

**ACBL Board of Directors
July 15-18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. ET.

Present: Jonathan Steinberg R1, Mark Aquino R2, Joann Glasson R3, Margot Hennings R4, Dennis Carman R5, Barbara Heller R6, Larry Sealy R7, Jeff Overby R8, Paul Cuneo R9, Cindy Shoemaker R10, David Lodge R11, Jackie Zayac R12, Tim White R13

Also Present: Advisory Council Chair Doug Couchman, Executive Director Bronia Jenkins, Director of Finance Jennifer Webster, Director of IT Marcin Waslowicz, Board Liaison Sabrina Goley, Jay Whipple

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Consent Calendar

The following items were included on the Board's consent calendar based on unanimous approval by the respective committee and/or the entire Board. The motions are included under the committee's report or under the general Board actions.

- 242-BD01: Approval of Minutes
- 242-BR01: Limited Regionals (Carman/Heller)
- 242-GV04: Revised Board Meeting Procedures—Adoption of Latest Interim Guidelines
- 242-GV06: Board Social Media Policy Referenced in the Codification
- 242-GV07: Remove Charity Foundation Bylaws from the Codification

Item 242-BD01: Board Minutes

The following minutes were approved:

- May 8, 2024, Special Meeting (CDR)
- June 8, 2024, Executive Committee (Executive Session)

Carried unanimously

Item 242-BD02: Online Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments

John Jones, Phil Clayton, Alex Kolesnik, Chris Moll, and Pam Wittes were appointed for a three-year term from the end of 2024 Summer NABC through the end of the 2027 Summer NABC.

Effective July 29, 2024
Carried unanimously

The Board convened into Executive Session from 9:08 a.m. – 10:08 a.m. Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, Sabrina Goley, Marcin Waslowicz and Jay Whipple were present during the Executive Session. The Board reconvened into open session at 10:09 a.m.

NABC SITE SELECTION/NABC BUSINESS MODEL

Also present: Lamya Agelidis and Manager of NABC Operations Chris Wiegand

Site Selection (Sealy):

Larry Sealy provided an update on the NABC site status for Summer 2027. During the Louisville meetings, the Board authorized the Executive Director, in consultation with the NABC Site Selection Committee, to proceed with either Chicago (Sheraton) or Las Vegas (Caesars). However, based on the site visit to Caesar’s and the cost implications of the Sheraton, both prior recommendations have been eliminated.

Sealy presented Rio Las Vegas to the Board as a viable alternative. The Rio is the preferred site due to its financial benefits, better proximity, more dining options, and favorable room and event terms. The Board approved the Rio as the Summer 2027 location by a majority straw poll vote.



Business Model (Aquino (C), Hennings, Overby, Sealy, Jenkins Waslowicz, Wiegand):

The NABC Business Model Task Force suggested focusing on the following strategies to ensure a more sustainable future for NABCs. All were further discussed during this meeting (see notes for Wednesday, July 17). Formal motions that reflect agreed-upon Management and Board initiatives will be made in the fall prior to implementing any of these strategies:

Understanding the Current Demographics

- **Age Distribution:** The current NABC attendees are predominantly in their 70s, with non-attendees also showing a similar age range. The majority of new ACBL members are older and attend fewer NABCs.
- **Masterpoint Levels:** Frequent NABC attendees typically have higher Masterpoints, while those who don't attend have lower Masterpoints.

Adapting to Changing Demographics

- **Venue Location Priorities:** Focus on venues with better walkability, safety, moderate weather, and attractive destinations. These factors are crucial for an aging population.
- **Reduced Reliance on Local Volunteers:** Simplify logistics and planning by reducing the need for local volunteers, which can be a barrier to hosting successful events. Local volunteers will continue to hold key positions on the Tournament Committee to ensure that there is a strong voice to instill local flavor and that local needs are addressed.

Attracting Younger Players

Incentives for Younger Players: Provide incentives such as free plays at NABCs for new memberships and renewals. Experiment with a new "National LM" that has attainable Masterpoint goals, with some points earned at NABCs.

Social and Marketing Outreach: Increase efforts in social media and other marketing channels to reach younger potential players and make the game more accessible and appealing to them.

Experimentation and Flexibility

Experimental Formats: Try new formats and schedules for NABCs, such as holding events over a single weekend or avoiding conflicts with major holidays like Thanksgiving.

Special Hotel Arrangements and Pre-Registration: Implement special hotel deals and require pre-registration to better manage attendance and provide a smoother experience for participants.

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

CHARITY FOUNDATION SPECIAL MEETING

Shoemaker (Trustee)

The ACBL Charity Foundation Special Meeting was called to order by Trustee Cindy Shoemaker at 12:50 p.m.

Charity Foundation Auxiliary Members Present: Jonathan Steinberg R1, Mark Aquino R2, Joann Glasson R3, Margot Hennings R4, Dennis Carman R5, Barbara Heller R6, Larry Sealy R7, Jeff Overby R8, Paul Cuneo R9, Cindy Shoemaker R10, David Lodge R11, Jackie Zayac R12, Tim White R13.

Also present: Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, Sabrina Goley, Marcin Waslowicz and Jay Whipple.

The Charity Foundation membership unanimously (13-0-0) approved the motion to amend the Charity Foundation Bylaws. (Attachment A).

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 12:57 p.m.

BRIDGE/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Carman (C), Aquino, Steinberg

Also present: Manager of NABC Operations Chris Wiegand

Item 242-BR01: Re-definition of Limited Regionals (on Consent)

Codification, Chapter IX – Regionals, A. Regional Tournament Sanctioning and Scheduling was amended as follows:

Section 1 – Regional Tournament Allocation

1.2 Each District is allocated four annual Regionals which may be Open or Senior. Each District is permitted to split one **Open/Senior** Regional. **In addition, a District is allocated five limited Non-life Master Regionals which may be any of the following. A District may also schedule one of the following per year:**

- a. Junior Regional
- b. Youth Regional

- c. **Collegiate Regional** ~~Non-Life Master Regional with an upper limit of 750 masterpoints~~

Effective January 1, 2025

Item 242-BR02: Change in GNT Stratifications

Prior to the Board voting on the original motions, BR02 and BR03 as stated below, Carman rejected a friendly amendment presented by Aquino to amend Flight C to include “non-life master.” Aquino then moved, and Heller seconded, a motion to include “non-life master” in the Flight C language. Aquino’s motion failed 1-12-0 (aye: Aquino).

Codification, Chapter XI – Special Events, B. Grand National Teams was amended as follows:

Section 1. Guidelines

- 1.2 The GNT competition will have four flights as follows:
- a. Championship Flight: 0-unlimited
 - b. Flight A: 0-6000 masterpoints
 - c. Flight B: 0-~~2500~~**3000** masterpoints
 - d. Flight C: **0-750 non-Life Master up to 500 masterpoints**

Effective September 1, 2024, to coincide with the start of the GNT 2024/2025 qualifying period. These flights will be in effect for the Summer NABC Finals of the Grand National Teams in July of 2025.

