

## APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

Stephani (C), Rowe (VC)  
Carman, Liddy, Overby, Sealy, White

Staff: Gordon

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**Date:** February 1, 2022

**Submitted by:** ACBL Management

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** To retire the Anti-Cheating Commission

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

### Item 221-AC02: Retire Anti-Cheating Commission

**Moved that:**

Codification, Part 1 – Governance and Policy, Chapter IV – Board Procedures, D. Committees, Section 5 – Other ACBL Bodies, and Part 2 – Bridge Operations, Chapter I – Membership Operating Guidelines, F. Discipline and ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, be amended as follows:

1. remove Anti-Cheating Commission as a formal committee:

#### ~~5.8 Anti-Cheating Commission~~

~~The Anti-Cheating Commission shall address the issue of collusive cheating and/or other serious ethical violations as follows:~~

~~5.8.1 The purpose of the Anti-Cheating Commission shall be to deter, detect and, at the discretion of ACBL management, assist in the prosecution of collusive cheating or other serious ethical violations.~~

~~5.8.2 The ACBL National Recorder may submit evidence or player memos to the Anti-Cheating Commission for evaluation or recommendation. The National Recorder will regularly provide any relevant player memos regarding ethical violations or other serious ethical violations or other evidence to the Anti-Cheating Commission. The Anti-Cheating Commission may utilize additional experts as needed. The committee shall provide a copy of any evidence that it develops (or receives from experts) to the ACBL National Recorder.~~

~~5.8.3 The Anti-Cheating Commission is charged with evaluating player memos and any other relevant evidence of unethical conduct in conjunction with the Office of National Recorder. As needed, the committee may investigate, utilizing any tools it has available, with or without the National Recorder, any situation where collusive cheating or other serious ethical violation is suspected. Among other things, the committee is tasked with developing investigatory protocols and statistical models to examine past practices that may uncover illegal methods of partnership communication.~~

~~5.8.4 The Anti-Cheating Commission may investigate any situation where collusive cheating or other serious ethical violation is or may be reasonably suspected. The investigative team assembled by the Anti-Cheating Commission may engage experts in any field to assist the investigation. The committee must notify the ACBL National Recorder in writing prior to commencing any formal investigation. Any expenditure must be approved by the ACBL National Recorder.~~

~~5.8.5 All Anti-Cheating Commission opinions will be provided to the ACBL National Recorder in writing. Based upon its recommendation, the National Recorder (or a designee) may take a complaint to ACBL management alleging collusive cheating or other serious ethical violations against any one or more ACBL members (or non-member participating in an ACBL sanctioned event). Decisions regarding filing formal complaints against specific players shall be at the sole discretion of the ACBL as provided in the CDR.~~

~~5.8.6 The Anti-Cheating Commission shall consist of at least five (5) members but no more than nine (9) members. All members will be appointed by the ACBL Executive Director, in consultation with the then Anti-Cheating Commission chair, and should be bridge players of the highest caliber with a long history of success in NABC+ events who are above ethical reproach. At least two of the members must be located outside North America. The National Recorder shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the committee and shall not be counted in assessing the five-member requirement.~~

~~5.8.7 Each member shall serve in staggered three-year terms, except that during the first year of appointments the ACBL Executive Director may assign members to a term of fewer than three (3) years to allow for such staggered terms.~~

~~5.8.8 The activities of the Anti-Cheating Commission are highly confidential. Accordingly, each member must sign a non-disclosure agreement with the ACBL prior to beginning service on the committee.~~

~~5.8.9 The Anti-Cheating Commission shall elect a chair from among its members by a simple majority vote. The chair may not serve more than three (3) consecutive one-year terms as chair.~~

~~5.8.10 Anti-Cheating Commission members will be appointed and confirmed at the Spring NABC. Their term of office will begin one day following the end of the Spring NABC and will expire on the day following the appropriate subsequent Spring NABC.~~

~~5.8.11 Members of the Anti-Cheating Commission may be removed without cause by the ACBL Executive Director. In addition, the ACBL Executive Director and the Anti-Cheating Commission chair may call a meeting of the Anti-Cheating Commission and, by majority vote, remove a member of the Commission.~~

~~5.8.12 If a member of the Commission is unable to serve his entire term for any reason, the ACBL Commission may choose to fill the vacancy. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.~~

~~5.8.13 The members of the Anti-Cheating Commission will be compensated in the value of a two-session entry into a NABC+ event for each day the Commission meets at a NABC.~~

and

2. remove Anti-Cheating Commission from the ACBL disciplinary process:

~~Section 6—Anti-Cheating Commission (ACC) (Effective April 1, 2016)~~

~~6.1 The ACBL Anti-Cheating Commission (ACC) will be composed of at least five expert players appointed by the ACBL Executive Director. The Executive Director may replace a member with or without cause. The Executive Director may add members.~~

~~6.2 Each player selected for the ACC will have a long history of success in NABC+ events, while maintaining a superior standard of ethics.~~

~~6.3 The purpose of the ACC will be to provide written opinions to the ACBL National Recorder's Office that evaluate player memos and other materials with a goal of identifying collusive cheating, including by developing investigatory protocols, mathematical models, and forensic criteria for reliably differentiating collusive cheating from random or innocent occurrences.~~

~~6.4 As needed, the ACC as needed may investigate any situation where collusive cheating is or may reasonably be suspected. The investigative team assembled by the ACC may engage experts in any field to assist the investigation. The ACC must notify the ACBL National Recorder in writing prior to commencing any formal investigation. Any expenditures must be approved by the ACBL National Recorder.~~

~~6.5 The ACBL National Recorder may submit evidence or player memos to the ACC for evaluation or recommendation. The National Recorder will regularly provide any relevant ethical player memos or other evidence to the ACC. The ACC may utilize additional experts as needed.~~

~~6.6 All ACC opinions will be provided to the ACBL National Recorder in writing. Decisions regarding filing formal complaints against specific players shall be at the sole discretion of the ACBL.~~

~~6.7 All ACC Members and additional experts utilized by the ACC must sign a mandatory ACBL Confidentiality Agreement. Confidentiality applies to any evidence reviewed by the ACC, written opinions, and the existence of an investigation.~~

~~6.8 The ACC shall provide a copy of any evidence received to the ACBL National Recorder.~~

~~(See also Codification Ch. IV – Board Procedures, D. Committees, Section 5 – Other ACBL Bodies, 5.8 Anti-Cheating Commission)~~

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:**

**Discussion:**

The Anti-Cheating Commission was formed in the wake of high-level cheating scandals in 2015 and 2016, resulting from a recommendation of the Bridge Integrity Task Force.

Over time, the committee made recommendations and reviewed players of concern to it. However, the committee was not in the position to do anything concrete, and the members did not feel that retaining the structure served any purpose. Discussion between the ACBL Executive Director and the National Recorder about possible reconstitution of the committee as a clearinghouse between bridge organizations resulted in action being taken in that direction apart from the committee. ACBL management believes that it is time to retire the formal committee. Many of the people who generously agreed to serve on the Anti-Cheating Commission will still be available to consult as needed.

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)  
Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy,  
Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:** Hall of Fame Committee

**Purpose:** To appoint members of the Hall of Fame Committee

**Item Type:**

	Action Item
	Discussion Item
x	Motion

**Item 221-BD01: Hall of Fame Committee Appointments**

**Moved that:**

David Grainger, Adam Grossack, and Joe Grue are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2022 NABC through the end of the Spring 2025 NABC.

