

**ACBL Board of Directors
Online Meeting via Zoom Webinar
Special Meeting**

August 20 and 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Georgia Heth on Friday, August 20, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. CST in executive session.

Present: Leo Weniger #1, Flo Belford #2, Carlos Muñoz #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 Carole Weinstein #25.

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The Board reconvened into full Board open session at 2:43 p.m.

Also Present: Doug Couchman, Board of Governors Chair, Joseph 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, and Sabrina Goley, Administrative Coordinator.

Strategic Committee Chair Paul Cuneo presented the Strategic Committee's recommended proposal for operating during a transition period following the coronavirus pandemic. The Board engaged in a question-and-answer period regarding the ACBL's Visitor Policy. This was followed by a presentation from ACBL management regarding its views for operating during the transition period. BOG Chair Doug Couchman presented a synopsis of the consensus views from a series of BOG town halls that had been held the preceding week as well as his own transition proposal.

Following extensive discussion, the Board at 5:02 p.m. temporarily suspended the meeting until a later convenient date and time to be determined.

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The meeting was reconvened and called to order by President Georgia Heth on Wednesday, August 25 at 2:00 p.m. CST.

Present: Same as Friday, August 20, except Flo Belford #2 who was absent.

Also Present: Doug Couchman, Board of Governors Chair, Joseph Jones, Executive Director, Linda Dunn, In-House Counsel, and Sabrina Goley, Administrative Coordinator.

Having reviewed the proposals presented, Board members continued their discussion of plans that the Board would like to see put into place during a transition period following the coronavirus pandemic, including references to the various proposals put forward by Board members. Individual Board members were provided ample time to present their views and to offer arguments in support of them. Following discussion, the Board determined that there were three strategic goals for ACBL management to implement during a transition period whose end would be determined at a later date:

1. Support brick-and-mortar bridge clubs;
2. Provide bridge players with a place to play; and
3. Enforce the policies, the Visitor Policy in particular, that have been put into place.

In terms of supporting clubs, the Board discussed, among other things, supporting the return to face-to-face bridge play, providing special games, and eliminating the masterpoint[®] multiplier for online games. It was clarified that the goal of providing bridge players with a place to play did not mean a place to play at all times. Other suggestions covered how to determine the proper percentage of visitors to a club under the Visitor Policy, various ideas of how to handle “orphan players”, the assistance that could or should be provided by BBO, and ideas for supporting small clubs.

The President polled each District Director regarding their vote on each of the three goals. Goal #1 was adopted by a 21-3-0-1 vote, goal #2 by an 18-4-2-1 vote and goal #3 by a 23-1-0-1 vote.

APPEALS & CHARGES COMMITTEE

Stephani (C), Overby (VC),
Carman, Hennings, Liddy, Rowe, White

Staff: Gordon

As reported by Committee Chair

Item 21S6-01: Report on Hearings

In the matter of Attila Dagdeviren, the A&C Committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by Mr. Dagdeviren and ACBL management in which he admitted a violation of CDR §301(B)(9): Dumping. Mr. Dagdeviren agreed to a Suspension of 90 days followed by a two-year Probation.

In the matter of Yuri and Genny Lemeshev, the committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by the Lemeshevs and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of CDR §301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating: Other. They agreed to a Suspension of 180 days, followed by a two-year Probation, and a forfeiture of 10% of their total masterpoints. They will be members not in good standing during the length of their probationary period.

The Hearing Reports have been disseminated to the parties and, accordingly, the report of the Appeals & Charges Committee Chair was received by the Board.

ACBL Executive Director Joe Jones then updated the Board on the status of the Fall 2021 NABC scheduled to be held in Austin, TX and the implications of Travis County, Austin Public Health having declared the county in Stage 5, the highest of their COVID-19 Risk Based Guidelines. At Stage 5, the NABC could not be held. The Executive Director explained the process that ACBL management would use over the next month to six weeks in order to determine whether to hold the NABC (perhaps with a masking requirement) or cancel it due to the conditions in the county.

The Board also discussed with ACBL management the masking requirements at tournaments considering recent scientific guidance and the surge in the coronavirus Delta variant. The Board reconsidered its motion related to that issue that had been passed in July. They then provided the following guidance to ACBL management: until December 31, 2021, subject to change at any time, anyone who has received the required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine (under Health Canada, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or Mexico Ministry of Health guidelines) at least 14 days prior to their attendance at a bridge tournament may be required to wear a mask at said tournament if Health Canada, CDC, or Mexico Ministry of Health guidelines recommend this. This ACBL policy does not countermand any ordinance or law in effect at the site of the tournament. Tournament sponsors at their option would be free to put into place more stringent requirements.

Finally, the Board assigned to the Finance Committee the task of considering whether or not the ACBL should reimburse Districts and/or Units for losses due to tournament cancellations.

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The Board adjourned sine die at 4:27 p.m. CST.