

**ACBL Board of Directors  
Philadelphia, PA  
July 11 – 12, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Anderson on Monday, July 9 at 3:10 p.m.

Present: George Retek #1, Paul Janicki #2, Glenda Calkins #3, Craig Robinson #4, Sharon Fairchild #5, Margot Hennings #6, Bob Heller #7, Georgia Heth #8, Shirley Seals #9, Bill Cook #10, Beth Reid #11, William Arlinghaus #12, Suzi Subeck #13, Sharon Anderson #14, Phyllis Harlan #15, Dan Morse #16, Bonnie Bagley #17, Claire Jones #18, Donald Mamula #19, Merlin Vilhauer #20, Bruce Blakely #21, Ken Monzingo #22, Rand Pinsky #23, Al Levy #24, and Richard DeMartino #25.

Also

Present: Michael Kovacich, Chairman Board of Governors, Peter Rank, League Counsel, Robert Hartman, CEO, Dee Wallace, Jeff Johnston, Patricia Glover, Jim Miller, Carol Robertson, Pat Rogoski, Sol Weinstein, Sam Whitten, Sheila Kim, Consultant and Kelley McGuire, Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Approval of Non Agenda items**

- Motion for consideration of non-agenda item Strategic Planning assigned to Full Board
- Motion for consideration of non-agenda item GNT/NAP Residency Guidelines and the NAP/GNT Conditions of Contest assigned to Conditions on Contest

**Item 122-191: Strategic Planning**

Whereas, the Board of Directors desires to establish a strategic plan for the American Contract Bridge League;

Whereas, the Board and various staff members and consultants met on July 9, 2012 and established the framework for a strategic plan for the League (the “Strategic Plan”);

Whereas, the Board wishes to continue development of the Strategic Plan for review at its Fall, 2012 Board meeting;

Now therefore, the following resolution is adopted:

It is the intent of the Board of Directors to continue development of the Strategic Plan. Further, the Board of Directors directs ACBL management to work with the President to develop and

finalize the Strategic Plan for presentation to and review by the Finance Committee and the full Board at the Fall, 2012 Meeting of the Board, utilizing the following guidance:

|                                                                                                                             |                                                         |                                                 |                           |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Mission: To promote and sustain the game of bridge and serve the bridge-related interests of our members                    |                                                         |                                                 |                           |                                                    |
| Vision: We will be a growing, thriving organization that actively meets the diverse needs of our members and bridge players |                                                         |                                                 |                           |                                                    |
| Strategic Focus Areas (in order of priority)                                                                                |                                                         |                                                 |                           |                                                    |
| 1.<br>Develop & implement focused programs for member recruitment                                                           | 2.<br>Identify & replicate best practices & innovations | 3.<br>Integrate technology to meet member needs | 4.<br>Retain more members | 5.<br>Provide top-quality directing at tournaments |

Effective immediate

Carried:        Nay: 8, 25        Abstain: 14

### **Approval of Memphis Minutes**

The Memphis, TN minutes are approved with the following amendment.

An Executive session was held March 10, at 4 p.m. and at 5 p.m. the Board reported the following:

Moved and seconded and passed unanimously as follows: “Employee benefit accruals to the American Contract Bridge League Pension Plan will be frozen effective May 15, 2012. For the calendar year 2012, a new additional 401k contribution in the amount of 3% of employees earned annual income will be made to all qualified employees. This contribution shall be in addition to any 401k match that currently exists. The plan shall be instituted effective January1, 2012. The operation details of implementation shall be the sole responsibility of management.”

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Anderson on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 11:05 a.m.

Present:        Same as Monday, July 9

Also Present: Same as Monday, July 9 with the addition of Bryan Delfs and Ken Horwedel.

