

APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

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

Staff: Gordon

Original Motion

Item 213-AC01: Report on Hearings

In the matter of Annette Johns and Jim Loffree, the Committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of CDR § 301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating: Online. They agreed to a Suspension of 1 year, followed by a Probation of 2 years, and a forfeiture of 10% of their total Masterpoints. They will be Members "Not in Good Standing" during the length of their Probationary period.

In the matter of William Salomon and Marcia Sidney, the Committee accepted Negotiated Resolutions entered into by the parties and ACBL management. The Committee had previously rejected substantively identical NRs entered into by the parties on the basis that they did not contain sufficiently specific statements by the parties of their behavior constituting the CDR violation. They agreed to a Suspension of 180 days, followed by a Probation of 2 years, and a forfeiture of 15% of their total Masterpoints. They will be Members "Not in Good Standing" during the length of their Probationary period.

BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Carman (C), Smith (VC)

Kovacich, Johnson, Moss, Rowe, Weniger, White

Staff: Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BR01: 2021-2022 GNT Special Conditions of Contest

Moved that:

Conditions of Contest for 2021-2022 GNT (attached) are approved

Carried 24-1-0

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

ACBL SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

NOTE regarding COVID-19

While it is our hope that bridge play will be “back to normal” during the GNT qualifying period, we recognize that this may not be the case in all areas. Information specific to the pandemic situation will be highlighted in yellow throughout this document.

Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception to these Conditions of Contest. These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of this event. The General Conditions of Contest for Swiss Team and Knockout Team events will apply to this event subject to the following special conditions of contest.

It is the spirit of these Conditions that the Grand National Teams be a "grass roots" event, with each participant competing in his/her District of membership. Please see Appendix I to these Conditions of Contest.

Each participant in the GNT, beyond the Club qualifying level, must be an ACBL member in good standing. **Only paid members, including life masters with life member status, whose dues or fees are current prior to the unit stage, may participate beyond the club level.**

I. DISTRICT DIRECTOR AUTHORITY

For these conditions, references to “District Director” shall be to the Regional Director (RD) when the RD is from the involved District, and when not, to a person from the involved District designated by the RD to resolve the issue(s) at hand. Such designee shall be the actual District Director if a person is still serving in that capacity.

All ACBL tournament regulations, though not specifically included in these conditions, apply throughout this event. The District Director has final authority on any item not specified in the Conditions of Contest.

II. GENERAL

- 1) This is a team event in which each ACBL District will name a District champion in each category by means of a fair competition that is not necessarily the same from District to District. In Districts in which there are at least eight teams competing in a B or C flight in the District Final, a second team in that flight will also be considered eligible to compete in the National Final of their respective flight.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

- a. If the District Final is conducted at a single site **or online**, the second-place team will be eligible to compete at the NABC.
 - b. If the District Final is conducted at two separate sites, the winner of each site will be eligible.
- 2) A player may represent the District in only one flight at the National Final. All subsidies for teams participating in the National Final are at District discretion. (No subsidies are provided by ACBL.)
 - 3) A District may elect not to name a District champion in Flight A (0-6000).
 - 4) The flights are as follows:

FLIGHT	MASTERPOINT LIMITS
Open Championship Flight	Unlimited
Flight A	Under 6000 Masterpoints
Flight B	Under 2500 Masterpoints
Flight C	Non-Life Master under 500 Masterpoints

Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's September masterpoint cycle. This information was produced on August 6, 2021 in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

- 5) At District option, each flight may be played at one or more levels. (Club, Unit, or District) The District level must be flighted, but at the Club and Unit levels the events may be flighted or stratified. In a stratified event the Open Championship and Flight A must be combined for play and masterpoint awards. In a stratified field at the Club or Unit level:
 - a. All teams are eligible for qualification to the Open Championship Flight.
 - b. All teams are eligible for Flight A qualification with the exception of a team with a member over 6000 masterpoints.
 - c. All teams are eligible for Flight B qualification with the exception of a team with a member over 2500 masterpoints.
 - d. All teams are eligible for Flight C qualification with the exception of a team with a member over 500 masterpoints or one who has achieved the rank of Life Master.
- 6) Qualification at the Club and Unit level is by player, not by team. In other words, a player need not have the same teammates in the District Final as in Club or Unit qualifying.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

- 7) Club qualifying games (if required) may be run between September 1 and February 28. Districts may apply for permission to extend this through March 31 if in-person play in clubs is still limited by the pandemic. Unit qualifying games (if required) may be run any time after September 1 and prior to the District Final.
- 8) ACBL rules and regulations govern play at every level of the event and supersede District Conditions in cases of conflict.

III. CONVENTIONS

At the Club and Unit qualifying level, the ACBL Open Convention Chart will apply for stratified games. For flighted games at all levels including the NABC, the Basic Chart applies to Flight C, the Basic+ Chart applies to Flight B, the Open Chart applies to Flight A, and the Open+ Chart applies to the Championship Flight.

IV. DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

Each District shall determine the nature of the event by which it declares its District champions and file its Conditions of Contest via email to tournaments@acbl.org no later than September 1, 2021. Those conditions must include the following:

- 1) Name and contact information of the person to whom questions should be directed. In most cases this will be the District GNT Coordinator.
- 2) Proposed dates for the District Final. District Finals may be held between January 1 and June 30. While Districts may be adopting a 'wait and see' approach to decide whether to hold District Finals in person, we ask that you select dates assuming there will be in-person play; these can be adjusted if necessary if your event moves online.
- 3) Format of the District Final, including contingencies for any number of teams in each flight, and the number of boards to be played.
- 4) Rules regarding the augmentation of teams qualifying for the National Final, if such augmentation is permitted by the District.
- 5) Requirements for Club and Unit qualifying, if any. If a District does not require Club-level qualification for participation in the District Final, it may nonetheless permit Clubs to hold GNT "qualifier" games as a fundraiser; such games must be team games.

No level or stage may be scheduled which would prevent a player from attending one or more days of a North American Bridge Championship. The National Final for all

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

flights will begin on the Wednesday afternoon prior to the Summer NABC. ACBL expects the National Final to be played in-person at the Providence NABC starting on July 13, 2022.

V. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Only ACBL members in good standing may participate beyond Club level. Ineligible players (non-members, unpaid members, or members not in good standing) playing at Club level will receive any session awards (no overall awards) won but may not qualify to the next stage of the event.

- 1) The Championship Flight is open to any player.
- 2) Flight A is open only to players who have fewer than 6000 masterpoints recorded as of the September (2021) cycle.

NOTE: If the event is stratified at the Club or Unit Levels, the Open Championship Flight and Flight A are combined (in compliance with ACBL Regulations) to create only three strata.

- 3) Flight B is open only to players who have fewer than 2500 masterpoints as of the September (2021) cycle.
- 4) Flight C is open only to players with fewer than 500 masterpoints who have not attained the rank of Life Master as of the September (2021) cycle.
- 5) Teams may consist of four, five or six eligible players.
- 6) A player's bridge experience, including masterpoint-equivalents won in other bridge organizations, will be taken into account to determine their proper flight.
- 7) At every level, the Director-in-Charge (DIC) is authorized to make the decision on the player's classification. At the District Final, eligibility questions should be addressed prior to the start of play.

