

AC Chair Comment: Passed 13 – 0

MOTION

Item 242-AC02: Update of Recorder Regulations

Date: June 23, 2024

Submitted by: Management

Coordinated with: A&C Committee (Sealy (C), White, Zayac)

Purpose: To provide for an updated description of and procedures for the ACBL Recorder System

Moved that:

The update of the ACBL Recorder Regulations (attached) as required in the *Codification, I - Membership Operating Guidelines F. ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations and Disciplinary Administration, Section 3*, be approved:

Section 3 – Disciplinary Administration

- 3.4 Recorder Regulations. The Recorder Regulations are established guidelines for handling player memos, reported incidents occurring during an ACBL activity, and investigations. ACBL Management shall update the Regulations when necessary, maintaining a record of all versions. The most current version shall be published on the ACBL website.

Effective date: July 17, 2024

Estimated cost savings: N/A

Discussion:

The Recorder Regulations were last updated in November 2017. The role of the Recorder System—to include but is not limited to the Office of the National Recorder—has changed considerably with the implementation of a Computer Based Cheating Detection (CBCD) System earlier this year. The attached regulations are submitted to update the role and responsibilities of the resources, both human and technological, required to support the National Recorder System and to align the regulations with the May 8, 2024, Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR). Recorder Regulations also support the requirement in the Bylaws to develop and maintain standards of conduct and ethical behavior.

In accordance with Section 3.4 cited above, once approved, the Recorder Regulations will be posted on the ACBL website.

Action required: Management shall develop internal operating guidelines in consultation with A&C that comply with these updated Recorder Regulations. These guidelines will become the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Recorder's Office and may be placed in the

electronic repository that the Governance Committee is working on. That repository will contain all approved Board policies as well as detailed Board and Management procedures that support and/or relate to the Codification.

ACBL RECORDER REGULATIONS

Section 1 - Definitions and Precedence

1. **Definitions.** Italicized terms are defined in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (*CDR*).
2. **Precedence.** In the event of any inconsistency between the *CDR* and these Recorder Regulations, the *CDR* shall take priority.

Section 2 – Recorder System

The ACBL Recorder System is a comprehensive framework comprised of human and technological resources that are designed to uphold the integrity and ethics of the game by focusing on education, investigation, enforcement of the regulations, and record-keeping. ACBL is dedicated to promoting ethical behavior and deterring inappropriate conduct in any *ACBL activity* through its Recorder System.

1. **Office of the National Recorder (ONR).** The ONR is the operational department which administers the ACBL Recorder System, ensuring ethical behavior and addressing misconduct. The office is vital in preserving the integrity of the game and fostering a fair and respectful environment for all members and non-members participating in any *ACBL activity*. This is accomplished by upholding the rules and regulations set out in these Recorder Regulations and in the *CDR*.
2. **National Recorder and Assistant Recorder.** The National Recorder is responsible for enforcing these Recorder Regulations and the *CDR*, and for oversight of the Recorder System. The National Recorder and the Assistant Recorder, both ACBL employees, together are central to implementing and integrating education, investigations, enforcement of the regulations, and record maintenance. Their primary objectives are to:
 - Develop and implement internal operating guidelines for the ONR, covering recording protocols, confidentiality standards, and investigation procedures.
 - Develop and implement educational programs promoting expected conduct in any *ACBL activity* and ethical bridge play.
 - Raise awareness about the importance of ethical conduct and the consequences of violations.
 - Enforce the ACBL **disciplinary** rules and regulations.
 - Develop a communication plan to ensure members are informed about changes in ACBL **disciplinary** rules and regulations.
 - Evaluate, investigate and record reported *Incidents*.
 - Prepare comprehensive cases, including thorough evidence preparation, to robustly support the ACBL in proving violations of the *CDR*.
 - Serve as ACBL's primary *Advocate* on cases before *Disciplinary Bodies*.

- Develop and maintain an archival system for historical records to ensure that all relevant documentation is appropriately filed and easily accessible for future reference.
 - Prepare and provide quarterly reporting of key metrics related to reported *Incidents* to ACBL Management and the Board of Directors.
3. **District Recorders.** A District may appoint a District Recorder to assist, at the discretion of the National Recorder, in education, investigations related to conduct matters and case preparation. A District Recorder should possess the following:
- Unimpeachable ethics, integrity, honesty, and demeanor.
 - Technological acumen.
 - Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
 - Ability to handle sensitive matters with discretion and diplomacy.
 - Familiarity with Laws of Duplicate Bridge, Recorder Regulations, and *CDR*.
4. **Temporary Recorder.** The Executive Director may designate a Temporary Recorder as needed, primarily when the National Recorder and Assistant Recorder recuse themselves from a matter due to a conflict of interest.

Section 3 - Procedures for Recorder System

This section outlines the procedures for *Incident* reporting, initial assessment, investigation, disciplinary case management, and the recording and archiving of all reports and outcomes. **The internal operating guidelines established by the National Recorder should be strictly followed.** Defined procedures ensure that all allegations of misconduct are handled with fairness.

