

Board of Governors Motion Issue Sheet

- Subject Matter of Motion (insert a short phrase)

Opportunities for ACBL members, outside ACBL territories, to win gold, red, silver and black points.

- Statement of Issue (one or two sentences)

ACBL members who live outside US, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda, have almost no chance to win pigmented (not on-line) points. While membership fees are accepted from these people, their ability to participate fully in the ACBL masterpoint program, including to progress to and above the rank of Life Master, is almost non-existent.

- The motion itself:

ACBL Management will create plans and schedules, to be approved by ACBL BOD, for three online bridge tournaments 5-7 days in length, which will not run concurrently, and

- a) Will be limited to players whose residence is outside ACBL geographies
- b) Are only open to ACBL members in good standing, i.e., current with their dues
- c) Will provide for the opportunity to win gold/red (one tournament) silver (one tournament) and black points (one tournament)

- Material impacts (what the change causes and who it affects)

Operation of these tournaments would obviously require ACBL infrastructure for registration, payment of fees by credit card, partnerships, and game management. At ACBL discretion, an existing on-line bridge service could be used for some/all of these services. The schedule of events, game times and all other specifics would be determined by ACBL Management with the goal of maximizing participation by ACBL members in foreign geographies.

An ACBL director would be required to provide on-line directing services for these games.

- Reasons why the Board of Governors should adopt the motion (Please attach a succinct summary on a separate sheet of paper)

This issue was raised, in a different form, at the Memphis NABC meeting and considered and rejected by the BOD in Las Vegas. However, the BOD objections were reported to be more procedural than opposing the concept.

The bottom line is very simple: there are a small but significant number of ACBL members in good standing, who pay dues, but do not have effective opportunities to play in tournaments and win pigmented points. Without pigmented points, these members cannot advance in ACBL ranks to life master and beyond. As a membership organization, the ACBL has a responsibility to all its members, including those who live outside ACBL geographies, to make a reasonable

effort to provide these members with the same rank advancement opportunities as members who live in ACBL geographies.

Thanks to the availability of on-line technologies and the expansion of on-line bridge play, these players can now be provided these opportunities with minimal cost and impact. They have a right to expect these services as a function of their dues payment.

- Risk if the motion is not approved

These members will continue to be unserved by ACBL despite being members in good standing. The cost of extending this opportunity to these members should be negligible.

- Existing ACBL Policies and Conditions

None known.