

**MOTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS
BEFORE THE
ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTOR
JULY 2023**

FULL BOARD

Glasson (P), Hennings (VP)

Steinberg, Aquino, Carman, Heller, Sealy, Overby, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Lodge, Zayac, White,
Belford, Muñoz, Heth, Liddy, Goodgold

Item 232-BD02: Online Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments

Moved that:

Jon Brissman, Jan Martel, Karen Walker, Karen Allison, and Marjorie Michelin be appointed for a three-year term to the Online Ethical Oversight Committee from the end of the Summer 2023 NABC through the end of the Summer 2026 NABC.

Effective date: End of the Summer NABC

Estimated cost/savings: None

BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Carman (C)

Aquino, Belford, Heller, Sealy, Steinberg, Zayac

Item 232-BR01: Codification Clean Up – Sectionals

Moved that Codification Chapter X - Sectionals be amended as attached.

ATTACHMENT

Effective date September 1, 2023

Estimated cost/savings No incremental cost or savings. Possible nominal revenue increase from Bridge Camps.

Discussion: This is basically a cleanup of the existing Codification. Apart from the usual various typographical fixes, the following substantive changes were made:

- Deleted the (obsolete) requirement for a Unit to host a Sectional once every two years
- Deleted verbiage related to non-championship (“downgraded”) Sectionals and repositioned information on Local Sectionals for clarity and to make clear that Local Sectionals have replaced non-championship Sectionals.
- Introduced the concept of Bridge Camps, which are essentially non-championship Sectionals-at-Sea but played on land.

Item 232-BR02: GNT Conditions of Contest

Moved that the 2023-2024 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest (attached) are approved.

ATTACHMENT

Effective date Sept 1, 2023

Estimated cost/savings N/A

Discussion: There are no substantive changes from previous years. The usual dates have been updated. Flight C will now use the Basic+ Convention Chart. Security section has been updated to permit unproctored online play; most COVID-specific provisions have been removed.

DI232-BR01: Listing of Top Lifetime MP Holders

Reference: Codification Chapter I – Membership, A. Membership, Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership, 2.2 Classes of Membership, 2.2.2 Life Master: 2.2.2.1 Shall be required to remit an annual service fee or dues in order to receive the following services:

- a. Receive the Bridge Bulletin;
- b. participate in some ACBL-sanctioned events;
- c. receive any subsidy or remuneration from the ACBL;
- d. participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races; and/or
- e. have an article published on the ACBL website or in the Bridge Bulletin

Discussion: ACBL maintains and periodically publishes a listing of top lifetime masterpoint® holders. That the listing is published annually in the *Bridge Bulletin* is an acknowledgement of the significance of – and broad interest in – the achievements of players on the list.

It has been observed that apparently players have been removed from the listing as a result of not being current in remittance of dues, or possibly for other reasons. Diminishing players' achievements through removal from the listing should only be done based on clear, well-reasoned policy.

It may well be proper to remove players from the listing as a result of certain disciplinary violations, expulsion, or other circumstances. At the same time, there should be acknowledgement and consideration that members' ages, infirmities, changes in life circumstances, and other factors might contribute to an inability or lack of capacity to remit dues or to otherwise fulfill criteria required for continued inclusion on the listing of top lifetime masterpoint® holders.

Deceased players are sometimes included on the listing and shown in italics.

Players who have been on the listing and are still alive, but for some reason have not renewed their memberships, are of course ineligible to earn or further accumulate

masterpoints®. Consideration might be given to making an attempt to contact such players to ascertain their situation and reasons for no longer maintaining active membership. Depending on policy criteria, perhaps their circumstances might merit consideration of keeping them on the list, using an asterisk or other means to indicate they are no longer an active member.

The goal of this Discussion Item is to decide whether to appoint a work group to review and make recommendations concerning policy and criteria for members' inclusion on and removal from the listing of top lifetime masterpoint® holders.

DI232-BR02: Strength of Field

Discuss the cost of implementation. Jay and Marcin are preparing the cost estimate as it may be significant.

Original Motion:

In all tournament events for which the overall awards are calculated by formula, including Individuals, Pairs, Swiss Teams, Board-a-Match Teams, excluding STaCs and events with arbitrary first place awards, such as the Grand National Teams and excluding all events with a knockout phase, the masterpoint formula shall be modified to account for the strength of the field in that event by the method detailed below, and that such method be amended in the future to account for improvements in methods for estimation of players' abilities and for other factors that have not yet been adequately accounted for.

Effective January 1, 2021 or as soon thereafter as Management can implement

DI232-BR03: Discussion item was withdrawn.

DI232-BR04: NAP & GNT Grass Roots Funding

Discussion: Perhaps a change in structure which may help to revitalize these events.

DI232-BR05: Virtual Online Calendar

Discussion: This DI is being submitted to continue the dialogue we began in New Orleans to provide a stable online calendar and to even out opportunities for all players playing in our virtual games online to have equal opportunities to play to receive special game pigmented points. We approved all the elements of the calendar except for the addition of the virtual games special weeks for the last 3 months. This prompts us to look at the playing habits of our membership. David Rodney has been tracking our membership trends pre and post COVID. Attached are his results on where our players have made their determination on where they wish to play as of April 2023.