After much discussion about allowing Life Masters with fewer than 750 MPs to participate in the lowest flight, the Board was almost unanimous in its opinion that this was the best resolution to keep players interested in participating.

Carried Nay: R2 Aquino

Item 242-BR03: Increase Number of NAP Flights

Codification, Chapter XI – Special Events, C. North American Pairs was amended as follows:

Section 1 - Guidelines

- 1.2 The NAP competition will have ~~three~~ **four** flights as follows:
- a. ~~Flight A:~~ **Championship Flight:** 0-unlimited masterpoints

- b. Flight **A B**: 0-2500 **6000** masterpoints
- c. Flight **B €**: **0-3000** Non-Life Master up to 500 masterpoints
- d. Flight C: 0-750 Masterpoints**

Effective June 1, 2025 to coincide with the start of the NAP 2025 qualifying period, and re-labeling the flights to match the GNT nomenclature.

Carried Nay: R2 Aquino

Item 242-BR04: Masterpoints® for Concurrent Club Games

Through a 30-day notice of a minor change submission to the Board on June 16, 2024, the Masterpoint Committee clarified that virtual limited tables should not be counted concurrently with face-to-face (F2F) open games, as previously allowed during the COVID-19 reemergence. The Board supported the proposed change and amended Codification, Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games C. General Club Game Regulations as follows:

Section 1 - Incentive Programs for Clubs

1.2 Newcomer Game Incentives

- 1.2.1 Clubs holding newcomer games (an upper masterpoint limit of not more than 20) at the same time as an open, invitational or restricted game may include the newcomer game tables when computing awards for the open, masterpoint-restricted or invitational game.
- 1.2.2 If a club chooses to run a flighted game, tables in any restricted sections count toward club masterpoint awards for any unrestricted section in play at that club during that session (subject to the usual restriction for a rating point game, that the maximum awarded shall be 1.50). **Face-to-face games may count face-to-face concurrent limited tables at the same location with the same club sanction. Online games may count online concurrent tables with the same club sanction that start within 30 minutes of each other. Face-to-face venues may not count online tables, and online venues may not count face-to-face tables.** If there are two or more unrestricted sections, they shall share the credit for any other tables equally.

Effective July 29, 2024 (after the conclusion of the Summer NABC) and at least 30 days from the Notice of Minor Change required by Codification Chapter IV – Board Procedures, D. Committees, Section 5.8 – Masterpoint Committee, Section 5.8.1, to enact a change to masterpoint policies or procedures.

Carried unanimously

Item 242-BR05: 75-mile Radius Restriction on Special Games in Clubs (Motion Tabled)

The following change to Codification, Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games D. Club Championships and Special Events was proposed:

Section 2 - Scheduling Club Championships

2.1 When a Sectional (excluding STACs) or higher rated event is being conducted within ~~25~~ **75** miles of a club game’s playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regularly scheduled club master point games. This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals.

A friendly amendment to reduce the restriction from 75 to 45 was accepted by the motion-maker. As consensus was forthcoming, Aquino moved, and Overby seconded, to table the motion. The motion to table carried 8-5-0.

AUDIT COMMITTEE Overby (C), Carman, White

Overby reported that the audit was completed following the Spring NABC and the ACBL passed without qualification. In the upcoming meetings, the committee will focus on reviewing the ACBL charter to determine if any changes are recommended.

The Board adjourned at 2:35 p.m. for committee meetings for the remainder of the day.

The meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 9:02 a.m. ET.

Present: Same as July 15, 2024

Also Present: Same as July 15, 2024

STRATEGIC PLANNING Hennings, Cuneo, Aquino, Heller, Zayac

Strategic Overview

Cuneo presented an overview of the proposed strategic priorities:

- Membership Growth: Local marketing; engagement programs ("Come Play Cards," Ambassador Program); support for beginner teachers; diversify recruitment.
- Membership Retention: Set and track goals; initiatives like 5/5/5 and "8 is enough"; share best practices.
- Social Bridge Division: Subscription billing; monthly publications.
- Financial Stability: Increase online provider fee to \$4/table; develop VACB 2025 and ACBL Clubhouse.
- Cheating Prevention: Monitor and address cheating with technology and task force recommendations.
- Software Modernization: Improve applications (BackOffice, Entry Express, etc.).
- FTF and Online Bridge: Develop strategies for face-to-face and online bridge.

Membership Recruitment & Retention Task Force

Zayac (C), Shoemaker, Steinberg

Zayac provided updates on key initiatives for membership recruitment and retention:

Membership Initiatives (Jan-June 2024)

Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP)

- 27 campaigns: 430 students, 240 new members, 81 paid members.
- Cost per member acquisition: \$35.

Guest Members

- 3,852 former guest members became paid members.
- 1,031 guest members converted to paid members in 2024.

BOOST

- 32 guest members – 2 paid members (PLUS 77 current guest/paid members are taking the course).

Intro to Bridge

- Generated \$5,300 in Q1 from 184 students, 32 guest members, and 5 paid members.

Learn Bridge in a Day (LBIAD)

- 25% conversion rate to ACBL members.

Bridge Ambassador Program

- Events attracted 61 attendees to date.

Social Bridge Nights on Real Bridge

- Four events with 3 to 38 participants.

5/5/5 Program

- Minimum 5% distributed to 164 out of 288 units.
- 51 units exceeded 11%.
- 144 units received retention awards (maximum 2.5%).
- 110 units received recruitment awards (maximum 2.5%).

Jump Start Bridge

- Enrolled 1,245 students in school bridge programs nationwide.

Social Bridge Initiatives

- The Membership Recruitment & Retention Task Force is investigating the ability to create a social bridge division within the ACBL. They are working to identify a value proposition that will attract social players to F2F social games. They will be working with the Clubs Task Force to evaluate potential social opportunities at F2F clubs.

Scouting America Bridge Merit Badge

- Exploring a bridge merit badge for scouts.

Club Task Force

Heller (C), Cuneio, White, Jenkins

Heller presented a strategic plan for clubs focusing on three primary goals. In summary, the outline included:

Enhancing the ACBL Website for Club Managers

- Improve functionality and content on the Club Corner section.
- Add a Quick Reference Guide.
- Implement best practices and ensure easy access to needed information.

Surveying and Sharing Best Practices

- Conduct surveys to identify and compile best practices from face-to-face clubs.
- Encourage club participation in surveys to enhance effectiveness.
- Follow up on survey results to gather detailed best practices for the ACBL website.