Absent:        Sheila Kim and Patricia Rogosky

**Item 122-190: Executive Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held April 10 and July 9, 2012 are received.  
(Attachment A)

**ACBL CEO Report**

The report of CEO Robert Hartman is received. (Attachment B)

**League Counsel Report**

The report of League Counsel Peter Rank on the status of litigation is received. (Attachment C)

\* \* \* \* \*

**RANKING COMMITTEE**

Arlinghaus (C)

DeMartino, Janicki, Morse

Staff: Natchwey/Weinstein

Committee Report by Chairman

**Item 122-100: Rank of Life Master**

The rank of Life Master can also be reached with 1,000 Platinum masterpoints and an NABC+ event win.

Effective immediately.

Motion failed.          Aye: 1, 12, 24, 25.      Abstain: 14, 18.

**GOVERNANCE / BOARD OPERATIONS / BYLAWS**

Harlan (C)

Cook, Fairchild, Heth, Jones, Mamula, Reid, Retek, Seals

Staff: Miller/McGuire

Committee Report by Chairman

**Item 122-47: Chapter I Amendments**

Chapter 1, are amended as follows:

Section B, 3.1.6.1

3.1.6 Championship Player of the Year

- 3.1.6.1 The winner of the most Masterpoints earned at NABCs while playing in unlimited nationally rated events including the NAP Flight A and in the GNT Championship Flight.

Section D, 1.5.2

- 1.5.2 The Chairman of the Goodwill Committee shall be reimbursed for his/her actual ticket price using advance non-refundable ticketing reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates, two nights hotel, three days per diem and free plays at NABCs (excluding the Educational Foundation game).

Section D, 3.3.2

- 3.3.2 The director, when called, shall attempt to determine the facts. If it is established that there was unacceptable behavior, an immediate  $\frac{1}{4}$  board disciplinary penalty (3 IMP in team games) shall be assigned to all offenders. This may involve any one or all four players at the table irrespective of who initiated the unacceptable behavior. If both members of a partnership are guilty, the penalties are additive ( $\frac{1}{4}$  board each =  $\frac{1}{2}$  board) The Board of Directors strongly believes that assignment of disciplinary penalties will improve the overall behavior at our tournaments.

Section G, 1.1 and 1.4

- 1.1 The ACBL will provide *Bidding in the 21st Century* and *Play of the Hand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* textbooks, cards, t-shirts and certificates for School Bridge Class lessons under the following guidelines.

.....

- 1.4.3 The scholarship monies are distributed by the USBF and this program is not administered by ACBL.

Section J, 3.1

- 3.1 All international fund monies collected from ACBL-sanctioned events conducted by the ACBL in the United States for the specific purpose of subsidizing United States athletes in international bridge competition will be forwarded to and retained by the ACBL. Upon request of the USBF, the ACBL will disburse funds to the United States athletes. International Fund monies collected at NABCs shall be apportioned to the appropriate International Fund in proportion equal to that country's percentage of the ACBL membership. International Funds collected in Canada and International funds collected in Mexico shall be sent to the respective Federations to be disbursed at their discretion.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

**Item 122-48: Election Regulations**

The 2012 election regulations are amended. (Attachment D).

Carried. Abstain: 14, 19, 25.

**Item 122-49: Chapter IV Board Procedures D Committees**

Chapter IV Board Procedures, D – Committees, Section 1.4 Laws Commission is amended to include the following:

- 1.4.7 The ACBL will send a representative from the ACBL Laws Commission to attend all meetings of the WBF Laws Committee held in conjunction with World Championships.

1.4.7.1 The representative will be selected by the ACBL Laws Commission.

1.4.7.2 The ACBL will provide air fare actual ticket price using advance non-refundable ticketing reflecting the lowest direct service fare available for travel at reasonable times for the travel dates, per diem and hotel room.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-50: Hall of Fame Operating Procedures**

Chapter III – Administration, Appendix 2. Hall of Fame Operating Procedures, Subsection 6. Timeline of the ACBL Codification are amended as follows:

An Election Package Subcommittee consisting of at least two members of the HoFC and/or consultant(s) chosen by the committee shall review the entire election package for accuracy and completeness, giving final approval to ACBL Management for distribution. The election package shall consist of a list of current Hall of Fame members, candidates' biographies, performance chart, ballot, and voting instructions.