Iftikhar Baqai is appointed to complete the remaining term of Neil Chambers through the end of the Spring 2023 NABC.

Lisa Berkowitz is appointed to complete the remaining term of David Berkowitz through the end of the Spring 2024 NABC.

Josh Donn is appointed to complete the vacant term through the end of the Spring 2024 NABC.

**Effective date:** End of the Spring 2022 NABC

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

<u>TERM ENDING 2022</u>	<u>TERM ENDING 2023</u>	<u>TERM ENDING 2024</u>
Ross Gabel	Mitch Dunitz, Chairman	Paul Lewis
David Grainger	Eddie Wold	Vacant (David Berkowitz resigned)
Vacant (John Carruthers resigned)	Vacant (Neil Chambers resigned)	Vacant

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)  
Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy,  
Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:** Competition and Conventions Committee

**Purpose:** To appoint members of the Competition and Conventions

**Item Type:**

	Action Item
	Discussion Item
x	Motion

**Item 221-BD02: Competition and Conventions Appointments**

**Moved that:**

Franco Baseggio, Doug Doub, Jeff Ford, David Grainger and Jeff Meckstroth are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2022 NABC through the end of the Spring 2025 NABC.

**Effective date:** End of the Spring 2022 NABC

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

Current Committee:

Term ending 2022: Doug Doub, Jeff Ford, David Grainger, Franco Baseggio, Jeff Meckstroth

Term ending 2023: Sabine Auken, Chris Compton

Term ending 2024: Danny Sprung, Chair

Board Members: Dennis Carman, A.J. Stephani

Staff: Sol Weinstein

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)  
Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy,  
Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:** Ethical Oversight Committee

**Purpose:** To appoint members of the Ethical Oversight Committee

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BD03: Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments**

**Moved that:**

Kevin Bathurst, Jon Brissman, Bruce Ferguson, Hendrik Sharples, and Eddie Wold are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2022 NABC through the end of the Spring 2025 NABC.

**Effective date:** End of the Spring 2022 NABC

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

Current Committee:

Term ending 2022: Kevin Bathurst, Jon Brissman, Bruce Ferguson, Hendrik Sharples, Eddie Wold

Term ending 2023: Cheri Bjerkan, Denny Clerkin, John Fout, Bob Glasson, Kevin Wilson

Term ending 2024: Peter Boyd, Bart Bramley, Lesley Davis, Brian Platnick, Karen Walker

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)  
Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy,  
Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:** ACBL Disciplinary Committee

**Purpose:** To appoint members of the ACBL Disciplinary Committee

**Item Type:**

	Action Item
	Discussion Item
x	Motion

**Item 221-BD04: ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointments**

**Moved that:**

Chris Benson, Mark Friedlander, Jan Martel, and Chris Moll are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2022 NABC through the end of the Spring 2025 NABC.

**Effective date:** End of the Spring 2022 NABC

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

Current Committee:

Term ending 2022: Chris Benson, Melody Bi, Jan Martel, Chris Moll

Term ending 2023: Lisa Berkowitz, Christal Henner, Nagy Kamel, Tom Peters

Term ending 2024: Craig Allen, Gary Cohler, Mitch Dunitz, Anant Rathi

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)  
Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy,  
Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:** Laws Commission

**Purpose:** To appoint members of the Laws Commission

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BD05: Laws Commission Appointments**

**Moved that:**

Bart Bramley, Allan Falk, and Aaron Silverstein are appointed for a five-year term from the end of the Spring 2022 NABC through the end of the Spring 2027 NABC.

Oren Kriegel is appointed to complete the remaining term of Jeff Goldsmith through the end of the Spring 2024 NABC.

Doug Couchman is appointed to complete the remaining term of A.J. Stephani through the end of 2026.

**Effective date:** End of the Spring 2022 NABC

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

Current Committee:

Term ending 2022: Melody Bi, Allan Falk, Aaron Silverstein

Term ending 2023: Chip Martel, Lynne Feldman, Matt Koltnow

Term ending 2024: Robb Gordon, Eric Rodwell, Vacancy

Term ending: 2025: Adam Wildavsky, Ron Gerard

Term ending: 2026: A.J. Stephani, Howard Weinstein

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)  
Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy,  
Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** To elect NABF Board Members

**Item Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion Item
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Motion

**Item 221-BD06: Election of NABF Board Members**

**Moved that:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are elected for a three-year term which begins immediately and ends on December 31, 2024.

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

**Current Board Members representing ACBL:**

A.J. Stephani  
Al Levy

**Declarations Received:**

Paul Cuneo  
Doug Couchman  
Paul Hattis

**FULL BOARD**

Glasson (P), Heth (C)

Steinberg, Belford, Muñoz, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani,

Carman, Liddy, Cuneo, Shoemaker, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Moss, Aquino

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** Joann Glasson

**Input from Committee:** N/A

**Purpose:** To elect an ACBL Treasurer

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BD07: Election of ACBL Treasurer**

**Moved that:**

\_\_\_\_\_ be elected as ACBL Treasurer beginning May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023.

**Effective date:** May 1, 2022

**Estimated cost/savings:** N/A

**Discussion:**

Declared:

David Lodge

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)

Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** January 28, 2022

**Submitted by:** Dennis Carman

**Input from Committee:** Governance

**Purpose:** Change the appointments and terms of the Competition and Conventions Committee members

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BR01: Update appointment and terms of the Competition and Conventions Committee members**

**Moved that:**

Subsection 5.3 of the Codification, Part 1, Ch. IV – BOARD PROCEDURES, D. COMMITTEES, Section 5 – Other ACBL Bodies, be amended as follows:

5.3 Competition and Conventions Committee

5.3.1 The purpose of the Competition and Conventions Committee is to review conventions and the convention charts, the alert procedure, the convention card and conditions of contest plus any other competitive aspects of bridge play, such as timing and procedures. The committee will meet ~~at each NABC~~ and conduct work as needed between tournaments or at an NABC. ~~A report of each meeting will be distributed to the Board of Directors as soon as practicable.~~

5.3.2 The Competition and Conventions Committee will consist of 11 members, of which eight (8) shall be expert players appointed by the President in consultation with the Competition and Conventions Committee chair. Appointments are subject to Board approval. The term of office for **all eight expert players** ~~each member~~ will be ~~as follows: four expert players shall be appointed to staggered three-years, terms with two appointments made in 2015 and every third year thereafter, and four additional positions shall be appointed to one-year terms.~~ In addition, the chairs of the ACBL Board’s Bridge Committee ~~and Tournament Committee~~ shall be a voting ex-officio members of the Competition and Conventions Committee. ~~If there is no Board Bridge Committee or Tournament Committee,~~ The President shall designate a second voting ex-officio member

~~this position~~ from sitting ACBL Board members. ACBL management shall designate an ACBL Tournament Director to serve as a voting member.

...

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:** N/A

**History:**

**Discussion:**

This motion is a cleanup of Codification language and also a change in the terms of the members of the Competition and Conventions Committee. As part of the transition of the Board of Directors, the Competition and Conventions Committee is responsible for reviewing all bridge activities.