This discussion allows us to examine our relationship with these players and provide them the same opportunities that they could realize in their face-to-face clubs without compromising the face-to-face clubs. We worked hard to build opportunities for the face-to-face clubs to run special games and allowed them flexible amounts of board play and it is working. The clubs that

survived are building back. Also attached is a file as an example from April this year that shows Virtual clubs versus Face-to-face and the revenue that was generated by the Virtual Clubs that month.

Even with a 63% increase in play during Silver Week, the Face-to-face games did not suffer a dip in attendance but actually showed an increase in 2% that very same week.

When special games are run, attendance increases only about 10%.

Attendance in the virtual games is trending downward to the tune of 2% a week for their regular games.

Suggestions from Strategic discussion: October could be used to run a GNT Fundraising week with in the virtual games with the monies going to the districts to fund their GNTeams since rarely is there enough funding otherwise, November can be skipped if we address it as Giving Month and if not we should address it in some way and December should also be give a special game opportunities for Virtual club players. This week's games can be named or used for any fund that we decide and might even be useful to use the fund to market new players or any of our new initiatives.

ATTACHMENTS:

[MEMBERSHIP TRENDS](#)

[APRIL SNAPSHOT](#)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Lodge (C)

Goodgold, Heth, Liddy, Munoz, Overby, Steinberg

Item 232-FN01: Accounts Payable

Moved that Appendix 2-A, Accounts Payable and Check Cashing Policies and Procedures, to Codification Chapter II - Business Management - A. Finance, be revised as attached.

ATTACHMENT

Effective date: Immediately upon conclusion of Board meeting

Estimated cost/savings: N/A

Discussion: The purpose of the changes is primarily editorial—to clean up the language and more accurately state the specific procedures ACBL uses and the tools they employ. There are no changes recommended to the processes we are currently following today.

DI232-FN01: Charity Discussion

Discussion: This DI is being submitted to ensure that we continue the discussion about the overall charity vision that we have for the organization as we move forward. In no means is it intended

to interfere with any plans made by our present Charity Foundation. It is a discussion that encompasses an overall giving strategy that the ACBL should pursue. This discussion will allow us to examine our relationship with our partnership with “The Longest Day”; what to do with requests for additional fundraising for disaster relief; potentially set up a funding reservoir for disaster relief with either management or charity fund management; and any other conversation that we need to have to support our giving strategy and where we go from here. This conversation will provide an opportunity for input from all of us as to how we want to proceed and provide management a vision for our future as it allows us to examine whether or not the present rate of funding being raised is enough to maintain our levels of giving. It also allows us to examine the structure of the month of April and the games are set up to be run for the Charity on the club level and gives us an opportunity to supplement our funding by allowing the online players an additional week of special games during one of the four months they do not have special games on their schedules— in November, which is the month of “Giving.” By deciding this, it can be added to the online calendar on the ACBL website that we are maintaining for the next 3 years for continuity.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C)

Belford, Heller, Overby, Goodgold, Shoemaker, Zayac

Item 232-GV01: Member Not in Good Standing

Moved that: The Codification Chapter 1 – Membership, Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership, 2.3.2, be revised as follows:

2.3.2 A member who is not in good standing (as defined herein) shall not be entitled to:

- a. serve in any elected or appointed position in the ACBL;
- b. receive any subsidy or remuneration from the ACBL;
- c. participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races;
- d. receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint rank promotion;
- e. have an article published on the ACBL website or in any ACBL publication;
- f. vote in any election in which the general membership is the electorate;
- g. serve as a club manager, ~~or~~ Director, **or in any other club administrative capacity**;
- h. participate in events where such participation is prohibited by the conditions of contest;
- i. vote in a Hall of Fame election; and/or
- j. membership on the Goodwill Committee.

Effective date: Immediately

Estimated cost/savings: N/A

Discussion: 2.3.1 of Section 2.3, Definition of Member in Good Standing in this same chapter of the Codification states that:

“An ACBL member shall be deemed to be in “good standing” when such member's dues, if dues are required, are current and such member is not currently: a. expelled; b. serving a term of suspension; c. serving an indefinite probation; d. serving a probation, the initial term of which was 24 or more months; or e. serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which probation was in excess of 90 days.”

District 1 does not believe that a “Member not in Good Standing” should have any administrative role in any sanctioned club. The integrity of the Club, Unit, and District can be called into question if a person deemed “not in good standing” has such a role. Including this additional phrase in the Codification reinforces the message we give to newer players and others whom we want to join our ranks that we want to practice active ethics.

Item 232-GV02: Bulletin

Moved that: Codification Chapter II - Business Management - D. ACBL Bulletin be revised and removed as indicated.

Chapter II - Business Management - D. ACBL Bulletin

Section 1 - Name

- 1.1 The Bridge Bulletin is designated as the official publication of the ACBL (hereinafter referred to as the Bulletin).

Section 2 - Content and Editorial Policy

- 2.1 Subject to the following ~~limitations~~, the ~~Executive~~ Editor of the Bulletin will be the sole judge of its content and editorial policy.

~~2.1.1 The size of the Bulletin will be determined by ACBL management.~~

~~2.1.2 Items of extremely limited readership will no longer be carried.~~

~~2.1.3 Conditions of Contest, NABC tournament schedules and charity donations will be carried as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors or ACBL management.~~

~~2.1.4 Housing and airline ads for each NABC will be carried as necessary.~~

~~2.1.5 Popular “house organ” type material, such as the various tournament schedules, information about upcoming NABCs and other special events that are of interest to the entire general membership, must be included monthly as appropriate.~~

~~2.1.6~~1 When, in the opinion of the Executive Director, certain matters, particularly those that involve personnel, could affect the welfare of ACBL, the final decision to publish or not to publish shall rest with the Executive Director. **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.