ACBL Management presents a plan for promoting the banquet for comment by the committee.

#### **DECEMBER**

ACBL staff finalizes the masterpoints and rankings using the ACBL's December cycle run and adds Fall NABC tournament accomplishments to biographies and the performance chart.

ACBL Management mails each Open category nominee their updated encyclopedia biography and performance record for review and editing on or about December 10th. The nominee shall edit/approve the biography and return it to the ACBL no later than January 1. ACBL staff contacts nominees who have not returned the biography and/or approval to appear on the ballot.

#### **JANUARY**

Between January 1 and January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Election Package Subcommittee reviews revisions made by nominees, verifies their accuracy, and decides what new material is worthy of inclusion in the biographies. Once the subcommittee review has been concluded, ACBL staff prepares the election packages. The HoFC Chair receives a copy of the election package and approves the distribution of the election materials. ACBL staff distributes the election packages on or about January 10<sup>th</sup> and specifies the return date deadline, which should be approximately 4 weeks after the distribution date.

#### **FEBRUARY**

The election period runs from the election package distribution date to the day when the Director of Elections begins tabulation of the ballots which shall be approximately 10 days after the deadline specified in the election package.

Ballots will be processed and counted as determined by the ACBL Director of Elections.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-51: Chapter III A.**

3.3 of Chapter 3 of the Codifications is amended as follows:

### 3.3 Unit Transfers and Boundary Changes

- 3.3.1 In general, areas for transfer from one Unit to another should follow county lines. An area seeking to transfer to an adjacent Unit must include all counties between the proposed area for transfer and the existing area of the Unit being joined. It is not permitted to transfer an area to a Unit if such transfer would create an island.
- 3.3.2 A majority of the current ACBL members living in the area to be transferred must sign a petition expressing their wishes to be transferred.
- 3.3.3 The petition must state the reasons for the proposed transfer and must include the addresses and ACBL player number of those members signing.
- 3.3.4 The boundaries of the proposed area of transfer must be included on the petition as well as all zip codes in the proposed area to be transferred.
- 3.3.5 Upon receipt of the petition, ACBL will verify the signatures thereon in order to assure that a majority of the ACBL members in the proposed area of transfer have signed the petition requesting a transfer of Unit affiliation.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-52: Chapter 3 – Administration**

The subchapters in Chapter 3 of the Codified Minutes are replaced with the following:  
(Attachment E)

**Note:** Subchapter E has been moved to Chapter 7 of the Codification.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

**Item 122-53: Chapter III Rescinded Items**

The following motions listed in Chapter Three of the Brown Pages are rescinded:

Section A - 711-51, 723-1, 753-2, 753-2, 761-42, 763-61, 771-21, 772-34, 773-21A, 72-22, 783-32, 783-33, 791-21, 803-51, 813-41, 841-83, 881-21, 892-81, 911, 912exec, 912-62, 921-13, 922-22, 922-23, 922-57, 923-23, 931-86, 931-65, 971-46, 973-69, 973-53, 983-50, 002-52, 003-106, 031-48, 032-75, 062-32, 091-31

Section B - 712-12, 901-91

Section C - 831-3, 832-1, 842-2

Section G – 733-33, 963-32

Section I – 872-125, 912-127, 951-85, 961-71, 963-168, 983-175, 012-47

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

**Item 122-54: Section 3 – Zero Tolerance**

Chapter 1. D. are amended as follows:

**Section 3 - Zero Tolerance**

3.1 Zero Tolerance ("ZT") Policy

Section 3.3.6 is deleted.

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Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

**Item 122-55 Establish and Define Purposes of the Grass Roots Fund**

The ACBL hereby establishes a Grass Roots Fund. The month of December is designated as “Grass Roots Fund Month.” Clubs may hold special games under the same rules and regulations applicable to the other special fund months (currently benefitting the Charity Foundation and Junior and International Funds.) Funds raised shall be returned annually no later than March 31 to the individual District in which those funds were raised, and shall be used by the District to help fund Grass Roots Events. Grass Roots Events are defined as the Grand National Teams and

the North American Pairs. The ACBL shall not charge the Districts any fee for the cost of collecting and disbursing these funds.

