

## **ACBL Board of Directors:**

### **Key Agenda Items for Fall (San Francisco) 2025 Meeting**

1. 253-BR01: Online Events at Face-to-Face Regionals
  2. 253-BR02: Guidelines for Open and Local Sectionals
    - a. Summary of Proposed Approach for Open and Local Sectionals
  3. DI253-BR01: Update on GNT Funding
  4. 253-BY01: Bylaws Amendment
  5. 253-GV04: Codification Chapter IV Rewrite
    - a. “Clean” Copy of Rewritten Chapter IV
    - b. “Mark Up” of Rewritten Chapter IV
  6. 253-GV01: Charity Recognition Award
  7. 253-GV03: Rights of Non-Members
  8. 253-GV06: Position Description for WBF Representative
  9. 253-INT01: ACBL Contributions to NABF for Payment of Zone 2 WBF Dues
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## **MOTION**

### **253-BR01: ONLINE GAMES AT FACE-TO-FACE- REGIONALS**

**Purpose:** To eliminate online events held in conjunction with FTF Regional tournaments, based on the recent non-financial viability, underperformance, and participant dissatisfaction with District-level online events held in conjunction with Regionals

**Moved that** the following section of the Codification be deleted:

### **Chapter IX - Regionals** **C. Events**

#### **~~Section 6—Online Events~~**

~~6.1 A District may run on-line events at their Regional bridge tournament. Only members of the host District may participate in the online events. Approval for the event shall be~~

~~governed by the ability of the District to meet all provisions contained in the Pair Events – General Conditions of Contest for on-line events.~~

~~6.2 ACBL management will discuss the application for the online event with the DIC of the tournament. Approval will be conditioned upon the DIC's ability to provide adequate staffing to run the event.~~

~~6.3 Masterpoints will be awarded pursuant to the General Formula.~~

~~6.4 Tournament Organizers are responsible for all ACBL sanction fees, TD session fees, and online host fees that result from this event~~

**Effective Date:** Immediately upon Board approval, with the exception of already advertised events at sanctioned Regionals.

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** N/A

**Discussion:**

There are compelling reasons to discontinue this offering. The financial performance has been consistently poor as shown in the detailed information presented in the Discussion Item on this topic presented in Philadelphia at our Summer 2025 meetings. Participation has declined, with many events struggling to get even three tables in play. These small games generate customer service complaints and fail to provide the competitive experience participants expect. The technical restrictions of playing on Bridge Base Online require specialized Tournament Director knowledge and at least two TDs, even with a field as small as three tables. Many Districts and Units put these events on their Regional schedule without full understanding of the costs involved or expected attendance, causing them to lose money unnecessarily.

ACBL runs four online Regional and higher tournaments annually which are open to Members from any District, so the removal of these events will not eliminate the possibility of higher-level tournament play for those Members who may not be able to travel to a live Regional.

In Philadelphia, there was unanimous Board support for discontinuing these events after all then such currently advertised events on flyers and on the ACBL website had been held.

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# MOTION

## 253-BR02: GUIDELINES FOR OPEN AND LOCAL SECTIONALS

**Purpose:** To encourage and promote events that best suit the current needs of Tournament Organizers, ACBL Tournament Directors, Local Sectional Directors, and Members.

**Moved that** the following sections of the Codification be amended:

### Chapter X - Sectionals

#### A. Sectional Tournaments – **Scheduling, Sanctioning and Operations Events**

##### Section 1 - Sectional Tournament Allocations and Staffing

- 1.1 Sectionals may be Open (~~Championship~~), ~~Open~~(Local, Senior, ~~limited by masterpoints~~ **Non-Life Master** (~~specifically, 0-100; 0-200; 0-300; 0-500; 0-750~~), Junior, Youth, Collegiate, Progressive or STaCs.
- 1.2 Sectionals are allocated to Units. There are no restrictions as to the number of Open Sectionals a Unit may conduct. A Unit may not schedule more than ~~six~~ **eight [one-day] Limited Non-Life Master and/or [two-to-three-day]** Local Sectionals in any calendar year. One-day Sectionals must include at least two sessions of play. A District has the right of approval for **all** Sectionals conducted by its Units. A Unit must abide by the decision of the District.