~~2.2 Each issue of the Bulletin shall include a section devoted to new players.~~

~~2.3 The Barry Crane Top 500 List shall be published in the Bulletin on a periodic basis. The lists of remaining races shall be published on a rotating basis.~~

2.4.1.2 The Board of Directors Meeting page(s) contained in the 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.

2.1.3 The Editor must follow regulations regarding specific actions /notices that are detailed in other sections of the Codification and are required to be included in the Bulletin.

~~2.5 Publishing Names of Suspended Players~~

~~2.5.1 When a player is Suspended or Expelled by the Ethical Oversight Committee, and after the appeals process is complete, their full name and player number shall be published in the Bulletin. This will not apply if on appeal the action is reversed.~~

~~2.5.2 In cases where a player or players are expelled (1) through actions of the Appeals and Charges Committee or (2) through actions of the Ethical Oversight Committee that are not appealed, an article may be published in the Bulletin explaining what occurred. The purpose of this article is to educate the readership on what is and is not actionable behavior. The chair of the applicable committee will oversee the writing of the article. Publication is at the discretion of the Bulletin Editor.~~

~~Section 3 Advertising~~

~~3.1 ACBL management shall make every effort to assure that each advertisement in the Bulletin is appropriately identified as an advertisement and does not necessarily carry an endorsement by ACBL.~~

~~3.2 Districts and Units shall be billed for ads and inserts in the same month as the ad appears.~~

~~3.3 Advertisements of hotels for NABCs will be accepted from any reliable hotel, including classified ads as well as display ads.~~

~~3.4 Charges to Units and Districts for Bulletin advertising shall be in accordance with the rates found on the ACBL website at acbl.org/bbadvertising.~~

~~3.5 Units and Districts that advertise in the Bulletin shall have their ad placed on the website and linked to ACBL online at no cost to them.~~

~~Section 4 – Distribution~~

~~4.1 Arrangements for the printing and distribution of the Bulletin are a responsibility of ACBL management.~~

~~4.2 One Bulletin will be mailed to each member purchasing a full-price membership, even if more than one member resides at the same address unless there is a request that only one Bulletin be mailed.~~

~~4.3 ACBL members residing outside of Zone 2 shall pay an additional amount per year for Bulletin postage if such member requests the publication to be sent to an address outside of Zone 2.~~

Effective date: Immediate

Estimated cost/savings: None

Rationale: Section II - Content and Editorial Policy: Striking 2.1.1 - 2.1.5:

The Editor and Editorial staff make these determinations as part of the editorial decision making process and therefore, do not need to be included in the Codification.

Section II - Content and Editorial Policy: Revision of 2.1.6 1: Editorial content that involves personnel matters, particularly content that names personnel and cannot be rebutted or commented upon based on confidentiality creates communication issues and could perpetuate misinformation, degrading the Board and/or the organization. Ultimately, the decision to make these determinations rests with the Executive Director.

Section II – Addition of 2.1.3: There are many instances where requirements for notices and/or articles about members are noted in the Codification. This statement requires the Editor to follow those regulations. In lieu of developing the specifics about each of these requirements at this time and in light of the ongoing Governance Committee review of the Codification, with the passage of this motion, the Board authorizes the Governance Committee to make appropriate changes to these specific sub-sections—see attachment to this motion for the complete list of Bulletin requirements. [ATTACHMENT](#)

Section II - Content and Editorial Policy: Striking 2.5: 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 - Publishing Names of Suspended Players:

The ACBL Ethics and Discipline page of the ACBL website is a comprehensive and up-to-date resource where members can seek answers to questions regarding the ACBL disciplinary process, locate player memos (for players to complete and submit) and view the disciplinary list. Therefore, publishing the names of those disciplined in the Bulletin is redundant, would not

be as comprehensive as the information included on the Ethics and Discipline page and would not be immediate due to the lag time needed to disseminate a print publication.

From an educational point of view, it would better serve the membership to increase the awareness of the Ethics and Discipline page. Currently, the A & C section of the National Board Report includes a link to the page.* Other opportunities to expand awareness of the page can be explored and implemented by management. For example, the Bulletin could include reoccurring verbiage regarding its merits along with a QR Code that would “link” readers to the page.

Cheating, what to do about it and how ACBL is addressing it is of prime interest and importance to membership and to stakeholders. Therefore, Bulletin articles and columns will continue to be devoted to this topic. There is no need to dictate action in the Codification.

*The National Board Report is produced by a designated member(s) of the Board of Directors with input from Committee Chairs. It is a synopsis of actions taken by the Board during F2F National Board meetings held three times yearly. The National Board Reports are disseminated to National Board members who then disseminate the Reports to their respective Districts/Regions.

Section 3 - Advertising- 3.1 - 3.5 and Section 4 - Distribution - 4.1 - 4.3:

The Editor, Editorial staff and ACBL staff make these determinations as part of its advertising and distribution processes/procedures and therefore, do not need to be included in the Codification.