The ACBL Board of Directors no longer has a Tournament Committee and, accordingly, this motion eliminates that reference from the Codification. The Competition and Conventions Committee has been meeting regularly over the last two years via Zoom. The committee plans to continue to do so and may or may not schedule a face-to-face meeting at upcoming NABCs. Language that includes reporting requirements and meeting at NABCs has been eliminated.

At the request of the chair of the Competition and Conventions Committee, the term of the expert members of the committee has been changed to three years in order to provide continuity and stability to the committee. The initial year to begin three-year staggered appointments has also been deleted because it is no longer relevant. If appointments are currently staggered, then they will continue to be, albeit perhaps overloaded in one year more than another due to everyone now receiving a three-year term.

The three other non-expert player appointments—the chair of the Bridge Committee, the one additional person the President appoints from among Board members, and the ACBL management appointment—may change annually so there is no term duration specified for these three members.

The Advisory Council will also appoint three members to attend the Competitions and Conventions Committee meetings as non-voting members

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)

Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** February 6, 2022

**Submitted by:** Larry Sealy

**Input from Committee:** N/A

**Purpose:** Add to the eligibility restrictions for limited masterpoint® events implemented in 2020.

**Item Type:**

	Action Item
	Discussion Item
x	Motion

**Item 221-BR02: Limited MP Event Eligibility**

**Moved that:**

Subsection 1.2.4 of Codification, Part 2, Ch. XIII – GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION, F. EVENTS be amended as follows:

Section 1 – Tournament Events and Restrictions

...

1.2.4 Events

- a. Open: No masterpoint restriction
- b. Flighted (by masterpoints only): Three flights event. Each flight may have two strats.

Players who win, or at any time in the past won, an ACBL, **USBF (or its equivalent, e.g., CBF,** or WBF event which qualifies them to achieve Grand Life Master (GLM) status upon meeting all other GLM requirements, may not enter a masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in non-bracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing purposes in bracketed events. (Passed June 17, 2020; Effective January 1, 2020)

**Players who represent, or at any time in the past represented, their NBO in a World Championship event with no upper age limit, for which**

**qualification is required, may not enter a masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in non-bracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing purposes in bracketed events.**

**Note:** Flighted KO events at Regionals may be bracketed (but may not be randomly grouped) to finish in four sessions.

- c. Stratified (by masterpoints only): Two or three strats. Up to five strats are permitted in a one-session event which has an upper limit of 300 or fewer masterpoints - specifically an I/N event.

Players who win, or at any time in the past won, an ACBL, **USBF (or its equivalent, e.g., CBF)**, or WBF event which qualifies them to achieve GLM status upon meeting all other GLM requirements, may not enter a masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in nonbracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing purposes in bracketed events. (Passed June 17, 2020; Effective January 1, 2020)

**Players who represent, or at any time in the past represented, their NBO in a World Championship event with no upper age limit, for which qualification is required, may not enter a masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in non-bracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing purposes in bracketed events.**

**Note:** At sponsor option, the stratification of a team in an Open Stratified Swiss event may be determined by the average masterpoint holding of all team members.

- d. Stratiflighted (by masterpoints only): Two flights with up to three strats in each flight.

**NOTE:** Only flights/strats with 750 masterpoints or greater in two session Regional events are eligible for gold points.

- e. Handicapped: Based on masterpoint holding of entrants.
- f. Bracketed (KO and Swiss Teams): Based on the masterpoint holding of entrants.

Any player entering a bracketed event who has won an event that

would qualify that individual to be designated a Grand Life Master when 10,000 masterpoints are accumulated will automatically be assigned the higher of their actual masterpoint holdings or 10,000 masterpoints when determining their team's bracket designation. In a Bracketed Swiss in which the top bracket is open to all teams, or in which there is a Flight A/X Swiss being played simultaneously, such player shall be placed in the top bracket, or Stratum A of the Flight A/X Swiss, as applicable. (Effective January 1, 2020)

- g. Masters: One member of each partnership must meet the minimum limit.
- h. Non-Life Masters: All entrants must be under the maximum limit.
- i. Life Masters: All entrants must meet Life Master requirements.
- j. Restricted (upper masterpoint limit): All entrants must be under the maximum limit.)
- k. Side Game Series (Open Pairs game only): May not be restricted by age, gender, or masterpoint holding (may be stratified for single side game session awards only).
- l. Choice (Pair game only): An event which is scheduled for three sessions during one calendar day (morning, afternoon and evening), and a pair must choose to play in only two of the three sessions. Concurrent event rule does not apply to any pair in this event during their un-played third session.

**Effective date:** July 1, 2022

**Estimated cost/savings:** N/A

**History:**

This motion adds to the eligibility restrictions for limited masterpoint events implemented in 2020.

**Discussion:**

The purpose of the current regulation in the Codification was to ensure that payers participate at a more appropriate level of competitive play for their accomplishments. This revised motion corrects an omission to the currently worded Codification. It also strengthens the restrictions.

Currently, the Codification designates winners of NABC+ and WBF events, which qualifies them to achieve GLM status upon meeting all other GLM requirements, as ineligible for limited masterpoint events. Further, it requires them to be assigned eligibility points (if needed) to bring them to 10,000 for bracketing purposes.

Certain USBF Team Trials (i.e., Open and Women's or their equivalents, such as CNTC and CWTC) also provide the requisite qualification for GLM status. The first change is to add this clarification to the existing Codification.

Secondly, currently players who have competed for their National Bridge Organization in World Championship events are not excluded from limited masterpoint events if they have not yet won a GLM-qualifying event. However, these players have competed against the best players in the world. ACBL limited masterpoint events do not seem appropriate for them. The rank-and-file member who competes in the limited events may get demoralized when having to compete against world-class players. This motion will restrict players who have competed in World Championships, with no upper age limit and where qualification at the NBO-level was required, from competing in limited masterpoint events. It will not apply to players who have competed in Junior World Championships or to those who played in Open Events (e.g., World Bridge Series) or Invitational Events.

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)

Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** 2/3/22

**Submitted by:** Aquino

**Input from Committee:** Masterpoint Committee

**Purpose:** To ensure that masterpoint® awards for human/robot pairs are not unfairly inflated by adding extra table counts.

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
X	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BR03: Change Table Counting for Human Robot Pairs**

**Moved that:**

Clubs are permitted to host robot/robot pairs in limited quantities in order to facilitate movements. Clubs may use their discretion in allowing or not allowing robot/robot pairs and/or an unlimited number human/robot pairs, provided that robots do not count as part of the overall table count for the event. Under current rules, if there are four human/robot pairs, for example, this would count as two full tables. This motion would result in the four humans counted as one table. The robots would not count at all.

**Effective date:** 6/1/2022

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

The topic of robots was briefly discussed at the recent BOD meeting in Austin. The BOD discussed it but the impact of excessive masterpoints caused by human/robot pairs was not addressed. Some players object to playing with or against robots, and club owners/managers sensitive to their players’ wishes may at their own discretion not allow the use of robots in their games.

On the other hand, robots can be of great benefit to the clubs. They can round out movements when there is a half table, and they can be of huge benefit in assisting players without partners. Greg Coles has been consulted about this request and expressed his support. IT's impact needs to be considered. The effective date of 6/1/22 was intended to be able to provide ample time for IT to make any needed software changes in its scoring.

This motion will allow for the use of robots to continue without over inflating the masterpoint awards associated with these events.

