimously rejected the Negotiated Resolution agreed to by the Charged Party and ACBL Management for violating CDR 301(B)(1): Score Alteration and 301(B)(2): Submitting False Information to an ACBL Official (CDR effective February 1, 2024). The Panel provided the following conditions for acceptance:

- 90 Days' Suspension
- 180 Days' Probation
- Prohibition against directing any ACBL-sanctioned tournament event during the entirety of the probationary period

ADMISSION OF VIOLATION:

Mr. Kaessner provided the following admission:

"I took it upon myself to impartially but illegally adjust the scores of C Strat players to create ties in the results of ACBL pair games that allowed for additional C Pairs to place in the standings."

DISCIPLINE IMPOSED:

	Discipline	Start Date	End Date	Comments
x	Suspension, 90 days	5/1/2024	7/29/2024	
x	Probation, 180 days	7/30/2024	1/25/2025	
x	Prohibition against directing at any ACBL-sanctioned tournament during the entire probationary period.	5/1/2024	1/25/2025	

/s/ *Larry Sealy*, Appeals and Charges Committee, Chair

Dated: May 16, 2024