

MINUTES

ACBL National Laws Commission
2012 Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California
Saturday, November 24, 2012 – 10 AM-12:00 PM

Members Present:

Chip Martel, Chairman
Allan Falk
Ron Gerard
Robb Gordon
Alvin Levy
Jeffrey Polisner
Eric Rodwell
Rebecca Rogers
Matt Smith
Howard Weinstein

Also Present:

Sharon Anderson, ACBL President
Mike Flader, Tournament Director
Eugene Kales
Matt Koltnow, Tournament Director
Donald Mamula ACBL President-Elect
Sam Whitten, ACBL Manager, Bridge Administration

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. The minutes from the Memphis meeting were discussed. The Laws Commission approved the Memphis minutes unanimously.
2. The Laws Commission discussed Law 40B3 – “A partnership, by prior agreement, may not vary its understanding during the auction or play following a question asked, a response to a question, or an irregularity.” The Commission agreed that there should be further discussion to clarify the law. Additional situations were discussed but no conclusions were reached. The Commission decided to continue the discussion between meetings and present their conclusions at the next meeting.
3. The Laws Commission discussed, “What partnership agreements are required for players in ACBL sanctioned events?” Rebecca Rogers pointed out that the ACBL

Convention Card is the default requirement. Players are expected to have agreements about the basic items listed on the convention card. The Commission discussed what is expected of last-minute or fill-in partnerships. The Commission also considered whether common practice among players of their level constituted an agreement even if it was not explicitly discussed.

4. The Laws Commission discussed the upcoming revision of the Laws by the WBF Drafting Committee. Chip Martel stated that he would check with the Laws Commission Drafting Committee to find out the progress on preparing input on the Laws to the WBF Drafting Committee.

5. The Laws Commission discussed Law 12c1(c). The ACBL has elected to use Law 12c1e instead of Law 12c1c when awarding adjusted scores. Matt Smith explained that he was in favor of using 12c1c when awarding an adjusted score to a contract with an uncertain outcome. The Commission discussed an example of when the outcome of a slam depends upon the choice of opening lead. Some Commission members felt that 12c1c could be used in this situation to award an adjusted score based on both opening lead possibilities. Eric Rodwell pointed out that the use of 12c1c complicates the task for an appeals committee. Chip Martel believed that it could result in more appeals. There was some support among the Commission members for utilizing 12c1c in misinformation cases but not in unauthorized information situations. An informal straw poll was taken and two members were opposed to the use of 12c1c but other members were not ready to vote on the issue. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

6. Al Levy gave a report on the development of the Laws of Contract Bridge (Rubber Bridge). Al reported that he was in the process of reviewing the old Laws and adding any changes that have been made since the last revision. He plans on reaching out to various groups to get input about possible new changes to the Laws.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Whitten