

Mid-South Bridge Conference
Board of Delegates Zoom Meeting
August 26, 2025

The Mid-South Conference Board of Delegates met on August 26, 2025 in a virtual Zoom meeting hosted by Vicki Willis, District 10 President.

District 10 Units were represented by the following Voting Delegates:

Unit 134 Louisiana: Sherrie Goodman
Unit 138 Mississippi: Jerry Burford
Unit 144 Tennessee: Randi Belisomo**
Unit 157 Alabama: Thomas Guffin**
Unit 161 Arkansas: Elizabeth Farris
Unit 170 Shreveport: Paula Johns
Unit 179 Central TN: Beth Derrick
Unit 180 MS Gulf Coast: Gary Meece**
Unit 182 Baton Rouge: Vicki Kellum**
Unit 211 N.E. Louisiana: Lou McWhorter
Unit 214 Hattiesburg: Sherry Kinkopf**
Unit 215 S. Alabama: Sue Wood**
Unit 221 S.W. Louisiana: Karen Jennings
Unit 232 N. Alabama: Phil Bridges
**Unable to attend

District 10 and Unit Officials in Attendance:

President: Vicki Willis
Vice President: Karen Jennings
Treasurer: Pat Williams
Secretary: Suzanne Torrence
Tournament Coordinator: Charles MacCracken/Larry Hurias
Tournament Oversight: Susan Bridges**
STAC/NAP Coordinator: Sherrie Goodman
Webmaster: Jim Daugherty**
Education/Recorder: Karen Jennings
Assistant Recorder: Melinda Voorhies**
ACBL BOD Region 7: Larry Sealy
Past District 10 President: Charles Durrin

**Unable to Attend

President's Welcome - Vicki Willis

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Willis, President of District 10 at 6:30pm CST. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and state the Unit and/or office that they hold.

Approval of the Minutes - Vicki Willis

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the last District 10 Board meeting. The minutes from April 10, 2025 were approved and Suzanne will forward the minutes to Jim Daugherty to be uploaded on the District 10 website

Treasurer's Report - Pat Williams (Attachment #1 and 2)

Pat Williams presented the treasurer's report. The district is in a strong cash position with a total of \$130,000 in the two accounts (compared to \$106,500 12 months ago) with some money that needs to be distributed out. One significant event in 2025 is that we provided \$10,000 to the Memphis organizing committee for the Spring NABC and they didn't use any of the money so it was returned to the District. There is a STAC scheduled in July which is the largest STAC of the year as it is in tandem with District 7 participation. The money from STACs has increased because of the ACBL process change in collection of monies from STACs. With ACBL collecting the money, it is yielding more money vs when the District collected the funds and under the prior process not all monies were collected. In the income statement, we are showing excess revenues over expenses of \$28,000 YTD compared to \$8,000 2024YE however there are pending disbursements totaling approximately \$10,000 (majority coming from regional revenue sharing).

Charles asked when the regional revenue sharing will be completed. Pat indicated that a component of the 2 step calculation is attendance entries purchased by each unit that participated in person at the tournament and that information has not been readily available Post-Covid so Pat is enlisting ACBL headquarters to provide this information and should have that completed in the next few weeks. Larry S indicated that with a tournament ID, one can generate a heat map of all of the attendees but that won't give the total entries, just the number of people. Larry S suggested Jay Whipple as a resource to secure the missing information or reach out to the ACBL help desk or Marchin. The reason for this information is that half of the money shared is from the unit population for that month and the other half is attendance by unit measured by the number of paid tournament entries. Charlie used to provide the information and Pat does have it for some of the prior tournaments but not all. Phil B asked who received the money and Pat confirmed that those funds go to the units. A quarter of the regional profits goes to the units and of that quarter of the profits, half of that is calculated based on the unit population and the other half is from the purchased entries by unit. This allocation only goes to the units that did not host a regional that year. This only applies to the open regionals and not the NLM regionals. The District does not profit share with the NLM regionals.

