

MINUTES

ACBL National Laws Commission
2013 Spring Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri
Saturday, March 16, 2013 – 10 AM-12:00 PM

Members Present:

Chip Martel, Chairman
Adam Wildavsky, Vice Chairman
Peter Boyd
Chris Compton
Ron Gerard
Robb Gordon
Allan Falk
Matt Koltnow
Al Levy
Eric Rodwell
Rebecca Rogers
Aaron Silverstein
Matt Smith
Howard Weinstein

Also Present:

Eugene Kales, ACBL Board of Governors
Sam Whitten, ACBL Manager of Bridge Administration

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

1. The minutes from the San Francisco meeting were discussed and corrected. The minutes from the San Francisco meeting were then approved as amended.

2. The Commission discussed Law 40B3 and the commentary to this Law. The Commission unanimously approved the following interpretation:

A partnership, by prior agreement, may not vary its understanding during the auction or play predicated on any of the following:

- (i) Whether a question is asked (or not asked) by it or the opposing partnership.
- (ii) A response by its side to an opposing player's question, or
- (iii) An irregularity.

3. Allan Falk gave a report from the subcommittee working on revisions for the next version of the Laws. He reported that Gary Blaiss has retired as leader of the subcommittee and Allan has taken over. Other members of the subcommittee are Chris Compton, Robb Gordon, and Adam Wildavsky. The subcommittee is currently working on Laws 41-52. Allan anticipates that the subcommittee will soon be looking at Laws 53+. Contributions regarding these laws are being solicited.

4. Al Levy gave a report about his work on drafting a new version of the Laws of Contract Bridge. He reported that he has been discussing the new version with the Portland Club. He also reported that he has finished reviewing the old Laws. Future work will involve drafting revisions to Laws that are out-of-date.

5. The Commission discussed Law 56, Defender's Lead out of Turn. The current law only contains a reference to Law 54D. The Commission discussed whether the Law should be modified to more fully describe declarer's rights in this situation. The Commission agreed to recommend to the subcommittee working on the revision of the laws to expand this law.

6. The Commission discussed Law 12c1(c). Currently this section is not used in ACBL events. The Commission considered several examples of situations where this section could be used. The Commission noted several potential problems with the use of this section including problems relating to increased appeals and reduced incentives to follow the Laws. The Commission requested additional real-life examples [from whom?] to further consider this issue at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Whitten