

**ACBL Board of Directors
Online Meeting via Zoom
January 12, 2024
Special Meeting**

The Board of Directors Special Meeting was called to order by President Margot Hennings at 2:03 p.m. ET on January 12, 2024.

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: Executive Director Bronia Jenkins, Director of Finance Jennifer Webster, Advisory Council Chair Doug Couchman, Administrative Coordinator Sabrina Goley

Item 24S1-01: Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes

The following BOD meeting minutes were approved: Fall 2023 Regular Meeting; December 7, 2023 Special Meeting; and December 26, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting.

Carried Absent: Zayac R12, White R13

Item 24S1-02: Report on Hearings

The Board received the following report on hearings:

Samuel Baskinger and Judy Rothstein (Automatic Review)

In the Matter of Samuel Baskinger and Judy Rothstein, the Committee upheld the finding of the OEOC Panel that they violated CDR 3.20 Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective May 1, 2020).

In consideration of proportionality with disciplines imposed on other pairs of similar experience, the Committee modified the discipline imposed by the OEOC panel. Mr. Baskinger and Ms. Rothstein will each be suspended for a period of three years beginning November 13, 2023. Each will serve a period of three years probation following their suspension. Each will forfeit 50% of their total Masterpoint® holding (Mr. Baskinger 6,201.73 total holding and Ms. Rothstein 10,015.11 total holding as of the date of the Recorder Complaint). They will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Babs and Walt Clingo (Automatic Review)

In the Matter of Babs and Walt Clingo, the Committee upheld the finding of the OEOC Panel that they violated CDR 3.20 Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective January 1, 2020).

The Committee also upheld the discipline imposed by the OEOC Panel. Accordingly, Ms. and Mr. Clingo will each be suspended for a period of one year beginning October 14, 2023. Each will serve a period of two years probation following their suspension. Each will forfeit 25% of their total Masterpoint® holding (Ms. Clingo 336.40 total holding and Mr. Clingo 335.34 total holding as of the date of the Recorder Complaint). They will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Vera Mandell and John Soldano (NR Review)

In the Matter of Vera Mandell and John Soldano, the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolutions entered into by the parties and ACBL Management in which the parties admitted to violation of CDR 301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online (CDR effective July 15, 2022). Ms. Mandell agreed to a 6-month suspension beginning November 6, 2023, followed by 2 years probation during which she is prohibited from playing ACBL online games with John Soldano. She further agreed to forfeiture of 3% of her current (3,261.57) Masterpoint® total. Mr. Soldano agreed to a 3-month suspension beginning November 6, 2023, followed by 2 years probation during which he is prohibited from playing ACBL online games with Vera Mandell. He further agreed to forfeiture of 10% of his current (546.12) Masterpoint® total. Both will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Harendra and Geeta Desai (NR Review)

In the Matter of Harendra and Geeta Desai, the Committee approved the Negotiated Resolutions entered into by the parties and ACBL Management in which the parties admitted to violation of CDR 3.20 Cheating and other Ethical Violations (CDR effective January 1, 2020). Mr. and Ms. Desai agreed to 3-month suspensions to begin on October 18, 2023, followed by 2 years probation. They are prohibited from playing with each other in ACBL online games during the first year of their probations. Mr. Desai forfeits 10% of his current (221.41) Masterpoint® total; Ms. Desai forfeits 10% of her current (232.55) Masterpoint® total. Each further agreed that If they play in any ACBL sanctioned games between October 18, 2023 and when the agreement is accepted by the Appeals and Charges Committee, the agreement is voidable by the ACBL. Both will be members “Not in Good Standing” during the period of their discipline.

Item 24S1-03: Committee Chair Appointments

Appendix 4-A1 in the Codification was amended as follows:

Standing Rules for Meetings and Committees

In forming committees and appointing members thereto, the President shall strive to adhere to the following rules and principles. Although (s)he shall have the power to depart from these, it is expected that **exceptions will be infrequent.** ~~(s)he will do so only in extraordinary circumstances.~~

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3. **Although the goal is that ~~N~~no one should be appointed as chair of any committees listed in (1) above who has not served at least one year on that committee, with only 13 members on the Board, this may be an increasingly difficult goal to attain. Exceptions may become more frequent.**

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Effective immediately

Carried Abstain: Overby R8 Absent: Zayac R12

Item 24S1-04: Approval of BOD Committees Appointments and Task Force Leads

The following Board Committee appointments and Task Force Leads were approved:

- Appeals & Charges: Sealy (C), White, Zayac
- Audit: Overby (C), Carman, White
- Bridge/Executive Director Initiatives: Carman (C), Aquino, Heller
- Bylaws: Steinberg (C), Couchman, Overby
- Competition & Conventions: Carman, Sealy
- EDR: Glasson (C), Aquino, Carman
- Executive Committee: Hennings (P), Shoemaker (VP), Cuneo (C), Lodge (W), Overby (E)
- Finance: Lodge (C), Glasson, Heller
- Governance/Communications: Shoemaker (C), Cuneo, Zayac
- Hall of Fame Liaison: Glasson
- Masterpoints: Carman, Steinberg
- NABC Site Selection: Sealy (only as needed through Summer 2027 decision)
- Strategic: Full Board—Hennings (L)
 - Task Force: Clubs—Heller (L), Cuneo, White, AC Liaison
 - Task Force: NABC Business Model—Aquino (L), Overby, Sealy
 - Task Force: Online Provider—Hennings (L), Cuneo, Lodge
 - Task Force: Recruitment and Retention—Zayac (L), Shoemaker, Steinberg, AC Liaison (TBD)