Larry S didn't see a line item for Grassroots. Pat confirmed that he had not received the check yet. Larry was asking about the amount for 2024, and Pat indicated it was approximately \$10,800 (and Charles confirmed that the District received \$11,000 in 2023) Larry said we should receive a check for this year for approximately \$10,000 and he said that a lot of the Districts were getting checks for less than \$2,000. Pat wondered if other Districts had fewer grass roots games online. Sherrie confirmed that online grass roots games were offered for one week in May. Larry also clarified that if one of the GNT teams that receives free entries advances beyond the first 2 days, then ACBL charges the District for those entry fees and takes it from the Grass Roots funds. In the past, Flight A had to pay their own fees after Day 1.

Tournament Coordinator Report - Charlie McCracken (Attachment #3)

For 2026, the Birmingham Regional was approved but is less than 3 weeks before the Huntsville Regional. Both Regionals are 4 and 3 days respectively. Pat suggested that Birmingham and Huntsville meet to discuss the potential for competing for the same players for the tournaments. Historically, Birmingham held their tournament at their club and may have flexibility to change the date so they aren't directly competing with Huntsville. There wasn't anyone on the call from Birmingham but Charlie will reach out and make the suggestion. Karen J asked if it was feasible for a unit to ask for a 2026 NLM Regional. Charlie confirmed that they could as the District only has 4 NLM Regionals scheduled but are allotted 5 NLM Regional. Sherrie asked about I/N sectionals and asked if there were diminished requests. Charlie will research the information and report out at a later date. Charlie confirmed that there are 7 NLM sectionals scheduled in 2026.

Sherrie asked Larry S about having a regional rating event for grass roots for \$1 more and asked if that was for gold points. Larry clarified that a grass roots event can be scheduled one day at a sectional charging \$1 more per entry and it awards additional silver points (it is regionally rated but it does award silver points). Charlie will research this as it's been a while since one has been scheduled.

Tournament Oversight Committee Report - Susan Bridges (Attachment #4)

Susan wasn't able to attend but submitted the committee report. Attendees reviewed the report and there were no questions.

Susan Bridges resigned as Tournament Oversight Committee Chair but Vicki will reach out to Priscilla Carelton (she is currently on the committee) to offer her the Chair. Larry S offered Terry Van Dyke's name as another possible candidate.

STAC/NAP Report - Sherri Goodman (Attachment #5)

Sherrie has scheduled GNT qualifiers on February 28 for Flight A and March 21, April 4th, May 8th, May 22nd. Larry mentioned NABC in St. Louis is in February and ACBL won't sanction GNT qualifiers at the same time so may not be able to hold a qualifier in February. A point was raised about having qualifiers earlier because the later they are held, the more difficult it is on qualifying teams to make plans and book hotel rooms that may already be booked.

2026 STACs have been established but dates have not been approved yet. There are 2 remaining STACS in 2025 including one in September and one in December.

Education Report - Karen Jennings (Attachment #6)

Karen received a reimbursement request from Huntsville as they hosted a tournament for the JumpStart bridge students. They found that the governing documents don't address these expenses so the Executive Committee met and agreed to assist with some of the expenses. The Executive Committee agreed that if another JumpStart bridge event is hosted, the committee asks that the group contact the Executive Committee at the initial planning stage so the committee can utilize their historical knowledge to offer suggestions on expense management.

There is a pending club request for financial assistance but additional questions were raised and once addressed, the club will re-submit the request. Sherrie asked if a unit is hosting a regional, could they include a section for JumpStart Bridge. It was clarified that many JumpStart students are playing mini bridge or bridge war. There is no bidding involved, the declarer is the person that has the most points and students usually only play 8-9 boards. Phil B summarized the event involving 98 student players from different schools that were hosted by Huntsville volunteers. Susan Bridges gave a presentation at the ABTA meeting and Huntsville is the only club (besides a club in Montana) that has hosted such an event. Another JumpStart bridge event is scheduled for 2026.

Recorder Report - Karen Jennings (Attachment #7)

We received 7 notice of decisions from District 10 since the last BOD meeting. One of those players received a revised decision. In the attachment, Karen has listed how to find the list on ACBL's website.