The first-place finishers in the Championship Flight, Flight A, Flight B, and the second-place finisher in the Championship Flight of the District Final earn Blue Ribbon Pairs qualifications. The first-place finishers in Flight C in a District Final earn Red Ribbon Pairs qualification. The top four finishers in the Championship Flight, and the first-place finishers in the A and B Flights at the National Final will earn Blue Ribbon qualification. The first and second place finishers in Flight C at the National Final will earn Red Ribbon qualification.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

VI. REPLACEMENTS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- 1) Issues regarding replacements and/or substitutions not addressed by the District Conditions of Contest are resolved as follows: At the District and NABC level, in knockout play every team member must play at least half of the boards of each match (exclusive of play-offs) in order to continue participating on that team for the remainder of the event. In Swiss or round-robin play, every team member must play in at least half of the matches. The team captain may submit an application for exemption from the requirements of this paragraph to the District GNT Coordinator who will then submit the request to the DIC of the NABC but must do so (other than for emergencies) prior to arrival at the NABC for the GNTs.
- 2) A team member granted an exemption under the previous paragraph must still play at least 40% of the boards, (excluding play-off boards), for as long as the team survived to qualify for overall masterpoint awards and other privileges. No contestant may play any match after it has become mathematically impossible to play at least 40% of the boards (excluding play-off boards) played by the team.
- 3) If an ineligible player is disqualified, the ineligible player's team will be disqualified unless the DIC determines that teammates were unaware of the deficiency of the disqualified member. Any team reduced to fewer than three original members due to disqualification of ineligible players is disqualified.
 - a) Substitutes will be permitted at the discretion of the DIC. No more than two substitutes at a time will be permitted on a team
- 4) A team reduced to three members for cause at the site of the NABC will be permitted a replacement at the discretion of the DIC. A replacement for the Finals receives match awards only. In no case is a team permitted to replace more than one player at the site of the NABC.
- 5) When a team is disqualified after the correction period, the disqualified team's rank remains vacant. In ongoing events, teams move up one qualifying position as appropriate

VII. MASTERPOINTS

- 1) If stratified, the Championship and Flight A will be combined as one flight at the Unit and Club levels. Size and depth of overall awards below the District Final are based on the number of teams entered in each game.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

- 2) Masterpoints for Unit Finals will be as in regular flighted team events even if all flights are not held concurrently. (NOTE: Higher flights will receive the table count of all lower flights even though they are not playing concurrently.)
- 3) Club level games shall award half red and half black points as a Club Special Game – Rating 9. An invitational Club game shall award only black points, at 80% of an Open Club for the Championship/Flight A, 65% for Flight B, and 48% for Flight C. Qualifying games at online virtual (VACB) clubs should be flighted if possible. It may or may not be possible to set the correct GNT strats in a stratified game; ACBL Live for Clubs will assign qualification status based on the correct strats.
- 4) One-session Unit Finals will award red points with a Sectional rating. Overall masterpoints awarded at two or more session Unit Finals are 20% gold, 80% red for the Open Championship and Flight A. Flight B awards are 10% gold, 90% red; and Flight C shall award 5% gold, 95% red at Sectional rating. Match awards are red with a Sectional rating. Consolations of these games award black points at Sectional consolation rating.
- 5) A game at any level or stage may give overall awards only if qualifying teams from that game will join teams from another site or other sites at a further level or stage. The size and depth of overall awards at any stage below the District stage in which teams play Swiss matches to qualify into a knockout will be as follows:
 - a) If two teams qualify into the KO, the award for first will be based on four teams with two overall positions.
 - b) If four teams qualify, the award will be based on eight teams, with four overall positions.
 - c) If eight teams qualify, the award will be based on 16 teams with four overall positions.
 - d) If 16 or more teams qualify, awards are based on 32 teams with eight overall positions.
 - e) In no case will any stage pay overalls based on more than the eligible teams in actual competition.
 - f) The qualifying phase will pay match awards only. Teams entering the KO phase will be entitled only to the sum of all (Swiss and KO) match awards or the overall award, whichever is greater.
- 6) Silver points will be available at any Unit level game played in conjunction with and at the site of an open Sectional tournament.
- 7) Points awarded at the stage in which the District champion is declared are gold for overalls and red for match awards at Regional rating. Swiss team events that qualify to a knockout are considered to be a part of the District Finals whether

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

they are conducted at the same site or not and do NOT award overall masterpoints. Consolations of these games award half red and half black points at Regional consolation rating.

FLIGHT	RATING
Championship (Open) Flight	100% of Open Rating
Flight A - (0-6000)	90% of Open Rating
Flight B - (0-2500)	70% of Open Rating
Flight C - (NLM, 0-500)	50% of Open Rating

The following rules apply for all District Finals of the GNTs.

# of Teams entered / flight in District Finals	% of Max Award /flight available for games of unlimited size	# of Overall Places
1	as awarded	None
2	50.00%	1
3 - 4	66.67%	1
5+	100% if 3+ sessions played in District Final; 67% if 2 sessions.	As specified for the type of event, if any phase is a KO, the depth of awards is as specified for a KO event of the same size as the original number of District Final entries.

The award for first place overall for the District champion is arbitrary and is based on the number of sessions in the District Final as follows:

a) **Championship Flight:**

- 2 sessions - 32.00 masterpoints
- 3 sessions - 40.00 masterpoints
- Longer events - 48.00 masterpoints
- Overall awards are Gold. Match awards are 100% Regional rated Red.

b) **Flight A:**

- 2 sessions - 27.00 masterpoints
- 3 sessions - 33.00 masterpoints
- Longer events - 40.00 masterpoints
- Overall awards are Gold. Match awards are Red and 90% of Regional rating.

c) **Flight B:**

- 2 sessions - 22.50 masterpoints
- 3 sessions - 28.00 masterpoints

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

- Longer events - 33.50 masterpoints
- Overall awards are Gold. Match awards are Red and 70% Regional rated.

d) Flight C:

- 2 sessions - 15.00 masterpoints
- 3 sessions - 17.50 masterpoints
- Longer events - 20.00 masterpoints
- Overall awards are 50% gold and 50% red. Match awards are red and 50% Regional rated.

For all events which are played over at least three sessions, a minimum masterpoint award of 1/3 of the first place award will be given to any team that advances through 2 sessions to the second day of an event where there was a 50% or greater reduction in teams from the first day (e.g., from 4 to 2).

The winners of the Championship Flight at the NABC final will receive 120.00 Platinum masterpoints; the winners of Flight A at the final will receive 85.00 masterpoints, the Flight B winners 70.00; Flight C winners 45.00. For the Championship Flight, Flight A and Flight B event, overalls will be gold and will extend to the top eight teams if the entry is 16 or more teams and to the top four teams with an entry of eight to 15 teams. Match awards will be red at National rating. Flight C awards will be 1/3 gold and 2/3 red for the NABC final overall.

For any event played online, the masterpoint awards are 80% of the values listed above. If the National Final is played online, the Championship Flight will award Gold rather than Platinum masterpoints.

VIII. SANCTIONS, DIRECTORS AND FEES

Dates and sites for District Finals should be determined six months prior to the event. These details must be communicated to ACBL (by email to tournaments@acbl.org) by September 1, 2021 (along with the District COC) or six months prior to the event, whichever is later.

The director must be a Club- or higher-rated director to run games at the Club and Unit level. A non-playing director is recommended by ACBL, but a Club qualifying event with 17 or fewer teams may have a playing director. At the Unit level, a non-playing director is required. A tournament director will be assigned by ACBL to officiate at each District Final, **and at any Unit Final played online**. ACBL will attempt to assign your preferred director; late determination of dates and sites may jeopardize the availability of your preference. Game reports for Unit games are to be submitted on the official ACBL GNT report forms, which will be available from the District GNT coordinator. A sanction fee of \$2.25 per table per session must accompany the game report for all games at all levels. A District may add a surcharge for games run by its Clubs and/or Units.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

Club qualifier games must be team games. ACBLscore gamefiles must be submitted via ACBL Live for Clubs. The appropriate sanction fee, as well as any District surcharge, will be charged and billed through Live for Clubs in the usual way.