## **BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)

Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Submitted by:** ACBL Management

**Input from Committee:** Bridge

**Purpose:** To update the ACBL Electronic Device Policy

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

### **Item 221-BR04: Update Electronic Device Policy**

**Moved that:**

The current Electronic Device Policy (Appendix J to the General Conditions of Contest – All Events), as adopted in Item 163-07 and amended in Item 173-17, be replaced by the policy attached hereto.

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:** none

**Discussion:**

The current Electronic Device Policy (attached as Exhibit 1 for reference) was adopted as an attempt to counteract cheating and to minimize interruptions to the game by use of an electronic device. With the range of devices available today, it is impossible to counteract cheating by someone determined to do so. Interruptions, while still an issue, are not the game disrupting events of a few years ago.

Of greater import is that players today do not generally wait around for a recap of their scores to be posted. They expect to receive that information on their cellphone or tablet, and, in making efforts to improve ACBL Live, we expect the players to have a device. With that in mind, the ACBL is currently developing software to enable players to pre-register for almost any event at a

tournament. That will include receiving their seating assignment as a text or email. We do not want to give them a purpose for having their device with them and then punish them severely for a minor breach of etiquette relating to it.

The current policy is sometimes not strictly enforced, mainly due to its severity. It is better to have an appropriate schedule of penalties which we can expect to be uniformly enforced, and not penalize a minor cellphone transgression much more severely than a major Zero Tolerance offense.

The proposed Electronic Device Policy recognizes the complexity surrounding the use and prevalence of electronic devices in modern life and tries to balance our players' enjoyment of a bridge game free from interruption with their desire to use these devices in a responsible fashion during a session. It recognizes that players may possess a variety of electronic devices including, but not limited to, phones, tablets, and watches.

Appendix J  
to General Conditions of Contest – All Events

Electronic Device Policy

Proposal 01.31.2022

This policy applies to all events at NABCs and events where ACBL is the Sponsoring Organization. Regional and Sectional tournaments are encouraged to adopt and apply this policy or one more well-suited to their players. A violation of any of the restrictions below will result in an automatic penalty, pursuant to Law 91 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

1 - Any electronic equipment must be kept in silent mode (except for health-related equipment, where silent mode is unavailable or could constitute a health risk).

It is recommended, though not mandatory, that any such equipment remain switched off while in the playing area during a session.

**Penalties:** If it is determined that an electronic equipment is not compliant with (1) above, the penalty for the first offense is 1/8 of a board, 1.5imps, or ½ VP. For each subsequent offense during an event the penalty will be doubled. Beginning with the third offense, the player may be subject to disqualification, upon approval of the Sponsoring Organization.

2 - Players are expected to be paying attention to the game. While at the table, players may not use or interact with their electronic devices during bridge play. When between rounds or sitting out, use or interaction with electronic devices is permitted, provided it is inaudible. For other situations, permission to use or interact with an electronic device will be granted upon the Director's judgment and on a case-by-case basis.

**Penalties:** If it is determined that an electronic equipment was operated in violation of (2) above, the penalty for the first offense is ½ of a board, 6 IMPS, or 2 VP. For each subsequent offense during an event the penalty will be doubled. Beginning with the second offense, the player may be subject to disqualification, upon approval of the Sponsoring Organization.

The above restrictions apply to all players, captains, coaches and kibitzers, except those persons granted permission by the ACBL, and are in force throughout any playing session or segment of play.

A kibitzer in violation of these policies must leave the playing area and may be readmitted only by permission of the tournament director.

Penalties for captains and coaches: Same as for players.

For the purpose of this policy, each day of a multi-day event is treated independently.

Further restrictions and requirements may apply in events involving live internet and/or VuGraph coverage and/or instruction from the Sponsoring Organization.

For the purpose of this policy, Sponsoring Organization is the ACBL for NABCs, the organizing District for Regionals, and the organizing Unit for Sectionals.

PROPOSED

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)

Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** February 6, 2022

**Submitted by:** Larry Sealy

**Input from Committee:** N/A

**Purpose:** Clarify that the existing Codification applies to face-to-face games only and add one week per year of Virtual Club fundraisers.

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BR06: NABC District Fundraising Week**

**Moved that:**

Codification, Part 2, Ch. VI - CLUB SANCTIONED GAMES, D. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS be amended as follows:

**Section 4 - Other Frequent Club Events**

4.1 North American Bridge Championship Promotional Game

4.1.1 The ACBL allocates to each District one week of Sectional-rated **face-to-face (F2F)** NABC fundraising games in each of the three years prior to a North American Bridge Championship held within the District.

**ACBL also allocates to each District one week of Sectional-rated virtual NABC fundraising games in each of the three years prior to a NABC held within the District. This would only apply for NABCs held in the District of the sanctioned Virtual Club.**

4.1.2 The District schedules ~~a~~ weeks for the events, and the ACBL notifies all clubs within the District, advising them that the events may be held during their regular meeting times.

4.1.3 Clubs may hold the same number of these sessions as their allocated number of Membership Games.

- 4.1.4 A participating club must remit a sanction fee per table to the ACBL with the Monthly Report.
- 4.1.5 The District establishes the additional fees for this event, which are submitted directly to the District: **(for F2F games) or from ACBL to the District (VACB).**
- 4.1.6 If an unpredictable event occurs which affects the ability to hold these fundraising games in the first and/or second year of the three-year period, the District will be allowed to schedule the missed week(s) within a later year of the same three-year period.**

**Effective date:** Change to allow moving unused fundraising weeks to later years – immediately. Change to allow Virtual Club fundraising weeks – July 1, 2022, to allow ACBL time to make necessary software changes.

**Estimated cost/savings:** TBD.

**History:**

**Discussion:**

This motion will help Districts raise money for NABC Hospitality.

The current Codification was written when all club games were F2F. Thus, there is no mention of the type of games for which it applies. It was also impossible to predict that a pandemic would shut down F2F bridge, resulting in the inability to hold fundraising weeks for one or two years and severely compromising Districts' ability to raise money to support hospitality for NABCs held in their District.

This motion clarifies that the existing Codification applies to F2F games, only. It also adds one week per year of Virtual Club fundraisers.

Allowing fundraising weeks only for clubs in a single District will require a “hard-wiring” of ACBL code to assign game ratings for particular weeks for clubs of specific Districts. Hopefully, ACBL could implement by July 1. If not, I believe a workaround could possibly be implemented for the short-term.

For pooling situations, the Virtual Club fundraising weeks would only apply for the District of the primary (sanctioned) club. For example, a large pool in District 4 would not be able to run Virtual Club fundraisers for clubs in other Districts that are part of the pool, only when the NABC is in District 4.

Finally, during the pandemic, fundraising weeks were either impossible to hold or would have been severely impacted. This motion allows Districts that missed one or two of their fundraiser weeks to back-load them into a later year of the same three-year cycle. For instance, for a 2023 NABC, if the District did not hold fundraising weeks in 2020 or 2021, they could hold both weeks in 2022 along with the previously allotted week.

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)  
Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Submitted by:** ACBL Management

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** Provide that NABC website(s) will be solely provided by ACBL management

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BR07: NABC Website**

**Moved that:**

The Codification, Part 2 – Bridge Operations, Chapter VIII – North American Bridge Championships, C. Finances, Section 1 – Host Organization, be amended as follows:

1.1 The following services and materials will be provided by the ACBL:

...