ACBL BOD Meeting Update - Larry Sealy (Attachment #8)

Larry covered the Philadelphia Board Meeting and the status of EDGAR. ACBL net assets are up \$355k vs a projected loss this year. Market value of investments is up even though the majority are in fixed income accounts. This yielded a gain of \$687k vs expected loss of \$346k. This may change in the months moving forward because IT spending was well below budgeted spend but should be caught up by the end of the year.

Membership is down by 8,000 over PY (6% decrease) with these decreases happening since the start of the pandemic. ACBL did add over 4000 new members this year but we lost more members than we added. Guest members more than doubled from 2024 but guest members do not count toward membership numbers.

ACBL will be adding a new master point category called titanium points which will be available for points won in North American bridge championships that were not grand life master eligible (not the ones called NABC+) measuring players performance in games higher than regionals but lower than the platinum point events. For ranking purposes, they will count as gold points. The unit president's handbook is being updated and should be online by 2025YE.

Task Force established for rewarding members through rank advancement to recognize players for milestones (change in rank, for newer players, making their first slam, etc.) with the intent to increase player engagement and participation. This task force has created the sapphire program where players can earn badges for progress and activities and sapphire points that can be used in the future at the sapphire point store. They are also revising guest memberships to make them free and not expiring, still limited to earning up to 20 master points unless they converted to full ACBL membership.

The Tournament task force wanted to eliminate the online portion of face to face regionals. The online portion historically lost money and they are no longer sanctioning them but if a tournament was already approved for the online portion, they will continue for that tournament. The task force is updating internal regional planning documents and our area manager, Scott Humphrey, will serve as the subject matter expert. Regional staffing needs will include having backups on call. They want to encourage pre-registration. They are exploring expanding Entry Express from NABCs to Regionals.

Revisions to the Disciplinary Regulations have been completed. Board approved clubs discretion to allow suspended players to play in club games. Suspended players must notify club managers in writing to advise of their status and ask to play in club games without earning master points. The club manager can approve or disapprove the request. Discipline will vary based on the number of master points the player has. Ethics pledge will no longer require an admission of guilt. Members under the Discipline list has been updated and can be sorted by several categories and updated daily.

There is an NABC Experiment starting in Fall 2028 (excluding Summer NABCs) with the NABC focusing on National events. They will utilize the same flights that are used for NAP and GNT. It will require pre-registration. It will open up new venues and cities as it will decrease the size (moving from 100k sq. ft. to 50k sq. ft. playing area). Phil B asked about other events and whether bracketed Swiss would also be eliminated. Larry S confirmed that there would be no regional events at the Fall and Spring NABCs beginning in 2028. Phil voiced that with the elimination of Regional events, there may be a larger drop in attendance. The proposed NABC structure is similar to how it is run in Europe. ACBL will re-evaluate the tournament outcomes after 2 or so of the NABCs are completed under the new structure. Patrick offered the perspective that if they eliminate Regional events at NABCs, it may have a positive impact on Regional attendance.

There have not been any new runs in EDGAR since June. ACBL was still processing the huge run from November '24 and updating and finalizing the CDR (Code of Disciplinary Regulations). Since November '24, there have been 35 ad-hoc runs completed (for folks considered for national committees). There is a 10,000 player run that will be submitted by the end of September. The overall rate of reds is 3% driven by the inclusion of all player memos from 2020-present in the Nov '24 run. Sherrie said that her club players mentioned that they submit a player memo but they never hear back and Sherrie's question is: should they? Larry confirmed that they will get acknowledgement of the report and then the recorder will begin the investigation. Online bridge platforms will now be required to have full names of players which will make identification of disciplined players easier.