Integrating Online and Face-to-Face Play

- Investigate methods to combine online teaching and playing with traditional club play.
- Facilitate various online play formats and collaborate with ACBL to innovate and educate players.

- Expand online special events and manage future contract negotiations for online play.

The Board convened into Executive Session from 10:44 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Doug Couchman, Bronia Jenkins, Jennifer Webster, Sabrina Goley, Marcin Waslowicz and Jay Whipple were present during the Executive Session. The Board reconvened into open session at 1:31 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE Shoemaker (C), Cuneo Zayac</p>

Shoemaker reported on the committee's ongoing efforts to streamline governance documentation, update policies and protocols, and enhance communication within the organization.

The presentation identified the Motions, Action Items, and Discussion Items that were developed for this meeting as follows:

Item 242-GV01: Regional Director Elections When No Declared Candidates (Motion Tabled)

The following change to Codification, Chapter III – Administration, D. Elections, Section 1 – Declaration of Candidacy was proposed:

1.1.4 If there are no declared candidates in an election year for the position of Regional Director, *the position will be declared vacant at the conclusion of the incumbent's term by the Director of Elections. Such vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the ACBL Bylaws. **the Director of Elections will so notify the Board of Directors. During its next regular meeting, the Board of Directors will, at its discretion, either:***

(a) declare the Regional Director position will become vacant for a period of one year upon the conclusion of the current Regional Director's term and will subsequently be filled (for a two-year term) by a Special Election to take place concurrently with other Regional Director elections scheduled for the following year; or

(b) certify extension of the incumbent Regional Director's term for a period of one year. and declare that the position will subsequently be filled (for a two-year term) by a Special Election to take place concurrently with other Regional Director elections scheduled for the following year.

Extensive discussion ensued, with little agreement on which process would be best. Shoemaker moved, and Overby seconded, to table the motion. The motion to table carried 13-0-0.

Item 242-GV02: Board Oversight Committee Members

The following change to Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, A. Administration was proposed to require election of Board Oversight Committee members rather than the Committee being comprised of Past Presidents and the most senior members:

Section 5 – ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code

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5.3 The Board Oversight Committee will consist of three members, the Vice- President as the committee chair and ~~the two most immediate past Board Presidents currently serving on the Board. If there are not any or a sufficient number of Past Presidents currently serving on the Board, then the Board member(s) with the longest tenure will serve.~~ **two other members of the Board (to be elected annually at the summer NABC meeting). Members who wish to submit their name must submit to management at least a week before the meeting. If no one submits, then nominations will be taken from the floor. An election will be had and any member who achieves a majority of votes will be elected. If only one member receives a majority, then that member is deemed elected and another vote will be held to determine the other member elected. Should no one receives the majority, then a revote will be taken once and if it is still not decided by majority, the decision will be determined by coin toss among the candidates on that ballot. Should there be more than one member equally eligible to fill any vacancy, the decision shall be made by coin toss.**

5.3.1 If any member of the committee is ineligible to serve because he is the subject of the complaint, or he recused himself or is otherwise disqualified, then temporary members will be ~~added~~ **elected** by a vote of the Executive Board. In case of a tie, a coin toss will determine the alternate. ~~Past Presidents currently serving on the Board, if any will be added as members, and if there is an insufficient number of past Presidents or they are still presently serving on the committee, then the Board member(s) with the longest tenure will fill any vacancy(s). Should there be more than one member eligible to fill any vacancy, the decision will be made by a coin toss.~~

Failed Aye: R1 Steinberg, R2 Aquino, R6 Heller, R8 Overby

Item 242-GV03: Role of the ACBL Board Executive Committee

The following changes to two sections of the Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures were proposed:

A. Administration

Section 5 – ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code

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5.3 The Board Oversight Committee will consist of three members, the Vice- President as the committee chair and ~~the two~~ **of the three at-large members of the Executive Committee (see Chapter IV, D. 1.1), selected by random draw, at the time the committee needs to be convened.** ~~most immediate past Board Presidents currently serving on the Board. If there are not any or a sufficient number of Past Presidents currently serving on the Board, then the Board member(s) with the longest tenure will serve. Should there be more than one member equally eligible to fill any vacancy, the decision shall be made by coin toss.~~

5.3.1 If any member of the committee is ineligible to serve because he is the subject of the complaint, or he recused himself or is otherwise disqualified, then ~~temporary members will be added~~ **the alternate Zonal representative for the ineligible member to the committee will fill in.** ~~Past Presidents currently serving on the Board, if any will be added as members, and if there is an insufficient number of past Presidents or they are still presently serving on the committee, then the Board member(s) with the longest tenure will fill any vacancy(s). Should there be more than one member eligible to fill any vacancy, the decision will be made by a coin toss.~~

D. Committees

Section 1 – Committees of the Board

1.1 Executive Committee

1.1.1 Purpose

1.1.1.1 The purpose of the Executive Committee is to transact business of a time-sensitive nature requiring immediate action between Board of Directors meetings. **Included in these actions is convening to address complaints that violate the ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code (see Chapter IV—Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 5).** The Executive Committee is answerable to

the Board of Directors and subject to its general direction. It will have additional powers as the Board may delegate to it from time to time, **as well as those requested by Management for disciplinary matters per the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.**

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1.1.2 Composition

- 1.1.2.1 The committee comprises the President of the ACBL, the Vice-President, and three ~~elected~~ **additional at-large** members of the Board of Directors. Both the President and Vice-President are ex-officio members with full voting rights.
- 1.1.2.2 The President of the ACBL is the chair of the committee. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President serves as chair of the committee. **In matters of Board Oversight and only in these matters, the President convenes the meeting, turns the Chair over to the Vice-President, and then recuses himself from further participation. Two of the three at-large members shall be selected by random draw to act in matters of Board Oversight.**

1.1.3 Term of Office

- 1.1.3.1 ~~Elected~~ **Appointed at-large** members serve a ~~three~~ **two**-year term beginning January 1.
- 1.1.3.2 An ~~elected representative~~ **appointed at-large member** is not eligible for **nomination by their respective Zone** to an immediate successive term.

1.1.4 ~~Election~~ **Nomination of At-large Members**

- 1.1.4.1 ~~One~~ ~~C~~**andidates** will be nominated by each of the three zones: Eastern (Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8); Central (Regions 1, 5, 7, and 9) and Western (Regions 10, 11, 12, and 13), and the Board will **approve** ~~elect from~~ these nominees.
- 1.1.4.2 Each zone will nominate an alternate representative to serve on the committee when the primary committee member is unavailable. Alternates will be nominated and **approved** ~~elected~~ in the same manner as the primary committee member.
- 1.1.4.3 In case an **approved** ~~elected~~ zonal member of the Executive Committee resigns, **is** removed from his position due to disciplinary

action, or his term as a member of the Board of Directors expires during his term as a member of the Executive Committee and he is not reelected to another term as Regional Director, the vacancy will be filled by the alternate zonal representative.