1. Incident Reporting and Initial Assessment

- **Written Submission of Reported Incident.** *Incidents* involving an ACBL member or non-member participating in an *ACBL activity* **are** ~~be~~ submitted to the ONR via *player memo*, or any other method of written reporting. Note that a reporter's request for anonymity will be respected, however, it may restrict the National Recorder from initiating an investigation.
- **Computer-Based Cheating Detection (CBCD).** All players who participate in any online *ACBL activity* will be examined by a *CBCD technique or tool*. Upon receipt of an examination report by a CBCD technique or tool, a player identified as possibly engaging in unethical conduct is automatically submitted to the ONR for further investigation, effectively treated as a reported *Incident*.
- **Timeliness and Jurisdiction Check.** The ONR verifies that the reports are received within the statute of limitations and confirms ACBL's jurisdiction as stated in the *CDR* or Codification. If the report is not received within the statute of limitations, it cannot lead to a Recorder *Complaint* and/or *Charge* for an alleged conduct violation.
- **Recording.** All reported *Incidents* are evaluated and recorded into one or more of the following categories based on the allegation or concern from the reporter: Administrative, Conduct, Ethical, No Jurisdiction, and/or Other.

- **Evaluation.** ~~The internal operating guidelines established by the National Recorder should be strictly followed.~~ Consistency is essential to ensure fairness. The National Recorder should review the player's history of reported *Incidents* previously filed before taking one of the following actions:
 - File. No action will be taken at this time.
 - Educate/Counsel. The National Recorder has the discretion to educate or counsel the subject and/or reporter. This may include a written warning or reprimand with a notice that *Charges* will be pursued if future *Incidents* occur.
 - Investigate. The matter will be investigated further to determine if a *prima facie* case can be established. If a *prima facie* case is established, the National Recorder files a Recorder *Complaint* with the *Charging Party* with a recommendation that *Charges* be filed for allegedly violating the *CDR*.

Note that all players reported for an ethical concern are subject to an automatic examination by a CBCD technique or tool.

2. **Investigation.** The investigation of reported *Incidents* is a critical component of maintaining ethical standards and integrity within our organization. This process involves a thorough and confidential examination of all allegations to ensure fair and impartial resolution. The ONR must uphold the highest standards of conduct while protecting the rights and confidentiality of all parties involved.
 - **Investigators.** The National Recorder may utilize ONR staff, District Recorders and vetted volunteers to handle investigations related to conduct matters. The National Recorder and Assistant Recorder handle all investigations of ethical matters unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director.
 - **Confidentiality.** Any individual assigned or designated to handle investigations must maintain strict confidentiality. This includes safeguarding all information related to the investigation and ensuring that details are only disclosed to authorized personnel as necessary for the investigation. Maintaining confidentiality is paramount to protecting the integrity of the process and the privacy of all involved parties.
 - **History Check.** The investigator should review the player's history of previous *Incidents* reported.
 - **Investigation Report.** The investigator should collect additional details from the reporter, subject, and any witnesses; obtain written statements when possible; and compile a detailed investigation report including notes, witness statements, and conclusions drawn from the investigation.
 - **Recorder Complaint.** The National Recorder prepares the Recorder *Complaint* if a *prima facie* case is established as follows the procedures set out in the *CDR*.
 - **File Management.** Retain all records of the investigation in an organized manner. Ensure all related correspondence and evidence are properly documented.

3. Disciplinary Case Management

- **Charges Filed.** Only the *Charging Party* has the authority to file *Charges*. When a *Charge* is filed, it is the responsibility of the *Charging Party* or their *Advocate* to prepare ACBL's case. Note that the National Recorder is designated as the *Charging Party* when *Charges* are initiated under *CDR* § 502. The *Charging Party* and *Advocate* must comply with the procedures set out in the *CDR*.
 - **ACBL Advocate.** The National Recorder and Assistant Recorder are the designated and preferred staff to serve as the *ACBL Advocate*. Subject to approval by the Executive Director, the *Charging Party* retains the right to appoint other *Advocates*, when required.
 - **Case Development.** The *Charging Party* or the *ACBL Advocate* prepares the case that will be presented before the *Disciplinary Body*.
 - **CDR Compliance.** The *Advocate* must comply with the procedures set out in the *CDR*.
4. **Recording and Archiving.** All reports, investigations, and outcomes are documented to maintain a comprehensive history of member conduct. Only authorized personnel should have access to these records.

AC Chair Comment: Passed 13 – 0

ACTION ITEM

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

Moved that:

Management 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 but received a higher level based on their partner's MP level 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 is asked to coordinate the notification process with A&C.

Effective Date: July 18, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings: No cost savings but staff time will be required to execute the reclassification which may result in a delay in processing new cases.

Discussion:

Prior to the adoption of the February 1, 2024, CDR version which implemented Fast Track Discipline (FTD), pairs that had significantly different masterpoint holdings were frequently given differing lengths of suspension and probation by OEOC and recommended for approval of Negotiated Resolutions by the National Recorder's Office.

The initial set of FTD penalties identified in the February 1, 2024, CDR had the pair being given the penalty of the highest player to both people.

Based on the data from the initial months of the soft-launch phase of the EDGAR rollout, the Board implemented changes to the February 1, 2024, CDR and a revised CDR went into effect on May 8, 2024. Among these changes was assignment of penalties to FTD-eligible players to match the penalty of their masterpoint peer group and not that of their partner.