IX. NABC FINAL

In the NABC final for all flights, teams will play a one-day Swiss event to qualify into a seeded KO bracket. Each Swiss event will be 8 7-board matches. The NABC+ Victory Point scale will be used. There may be playbacks at the bottom of the field.

The bracket seeding will be:

- Top eight Swiss finishers are seeds 1 through 8 (no shuffling)
- Seed #16 will be selected by seed #1 from Swiss finishers 9-16
- Seed #15 will be selected by seed #2 from Swiss finishers 9-16
- Seed #14 will be selected by seed #3 from Swiss finishers 9-16
- Seed #13 will be selected by seed #4 from Swiss finishers 9-16
- The remaining 4 teams will be randomly assigned seeds 9 -12

Ensuing knock-out matches will be 60 boards in length in the Championship flight; 56 boards in length in Flights A & B, and 52 boards in Flight C. These events will be governed by the Knockout General Conditions of Contest.

For the first two days for Flights A, B, and C of the GNT National Final, the entry fee is waived.

APPENDIX I **2020-2021 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest**

District Membership:

The Grand National Teams were created initially with the expectation that players would play in and represent the Districts in which they lived.

- For the GNTs, a member's principal physical residence as of September 1 of the year prior to the National Final shall establish the District in which said member is eligible to participate beyond the Club qualifying stage. Changes in residence after such date shall not change the District in which the player is eligible to participate.

The expectation is that exceptions to this rule will be rare, especially in the top flight of each event. Exceptions must fall into the categories listed below in the "Guidelines for Exceptions". Further, any exceptions in the Championship Flight must also be approved by the ACBL Credentials Committee (CC), as defined in the Codification Chapter XI, Section 1.5.2. There is no appeal from the CC decision.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

All residency requirements and requests for exceptions shall also apply to players augmented onto GNT teams.

The CC is also responsible for clarifying which District a player is allowed to play in when said player's eligibility is in question. When a challenge to one's eligibility from a Unit Final stage or later stage has been made, the CC may request documentary evidence from the member whose eligibility is in question. If a member is unable to verify to the CC's satisfaction that he or she is playing in the District of the member's principal residence, the CC shall automatically disqualify the member and his or her partner and teammates. When a member is disqualified by the CC, the matter will be referred to the ACBL President who may choose to make charges to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

Guidelines for Exceptions:

As noted above, the expectation is that exceptions will be rare. Following are three situations where an exception may be considered:

- “Snowbird”. A member with seasonal residences who spends more than half of the GNT qualifying period (September 1 – February 28) in a District other than the District of his principal physical residence may play beyond the Club qualifying stage in the District of seasonal residence. If he chooses to do so, he may only play in the District Final of one District. He must play in that District's District Final to be eligible to play in the National Final. Such a player will not be eligible to be added to a team from his other District. All necessary approvals must be obtained before play begins at the District level.
- A player with multiple domiciles should apply to the CC for a one-time choice of District in which he wishes to play. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. This player may be asked to document his time in each of his residences. The player must spend at least three months each year in a District in order to have it considered as a domicile possibility. Once a player chooses a District in which to play, he must play only in that District until he no longer has a domicile in that District.
- A participant who is a full-time student, a member of the armed forces or whose employment requires temporary relocation may play in the District in which he temporarily resides.
- In rare cases, a player who is a member of a Unit in a District in which he does not reside may seek permission to play in the District in which he has a Unit membership. Such an exception will be considered only if all of the conditions below are met:

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

Lives sufficiently close to the District borders

Has been a member of the Unit in which he wishes to play for at least 5 years continuously prior to the start of the competition in the year for which the exception is being requested.

Must not have played in the GNT or NAP in another District for that period of time.

Must have been actively involved as a volunteer in the Unit or District in which he wishes to play for at least two years. Possibilities include but are not limited to: Unit or District Board Member, Chair of NABC or major NABC Committee, District or Unit Recorder, Tournament Chair, or Club Manager.

Note: Simply playing bridge in the other District/Unit or having a regular partner who resides in the other District is not considered sufficient reason for an exception to the “play where you live” rule.

Any player seeking an exception for this reason must document the reasons why an exception should be considered and send it to both District Directors involved, as described above. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. The District Director of the District in which the player is a member must confirm the fact that the player has been an active volunteer in the District (or Unit) where the player does not live before forwarding such requests to the CC (Championship flight only).

Should an exception be granted for this reason, the player is eligible to play only in that District and may not change Unit affiliation unless the player's principal physical residence changes.

- The CC may consider exceptions under unusual circumstances for otherwise eligible players who change their District through a change in their physical domicile after September 1. Request shall be made at least 30 days before the appropriate District Level Final.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

Appendix II Conditions of Contest For District GNT Finals Hosted Online

I - General Conditions

- 1) This event will be conducted at a variety of playing sites and hosted online by Bridge Base Online
- 2) Regarding any of the below, the decision of the DIC will be final. The DIC is empowered to remedy any omissions in these Conditions of Contest.
- 3) Unless specifically noted below, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the ACBL Convention Charts, the ACBL Alert Chart, the Conditions of Contest for the 2021-2022 GNT, General Conditions of Contest for team play and ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy shall govern this event. **Additionally, Appendix O for Online Play applies and supersedes any conditions in this document in case of conflict.**
- 4) The DIC must be an ACBL Director, hold the rank of Tournament Director or higher, and shall have the authority to assign his own staff.
- 5) The Tournament Organizer will provide a format for the event which includes contingencies for any number of teams in each flight.
- 6) If feasible and except in #10, below: Contestants in each flight will play the same deals as others within their flight, and no two flights shall play the same deals.
- 7) Each Contestant shall have access to these conditions of contest, and the event's format (#5 above). Failure to have reviewed these conditions, or lack of proficiency with computers or the software used by the online host does not excuse any irregularity, or violation of these conditions.
- 8) Each Team must pre-register by three weeks prior to the announced date of the contest. Late entrants may be accepted for the convenience of the movement and only at the discretion of the DIC. At the time of pre-registration, Teams are required to submit funds for participation and the following information for each team member:
 - a) Name
 - b) ACBL Number
 - c) BBO User ID
 - d) Site of participation
 - e) Any special needs addressed by these Conditions of Contest.
- 9) In the event a Contestant is handicapped, where he is unable to use a computer, and in all cases where a Contestant does not have the requisite computer skills,

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

said Contestants may bring an Operator to relay calls, plays and explanations thereof. Communication between the Contestant and his Operator is to be conducted in writing. Any notes from a Contestant/Operator interaction may be used to settle disputes. The Operator must be named in preregistration, and is subject to the approval of the DIC.

- 10) Should a technical difficulty arise, which delays play for one or more matches, play in all unaffected matches shall continue, and 15 minutes will be allotted to resolve the issue before play is suspended. If play is suspended for one or more matches, and in the DIC's opinion, the rest of the contest is unaffected (as in the final match of a Swiss), the affected matches will continue at a later time with different hands than those played during the main competition.

