

**ACBL Board of Directors  
Online Meeting via Zoom  
May 16 and 23, 2022  
Special Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Joann Glasson on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. CT.

Present: Jonathan Steinberg R1, Mark Aquino R2, Margot Hennings R4, Dennis Carman R5, Paul Cuneo R9, David Lodge R11, Tim White R13, Flo Belford D2, Carlos Muñoz D3, Joann Glasson D4, Georgia Heth D8, Jeff Overby D9, Larry Sealy D10, AJ Stephani D11, Deana Liddy D14, Cindy Shoemaker D17, Laurie Rowe D20, Stu Goodgold D21, David Moss D24

Also Present: Doug Couchman, Advisory Council Chair, Joseph Jones, Executive Director, Peyton Dodson, Director of Finance, Linda Dunn, In-House Council, Susie Cordell, Director of Information Technology, Greg Coles, Director of Bridge Services, Mary Stratton, Director of Marketing, Stephanie Threlkeld, Marketing Manager, and Sabrina Goley, Administrative Coordinator.

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<b>APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE</b>
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Stephani (C), Rowe (VC) Carman, Liddy, Overby, Sealy, White
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Staff: Edelstein
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As reported by Committee Chair

**Item 22S2-01: Report on Hearings**

In the matter of Pat Barrow, the committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by Ms. Barrow and ACBL management in which Ms. Barrow admitted a violation of ACBL’s Code of Disciplinary Regulations (“CDR”) §301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating: Online. She agreed to a six-month suspension, beginning five days after the notification of approval of the Negotiated Resolution by the Appeals and Charges Committee, followed by a two-year probationary period and a forfeiture of 5% of her total masterpoints. Ms. Barrow will not be a member in good standing during the length of her probationary period.

In the matter of Cece Spain, the committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by Ms. Spain and ACBL management in which she admitted a violation of CDR §301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating: Online. She agreed to a one-year suspension, beginning November 23, 2021, followed by a two-year probationary period and a forfeiture of 25% of her total masterpoints. Ms. Spain will not be a member in good standing during the length of her probationary period.

The Appeals and Charges Committee Chair gave an update on the development of EDGAR, an automated tool to detect cheating, which update included threatened litigation regarding its development.

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**Item 22S2-02: Online Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments**

Richard Popper and Cheri Bjerkan were appointed to fill the remaining terms of Brian Platnick and Franco Baseggio through the end of the Summer 2022 NABC.

Carried unanimously

**Item 22S2-03: Laws Commission Appointment**

Rui Marques was appointed for a five-year term through the end of the Spring 2027 NABC.

Carried unanimously

<b>BYLAWS COMMITTEE</b>	
Goodgold (C) Aquino, Steinberg	Staff: Dunn

As reported by Committee Chair

**SECOND READING**

**Item 22S2-04: Bylaws Amendment to Redefine Election of Treasurer**

Section 6.1.3 of the ACBL Bylaws was amended as follows:

6.1.3 Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall elect a Treasurer from its members to serve for the following calendar year or until a successor is elected.

Effective upon ratification by the Advisory Council

Carried unanimously

<b>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>	
Hennings (C) Belford, Goodgold, Overby, Shoemaker, Steinberg	Staff: Dunn

As reported by Committee Chair.

**Item 22S2-05: Flexibility to Allow Changes to Board Expenses**

The introductory paragraph of the Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, B. Expenses, Section 2 – Board of Directors Expenses was amended as follows:

This policy pertains to Board members and Chair of the Advisory Council for ACBL meetings or functions. The ACBL will reimburse the following expenses, with reasonable exceptions permitted by the President with the approval of the Finance Committee.

Effective May 16, 2022

Carried unanimously

**Item 22S2-06: Deletion of 7-day Regional First-Day Start Time**

Section 1.4 of Codification Part 2 – Bridge Operations, Chapter IX – Regionals, A. Regional Tournament Scheduling and Sanctioning, Section 1 – Regional Tournament Scheduling was deleted in its entirety-

Effective May 16, 2022

Carried unanimously

<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>	
Lodge, (C), Moss (VC) Cuneo, Hennings, Liddy, Rowe, White	Staff: Dodson

As reported by Committee Chair

The Finance Committee Chair reported on the Spring 2022 NABC financial results as well as first quarter year-to-date ACBL financials. (Attachment A)

The Chair reported that he expected that the net income of the fiscal year 2022 forecast will be lower than that budgeted.

<b>MASTERPOINT COMMITTEE</b>	
Carman, Jones, Jordan, Lin, Metcalf, Weinstein	

As reported by Committee Chair

The Masterpoint Committee Chair reported on the processes under which the committee is operating, changes that were constrained by the ACBL’s contract with BBO, and actions the committee has taken. The committee has the power to make minor changes, but significant changes require Board approval at a meeting after notification to the Board. The Chair reported that significant changes in masterpoints awarded for online play might breach the ACBL’s agreement with BBO. Finally, the Chair reported on the following major change for Board consideration:

The club formulas for masterpoint calculations shall be amended to provide that the awards are modified to reflect the number of deals played, with 18 deals (the current minimum number for a “full” game) to be considered the baseline. Any game in which more or fewer

than 18 deals are played will pay the “full” award (as calculated using the current club formula) times a factor of  $n/18$ , where  $n$  is the number of deals played.