**(l) Website. The ACBL will provide and host the NABC website(s). The ACBL will confer with the local committee on supporting content.**

**Effective date:** July 2022 (starting with the Fall 2022 NABC)

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

The NABC website(s) and supporting content and promotion should be maintained and managed by ACBL management. Local committee input and content should be considered and incorporated whenever possible. For search engine optimization (SEO) and communication consistency and efficiencies, two separate websites should not compete for NABC promotion. As

ACBL management grows the ACBL's digital and sponsorship efforts, this consistency becomes paramount.

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)  
Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Submitted by:** ACBL Management

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** Eliminate redundancy in NABC hospitality requirements

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BR08: Eliminate Redundancy in NABC Hospitality Requirements**

**Moved that:**

The Codification, Part 2 – Bridge Operations, Chapter VIII – North American Bridge Championships, C. Finances, Section 1 – Host Organization, be amended as follows:

1.1 The following services and materials will be provided by the ACBL:

- a. **Player Hospitality.** The ACBL will provide a snack daily for the players from the first Thursday through the last Saturday. The ACBL will confer with the local committee on the choice of snacks to provide local flavor. *(effective 9/25/20)*

~~b. **Concession Coupons for Players.** The ACBL will provide a \$2 coupon to be used at the concession stand(s) for each player at the 10am and 3pm games through the tournament.~~

**Effective date:** July 2022 (beginning with the Summer 2022 NABC)

**Estimated cost/savings:** TBD

**Discussion:**

With the passing of **Item 22S1-08: Starting Times for NABC Events**, we now have redundancy in the hospitality that the ACBL is required to offer at a NABC for 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. games. Removing the requirement to provide concession coupons prior to those games eliminates the redundancy and allows ACBL management and local committees to provide player hospitality as currently provided in this section of the Codification. The financial implications are not known at this time but keeping both as currently provided in the Codification would unnecessarily increase costs.

**BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

Carman (C), Sealy (VC)

Aquino, Belford, Kovacich, Moss, Steinberg

Staff: Weinstein

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**Date:** 02/05/2022

**Submitted by:** Stu Goodgold

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** Make the Royal StaC trial event permanent

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
X	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-BR09: Permanent Royal STaC**

**Moved that:**

The trial Royal StaC be made a permanent option for Districts and limit each District to two Royal StaCs per calendar year. Multi-District Royal STaCs will count as one occurrence for each District participating.

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:** minor increase in revenue due to higher table counts

**Discussion:**

The Royal STaC was a trial that is due to expire April 30. The initial test area was the Northeast, and the result was a big increase in the face-to-face table count. With this success, we should continue this event for other Districts around North America.

Limiting each District to two Royal StaCs per year will ensure this feature is not abused. On the other hand, Districts that feel a Royal StaC might be detrimental to their Regionals do not have to participate. Limiting Royal STaCs to Districts, and not Units, is reasonable since there will be substantial gold points available. Additionally, allowing Units to hold their own Royal STaCs would possibly make for too many and devalue the uniqueness of the event.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW COMMITTEE

Overby (C)  
Hennings, Lodge

Staff: Jones

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**Date:** February 1, 2022

**Submitted by:** Margot Hennings, Carlos Muñoz, and Cindy Shoemaker

**Input from Committee:** None needed

**Purpose:** To streamline the description of succession planning in the Codification and provide an updated Succession Plan

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
x	<b>Motion</b>

### **Item 221-ED01: Succession Plan Amendment to Codification**

**Moved that:**

Codification Part 1 – Governance and Policy, Chapter II – Business Management, B. Employees and Consultants, Section 5 – Executive Director Succession Plan, be deleted and replaced with the following:

#### **Section 5 – Executive Director Succession Plan**

- 5.1 The Board of Directors shall approve an Executive Director Succession Plan, which shall be maintained by the President and the Director of Human Resources.
- 5.2 This plan shall be used in the event of a vacancy in the Executive Director position due to retirement or resignation of the incumbent Executive Director; immediate vacancy due to the incapacitation, disability or death of the incumbent Executive Director, termination of the Executive Director, or any other cause of a vacancy in the Executive Director position.
- 5.3 Such plan shall be reviewed at least annually by the Executive Director Review Committee or other authority appointed by the President with approval of the Board and shall be amended from time to time as deemed necessary.
- 5.4 In the event that a new Executive Director needs to be hired, the ACBL President will appoint a Search Committee to research, interview, and recommend a new Executive Director to the Board.

5.5 The Executive Director Succession Plan is attached as Appendix 2-D to this chapter.

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

The proposed changes to the Codification were brought to the Board at our Fall 2021 meeting and there was general agreement on the wording. In keeping with the direction we are taking to streamline the Codification and put details in appendices or other supporting documents, the details of a Succession Plan are now included in an appendix to this chapter.

The proposed Succession Plan is included in Column D and the deleted Section 5 that this new section replaces is included in Column E.

The EDR Committee would like to suggest an Action Item for ACBL management following Board approval of this motion and the Succession Plan to nominate successors: ensure HR has a transition plan in place that includes relevant lists of individuals and actions that would need to be taken, and other relevant details.

## ~~Section 5 – Executive Director Succession Plan~~

~~5.1 This Executive Director Suceession Planning Framework suggests a course of action for the ACBL Board in the event of a vacancy in the Executive Director position due to retirement or resignation of the incumbent Executive Director, immediate vacancy due, for example, to the death of the incumbent Executive Director, termination of the Executive Director, or any other cause of a vacancy in the Executive Director position.~~

~~5.2 Retirement or Resignation – Absent a contract, the incumbent Executive Director is expected to give a minimum of 12 months’ notice of her or his intent to retire or resign from the position. The written notice to resign or retire should be given to the ACBL President, in person, and by mail to all other Directors of the Board. When possible and appropriate, the incumbent should be expected to be a part of the transition team to assist with the orientation of the new Executive Director.~~

~~5.3 Immediate Vacaney – The ACBL Board of Directors will be responsible for appointing an interim Executive Director who will serve in the position until a new Executive Director is hired. The ACBL Board of Directors will review the current Executive Director job description and strategic direction of the ACBL to determine if any changes in the job description or skills and competeneies of the Executive Director are necessary. An Executive Director task foree appointed by and headed by the ACBL President will forward recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.~~

~~5.4 Executive Director Search Committee – When it becomes known that the ACBL will need to hire a new Executive Director, the ACBL President will appoint a five- to seven-member Search Committee. The committee will consist of three to five Board members and additional one to two at-large members who will be responsible for interviewing and selecting a new Executive Director. The ACBL President or designee will be the chair of the Search Committee. The ACBL President may use outside organizations, paid consultants or contractors, as needed, to assist with the search process. The Executive Committee will develop an executive search budget. In-House counsel shall act as legal advisor to the Search Committee.~~

~~5.5 Responsibilities of the Seareh Committee:~~

~~5.5.1 Approve a timeline for the recruitment and selection process.~~

~~5.5.2 Approve recruitment materials and information.~~

~~5.5.3 Inform ACBL’s constituency of the position opening and selection process.~~

~~5.5.4 Approve an advertising plan for the position in appropriate media.~~

~~5.5.6 Contact key community contacts by letter or phone.~~

~~5.5.7 Post an announcement on the ACBL website to members explaining the selection process.~~