II - Security

- 1) Each Contestant must preregister to participate at a particular site, and no Contestant may participate from a physical location other than a site designated by the Tournament Organizer and approved by the DIC. The DIC shall be informed, no later than 2 Days after the close of registration, of each designated site.
- 2) The Tournament Organizer will designate at least one Monitor for each playing site. The DIC shall be informed, no later than 2 Days after the close of registration, of the proposed Monitor for each site, and their contact information. The proposed Monitor is subject to approval by the DIC.
- 3) Monitors shall ensure the enforcement of these conditions of contest and will be primarily responsible for the enforcement of any security related issues at their designated location.
- 4) Monitors need not be Directors and may not rule on any irregularity occurring during play, nor penalize a Contestant for any violation of these conditions. Monitors must immediately inform the DIC of any irregularity or violation of which they become aware in any manner.
- 5) Contestants are not permitted to be in possession of any electronic communication devices while they are competing. VIOLATION OF THIS CONDITION WILL RESULT IN A MANDATORY PENALTY OF 12 IMPS, AND A SECOND VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN THE TEAM'S DISQUALIFICATION.
- 6) Chatter at each physical location shall be kept to a minimum. No discussion of hands is permitted at any given location until all bridge play at that location has concluded.
- 7) Contestants must connect to the internet through a designated on-site router.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

- 8) Contestants may only run an internet browser during the play period, with the following tabs open:
 - a. Bridge Base Online
 - b. ACBL's defense database (in the Championship and A Flights only)
- 9) Monitors shall ensure that Contestants cannot view the Computer Screens of other Contestants within their own flight.
- 10) Monitors shall ensure that Contestants, competing at the same site as members of their own team, are seated in positions which obscure their view of one another.
- 11) Contestants must not relay, through chat visible to partner, any extraneous information.

Alternate Security Provisions

While in-person play is preferable, Districts may choose to play their District Finals online. Districts where local conditions permit in-person play may choose to run their District Final online, but will be expected to follow the provisions of the above sections.

If COVID-19 concerns necessitate online play, the following alternate procedure may be followed. Organizers must notify players which security measures are to be used. No other security regime is permitted without advance consent of ACBL. This alternate procedure will also apply in the unlikely event that the National Final is played online.

During all team matches, players will have an ongoing video or audio chat session with their screenmate (North and East are screenmates; South and West are screenmates). These sessions are required for all KO matches and recommended for Swiss matches. This chat can be done in software of the players' choice, or by telephone call; if none can be agreed, the default choice is Zoom. The Director in Charge will mediate any issue regarding these connections, or may waive, at his or her sole discretion, any security provision should this be necessary due to technological or other issues.

Alerts will be given in the online playing environment in order to have a record of these explanations. (See Appendix O.) Kibitzing will not be allowed other than by tournament staff.

III - The Play

- 1) Contestants are required to post a complete convention card, in ACBL format, inclusive of any supplemental notes.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021-2022

- 2) The ACBL Open Convention Chart applies to Flight A and the Open+ Convention Chart applies for the Championship Flight. Pairs playing methods requiring a written defense must pre-alert their opponents and post a written description of the method(s) along with their convention card. Contestants opposing a pair playing such methods are permitted to access the ACBL's defense database and keep said defenses open in their internet browser.
- 3) The ACBL Basic Convention Chart applies to Flight C, and the Basic+ Convention Chart applies to Flight B.
- 4) The Director must be summoned electronically for any irregularity which occurs during play. Once the Director has been summoned, all play and bidding shall cease until the Director authorizes its continuation.
- 5) Contestants are required to alert and explain their own calls (not their partner's). When one makes an Alertable call, the bidder must give a full explanation of the agreement to his opponents (and only his opponents). Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.
- 6) Any Contestant may request, but only at his turn to call or play, information concerning an opponent's methods. Such inquiries may be asked of either or both opponents but must be asked in a private chat. Replies to these inquiries must be given in a private chat.
- 7) Violations of conditions, which make available to one's partner extraneous information by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert, failure to alert, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism (Security 9-11 & The Play 5 & 6), shall be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and are subject to procedural penalties. The Monitors and Contestants must report any such violations to the DIC.
- 8) Any deviation in tempo does convey extraneous information and is subject to rectification under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Any Contestant experiencing technical difficulties which may be construed as conveying extraneous information should immediately inform the Monitor or Director.
- 9) Claims, concessions, agreement thereto and contention or cancellation thereof will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
- 10) Unintended calls or plays will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. If a Contestant makes an unintended call or play he should summon the Director immediately. As in live play, undoes are permitted only upon instruction of the Director.

BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Carman (C), Smith (VC)

Kovacich, Johnson, Moss, Rowe, Weniger, White

Staff: Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BR02 Flight C Session Award Cleanup

Moved that:

Item 183-16 is rescinded.

Carried 25-0-0

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Stephani (C), Weniger (VC), Goodgold, Johnson, MacPherson

Staff: Dunn

Original Motion

Item 213-BY01: Amend Bylaws to address omissions

SECOND READING

Moved that:

The ACBL Bylaws, Article IX, Board of Governors, be amended as follows:

9.3 **Membership.** The following shall make up the membership of the Board of Governors.

9.3.1 ~~Effective January 1, 2024, t~~There shall be three Representatives from each District who shall be elected for ~~a~~ terms of three (3) years. **If a Representative's position becomes vacant (including as a result of the application of subsection 9.7.3), the District shall appoint a replacement for the duration of the Representative's term.**

9.3.2 All persons who were members of the Board of Governors as of January 1, 2021 by virtue of their former status as First and Second Alternates to the Board of Directors shall remain members of the Board of Governors until one year following the date on which their terms would otherwise expire or until they resign or are deemed to have resigned **or the position otherwise becomes vacant.** If a member referred to in this provision resigns or is deemed to have resigned before January 1, 2024, he or she will not be replaced on the Board of Governors. No further elections shall take place for these positions.

9.3.3 All persons who were members of the Board of Governors as of January 1, 2021 by virtue of their former position of President of the Board of Directors shall maintain their membership (subject to Article 9.7.3). If, by virtue of Article 9.7.3 such member is deemed to have resigned **or the position otherwise becomes vacant,** he or she will not be replaced on the Board of Governors.

9.3.4 All past Chairs of the Board of Governors shall also be members (subject to Article 9.7.3). If, by virtue of Article 9.7.3, such member is deemed to have resigned **or the position otherwise becomes vacant,** he or she will not be replaced on the Board of Governors.

~~9.3.5—All other members of the Board of Governors as of June 1, 2021 shall maintain their membership on the Board of Governors until their terms expire (subject to Article 9.7.3). If a member's term extends beyond January 1, 2024, his or her membership shall be counted in the three Representatives referred to in Article 9.3.1. If a member referred to in this provision is deemed to have resigned in accordance with Article 9.7.3 at any time that member will be replaced in accordance with Article 9.3.7.~~

9.3.56 Each Representative must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and be and remain a member of a Unit located within the District which he or she represents ~~and must remain a member of a Unit located with the District~~ during the term.

~~9.3.7 If a vacancy referred to in Article 9.3.5 occurs in any District, the President of the District shall be immediately notified and the District shall appoint a replacement member for the duration of the term of the member.~~

9.3.86 No member of the Board of Directors shall have a voice or vote on the Board of Governors.

....

9.7 Meetings.

....

9.7.3 Any member who fails to attend two thirds of all meetings available electronically in a calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned and shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the Board of Governors until the next regularly scheduled election. Absence due to membership on the Board of Directors shall be excepted from this provision and ~~T~~the Chair may grant other an exceptions in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Carried 24-0-1

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Glasson (C), Lodge (VC)

Ellis, Moss, Munoz, Rowe, Subeck

Staff: Dodson

Original Motion

Item 213-FN01: District and Unit Reimbursement

Moved that:

The Finance Committee will review, on a case-by-case basis, any requests by Districts or Units for significant reimbursement of major costs incurred as a result of the ACBL's decision to not staff a tournament after the tournament had been approved to be held under covid restrictions. The only tournaments that will be considered for reimbursement are tournaments that were scheduled to be held from August 1, 2021 and going forward that were post-covid-approved by ACBL and then were later cancelled by the ACBL.

Any member of the Board of Directors whose tournament is directly affected will be recused from the consideration of his/her Region, District or Unit.