In the interest of fairness to those within the FTD masterpoint levels who had been assigned higher penalties based on their partner's masterpoint holdings or other aggravating factors, on

May 8, 2024, the Board approved an Action Item for Management to reduce the suspensions of players originally eligible for FTD to what they would have received had they been kept within their masterpoint group. This change was made retractive to the adoption of the CDR on February 1, 2024.

At the time this May 8, 2024, decision was made, the Board was fairly split in its opinion as to what players should be retroactively considered for reduced suspensions: only those who were originally FTD-eligible **OR** those who were originally FTD-eligible and **ALSO** those who had agreed to Negotiated Resolutions (NRs). It was clear that the decision would increase the workload of the Office of the National Recorder and potentially slow down dispensation of cases not yet charged and those in the pipeline that were about to be charged. Given the longer suspensions of those receiving NRs, there has been very little negative effect in delaying the decision to address retroactivity for players who received NRs who otherwise would have been eligible for FTD penalties.

Based on the requirement of the May 8, 2024, Action Item that Management coordinate the charged-case notification process with A&C so that workload progress could be measured, as long as A&C has determined that the EDGAR caseload is being managed, it is time to re-examine the reasons for not including NRs in the suspension reduction action. Fairness and consistency are served by assigning FTD-level suspensions to those players who were eligible for them from February 1 through May 8.

AC Chair Comment: Passed 13 – 0

FULL BOARD

Hennings (P), Shoemaker (VP)

Steinberg, Aquino, Glasson, Carman, Heller, Sealy, Overby, Cuneo, Lodge, Zayac, White

Date: June 20, 2024

Submitted by: Margot Hennings

Input from Committee: Online Ethical Oversight Committee

Purpose: To appoint members of the Online Ethical Oversight Committee

Item 242-BD02: Online Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments

Moved that:

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

Effective date: End of the Summer NABC 2024

Estimated cost/savings: None

Discussion:

Current Committee:

Term ending 2024: David Caprera, Phil Clayton, Alex Kolesnik, Chris Moll, Pam Wittes

Term ending 2025: Cheri Bjerkan, Jordan Chodorow, Ira Chorush, Richard Popper and Rick Rowland

Term ending 2026: Jon Brissman, Jan Martel, Karen Walker, Karen Allison, Marjorie Michelin

AC Chair Comment: Passed on consent (i.e., unanimous without discussion)

MOTION

Item 242-BR01: Re-definition of Limited Regionals

Date: June 20, 2024

Submitted by: Dennis Carman and Barbara Heller

Coordinated with: Bridge Committee (Carman (C), Aquino, Heller)

Purpose: To allow distinct categorizations of NLM Regionals from Youth, Junior and Collegiate Regionals

Moved that:

The *Codification, Chapter IX – Regionals, A. Regional Tournament Sanctioning and Scheduling*, be 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 date: January 1, 2025

Estimated cost savings: N/A

Discussion:

Junior, Youth or Collegiate Regionals are vastly different than non-Life Master Regionals and should not be counted against a District's allocation of Non-LM Regionals.

AC Chair Comment: Passed 12 – 1 (Aquino opposed)

MOTION

Item 242-BR02: Change in GNT Stratifications

Date: June 20, 2024

Submitted by: Dennis Carman on behalf of the Bridge Committee (Carman (C), Aquino, Heller)

Coordinated with: Competitions and Conventions Committee

Purpose: To increase Masterpoint® limits for Flight B and Flight C GNT stratifications

Moved that:

The *Codification, Chapter XI – Special Events, B. Grand National Teams*, be changed 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~~ **3500** masterpoints (**Friendly amendment: changed to 3000**)
 - d. Flight C: **0-750** ~~non-Life Master up to 500 masterpoints~~

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

Estimated Cost Savings: N/A but should increase League income with more participation

Discussion:

This is an attempt to re-engage players who no longer can play in the two lowest flights as masterpoint inflation via Face to Face and Online play has moved them out of their comfort zone. A similar Motion (242-BR03) adding a 4th Flight to the NAP with the same raised masterpoints hopefully will create new interest to these events as well. Raising the GNT strats when introducing the fourth NAP flight to make them the same is appropriate.

AC Chair Comment: Passed 12 – 1 (Aquino opposed)

MOTION

Item 242-BR03: Increase Number of NAP Flights

Date: June 20, 2024

Submitted by: Dennis Carman

Coordinated with: Competitions and Conventions, Finance, and Bridge Committees

Purpose: To increase the number of flights in the NAP

Moved that:

The *Codification, Chapter XI – Special Events, C. North American Pairs*, be changed as follows:

Section 1 - Guidelines

1.2 The NAP competition will have ~~three~~ four flights as follows:

- a. Flight A: 0-unlimited masterpoints
- b. Flight B: 0-~~2500~~ 6000 masterpoints
- c. Flight C: 0-3500 ~~Non-Life Master up to 500~~-masterpoints
- d. Flight D: 0-750 Masterpoints**

Effective date: June 1, 2025, to coincide with the start of the NAP 2025 qualifying period.

Estimated Cost Savings: Unknown. There will be new subsidy amounts for 25 districts—the Finance Committee is being asked to provide a ballpark estimate for the increased cost of the proposed fourth flight based on current subsidies provided by ACBL. Increased participation in NAP Qualifiers as well as increased attendance at the NAP National Finals at the Spring NABC should help reduce these additional costs.