1.1.4.4 Directors from the affected zone will nominate a new alternate.

1.1.4.5 ~~Election~~ **Nomination and approval of the three at-large members of the Executive Committee** zonal representatives will be at the Fall meeting of the Board of Directors. **Candidates shall declare their interest in running for the Executive Committee before the deadline for the Fall Journal closes.**

This motion was expanded to include an alternative approach to election of Board Oversight Committee members in addition to clarifying existing language of Executive Committee members and their roles. The motion-makers will resubmit the clarifying language without reference to Board Oversight for consideration at the fall Board meeting.

Failed Aye: R2 Aquino, R7 Sealy

Item 242-GV04: Revised Board Meeting Procedures (on Consent)

Codification, Chapter IV - Board Procedures - C. Meetings was amended as follows:

C. Meetings

~~The Board of Directors will meet prior to each NABC, either online or at the site of the NABC.~~ **The ACBL Board of Directors will hold Regular meetings three times yearly in conjunction with the North American Bridge Championships.**

~~It is expected that each meeting will be no longer than three-and-a-half full days in duration, with committee work being done in advance. The length of each meeting will be determined by the ACBL President in consultation with ACBL management.~~

The ACBL Board President will consult with the ACBL Board of Directors to determine the start date of each regular meeting.

The ACBL Board President will consult with ACBL management to determine the duration of each Regular meeting.

Section 1 – ~~Attendance~~ Participation

1.1 ~~Providing space and other practical considerations permit, m~~ Meetings of the ACBL

Board of Directors will be open to any ACBL members **in good standing** with permission **from** the ACBL **Board** President.

- 1.2 ~~ACBL members~~ **Attendees** are excluded from Executive Sessions and **from disciplinary discussions deemed confidential.** ~~meetings concerning the Appeals and Charges Committee and other sensitive issues.~~
- 1.3 ~~ACBL members attending such meetings~~ **Attendees** will not participate in the proceedings unless requested to do so **by the ACBL Board President.**

Section 2 - Conduct of Meetings Meeting Agenda Guidelines

~~2.1 The Journal~~

~~2.1.1 The Journal is the name assigned to the formal group of motions to be considered at a meeting of the ACBL Board of Directors.~~

~~2.1.2 Any motion to be submitted for consideration at a future meeting must be sent to the ACBL Executive Director and/or his designee. Motions may be submitted by Board members, ACBL management or the Advisory Council (or members at a membership meeting) and should address policy matters. Anyone submitting a motion must use the template created by the Board. The cut-off date for submission of items for the Journal for “regular” Board meetings will be 30 days prior to each Board meeting and 12 days prior for “special” meetings per ACBL Bylaws.~~

~~2.1.3 As an initial step, motions for the Journal from Board members will be subject to screening by the appropriate committee chair (or vice-chair if the chair is unable to respond within five (5) business days) and the President. One of the following actions will be taken:~~

~~2.1.3.1 The motion will be approved as is for inclusion in the Journal.~~

~~2.1.3.2 The motion will be sent back to the maker for reorganization or rephrasing.~~

~~2.2 Agenda~~

~~2.2.1 Accepted motions~~

~~2.2.1.1 The agenda for each Board meeting consists of approved motions as well as draft meeting minutes, reports, and discussion items. The agenda will incorporate all pertinent discussion, comments and references. The agenda motions will be assigned by the President to the~~

~~appropriate committee or to the full Board.~~

~~2.2.1.2 Agenda items will be made available to each Board member as soon as approved. Board members will receive or be able to access the full agenda/Journal electronically approximately one week after the deadline for submission of motions.~~

~~2.2.1.3 The President, ACBL management, the Finance Committee and the Appeals and Charges Committee will be permitted to place financial or disciplinary items and similar matters on the agenda at any time.~~

~~2.2.1.4 Any motion submitted for the agenda with an anticipated cost or savings of more than \$10,000 will automatically be sent to the Finance Committee for input.~~

2.1 Regular Meetings

2.1.1 Notice of the dates of Regular meetings will be emailed to members of the ACBL Board of Directors, the Executive Director and the Advisory Council Chair at least 30 days before the first day meetings begin.

2.1.2 For Regular meetings, the deadline to submit Motions, Discussion Items and/or Action Items for consideration will be 8 am Central Time (CT) 15 business days before the first day meetings begin.

2.1.3 Submissions must be emailed to the ACBL Board President. The ACBL Vice President must be copied. The official email addresses for the ACBL Board President and for the ACBL Vice President can be found on the ACBL website.

2.1.4 The ACBL Board President will provide the ACBL Board of Directors, the ACBL Executive Director and the Advisory Council Chair an email notification of the date and the time of the submission deadline.

2.1.5 The templates for Motions, Discussion Items and Action Items must be used. The templates can be found on the Board's electronic document repository.

2.1.6 The ACBL Board President will screen submissions. At the completion of the screening process, the ACBL Board President will notify only those whose submissions have been rejected or require revisions. Reasons will be provided.

2.1.7 Motion makers will have the opportunity to turn rejected submissions into

Discussion Items that may be added to the meeting agenda at the discretion of the ACBL Board President.

2.1.8 Submissions that require revisions (or have been converted to Discussion Items or Action Items) must be re-submitted to the ACBL Board President by midnight Central Time (CT) ten business days before the first day Regular meetings begin.

2.1.9 Accepted Motions will be assigned to Committees and/or Task Forces for review and will be posted to the Board's electronic document repository.

2.1.10 The ACBL Board President, ACBL management, the Finance Committee and the Appeals and Charges Committee will be permitted to place financial or disciplinary items and similar matters on the agenda at any time.

2.2 Non-agenda Items

2.2.1 Motions, Discussion Items and/or Action Items that are submitted after the deadline may be presented at the start of a Regular or Special meeting of the ACBL Board of Directors as a Non-agenda Item or may be held for consideration at the next meeting of the ACBL Board of Directors.

2.2.2 A majority affirmative vote of the ACBL Board members present at the start of the meeting is required to consider a Non-agenda Item.

~~2.2.2.1 A motion received too late for inclusion in the agenda/Journal may be presented at the initial meeting of the Board as a non-agenda item motion. A majority affirmative vote of the Board members present is required to consider a non-agenda item motion.~~

2.2.3 No Non-agenda Item ~~motion~~ involving a potential financial impact in excess of \$10,000.00 will be introduced as a non-agenda item ~~motion~~ without either the approval of the Executive Committee or three days' notice to the Board. **To be considered, sSuch a motion will require a 2/3 vote of the Board members present for consideration. ~~(Effective January 1, 2020.)~~**

2.2.4 The template for Non-agenda Items must be used. The template can be found on the Board's electronic document repository.