New Business/Discussion:

Use of District Funds - Phil B asked if there were any spending plans for the district funds (e.g. marketing, advertising, attracting new players). Pat provided a historic perspective. Twenty years ago, the District didn't have a surplus of funds. The current surplus has been accumulated in the Post-Covid period. Our hospitality obligations when there is an NABC, hosted by our District, have been reduced because ACBL has taken on the responsibility of hospitality expenses. Historically, we had utilized the STAC monies to fund the hospitality expenses. We continue to get money from STACS but don't have the money earmarked for hospitality expenses. Last year, we also received \$12,000 from 2023 online fundraising with the intent of funding hospitality expenses. The District gave Memphis \$10,000 for hospitality but they returned the money. Moving forward, the Districts won't receive the online fundraising monies. They will be held by ACBL as ACBL is funding the hospitality expenses for the NABCs. Larry S had a suggestion for District Funds. Currently, ACBL provides an NAP stipend: 1st place, \$750, 2nd place, \$300, 3rd place, \$0. District can supplement the NAP stipends. He also suggested funding more of the JumpStart Bridge projects. Patrick would like to see funds go toward ideas to expand bridge since this is one of our mission statements. A concern was raised about the difference between private and public bridge clubs and suggested that the focus be on distribution at the unit level vs club level. Vicki suggested that everyone come back with ideas for the next board meeting. A task force was suggested. Paula J mentioned that she received an educational grant easily and asked if this is another way to fund teachers as opposed to going through the grant process. Pat confirmed that the District has an existing educational reimbursement fund which is similar to ACBL's fund. ACBL has a program, the District has a program and some units may have a program. Additional education may be needed to advise Club Managers of available funds for education programs. Karen can revive a document that illustrates the Education funds available and process for reimbursement. In the past, this document was included in the minutes.

District Newsletter: Pat asked if we had a change in our newsletter editor. Sherri Kinkopf is the newsletter editor but wasn't on the call. Vicki will reach out to Sherri to obtain an update

Old Business:

Frequency of Board Meetings: The bylaws will need revisions if the frequency of the meetings is changed. Pat didn't think the wording should not limit or require an exact number of meetings. He suggested that there be a minimum number but there should be the flexibility to meet whenever the need arises. Suggested wording will be presented at the next board meeting.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday January 27, 2025 at 6:30PM CT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM CT

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Torrence

Appendix

Attachment #1 and #2 – Treasurer’s Report

11:45 PM

08/25/25

Accrual Basis

Mid South Bridge Conference - District 10 Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of July 31, 2025

	<u>Jul 31, 25</u>	<u>Jul 31, 24</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
General Checking	-1,933.48	-12,982.56	11,049.08	85.1%
Regions Checking	8,855.43	21,562.01	-12,706.58	-58.9%
Regions Money Market	126,478.10	97,903.56	28,574.54	29.2%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>133,400.05</u>	<u>106,483.01</u>	<u>26,917.04</u>	<u>25.3%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>133,400.05</u>	<u>106,483.01</u>	<u>26,917.04</u>	<u>25.3%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>133,400.05</u>	<u>106,483.01</u>	<u>26,917.04</u>	<u>25.3%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
Retained Earnings	105,183.05	98,117.67	7,065.38	7.2%
Net Income	28,217.00	8,365.34	19,851.66	237.3%
Total Equity	<u>133,400.05</u>	<u>106,483.01</u>	<u>26,917.04</u>	<u>25.3%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>133,400.05</u>	<u>106,483.01</u>	<u>26,917.04</u>	<u>25.3%</u>

11:44 PM

Mid South Bridge Conference - District 10
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
 January through July 2025