Discussion:

This is an attempt to re-engage players who no longer can play in the lower flights as Masterpoint inflation via Face to Face and Online play has moved them out of their comfort zone. The extra flight in this motion should also help to return advanced players who feel they can't compete at the top. A similar Motion (242-BR02) changing the GNT strats to align with the proposed four NAP strats hopefully will create new interest in both these events and increase attendance at the Spring and Summer NABCs for those players who have stopped trying to compete.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NAP Income	(394,983)	(416,023)	(6,182)	(327,542)	(323,695)	(313,490)
NAP Expenses	159,650	159,269	6,143	147,669	145,078	150,628
NAP Net Income	<u>(235,333)</u>	<u>(256,754)</u>	<u>(39)</u>	<u>(179,873)</u>	<u>(178,617)</u>	<u>(162,862)</u>

AC Chair Comment: Passed 13 – 0

MOTION

Item 242-BR04: Masterpoints® for Concurrent Club Games

Date: June 20, 2024

Submitted by: Dennis Carman on behalf of the Masterpoint® Committee

Coordinated with: Bridge Committee (Carman (C), Aquino, Heller)

Purpose: To clarify Masterpoint® Awards for Concurrent Games

Moved that:

The *Codification, Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games C. General Club Game Regulations*, be changed 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 date: 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.

Estimated Cost Savings: None.

Discussion:

Virtual limited tables are currently being counted as concurrent for F2F open games and vice versa. The Masterpoint® Committee) does not believe it is appropriate to stretch the meaning of flighted game as per the current wording of 1.2.2 in this way, as was permitted at some point during the reemergence from COVID-19. The change proposed and approved by the Masterpoint® Committee to the codification makes this explicit. Additionally, limited F2F tables must have the club sanction and be at the same location as the open game to be counted concurrently, and limited virtual tables must have the same club sanction and start within 30 minutes of each other to be counted concurrently.

AC Chair Comment: Tabled until Las Vegas, 8 – 5

MOTION

Item 242-BR05: 75-mile Radius Restriction on Special Games in Clubs

Date: June 16, 2024

Submitted by: Jeff Overby

Coordinated with: Governance

Purpose: To increase the mileage from 25 miles to 75 miles for clubs to hold special games in proximity to Sectional and Regional Tournaments.

Moved that:

The *Codification, Chapter VI – Club Sanctioned Games D. Club Championships and Special Events*, be changed as follows:

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.

Costs to ACBL: N/A

Effective Date: July 17, 2024

Discussion:

The initial regulations were put in effect to promote face to face play at Sectional and Regional events. More than ever, Regional and Sectional events should be supported by this change so that players are incentivized to play at Face to Face tournaments in their area for the one week or less time period per year that a club might wish to hold special games. Currently some clubs are holding special games in direct competition with Sectional and Regional tournaments to dissuade players from attending.

Management Comments:

Management of this, now, is tricky. Offer a friendly amendment to 45 miles to approximate no more than 1 house drive.

AC Chair Comment: Tabled until Las Vegas, 13 – 0

MOTION

Item 242-GV01: Regional Director Elections When No Declared Candidates

Date: May 12, 2024

Submitted by: Tim White

Coordinated with: Management/Director of Elections, Governance Committee

Purpose: Add provision to fill a Regional Director position where there was no declared candidate for the position in the standard election cycle process.

Moved that:

The ACBL *Codification, Chapter III – Administration, D. Elections, Section 1 – Declaration of Candidacy*, be revised as follows:

- 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.**

Effective Date: Immediately

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion:

Currently there is no provision for filling a Regional Director (RD) position where there are no declared candidates for the position in the course of the standard election cycle process. Allowing such a circumstance to cause an RD position to be vacant for a three-year term of the position would be undesirable as (a) it would leave the constituency of the position unrepresented on the ACBL Board of Directors, (b) a point-of-view and voice on matters before the Board would be lost and (c) the responsibilities, tasks and workload of the Board would be distributed among fewer board members.

The Codification and Bylaws were reviewed to determine what provisions exist to resolve the situation in which there are no declared candidates. No such provisions exist ...

The ACBL *Codification, Chapter III – Administration, D. Elections, Section 1 – Declaration of Candidacy,*

subsection 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 on accordance with the ACBL Bylaws.”

Turning to the ***ACBL Bylaws***:

ARTICLE V ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.3. Election, subsection 5.3.1 “Elections shall be held according to Article VIII of these Bylaws.

5.4 Vacancy. A member of the Board of Directors who does not complete his term ...
[Does not apply where there are no declared candidates.]

5.5 Resignation. [Does not apply where there are no declared candidates.]

5.6 Removal. [Does not apply where there are no declared candidates.]

ARTICLE VIII ELECTION PROCEDURES: [The provisions of this ARTICLE do not address the situation in which there are no declared candidates in an election for Regional Director.]

Where there are no declared candidates in the RD election process, the Board could choose to leave the position vacant for some period of time following the completion of the incumbent’s term and/or it could consider various approaches to filling the RD position:

1. Run an expedited Special Election as with the situation where an RD position becomes vacant as a result of resignation or death of the incumbent.

This approach would in essence be a do-over of an election process during which there was no declared candidate. Potential candidates would already have had the opportunity to declare for the standard election process. A substantial amount of effort would go into running an additional election. There is no guarantee there would be declared candidates for such a do-over election.