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##### Section 2 - Sectional Tournament Scheduling

- 2.1 ~~Championship~~ **Open** Sectionals must be at least two days and no more than five days in duration. An **Open** ~~Championship~~ Sectional is defined as ~~an open~~ a sectional ~~with an anticipated attendance of 25 or more tables per session~~ **that is run by at least one ACBL Tournament Director and offers 100% Silver points [R Factor 13].**
- 2.2 Local Sectionals must be at least ~~one~~ **two** days and no more than three days in duration. A Local Sectional is defined as ~~an open~~ sectional **that may be staffed by**

**ACBL Local Sectional Directors** with an anticipated attendance of ~~fewer than 25 tables~~ **no more than 50 tables per in any one session, and offers 50% silver and 50% black points [R Factor 11].**

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#### **Section 4 - ~~Championship~~ Open Sectionals**

- 4.1. ~~Championship~~ **Open** Sectional tournaments will be staffed by Tournament Directors who are ACBL employees. ~~Championship Sectionals are defined as open sectionals with an anticipated attendance of 25 or more tables per session.~~

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#### **Section 5 – Local and NLM Sectionals**

- 5.1 ~~Local Sectionals, which are defined as open sectionals with an anticipated attendance of fewer than 25 tables per session, may be staffed by Tournament Assistants or club directors who have been certified for Local Sectional staffing.~~

~~5.1.1 Masterpoints awarded: 80% Silver, 20% Black, 100% Sectional rating.~~

~~5.1.2 No~~ **Local and NLM Sectionals are limited to two sessions a day (no more than six sessions total) and may not run** more than two events **of the same type (Pairs or Teams)** in any one session: only single session pair games; **Swiss Team** games will be allowed to be one or two sessions.

~~5.1.3 Maximum two sessions per day and six sessions in total.~~

~~5.1.4.~~

**5.2** ACBL will provide a specific ACBL Tournament Director to work remotely with each Local Sectional's ~~club~~ director, assisting with rulings, movements, and other questions, as well as immediately posting session results online. ~~Note: One ACBL TD would work with 3-6 Local Sectionals at a time~~

**5.23** ~~For tournaments not staffed by an ACBL employee, the~~ A Sectional surcharge applies **to Local Sectionals**. This Sectional surcharge is to offset the cost of

~~processing at ACBL Headquarters~~ **the work done by the remote-support ACBL Tournament Director** that would normally be done on-site by a Tournament Director.

5.34 NLM Sectionals with an upper masterpoint limit of 750 masterpoints or fewer may be run by Tournament Assistants or ~~club~~ directors who have been certified for Local Sectional staffing.

5.45 Regardless of staffing, all tournaments are expected to follow ACBL policies and regulations relating to permitted methods, use of bidding boxes, and non-member eligibility and charges.

~~5.5 ACBL will produce educational content for those club directors and Tournament Assistants that want to be eligible to run our Local Sectionals and Non-Life Master Sectionals or assist at larger tournaments. This content will be made available at no charge to these directors. These club directors and Tournament Assistants would need to pass a test on directing skills once every two years to continue working at those tournaments.~~

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**AND**

**Moved that** Chapter X – Sectionals, D. Operations, of the Codification be deleted in its entirety:

## **Chapter X - Sectionals**

### **D. Operations**

#### **Section 1 - Staffing (Effective January 1, 2023)**

~~1.1 Championship Sectional tournaments will be staffed by Tournament Directors who are ACBL employees. Championship Sectionals are defined as open sectionals with an anticipated attendance of 25 or more tables per session.~~

~~1.2 Local Sectionals, which are defined as open sectionals with an anticipated attendance of fewer than 25 tables per session, may be staffed by Tournament Assistants or club directors who have been certified for Local Sectional staffing.~~

~~1.2.1 Masterpoints awarded: 80% Silver, 20% Black, 100% Sectional rating.~~

- ~~1.2.2 No more than two events in any one session: only single session pair games; Swiss Team games will be allowed to be one or two sessions.~~
- ~~1.2.3 Maximum two sessions per day and six sessions in total.~~
- ~~1.2.4 ACBL will provide a specific ACBL Tournament Director to work remotely with each Local Sectional's club director, assisting with rulings, movements, and other questions, as well as immediately posting session results online. Note: One ACBL TD would work with 3-6 Local Sectionals at a time~~
- ~~1.3 For tournaments not staffed by an ACBL employee, the Sectional surcharge applies. This Sectional surcharge is to offset the cost of processing at ACBL Headquarters that would normally be done on-site by a Tournament Director.~~
- ~~1.4 NLM Sectionals with an upper masterpoint limit of 750 masterpoints or fewer may be run by Tournament Assistants or club directors who have been certified for Local Sectional staffing.~~
- ~~1.5 Regardless of staffing, all tournaments are expected to follow ACBL policies and regulations relating to permitted methods, use of bidding boxes, and nonmember eligibility and charges.~~
- ~~1.6 ACBL will produce educational content for those club directors and Tournament Assistants that want to be eligible to run our Local Sectionals and Non-Life Master Sectionals or assist at larger tournaments. This content will be made available at no charge to these directors. These club directors and Tournament Assistants would need to pass a test on directing skills once every two years to continue working at those tournaments.~~

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** Potentially significant cost savings for sectional tournament organizers. Assigning fewer ACBL employees to work at sectionals may reduce income to ACBL to cover directing expenses and must be aligned with annual budgetary projections.