Item 232-GV03: International Bridge

Move that: The following revisions be made to the Codification Chapter VII - International Bridge A. Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs), Chapter VII – International Bridge B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members, Chapter VII – International Bridge C. International Fund and to Chapter VII – International Funds D. World Junior Championships.

Chapter VII - International Bridge A. Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs)

Section 1 – Zone 2 International Regulations

- 1.1 The authority for selecting and subsidizing bridge players who represent the United States, Canada and Mexico in international bridge competition rests with the North American Bridge Federation (NABF) and its NBOs: the United States Bridge Federation (USBF), the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF), and the Federación Mexicana de Bridge (FMB), and respectively.
- 1.2 The Bermuda Bridge Federation (BBF), while maintaining ACBL affiliation as Unit 198 in District 2, competes internationally through WBF Zone 5 based on prior ~~ACBL~~ WBF approval to do so.

- 1.3 The Virgin Islands Bridge Federation while maintaining ACBL affiliation through District 9, competes internationally through WBF Zone 5 based on prior ~~ACBL~~ WBF approval to do so.

Section 2 – NBO Events

- 2.1 The BBF, CBF, FMB and the USBF may each hold an annual ACBL-sanctioned, National Championship to determine the national representatives in each of the following categories: Open team, Women’s team, Senior team, Mixed team, Open pairs, Women’s pairs and Junior teams.
- 2.2 The National finals shall be Regional-rated (Regional-rated red and gold points unless otherwise indicated in the ACBL Masterpoint Plan). Qualification events, if any, shall be Sectional-rated (black points).
- 2.3 Sanction fees shall be determined by the ACBL, except that such fees are waived for Junior Trials.
- 2.4 If the National finals of any of the championships listed above are not held concurrently with an ACBL Regional or Sectional tournament, each NBO may conduct ACBL-sanctioned Sectional-rated black point events concurrently with the National finals.
- 2.5 Each National Federation is responsible for applying for the sanction through and reporting results to the ACBL.
- 2.6 The championship may be flighted by ACBL masterpoints.
- 2.7 Masterpoint awards are determined by the ACBL Board of Directors upon recommendation by the ACBL Masterpoint Committee. See Appendix 7-A Masterpoints for WBF Events.

Chapter VII – International Bridge B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members

Section 1 – Policy Regarding ACBL ~~Appointees~~ Nominees to the WBF Executive Council and Appointments to the NABF Board.

Current regulations of the NABF allow the ACBL to name 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 ~~A-R~~reports shall be periodically ~~presented~~ **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. ~~This R~~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 policy** ~~that have transpired since the last meeting of the ACBL Board.~~
 - b. The agenda or any actions expected to come before the WBF or the NABF ~~prior to the~~ **at their** next meeting(s) ~~of the ACBL Board.~~
 - c. Financial information such as budgets, operating statements, including explanation 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 ~~Appointees~~ **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 ~~elected as the Zone 2 Representative~~ to be the nominee. If more than one person **applies to be is** 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.

Chapter VII – International Bridge C. International Fund

Section 1 – International Fund Games

- 1.1 The ACBL shall be solely responsible for establishing sanction fees for International Fund Games sanctioned by ACBL.
- 1.2 Three ACBL-wide International Fund Games will be held, one in each of January, July and December.

Section 2 – International Fund Monies

- 2.1 All International Fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned events conducted by the ACBL in the United States 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.
- 2.2 International Fund monies collected in Canada and Mexico shall be sent to the respective NBOs to be disbursed at their discretion.
- 2.3 All NABC+ event entry fees will include a \$1.50 surcharge per player per session for the International Fund.
- 2.4 International Fund monies collected at NABCs shall be apportioned to the appropriate International Fund in proportion equal to that country's percentage of ACBL membership.
- 2.5 ~~The ACBL has agreed to make the following contributions to the NBOs to support international bridge:~~

~~A motion passed at the Spring 2023 meeting directs the payment be made to the North American Bridge Federation (NABC) and not to the NBO's, effective only for 2023.~~

2018	USBF	CBF	FMB
2019	100,000	16,000	250
2020	80,000	14,000	200
2021 and thereafter	40,000	12,000	100

ACBL provides \$50,100.00 annually to the NABF for the sole purpose of contributing to the WBF dues paid by the USBF, CBF and MFB. 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.

Section 3 – Miscellaneous

- 3.1 Dues to or donations for the USBF, CBF, MFB, BBF and the Virgin Islands Bridge Federation may be placed on the ACBL membership and renewal form.

Chapter VII – International Funds D. World Junior Championships

Section 1 – Junior Fund Monies

- 1.1 Monies raised to benefit Junior members shall be as set forth in subsection 3.3 of Chapter I - Membership, I. Juniors, Section 3 - Junior Fund Games.

Section 2 – USBF and CBF

- 2.1 The USBF shall receive \$50,000 per year and the CBF shall receive \$25,000 per year to support international Junior and Youth participation.
- 2.2 **Junior funds must be used for the purpose of promoting Junior bridge.**
- 2.2.3 The USBF and CBF must provide ~~for the fall board meeting~~ a **detailed annual** report on Junior/ Youth activities from ~~that year~~ **the prior twelve months at the fall ACBL board meeting. The report must include how junior funds were utilized.**

Section 3 – Junior Player Requirements - USBF

- 3.1 In order for the USBF to receive funds from ACBL for subsidy to Juniors, any Junior receiving such subsidy must meet the criteria as set forth in Chapter I – Membership, J. ACBL Bridge Federations, Section 4 – Junior Fund Monies.