2.3 Reconsideration Items

2.3.1 A M~~m~~otion acted upon by the Board may ~~only~~ be reconsidered at the same meeting ~~upon a motion for reconsideration~~ by a member of the Board who voted on the prevailing side. ~~and Subsequent approval of t~~The Motion to reconsider **must receive by a 2/3 vote of the Board members present. **to be approved.****

2.3.2 A Motion acted upon by the Board may be reconsidered at the next subsequent meeting ~~upon a motion for reconsideration made~~ by any member of the Board, ~~and subsequent approval of~~ The Motion to reconsider **must receive** by a 2/3 vote of the Board members present.

2.3.3 A Motion acted upon by the Board will be reconsidered at the next subsequent meeting if a request for reconsideration is submitted by the Advisory Council **Chair on behalf of the Advisory Council.**

~~2.4 Annual Actions~~

~~2.4.1 The President will be elected at each Fall meeting.~~

~~2.4.2 The General Conditions of Contest for all bridge events will be approved annually at the Summer meeting. This subsection shall not prevent actions by the Board of Directors, at other meetings, to resolve situations that must be addressed prior to the next Summer meeting.~~

~~2.4.3 The operating budget for the following calendar year will be approved at the Fall meeting.~~

2.4 Consent Calendar

2.4.1 The Chair of the Governance Committee will send a Consent Calendar to the ACBL Board of Directors, the ACBL Executive Director and the Advisory Council Chair no later than five (5) business days before the first day of regular meetings begin.

2.4.2 A Consent Calendar will be presented at the opening session of ~~the a Regular or Special Board~~ meeting for **Board** approval. If an item(s) ~~are~~ is removed from the ~~e~~Consent ~~e~~Calendar, ~~it~~ **Item(s)** will be considered by the full Board during the time assigned to the **respective** Committee(s) ~~for its other items to present its report at that meeting.~~

2.4.3 The Consent Calendar will be used to pre-approve the following:

- **Board meeting Minutes**
- **Presidential and National Committee appointments**
- **“Housekeeping” Motions**
- **Motions and/or Action Items that have been amended and unanimously approved by a Committee and/or Task Force to which the Motion(s) and/or Action Item(s) have been assigned.**

2.4.4 Committee and/or Task Force Chairs will notify the Governance Chair that a Motion and/or Action Item is eligible for the Consent Calendar.

2.4.5 If an ACBL Board member, the ACBL Executive Director and/or the Advisory Council Chair feel that an item(s) should be removed from the Consent Calendar, he should communicate the reasons to the appropriate Committee or Task Force Chair in advance of the meeting, so that questions can be answered and removal from the Calendar can be minimized.

~~2.5.2 Motions that are approved or refused unanimously by a committee with no substantive changes may be placed on the consent calendar.~~

~~2.5.3 Motions that have been amended by the committee and subsequently approved unanimously by that committee must be made available to the full Board no later than seven (7) days prior to the Board meeting in order to be placed on the consent calendar.~~

~~2.5.4 One vote is sufficient to remove a motion from the consent calendar. A Board member requesting removal of an item from the consent calendar should make their intention known to the committee chair and motion maker(s) prior to the commencement of the Board meeting so that informational questions are answered ahead of the Board meeting and removal from the consent calendar may be avoided.~~

2.5 Special Meetings

2.5.1 The notification for Special meetings will be sent to the ACBL Board of Directors, the ACBL Executive Director and the Advisory Council Chair 10 business days before the first day meetings begin.

2.5.2 The deadline to submit Motions, Discussion Items and/or Action Items for consideration at Special meetings will be 8 am Central Time (CT) five (5) business days before the first day meetings begin.

2.5.3 If there are Items eligible for Consent, the Chair of Governance shall notify expected attendees no later than three (3) business days in advance of the start of the meeting.

2.5.4 Special meetings will be limited in scope as the ACBL Board President will use additional avenues such as the Executive Committee and email voting to conduct business between Regular meetings.

2.5.5 Motions, Discussion Items and/or Action Items for consideration at Special

meetings will be posted to the Board's electronic document repository no less than two (2) days before the first day meetings begin.

2.5.6 If the Motions, Discussion Items and/or Action Items for considerations are posted less than two days before the Special meeting begins, the Special meeting may be postponed by a 2/3 vote of the Board.

Section 3 – Committees (Effective January 1, 2020-)

- 3.1 All Motions, except those designated for the full Board, will be referred by the President to the appropriate Committee Chair for consideration. Committee chairs have a responsibility to read Motions assigned to their Committee, respond to the Motion maker(s) and process the Motions in a timely fashion.
- 3.2 Committee Chairs should publish their electronic meeting schedule to the full Board at least three (3) days prior to such meetings and include an agenda of Motions to be considered at the meeting. ~~Board members who wish to express opinions on specific motions should endeavor to attend the committee meeting. If a Board member is unable to attend, he should let his position be known to the committee chair in writing before the committee meeting.~~
- 3.3 Once the Committee vote has been taken on a Motion, the Committee ~~C~~hair should complete a ~~C~~ommittee ~~D~~ecision ~~F~~orm which records any amendments, Committee recommendation, the vote and the arguments in favor of and against the Motion. This ~~F~~orm should be completed quickly after the ~~C~~ommittee meeting and posted to the ~~J~~ournal **Board's electronic document repository.**
- 3.4 The ~~chair of a C~~ommittee **Chair** or his designee is responsible for presenting his Committee's Motions to the Board as a whole for consideration or vote.
- 3.5 When bringing a Committee ~~M~~otion before the full Board, ~~C~~ommittee ~~C~~hairs should have available the following information: current policy, alternatives considered, objectives to be accomplished, discussion and financial impact.
- 3.6 The Board shall act upon each Committee's report, which shall include a recommendation on each Motion assigned to it for consideration. After the Committee Chair presents a Motion, Board members should only ask informational questions before the debate on the pros and cons. Debate should not be repetitive or argumentative.
- 3.7 No ~~M~~otion which has been substantively changed from the time its ~~presentation in the was posted to the Journal~~ **Board's electronic document repository** may be voted on by the Board until ~~a copy of~~ the revised and/or amended ~~M~~otion has been ~~made available reposted. in the Journal.~~

~~3.7.1 No motion or proposed amendments to motions may be substantively changed —presenting a new concept that is different— from the presentation in the Journal. However, an amendment that is not in conflict with the spirit of the original motion submitted, and yet still relevant to it, is in order. If there is any question whether or not a change is substantive, the ACBL President, chair of the appropriate committee will make the determination as to whether or not a revised motion or proposed Revised amendment is, in fact, a new concept that would reamendment is, in fact, a new concept that would require a new motion to be submitted to the Journal at a subsequent meeting.~~

~~3.8 Motions from Board members may be withdrawn by the maker(s) in their sole discretion at any time prior to presentation to the full Board. Motions may be withdrawn after presentation to the full Board with the consent of a majority of the Board. Motions are considered presented to the Board when they are brought forward for discussion by the chair of the committee to which they were assigned.~~

Item 242-GV05: Policy Regarding Official ACBL Publication

The Codification was amended as follows to identify the duties that shall be performed by its Editor and where the Editor has discretion to determine communication vehicles used to publish information deemed of value to membership:

Chapter I –Membership Operating Guidelines

B. Rankings, Masterpoints and Races

Section 3 – Masterpoint Races

....