Factors that will be considered:

1. Length of time given by the ACBL in the notice of cancellation.
2. The timing and terms of the contract that was signed.
3. Efforts at negotiation with the hotels and or convention centers.
4. Financial status of the District or Unit seeking reimbursement.
5. Financial impact on the ACBL.

Any District or Unit seeking reimbursement, should supply to the committee the following documents:

1. The original contract(s) for the hotel or convention center.
2. Documentation of losses incurred.
3. Detailed documentation of negotiation efforts.
4. Financial statements from the District or Unit seeking funds.

Once damages have been liquidated, the District or Unit will have 30 days to submit a request for reimbursement. The Finance Committee will provide a decision for board approval within 30 days of the receipt of all required documentation.

Reimbursement might be denied, full or partial, depending on the committee's decision.

No requests for minor tournament expenses will be considered.

The finance committee will review all the submitted documentation and make a written recommendation. That recommendation will be submitted to the full board for their approval.

Carried 24-0-1

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Glasson (C), Lodge (VC)

Ellis, Moss, Munoz, Rowe, Subeck

Staff: Dodson

Original Motion

Item 213-FN02: 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets

Moved that:

The 2022 operating budget and the 2022 capital budget are approved.

Carried 24-1-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Glasson (C), Lodge (VC)
Ellis, Moss, Munoz, Rowe, Subeck

Staff: Dodson

Original Motion

Item 213-FNo3 NABC I/N Welcome Gift Cost

Moved that:

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

Section 1 – Host Organization

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

...

e. **Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) Welcome Gift.** The local committee may choose a welcome gift for the I/N players. The cost of the welcome gift is not to exceed ~~\$3~~ **\$5** inclusive of tax and shipping to Horn Lake and must be submitted to the Meeting Services Manager for approval. The ACBL will order and pay for the I/N welcome gifts.

Carried 20-5-0

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Cuneo, Goodgold, Lodge, Overby, Shoemaker, Smith, Weniger

Staff: Dunn

Original Motion

Item 213-GV01: Executive Committee zonal composition

Moved that:

The Codification, Part 2—Bridge Operations, Chapter IV—Board Procedures, D. Committees, be updated as follows:

Section 1 – Committees of the Board

1.1 Executive Committee

1.1.4.1 Candidates will be nominated by each of the three zones: Eastern (**Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8** ~~Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 24, 25~~); Central (**Regions 1, 5, 7, and 9** ~~Districts 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16~~) and Western (**Regions 10, 11, 12, and 13** ~~Districts 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23~~), and the Board will elect from these nominees.

...

1.1.4.3 In case an elected zonal member of the Executive Committee resigns, **is removed from this position due to disciplinary action,** or his term as ~~District Director~~ **a member of the Board of Directors** expires during his term as a member of the Executive Committee and he is not reelected to another term as ~~District~~ **Regional** Director, the vacancy will be filled by the alternate zonal representative.

Carried 24-1-0

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Cuneo, Goodgold, Lodge, Overby, Shoemaker, Smith, Weniger

Staff: Dunn

Original Motion

Item 213-GV02: Clarifying District Director Roles and Responsibilities

Moved that:

Codification, Part 2–Bridge Operations, Chapter III—Administration of Operations, A. Units, be updated as follows:

Section 2 – Unit Requirements, Privileges and Responsibilities

- 2.2 Unit Requirements – A Unit must meet the following ACBL requirements to receive and maintain its ACBL charter:
 - 2.2.2 Produce a written annual financial statement and make it available to its District **President-Director** and any of its members upon request.
- 2.3 Unit Privileges – As an organization chartered by ACBL, the Unit has certain privileges. The Unit receives a share of ACBL membership fees as established by the ACBL Board of Directors and **should may:**
 - 2.3.4 Participate in elections for **District-Regional** Director, **First Alternate Director,** **Second Alternate Director** and **Board of Governors** **Advisory Council** Representatives.

Carried

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Cuneo, Goodgold, Lodge, Overby, Shoemaker, Smith, Weniger

Staff: Dunn

Original Motion

Item 213-GV03: District Roles and Responsibilities

Moved that:

Codification, Part 2–Bridge Operations, Chapter III—Administration of Operations, B. Districts, be updated as follows:

Section 1 – Rights and Responsibilities

- 1.1 The geographical area within which the District shall have jurisdiction shall be such an area as is presently or may in the future be assigned to it by the ACBL Board of Directors ~~of the ACBL.~~
- 1.2 The relationship between the ACBL and each of its Districts is that of independent organizations.
- 1.3 Every District must have a District organization and District Bylaws, which conform to the ACBL Bylaws, rules and regulations, as well as with all governmental (national, state, provincial and local) laws, rules and regulations.
- 1.4 ~~The District bylaws shall provide for the establishment of a democratically composed District organization. Sample District bylaws will be furnished upon request.~~ The District organization must establish a District Disciplinary Committee ~~and Appeals Chair.~~ The District organization must appoint a District Disciplinary Committee Chair and an Appellate Committee Chair. The District must follow disciplinary and appellate processes consistent with the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.
- 1.5 ~~The District organization must establish a District Disciplinary Committee.~~ The District organization shall appoint a District Tournament Coordinator whose job shall be to screen all sanction applications for tournaments and other special games, advise the Units within the District of any scheduling conflicts, and resolve said conflicts.
- 1.6 ~~The District organization may appoint a District Tournament Coordinator whose job shall be to screen all sanction applications for tournaments and other special games, advise the Units within the District of any scheduling conflicts, and resolve said conflicts.~~ Districts shall designate a member to serve as a

liaison with the ACBL for the purpose of furthering educational programs.

- 1.7 ~~Districts shall designate a member to serve as a liaison with the ACBL for the purpose of furthering educational programs.~~ **Except where otherwise specified, each District organization shall have supervision over all events allocated to that District, including allocation of Regional tournaments to Units, and supervision of the Grand National Teams and North American Pairs.**
- 1.8 ~~Except where regulations give specific authority to the District Director, each District organization shall have complete supervision over all red and gold point events allocated to that District, including allocation of Regional tournaments to Units or playing area, and supervision of the Grand National Teams and North American Pairs.~~
- 1.9 ~~Bylaws and regulations of District organizations must comply with ACBL Bylaws, rules and regulations, as well as with all governmental (national, state, provincial and local) laws, rules and regulations.~~

Section 2 – Business Practices

2.1 Regional Tournaments

- 2.1.1 Districts shall bear the full responsibility for Regional tournaments sanctioned to them, regardless of the actual individual or group undertaking management functions.
- 2.1.2 Sponsoring organizations are required to pay to the Director-in-Charge all funds due the ACBL at the conclusion of the tournament.

2.2 Expenses in connection with District Disciplinary **and Appeals Appellate** Committees shall not be borne by the ACBL unless specifically authorized by ~~the~~ ACBL **management**.

2.3 District Assessments

- 2.3.1 Districts do not have the right to fix dues, whether in the form of assessments or otherwise.
- 2.3.2 Districts may enter into agreements with constituent Units for voluntary contributions for purposes consistent with the objectives of ~~the~~ ACBL and the District, **including, such as,** but not limited to, hosting **an NABC. a national or international event** or sustaining the District organization.

- 2.3.3 None of the foregoing shall be construed as prohibiting District organizations from controlling Regionals, including, but not limited to, a per table charge.
- 2.4 Districts are strongly encouraged ~~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 Districts appoint an internal audit committee to, ~~as a minimum,~~ verify cash and cash equivalents and test major income and expense items.
- 2.5 ACBL management is authorized to require, at its discretion, business between the ACBL and Districts to be conducted electronically.
- 2.6 No ACBL employee may serve on District boards as a voting members nor may they serve as proxies to vote at a District meeting.
discussion.