**Discussion:**

We recognize that tournament attendance has been declining and we are taking the feedback from Management and our Members seriously to find ways to better serve both the needs of our organization and those of the membership. The summary document that accompanies this Motion outlines the proposed approach that Management and the Bridge Committee are proposing in response to the voiced concerns—see the last section of this accompanying document for a summary of sample feedback from Units and Clubs.

The above changes are those that need to be made to the Codification in order to document the proposed regulations. However, it is apparent that although the proposed new definitions that differentiate between Open Sectionals and Local Sectionals have been consistently applied across the chapters, there is a great deal of unnecessary duplication.

**Action Item #1:** Management to ensure that all guidelines not specifically codified as changes to Local Sectionals be included by the January 1, 2026, effective date of these changes in a Sectional Tournament Guidelines document that parallels the updated Regional Tournament Planning Guide.

**Action Item #2:** Operations to start a comprehensive review of Chapters IX through XIV of the Codification to delete outdated regulations; remove unnecessary details that are procedural and at the discretion/under the authority of Management; and update regulations, including designating Sectionals as “Open” (e.g., not Championships), “Local,” and “NLM” (e.g., not Limited).

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## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED APPROACH TO **OPEN** AND **LOCAL** SECTIONALS (Accompanies Agenda Item 253-BR02)

### **Key:**

***New designations and changes in regulations***

***Notes to draw attention to current regulations***

**Note:** The requirement to be a Guest Member (or not) to play in **Open** Sectionals and/or **Local** Sectionals is addressed in Agenda Item 253-GV03, Rights of Non-Members. This requirement will be added to the descriptions below, contingent upon approval of that Motion.

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### **Open Sectional**

#### **Purpose:**

The Open Sectional — a fully staffed, fully rated ACBL tournament offering the complete Sectional experience and 100% Silver points.

## Structure & Standards:

- Staffed by **ACBL Tournament Director(s) and Local Sectional Director(s)**
  - Entries via **credit card or cash** (transitioning to fully cashless via Entry Express)
  - **Sectional Surcharge** includes round-trip transportation for the director of highest rank
  - **Tournament financials** prepared by TD; Unit receives funds from ACBL within one week
  - Duration: **2–5 days**, up to **3 sessions per day** (as staffing allows)
  - **Masterpoints:** 100% Silver, *R Factor 13*
  - May run **two Fund games** (*R Factor 15*)
  - May include **any approved event type** (Pairs, Swiss, BAM, KOs, etc.)
  - **No attendance limit**
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## *Local* Sectional

### Purpose:

A low-cost, locally run event designed to **build community and encourage participation**. Flexibility, fun, and simplicity are emphasized over bureaucracy.

## Structure & Standards:

- Staffed by **ACBL-certified Local Sectional Director(s)**
  - Certification and/or periodic recertification necessary
  - Allow part-time ACBL directors to work local sectionals where their residence is located within a specific distance to the playing site. (~55 miles)
- **Sectional Surcharge** includes on-call TD support
- **Financials** handled by the on-call TD; ACBL invoices the Unit afterward
- **No credit-card sales support required** — Units/clubs responsible for entry fee collection
- Duration: **2 to 3 days**, up to **2 sessions per day**
- **Masterpoints: 50% Silver / 50% Black** (*note change from current 80%/20%--still to be approved by MP Committee*), R Factor 11
- May include **Pairs or Swiss**, single session pairs only
- **May not run Fund Games**
- **Maximum of 8 per year** (*note change from current 6*); Unit Coordinator to decide.
- Designed to be a **one-director event**, but scale may vary by director experience
  - As a guideline, 30 tables/session is the upper range for 1 director.
  - More than 30 tables/session requires 2 Local Directors.
- **Attendance guideline: 50 tables/session** (*note change from current 25 tables/session restriction*)



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## Feedback from Units and Clubs on Local Sectionals