2. Empower a body to appoint an RD for the ensuing three-year term. For example, the collective members of the Region's district boards could be vested with authority to appoint a person to the position.

This approach would circumvent ACBL Bylaws, Article VIII, section 8.1 which specifies that Regional Directors be elected by unit boards within the region. Further, the relatively small number of district board members within the one, two or three districts of a region could expose such an appointment to out-sized influence of a particular individual(s) or a hidden agreement amongst individuals. Any particular district board member might even unduly pressure colleagues to appoint her/him RD.

3. Make provision to extend the term of the incumbent RD, subject to the incumbent's consent to continue to serve. The RD election process would be re-run in the succeeding year's election cycle, resulting in election to a two-year term, after which elections for the RD position would revert to the regular cycle. This would also have the effect of activating existing provisions of Bylaws Article V sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 to fill the position during the period of the extension if/as required.

*This approach is simple, dovetails with existing provisions for elections, and would require a minimum of additional administrative effort. **Thus, this approach is the framework for the motion above.***

AC Chair Comment: Failed 4 – 9 (Aquino, Heller, Overby, Steinberg in favor)

MOTION

Item 242-GV02: Board Oversight Committee Members

Date: June 22, 2024

Submitted by: Overby and Heller

Coordinated with: Governance

Purpose: To change method for selecting members of the Board Oversight Committee

Moved that:

The *Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, A. Administration*, be changed as follows:
Section 5 – ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code

- 5.1 The Board of Directors is the sole judge of the deportment of its members. The Board has the right and obligation to enforce its own rules and to require that its members refrain from conduct injurious to the ACBL and its purposes.
- 5.2 A committee of the Board to be known as the Board Oversight Committee is hereby authorized to investigate and report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding issues of conduct by Board members.
- 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.~~

Effective Date: Effective immediately

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion:

The policy of automatically appointing past presidents or only the Board members that have served the longest is archaic and unnecessary with the current Board reduction to 13 members and the fact members of the board are now all term-limited. The Board should be able to select who will serve as members of a committee that recommends a Board member for full Board review. Under the current policy no board member elected after 2020, would be eligible to serve on this committee unless he/she had been elected president post 2020.

As a board of 13 it is imperative that we have faith in the people elected to serve on the Board Oversight Committee and our voting to determine the makeup of that board allows all 13 of us to participate in the process.

AC Chair Comment: Failed 2 – 11 (Aquino, Sealy in favor)

MOTION

242-GV03: Role of the ACBL Board Executive Committee

Date: June 17, 2024

Submitted by: Margot Hennings and Cindy Shoemaker

Coordinated with: Governance (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo, and Zayac)

Purpose: To define the role of the Executive Committee for a Board of 13

Moved that:

Changes be made to the following two sections of the Codification:

Chapter IV – Board Procedures D. Committees

Section 1 – Committees of the Board

1. Executive Committee

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.**
- 1.1.1.2 When the committee determines that exigent circumstances exist, the committee may act for the Board on matters otherwise requiring two readings.

2. Composition

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.

4. ~~Election~~ **Nomination of At-large Members**

1.1.4.1 **One** ~~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) 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.**

And

Chapter IV – Board Procedures

A. Administration

Section 5 – ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code

5.1 The Board of Directors is the sole judge of the deportment of its members. The Board has the right and obligation to enforce its own rules and to require that its members refrain from conduct injurious to the ACBL and its purposes.

- 5.2 A committee of the Board to be known as the Board Oversight Committee is hereby authorized to investigate and report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding issues of conduct by Board members.
- 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.~~

Effective Date: June 17, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion:

Ever since the beginning of the in-depth conversations about downsizing our Board of 25 and settling on the number 13, the issue of the need to continue having an Executive Committee (EC) has been debated. The decision was made to wait and see how our Board of 13 functioned before resurrecting this debate.

Why now? Our Board of 13 now has experience with Board Conversations, Special Meetings, and Chats with our Executive Director. In addition, there is a motion for the Toronto Agenda that proposes electing the Board Oversight Committee instead of having it comprised of Past Presidents and the most senior Board members with experience leading the organization. As Motion Makers, we have no problem with electing members of the Board Oversight Committee instead of having them be automatic by seniority; however, with the reduction in number of Board members to 13 and the need to focus on the strategic and business goals of the organization, we need to continue to find ways to streamline our administrative processes instead of complicating them. Using the EC to provide Board Oversight is both efficient and addresses the sentiment to allow all Board members to have a say in who is in that role.

Changes in Role? The EC should continue to be used sparingly and primarily in situations where expediency is required. Using this committee to perform the role of Board Oversight in lieu of adding a separate elected committee is the one instance where the role of the EC could appropriately be expanded. Past history shows that convening the EC to perform the role of Board Oversight would not occur very often.

What is the requirement for the EC in the Bylaws?: The Bylaws were specifically drafted to identify *what is required* but to leave *flexibility in how a requirement is met*. Zonal representation as defined in the Codification does not conflict with the Bylaws, however, the Bylaws uses the word “appointments” for the three at-large members of the Board comprising the EC. Therefore, in this Motion, the word “elected” has been changed to “appointed” and “approved” as appropriate throughout the referenced sections in the Codification in order to be consistent with our Bylaws. This also now matches wording in the Codification where committee members are “appointed by the President and approved by the Board.”