Effective date: Immediate

Estimated cost/savings: None

Discussion/rationale:

Chapter VII - International Bridge A. Zone 2 National Bridge Organizations (NBOs), Section 1 - Zone 2 International Regulations - 1.2 and 1.3:

Determination as to which zone an NBO belongs is determined by the WBF.

Chapter VII - International Bridge B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members -
Section 1: 1.1 and 1.2 d. and 1.3:

Section 1: 1.1:

The ACBL Board of Directors nominates a representative to the WBF EC. The NABF elects the representative. Regardless, the ACBL Board of Directors expects the representative to foster and facilitate ongoing communication between the organizations.

It should be noted that it is not practical to require the ACBL nominee to be a member of the ACBL BOD for their entire term on the EC. Generally, ACBL BOD terms are three years while WBF EC terms are four years. EC committee assignments and the selection of officers are traditionally made at the beginning of the four-year terms and remain the same until the next term. If a member is replaced on the EC in the middle of the term, it is not assured that the new member would receive the same assignments as their predecessor. The person first elected would have developed working relationships that cannot be immediately replicated. The EC works on a four-year cycle, and it does not expect changes during each cycle.

However, if the nominee leaves the ACBL Board of Directors while serving on the WBF Executive Council, it is strongly recommended that the nominee then resign from serving as the representative. After leaving the Board, it is highly unlikely that the nominee would be able or unwilling to maintain the connectivity with the BOD and the flow of communication required to be an effective representative.

Section 1: 1.2 e:

The WBF took over the expense of EC members attending meetings in or about 2012. Standard operating practice has been to pay economy air fare, hotel and per diem. Representatives are usually allowed to arrive two days before meetings begin. This allows the representatives to attend the opening ceremony and recover from lengthy travel. Until now, the representatives leave the day after meetings end while some representatives with additional duties stay for the entire tournament. These policies may change with the new WBF President.

Section 1: 1.3 1.4: Both organizations can benefit from ongoing communication and clarification regarding reporting requirements.

Section 2 - International Fund Monies: 2.5:

When the Board of Directors started contributing to the NBOs to help pay their WBF dues, it was under the assumption that the ACBL was only paying a percentage of the WBF dues. The CBF dues at that time were based on the number of Canadian ACBL members. Currently, the CBF only pays WBF dues for dues paying members of the CBF. This number is so much smaller that the CBF was able to pay their WBF dues in full and have money left over. The NABF asked to have the money paid to them and the ACBL agreed to do so for 2023 while it decided what to do long term.

The USBF has been paying extra dues to maintain the zonal membership minimum required for USA to get two representatives in each world championships event. Total ACBL membership dropped below this minimum during the pandemic, but the zone has been granted time to see if membership numbers will rise above the minimum. The grace period expires next year, and it is likely accommodation can be made if membership numbers increase. Allowing the zonal organization to make decisions on how to use the monetary contribution allows it to make the right decision for the zone.

Chapter VII - International Funds D. World Junior Championships

While there are more than twice as many US ACBL members as Canadian ACBL members, the US only sends twice as many junior teams to events as Canada.

It is unfortunately the case that reporting requirements by the NBOs regarding their Junior Fund expenses and by the ACBL representative on the EC frequently are not being met. It is believed that this is not intentional, but rather based on a lack of communication and expectation perpetuated during covid. The ACBL/Board of Directors will clarify and communicate expectations, rendering a solution moving forward.

Item 232-GV04: Vetting of All Candidates for ACBL Awards and/or Honors

Moved that Chapter I - Membership Operating Guidelines F. Discipline and the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations be amended as follows:

Section 3 - Disciplinary Administrative Policies

3.6 ~~Upon request from the chair or chairs of the Hall of Fame Committee, a list of previous ACBL disciplines, if any, issued by an ACBL disciplinary committee with an explanation of what each discipline involves for each prospective nominee shall be given to the Hall of Fame Committee.~~ **The disciplinary records and any current/ongoing investigations for all proposed candidates for all ACBL awards and/or honors shall be reviewed. Candidates for awards include but are not limited to the ACBL Hall of Fame (including the VonZedtwitz, Blackwood, and Sydney Lazard Jr Sportsmanship Awards); the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year; the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year; and the President's Nadine Wood Honorary Member of the Year Award.**

The ACBL Executive Director and/or their designee shall be responsible for the review of candidate ethics and conduct to determine if a candidate should be rejected. The ACBL will notify the respective Committee Chairs, ACBL Board, or any other official as appropriate to recommend that the proposed names be removed from consideration.

Effective date: Immediately

Estimated cost/savings: N/A

Discussion: No one has an automatic right to be nominated for any ACBL Honorary award. It is a privilege to be nominated. The standards must be high. ALL proposed candidates should be vetted by the ACBL.

The Executive Director is the appropriate person to make this determination. The confidentiality of players under suspicion, perhaps soon to be charged and/or currently being investigated, must remain confidential.

It is important to note that Item 231-GV05, which was tabled at the Spring ACBL Board meeting, will be removed from the table in Chicago with revisions to the Hall of Fame Operating Procedures that are consistent with the procedures proposed here.