08/25/25

Accrual Basis

	Jan - Jul 25	Jan - Jul 24	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
GNT/NAOP	4,184.00	2,704.00	1,480.00	54.7%
Interest Income	0.00	5.99	-5.99	-100.0%
NABC Funds	1,072.00	12,024.00	-10,952.00	-91.1%
Regionals				
Birmingham	5,651.00	0.00	5,651.00	100.0%
Hot Springs	0.00	1,475.87	-1,475.87	-100.0%
Huntsville	2,089.00	0.00	2,089.00	100.0%
Nashville	6,516.00	0.00	6,516.00	100.0%
New Orleans	2,308.00	0.00	2,308.00	100.0%
Shreveport	4,474.00	0.00	4,474.00	100.0%
Regionals - Other	30.00	40.00	-10.00	-25.0%
Total Regionals	21,068.00	1,515.87	19,552.13	1,289.8%
STaCs/Nationals	24,260.25	11,123.45	13,136.80	118.1%
Total Income	50,584.25	27,373.31	23,210.94	84.8%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Education	959.48	485.78	473.70	97.5%
GNT/NAOP Expense	11,333.25	10,605.80	727.45	6.9%
Hospitality Fund (Nationals)	-10,000.00	0.00	-10,000.00	-100.0%
STaC Expense	16,543.80	4,853.07	11,690.73	240.9%
Web Site	1,192.04	826.25	365.79	44.3%
Total COGS	20,028.57	16,770.90	3,257.67	19.4%
Gross Profit	30,555.68	10,602.41	19,953.27	188.2%
Expense				
Miscellaneous	88.68	160.50	-71.82	-44.8%
Postage	0.00	9.90	-9.90	-100.0%
Professional Fees				
GNT/NAOP	300.00	450.00	-150.00	-33.3%
Secretary	750.00	416.67	333.33	80.0%
Tournament	450.00	450.00	0.00	0.0%
Treasurer	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Professional Fees	2,250.00	2,066.67	183.33	8.9%
Total Expense	2,338.68	2,237.07	101.61	4.5%
Net Ordinary Income	28,217.00	8,365.34	19,851.66	237.3%
Net Income	28,217.00	8,365.34	19,851.66	237.3%

Attachment #3 - District 10 Tournament Coordinator Report

	Open Reg	NLM Reg	Sec'ls	IN Sect	STaC	Prepared 8/17/2025
2025						
	Huntsville April	Jackson Jan	34	9	Feb	
	Metairie April	Gulfport April			June	
	Nashville Oct	Lake Charle July			Decembe r	
		Batton Rouge Aug				
	+++++	+++++	+++++	++++	++++	
2026						
	Birmham March	Jackson Jan	22	7	2/2 - 8/26	
	Hunttsville April	Gulfport April			6/8 - 14/26	Royal
	Nashville	Little Rock July			9/7 - 13/26	
		Baon Rouge Aug				
	+++++	+++++	+++	++++.	++++	
2027						
	Hunsville April		1			
	Meairie April					
	Nashville Oct					
	+++++	+++++	+++	+++	+++	
2028						
	Nashville Oct					
2027	Pending Applications					
		G'port 4/8- * 11/27	G'port 6/11-13			* cannot OK until 1/1/2026
			G'port 9/10-12			
	Please check these before		Metairie 1/13- 16			
	you ask about submitted		Metairie 7/7- 10			
	applications, but not yet		Nashville 3/2-6			
	sanctioned.		Nashville 6/22- 26			
			B'ham 2/18-20	B'ham 4/30		
			B'ham 6/10-12	B-ham 8/13		
			B'ham 11/18-			

			20			
202	Pending					
8	Applications					
			G'port 1/14-16			
			Nashville			
			3/28-30			
			Nashville			
			6/20-24			

Attachment #4 - District 10 Tournament Oversight Committee Report

D10 Tournament Oversight Committee (TOC) Members: Susan Bridges (Chair), Priscilla Carleton, Vicki Willis, Mickey Groggel, Terry VanDyke, Charlie McCracken (ACBL Advisor)

Summary of 2023 D10 Open Regionals

Location	Date	Tables	D10 Profit Share
Nashville	October 2-8, 2023	771	\$6516
Hot Springs Village	December 4-9, 2023	417	\$2476
Total			\$8992

Summary of 2024 D10 Open Regionals

Location	Date	Tables	D10 Profit Share
Shreveport	June 26-28, 2024	314	\$4,474
Nashville	September 22-28, 2024	643.5	\$2,100
Birmingham	November 12-17, 2024	374.5	\$5,651
Total			\$12,225

Summary of 2025 D10 Open Regionals for 2025

Location	Date	Tables	D10 Profit Share
Huntsville	April 3-5, 2025	216	\$2089
Metairie	April 14-19, 2025	480	\$2308*
Nashville	October 13-19 2025		
Total			\$4397

*Metairie has several unusual expenses and there were extensive revisions in the final Balance Sheet. These issues pointed out the need for clarification in our guidelines.

