

ACBL Board of Directors Meeting

Memphis, TN., March 20-22, 2019

Greetings from Memphis. There was one Elvis sighting but nothing has been officially confirmed. After recent less than successful Nationals it's good to report that Memphis is running above expectations. There were not a large number of motions but there are a few points I feel will be of interest to you.

We are constantly trying to preserve the integrity of our game. A motion was passed that would put a lifetime ban on any players found guilty of collusive cheating in our most prestigious NABC+ events. This will be in effect for all convictions going forward but is not in effect for any players that were found guilty in the past. For these players the regulations have been tightened up. There currently is a mandatory 10 year waiting period before they can apply for readmission. This does not mean automatic readmission but if they have demonstrated they are reformed, in addition to waiting 10 years, they will also be placed on an additional minimum five years of probation. The issue of players resigning to avoid prosecution was also raised. Future motions are being drafted to deal with these situations. The final issue coming from the cheating scandals was how should team titles be dealt with when part of a team involved cheaters. A voluntary relinquishing policy was adopted that would allow the remaining team members the opportunity to voluntarily relinquishing their titles. It was felt that the majority of our players would not want to have their names associated with these cheating pairs. This summer in Las Vegas we will be examining how effective this approach has been and a decision will be made on whether any further action will be required. Too much time is given to these cheaters.

The Canadian members of our District can note a motion was passed that will give fixed awards for players entering either the Flight C CNTC's or the Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship. The award will be more in line with what awards should be for events of this stature. Masterpoint awards require two readings so this will not come into effect until 2020.

An item you will be hearing more about in the future was a report from the Governance Committee. There has always been disagreement about what the best form of governance is for the ACBL. Many believe our current structure is best for the Districts while others believe a smaller Board of Directors would be more effective. The Governance Committee brought forward a structure that would have a 9 member Board of Directors that is elected with League wide general voting. This proposal also included a smaller but what was hoped to be more effective Board of Governors. This is certainly a contentious issue. Much more discussion and details are planned for the summer meeting in Las Vegas. Without full details it's hard to give a best opinion. I will be looking forward to your thoughts and input.

A reminder for tournament chairs and Unit and District officials is that the ACBL has renewed its email contract with Pianola. They maintain lists so these officers are able to send their own email messages to advertise upcoming events. To learn more about Pianola visit www.acbl.org/email.

Complete BoD meeting minutes will soon be available at <https://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/administration/board-of-directors/meeting-motions-and-minutes/>.

I am looking forward to seeing you on the tournament trail and as always may all your finesses be successful.

Claire Jones

District 18 Board of Directors

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