- This is the best tool the ACBL has developed to help Units maintain the interest of existing players.
  - They are an excellent first step in building newer players' enthusiasm for tournament play.
  - The expenses for a Local Sectional are greatly reduced, making Local Sectionals essential for affordability since ACBL directors' salaries and travel costs are not billed.
  - Units with large geographical areas but small memberships are increasingly reluctant to run tournaments with costly ACBL directors and the risk of financial loss.
  - Since COVID, and with the decline in tournament attendance, Local Sectionals have become vital to:
    - Give regular players the chance to compete for silver points,
    - Introduce newer players to a scaled-down version of tournament bridge (*including Swiss Teams*), and
    - Creates interest in our Regional tournaments.Without this option, many Units would struggle to run more than one Sectional per year.
  - Several Units are working hard to grow participation among 0-20 masterpoint players. Local Sectionals are an effective tool to support that goal.
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## DISCUSSION ITEM

### DI253-BR01: GNT Funding Update

#### Discussion:

In Philadelphia, we had a thorough discussion about Grass Roots funding in general and GNT funding specifically (D1252-BR07: GNT Funding—Where Do We Go from Here?). Subsequent to this discussion, many conversations took place to determine the best way to implement the final suggestions:

At the Summer GNT National Finals held at an NABC, ACBL Management has agreed to cover the entry fees for the Championship flight for the first two days (as we already do for the other three flights). This is approximately \$12k annually. Implementing this action will allow players in **all** flights to pay no entry fees while playing in the event. This results in less revenue received by the ACBL.

The ACBL will continue to charge the Districts back for the remaining entry fees (Days 3-5) as usual, although the Districts' costs will increase for as long as their teams are successful and remain in the event. Districts have been undercharged several years for these days due to a formula error that only charged back for the cost of only one session per day instead of two. Thus, the net impact to the ACBL will be roughly \$0 since Districts have not been charged accurately—the additional \$12,000 in lost revenue will be made up by correctly charging the Districts for their teams on Days 3-5.

In order to help offset these increased costs, we are strongly recommending Districts run the two sessions per sectional that are allowed to support special funds, and to name the Grass Roots Fund as the recipient of this additional \$4 per table. These special games pay Silver at the Regional allocation rate of 1.4. The regulations that address this are covered in the Codification, Chapter V - Charity, Foundations, Special Funds, C. Unit and District Charity Games, Section 2 - Special Games at Sectionals 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.

Grass Roots Fund Games can also be run in May, which is the month reserved for them—see the Codification, Chapter V – Charity, Foundations, Special Funds, B. Charity and Fund Games – Clubs, Section 2 – Special Games at Clubs, subsection 2.4. Even if not originally advertised on the website, these special games can be added to existing sectional sanctions by notifying the Director. Flyers should be updated as well.

As the initiator of the effort to get the Championship flight treated the same as the lower three flights, in Region 5, there are six sectionals already committed to run these Grass Roots Fund Games, and I am working on getting six more. These games pay 27% more than the regular sectional allocation, and the funding provided back to the Districts from their participation should more than cover the increased billings back to the Districts as well as providing players more Masterpoints on those days.

We are currently working with Bulletin Editor Paul Linxwiler to encourage him to devote an article to Grass Roots. This new action can also be highlighted in an article in the Daily Bulletin at the Fall NABC in San Francisco and again in the Spring in St. Louis.

Regional Directors should encourage their areas to run these games in support of Grass Roots events. Their active promotions may even help the GNT grow in stature.

**Action Item:** Management to ensure that the decision to pay for the first days of entry fees for the Championship flight at the National Finals is well-publicized along with the ability for special games to be run at Sectionals and, during the month of May, in Clubs.

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## MOTION

### 253-BY01: ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

**Purpose:** To Allow the Advisory Council greater freedom in structuring and eliminating committees

**Moved that** the following changes shall be made to Article IX, ADVISORY COUNCIL, section 9.2 of the ACBL Bylaws:

**9.2 Duties. To further these purposes, the Advisory Council shall:**

~~9.2.1 Establish the following standing committees:~~

~~9.2.1.1 Club and teacher support, growth, and development;~~

~~9.2.1.2 Membership growth and retention; and~~

~~9.2.1.3 General matters relating to the play of bridge.~~

~~9.2.2 At the request of the Board of Directors and/or ACBL management, lead or participate in other committees as needed.~~

~~9.2.3 Establish such other committees as are necessary to address the interests of the membership.~~

~~9.2.4 Propose resolutions for consideration (and, if necessary, reconsideration) by the Board of Directors reflecting the needs and concerns of the membership.~~

~~9.2.5 Report important issues from Advisory Council meetings to District and Unit members.~~

~~9.2.6 Perform such other duties as may be specified elsewhere in these Bylaws or may be assigned by the Board of Directors or ACBL management.~~

**9.2.1 Establish such standing committees as are necessary to address the interests of the membership as it from time to time deems necessary, and, at the request of the Board of Directors and/or ACBL management, lead or participate in other committees as needed.**

**9.2.2 Propose resolutions for consideration (and, if necessary, reconsideration) by the Board of Directors reflecting the needs and concerns of the membership.**

**9.2.3 Report important issues from Advisory Council meetings to District and Unit members.**

**9.2.4 Perform such other duties as may be specified elsewhere in these Bylaws or as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or ACBL management.**

**Effective Date:** Upon completion of being adopted once by the Board of Directors, meeting the appropriate publication requirement in the Bulletin, second adoption by the Board of Directors, and approval by the Advisory Council.