~~5.5.8 Coordinate mailing of information to interested applicants.~~

~~5.5.9 Determine an overall interview and selection process.~~

~~5.5.10 Determine a process for screening applications and resumes.~~

~~5.5.11 Receive and screen applicant applications and resumes.~~

~~5.5.12 Develop a format for the interviews, including interview questions.~~

~~5.5.13 Arrange and conduct first round interviews with candidates.~~

~~5.5.14 Conduct reference checks of selected candidates.~~

~~5.5.15 Conduct second round interviews as needed.~~

~~5.5.16 Present at least two candidates to the Board of Directors along with its recommendation(s).~~

~~5.5.17 Communicate the hiring decision by letter to all candidates.~~

~~5.5.18 Recommend terms of the employment to the Board. The recommended terms shall be incorporated into the form of Employment Agreement provided in Codification Appendix 2-C. (Effective 7/15/20)~~

~~5.6 Conflict of Interest – Members of the ACBL Board of Directors and members of the Executive Director Search Committee are not eligible for the position of Executive Director. A former ACBL Board member who wants to apply for the Executive Director position must have left the Board at least one year prior to applying. ACBL staff and members who want to apply for the Executive Director position may not serve on the Search Committee.~~

~~5.7 Executive Director Transition Team – In a planned transition, the incumbent Executive Director and the ACBL Board of Directors are responsible for preparing the organization for a smooth transition. That preparation must include the transfer of organizational knowledge to appropriate Board and management team members. Such knowledge would include but is not limited to key constituents, collaborative relationships, existing contracts, Memorandums of Understanding and other relevant history. The Executive Director is responsible for developing and maintaining an Executive Director Transition Plan. The transition plan will include a list of~~

~~things that an interim or new Executive Director would need to know or have access to and a list of the staff that are primary or backups for critical organizational tasks.~~

~~5.8 An Executive Director Transition Plan should include the following:~~

~~5.8.1 List of key staff and their roles.~~

~~5.8.2 List of key contracts pending.~~

~~5.8.3 List of emergency contacts and telephone numbers.~~

~~5.8.4 List of key community, business and government contacts and their contact information.~~

~~5.8.5 Bank contacts and investment account information.~~

~~5.8.6 Copy of the current Bank Check Signatory Forms and blank ones for the transition.~~

~~5.8.7 List of people and organizations to contact regarding the appointment of a new Executive Director.~~

## ED Succession Plan

This **Executive Director (ED) Succession Plan** is prepared for the ACBL's Board of Directors in the event that the ED position becomes vacant. There are several possible scenarios for why the ED position may be vacant. These include:

- Retirement of incumbent ED
- Resignation of the incumbent ED
- Immediate vacancy due, for example, to the incapacitation, disability or death of the incumbent ED
- Termination of the ED

This ED Succession Plan suggests a course of action for the ACBL Board in the event of a vacancy in the ED position.

### **Retirement or Resignation**

Under normal conditions the incumbent ED is expected to give a minimum of two months' notice of her or his intent to resign or six months' notice of her or his intent to retire from the position. The written notice to resign or retire should be given in person to the ACBL President, and by mail to all other Directors of the Board. When possible and appropriate, the incumbent should be expected to be a part of the transition team to assist with the orientation and training of the new ED.

### **Replacement Nominee**

The ED is expected to provide to the President and the Executive Director Review Committee (EDR) the name of a specific nominee recommended to replace the ED in the event of an immediate vacancy, together with the name of an individual recommended to replace the ED nominee - such names to be updated in writing whenever necessary, but at least annually.

### **Immediate Vacancy**

The President will be responsible for appointing an interim ED, with subsequent confirmation by the Board, to serve in the position until a new ED is hired. The EDR, supplemented by additional expertise appointed by the President as necessary, will review the current ED job description and strategic direction of the ACBL to determine any desirable changes in the job description or skills and competencies of the ED. Such changes will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval.

### **ED Search Committee**

When it becomes known that the ACBL will need to hire a new ED, the ACBL President will appoint a 3-7-member Search Committee. The Committee will consist of board members and additional at-large members who will be responsible for interviewing and recommending to the Board a new ED. The ACBL President or her

or his designee will be the chair of the committee. The ACBL President may use outside organizations, paid consultants or contractors, as needed, to assist with the search process. The Executive Committee will develop an executive search budget, to include the cost of an independent counsel to act as legal advisor to the Search Committee.

**Responsibilities of the Search Committee:**

- Approve a timeline for the recruitment and selection process.
- Approve recruitment materials and information.
- Inform ACBL's constituency of the position opening and selection process.
- Approve an advertising plan for the position in appropriate media.
- Contact key members of the community by letter or phone.
- Post an announcement on the ACBL website to members explaining the selection process.
- Coordinate mailing of information to interested applicants.
- Determine an overall interview and selection process.
- Determine a process for screening applications and resumes.
  - Receive and screen applicant applications and resumes.
- Develop a format for the interviews, including interview questions.
- Arrange and conduct first round interviews with candidates.
- Conduct reference checks of selected candidates.
- Conduct second round interviews as needed.
- Recommend a candidate for approval to the ACBL Board of Directors.
- Communicate the hiring decision by letter to all candidates.
- Recommend terms of the employment to the Board. In-House Counsel drafts the Agreement with direction from the Search Committee Chair.

**Conflict of Interest: Members of the ACBL Board of Directors and members of the ED Search Committee are not eligible for the position of ED. A former ACBL Board member who wants to apply for the ED position must have left the board at least one year prior to applying. (Conflict of Interest Policy, currently Codification Part 1—Governance and Policy, Chapter II—Business Management, B. Employees and Consultants, Section 5.6) ACBL staff and members who want to apply for the ED position may not serve on the Search Committee.**

**ED Transition Team**

The incumbent ED and ACBL Board of Directors are responsible for preparing the organization for a smooth transition. That preparation must include the transfer of organizational knowledge to appropriate Board and management team members. Such knowledge would include but is not limited to key constituents, collaborative relationships, existing contracts, memoranda of understanding and other relevant history.

The incumbent ED is responsible for developing and maintaining an ED Transition Plan. The Transition Plan will include a list of things that an interim or new ED would need to

know or have access to and a list of the staff that are primaries or backups for critical organizational tasks.

**A Transition Plan should include the following:**

1. List of key staff and their roles
2. List of key contracts pending
3. List of emergency contacts and telephone numbers
4. List of key community, business and government contacts and their telephone numbers
5. Bank contacts and investment account information
6. Copy of the current Bank Check Signatory Forms and a blank one for the transition
7. List of people and organizations to contact regarding the appointment of a new ED

Adopted by ACBL Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Goodgold, Overby, Shoemaker, Steinberg

Staff: Dunn

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**Date:** February 2, 2022

**Submitted by:** Cindy Shoemaker and Georgia Heth (with input from Sabrina Goley, ACBL Administrative Coordinator)

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** To replace the National Charity Committee with the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award, clarify its purpose and intent, and define and streamline the award process

**Item Type:**

	Action Item
	Discussion Item
x	Motion

**Item 221-GV01: Elimination of Charity Committee**

**Moved that:**

The Codification, Part 1 – Governance and Policy, Chapter V– Charity, Foundations and Special Funds, A. Administration and Policy Regarding Charity, be amended as follows:

Section 2 ~~National Charity Committee~~ ACBL Charitable Recognition Award

2.1 ~~Each year~~ Yearly, each District President ~~member of the Board of Directors will~~ shall appoint select two members from their District to ~~be lifetime members of the National Charity Committee~~ receive the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award.