The Grass Roots Fund shall be considered an additional, eligible beneficiary from regionally rated games at sectionals along with the ACBL Charity and Educational Foundations, ACBL International, and Junior Funds.

Effective immediately.

Carried.          Nay: 1          Abstain: 14

**Item 122-56 Unit Mergers and Boundary Changes**  
**Chapter III Administration A Unit**

Chapter III Administration, A – Units are amended as follows:

3.3      Unit Transfers and Boundary Changes

3.3.1    In general, areas for transfer from one Unit to another should follow county lines. An area seeking to transfer to an adjacent Unit must include all counties between the proposed area for transfer and the existing area of the Unit being joined. It is not permitted to transfer an area to a Unit if such transfer would create an island.

3.3.2    A majority of the current ACBL members living in the area to be transferred must sign a petition expressing their wishes to be transferred.

3.3.3    The petition must state the reasons for the proposed transfer and must include the addresses and ACBL player number of those members signing.

3.3.4    The boundaries of the proposed area of transfer must be included on the petition as well as all zip codes in the proposed area to be transferred.

3.3.5    The petition must include a beginning date for the first circulation of the petition. All signatures on the petition must be obtained within six months of this beginning date.

3.3.6    Upon receipt of the petition, ACBL will verify the signatures thereon as being members of the affected area during the dates indicated on the petition in order to assure that a majority of the ACBL members in the proposed area of transfer has signed the petition requesting a transfer of Unit affiliation.

3.3.7    The ACBL will contact the parent Unit, the Unit of proposed affiliation, the District Organization and the District Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors seeking the opinion of each regarding the proposed transfer. Should all parties agree that it is in the best interests of all

concerned to effect the proposed transfer, the ACBL will take the necessary steps to make the change including ACBL Board of Directors approval. All parties will be informed of the effective date of transfer and new Charters distributed. Should either the Unit or the District Organization disagree as to the proposed transfer, the matter will be referred to the ACBL Board of Directors for final disposition. After the ACBL Board of Directors has denied a request to grant a Unit Merger, Unit Boundary Change, or Unit Change of District, the affected Unit may not begin the circulation of another petition for a Unit Merger, Unit Boundary Change, or Unit Change of District for at least six (6) months.

Effective immediately.

Carried.        Nay: 21, 22    Abstain: 1, 14, 24

#### **Item 122-57: Special Club Games**

ACBL regulation (083-86) are amended as follows:

##### **Special Club Games (083-86)**

When a sectional (excluding STaCs) or higher rated event is being conducted within 25 miles of a club game's playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regularly scheduled club masterpoint games (i.e., no special games). This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals.

Effective immediately.

Carried.        Abstain: 14

#### **Item 122-58: Unit 390 Bylaw Waiver**

Chapter III A 1.3.2 recommends that Unit bylaws include corporate purposes. Due to provincial regulations, this recommendation is waived as to Unit 390.

Effective immediately.

Carried.        Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-59: Chapter III Rescinded Items**

The following items from Chapter III of the current Codifications with the exception of Item 012-133 are rescinded. (Attachment F)

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

| JUNIORS TASK FORCE                                                          |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Harlan (C)<br>Calkins, Heller, Retek, Seals<br>Committee Report by Chairman | Staff: Delfs |

### **Item 122-160: Chapter 1. I. Juniors**

Chapter 1. I. Juniors would be amended:

1.1.3.3 Junior Entry coupons will be available at NABCs for all juniors who are ACBL members except those who are players for hire.

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2.3 At all NABCs, Junior coupons will be made available for junior members in good standing except those who are players for hire for entry into events at NABCs.

2.3.1.1 Any junior under the age of 26 years except those who are players for hire who is a full time student (must provide proof of eligibility) will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.