Carried 24-0-1

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Cuneo, Goodgold, Lodge, Overby, Shoemaker, Smith, Weniger

Staff: Dunn

Original Motion

Item 213-GV04: Clarify Unit formation, transfer and dissolution regulations

Moved that:

Section 3 – Unit Formation, Boundary Change and Dissolution of Codification Part 2, Chapter III – Administration of Operations, A. Units be revised as attached.

Changes made in Committee (refer to document attached in Column D of the MIM):

- 3.5.1 The procedures outlined in subsections 3.5.2 and 3.5.5 below shall be followed by ACBL management in all cases where two or more Units ~~comprising 100 or more members in the aggregate~~ request to consolidate (i.e., combine) with each other.
- 3.6.1.1 A majority of the ~~ACBL members living~~ ~~Unit Board members~~ in the Unit must vote in a special election ~~via email~~ expressing their wishes to be dissolved. The ballot must state the reasons for the proposed dissolution. All ~~ACBL members living~~ ~~Unit Board members~~ ~~with a registered email address~~ (with no failed delivery) residing within the Unit will be included as an elector. The end date of the special election will be 14 days from the date on which the ballot is emailed with a reminder going out to all electors who have not voted after seven days. A majority of the members with a registered email address (with no failed delivery) voting in favor of the proposed dissolution will place the issue before the ACBL Board of Directors.
- ~~3.6.2 If a Unit's membership declines to fewer than 50 persons, ACBL management may dissolve the Unit without the Unit's consent by taking the following actions:~~
- ~~3.6.2.1 Notify the Unit and the District's member(s) on the Board of Directors of its intent to dissolve the Unit.~~
- ~~3.6.2.2 Marshal the Unit's assets and liabilities.~~
- ~~3.6.2.3 Determine the Unit or Units into which to transfer the members of the dissolving Unit.~~

~~3.6.3~~ **3.6.2** The Assets of the Unit will be distributed according to relevant law.

Deferred

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Hennings (C), Kovacich (VC)

Belford, Cuneo, Goodgold, Lodge, Overby, Shoemaker, Smith, Weniger

Staff: Dunn

Original Motion

Item 213-GV05: Update and clarify election regulations

Moved that:

Codification Part 1 – Governance and Policy, Chapter III – Administration, D. Elections be deleted (see attachment) and replaced with the following:

CHAPTER III – ADMINISTRATION

D. ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Declaration of Candidacy

- 1.1 In order to declare candidacy, campaign for or serve as Regional Director or Advisory Council Representative, a member of the ACBL must be a member in good standing (Codification Part 1 - Governance and Policy, Chapter 1 – Membership, A. Meetings, Section 2.3), a member of a Unit in the Region or District he or she seeks to represent, at least 18 years of age and must have an email address.
 - 1.1.1 The declaration must be received by the Director of Elections no later than 5:00 PM CT on May 31. Delivery may be by mail, hand or email. In the physical absence of the Director of Elections, the Executive Director of the ACBL (or his/her nominee) will act as Director of Elections on the last day designated to receive declarations.
 - 1.1.2 The Director of Elections will email each candidate written confirmation that their declaration and that of any other candidate has been received by the ACBL. The onus of proof of receipt lies with the candidate.
 - 1.1.3 The declaration must contain the name, player number, Unit to which he/she belongs, **whether he/she lives in that Unit**, office for which the candidate is applying, and an email address to receive communication from the Director of Elections.
 - 1.1.4 If there are no declared candidates in an election year for the position of Regional Director, the position will be declared vacant at the conclusion of the incumbent's term by the Director of Elections. Such vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the ACBL Bylaws.

Section 2 –Candidates

- 2.1 If there is no opposition, qualified candidates will be deemed elected on June 1. With opposition, an election will be required.
- 2.2 Candidates with opposition who wish to include a biographical summary with election materials must submit such a summary to the Director of Elections **by June 15. within ten (10) business days following June 1.**
- 2.2.1 The biographical summary may not exceed 150 words. Any summary that exceeds 150 words may be truncated.
- 2.2.2 The biographical summary is the creation of the candidate. ACBL disavows responsibility for content or accuracy of the information contained therein.
- 2.3 In addition to the information provided by the Director of Elections to Unit electors pursuant to section 5.1, candidates may request, free of charge, one set of labels of the Unit Board members within the Districts comprising their regions so that they may write and mail materials directly. In addition or in lieu of labels, one list of elector contact information is automatically provided to the candidates. This list may contain street addresses or email addresses or both at the request of the candidate. Such request will not be fulfilled until **July 1, 30 business days following June 1**, allowing the Units time to confirm that the Unit Board members on record are accurate for the upcoming election.
- 2.4 Candidates or current Board members may not campaign for anyone other than themselves outside the Districts(s) comprising their Region, that is, candidates may send letters to those who will be voting in their election and/or post about themselves on social media (e.g., Facebook or Bridgewinners forums set up for this purpose), but they may not send letters to electors, or post about a candidate running, in another Region.

Section 3 – Electors

- 3.1 Regional Directors and Advisory Council Representatives shall be elected by Unit Boards under the authority of the ACBL Director of Elections.
- 3.2 **Within ten (10) business days following June 1** By **June 15**, the Director of Elections will provide notification to the Unit Presidents and Secretaries within the Districts in which an election is required. The notification must include:
- 3.2.1.1 a list of the Unit Board members of record,
- 3.2.1.2 each Unit Board members' email address, and

3.2.1.3 notice that the voting method will be electronic unless the Director of Election receives written notice from the Unit President or Secretary by **July 1, the 30th business day following June 1.**

3.2.1.4 A copy of the election regulations from the ACBL Codification.

3.3 By **July 1, the 30th business day following June 1**, the Unit will corroborate or update the roster and email addresses. If the roster is not corroborated or updated, the Unit Board members on record will be final for the upcoming election.

Section 4 – Unit Voting Power

4.1 Each Unit Board of Directors member in the District shall have “Unit Board Member Voting Power” based on the following formula:

4.1.1 The Unit membership divided by 100 and computed to the **fourth second** decimal place.

4.1.1.1 The membership of a Unit is the number of its dues-paying members and those who are active Life Members as recorded by ACBL on June 1.

4.1.1.2 In any District with three or more Units, this number for any one Unit may not be greater than the sum of that of all the other Units in the District.

4.1.2 The division of the Unit membership in subsection 4.1.1 shall then be divided by the number of board members in the Unit **and computed to the fourth decimal place.** In the event such procedure does not break a tie, it will be broken by the Director of Elections by a drawing.

4.2 **By July 1, E**ach candidate and Unit shall be sent the Unit Board Member Voting Power accorded for each Unit **within 30 business days following June 1.**

4.2.1 Objections to the Unit Board Member Voting Power must be filed with the Director of Elections by July 15.

4.2.1.1 Such objection will be forwarded to the Election Protest Committee and the procedure set forth in Section 14 - Protests below will be followed.

4.2.2 If no such objection is filed, the Unit Board Member Voting Power shall be considered binding, and no protest may subsequently be filed as to such matter.

New Section 5 – Candidate’s Right to Address Unit Boards

5.1 If a candidate requests to address a Unit board, the Unit must allow the candidate to do so, either at the meeting at which in-person voting is conducted or at a regularly scheduled meeting if electronic voting is used. The Unit does not have to schedule a special meeting to allow the candidate to address the board, but must accommodate the candidate if a meeting is held any time between June 1 and September 15. The candidate may appear in person or by any means by which they may be heard, e.g., Zoom, Facetime, speaker-phone.

Section 5 – Voting Period

5.1 Election materials will be mailed to the Unit President for in-person election meetings. For Units that will vote electronically, the ballots will be emailed to individual voters. Both of these actions will occur prior to August 15.