2.2 ~~Members of the Board of Directors and the Chair of the Advisory Council will automatically become lifetime members of the National Charity Committee.~~ Recipients shall receive a mailed letter of notification from the ACBL along with a recognition pin. Recipients also shall receive recognition in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~2.3 Suspension or removal from the National Charity Committee:~~

~~2.3.1 A National Charity Committee~~ The ACBL Charitable Recognition Award appointment is a lifetime appointment right as long as the member is a member in good standing. If a member recipient loses good standing status, the members<sup>2</sup> National Charity Committee appointment recipient's ACBL Charitable Recognition Award shall be suspended removed until the member regains good standing. Upon regaining good standing status, a recipient shall not automatically be reinstated. Expulsion from the ACBL, suspension for one year or longer or probation for two years or longer will result in permanent removal from the National Charity Committee of the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award. This Section also shall apply to appointments to the National Charity Committee, which has been replaced by this award.

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

~~2.4~~ 2.5 Replacement pins for if lost or stolen pins will be provided free of charge to members recipients of the National Charity Committee-ACBL Charitable Recognition Award.

**Effective date:** Immediately

Estimated cost/savings: An estimated cost of less than \$600 to purchase recognition pins. The current pins are of poor quality, are not magnetic and are difficult to adhere. It is believed that new pins will increase usage.

**Discussion:**

Little is known about the formation of the National Charity Committee. We believe the first appointment to the National Charity Committee was made in 1960 as referenced from a list of former appointments sent by the ACBL to District Directors each year along with the notice to select new appointments.

The National Charity Committee is not a committee as it is without a defined purpose, and it does not gather, review and evaluate information, nor does it recommend courses of action.

Appointees are asked to promote participation in the ACBL Charity Program in Unit and sanctioned club games within their District, but there are no materials, defined processes, or avenues for appointees to determine how best to perform this assigned duty.

The National Charity Committee is mistaken for the ACBL Charity Foundation whose Trustees work to build awareness regarding the purpose and directives of the ACBL Charity Foundation.

Therefore, we believe that recognizing outstanding members who participate, organize, and /or promote charity endeavors in their respective communities are better served through the receipt of a Charitable Recognition Award.

We propose that District Presidents make the selections instead of the Regional Directors/District Directors in accordance with the transferring of non-core responsibilities as a result of the re-organization of the Board of Directors. There is precedence for this action as the selection process for the Goodwill Committee recipients was shifted from the Regional Directors/District Directors to District Presidents in 2021.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Goodgold, Overby, Shoemaker, Steinberg

Staff: Dunn

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**Date:** 02/05/2022

**Submitted by:** Paul Cuneo, Stu Goodgold, Cindy Shoemaker

**Input from Committee:**

**Purpose:** Clarify Codification regulations related to Units

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
X	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-GV02: Update Codification Regulations Related to Units**

**Moved that:**

Sections 1 and 2 of the Codification Part 2 – Bridge Operations, Chapter III – Administration of Operations, .A. Units, be amended as shown in the attachment.

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

Section 1 and Section 2 on Units are to be restructured so there are three sections:

1. Unit Jurisdiction and Relationship to ACBL
2. Unit Requirements
3. Unit Responsibilities and Privileges

The primary purpose is to reorganize the current Codification for clarity and ease of reading. The content of these three sections is currently in two sections, so there are numerous changes in the numbering of subsections. The only substantial change removes the requirement that Units hold at least one Sectional every two years.

The current Section 3 and subsequent sections on Units will be rewritten in a separate motion and start with Section 4.

## CHAPTER III – ADMINISTRATION OF OPERATIONS

### A. UNITS

#### Section 1 – Unit Jurisdiction and Relationship to ACBL

- 1.1 ~~1.3.7~~A Unit shall support the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the ACBL as appropriate to the Unit.
- ~~1.2 The relationship between ACBL and each of its chartered Units is that of independent organizations.~~
- 1.2 ~~1.3.1~~Units of the ACBL are authorized by and accountable to the ACBL Board of Directors and ACBL management in the operation of sanctioned bridge activities by means of a charter process.
- 1.3 ~~1.1~~ The geographical area within which the Unit shall have jurisdiction shall be such area as is presently or may in the future be assigned to it by the ACBL Board of Directors.
- 1.4 ~~1.3~~ Unit Agreement. The application for and acceptance of a charter constitutes an agreement to the following:
- 1.4.1 ~~1.3.4~~ The relationship between ACBL and each of its chartered Units is that of independent organizations. This relationship shall not create any association, joint venture, partnership or agency relationship of any kind between a Unit and the ACBL.
- 1.4.2 ~~1.3.9~~ A Unit shall bear sole and complete responsibility and liability for its financial affairs. On an annual basis, any excess of Unit revenues over expenditures shall remain under the control of this Unit. This Unit also shall bear sole and complete responsibility for any deficit of Unit revenues over expenditures.
- 1.5 ~~1.3.2~~Units must be organized and operated in accordance with the purposes of the ACBL.
- 1.6 ~~1.3.6~~ A Unit warrants that it is **must be** incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in good standing, or an unincorporated association in good standing, as defined by

the state or other government authority in which the Unit has its primary place of business, and that it shall remain in good standing.

1.7 Adopt bylaws that are consistent with those of the ACBL and file a copy with the ACBL. ~~On request, ACBL will provide copies of typical Unit bylaws.~~

**1.7.1** Units must comply with ACBL Bylaws, rules and regulations, as well as with all governmental (national, state, provincial and local) laws, rules and regulations. Failure to comply may result in censure, suspension, expulsion or other discipline in accordance with regulations established by the ACBL Board of Directors.

1.7.2 ~~2.1.2.1~~ It is ACBL policy that Unit bylaws and any subsequent amendments, deletions or additions be approved by the Unit's membership.

1.8 ~~1.1.4~~ Unless expressly agreed to in writing, neither a Unit nor the ACBL is authorized to incur any liability, obligation or expense on behalf of the other, to use the other's monetary credit in conducting its activities, or to represent to any third party that either is an agent of the other.

1.9 ~~1.1.7~~ A Unit accepts and acknowledges that it has been granted a conditional charter under the authority of the ACBL. Further, this Unit accepts and acknowledges that the privileges granted to the Unit under this conditional charter may be withdrawn according to the rules and regulations of the ACBL.

1.10 ~~1.13~~ ACBL management may require that business between the ACBL and Units to be conducted electronically.

1.11 ~~1.14~~ Units may not levy dues, whether in the form of assessments or otherwise.

1.12 ~~1.1.1~~ By acceptance of its portion of membership dues reimbursement, each existing chartered Unit shall re-affirm its agreement to the above.

## **Section 2 – Unit Requirements, Privileges and Responsibilities**

~~2.1 — A Unit functions as an organization chartered by ACBL, which, in accordance with its charter, supervises and promotes many, but not all, aspects of ACBL bridge within its boundaries. It has the exclusive right to conduct all Sectionals held within its territory. In addition, it may obtain sanctions from ACBL to organize and conduct other games such as Unit Championships, Unit-wide games, Unit charity~~

~~games and extended team events, as well as club games.~~

2.12—Unit Requirements – A Unit must meet the following ACBL requirements to receive and maintain its ACBL charter:

2.1.1 Hold an annual membership meeting.

~~2.1.2~~ Produce an ~~an~~ **written** annual financial statement and make it available **upon request** to its District **President** ~~Director~~ and any of its members.