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** N/A

**Discussion:** Per request of the Chair of the Advisory Council, Richard Popper, and agreed to by the Governance and Bylaws Committees. The purpose of the amendment is to allow the Advisory Council to determine what committees it shall form, without forcing it to form committees which may duplicate committees formed by the Board of Directors or otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors. The increasing involvement of Advisory Council members in committees and task forces formed by the Board of Directors makes mandated committees unnecessary.

**Assignment of Action Item:** If adopted by the Board, these changes shall be scheduled for a second reading and vote by the Board after the required publication in the Bulletin for proposed bylaw changes. The changes will then be scheduled for a vote by the Advisory Council, and published on the ACBL website once all these steps are met.

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## **MOTION**

### **253-GV04: CODIFICATION CHAPTER IV REWRITE**

**Purpose:** Update Chapter IV of the Codification

**Moved that** ACBL Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures be removed in its entirety and replaced with the newly revised ACBL Codification, Chapter IV – Governance and Operations.

**Effective Date:** Immediately upon conclusion of the final Board meeting session prior to the 2025 San Francisco NABC.

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** N/A

**Discussion:** This year, the Governance Committee prepared a Board Resource Manual (BRM), which is a reference document for all Board Members, to replace the Board Orientation Manual which was previously given to new Board Members. A large portion of the documentation contained in the Codification, Chapter IV, has been moved from the Codification to the BRM. A “clean copy” of this revision of Chapter IV is posted to the same row as this motion in Column E of The Board Room. The documentation removed from the Codification or moved to another part of the Codification is identified on the “marked up version” of the current Codification, Chapter IV. This mark-up is posted to the same row as this motion in Column F.

In Section 5 – Board Committees and Task Forces contained on pages 15-29 of the marked-up copy, the only changes that have been made to the existing Codification are in the first paragraph on page 15 where “and task forces” has been added to the introductory paragraph. This entire section is a work in progress and the Governance Committee wants to present all of the changes to Section 5 at one time at a future Board meeting.

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## MOTION

### 253-GV01: ELIMINATION OF CHARITY RECOGNITION AWARD

**Purpose:** To eliminate the granting of the annual Charity Recognition Award.

**Moved that:**

The Codification, Chapter V – Charity, Foundations and Special Funds A. Administration and Policy Regarding Charity, Section 2 ACBL Charitable Recognition Award, be modified, eliminating Section 2 in its entirety.

## Section 2 – ACBL Charitable Recognition Award

~~2.1 Yearly, each District President shall appoint two members from their District to receive the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award.~~

~~2.2 Recipients shall receive a mailed letter of notification from the ACBL along with a recognition pin. Recipients also shall receive recognition in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.~~

~~2.2.1 A member of ACBL management shall sign the notification letters on behalf of the ACBL Board President and the ACBL Executive Director.~~

~~2.2.2 ACBL management shall use email to notify each District President of their opportunity to name recipients and of their duty to email their selections to ACBL management within a specified time frame.~~

~~2.2.3 A reminder email will be sent to each District President who has not responded.~~

~~2.2.4 Failure to send recipients to ACBL management within the specified time frame will result in the forfeiture of awards for the annual award cycle.~~

~~2.2.5 The ACBL Regional Director or District Director representing the District(s) will be copied on email notification and reminder email.~~

~~2.2.6 Communications will be sent to District Presidents currently on file with the ACBL.~~

~~2.3 The ACBL Charitable Recognition Award is a lifetime right as long as the member is a member in good standing. If a recipient loses good standing status, the recipient's ACBL Charitable Recognition Award shall be removed. Upon regaining good standing status, a recipient shall not automatically be reinstated. Expulsion from the ACBL, suspension for one year or longer or probation for two years or longer will result in permanent removal of the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award. This section also shall apply to appointments to the National Charity Committee, which has been replaced by this award.~~

~~2.4 Members of the ACBL Board of Directors and the Chair of the Advisory Council will automatically receive the award. Each will receive a recognition pin but will not receive recognition in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.~~

~~2.5 Replacement pins if lost or stolen will be provided free of charge to recipients of the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award.~~

***And***

**Further Moved that:** The Codification, Chapter II - Business Management, D. Official Publication of the ACBL, Section 1 Bridge Bulletin, 1.1. Required Publication in the Bridge Bulletin, 1.3.2 be amended as follows:

**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.**

**Effective Date:** November 24, 2025

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** Elimination of staff time associated with managing this award; elimination of costs of pins and distribution.

