

DISCUSSION ITEM

(Clarified following AC Meeting on 11-9-25)

DI253-BR01: GNT Funding Update

Discussion:

In Summer 2024, we started the process in earnest of adding a fourth flight to the North American Pairs (NAPs) games so that both the Grand National Teams (GNTs) and the NAPs would have the same number of flights. We then identified the appropriate flight Masterpoint® ranges and voted to make this happen in time for the 2025-2026 GNT season. An additional flight meant more costs, both to the ACBL, which funds the NAPs National Finals at the Spring NABCs, and to the districts, most of which contribute to the NAP subsidies for the players and subsidize as much as they can the teams that they send to compete at the National Finals at the Summer NABCs.

In Philadelphia (Summer 2025), we had a thorough discussion about Grass Roots funding in general and GNT funding specifically (D1252-BR07: GNT Funding—Where Do We Go from Here?). Subsequent to this discussion, many conversations took place to determine the best way to implement the final suggestions:

At the Summer GNT National Finals to be held at the 2026 Minneapolis NABC, ACBL Management has agreed to cover the entry fees for the **Championship Flight** for the first two days. In the past, the Championship Flight participants paid their own entry fees on Days 1 & 2. For 2026, this is a budgeted expense of ~ \$12,000, and results in less revenue for the ACBL since districts will not be charged back for these entry fees.

Participants in **Flights A, B, and C** have not paid and will continue to not pay entry fees for Days 1 and 2. However, the ACBL was and will continue charging the entry fees for Flights A, B, and C back to the districts for these first two days.

For all Flights, Days 3–5 are paid by the participants.

Districts have been undercharged several years for the cost of the entries for their **A, B, and C** flights due to a formula error that only charged back for the cost of one session per day instead of two. Thus, the additional \$12,000 in lost revenue will be made up by correctly charging the districts for their teams on Days 3-5 such that the net impact to the ACBL will be roughly \$0.

In order to help offset these increased costs to the districts, we are strongly recommending that districts run the two sessions per sectional that are allowed to support special funds, and to name the Grass Roots Fund as the recipient of this

additional \$4 per table. These special games pay Silver at the Regional allocation rate of 1.4. The regulations that address this are covered in the Codification, Chapter V - Charity, Foundations, Special Funds, C. Unit and District Charity Games, Section 2 - Special Games at Sectionals 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.

Grass Roots Fund Games can also be run in May, which is the month reserved for them —see the Codification, Chapter V – Charity, Foundations, Special Funds, B. Charity and Fund Games – Clubs, Section 2 – Special Games at Clubs, subsection 2.4. Even if not originally advertised on the website, these special games can be added to existing sectional sanctions by notifying the Director. Flyers should be updated as well.

As the initiator of the effort to get the Championship flight treated the same as the lower three flights, I have worked to ensure that sectionals within Region 5 know that they can run Grass Roots Fund Games. There are six sectionals already committed to run these games, and I am working on getting six more. These games pay 27% more than the regular sectional allocation, providing players more Masterpoints on those days. This incentive has been shown to increase table counts on those days, so that the funding provided back to the districts from their participation should more than cover the increased billings back to them going forward.

We are currently working with Bulletin Editor Paul Linxwiler to encourage him to devote an article to Grass Roots. This new action can also be highlighted in an article in the Daily Bulletin at the Fall NABC in San Francisco and again in the Spring in St. Louis.

Regional Directors should encourage their areas to run these games in support of Grass Roots events. Their active promotions may even help the GNT grow in stature.

Action Item: Management to ensure that the decision to pay for the first days of entry fees for the Championship flight at the National Finals is well-publicized along with the ability for special games to be run at Sectionals and, during the month of May, in Clubs. In addition, Management agreed to absorb the cost for any District adversely affected by the application of the correct formula for the coming GNT competition year.

AC Chair Note: The above was written by Dennis Carman, Region 5 Director

MOTION

253-GV04: CODIFICATION CHAPTER IV REWRITE

Purpose: Update Chapter IV of the Codification

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Moved that ACBL Codification, Chapter IV – Board Procedures be removed in its entirety and replaced with the newly revised ACBL Codification, Chapter IV – Governance and Operations.

Effective Date: Immediately upon conclusion of the final Board meeting session prior to the 2025 San Francisco NABC.