5.2 The voting period commences once the Unit or individual voter is in receipt of the election materials.

5.3 In order to be included in the count, the ballots must be received by the Director of Elections by midnight on September 15. This includes electronic, mail-in and absentee ballots.

Section 6 – Voting Methods

6.1 Electronic Election

6.1.1 The voting method will be electronic unless the Director of Elections receives written notice from the Unit President or Secretary by **July 1, the 30th business day following June 1.**

6.1.2 Election materials will be emailed on or about August 15.

6.1.3 Each Unit Board member is responsible for having their email registered with the ACBL to allow the receipt of the material and to cast their ballot.

6.2 A Unit may opt to vote at an in-person Unit Meeting for the purpose of voting if written notice from the Unit President or Secretary is provided to the Director of Election by **July 1, the 30th business day following June 1.** It is permissible to conduct other Unit business during the course of the meeting.

6.2.1 **The** A Unit’s decision to hold a Unit meeting **by the Unit President or Secretary** is binding for all **electors in that Unit. A specific date** The Unit President or Secretary must **be provided to** the Director of Elections **a specific date of such meeting.**

6.2.2 A Unit Board member unable to attend an in-person election meeting

should notify the Unit President and Secretary that they will not be present. The Unit Board member may request, in writing, an absentee ballot from the Director of Elections (after an election has been called and the nominations have closed).

6.2.2.1 Unit Board Members that request an absentee ballot will vote electronically. The Director of Elections will email an election package directly to the elector.

6.2.3 The Unit President or Secretary will give the Unit Board of Directors and the Director of Elections appropriate notice of the special or regular meeting for the announced specific purpose of voting.

6.2.3.1 The date, time and location should be included in the notification.

6.2.3.2 A statement with the notification of the Unit meeting that a board member may request an absentee ballot from the Director of Elections any time prior to the Unit's scheduled in-person meeting (after an election has been called and nominations have closed).

~~6.2.3.3 If a candidate desires, the Unit must grant a request by the candidate(s) to appear, either in-person or any means by which the candidate may be heard at a Unit meeting. If a candidate is unable to attend, it is permissible for the candidate to send a representative to appear on their behalf.~~

6.2.3.4 If the Director of Elections has been notified of a Unit meeting, notification of when and where the Unit will conduct its election will be made to the candidates in a timely manner prior to the election meeting.

6.2.4 Voters should have a **segregated private** area where their ballot may be cast **in private**. Voters shall:

6.2.4.1 Place their ballot in the envelope provided;

6.2.4.2 Seal the envelope; and

6.2.4.3 Sign and record their player number in the designated area on the back of the envelope. Failure to sign the envelope shall render the ballot null and void.

6.2.4.4 Proxies are not permitted.

6.2.4.5 Write-in votes are invalid.

6.2.5 Upon completion of voting, the board member conducting the meeting shall collect the sealed ballot envelopes, sign and date the Unit Board of Director roster provided, place all in the pre-paid, self-addressed overnight mail service envelope provided, and mail them to the Director of Elections.

6.3 On or about September 1, the Director of Elections will send a notice to all electors that have not cast a vote.

Section 7 – Ballot Count

7.1 Ballots are not opened until counting commences for each contested position.

7.2 Regional Director and Advisory Council Representative ballots will be counted on the first business day following September 15, followed by an audit.

7.3 The Director of Elections and one additional member of the ACBL professional staff selected by the Executive Director will jointly be responsible for counting election and recall ballots. Each candidate, or his representative, is entitled to witness the opening and counting. An ACBL employee may not represent a candidate for this purpose. The rules for counting ballots for elections and recalls shall be the same.

Section 8 – Inadmissible Unit Vote

8.1 Under all circumstances in any ACBL District-wide election in which all of a Unit's ballots are deemed inadmissible, the Director of Elections may establish a new election within the Unit by email ballot within 30 days following all possible appeals.

8.2 Such new election will only take place if it might affect the outcome.

8.3 Only those persons eligible to vote in the initial election are eligible to vote in the new election.

Section 9 – Regional Director Election Results

9.1 On the first business day following September 15 and before the results are formally released, the Director of Elections will communicate the result to all candidates.

9.1.1 The Director of Elections will release to the respective Candidates the total number of individual votes received by each candidate within the Unit(s) and District(s) comprising that Candidate's Region as well as the total percentage of the weighted votes received. This

information is for the personal use of the Candidate and may not be shared on social media or distributed by any means.

~~9.2 After all candidates have been notified, the Director of Elections will communicate the result to the members of the Board of Directors. The only information contained when communicating the results to the Board will be the names of the winning candidates.~~

9.2 After all candidates have been notified, the Director of Elections will communicate the names of the elected candidates to the members of the Board of Directors. The Director of Elections will include a statement that final results will be communicated/confirmed upon certification of the election at the end of the required protest period.

9.2.1 At the end of the protest period, the Director of Elections will communicate the certified results of the elected candidate names to the Board of Directors. Upon request from Board members and other ACBL members, the following will be distributed, without restrictions of confidentiality:

- a. The certified results of the elected candidate names
- b. The total number of individual votes received by each candidate within the Unit(s) and District(s) comprising that Candidate's Region
- c. The total percentage of the weighted votes received

~~9.3 In the event one candidate does not receive a majority of votes cast using the Unit Board Member Voting Power, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the highest votes using the Unit Board Member Voting Power in the District.~~

~~9.3.1 In the event that a run-off election is required, the Director of Elections will commence an electronic election.~~

~~9.3.2 Only those persons eligible to vote in the initial election are eligible to vote in the run-off election.~~

~~9.3.3 On the first business day after the determination that a run-off election is required, the Director of Elections will email electors the date on which voting will commence. Biographies per section 2.2 for the remaining candidates will be provided with this notification.~~

9.3.4 Voting for the run-off election will commence on **September 30. ~~the 11th business day following September 15.~~** This provides the run-off

Candidates ~~ten (10) business days~~ two weeks to contact electors prior to the commencement of voting.

9.3.5 In order to be included in the count, the electronic ballots must be received by the Director of Elections by midnight on **October 15, the 10th business day following the commencement of voting.**

9.3.6 Unit votes shall be calculated as described in section 4 and election results announced on the first business day after voting ends. Candidates may request detail on the elections as described in this section.

9.3.7 During the period of a run-off, the incumbent Regional Director will continue in office until his/her successor is certified by the ACBL Board of Directors.

9.4 If there are no declared candidates in an election year for the position of Regional Director, the position will be declared vacant at the conclusion of the incumbent's term by the Director of Elections. Such vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the ACBL Bylaws.

Section 10 – Advisory Council Representatives Election Results

10.1 On the first business day following September 15 and before the results are formally released, the Director of Elections will communicate the outcome to all candidates.

10.2 The three candidates in each District receiving the greatest number of votes using the Unit Board Member Voting Power will be deemed elected.

10.3 If there are not three declared candidates for Advisory Council Representatives, the position(s) for which there is no candidate(s) shall be filled in accordance with the ACBL Bylaws.

Section 11 – Nullification of Election for Regional Director

11.1 The death or ineligibility to run as a candidate for Regional Director, opposed or unopposed, during the period of time from June 1 to the close of business on September 15, will cause a new election to take place.

11.1.1 The new election will commence under the direction of the Director of Elections.

11.1.1.1 The Director of Elections will set new dates for the Region's election in order to allow the appropriate amount of time for candidates to file and campaign.