The applicable section of the Bylaws is copied below for easy reference (Note: As it pertains to serving on a Board, a board member at large is defined as a full board member who doesn't hold a defined position within the board of directors.):

ACBL BYLAWS

Article VII

Committees

7.2 Executive Committee

- 7.2.1 An Executive Committee of the Board is established, which shall be a committee of the Board. The function of the Executive Committee is to act on behalf of the Board of Directors between Board meetings to the extent allowable by law.
- 7.2.2 The Executive Committee shall be composed of:
 - 7.2.2.1 The President of the ACBL, who shall chair the Committee.
 - 7.2.2.2 The Vice-President of the Board of Directors.
 - 7.2.2.3 Three at-large members of the Board, whose appointment shall be made by a majority of the entire board.
- 7.2.3 An Executive Committee meeting may be called by a majority of the Executive Committee or the President.
- 7.2.4 The minutes of the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting

Future action? An important follow-on to approving these changes would be to then eliminate all procedural statements about how elections are conducted from all sections of the Codification where they are currently referenced and replace procedures with a simple statement that “*Elections for Board positions will be conducted in accordance with the procedures identified in the Board-approved document entitled ‘XXXXXX’.*” This change would be consistent with the movement begun several years ago to remove specific “how” statements from the Codification and leave only the “what” in our regulations.

AC Chair Comment: Passed on consent (i.e., unanimous without discussion)

MOTION

Item 242-GV04: Revised Board Meeting Procedures

Date: June 12, 2024

Submitted by: Governance/Communications Committee (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo and Zayac)

Coordinated with: ACBL Board President Hennings

Purpose: To change Board meeting and motion procedures in the Codification to align with the Interim Guidelines adapted by the Board after the 2023 Regular summer meeting.

Moved that:

The Board Interim Guidelines in effect for the 2024 Regular summer meeting be incorporated into the *Codification, Chapter IV - Board Procedures - C. Meetings - Section 2 Conduct of Meetings*. Also, to clean up the remaining Sections in Chapter IV - Section 1 Attendance and Section 3 Committees.

Chapter IV - Board Procedures

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~~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 t~~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 Chair should complete a Committee Decision Form which records any amendments, Committee recommendation, the vote and the arguments in favor of and against the Motion. This Form should be completed quickly after the Committee meeting and posted to the ~~Journal~~ **Board's electronic document repository.**

- 3.4 The ~~chair of a~~ Committee 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 Motion before the full Board, Committee Chairs 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 Motion 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 Motion 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 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.~~

Effective Date: July 18, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion: Board Interim Guidelines were enacted for Atlanta meetings in fall of 2023. Revisions to the Guidelines were made for Louisville meetings in spring of 2024 and for Toronto meetings in summer of 2024.

To change Board meeting and motion procedures in the Codification, Chapter IV - Board Procedures - C. Meetings - Section 2 Conduct of Meetings does not require a change to the ACBL Bylaws.

AC Chair Comment: Passed 12 – 0 – 1 (Carman abstained)

MOTION

Item 242-GV05: Policy Regarding Official ACBL Publication

Date: June 21, 2024

Submitted by: Governance/Communications Committee (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo and Zayac)

Coordinated with: Governance/Communications Committee Liaisons, Goley and Rosenbury; and Linxwiler, Editor, Bridge Bulletin

Purpose: To revise sections of the Codification relating to the Bridge Bulletin and the duties to be performed by its Editor

Moved that:

The following Chapters/Sections of the *Codification* be revised as indicated below:

Chapter I –Membership Operating Guidelines

I. 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,~~ 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:

- ~~1. Beginning the year with~~ 500 – 1000; ~~points.~~
- ~~2. Beginning the year with~~ 1000 – 2500; ~~points.~~
- ~~3. Beginning the year with~~ 2500 – 5000; ~~points.~~
- ~~4. Beginning the year with~~ 5000 – 7500; ~~points.~~
- ~~5. Beginning the year with~~ 7500 - 10,000; ~~points.~~
- ~~6. Beginning the year with~~ 10,000+. ~~points.~~

G. Education

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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

- ~~1.—A list of all trophy winners shall be published annually in the Bridge Bulletin.~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~3.—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 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 ~~2.4~~ 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~~

- ~~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.~~

Discussion:

Motion (Item 232-GV02: Bulletin) to revise and remove sections of the Codification contained in Chapter II - Business Management - D. ACBL Bulletin was passed by the Board in June 2023. This motion (Item 242-GV05) continues the Codification cleanup as it relates to the Bulletin, focusing on the duties that shall be performed by its Editor and identifying where the Editor has discretion to determine communication vehicles used to publish information deemed of value to membership.

Effective Date: July 18, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

AC Chair Comment: Passed on consent (i.e., unanimous without discussion)

MOTION

Item 242-GV06: Board Social Media Policy

Date: June 21, 2024

Submitted by: Governance/Communications Committee (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo and Zayac)

Coordinated with: ACBL President Hennings and Governance/Communications Committee Liaisons, Goley and Rosenbury

Purpose: To reference the Board Social Media Policy in the Codification.