D10 Open Regionals Scheduled for 2026 - 2028

Location	Dates
Birmingham	March 10-14, 2026
Huntsville	April 9-11, 2026
Nashville	October 5-11, 2026
Huntsville	April 1-3, 2027
Metairie	April 12- 17, 2027
Nashville	October 4-10, 2027
Nashville	October 2028

D10 NLM Regionals for 2025 - 2026

Location	Dates	Tables
Jackson (Flowood)	January 23-26, 2025	87
Gulfport	April 4-6, 2025	67.0
Lake Charles	July 17-19, 2025	39.0
Baton Rouge	August 21-24, 2025	
Jackson	January 2026	
Gulfport	April 2026	
Little Rock	July 2026	
Baton Rouge	August 2026	

Attachment #5 - District 10 STAC/NAP/GNT Report

No report submitted

Attachment #6 - Education Report

Education Fund Report

August 2025

A request was received from the Huntsville Club for financial assistance with a tournament held for Jump Start students. (May 2025)

The governing documents for financial assistance are on D10's website. The Executive Committee held a discussion concerning Huntsville's request. Decision was made to assist Huntsville with some of their expenses. Also decided this will not set a precedence and any further requests will be considered by the committee. Additionally, the Executive Committee wishes to be participate at initial planning stages for future tournaments held for Jump Start students. We feel we can offer suggestions to reduce expenses.

A request from a unit was received to assist with expenses for beginner students. I have requested more information and am awaiting a response.

Attachment #7 - District 10 Recorder Report

Recorder Report

August 2025

Since our last meeting, ACBL has issued seven notices for decisions all involving collusive cheating online for District 10. Notices were shared with Suzanne who released them to the unit secretaries. This month, one person received a revised decision.

ACBL's list of disciplined members can be found under Menu, then Helpful Links, then Ethics and Discipline.

#1:

April 15, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	Robin Patton	ACBL#	9098232	District	10	Unit	179
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A	ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-520

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
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Suspension	05/15/2025	08/14/2025
Probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Member Not in Good Standing	05/15/2025	08/14/2027
Prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Forfeiture of 10% of total Masterpoints		

#2

April 15, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	Laura Niewold	ACBL#	3236706	District	10	Unit	179
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A	ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-511

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
Suspension	05/15/2025	08/14/2025
Probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Member Not in Good Standing	05/15/2025	08/14/2027
Prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Forfeiture of 10% of total Masterpoints		

#3

May 12, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	Priscilla McKeehan		ACBL#	7347286	District	10	Unit	179
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A	ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-496	

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
Suspension	05/15/2025	08/14/2025
Probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Member Not in Good Standing	05/15/2025	08/14/2027
Prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Forfeiture of 10% of total Masterpoints		

#4

May 12, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	Blair Willoughby		ACBL#	1837192	District	10	Unit	179
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A	ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-599	

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
Suspension	05/15/2025	08/14/2025
Probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027
Member Not in Good Standing	05/15/2025	08/14/2027
Prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation	08/15/2025	08/14/2027

Forfeiture of 10% of total Masterpoints

#5:

May 15, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	Marcia Ballew	ACBL#	6089593	District	10	Unit	161
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A	ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-402

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
Suspension	05/15/2025	05/14/2027
Probation	05/15/2027	5/14/2031
Member Not in Good Standing	05/15/2025	5/14/2031
Prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation	05/15/2027	5/14/2031
Forfeiture of 20% of total Masterpoints		

#6

May 15, 2025

NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	Dwayne Ballew	ACBL#	6089585	District	10	Unit	161
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A	ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-401

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
Suspension	05/15/2025	05/14/2027
Probation	05/15/2027	5/14/2031
Member Not in Good Standing	05/15/2025	5/14/2031
Prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation	05/15/2027	5/14/2031
Forfeiture of 20% of total Masterpoints		

#7

August 07, 2025

REVISED NOTICE OF DECISION

Disciplined Party	William Demetriou	ACBL#	5516218	District	10	Unit	144
ACBL Case	2025-ACBL-428	Membership Status			Not in Good Standing		
Online Platform	BBO	IBA Case	N/A	Award Date	N/A		

CDR Violation	301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.
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Discipline Imposed	Start Date	End Date
Suspension	05/15/2025	11/14/2025
Probation (prohibited from playing online with complicit partner during probation)	11/15/2025	11/14/2027
Forfeiture of 10% of total Masterpoints		