**Discussion:**

In July 2024, the ACBL Charity Foundation (“CF”) became independent of the ACBL. The Governance Committee, after consultation with the CF Trustees, agrees that the management and bestowing of this award is more appropriately done by the CF.

The Codification states that ACBL Board members and the AC Chair automatically (annually) receive the award. The Governance Committee agreed that if the award is transferred to the CF, this is no longer indicated or necessary.

The Committee considered whether Board members and the AC Chairs should retain award status for past recognition. It was confirmed that the award is a lifetime right granted to any recipient who maintains membership in good standing; the Board members and AC Chairs who have already received a pin should continue to wear it.

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## **MOTION**

### **253-GV03: RIGHTS OF NON-MEMBERS**

**Purpose:** To clarify what rights, if any, Non-Members have when participating in ACBL events.

**Moved that:**

The Codification be amended by adding a new provision to Chapter I - Membership, A. Membership, Section 2, Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership as follows:

## **Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership**

### **2.1 Membership Rights ~~(Effective June 15, 2020)~~ (see Section 2.4 for non-member rights)**

In accordance with Article III, Membership and Fees, Section 3.2 of the ACBL Bylaws, and Article XII, Arbitration, the following voting rights, term, characteristics, rights, limitations and obligations shall attach to all classes of membership as follows:

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## **2.4 Non-Member Rights**

### **2.4.1 Participants who are not and have never been ACBL Members enjoy the following rights:**

- a) Right to participate in certain ACBL-sanctioned club games and some tournaments, excluding regional and NABC events;**
- b) Right to have their stratification/entry masterpoint level assessed and assigned by management to ensure equity for Members;**
- c) Right to have any masterpoints earned credited upon becoming a Member (subject to the then current point limit during Guest Membership);**
- d) Rights afforded to them under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge;**
- e) Right to be protected from violations of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (e.g., inappropriate conduct or unethical conduct).**

### **2.4.2 Non-Members do not have the following rights:**

- a) Unconditional right to play at any club game; admission may be refused except for reasons of discrimination based on race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, physical handicap or bridge proficiency;**



**b) The right to vote in ACBL elections or to seek elected position.**

**Effective Date:** November 24, 2025

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** N/A

**Discussion:**

The current Codification does not distinguish among current members, guest members, former members and non-members. At our Philadelphia meetings we discussed the need to define “Non-Members” and describe their responsibilities and the limitations on their rights. We distinguished between those players whose membership has lapsed through non-payment of dues or inactivity (“Former Members”) and those who have never joined the ACBL (“Non-Members”). It is well established that Former Members have the right to reinstatement by the payment of unpaid dues; once their dues are current, all benefits of membership pertain. Non-Members may play in club games (unless precluded by an individual club), and sectionals. Current policy requires a player to have an ACBL membership (guest membership-at a minimum) in order to participate in Regionals and national level events at NABCs.

This proposed wording is being referenced where appropriate in the current Codification, so that it can take effect now. DI253-GV01 shows where this new section would fit in Chapter I, Membership, Section 1, Application, Classes, Benefits and Rights, Subsection 1.2 Membership Classes and Benefits.

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**MOTION**

**253-GV06: POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR WBF REPRESENTATIVE**

**Purpose:** To revise the selection, term, and accountability requirements for the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Executive Council and to clarify the duties and reporting expectations for the NABF Board Members.

**Moved that** the Codification, Chapter VII - International Bridge, B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members be amended as follows:

## **Chapter VII – International Bridge**

### **B. NABF Board Members and WBF Representative**

#### **Section 1 – NABF Board Members and the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council**

##### **1.1 NABF Board Members (ACBL Appointments)**

**The ACBL Board of Directors will appoint two NABF Board Members to three-year terms. The appointments will be made according to the procedure set forth in the Codification, Chapter IV- Election Procedures, Section 3 - Election Procedures for Officers and Other Elected Positions.**

**Both appointees must be ACBL Members in Good Standing, and at least one must be a current member of the ACBL Board of Directors.**