3.1.10 Annual Top 25

The leaders ~~of these~~ **in the listed** categories ~~shall~~ **will** be published periodically, ~~in the Bridge Bulletin~~ in rotation with the publication of the leaders of other masterpoint races. ~~On all printed lifetime masterpoint lists, o~~ Online masterpoints will be included next to the total **on all published lifetime masterpoints lists but will**. ~~Online masterpoints~~ only count in the online race. **Players are placed in the proper category based on their Jan 1 masterpoint holding as follows:**

~~3.1.10.1 Beginning the year with~~ 500 – 1000; ~~points.~~

~~3.1.10.2 Beginning the year with~~ 1000 – 2500; ~~points.~~

~~3.1.10.3 Beginning the year with~~ 2500 – 5000; ~~points.~~

~~3.1.10.4 Beginning the year with~~ 5000 – 7500; ~~points.~~

- ~~3.1.10.5 Beginning the year with 7500 - 10,000; points.~~
- ~~3.1.10.6 Beginning the year with 10,000+. points.~~

G. Education

Section 1 – School Bridge Program

....

~~1.4 A \$5 Junior membership will be available to all players under the age of 26. (Effective January 2017)~~

~~1.4.1 In lieu of a hard copy of the monthly Bridge Bulletin, Junior members will have access to the Bridge Bulletin online via MyACBL.~~

H. Awards and Trophies

Section 2 - Trophy Assignment Policy

~~2.1 A list of all trophy winners shall be published annually in the Bridge Bulletin.~~

~~2.2 Articles about events that award a trophy should have a paragraph and short bio about the trophy and its donor when it is written up.~~

....

~~2.4 All trophies should be written up in the Daily Bulletin.~~

....

(renumber remaining section as needed)

Section 4 – Awards

~~4.1.5 An article about the honoree(s) will be published in the Bridge Bulletin.~~

~~4.2.6 An article about the honoree(s) will be published in the Bridge Bulletin.~~

~~4.3.4 An article about the honoree(s) will be published in the Bridge Bulletin.~~

4.6 An article about each honoree(s) will be published in the Bridge Bulletin.

Chapter II – Business Management

A. Finance

Section 3 – Management Functions

....

~~3.1.12 Publish the Bridge Bulletin and be responsible for its editorial content. The number of pages per issue, student supplements, NABC inserts, novice sections and any and all other decisions will be made by the Editor and the Executive Director.~~

~~3.1.13 Set reasonable and competitive prices for the Bridge Bulletin commercial advertising.~~

....

(renumber remaining section as needed)

D. ~~ACBL Bulletin~~ Official Publication of the ACBL

Section 1 - ~~Name~~ Bridge Bulletin

1.1 Bridge Bulletin. The Board of Directors designates ~~the~~ **the Bridge Bulletin is designated as the official publication of the ACBL (**hereinafter referred to as the Bulletin**). The Bridge Bulletin is published by ACBL Management. (Refer to ACBL Bylaws, Chapter XI Miscellaneous, 11.2 Publication).**

1.2 Editor Responsibilities. The Editor of the Bridge Bulletin is responsible for the contents and overall quality of the publication. Unless otherwise specified in section 1.3 below or under any other ACBL regulation, the Editor has the discretion to select the appropriate vehicles for communicating valuable information to the membership.

1.3 ~~2.1~~ Required Publication in the Bridge Bulletin.

1.3.1 ~~2.1.2~~ The Board of Directors Meeting page(s) contained in the **Bridge** Bulletin shall include a condensation of major enacted motions, actions and ACBL elections and appointments. Publication of the complete minutes is not required. The ACBL President (or designee) shall prepare the content and approve the layout before publication.

1.3.2 ACBL Charitable Recognition Award recipients and Goodwill Committee Members recipients, appointed by the District Presidents, will be recognized in the Bridge Bulletin. The Board of Directors and Advisory Council Chair will not be recognized in the publication.

Section 2 - Other Required Publications. ~~Content and Editorial Policy~~

2.1 Editor's Discretion. The Editor of the Bridge Bulletin has the discretion to choose the appropriate vehicles to communicate the following mandated publications as outlined in other sections of the Codification: ~~Subject to the following, the Editor of the Bulletin will be the sole judge of its content and editorial policy.~~

2.1.1 Masterpoint Races. Leaders and/or winners of the Masterpoint Races (see Ch. I, - Membership Operating Guidelines, B. Rankings, Masterpoints and Races.) ~~The final decision to publish or to not publish content that involves personnel and/or content that could affect the welfare of ACBL shall rest with the Executive Director.~~

2.1.2 Trophies. A list of all trophy winners shall be published annually. Articles about events that award a trophy should have a paragraph and short bio about the trophy and its donor. (see Ch. 1 – Membership Operating Guidelines, H. Awards and Trophies).

2.1.3 Honorees. An article about honorees shall be published. (see Ch. 1 – Membership Operating Guidelines, H. Awards and Trophies, Section 4 – Awards.)

Chapter IV – Board Procedures

A. Administration

Section 3 – Elections

3.2 Voting Procedures

3.2.1 All voting will be by secret ballot. Vote totals will be announced at the end of each round of voting. The final election results, including vote totals, shall be recorded in the official Board Meeting Minutes. Only the names of those elected and not the vote totals will be published ~~in the monthly Bulletin or in announcements on the ACBL website or other social media platforms.~~

C. Meetings

Section 5 – Minutes

~~5.2 To maximize the accessibility of Board actions, Board minutes will be included on the ACBL website and key actions will be published in the ACBL Bulletin.~~

Chapter V - Charity, Foundations, Special Funds

C. Unit and District Charity Games

Section 3 - District- and Continent-Wide Charity Games

- 3.1 Overall masterpoints will be awarded in continent-wide Charity Games and incontinent-wide International Fund Games that use hand records and for which national and District winners are determined ~~and published in the Bridge Bulletin.~~