2.3.1.2 Any junior under the age of 21 years except those who are players for hire will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.

2.3.1.3 Any junior 19 years and under except those who are players for hire will be granted free plays for each session of regionally rated events.

2.3.1.4 Any Junior or Youth player who is a player for hire as defined herein shall not be allowed to receive free plays or reduced card fee coupons to enter events held at North American Bridge Championship tournaments. For purposes of this rule, the term "Player for Hire" shall be defined as any player who has received cash, goods, services, or a combination thereof, with a value in excess of \$1,000, during the current calendar year and/or

during either of the two immediately preceding calendar years, in exchange for playing with another bridge player or players at any combination of Sectional, Regional and/or NABC bridge events, with the exception that any compensation provided strictly to pay for a Junior or Youth player's hotel accommodations to attend such tournaments and/or to pay for food consumed by the Junior or Youth player while at such tournaments shall not be considered in determining the value of the cash, goods and/or services provided.

Effective January 1, 2013

Motion failed:           Aye: 1, 5, 9, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23.           Abstain: 7, 14.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASTERPOINTS</b></p> <p>Subeck (C)<br/>Arlinghaus, DeMartino, Heller, Janicki,<br/>Monzingo, Robinson, Vilhauer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Staff: Weinstein</p> <p>Committee Report by Chairman</p> |
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**Item 122-80: Masterpoints**

Masterpoints are awarded only for sanctioned games that follow the laws of Duplicate Bridge, with the exception of teaching games, where teachers are encouraged and often do use specially prepared hands to establish a lesson point.

Effective July 1, 2013

Motion Failed.           Aye: 7, 9, 10, 21.           Abstain. 4, 14.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPEALS &amp; CHARGES</b></p> <p>Blakely (C), Heth (Hearings)<br/>Fairchild, Mamula, Pinsky, Seals</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Staff: Whitten</p> <p>Committee Report by Chairman</p> |
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**Item 122-01: Report on Hearings**

The Committee considered Robb Gordon's request for hearing pursuant to Section 9.2 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR). The request was denied.

### **Item 122-02: Cheating**

Additional (supplemental) penalties to players found guilty of severe conduct violations and/or ethical violations.

Above are the 19 conduct defined offenses and the 20 ethics violations. It is proposed that anyone found guilty of unethical/cheating in addition to probation/suspension or expulsion also lose masterpoints and those masterpoints are replaced with placement points(1).

The penalties are three types:

- 1) Minor – 10% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. Appropriate ranks removed.
- 2) Major 2nd degree – 50% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. Appropriate ranks removed.
- 3) Major 1st degree – 100% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. All ranks removed and all National titles removed

Referring to Appendix B part A Conduct section

C4) Minor

C8) Minor

C13) Minor

Referring to Appendix B Ethics section

E1) minor

E2) minor

E5) minor

E6) minor

E7)

a) Major 1st degree

b) Major 1st degree

c) Major 2nd degree

d) none

E8 9 an 10) minor

E11) Major 2nd degree

E12 13 14 15) Major 1st degree

E16 and 17) minor

E18) minor, major 2nd degree or major 1st degree decision by committee

E19) minor

Deferred to the 2012 Fall meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Deferral carried. Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-03: CDR Appeal**

Section Seven of The Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR) are amended by adding section 7.7.6 as follows:

#### **7. Appeal Procedures**

- 7.7 Each party to an appeal or review under this CDR 7 shall be entitled to:
  - 7.7.1 Receive written notice of date, time and place of the appeals hearing.
  - 7.7.2 Be represented at the hearing by another person who shall not be an attorney or a member of the ACBL Board of Directors. The person charged may be represented by an attorney outside the hearing room.
  - 7.7.3 Make statements on his or her behalf.
  - 7.7.4. Be present during the entire hearing, except during procedural determinations and deliberation on verdicts and sentencing.
  - 7.7.5 Question persons testifying through the Chair, at the Chair's discretion.
  - 7.7.6 All appeals heard under this section shall be heard by a committee of at least three persons.