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion: This year, the Governance Committee prepared a Board Resource Manual (BRM), which is an internal reference document for all Board Members, to replace the Board Orientation Manual which was previously given to new Board Members. A large portion of the documentation contained in the Codification, Chapter IV, has been moved from the Codification to the BRM. A “clean copy” of this revision of Chapter IV is posted to the same row as this motion in Column E of The Board Room. The documentation removed from the Codification or moved to another part of the Codification is identified on the “marked up version” of the current Codification, Chapter IV. This mark-up is posted to the same row as this motion in Column F.

In Section 5 – Board Committees and Task Forces contained on pages 15-29 of the marked-up copy, the only changes that have been made to the existing Codification are in the first paragraph on page 15 where “and task forces” has been added to the introductory paragraph. This entire section is a work in progress and the Governance Committee wants to present all of the changes to Section 5 at one time at a future Board meeting.

MOTION

253-GV01: ELIMINATION OF CHARITY RECOGNITION AWARD

Purpose: To eliminate the granting of the annual Charity Recognition Award.

Moved that:

The Codification, Chapter V – Charity, Foundations and Special Funds A. Administration and Policy Regarding Charity, Section 2 ACBL Charitable Recognition Award, be modified, eliminating Section 2 in its entirety.

~~Section 2 – ACBL Charitable Recognition Award~~

~~2.1 Yearly, each District President shall appoint two members from their District to receive the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award.~~

~~2.2 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 District 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 The ACBL Charitable Recognition Award is a lifetime right as long as the member is a member in good standing. If a recipient loses good standing status, the recipient's ACBL Charitable Recognition Award shall be removed. 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 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.~~

~~2.5 Replacement pins if lost or stolen will be provided free of charge to recipients of the ACBL Charitable Recognition Award.~~

And

Further Moved that: The Codification, Chapter II - Business Management, D. Official Publication of the ACBL, Section 1 Bridge Bulletin, 1.1. Required Publication in the Bridge Bulletin, 1.3.2 be amended as follows:

1.3.2 ACBL Charitable Recognition Award recipients and Goodwill Committee Members recipients, appointed by the District Presidents, will be recognized in the Bridge Bulletin. The Board of Directors and Advisory Council Chair will not be recognized in the publication.

Effective Date: November 24, 2025

Estimated Cost/Savings: Elimination of staff time associated with managing this award; elimination of costs of pins and distribution.

Discussion:

In July 2024, the ACBL Charity Foundation (“CF”) became independent of the ACBL. The Governance Committee, after consultation with the CF Trustees, agrees that the management and bestowing of this award is more appropriately done by the CF.

The Codification states that ACBL Board members and the AC Chair automatically (annually) receive the award. The Governance Committee agreed that if the award is transferred to the CF, this is no longer indicated or necessary.

The Committee considered whether Board members and the AC Chairs should retain award status for past recognition. It was confirmed that the award is a lifetime right granted to any recipient who maintains membership in good standing; the Board members and AC Chairs who have already received a pin should continue to wear it.

MOTION

253-GV03: RIGHTS OF NON-MEMBERS

Purpose: To clarify what rights, if any, Non-Members have when participating in ACBL events.

Moved that:

The Codification be amended by adding a new provision to Chapter I - Membership, A. Membership, Section 2, Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership as follows:

Section 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL Membership

2.1 Membership Rights (Effective June 15, 2020) (see Section 2.4 for non-member rights)

In accordance with Article III, Membership and Fees, Section 3.2 of the ACBL Bylaws, and Article XII, Arbitration, the following voting rights, term, characteristics,

rights, limitations and obligations shall attach to all classes of membership as follows:

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2.4 Non-Member Rights

2.4.1 Participants who are not and have never been ACBL Members enjoy the following rights:

- a) Right to participate in certain ACBL-sanctioned club games;**
- b) Right to have their stratification/entry masterpoint level assessed and assigned by management to ensure equity for Members;**
- c) Right to have any masterpoints earned credited upon becoming a Member (subject to the then current point limit during Guest Membership);**
- d) Rights afforded to them under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge;**
- e) Right to be protected from violations of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (e.g., inappropriate conduct or unethical conduct).**

2.4.2 Non-Members do not have the following rights:

- a) Unconditional right to play at any club game; admission may be refused except for reasons of discrimination based on race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, physical handicap or bridge proficiency;**
- b) The right to vote in ACBL elections or to seek elected position.**