~~2.1.2.1~~ It is ACBL policy that Unit bylaws and any subsequent amendments, deletions or additions be approved by the Unit's membership.

~~2.1.3~~ ~~Conduct at least one Sectional tournament every two years. (A waiver, for cause, may be granted by the District.)~~

2.1.3 Elect a Unit board of directors in accordance with its bylaws.

2.1.4 Select a designated Unit Electronic Contact (UEC).

2.1.5 Designate a member to serve as a liaison with the ACBL for the purpose of furthering educational programs.

2.1.6 Units are strongly urged to conduct an annual audit of their financial records. If an external audit by an independent professional is deemed too expensive, it is recommended that Units appoint an internal audit committee to, as a minimum, verify cash and cash equivalents and test major income and expense items.

2.1.7 No ACBL employee may serve on Unit boards as voting members nor may they serve as proxies to vote at a Unit meeting.

### **Section 3 Unit Responsibilities and Privileges**

3.1 ~~2.1~~A Unit functions as an organization chartered by ACBL, which, in accordance with its charter, supervises and promotes many, but not all, aspects of ACBL bridge within its boundaries. It has the exclusive right to conduct all Sectionals held within its territory. In addition, it may obtain sanctions from ACBL to organize and conduct other games such as Unit Championships, Unit-wide games, Unit charity games and extended team events, as well as club games.

3.1.1 ~~2.4.2~~ Perform basic marketing functions as established by the ACBL Board of Directors.

3.2 ~~2.1~~ Unit Privileges – As an organization chartered by ACBL, the Unit has certain privileges. **The Unit** ~~The Unit receives a share of ACBL membership fees as established by the ACBL Board of Directors and~~ may:

3.2.1 ~~2.2.3~~ Conduct Sectional tournaments; conduct Regional and/or NABC tournaments when authorized by the District.

3.2.2 ~~2.3.1~~ Conduct up to 24 Unit Championship sessions per year.

3.2.3 ~~2.3.2 Hold~~ **Conduct** up to 4 Unit Charity sessions per year.

3.2.4 ~~2.3.3~~ Run games on behalf of ACBL and/or the District where there is a void.

3.2.5 ~~2.1.5~~ Participate in elections for **Regional** ~~District~~ Director and **Advisory Council** Representatives.

3.3 Units will receive 11% of full dues payments and Life Master Service Fees paid by their members. **This payment is intended to supplement unit funds for the following activities:**

3.3.1 ~~2.4.5~~ Promote an interest in duplicate bridge by providing a continuous and attractive program of bridge events to supplement those offered by clubs with sanctioned games.

3.3.2 ~~2.4.4~~ Promote the development and enrollment of bridge players as members of the ACBL.

3.3.3 **Promote membership retention by sponsoring educational and other activities for newer players.**

3.3.3 ~~2.4.3~~ Encourage people to conduct ACBL-sanctioned club games within the Unit.

3.3.4 **Actively communicate to members through the use of a unit website and e-mail communications.**

3.4 ~~2.4~~ Unit Activities - A Unit is encouraged to carry out the following:

3.4.1 ~~2.4.6~~ Cooperate with the District and ACBL in the promotion of District-wide and ACBL-wide tournaments.

3.4.2 ~~2.4.7~~ Establish and maintain amicable relations with neighboring Units, the District and Conferences, thus fostering cooperation on matters of mutual interest.

3.4.3 ~~2.4.8~~ Select people to fill the positions of Education Liaison, Tournament Coordinator and Intermediate/Newcomer Coordinator.

3.4.5 ~~2.4.8~~ Conduct other activities in keeping with its purposes.

3.5 ~~2.5.1~~ Loss of Unit Status and Privileges - Units must comply with the requirements set forth in Section 2 above. Failure to do so will result in an initial penalty of the withholding of a Unit's share of membership dues and service fee rebates until it is in compliance with this regulation. Continuation of non-compliance may result in further action up to and including revocation of the Unit's charter.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Goodgold, Overby, Shoemaker, Steinberg

Staff: Dunn

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**Date:** 31 January 2022

**Submitted by:** Margot Hennings and Mike Kovacich on behalf of Governance

**Input from Committee:** None needed

**Purpose:** To correct duplication for election procedures for WBF Executive Council and NABF Representatives

**Item Type:**

	<b>Action Item</b>
	<b>Discussion Item</b>
x	<b>Motion</b>

**Item 221-GV03: Correct duplication in Election Procedure**

**Moved that:**

Codification, Part 1—Governance and Policy, Chapter IV—Board Procedures, Section A. Administration, Section 3 Elections, be amended as follows:

The Board of Directors' ~~nominating and~~ election procedures for officers and other elected positions, with the exception of positions to the WBF or NABF, follow. Regulations concerning election procedures for the WBF and NABF positions are detailed in Chapter VII—International Bridge. Nominating procedures for all positions will be as described in 3.1 below.

3.1 Nominations

An eligible ACBL member desiring to be a candidate for ACBL President, ACBL Treasurer, WBF Representative, NABF Representatives, or ~~any~~ other position elected by the ACBL Board of Directors may declare his own nomination by notifying the Director of Elections. In addition, a Board member may declare or nominate an eligible candidate from the floor at the time of the election. A person may only serve as ACBL President if he is also serving as a member of the Board of Directors.

**Effective date:** Immediately, prior to the election of the NABF Representative for the two positions starting in 2022

**Estimated cost/savings:** None

**Discussion:**

During the most recent election to nominate an ACBL Board representative to the WBF through the USBF, yet another of the multiple conflicts that we have been working to correct in our Codification was discovered.

In the Codification, Part 1—Governance and Policy, Chapter IV—Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 3.2.2.2, the WBF Rep (by virtue of the introductory language under Section 3 that has been addressed in the above motion) is included under voting procedures for the President, Treasurer, and “any other position elected by the ACBL Board of Directors” and it is stated here that a majority must be achieved. This differs from the specific election process for the WBF representative that was changed in 2019 together with general cleanup of the language about the WBF and NABF Reps to conform to the new WBF/NABF policies.

The 2019 change was accomplished through Item 193-49—in the Codification, Part 1—Governance and Policy, Chapter VII—International Bridge, B. WBF Representative and NABF Board Members, Section 2.1. Both the Board and the motion maker (Janicki through Governance) were unaware of the conflict that would exist due to the existence of this first reference, and the intent of the change to nominate “The candidate receiving the highest number of votes...” was approved.

At this time, only this one change is being made—to keep the nominating procedures the same for all positions, but to reference the specific election/voting procedures for the WBF and NABF positions as noted in Chapter VII. These procedures in Chapter VII will remain unchanged.

There is a detailed Discussion Item in the Reno Journal that will address how the issues of notifying interested parties of upcoming vacant positions; declaring candidacy for these positions and a date by which this must be done; allowing nominations from the floor; the election procedures that govern them; and announcing number of votes cast for whom, among others. Once the Board has had an opportunity to weigh in on all of these procedures, a motion will be presented during the Board’s Summer meeting that addresses them. That motion will address all elected ACBL positions and the best procedures to use for each, and whether all should be treated the same.