

Here my summary from this week's 4 hour online special ACBL board meeting.

You already know about the tournament cancellations. We viewed this as a management decision to make, although the board was asked in advance. Most of us were enthusiastic supporters, and no one was against the safety issue. There is some question as to district and unit liability on cancellations of hotel and convention space contracts in some cases, especially where hotels are hard to procure, and where cancellation policies are draconian. While we don't view this as ACBL needing to accept this as their loss, we are trying to evaluate how much of this there is. I think very little if any in our district; Larry is checking this now. Based on that some kind of action will happen, and I hope this will be in the form of helping districts needing help to help themselves. For this reason, some voted against it and around 80% were in favor, overall. I voted for it. Included in this was cancelling the Fall Nationals in Tampa. We don't know yet how much Tampa will cost us, but management is confident it could be minimal; prior to this decision they had had a lot of discussions with the entities involved, so we had some idea.

We approved a new "guest member" policy the aim of which is to market to the 7000 or so non-ACBL members that are playing acbl games on bbo. This will enable marketing to work on sign ups without requiring a programming effort to support it.

A motion on approving the site location and financial plan for the Memphis Spring 2025 Nationals was deferred for a month, and management has been asked to see if we can get them to wait a year or more before we to commit, due to the uncertain situation right now. I voted for the deferral.

A motion on "conditions of contest for online play" was discussed, but deferred to next months meeting because there were some unresolved issues. Topics under discussion include cheating, tempo, claims and concessions, unfinished hands, undos, table chat, convention cards and players real names, and irregularities. On the subject of requiring use of real names in the bbo player profile, the board sentiment was strongly in favor, but not yet codified, and I believe this will be required soon, possibly with some special exceptions.

There were 2 motions on masterpoint awards for online tournament games. The masterpoint committee unanimously wants to reduce the masterpoint award by 20% for any online tournament (non-club) game primarily because the competition is not as good. The masterpoint committee also wanted to reduce the award by another 20% in tournament games that have fewer than 24 boards. Both of these were deferred to the mid July meeting, by votes of roughly 75%. The reasoning for the deferral was primarily that while this might be technically correct (consistent with past practice - "old school") the timing was poor - would be a negative and a comprehensive online strategy is being developed but not yet ready, and this should be a part of that. I voted for deferral of both for those reasons.

Based on a tentative plan for the rest of the year, using regional rated events as a primary fund raiser, it looks like the ACBL will be in the black this year. Yay! Petty amazing when you consider how much the business model was turned upside down!

Management put forward a monthly special event plan through December, got some feedback, and will be updating.

The ACBL board will be meeting July 13 to 17 online 2 sessions, 2 hours per session.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do for you!

Ned Irving
District 10 Director, ACBL Board

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