Effective January 1, 2013.

Carried. Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-04: CDR Automatic Review**

7.2.6 All disciplinary cases where:

A suspension of one (1) year or longer is imposed,

Expulsion is imposed or

A discipline for an ethical violation is imposed;

shall be automatically reviewed by the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee within six months of receipt of the decision by the ACBL. On such automatic review, the Appeals and Charges Committee may increase or reduce discipline as well as affirm, reverse or modify the disciplinary determination or remand for further proceedings. The Appeals & Charges Committee shall not conduct a new hearing, but shall review the previous hearing to ensure that: (1) procedures were followed in accordance with the CDR; (2) the decision and discipline imposed was supported by the evidence; and (3) a fair hearing was conducted. The Appeals & Charges Committee may increase or reduce the discipline imposed.

Effective January 1, 2013.

Carried. Abstain: 14

## **TOURNAMENT**

Morse (C)

Arlinghaus, DeMartino, Heller, Subeck

Staff: Horwedel

Committee Report by Chairman

### **Item 122-110: Bar Playing Directors in STaC Games**

Playing directors in STaC games and their partners are ineligible to receive overall STaC masterpoint (silver point) awards, but are eligible to receive section awards.

Effective January 1, 2013.

Carried.      Nay: 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 23, 25      Abstain: 14

## **FINANCE**

Reid (C)

Cook, Levy, Mamula, Monzingo, Pinsky,  
Retek, Robinson Seals

Staff: Glover/Wallace

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

## **FULL SERVICE CLUBS TASK FORCE**

Seals (C),

Bagley, Calkins, Fairchild, Hennings, Levy, Pinsky, Robinson

Staff: Robertson

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

## **NABC SITE ADVISORY**

Johnston (C)

Blakely, Heller, Hennings, Subeck

Staff: Sullivan

Committee Report by Chairman

### **2020 Summer Montreal**

Management's recommendation for the 2020 Summer NABC at the Montreal Convention Center in Montreal, PQ July 16 – 27 is approved.

Effective immediately.

Carried.      Abstain: 5, 14

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The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Anderson on Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 9 a.m.

Present: Same as Wednesday, July 11

Also Present: Same as Wednesday, July 11

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| <b>AUDIT</b> |
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| Levy (C) |
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| Jones, Reid |
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| Staff: Glover/Wallace |
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Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

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| <b>VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT &amp; RECOGNITION TASK FORCE</b> |
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| Jones (C) |
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| Bagley, Calkins, Harlan, Hennings |
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| Staff: Sullivan |
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Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

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| <b>CONDITIONS OF CONTEST</b> |
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| Monzingo (C) |
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| Blakely, Janicki, Morse |
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| Staff: Whitten |
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Committee Report by Chairman

**Item 122-25: 2013 Conditions of Contest**

2013 Conditions of Contest are approved.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Abstain: 14

**Item 122-26: NABC and NABC+ Matchpoint Events**

All conditions of contest for NABC and NABC+ matchpoint events at NABCs are amended to permit the DIC to combine as many sections as logical and practical for scoring. Qualification of

contestants for subsequent stages shall be based on overall standing in the entire field, regardless of section and/or direction.

Effective January 1, 2013.

Carried.          Nay: 8          Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-27: Unit Team Game**

The Annual Unit Extended Team Championships, Sanctioning and Reporting Guide, December 2010 are amended as follows:

#### **I. Team Size, Substitutions & Replacements**

Teams can have four, five or six members. Substitutes and Replacements are allowed at the discretion of the Event Coordinator or his/her designee, or of the DIC of the event where one exists, but should not appreciably strengthen a team. In teams with more than four members, a substitute should come from within the team. Team members, by entering the event, are committing to participate throughout the event. As this event takes place over multiple sessions, they should be aware of the scheduled play dates and times, and make plans to attend. If they are aware of a scheduling conflict, they should notify both their team captain and the director to see what accommodations can be made. This includes arranging a substitute or replacement or arranging an alternate play date. Replacements may earn overall awards if they meet (ACBL) play requirements. Substitutes may receive only match awards. Up to two substitutes per match may be permitted even if the team already has six members, subject to the aforementioned provisions.