Chapter VIII - North American Bridge Championships

D. Events/Schedules

Section 1 – National Rated Events

~~1.7.2—At the discretion of ACBL management, voluntary relinquishment may be published in the Daily Bulletin at an NABC and/or the monthly ACBL Bulletin.~~

(renumber remaining section as needed)

Chapter XI - Special Events

D. ACBL-wide and Other Special Games

Section 5 - District and ACBL-Wide Games

- 5.1 Overall masterpoints will be awarded in continent-wide Charity Games and incontinent-wide International Fund Games that use hand records and for which national and District winners are determined ~~and published in the Bridge Bulletin.~~

Additional Codification Clean up

Chapter I –Membership Operating Guidelines

C. Dues and Life Master Service Fees

~~Section 3 –Life Master Service Fees~~

~~3.1 Life Master Service Fees must be paid in order to be eligible for inclusion on any masterpoint race list, for inclusion on any Life Master upgrade list, to receive the Bridge Bulletin, to receive point confirmations, and to receive qualified monetary awards to attend an NABC or any other event for which ACBL provides a monetary award.~~

Effective July 18, 2024

Carried Abstain: R5 Carman

Item 242-GV06: Board Social Media Policy (on Consent)

Codification Chapter IV - Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 5 -- ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code, Section 5.5 was amended as follows:

....

5.5 Offenses for which Board members may be referred to the Board Oversight Committee include, but are not limited to:

5.5.10 Violations to the Board Social Media Policy. This document is available in the Board’s electronic document repository and is revised as appropriate.

Effective July 18, 2024

Item 242-GV07: Removal of ACBL Charity Foundation Bylaws from the Codification (on Consent)

Codification was amended as follows:

Codification Table of Contents

~~Appendix 5-A~~

Chapter V – Charity, Foundations and Special Funds

A. Administration and Policy Regarding Charity

Section 1 – ACBL Charity Foundation and ACBL Educational Foundation (removed per Board motion – effective July 17, 2024)

~~1.1—The ACBL Charity Foundation is a self-supporting, independent organization, paying all its own expenses without exception and reimbursing the ACBL for any and all expenses incurred on behalf of the ACBL Charity Foundation.~~

~~1.2—The ACBL Educational Foundation is a self-supporting, independent organization, paying all its own expenses without exception and reimbursing the ACBL for administrative services costs.~~

~~See Appendix 5-A Bylaws of the American Contract Bridge League Charity Foundation, Corp.~~

Codification, Appendix 5-A Bylaws of the American Contract Bridge League Charity Foundation was removed in its entirety.

Effective July 17, 2024

Action Items GV01: Board Email Protocol and GV02: Board Social Media Policy (Tabled)

These policies were widely discussed in advance, but no agreement was reached on certain aspects. Aquino moved, and Overby seconded, to table both action items. The motion to table carried by the majority of the Board. Current policies regarding both Board Email and Social Media policies remain in effect.

FINANCE

Lodge (C), Glasson, Heller

Jennifer Webster presented the financial report. (Attachment B)

BYLAWS

Steinberg (C), Couchman, Overby

Steinberg reported on the direction that the committee is taking in preparing for a revision, preferable at the end of 2025, to the Bylaws to eliminate language related to the District-to-Region reorganization and other housekeeping revisions.

Non Agenda Item: Advisory Council Compensation

The committee reported discovering an inconsistency in the Bylaws concerning the compensation of the Chair of the Advisory Council. The Board discussed this issue. Lodge

moved, and Cuneo seconded a motion from the floor to revise Codification Chapter IV – Board Procedures, Section B. Expenses to comply with the Bylaws as follows:

Section 3 – Board of Directors’ Stipend

3.1 Each member of the Board of Directors and the **Chair of the Advisory Council** will receive an amount of \$2,000 three times per year to reflect travel to Region, District and Unit events, hosting events to honor Volunteers, and miscellaneous business expenses connected with their office as a member of the Board of Directors.

~~3.2 The Chair of the Advisory Council will receive an amount of \$1,000 three times per year to reflect travel and miscellaneous business expenses connected with their office.~~

Carried Nay: R12 Zayac
Effective July 17, 2024

The Board adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 9:01 a.m. ET.

Present: Same as Monday, July 17

Also Present: Same as Monday, July 17

<p style="text-align: center;">NABC BUSINESS MODEL (Part 2) Aquino (C), Overby, Sealy, Hennings, Jenkins, Waslowicz, and Wiegand</p>

Also Present: Conference Direct Representative Craig Rehak, Chris Wiegand and Montie Hamblen

The Board, along with the staff and Craig Rehak, divided into three groups to brainstorm on the following topics:

1. Potential Experiments
2. NABC Rotation Plan
3. Sourcing Criteria

Each group then presented a summary of their discussions to the entire assembly. Aquino collected this information and will provide a comprehensive summary for further discussion and consideration in the development of a strategic plan, and formal motions in the fall where appropriate.

APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

Sealy (C), White, Zayac

Item 242-AC01: Report on Disciplinary Proceedings

Sealy reported that thirty-seven Negotiated Resolutions (NR) were received between March and June of 2024. Thirty-six were for Ethical Violations identified by Computer-Based Cheating Detection (CBCD) and approved as written. One Negotiated Resolution was initially rejected and approved after modifications were submitted.

The panel reviewed and approved a NR for a violation of CDR Section 103(A) – Conduct.

One NR for a violation of (CDR 301(B)(2)) – Submitting False Information to ACBL Officials and 301(B)(1) - Score Alteration was rejected with conditions for approval. After modification, it was approved.

The Appeals and Charges Committee convened one hearing for violations of CDR 301(B)(2): Submitting False Information to ACBL; CDR 301(D): Ethical Violation Not Otherwise Specified; and CDR 303(B)(6): Violation of discipline previously imposed under the CDR.

Below is a report on the NRs that were initially rejected and the hearing:

JACK BIERIG

In the Matter of Jack Bierig, the committee unanimously rejected the NR for CDR 301(A)(2) Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective May 8, 2024). The allocution was insufficient (did not actually admit to the charge). The Charged Party also was attempting to negotiate further in his statement. Both issues were corrected, and the updated NR was unanimously accepted. Dennis Carman substituted for Tim White on this case.

STEVE KAESSNER (NR Review)

Steve Kaessner was charged with violation of CDR 301(B)(1), Effective February 1, 2024: 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. He also was charged with violation of CDR 301(B)(2), Effective February 1, 2024: 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. Both charges are Second-Degree Ethical Violations.

Mr. Kaessner (an ACBL Director) purposefully and inappropriately adjusted game scores at the Chico (CA) Sectional Tournament for the purpose of awarding Masterpoints to more players than had legitimately earned them. He then submitted these false scores to ACBL. Further investigation discovered that Mr. Kaessner had previously taken similar actions while assigned as ACBL Tournament Director at the February 15-18 Sacramento Sectional.