##### **Reporting Requirements**

**NABF Board Members shall adhere to the following reporting requirements:**

**1.1.1 Submit a written report(s), including agenda items, to the ACBL Board of Directors in advance of scheduled NABF meetings. Written reports are required within 10 days of the conclusion of NABF meetings.**

**1.1.2 Maintain communication with the ACBL Board President or his/her designee regarding mutually relevant initiatives and best practices.**

##### **1.2 Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council (NABF Appointment)**

**The NABF Board, upon recommendation by the ACBL Board of Directors, shall elect the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Executive Council to a two-year term.**

**The Representative shall be an ACBL Board Member and must continue to be a Board Member during the entirety of his/her term. For recommendation to the NABF, the Member shall be selected according to the procedure set forth in the Codification, Chapter IV- Election Procedures, Section 3-Election Procedures for Officers and Other Elected Positions.**

**The Representative must resign from the WBF position or shall be removed by the ACBL Board if he/she ceases to be an ACBL Board Member, or is otherwise removed for lack of standing by the ACBL Board.**

##### **1.3 WBF Reporting Requirements**

**The Representative shall provide the ACBL Board of Directors with periodic reports. These reports must address, at a minimum, the following:**

**1.3.1 The agenda and expected actions coming before the WBF at their next meeting(s).**

**1.3.2 Any policy changes, regulatory decisions, or operational actions taken by the WBF.**

**1.3.3 Financial information such as budgets, operating statements, and balance sheets, including explanations of unusual expenses.**

**1.3.4 Submit a written report(s) to the ACBL Board President within 10 days of the conclusion of the WBF meeting(s). The ACBL Board President shall cause the report(s) to be posted.**

#### **1.4 Addressing Non-Compliance**

**Non-compliance by the Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council will result in Board review. The Board shall refer such non-compliance to the Board Oversight Committee for further action.**

#### **B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members**

**Section 1—ACBL appointments to the NABF Board and Selection of the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.**

**Current regulations of the NABF allow the ACBL to name appoint two people to the NABF board of directors, and to nominate one or more people from whom the NABF will select one person to serve as one of its representatives on the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.**

**1.1—To facilitate communication between the organizations, the ACBL nominee(s) to serve as a representative of the NABF to the WBF Executive Council must be elected from among members of the ACBL Board of Directors. If the nominee selected by the NABF resigns from the ACBL Board of Directors while serving on the WBF Executive Council, it is strongly recommended that the nominee also resign from serving as the representative. The ACBL appointees to the board of directors of the NABF may be selected from among the members of the ACBL Board of Directors or from any ACBL member in good standing.**

**1.2—Reports shall be periodically submitted to the ACBL Board of Directors from the ACBL Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council and from the ACBL appointees to the NABF Board. Reports shall include but not be limited to the following information:**

**a.—Any actions taken by the WBF or the NABF regarding World or Zone 2 bridge that are important to current ACBL.**

~~b.—The agenda or any actions expected to come before the WBF or the NABF at their next meeting(s) of the ACBL Board.~~

~~c.—Financial information such as budgets, operating statements and balance sheets, including explanations of unusual expenses.~~

~~d.—The assignments that ACBL representatives or appointees have in the WBF or the NABF, respectively.~~

~~e.—Any compensation, reimbursement (excluding economy transportation and hotel rooms and per diem for the length of the Executive Council meetings and one or two days before and after said meetings) or benefits from the WBF or the NABF to any member of the ACBL Board of Directors member.~~

~~1.3 —Reports/notifications are required in advance of scheduled WBF and NABF meetings in time for input from ACBL to be addressed as appropriate. Reports are required within 30 days of the conclusion of WBF and NABF meetings.~~

~~1.4 —WBF and NABF Representatives from the ACBL are expected to maintain communications with the ACBL Board President or their designee regarding initiatives and best practices pertaining to topics of interest to the ACBL, NABF and WBF members.~~

#### ~~Section 2 —Election of the ACBL Nominees to the WBF Executive Council and Appointments to the NABF Board~~

~~One or more persons shall be nominated by the ACBL Board of Directors for the one Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council position that has been allotted to the ACBL by the NABF. If only one person applies to be nominated, then that person shall be deemed to be the nominee. If more than one person applies to be nominated, the ACBL Board may choose to present multiple nominees to the NABF Board and the NABF Board will elect the representative. The ACBL Board may limit the nominee(s) to be presented to the NABF Board using the election procedures stipulated in Chapter IV—Board Procedures, A: Administration, Section 3 Elections.~~

~~Two NABF Board members, one of which may be a non-Board member, will be appointed by the ACBL Board of Directors using the election procedures stipulated in Chapter IV—Board Procedures, A: Administration, Section 3 Elections.~~