Effective as soon as it can be implemented.

Carried.          Abstain: 14

### **Item 122-29: Comprehensive Seeding**

Appendixes B (Vanderbilt/Spingold), BSR (Baze Senior Knockout), and BW (Wagar Women's Knockout) of the ACBL Conditions of Contest are modified as follows:

**Virtual Masterpoints and the Masterpoint Log:** Virtual Masterpoints (VPs) shall be awarded to foreign experts who play in the four events listed above. Based on the Masterpoint Log approved by the ACBL Board of Directors in 2010, it now takes 20,360 MPs to reach the cap of 11 seeding points for the master point component of seeding points. Players who received VPs shall have their VPs converted into MPs. Those MPs will be added to Masterpoints actually earned, and then the Masterpoint Log will be applied to the total.

#### **I. Vanderbilt/Spingold Knockout Teams**

**Subjective Seeding:** In the Vanderbilt/Spingold, the event will be seeded objectively, and then re-seeded subjectively by a “Subjective Seeding Committee.”

The subjective seeding process is summarized below:

After the Director-in-Charge determines a team’s average Seeding Points (SPs) in accordance with the seeding rules, and before shuffling in groups, the Subjective Seeding Committee will review the team’s placement in the bracket. The Committee may ask the opinions of other players, especially when evaluating unfamiliar foreign entrants.

The Committee cannot change the seeding group of teams seeded in the top 16. Teams 17-20 may be moved down one “shuffling group.” Teams 21 and up can be moved up or down one “shuffling group.” Teams in the bottom shuffling group can only be moved up one group. The shuffling groups are 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, then in groups of 8 through team 64, then in groups of 16. For example, a team in the 29-32 group could become seeded 33-40, or become seeded 25-28. For every team changed, another team must be moved reciprocally to replace it.

Any seeding change would be made before shuffling, and require a majority vote of the Subjective Seeding Committee.

## **II. Baze Senior Knockout Teams**

**Objective Seeding Points:** The Seeding Formula for the Baze Senior Knockout Teams will be based only on Method 1. This includes the use of the new Masterpoint Log.

Seeding for the Senior Knockout Team event will still be capped at 50. Method 1 is identical to the Method 1 used for the Vanderbilt **and** Spingold **and** Wagar Knockouts.

In addition to the Method 1 used in the Vanderbilt and Spingold:

Four SPs be given for winning the Senior Knockout, prorated for placings in the top eight in the same way as the Vanderbilt/Spingold, and

Two SPs would be given for winning the Wagar Knockout, prorated for placings in the top eight in the same way as the Vanderbilt/Spingold.

The Truscott Senior Swiss, the Women’s Swiss and Women’ B-A-M, all 4-session events previously included in seeding the Senior Knockout, would no longer be awarded any SPs.

**Subjective Seeding:** For the Senior Knockout, the event will be seeded objectively (above), and then re-seeded subjectively by a “Subjective Seeding Committee”

The subjective seeding process is summarized below:

After the Director-in-Charge determines a team's average Seeding Points (SPs) in accordance with the Appendix BSR, and before shuffling in groups, the Subjective Seeding Committee will review the team's placement in the bracket. The Committee may ask the opinions of other players, especially when evaluating unfamiliar foreign entrants.

The Committee cannot change the seeding group of teams seeded in the top 4. Teams 5-8 may be moved down one "shuffling group." Teams 9 and up can be moved up or down one "shuffling group." Teams in the bottom shuffling group can only be moved up one group. The shuffling groups are 5-8, 9-12, 13-16, 17-20, 21-24, 25-28, 29-32, then in groups of 8 through team 64, then in groups of 16. For example, a team in the 29-32 group could become seeded 33-40, or become seeded 25-28. For every team changed, another team must be moved reciprocally to replace it.