Moved that:

The *Codification Chapter IV - Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 5 -- ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code*, Section 5.5 be changed as follows to add a tenth item:

- 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 Date July 18, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings N/A

Discussion Feedback received from the Board regarding the content of the Social Media Policy prompted a change in wording from “Violations of this policy fall under the purview of the Board Oversight Committee to “Violations of this policy will be subject to the ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code as outlined in Section 5, Chapter IV - Board Procedures, A. Administration, 5.5. Offenses for which Board Members may be referred to the Board Oversight Committee. This change ensures that the Policy is referenced in the Codification and can be located via the addition of a hyperlink as the policy “lives” on the Resources page of the MIM.

AC Chair Comment: Passed on consent (i.e., unanimous without discussion)

MOTION

242-GV07: Removal of ACBL Charity Foundation Bylaws from the Codification

Date: June 22, 2024

Submitted by: Cindy Shoemaker

Coordinated with: Governance/Communications (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo, and Zayac)

Purpose: To update references to the ACBL Charity Foundation Bylaws in the Codification and to remove the ACBL Charity Foundation Bylaws as an appendix from the Codification

Moved that *Appendix 5-A Bylaws of the American Contract Bridge League Charity Foundation* and references to the Bylaws in the *Table of Contents* and in *Chapter V - Charity, Foundations and Special Funds A. Administration and Policy Regarding Charity, Section 1 - ACBL Charity Foundation and ACBL Educational Foundation* be removed from the Codification.

**Appendix 5-A
BYLAWS of the AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE CHARITY
FOUNDATION, CORP.**

Delete this appendix in its entirety.

AND

Chapter V – Charity, Foundations and Special Funds

A. Administration and Policy Regarding Charity

Section 1 – ACBL Charity Foundation and ACBL Educational Foundation

- 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.~~

AND

**ACBL Codification
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

~~Appendix 5-A~~

~~BYLAWS of the AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE CHARITY FOUNDATION,
CORP.~~

Effective Date: July 17, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion:

The ACBL Charity Foundation is a self-supporting, independent organization; therefore, the Foundation's Bylaws should not be part of the Codification. This is analogous to the removal of the ACBL Educational Foundation Bylaws, which was done at our Spring ACBL Board meeting in March 2021.

Action Items:

For Management: Create a digital and/or physical folder for the Charity Foundation to have access to and to archive key documents.

For Governance/Communications Committee: To finalize the clean-up of the Codification ***Chapter V - ACBL Charity Foundation and Special Funds*** completed by Zayac and submit a motion for fall Board meetings in Las Vegas.

AC Chair Comment: Tabled until Las Vegas, 13 – 0

ACTION ITEM

Item AI242-GV01: Board Email Protocol

Date: June 2, 2024

Submitted by: Governance/Communications Committee (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo and Zayac)

Coordinated with: ACBL President Hennings and Governance/Communications Committee Liaisons, Goley and Rosenbury

Purpose: To highlight the revisions made to the Board Email Protocol and to post to the Resources Page of the MIM.

Details of Proposed Action:

The Board Email Protocol was enacted in Q1 of 2022 based on feedback received from the Board during F2F meetings in Austin fall of 2021. Board communication protocol(s)/policies “live” on the Resources page of the MIM, eliminating the need for Codification. Therefore, in July of 2022, the Board passed a motion, Item 222-GV01, to remove Part 1 - Governance and Policy, Chapter IV- Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 4 - Communications and Appendix 4-A3.

Revisions to the Board Email Protocol include clarifications to the purpose of the Board and the Advisory Council Chair corporate email addresses, and additional ways to streamline and to foster communication. The primary change is the removal or reference to the process followed to archive email history when a new Board member and the Advisory Council Chair assume the email address of his or her predecessor. This is now an ACBL policy.

The revised Board Email Protocol is copied below.

Timeframe: July 18, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Board Email Protocol

ACBL headquarters provides ~~Board members with~~ a corporate email address to each ACBL Board member, e.g., ~~districtXdirecto@acbl.org or regionXdirector@acbl.org~~ and to the Advisory Council Chair, i.e., ac.chair@acbl.org. The ~~assigned~~ email address ~~should~~ will be used for ACBL and Board-related ~~communication only~~ business and for bridge-related

communication with membership. ~~Personal email, text or phone should be used for all other communication.~~

When a new Board member assumes the email address of his or her predecessor, the account contents is archived and deleted from the email history. This gives Board members an expectation of privacy while providing management with the ability to “see” email history mainly accessed for litigation purposes only.

To stay informed of ACBL activities, each ACBL Board member and the Advisory Council Chair will receive ACBL communications sent to Club Managers, Owners and/or Presidents; Unit and/or District Presidents and to membership, including ACBL newsletters, through their assigned corporate email address.

The ACBL President or designee will be the official responder to communications addressed to the ACBL Board. The ACBL President or designee will ensure responses are sent to the ACBL Board.

~~To streamline the email process, it is strongly encouraged that Board members~~ **Each Board member and the Advisory Council Chair is asked to** seek the approval of the ACBL President ~~or the appropriate Committee Chair~~ before sending an **“All Board”** email **to the Board (BOD-RD or BOD-Only), Board Committee Chairs and Task Force Leads and the Advisory Council Chair may send meeting updates to the Full Board without approval.** ~~Adding “For Information Only” to the subject line and using bcc reduces or prohibits response.~~

Board members, Committee Chairs, Task Force Leads and the Advisory Council Chair should be clear of the purpose of their emails by adding “For Information Only,” “Confidential” and/or “Feedback Requested” in the subject line.