Games may be any number of deals except that the minimum shall be 12 deals. This minimum shall not apply to games that are limited to players with fewer than 100 masterpoints; in such fields, games of any number of deals may award masterpoints.

Effective July 1, 2022 or as soon thereafter as it can be implemented. This change is temporary. Unless expressly renewed, it will expire after June 30, 2025.

Carried                      Nay: R2, D8, D24

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At 4:00 p.m. CT, the Board of Directors convened into executive session with the Strategic Committee leading a confidential discussion regarding online versus in-person play.

The Board reconvened into open session at 4:34 p.m. CT and continued with ACBL management reports.

### **IT Report**

Executive Director Joe Jones reported on the status of IT projects during the first quarter of 2022 as well as expectations for the remainder of the year.

### **Management Report**

Greg Coles presented a Royal STaC Analysis Report containing top level results of the Royal STaC games that had been previously held. The Board requested that ACBL management offer an additional one-time Royal STaC in the in-person clubs during the last four months of 2022.

Joe Jones then presented ACBL management’s proposals to support face-to-face bridge:

1. Until further notice, beginning July 1 thru December 31, 2022, suspend special games (cost est. \$0) and Regional-rated events (cost est. \$430,000). This will address concerns that special games and Regional-rated tournaments encourages players to play online and not in-person.
  - a. Online NAP games will be allowed in July and August. Enhance awards? (Note that it is specified in the Conditions of Contest that NAP club qualifiers pay ½ black, ½ red masterpoints.)
  - b. Run online Regional-rated events September 15 – 18 and December 20 – 23, 2022.
  - c. Run NABC fundraiser games online?
2. Starting July 1, 2022, restrict number of sessions and tables per session (potential cost per month = \$12,000, assuming net 10% decline from top six clubs). Max sessions = three, one open, three limited (if three, one must be 0 -20 mps). Number of sessions restriction cannot be easily programmed, will have to manually monitor. Max tables = 24. Number of tables can be programmed. Table reduction will reduce masterpoint awards which will reduce the attractiveness

of playing online. We think the limiting of sessions and tables will reduce the benefits of pooling and could drive greater individual participation of smaller clubs.

- a. Reduce virtual club maximum awards from 4.0 to 2.5. Change can be effective July 1.
3. In conjunction with session and table limits, ACBL management recommends removing or loosening visitor restrictions so players can seek other virtual club game options. Or alternatively, not enforce restrictions for clubs whose average game size is at or below eight tables.
4. For the last week of June thru the first week of July and the first two weeks of November, all club games can be run as Upgraded Club Championships. These games can be promoted as “get back to the club” weeks.
5. At all Sectionals and Regionals, +20% overall masterpoint awards beginning June 1, 2022 thru May 31, 2023 (full year cycle so all can benefit).

The Board began discussion of the recommendations, agreeing to allow two four-day Regionals and to allow NAP games to be run online during selected dates. In the interest of time, discussion of recommendations 2 through 5 was tabled until another meeting whose date and time were to be determined (although the Board expressed a consensus that it was not opposed to adding Upgraded Club Championships).

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The meeting was reconvened and called to order by President Joann Glasson on Monday, May 23 at 5:00 p.m. CT.

Present: Same as Monday, May 16, except Deana Liddy (D14) and Susie Cordell, Director of Information Technology, were absent.

Board members continued their discussion of ACBL management’s proposals to support face-to-face bridge. Following extensive discussion, the Board determined that the following will be implemented following this special meeting:

- Regional tournaments are no longer required to have an afternoon start on the first day of a seven-day Regional tournament. The flexibility of not requiring a night game on the first day of a Regional will assist scheduling.
- Face-to-face clubs will be able to hold an additional Royal STAC week during the last four months of 2022.
- No glitter points or special games will be offered online for the rest of 2022 with two exceptions. NAP qualifying games may be held online in June, July, and August (paying double masterpoints, half-red and half-black) and the ACBL may schedule two online Regionals that are four days in length on September 15-18 and December 20-23, dates that will not conflict with any face-to-face Regional tournaments.

- Masterpoint awards will be adjusted to reflect the number of boards played in club games. Games with 18 boards will pay full masterpoint awards. The awards for games over 18 boards will be adjusted upwards according to the number of boards played.
- Any game in which more than 18 boards are played will pay the full award times a factor of  $n/18$ , where "n" is the number of deals played. This proposal will take approximately three months to implement.
- There will be a reduction in the maximum virtual club award from 4.0 to 2.5 masterpoints. This change will be effective July 1, 2022.
- For four weeks – the last week of June, the first week in July, and the first two weeks of November – all face-to-face club games can be run as Upgraded Club Championships. Clubs can promote these as “get back to the club” weeks.
- At all Sectional and Regional tournaments, overall awards will be increased by 20% beginning May 30, 2022 and extending for one year to tournaments ending May 21, 2023<sup>1</sup>. Section awards will not be increased.
- The Visitor Policy will no longer be enforced for virtual clubs that run fewer than 50 tables per week. This will be effective by June 1, 2022 and allow small clubs to grow their online games.

The Board of Directors adjourned at 6:46 p.m. CT and reconvened in executive session.

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<sup>1</sup> After the meeting adjourned, the Board agreed to May 28, 2022 as the end date.