Effective Date: November 24, 2025

Estimated Cost/Savings: N/A

Discussion:

The current Codification does not distinguish among current members, guest members, former members and non-members. At our Philadelphia meetings we discussed the need to define “Non-Members” and describe their responsibilities and the limitations on their rights. We distinguished between those players whose membership has lapsed through non-payment of dues or inactivity (“Former Members”) and those who have never joined the ACBL (“Non-Members”.) It is well established that Former Members have the right to reinstatement by the payment of unpaid dues; once their dues are current, all benefits of membership pertain. Non-Members may play in club games (unless precluded by an individual club), and sectionals. Current policy requires a player to have an ACBL membership (guest membership-at a minimum) in order to participate in Regionals and national level events at NABCs.

This proposed wording is being referenced where appropriate in the current Codification, so that it can take effect now. DI253-GV01 shows where this new section would fit in Chapter I, Membership, Section 1, Application, Classes, Benefits and Rights, Subsection 1.2 Membership Classes and Benefits.

MOTION

253-GV06: POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR WBF REPRESENTATIVE

Purpose: To revise the selection, term, and accountability requirements for the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Executive Council and to clarify the duties and reporting expectations for the NABF Board Members.

Moved that the Codification, Chapter VII - International Bridge, B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members be amended as follows:

Chapter VII – International Bridge

B. NABF Board Members and WBF Representative

Section 1 – NABF Board Members and the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council

1.1 NABF Board Members (ACBL Appointments)

The ACBL Board of Directors will appoint two NABF Board Members to three-year terms. The appointments will be made according to the procedure set forth in the Codification, Chapter IV- Election Procedures, Section 3 - Election Procedures for Officers and Other Elected Positions.

Both appointees must be ACBL Members in Good Standing, and at least one must be a current member of the ACBL Board of Directors.

Reporting Requirements

NABF Board Members shall adhere to the following reporting requirements:

1.1.1 Submit a written report(s), including agenda items, to the ACBL Board of Directors in advance of scheduled NABF meetings. Written reports are required within 10 days of the conclusion of NABF meetings.

1.1.2 Maintain communication with the ACBL Board President or his/her designee regarding mutually relevant initiatives and best practices.

1.2 Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council (NABF Appointment)

The NABF Board, upon recommendation by the ACBL Board of Directors, shall elect the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Executive Council to a two-year term.

The Representative shall be an ACBL Board Member and must continue to be a Board Member during the entirety of his/her term. For recommendation to the NABF, the Member shall be selected according to the procedure set forth in the Codification, Chapter IV- Election Procedures, Section 3-Election Procedures for Officers and Other Elected Positions.

The Representative must resign from the WBF position or shall be removed by the ACBL Board if he/she ceases to be an ACBL Board Member, or is otherwise removed for lack of standing by the ACBL Board.

1.3 WBF Reporting Requirements

The Representative shall provide the ACBL Board of Directors with periodic reports. These reports must address, at a minimum, the following:

- 1.3.1 The agenda and expected actions coming before the WBF at their next meeting(s).**
- 1.3.2 Any policy changes, regulatory decisions, or operational actions taken by the WBF.**
- 1.3.3 Financial information such as budgets, operating statements, and balance sheets, including explanations of unusual expenses.**
- 1.3.4 Submit a written report(s) to the ACBL Board President within 10 days of the conclusion of the WBF meeting(s). The ACBL Board President shall cause the report(s) to be posted.**

B. WBF Representatives and NABF Board Members

Section 1 ACBL appointments to the NABF Board and Selection of the Zone 2 Representative to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.

Current regulations of the NABF allow the ACBL to name appoint two people to the NABF board of directors, and to nominate one or more people from whom the NABF will select one person to serve as one of its representatives on the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.

1.1 To facilitate communication between the organizations, the ACBL nominee(s) to serve as a representative of the NABF to the WBF Executive Council must be elected from among members of the ACBL Board of Directors. If the nominee selected by the NABF resigns from the ACBL Board of Directors while serving on the WBF Executive Council, it is strongly recommended that the nominee also resign from serving as the representative. The ACBL appointees to the board of directors of

the NABF may be selected from among the members of the ACBL Board of Directors or from any ACBL member in good standing.