**Effective Date:** Immediate, with the election for the 2026-2028 WBF Representative conducted on the final day of the San Francisco meetings of the Board

**Estimated Cost/Savings:** None

#### **Discussion**

This motion is based on input received during the Philadelphia Board meetings (DI252-GV03). The ensuing discussion contributed directly to the development of the following specific revisions to the Codification governing the WBF Representative role:

- Reaffirms that the WBF Representative must be an ACBL Board Member, ensuring direct accountability and relevance to the Board's current composition.
- Requires that if the Board Member resigns or otherwise ceases to be an ACBL Board Member, they must simultaneously resign from the WBF Representative position. This promotes continuity and ensures the representative is always an active member of the Board.
- Establishes a two-year term, deviating from the traditional four-year WBF term. A shorter term creates greater opportunity for more Board Members to serve, aligning more closely with the ACBL Board's election cycle for enhanced adaptability. (WBF's Eric Laurant confirmed flexibility in term length while presenting to the Board in Philadelphia.)
- Requires the ACBL Board receives timely information from the WBF, strengthening fiscal oversight and policy knowledge as a fundamental requirement.
- Addresses non-compliance with the role's requirements—specifically, failure to meet established reporting requirements—providing the Board with a mechanism (including potential disciplinary action) to ensure accountability and the consistent execution of the role's duties.

Assignment of Action Item: Management to update the Codification to reflect motion content.

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## MOTION

### 253-INT01: ACBL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NABF PAYMENT OF ZONE 2 WBF DUES

**Purpose:** To direct that (i) the ACBL's \$50,100 annual contribution continues to be paid to the NABF from ACBL operating funds, and (ii) the designated portion of the NABC+ event entry charge will be remitted directly to the NABF and earmarked for payment for Zone 2 WBF dues. ***Contingent upon approval of the pending ACBL-NABF-USBF-CBF-FMB-WBF Agreement.***

**Moved that** the Codification, Chapter VII – International Bridge, C. International Fund, Section 2 – International Fund Monies be revised as follows:

## CHAPTER VII – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

### C. International Fund

#### Section 2 – International Fund Monies

- ~~2.1 All International Fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned special International Fund games events conducted by the ACBL in the United States and for the specific purpose of subsidizing United States athletes in international bridge competition will be forwarded to and retained by the USBF to be distributed at its discretion.~~
- 2.21 All NABC+ event entry fees ~~will~~ **shall** include ~~\$1.50 surcharge~~ **a charge** per player per session for the ~~International Fund purpose, at a minimum, of generating monies to support fulfillment of WBF Zone 2 NBOs' dues obligations.~~
- 2.32 ~~International Fund~~ Monies collected ~~at~~ **from International Fund games conducted by ACBL at NABCs shall be apportioned to the appropriate International Fund sent to the US Bridge Federation, Canadian Bridge Federation, Federación Mexicana de Bridge and the Bermuda Bridge Federation** in proportion ~~equal to that country's the countries'~~ **percentages of resident ACBL members.**
- 2.43 International Fund monies collected from **ACBL-sanctioned special International Fund games conducted by clubs** in **the United States**, Canada and Mexico shall be sent to the respective NBOs to be disbursed at their discretion **unless needed to satisfy the balance of the WBF dues.**
- 2.54 ACBL **shall** provide ~~s~~ \$50,100.00 annually to the NABF for the sole purpose of contributing to ~~the~~ **Zone 2** WBF dues obligations ~~paid by~~ **of** the USBF, CBF and FMB. This amount may be adjusted at the discretion of ACBL, and will be adjusted if the money is used for any purpose other than payment of the three NBOs' WBF dues.

**Effective Date:** No later than March 31, 2026, given ACBL-WBF Partnership Agreement (effective for calendar years 2026-2028) is approved by the Board.

#### **Discussion:**

The process to get here was complicated and difficult, involving many different organizations, each with their own vested interests, but the solution is simple.

The changes proposed in this Motion to the Codification and to Management procedures are based on the following:

- The North American Bridge Federation (NABF) remits the World Bridge Federation (WBF) dues for the North American zone;
- The ACBL has historically contributed \$50,100 from its operating funds toward this obligation;
- The balance (currently estimated at ~\$80,000) is expected to be derived from NABC+ additional game charges;

**Assignment of Action Items:**

1. Governance Committee and International Task Force coordinate to develop a Motion proposing revision of pages 47 and 173 and elsewhere in the Codification as necessary to ensure consistency with provisions of 253-INT01. To be proposed for Spring 2026 BOD meetings in St. Louis.