Emails marked “Confidential” and/or that include confidential documents should not be forwarded.

Emails marked “Feedback Requested” should further state how feedback will be consolidated and disseminated.

Use “Reply All” only when specified by the sender.

Board members should be respectful of staff time and direct questions to a Committee Chair, the appropriate Executive Team member or the Administrative Coordinator.

Board members and the Advisory Council Chair should contact their colleagues or other knowledgeable sources to seek answers to questions before emailing ACBL staff. If emails are sent to staff, the Executive Director and the President should be copied. Phone calls to staff are discouraged.

Revised: June 2024.

AC Chair Comment: Tabled until Las Vegas, 13 – 0

ACTION ITEM

Item AI242-GV02: Board Social Media Policy

Date: June 3, 2024

Submitted by: Governance/Communications Committee (Shoemaker (C), Cuneo and Zayac)

Coordinated with: ACBL President Hennings and Governance/Communications Committee Liaisons, Goley and Rosenbury

Purpose:

- To highlight the revisions made to the Board Social Media Policy as a result of feedback received from the Governance/Communications Committee, Board President Margot Hennings and the Board, solicited by the Governance Chair in May 2024.
- To post the Policy to the Resources page of the MIM.
- To coincide with a motion to approve referencing the Board Social Media Policy in the Codification.

Details of Proposed Action:

The Board Social Media Policy was created by the Communications Work Group in 2021 with input from A & C because the Policy references Board elections. The Policy was reviewed by past In-house Legal Counsel and approved by Past President Glasson. The Policy was then sent to the Full Board in January of 2022 with notification that the Policy would “live” on the Resources page of the MIM. It was then posted to the Resources page and went into effect January 2022. The Policy was then reviewed without change in Q4 of 2022.

As part of its work in 2024, the Governance/Communications Committee/Liaisons reviewed and revised the policy with input from Board President Hennings. The Policy was sent to the full Board for input in May 2024. Further revisions were made, one of which would require a motion to amend the Codification. These revisions are in green font in the revised policy below along with further additions/deletions.

The revised Board Social Media Policy is copied below.

Timeframe: July 18, 2024

Estimated Cost/Savings:

NA

Board Social Media Policy

ACBL Board members and the Chair of the Advisory Council will limit ~~postings to Bridge Winners and/or other~~ social media ~~activity*~~ ~~platforms~~ to non-Board related business ~~such as the analysis of a bridge hand.~~ and non-ACBL related business such as the analysis of a bridge hand. ~~To ensure consistent and accurate messaging, public postings will be made by the ACBL President, the National Recorder (with ACBL Executive Director approval), or a designated representative of ACBL Management when deemed appropriate.~~

Board members should not post internal reports, policies and/or procedures and/or other non- public confidential communications. Board members should not take and/or post disseminate videos, photographs and/or audio of other Board members when in non-public venues without their permission.

~~Postings in connection with an election for an ACBL Board candidate should conform to 1) the provisions in the Codification, Chapter III – Administration, D. elections, where it is stated that candidates or current Board members may not campaign for anyone else other than themselves outside the District(s) comprising their Region; and 2) the provision in the Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, A: Administration, where one of the prohibitions under the ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code is that no member of the Board of Directors may actively engage in a campaign for a Unit, District or ACBL elected position in Districts other than his own, although a candidate for Regional Director may campaign in all Districts within that Region.~~

Board members seeking re-election may engage in social media activity to campaign within the District(s) that comprise their Region.

To ensure consistent and accurate messaging, the ACBL Executive Director, the ACBL President or a designated representative of ACBL management will respond, if warranted, to public postings and emails sent to all Board members that relate to Board and/or ACBL business.

*** For the purposes of this policy, social media activity includes all types of posts and other communications on the internet, posts to social networking sites, blogs and other on-line journals; bulletin boards and chat rooms.**

~~Violations of this policy by Board members will fall under the purview of the Board Oversight Committee.~~

Violations of this policy will be subject to the ACBL Board of Directors Behavioral Code as outlined in Section 5, Chapter IV - Board Procedures, A. Administration, 5.5. Offenses for which Board Members may be referred to the Board Oversight Committee.

Revised: ~~November 2022~~ **June 2024**.

Phrasing in green reflects the proposed change to the Codification.

Phrasing in blue reflects feedback received from the Governance/Communications Committee during a Committee meeting held on Teams June 12, 2024.

AC Chair Addition: Non-Agenda Item, not yet formally written up (as far as I know)

Motion by David Lodge in his capacity of Chair of the Finance committee, seconded by Paul Cuneo, to amend the change made in March to Board of Directors members' stipends to eliminate the distinction between the Advisory Council Chair and other Board members. (In other words, to provide that the AC Chair also receives the increased stipend of \$2000 per meeting, rather than \$1000.)

In discussion initiated by Jeff Overby, it was argued that the change as originally written violated the bylaws, which provide that the AC Chair shall receive the same compensation as other Board of Directors members. The motion was made in order to rectify the apparent problem.

The motion was after it was too late in the meetings for most Directors to make non-agenda notions (per Board rule), but Committee Chairs are always permitted to make motions.

Passed 12 – 1 (Zayac opposed)