

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2014 Summer Meeting in Las Vegas, NV
Monday, July 21st, 2014 – 10:00 A.M

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Doug Doub
Jeff Ford
Ellen Kent
Jeff Goldsmith
Linda Trent
Bob Hamman
Jade Barrett
Jeff Meckstroth
Chris Compton
Will Ehlers

Also Present:

Ken Monzingo, District Director
Suzi Subeck, District Director
Dan Morse, District Director
Craig Robinson, District Director
Sam Whitten, ACBL National Recorder
Christina van Leeuwen, ACBL Assistant National Recorder
Sol Weinstein, ACBL National Tournament Director
Gene Kales
Tadashi Yoshida, BoD Member of the Japan Contract Bridge League
Michael Huston

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

1. Accepted the minutes from the Dallas meeting with a revision to Item #3 (“Adding 2D showing a single unknown suit as a defense over NT to GCC...”).
2. Craig Robinson gave the Board of Directors Report to the Committee.
3. The Committee discussed the 2015 Trial NABC Schedule and discussed possibilities for the Fall NABC Schedule.
4. Possibility of moving pre-registration to 10:00 AM instead of 8 PM the night before was discussed. It was acknowledged that current seeding practices would

need to be modified to accommodate this change and this was added to the agenda for the Providence meeting.

5. The Committee discussed of drop-ins in NABC Events, specifically from the GNT into the second day of the LM Pairs and what mechanism should be used. Exploring this topic further was added to the duties of the NABC Schedule Sub-Committee and they were asked to give an update of their progress at the Providence meeting.
6. Sol Weinstein discussed an ongoing examination of the Alert Chart, Alert Pamphlet, Alert Procedures and Alert Definitions documents with the goal simplifying and removing inconsistencies.
7. The Committee discussed the alertability of negative inferences (for example, a bid of 4S by a pair that is playing Namyats). The Committee was strongly in favor of removing alerts for negative inferences.
8. The Committee discussed alerts for cue-bids when the meaning of the cue-bid is "unusual in terms of strength or distribution". There was a discussion of removing the "Strong T/O" check-boxes under "Direct Cuebid" on the Convention Card and changing this to "Other" with space to clarify these alertable cue-bids.
9. A joint sub-committee with the Laws Commission was formed to examine the current screen regulations and make recommendations for updating them.
10. Cell phones in National Events were discussed and the Committee will work with the BoG Committee on this subject.
11. The Committee does not feel that "1-2-3 Stop" should require an alert, but opinions on the subject were mixed.
12. The Committee agreed with a minor change in wording to the GCC:

"7. OPENING TWO HEART OR TWO SPADE BID showing a weak two bid, with a four-card minor" be changed to "with at least a four-card minor".

13. The Committee discussed aggressive preempts and whether or not they required an alert instead of a pre-alert. A definition of an aggressive preempt was developed as follows:
 - Two cards away from expected length (i.e. a 5-card suit at the 3-level)
 - Often worse than Qxxxx
 - Often a 5-card suit

The Committee was unanimous in opposing this as a pre-alert. The Committee does support the idea of having categories of pre-alerts with announcements and this discussion was added to the Providence agenda.

14. Michael Huston was present to discuss the current appeals process. The Committee discussed at length the pros and cons of player committees vs. director panels.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina van Leeuwen