Effective January 1, 2024

Carried unanimously

Item 24S1-05: Consistency in CAP Benefits across the Codification

Chapter VI - Club Sanctioned Games, C. General Club Game Regulations, Section 1.3 Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP) in the Codification was amended as follows:

1.3 Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP)

- 1.3.1 **Requirements for CAP reimbursement are fully detailed in Appendix 1-E2. ~~The ACBL will subsidize teachers, clubs and Units who wish to use advertising to recruit~~**

~~students for bridge lessons or to promote the game. CAP will refund 75% of eligible advertising costs with a maximum reimbursement of 750.~~

- 1.3.2 ~~Advertising must be for newcomer programs, beginner bridge lessons or ACBL membership. Eligible media are newspapers, magazines, direct mail pieces (excluding postage), catalogs, posters/fliers, billboards, television, radio and online commercial websites.~~

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item 24S1-06: Correction of Typo in Central Zone Composition

Chapter IV, Board Procedures, D. Committees, Section 1—Committees of the Board, 1.1 Executive Committee, 1.1.4 Election, was revised as follows:

- 1.1.4.1 Candidates will be nominated by each of the three zones: Eastern (Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8); Central (Regions **1, 5, 7, and 9** ~~10, 11, 12, and 13~~) and Western (Regions 10, 11, 12, and 13), and the Board will elect from these nominees.

Effective immediately
Carried unanimously

Item 24S1-07: Update the CDR (as attached)

The current version of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) be replaced with the attachment.

Effective February 1, 2024
Carried unanimously

Items 24S1-08, -09, and -11

Management withdrew motions 24S1-08, -09, and 11 prior to the meeting.

Item 24S1-10: Regional and Sectional Tournament Sanctioning

Codification, Ch. IX - Regionals, A. Regional Tournament Sanctioning and Scheduling be amended as follows:

Section 4 - Tournament Conflicts

- 4.1 ~~If t~~The ACBL Tournament Department **determines that** ~~will determine whether~~ any previously sanctioned or traditional date Regional tournament is within 425 miles of the proposed tournament, the department should immediately notify the person applying for the

sanction, the District Tournament Coordinator(s), ~~and~~ the District President(s), and the Regional Director(s). (See Section 3 above regarding traditional date tournaments)

If there is a conflict within a District, the District President will decide whether the new tournament should be sanctioned. If there is a conflict with a Regional in another District but in the same Region, the Regional Director, in consultation with the Presidents of the involved Districts, will decide whether to approve. If there is a conflict with a tournament in another Region, the Regional Directors will consult with the appropriate District Presidents and approve the sanction only if both agree. If the Regional Directors are unable to agree, the sanctioned tournament with the traditional date prevails. These approvals must be submitted to the ACBL Tournament Department in writing.

4.2 If a District Tournament Coordinator believes that a tournament request is in conflict with one of his District's tournaments, he must first notify the ACBL Tournament Department and endeavor to resolve the conflict with the District in question. The District President(s) and any member of the Board of Directors from the Districts involved in a possible conflict will be notified by ACBL management ~~of the possible conflict as soon as ACBL management of the possible conflict~~ as soon as ACBL management is made aware of it.

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Codification, Ch. X - Sectionals, A. General be amended as follows:

Section 2 - Scheduling Sectional Tournaments

2.6 Questions concerning scheduling and other conflicts for Sectionals will be resolved by the Unit(s) and the District organizations involved. ~~The ACBL Tournament Department will determine whether there is a conflict with any previously scheduled Sectional or Regional (or traditional date Regional) tournament. This will be done using www.maps.google.com. A conflict exists if it is within 425 miles of a Regional or 200 miles of a Sectional. If there is a conflict and both tournaments are within the same District, The District President will make the decision whether to approve the new tournament. If the conflict involves different Districts within the same Region, the Regional Director, in consultation with the Presidents of the involved Districts, will decide whether the new tournament should be sanctioned. If there is a conflict with a tournament in another Region, the Regional Directors will consult with the appropriate District Presidents and approve the sanction only if both agree.~~

2.7 Districts and Units perceiving a conflict with other Units or Districts must notify ACBL management ~~or the Arbitration Panel~~ in writing within thirty (30) days of the tournament posting on the website.

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Effective date January 12, 2024
Carried unanimously

DI24S1-01: Bridge Integrity Program

Management introduced, and the Board supported, the development of a Bridge Integrity Program. The Bridge Integrity Program is a comprehensive initiative designed not only to educate its members but also to actively prevent unethical behavior through deterrence, accountability, and a commitment to fair play principles. In the initial stages of development, two key areas, Ethics Certification and Fair Play Pledge, were identified as priorities and are set to be effective by February 29. These elements are crucial for eligibility for Warning and Fast Track Discipline under the new CDR.

Audit Report

Jennifer Webster reported that the Codification requires a Request for Proposal (RFP) every three years for audit services. Due to transition in the Director of Finance position, it was not completed in 2023. The current audit firm has provided its fee schedule for 2023 and has been notified that ACBL will initiate the RFP in the summer.

Jeff Overby moved, and Tim White seconded a motion to approve the use of the current audit firm for the year 2023- to be completed in year 2024- for the sum of \$39,000.

Carried unanimously

The Board of Directors adjourned the meeting in open session and reconvened in Executive Session at 4:13 p.m. ET. Executive session adjourned at 5:45 p.m. ET.