- 11.1.1.2 The same Unit Board members will be called upon to vote in the new election.
- 11.1.2 If the new election is still in progress when the term of office expires, the incumbent Regional Director will continue in office until his/her successor is certified by the ACBL Board of Directors.
- 11.1.3 If the incumbent does not remain in office until a successor is chosen, an expedited election will be held in accordance with the succession procedures in the ACBL Bylaws.
- 11.2 The resignation of a candidate for Regional Director in a two-candidate race will cause the remaining candidate to be declared elected.
- 11.3 The resignation of a candidate for Regional Director in a three+ candidate race will cause only the preparation and dissemination of new balloting materials.
 - 11.3.1 The same Unit Board members will be called upon to vote in the new election.

Section 12 – Protests

- 12.1 A protest to a candidacy or an election is under the authority of the ACBL Board of Directors and will be heard by the Election Protest Committee.
- 12.2 For elections occurring in 2021, the Election Protest Committee is composed of the three District Directors, all in the first year of their current term, who are most senior in length of service on the ACBL Board of Directors. For elections occurring in 2022 and thereafter, the Election Protest Committee is composed of the three Regional Directors, all in the first year of their current term, who are most senior in length of service (whether as a District Director or Regional Director) on the ACBL Board of Directors.
 - 12.2.1 No member of the Election Protest Committee may serve on the Appeals and Charges Committee for the purpose of the election appeal.
- 12.3 A protest to a candidacy or an election should be filed with the Director of Elections in writing and must specify in detail the nature of the protest.
- 12.4 The protest must be **postmarked sent** no later than ten (10) days after (a) the deadline for receipt of declarations of candidacy when protesting a candidacy or (b) the election results are announced by the Director of Elections when protesting the results of an election.
 - 12.4.1 If the 10th day is a postal holiday, the 10th day will be deemed to be the

next business day that is not a postal holiday.

12.5 The Election Protest Committee will review the protest forthwith and will forward a copy of the protest to each candidate in said election.

12.5.1 As part of such review, the Committee may hold hearings, interrogate witnesses, examine all pertinent documents, and do any and all things necessary to decide such protest in an equitable manner.

12.5.2 If, in its judgment, it is desirable and practical, the Committee may arrange for email or mail ballots to be sent to the Board members of the Units involved in the protest. The time of return of ballots is to be fixed by the Election Protest Committee.

12.6 The Election Protest Committee will decide the protest and **send by regular mail or email** a copy of the decision, along with an explanation of such decision, to all interested parties.

12.7 An appeal of the Election Protest Committee's decision to the ACBL Board of Directors must be filed **by regular mail or email** within ten (10) days after the announcement of the Committee's decision; otherwise, such decision is final.

12.8 The investigation of the protest will be assigned to the Appeal and Charges Committee of the ACBL Board of Directors.

12.8.1 In the conduct of such investigation, the Appeals and Charges Committee may hold hearings, interrogate witnesses, examine all pertinent documents, and do any and all things necessary to determine all the facts to assist the ACBL Board of Directors in deciding the appeal in an equitable manner.

12.9 Upon disposition of any protest that will require a new election, the Director of Elections will commence an electronic election, following all procedures specified in Section 11 above.

Section 13 – Deadlines

13.1 All deadlines for action will be as stated above, with the exception that if a deadline falls on a non-business day (a weekend or a holiday), the deadline will be extended to the next business day.

FULL BOARD

Heth (P), Subeck (C)

Weniger, Belford, Muñoz, Glasson, Ellis, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani,
Carman, Liddy, W. Smith, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Johnson, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge,
Jones, Moss, Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BD01: Election of ACBL President

Moved that:

Joann Glasson is elected as ACBL President for a one-year term January 1, 2022 through
December 31, 2023.

Carried

FULL BOARD

Heth (P), Subeck (C)

Weniger, Belford, Muñoz, Glasson, Ellis, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy, W. Smith, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Johnson, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Jones, Moss, Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BD03: Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee Chairman

Moved that:

Roger Smith is appointed as the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee Chairman for a three-year term, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024.

Carried

FULL BOARD

Heth (P), Subeck (C)

Weniger, Belford, Muñoz, Glasson, Ellis, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani, Carman, Liddy, W. Smith, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Johnson, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge, Jones, Moss, Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BD04: Executive Committee Member & Alternate (Eastern)

Moved that:

Jeff Overby is appointed as the Eastern Zone Executive Committee Member for a three-year term, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024.

Carlos Munoz is appointed as the Eastern Zone Executive Committee Member alternate for a three-year term, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024.

Carried

FULL BOARD

Heth (P), Subeck (C)

Weniger, Belford, Muñoz, Glasson, Ellis, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani,
Carman, Liddy, W. Smith, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Johnson, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge,
Jones, Moss, Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213- BD05: Online Ethical Oversight Committee Appointment

Moved that:

Julie Smith be appointed to fulfil the remaining term of Harold Bickham, which term will expire on the day following the end of the 2024 Summer NABC.

Carried

FULL BOARD

Heth (P), Subeck (C)

Weniger, Belford, Muñoz, Glasson, Ellis, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani,
Carman, Liddy, W. Smith, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Johnson, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge,
Jones, Moss, Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BD06: ACBL Honorary Member of the Year

Moved that:

George Jacobs be appointed as the 2022 ACBL Honorary Member of the Year.

Carried

FULL BOARD

Heth (P), Subeck (C)

Weniger, Belford, Muñoz, Glasson, Ellis, Hennings, Kovacich, Overby, Sealy, Stephani,
Carman, Liddy, W. Smith, Cuneo, Shoemaker, Johnson, White, Rowe, Goodgold, Lodge,
Jones, Moss, Weinstein

Original Motion

Item 213-BD07: Nadine Wood Volunteer Member of the Year

Moved that:

Anne Romeo and Al Bender be appointed as the 2022 Nadine Wood Volunteer Members of the Year.

Carried

NON-AGENDA

Submitted by: Stephani, Carman, Kovacich

Date: November 7, 2021

Assigned to Committee:

Input from Committee:

Purpose: To update the references in the Codification from District Director to Regional Director to address appropriate roles and responsibilities of the ACBL Board of Directors

Non-Agenda Item 213-01: Competition and Conventions Committee Discretion

Moved that:

CHAPTER IV – BOARD PROCEDURES D. COMMITTEES, 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. ~~A report of each meeting will be distributed to the Board of Directors as soon as practicable.~~

The Competitions and Conventions Committee may make changes to the following:

Alert Procedure

Convention Charts

Conditions of Contest

Defense Database

Notice of any change must be sent to the ACBL Board of Directors at least 30 days before the effective date of the change. The Board may choose to request additional information or take other action on the change within the 30-day period.

The Competitions and Conventions Committee should seek affirmative approval from the Board of Directors on major changes to these documents (e.g., significant structural changes, allowing a previously prohibited controversial convention, significant changes to event structure).

Effective Date: January 1, 2022

Estimated cost/savings: None

Carried 25-0-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Glasson (C), Lodge (VC)

Ellis, Moss, Munoz, Rowe, Subeck

Staff: Dodson

Original Motion

Non-Agenda Item 213-FN02: Redistribute Spending for Hospitality

Moved that:

The Codification be changed to provide that the sponsoring District of the ACBL should decide at what time the hospitality dollars are spent; generally providing hospitality dollars proportionate to attendance.

The Codification, Part 2–Bridge Operations, Chapter VIII–North American Bridge Championships, C. Finances, Section 1–Host Organization currently provides 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 throughout the tournament.

Effective Date: July 15, 2022

Estimated cost/savings: None

Discussion:

With ACBL management eliminating more and more 1:00 and 7:30 Regional games, the hospitality dollars are now being spent disproportionately. Those playing in National-rated games are being provided with a significantly disproportionate amount of money for hospitality.

The sponsoring District of the ACBL should decide at what time the hospitality dollars are spent; generally providing hospitality dollars proportionate to attendance.

Failed 6-19-0