

**ACBL Board of Directors**  
**Online meeting via Zoom Webinar**  
**April 8, 2021**  
**Special Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Thursday, April 8 at 12:05 p.m. CST.

Present: Leo Weniger #1, Flo Belford #2, Brett Kunin, First Alternate #3, Joann Glasson #4, Brian Ellis #5, Margot Hennings #6, Mike Kovacich #7, Georgia Heth #8, Jeff Overby #9, Larry Sealy #10, AJ Stephani #11, Dennis Carman #12, Suzi Subeck #13, Deana Liddy #14, Warren Smith #15, Paul Cuneo #16, Cindy Shoemaker #17, David Johnson #18, Tim White #19, Laurie Rowe #20, Stu Goodgold #21, David Lodge #22, John Jones #23, David Moss #24, and Bob Bertoni #25.

Absent: Carlos Muñoz #3

Also Present: Doug Couchman, Board of Governors Chair, Joe Jones, Executive Director, Peyton Dodson, Director of Finance, Linda Dunn, In-House Counsel, Greg Coles, Director of Bridge Services, Mary Stratton, Director of Marketing, Susie Cordell, Director of Information Technology, Stephanie Threlkeld, Marketing Manager, Robb Gordon, National Recorder, and Kelley Trejo, Executive Secretary.

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**Approval of Minutes**

The March 10 - 12, 2021 regular Board meeting minutes were approved.

Carried Abstain: 10, 23

**Item 21S3-03: Online Ethical Oversight Committee**

Rick Rowland was appointed to the Online Ethical Oversight Committee (OEOC) to fulfil the remaining term of Greg Humphreys, which term will expire Summer 2022.

Carried unanimously

<b>APPEALS &amp; CHARGES COMMITTEE</b>
Stephani (C), Overby (VC)
Carman, Hennings, Liddy, Rowe, White
Staff: Gordon

As reported by Committee Chair

### **Item 21S3-01: Report on Hearings**

In the matter of Mark and Larisa Rappaport, the A&C Committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) §301(A)(2), Collusive Cheating: Other. They each agreed to a Suspension of 180 days, beginning November 14, 2021, followed by a Probation of two years and a forfeiture of all masterpoints® won from May 1, 2020 until the effective date of the discipline. They will not be members in good standing through the end of their probationary periods.

In the matter of Dennis Blackketter, the A&C Committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which he admitted a violation of CDR § 301(A)(2), Collusive Cheating: Other. He agreed to a Suspension of 180 days, beginning April 14, 2021, followed by a Probation of two years and a forfeiture of all Masterpoints won from May 1, 2020 until the effective date of the discipline. He will not be a Member in Good Standing through the end of his Probation.

In the matter of Nancy Motlong, the A&C Committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which she admitted a violation of CDR § 301(A)(2), Collusive Cheating: Other. She agreed to a Suspension of 90 days, beginning April 14, 2021, followed by a Probation of one year and a forfeiture of all Masterpoints won from May 1, 2020 until the effective date of the discipline.

In the matter of Jeffrey and Maureen Stewart, the A&C Committee upheld the OEOC decision finding them responsible for violating CDR 3.20: Cheating and Other Ethical Violations. Citing E19 of the former Appendix B, the OEOC Panel recommended they receive no suspension, a Probation of two years, an Exclusion from playing in online ACBL games for 6 months, and no forfeiture of masterpoints. The A&C Committee agrees that the circumstances of this case merit a significantly lighter discipline than is typical for ethical violations of 3.20 in other cases. However, the A&C Committee believes that, having upheld the OEOC Panel's determination that a Cheating violation had been proved, *some* kind of suspension is warranted. Accordingly, it imposed a Suspension of 90 days, beginning on or about April 17, 2021 (five days after the date of the Notice of Decision), followed by a Probation of two years and a forfeiture of all Masterpoints won from June 25, 2020 until the effective date of the discipline. They will be members "Not in Good Standing" through the end of their Probation.

In the matter of Antonio Cioffi and Rick Schneider, the A&C Committee upheld the OEOC decision finding them responsible for violating CDR 3.20: Cheating and Other Ethical Violations. Citing E19 of the former Appendix B, the OEOC Panel recommended a Suspension of two years, lifetime Probation, an Exclusion from playing in any online ACBL game for five years following the Suspension, an Exclusion from playing together as partners in any ACBL sanctioned event for 10 years following the Suspension, and forfeiture of all Masterpoints "earned in the 12 months preceding the last date that they earned masterpoints as a pair in any online ACBL games."

In this matter, the A&C Committee understands the need to deter unethical conduct. However, given the absence of any prior discipline of the Charged Parties or player memos concerning the Parties on file from the past 10 years, the relatively short duration of time over which the unethical behavior occurred (four days), and the level of the events (SYC black MP games) in which the unethical behavior occurred, the A&C Committee believes that a discipline commensurate with past

disciplines in similar cases is appropriate. Accordingly, it imposed Suspension of two years, beginning on or about April 17, 2021 (five days after the date of the Notice of Decision), followed by a Probation of five years, an Exclusion from playing together as partners in any ACBL sanctioned event during the length of their Probation, and a forfeiture of all Masterpoints won from June 10, 2020 until the effective date of the discipline. They will be members “Not in Good Standing” through the end of their Probation.

The report of the Appeals and Charges Committee was received, and its decisions ratified by the Board.