Any seeding change would be made before shuffling, and require a majority vote of the Subjective Seeding Committee.

**Shuffling:** With 32 or fewer teams entered, teams 5-6, 7-8 will be shuffled instead of 5-8. In this case, teams seeded 5-6 could not be moved up into a higher group since teams 1-4 are locked.

### **III. Wagar Knockout Teams**

**Objective Seeding Points:** The Seeding Formula for the Wagar Knockout will be based on the formula listed below plus the Masterpoint Log.

Seeding for the Wagar Knockout will be based, for each player, on the greater of the two seeding point totals (capped at 50) calculated by the following two methods:

Method 1: The current method (current appendix BW) (based on performance in previous events and masterpoint holding, as amended by 111-36).

Method 2: WBF open Masterpoint total divided by 100 **plus** WBF open placing point total multiplied by 1.75 **plus** women's WBF Masterpoint total divided by 100 **plus** WBF women's placing point total multiplied by 1.75. (Note this includes open WBF performance and Women's WBF performance)

**Subjective Seeding:** Subjective Seeding is not recommended for this event because the players actually playing in the event do not favor its use.

**Shuffling:** With 32 or fewer teams entered, teams 5-6, 7-8 will be shuffled instead of 5-8.

Effective immediately.

Carried. (Section I & III)      Nay: 4      Abstain: 14

Section II is Deferred to the 2012 Fall meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Deferral carried. Abstain: 14

**Item 122-30: NAP/GNT Residency Guidelines and  
the NAP/GNT Conditions of Contest**

Item 082-36 NAP/GNT Residency Guidelines, and the NAP/GNT Conditions of Contest are amended as follows:

The expectation is that exceptions to this rule will be rare, especially in the top flight of each event. A player seeking an exception must obtain permission in writing from the ACBL District Director representing the district in which the member has a principal residence and from the ACBL District Director representing the district in which the member wishes to play. Both District Directors must approve the request for the exception to be granted. Further, any exceptions in the top flight must also be approved by a BoD Credentials Committee. The expectation is that District Director will approve and forward requests to the Credentials Committee only in very special cases (see below). There is no appeal from the Credentials Committee decision.

The Credentials Committee (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 (if the event is the GNT). 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 section 2.2.3 (d) of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulation.

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

Effective immediately, for inclusion in the 2012-2013 GNT conditions of contest

Carried. Abstain: 14 Absent: 8.

**MASTERPOINTS**

Subeck (C)

Arlinghaus, DeMartino, Heller, Janicki,

Monzingo, Robinson, Vilhauer

Staff: Weinstein

Committee Report by Chairman

**Item 122-81: Strength of Field Formula**

A Strength of Field (SOF) formula shall be implemented for Regional and Sectional Pair and Swiss Team games. Implementation of the SOF formula will be subject to full board approval of detailed specifications to be delivered to the Board on or before November 1, 2011 meetings.

The Strength of Field committee will continue the development of a SOF award system. This system is to be implemented as early as January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, subject to necessary changes being made to the current or new ACBLscore program.

The Strength of Field committee is directed to deliver a full set of specifications no later than November 1, 2011.

The first year after implementation, the Masterpoint committee may make adjustments to the formula if and when it becomes clear that the new formula is having an unintended effect. Such adjustments are approved by this motion and do not require additional Board action.

Motion failed:           Aye: 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25.   Abstain: 14

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE</b></p> |
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|                   |
|-------------------|
| <p>Mamula (C)</p> |
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|                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Levy (VC), Harlan, Hennings, Pinsky, Subeck</p> |
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| <p>Committee Report by Chairman</p> |
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An oral report was given.

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**Closing Remarks**

It was moved by Retek and carried unanimously that the Board expresses its thanks to District 4 and its units, District Director Craig Robinson and Tournament Co-Chairs Jo Ann Glasson and John Marks and all of the other chairpersons and numerous volunteers. We also wish to thank the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel for its fine cooperation.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. No actions were reported.

The Board adjourned *sine die* at Noon.