Item 232-GV05: Untable 231-GV05

Moved that motion 231-GV05 be removed from the table.

Discussion: 231-GV05 was tabled in March 2023 with the intent of removing it from the table at the Board meeting in Summer 2023. The purpose of tabling was to have the HOF Operating Procedures modified to be consistent with the intent of another tabled motion making it a requirement to have potential candidates checked for disciplinary actions before being accepted. Following is the original motion:

Item 231-GV05: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures

Moved that: The amended Hall of Fame Committee Operating Procedures, described in the Codification Appendix 4-D2, be accepted.

Discussion: The Hall of Fame Committee has modified their HoFC Operating Procedures as detailed in the amended document. As a summarization, the changes are:

a) **The ACBL President shall appoint one member of the Board of Directors to act as a liaison between the HoFC and the ACBL Board.**

This clarifies the actual practice in place.

b) ~~Upon request, the HoFC will be provided with information~~ **If there is any question about the candidate's personal history, the HoFC Chair should request information from ACBL, per the Codification.**

This stronger wording authorizes the Chair of the HoFC to obtain information from ACBL about any possible ethical issues relating to a candidate.

c) The von Zedtwitz Award may now be given to any deceased candidate, without the previous 3 year wait period.

d) The Blackwood Award can now be given to up to 2 candidates each year instead of 1.

e) The von Zedtwitz and Blackwood awards were shown as being selected by the HOFC at the time of the Spring NABC. This is now corrected to the Fall NABC, where it actually has been occurring.

Effective date: Immediately

Estimated cost/savings: N/A

DI232-GV01: Board Operations and Governance

Discussion: The Governance Committee will lead a discussion in Chicago as to how we can become a more flexible, better-functioning Board. Your active participation is required in order to make this exercise a success. To help you prepare for this and to stimulate your thinking, please consider the following:

Board Operations and Governance— How to Manage the Transition to a Smaller Board

- **Board Operations**

- We will soon be 13 and need to focus on the big picture and curtail our involvement in minutiae—this was the intent of what the Restructuring Task Force had in mind in 2018 and 2019 when it proposed a smaller Board.
- This is what the Transition Task Force started to do when it put forth a series of motions that the Board approved in 2020 to “move” a great deal of detailed committee work from the Board to Management (e.g., Minutes, Credentials, Honorary Member of the Year...
- *Structural change is hard and requires cultural change*
- We are now in a position with a new Executive Director to capitalize on the opportunities we have as we down-size and continue to take a hard look at how we want to operate as we move into 2024, with emphasis on *the “Three C’s”—Coordination, Collaboration, and Communication.*
- We need to establish an agreed-upon framework which encourages brainstorming with Management while providing insight and oversight in support of the goals of the organization.
- We can enact some changes now that will foster better communication across the Board and Management/Staff as we strive to adapt better and more flexible business-driven processes:
 - If Roberts Rules of Order are too rigid for our new fast-paced environment what rules are we most comfortable with so that we know that important decisions will

not be made “on the fly” without consideration of the dreaded unintended consequences?

- We need to find a way to pivot from holding “Regular” Board Meetings and “Special” Board Meetings and just meet.
- If we change our bylaws (as NY law says we must when we designate meeting times and types), we can specify a 10-day advance notice of the agenda, and allow motions to be made by any Committee at the time of our meeting, while still having ample time for Committee and/or Full Board discussion before approval.

- **Governance**

- The infamous Codification—how to streamline it and make it much more user-friendly while retaining the key policies that govern the business of ACBL.
- Governance Committee members will continue to review the Codification, propose consistent changes across like content, and engage “Subject Matter Experts” on the Board (e.g., for Audit, Bridge) to offer their suggestions as to what belongs in the Codification and what doesn’t—the current Bulletin motion for Chicago as an example of deleting actions and decisions that should be delegated to Management and introducing/retaining a few key requirements the Board believes should be policy.
- We need to make better use of Action Items and Discussion Items with fewer motions that act as directives to Management.
- Agree on and propose a “hierarchy of documents:”
 - The Codification containing only the key policies of our organization (a “public” document)
 - An “ACBL Governance” document containing standard operating procedures (required when actions are undertaken by Management) so that experience and history and best practices can be maintained
 - A Board Manual that summarizes important info and can be used as an easy reference guide for Board Members (a “private” document posted on the MIM or similar online space)
- In 2019, the Governance Committee brought forward many ideas regarding responsibility for Core and Non-Core Board responsibilities and committee functions and some of these have been implemented, but we need to do more:
 - Where do committees and task forces fit into our thinking?
 - How much authority do we want to give to entities outside the Board to recommend or make policies for us (e.g., Masterpoint Committee)?
 - What is the best way to engage our multiple Stakeholders—teachers, club managers, Districts, Units, others?
 - How do we leverage the talents of the Advisory Council and what should their role be going forward?

MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE

Shoemaker (C) Liddy (VC)

Heller, Heth, Zayac

Item 232-ME01: CAP

Moved that Appendix 1-E2 be amended as follows:

APPENDICES, Appendix 1-E2

Cooperative Advertising Program

The Cooperative Advertising Program (CAP) reimburses ACBL teachers, clubs and Units ~~and~~ **Districts** for advertising expenses for programs and lessons designed for newcomers and/or to recruit ACBL members. Submission of a proposed CAP campaign and written results of the CAP campaign are required for full payment. CAP will refund 50% of eligible advertising costs with a maximum reimbursement of \$500.