1.2 Reports shall be periodically submitted to the ACBL Board of Directors from the ACBL Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council and from the ACBL appointees to the NABF Board. Reports shall include but not be limited to the following information:

- a. Any actions taken by the WBF or the NABF regarding World or Zone 2 bridge that are important to current ACBL.
- b. The agenda or any actions expected to come before the WBF or the NABF at their next meeting(s) of the ACBL Board.
- c. Financial information such as budgets, operating statements and balance sheets, including explanations of unusual expenses.
- d. The assignments that ACBL representatives or appointees have in the WBF or the NABF, respectively.
- e. Any compensation, reimbursement (excluding economy transportation and hotel rooms and per diem for the length of the Executive Council meetings and one or two days before and after said meetings) or benefits from the WBF or the NABF to any member of the ACBL Board of Directors member.

1.3 Reports/notifications are required in advance of scheduled WBF and NABF meetings in time for input from ACBL to be addressed as appropriate. Reports are required within 30 days of the conclusion of WBF and NABF meetings.

1.4 WBF and NABF Representatives from the ACBL are expected to maintain communications with the ACBL Board President or their designee regarding initiatives and best practices pertaining to topics of interest to the ACBL, NABF and WBF members.

Section 2—Election of the ACBL Nominees to the WBF Executive Council and Appointments to the NABF Board

One or more persons shall be nominated by the ACBL Board of Directors for the one Zone 2 Representative to the WBF Executive Council position that has been allotted to the ACBL by the NABF. If only one person applies to be nominated, then that person shall be deemed to be the nominee. If more than one person applies to be nominated, the ACBL Board may choose to present multiple nominees to the NABF Board and the NABF Board will elect the representative. The ACBL Board may limit the nominee(s) to be presented to the NABF Board using the election procedures stipulated in Chapter IV—Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 3 Elections.

Two NABF Board members, one of which may be a non-Board member, will be appointed by the ACBL Board of Directors using the election procedures stipulated in Chapter IV—Board Procedures, A. Administration, Section 3 Elections.

Effective Date: Immediate, with the election for the 2026-2027 WBF Representative conducted on the final day of the San Francisco meetings of the Board

Estimated Cost/Savings: None

MOTION

253-INT01: ACBL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NABF PAYMENT OF ZONE 2 WBF DUES

Purpose: To direct that (i) the ACBL's \$50,100 annual contribution continues to be paid to the NABF from ACBL operating funds, and (ii) the designated portion of the NABC+ event entry charge will be remitted directly to the NABF and earmarked for payment for Zone 2 WBF dues. *Contingent upon approval of the pending ACBL-NABF-USBF-CBF-FMB-WBF Agreement.*

Moved that the Codification, Chapter VII – International Bridge, C. International Fund, Section 2 – International Fund Monies be revised as follows:

CHAPTER VII – INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

C. International Fund

Section 2 – International Fund Monies

- ~~2.1 All International Fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned special International Fund games events conducted by the ACBL in the United States and for the specific purpose of subsidizing United States athletes in international bridge competition will be forwarded to and retained by the USBF to be distributed at its discretion.~~
- ~~2.21 All NABC+ event entry fees will shall include \$1.50 surcharge a charge per player per session for the International Fund purpose, at a minimum, of generating monies to support fulfillment of WBF Zone 2 NBOs' dues obligations.~~
- ~~2.32 International Fund Monies collected at from International Fund games conducted by ACBL at NABCs shall be apportioned to the appropriate International Fund sent to the US Bridge Federation, Canadian Bridge Federation, Federación Mexicana de Bridge and the Bermuda Bridge Federation in proportion equal to that country's the countries' percentages of resident ACBL members.~~
- ~~2.43 International Fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned special International Fund games conducted by clubs in the United States,~~

Canada and Mexico shall be sent to the respective NBOs to be disbursed at their discretion unless needed to satisfy the balance of the WBF dues.

2.54 ACBL ~~shall~~ provides \$50,100.00 annually to the NABF for the sole purpose of contributing to ~~the~~Zone 2 WBF dues obligations ~~paid by~~ of the USBF, CBF and FMB. This amount may be adjusted at the discretion of ACBL, and will be adjusted if the money is used for any purpose other than payment of the three NBOs' WBF dues.

Effective Date: No later than March 31, 2026, given approval of an agreement among Zone 2 NBO's, the ACBL and the WBF (effective for calendar years 2026-2028) by the Board.