

ACBL Advisory Council

Minutes: Nov. 9, 2025, meeting

(held via Zoom)

Richard Popper, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. EST, and shortly afterward, it was established that a quorum was present with at least 25 members having logged on, representing at least half of the ACBL's Districts.

OPENING REMARKS: Chair Popper opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees, including members of the Board of Directors and ACBL staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Special AC meeting following the summer Nationals (August 2025) were approved unanimously without discussion.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Popper reported that the ACBL Board of Directors, at a special meeting, had approved Austin, TX, as the site of the 2028 Fall North American Bridge Championships (NABCs), subject to the appropriate contracts being signed.

REVIEW OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOTIONS FOR SAN FRANCISCO MEETING: Chair Popper reported that most of the motions up for approval were technical in nature and should not be controversial.

On BR01, for the elimination of online events at Face-to-Face Regionals, one member said this was not a one-size-fits-all situation and pleaded for some Districts, especially those covering a large geographical area, to be allowed to continue to stage these events.

There was considerable discussion on BR02, new proposed guidelines for Open and Local Sectionals, which would allow Local Sectionals run by local directors to have up to 50 tables, but pay only 50% Silver points. Some members felt this measure would further erode Open Sectionals, which are already suffering from declining attendance, and create fewer work opportunities for ACBL directors, while other members argued that the measure should have the opposite effect.

There was some discussion on DI253-BR01 on funding methods for the Grand National Teams (GNT) events, which Chair Popper described as a correction of a previous administrative error. The measure would also make the Championship Flight of the event free to the participating players for the first two days of the competition.

BY01, a bylaws amendment to allow the Advisory Council to have such committees as it sees fit (instead of having a number of mandated special committees) was approved unanimously without discussion.

On GV04, the mark-up of a rewritten Chapter IV codification of Board of Directors operations, no substantive changes were proposed. Suggestions for minor stylistic changes will be forwarded to the drafters.

On GV01, there was no discussion on the proposal to transfer responsibility for the Charity Recognition Award to the Board of Directors of the separate ACBL Charity Foundation.

On GV03, there was no discussion on the codification of the rights of non-members, such as to play in club games.

On GV06, there was no discussion on a proposal to require that the lone ACBL representative on the World Bridge Federation from Zone 2 (North America) be a current member of the ACBL Board of Directors to foster better coordination between the two organizations.

On INT01, codifying a formula for ACBL payments to the North American Bridge Federation for Zone 2 World Bridge Federation (WBF) dues, ACBL CEO Bronia Jenkins assured members that the amounts ACBL pays to the WBF per member will stay the same and will not increase. There was no further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS: None was presented.

REPORTS OF AC COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Only one report, from the anti-cheating committee, had been received and had been previously distributed to all members.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was presented.

MOTIONS: No new motions had been presented. Chair Popper urged all members wishing to make motions to use the template provided for this purpose and present any motions prior to the March Board of Governors meetings to be held in conjunction with the Spring NABCs in St. Louis, MO.

CLOSING REMARKS: The next meeting of the Advisory Council was set for 7 p.m. EST on Sunday, Dec. 14, via Zoom, at the conclusion of the Fall NABCs in San Francisco.

ADJOURNMENT: After a motion to that effect was made and duly seconded, Chair Popper adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. EST.