- Qualifying advertisements are date-specific ad campaigns for beginner bridge lessons, newcomer programs, social bridge recruitment events and ACBL member recruitment. A listing of all types of advertising media used for the campaign is required.
- Qualifying advertisements must use one of the approved ACBL CAP logos.
- If the event is one day, such as Learn Bridge in a Day, a list identifying where each attendee heard about the event must be submitted with the list of all types of advertising media used for the campaign to receive up to the \$500 maximum reimbursement.
- If the event is held over multiple weeks, the following requirements must be met:
 - A list of all types of advertising media used and where each attendee heard about the event must be submitted to receive the CAP reimbursement up to a maximum of \$500.
 - The attendees must be offered an ACBL guest membership by the last meeting date of the class or event. If the attendee declines the guest membership, a reason why should be stated.
- If the CAP campaign receives zero attendees, please provide information as to why the CAP campaign initiator thinks that the campaign was unsuccessful along with a request for reimbursement.
- ACBL reserves the right to refuse reimbursement for any reason for CAP submissions.
- Submissions by a person who has any ownership, management or conflict of interest in the media outlet in which they are advertising (e.g., personal websites, online publications and/or print publications) will not be approved for CAP reimbursement.

For more information on CAP guidelines and requirements visit the ACBL website:

acbl.org/marketing

Effective date: January 1, 2024

Estimated cost/savings: Unknown, but identifying best practices for the CAP will provide the clubs and Units with valuable information about how to implement successful CAP programs

Discussion: Some CAP campaigns are successful and others are not. They have been held in 16 Districts. With these changes to the CAP requirements, it will be possible to evaluate the program and develop best practices to share with CAP recipients to make all attempted CAP campaigns as successful as possible.

DI232-ME01: 11% to Units

ATTACHMENT

Discussion:

Growing and retaining membership has been a strategic directive of the Board and management for decades. Although recent initiatives have contributed to the stabilization of ACBL membership, recommendations to grow and retain membership continue to be prioritized.

How units should use the rebate of 11 percent of full dues payments and life master service fees continues to be debated, particularly since the rebate totals over \$550,000 annually.

In March 2022, the Board unanimously passed Motion (Item 221-GV02) which eliminated the requirement for units to hold at least one sectional every two years, and clarified that the 11 percent of full dues payments and life master service fees paid by their members is intended to supplement unit funds for activities related to membership building and retention.

As the U.S. emerges from the pandemic, and face-to-face tournament play has resumed, it is now time to further discussions, collaborating with management and additional stakeholders to develop the most effective plan to rebate utilization moving forward.

To support discussions, a compilation including the current Codification relating to units, a motion, discussion items, financials and recommendations are attached. The Membership Building Task Force, the Finance Committee and the ACBL Executive Director will provide additional input before Board meetings in Chicago.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Goodgold (C)

Heth, Steinberg, Couchman

SECOND READING

Item 232-BY01: Bylaws Amendment – Arbitration

Moved that: Bylaws Article III be amended and Article XII be added.

Bylaws Article III was amended and Article XII be added.

Article III:

3.5 Arbitration. ~~All members of the ACBL~~ The following shall be subject to binding and compulsory arbitration in cases and controversies involving ACBL: all members, including members not in “good standing”; former members raising any issue related to their time as members; and non-members entering or participating in any ACBL-sponsored competition or otherwise availing themselves of the services of ACBL.

This Section shall serve as sufficient notice of compulsory arbitration to all ACBL members as may be required by any court of law. The ACBL may provide notice of such compulsory arbitration through other methods. Specifics regarding arbitration are found in Article XII of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

ARBITRATION

12.1 Arbitration. For purposes of this Article, the members and ACBL agree that both duplicate bridge competition under ACBL auspices and the general operations of ACBL constitute “commerce” of an interstate or foreign nature as defined in Section 1 of the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §1, and that, in relation to all disputes subject to arbitration under this Article otherwise subject to Canadian, Mexican, or Bermudian law, as a matter of contractual choice of law, the Federal Arbitration Act shall apply, including time limitations for review or confirmation of arbitration awards.

12.2 Procedure. Where any part of this Article provides for arbitration, arbitration shall be conducted exclusively under the rules of the Institute for Bridge Arbitration or, if such rules are for any reason not in existence or not, even by analogy, applicable to a particular controversy subject to arbitration, under the U.S. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure construed to address the arbitration context, e.g., references to "judge", "court", "jury", or "jury trial" shall be understood as meaning "arbitrator(s)" or "arbitration panel" as the case may be.

12.3 Exhaustion of Internal Processes. After the exhaustion of internal processes, including review by the Appeals and Charges Committee if available, any disciplinary matter as between the League or any subsidiary agency, committee, or official on the one hand and any member on the other, shall be subject to arbitration as provided in this Article.

12.4 Ethical Matters. Any dispute concerning a disciplinary determination arising under Part 301 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (or any replacement), as adopted by the Board of Directors and as amended from time to time thereafter, shall be arbitrated before a panel of three (3) arbitrators assigned by the Institute for Bridge Arbitration.