<b>BYLAWS COMMITTEE</b>	
Stephani (C), Weniger (VC) Goodgold, Johnson, MacPherson	Staff: Dunn
As reported by Committee Chair	

**Item 21S3-02: Bylaws Amendment Regarding Board of Governors**

In accordance with discussions with the ACBL Board of Governors on January 17, 2021, the ACBL Bylaws shall be amended as follows:

ARTICLE IX  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 9.1 **Purposes.** The purposes of the Board of Governors are:
- 9.1.1 To act as a forum for the expression of opinion by the membership.
  - 9.1.2 To identify the needs and concerns of the membership.
  - 9.1.3 To act as a liaison between members and both the Board of Directors and ACBL management to ensure the needs and concerns of the membership are addressed.
  - 9.1.4. To improve communication and coordination among Districts and Units.
- 9.2 **Duties.** To further these purposes, the Board of Governors shall:
- 9.2.1 Establish the following standing committees:
    - i) Club and teacher support, growth, and development;
    - ii) Membership growth and retention;
    - iii) General matters relating to the play of bridge.
  - 9.2.2 At the request of the Board of Directors and/or ACBL management, lead or participate in other committees as needed.

- 9.2.3 Establish such other committees as are necessary to address the interests of the membership.
- 9.2.4 Propose resolutions for consideration (and, if necessary, reconsideration) by the Board of Directors reflecting the needs and concerns of the membership.
- 9.2.5 Report important issues from Board of Governors meetings to District and Unit members.
- 9.2.6 Perform such other duties as may be specified elsewhere in these Bylaws or as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or ACBL management.

9.3 **Membership.** The following shall make up the membership of the Board of Governors.

- 9.3.1 Effective January 1, 2024, there shall be three Representatives from each District who shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.
- 9.3.2 All persons who were members of the Board of Governors as of January 1, 2021 by virtue of their former status as First or Second Alternate Director to the Board of Directors shall remain members of the Board of Governors until one year following the date on which their terms would otherwise expire or until they resign or are deemed to have resigned. If a member referred to in this provision resigns or is deemed to have resigned before January 1, 2024, he or she will not be replaced on the Board of Governors. No further elections shall take place for these positions.
- 9.3.3 All persons who were members of the Board of Governors as of January 1, 2021 by virtue of their former position of President of the Board of Directors shall maintain their membership (subject to subsection 9.7.3). If, by virtue of subsection 9.7.3 such member is deemed to have resigned, he or she will not be replaced on the Board of Governors.
- 9.3.4 All past Chairs of the Board of Governors shall also be members (subject to subsection 9.7.3). If, by virtue of subsection 9.7.3, such member is deemed to have resigned he or she will not be replaced on the Board of Governors.
- 9.3.5 All other members of the Board of Governors as of June 1, 2021 shall maintain their membership on the Board of Governors until their terms expire (subject to subsection 9.7.3). If a member's term extends beyond January 1, 2024, his or her membership shall be counted in the three Representatives referred to in subsection 9.3.1. If a member referred to in this provision is deemed to have resigned in accordance with subsection 9.7.3 at any time that member will be replaced in accordance with subsection 9.3.7.
- 9.3.6 Each Representative must:
  - i) be a member in good standing of the ACBL; and

- ii) be a member of a Unit located within the District which he or she represents and must remain a member of a Unit located with the District during their term.
- 9.3.7 If a vacancy referred to in subsection 9.3.5 occurs in any District, the President of the District shall be immediately notified and the District shall appoint a replacement member for the duration of the term of the member.
- 9.3.8 No member of the Board of Directors shall have a voice or vote on the Board of Governors.
- 9.4 **Officers.** The following shall be the officers to be selected from the membership of the Board of Governors:
- 9.4.1 Chair, who shall be responsible to Chair all meetings, make appointments to committees, attend all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors with voice but without vote and with the same compensation and reimbursement of expenses as a member of the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as the position requires.
  - 9.4.2 Vice-Chair, who shall be responsible to assist the Chair in the execution of duties, to perform the duties of Chair should the Chair be unable for any reason and to perform such other duties as the Chair requires.
  - 9.4.3 Secretary, who shall be appointed by the Chair and approved by the Board of Governors. The Secretary shall be responsible to give timely notice of all meetings, take minutes of all meetings, monitor attendance at all meetings, distribute all correspondence to the membership of the Board of Governors and to perform such other duties as the Chair requires.
- 9.5 **Officer Elections and Term of Office.** At its Fall meeting in even numbered years, the Board of Governors shall elect one of its members as Chair and one as Vice-Chair. The term of office shall be two years commencing on January 1 of the year following the election. The Chair may be elected to no more than two consecutive terms.
- 9.6 **Voting Privileges.** Each Board of Governors member shall have one vote. No proxy voting is permitted.
- 9.7 **Meetings.**
- 9.7.1 The Board of Governors shall hold three regular meetings annually in conjunction with the North American Bridge Championships. Regular meetings may be held in person as well as electronically. A member will also be deemed to have attended a meeting if that person participates in the meeting in a manner that allows for contemporaneous communication. Notice of regular meetings shall be given by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Board of Governors. Notice of the date, time, method, and agenda of special meetings shall be given to each member of the Board of Governors at least thirty (30) days prior the meeting. Business transacted at special meetings shall be noted on the agenda furnished with the meeting notice. Special meetings may be held in person or electronically, but meetings held in person may also be attended electronically.

- 9.7.2 A quorum at a meeting of the Board of Governors shall consist of thirty (30) members of the Board of Governors representing a majority of ACBL Districts.
- 9.7.3 Any member who fails to attend two thirds of all meetings available electronically in a calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned and shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the Board of Governors until the next regularly scheduled election. The Chair may grant an exception in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Second reading, effective upon ratification by the Board of Governors  
Carried unanimously

The Board adjourned sine die at 1:11 p.m. CST.