Mr. Kaessner admitted to the charges but attempted to justify his actions.

In the Matter of Steve Kaessner, the committee unanimously rejected the NR. The recommended range of discipline for this violation is 3-months to 2-years. The initial NR was for a 1-month suspension and 8-months of probation. During the probation, Mr. Kaessner would not be allowed to direct Local Sectionals, but would have been able to direct other tournaments and club games.

The NR was rejected with the following conditions given for acceptance:

- 3-months Suspension
- 6-months Probation
- No directing any ACBL-sanctioned game during the Probationary Period.

Mr. Kaessner sent a letter to the Committee, asking to be allowed to direct club games and a January Sectional. He stated that the local Club had only one other Director and might not be able to stay open if he could not direct. He also said he had sole responsibility for the running and transporting of equipment to the Sectional.

Based on his letter – and not wanting to be the cause of the club folding, the Committee agreed to allow him to direct Club games during his Probationary period. However, we thought there was sufficient time to find another Director for the January Sectional tournament. Therefore, the Committee did not agree to any tournament directing while on Probation.

A new NR was signed, agreeing to these conditions, and unanimously approved by the Committee. The suspension was to last from May 1, 2024, through July 29, 2024. The Probationary period was to be from July 30, 2024, through January 25, 2025.

STEVE KAESSNER (Disciplinary Hearing)

On June 4, 2024, the Recorder's Office received a phone call from a player at the Bidwell Bridge Club in Chico, California. The subject of this conversation was Steve Kaessner, who was serving a 3-month suspension for Submitting False Information to ACBL Officials (CDR 301(B)(2)) and Score Alteration (CDR, 301(B)(1)). Mr. Kaessner's suspension began on May 1, 2024.

The complainant made the following allegations:

- On May 1, 2024, Mr. Kaessner directed and played in an ACBL-sanctioned game at the Bidwill Bridge Club. Mr. Kaessner played under another player's identity (name redacted-1) with (name redacted-2) and earned Masterpoints® for both players.
- On May 29, 2024, Mr. Kaessner directed and played in an ACBL-sanctioned game at the Bidwell Bridge Club. Furthermore, Mr. Kaessner played under another player's identity (name redacted-3) with (name redacted-1). The (name redacted-3/name redacted-1) partnership was listed as 'Not Eligible' and received no Masterpoints® despite this being (supposedly) an open game.

A quick investigation by the Recorder's Office discovered that the May 1 game had Steve Kaessner listed as the director, while the May 29 game had Charles Hodel listed as the director. It should also be noted that both games were classified as open games although there is evidence that the game on May 29 was actually invitational.

On the evening of June 4, 2024, Jeff Edelstein spoke at length with Mark Bloom. Mr. Bloom is the former manager of the Bidwell Bridge Club and is currently the only regular director at the club. Mr. Bloom confirmed that Mr. Kaessner did in fact direct and play in the May 1 game and did in fact direct the May 21 game, but he did not have firsthand knowledge that Mr. Kaessner played in the May 29 game under (name redacted-3)'s identity. Mr. Bloom also confirmed that Charles Hodel, the listed director of the May 29th game, did not direct the May 29th game. Mr. Bloom was present at the May 1 game but not at the May 29 game. In response to an email from Mr. Edelstein, Mr. Kaessner admitted to directing both games but did not admit or deny playing under another player's identity.

Shortly thereafter, the following charges (all Second-Degree Violations) were file against

Mr. Kaessner for the following violations:

- CDR 301(B)(2), Effective February 1, 2024: 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.
- CDR 301(D), Effective February 1, 2024: Ethical Violation Not Otherwise Specified.

An ethical violation not otherwise specified in CDR § 301(A)-(C). The discipline imposed, if any, will be commensurate with the severity of the violation at the discretion of the panel.

- CDR 303(B)(6), Effective February 1, 2024: Violation of discipline previously imposed under this CDR.

A vote of the Executive Committee was held to determine jurisdiction. Based on that, the case was routed to The Appeals and Charges Committee.

In response to the offer to provide Disclosure, the Charged Party submitted a letter, this time admitting to all charges. Mr. Kaessner attempted to provide justification for his actions. He also was surprised that someone at his Club had reported him.

A hearing was held on June 21, 2024. The Charging Party (McKenzie Myers), Charging Party's Advocates (Jeff Edelstein and Justin Coniglio), Mr. Kaessner, and the members of the A&C Committee (with Dennis Carman substituting for Tim White) were present. No new evidence was given at the hearing.

While the Committee approved a minimal suspension (3-months) for the first offense, we did not think there was any excuse for the violations that occurred while he was on suspension. Therefore, we unanimously agreed to a suspension of 18 months, followed by 18 months of Probation.

Item 242-AC02: Update of Recorder Regulations

The update of the ACBL Recorder Regulations as required in the Codification, I - Membership Operating Guidelines F. ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations and Disciplinary Administration, Section 3.4 was approved. (Attachment C)

Effective July 17, 2024

Carried unanimously

Item DI242-AC01: NBO Compliance with ACBL Disciplinary Procedures

The Board discussed the issue of players "Not in Good Standing" participating in the USBF Team Trials and their subsequent selection for international competition. Given that ACBL provides significant funding to the USBF, the Board discussed options to ensure compliance with ACBL disciplinary regulations. The Board agreed on the importance of communicating their expectations to the NBOs and suggested further discussions and potential amendments to the Codification to link adherence to ACBL guidelines to the dispersal of funds.

Action Item AI242-AC01: Retroactive Action to Treat Disciplined Persons Who Entered into Negotiated Resolutions as Individuals

Management is directed to use the May 8, 2024, version of the CDR to retroactively apply the appropriate level of FTD discipline to individuals who originally would have qualified for lower discipline under the May 8, 2024 CDR and agreed to a Negotiated Resolution (NR).

For those Disciplined Persons who are currently serving suspensions whose discipline would be reduced to a warning under this action, their sentences will be commuted to the time served. All other qualifying members as defined above will have their suspensions reduced based on the new penalties set forth in the May 8, 2024, CDR. In no case will the penalty or prohibitions be increased because of this Action Item.

This action does not apply to any party whose case is pending before the IBA.

Management will coordinate the notification process with A&C.

Effective July 18, 2024

Carried unanimously

The Board adjourned open session and convened into Executive Session from 1:59 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. The Board reconvened into open session at 2:25.

CLOSING REMARKS

Carman

The Board expresses thanks to District 2 and its Units Regional Director Jonathan Steinberg, Tournament Chair Darlene Scott, and all other chairpersons and volunteers. We also wish to thank the Intercontinental, Sheraton, and Westin.

The Board adjourned open session and convened into Executive Session from 2:50 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.