12.4.1 Scope of Arbitration.

12.4.1a When Internal Disciplinary Process Has Occurred. When a disciplinary hearing and determination has been initially made by the Ethical Oversight Committee, the Online Ethical Oversight Committee, a District Disciplinary Committee, or any duly authorized disciplinary committee, the arbitrators' review shall be limited to whether

(1) the determination was procured by corruption, fraud, or undue means;

(2) there was evident partiality or corruption in the adjudicators, or any of them;

(3) the adjudicators were guilty of misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing, upon sufficient cause shown, or in refusing to hear evidence pertinent and material to the controversy, or of any other misbehavior by which the rights of any party were substantially prejudiced; or

(4) the adjudicators exceeded their powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a proper decision upon the subject matter submitted was not made.

The established principles of harmless error shall apply.

If satisfied that any of grounds (1)-(4) have been clearly established and that such error(s) is (are) not harmless, the arbitrators shall remand for a new determination, and may additionally direct that one or more of the initial adjudicators shall not participate in further proceedings, and the arbitrators, in their discretion, may retain jurisdiction to review the remand proceedings. If no grounds (1)-(4) have been clearly established, the arbitrators shall confirm the determination.

12.4.1b Where Internal Disciplinary Process Has Not Occurred. Where a disciplinary hearing and determination have not been initially made by the Ethical Oversight Committee, the Online Ethical Oversight Committee, a District Disciplinary Committee or any duly authorized disciplinary committee, the arbitrators' shall, on the basis of the competent evidence submitted, and after applying the test of comfortable satisfaction, render a written award determining all matters in dispute.

12.5 Costs and Fees.

12.5.1a Initial Costs and Fees. The party invoking arbitration shall initially be obligated to pay associated costs and fees.

12.5.1b Arbitrators' Authority Over Costs and Fees. The arbitrators may, in their discretion, direct that either party shall pay, or reimburse the other party for having paid, all or any portion of the associated costs and fees. The arbitrators may also, in their

discretion, require either party to pay all or any portion of the other party's reasonable attorney fees relating to the arbitration, whenever the arbitrators determine that any issue or argument was raised or asserted without substantial basis in law or fact. For purposes of this Bylaw, "reasonable attorney fees" shall be evaluated according to the standards utilized by the United States federal courts for cases applying 42 USC §1988.

12.5.1c Payment of Costs and Fees Prerequisite to Reinstatement: Whenever a member of ACBL is required by the arbitrators to pay any costs or fees, including attorney fees, such costs or fees must be paid in order for such member to seek reinstatement (if expelled), or to regain good standing and the restoration of membership rights (if suspended or placed on probation).

12.6 Venue. The arbitrators shall designate a place for the arbitration to be conducted, which may be virtual, and shall be reasonably convenient to the parties and witnesses.

12.6.1a Virtual Hearings. When arbitration is to be conducted virtually, any location shall be deemed "reasonably convenient to the parties and witnesses."

12.6.1b Approved Locations. The site of a North American Bridge Championship, during such event, or a location within ACBL Headquarters or within a 10 mile radius thereof, shall also be deemed "reasonably convenient to the parties and witnesses".

12.7 Conduct and Administrative Matters. Any dispute concerning a disciplinary determination arising under Parts 302, 303 or 304 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (or their replacements), as adopted by the Board of Directors and as amended from time to

time thereafter, shall not be subject to arbitration unless the Board of Directors shall, by a 2/3 vote, so provide by regulation.

Effective date: Immediately upon ratification by the Advisory Council

Estimated cost/savings: Unknown, but may be significant by reducing lawsuits against the ACBL

Discussion: This amendment was suggested by legal advice provided by Allan Falk, a highly respected lawyer who is very familiar with the EOC and OEOC procedures. This amendment is essentially the text he provided, with a small amount of minor editing. Allan Falk has also provided legal precedents on Federal and NY State law indicating the need for the details within Art XII.

The reason we need all this detail regarding arbitration in the bylaws is based on a ruling Allan Falk cited by the NY Court of Appeals, holding that the bylaws of a NY membership corporation constitute a contract with its members. Thus, whatever is in the bylaws about arbitration is part of the arbitration contract; whatever is in the codification or anything else is NOT contractual, and sooner or later the ACBL will encounter the problem it faced in the Blakely lawsuit, where the court held that the proof of an arbitration agreement was insufficient and the case proceeded in litigation, with an unfavorable result to the ACBL.

Allan Falk also noted: Bylaws require membership approval to amend or revise whereas the Codification does not. A contract is bilateral, and can be amended only by mutual consent, so bylaw amendments validly modify the contract between ACBL and its members with immediate effect. The Codification is not contractual, and changes are not made with the consent of the members as a group, so for purposes of determining what arbitration agreement exists between the League and its members, the Codification is irrelevant, as is the Handbook, guidelines, conditions of contest, and anything else that is not either a bylaw or contained in the articles of incorporation.

[ACBL Bylaws can be amended in a number of ways, either by direct membership vote or, in most of our cases, by duly elected board members with advanced notification to the membership.]

The changes to 3.5 are included to make certain that arbitration apply to those who are no longer members or were never ACBL members.

Note that non-members who play in ACBL events are not covered by these Bylaws, so there should be a notice of arbitration given to, and acknowledged by, such non-members when they enter these events.

Effective date: Immediately upon ratification by the Advisory Council

Estimated cost/savings: Unknown, but may be significant by reducing lawsuits against the ACBL