Attachment #8 - ACBL Summer BOD Meeting Update Report



**ACBL BOD Update
District 10 Board Meeting
August 26, 2025**

Larry Sealy
Region7Director@ACBL.org



Agenda



- Philadelphia BOD Meeting
- EDGAR Status/Results



**Summer 2025 NABC
BOD Meeting**



Key Items from Summer NABC (1 of 4)



- **Finance - June 2025**
 - Change in net assets from operations: \$355K
 - Change in market value of investments: \$332
 - Change in net assets: \$687 (vs. budget of **-\$346**)
- **Balance Sheet is Strong**
 - Net Assets: \$11.9M (vs. \$9.9M in June 2024)
- **Membership down from 129,206 in July 2024 to 121,499 (as of July 2025): 6% decrease**
 - Added 4145 new members (vs. 4034 for same period 2024)
 - New Guest Members 4304 (vs. 1948)
 - *Continue to lose more members than we add, however*
- **New Masterpoint category: Titanium points**
 - For MPs won in NABC (not +) events. Would count as Gold points for ranking
- **Unit Presidents' Handbook being updated**
 - Will be online by end of 2025.



Key Items from Summer NABC (2 of 4)



- **Growing the game**
 - **Task Force for Rewarding Members through Rank Advancement recently created.**
 - Formally recognize player achievements at key milestones
 - Goal: increase player engagement and competitive bridge participation
 - Sapphire Program instituted: badges earned for progress and activities. Players will be able to combine Sapphires with cash to make purchases at an upcoming store.
 - **Guest Memberships**
 - Free and do not expire. Only need to give name, email, and zip code.
 - Integrated with Sapphire Program – clear pathway to transition to full membership
 - May earn up to 20 MPs before having to upgrade to full membership. Discounted rate for 1st year.
- **Improving tournaments**
 - Online events at F2F Regionals will no longer be approved. They were more trouble (and costly) than they were worth. Those already sanctioned will be allowed to proceed.
 - ACBL is updating internal Regional planning document. Area Managers will serve as SMEs.



Key Items from Summer NABC (3 of 4)



- **Improving tournaments (cont'd)**
 - Mgmt exploring “staff-lite” approach. Try to more accurately estimating staffing needs. Go low and have backups on-call.
 - Encouraging pre-registration. It would allow better planning and more accurate staffing. Looking to expand Entry Express for Regionals.
 - Evaluating future of Local Sectionals
- **Unit Presidents’ Handbook neing updated**
 - Will be online by end of 2025.
- **Revisions to Disciplinary Regulations**
 - **Club discretion for suspended players**
 - Club Managers are able to approve suspended players to play in selected club games (no STaC, NAP Qual, ...)
 - Players must have submitted Ethics Certification and Fair Play Pledge (EC/FPP), may not play with complicity partner, nor earn MPs.
 - Does not include those expelled or who resigned pending charges.



Key Items from Summer NABC (4 of 4)



- **Revisions to Disciplinary Regulations (cont'd)**
 - **Players whose cheating clearly ended before 2022, who entered into Fast Track Discipline (FTD) will get reductions.**
 - Those with fewer than 5000 MPs will get Official Warning (still counts as 1st strike).
 - Players with 5000 or more MPs, will get 60-day suspension (time served, if they have already been suspended for 60+ days)
 - Negotiated Resolutions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis
 - **EC/FPP will no longer require an admission of guilt (will be like a “No Contest”)**
 - **Official Warnings will no longer require EC/FPP**
 - **Management recently communicated these changes to all members**
 - **The Players under Discipline (PUD) list (formerly Members under Discipline) has be reworked and is now sortable by type of discipline, name, District, Unit. It is updated several times per day.**
- **Fall 2028 NABC Experiment**
 - Management has proposed an experiment to focus on NABC/NABC+ events. If successful, could be model for all Spring/Fall NABCs. Summer will not change.
 - More National events with flights same as GNT.
 - Will require pre-registration.
 - Will open up more potential cities/venues due to lesser space required.



Computer-Based Cheating Detection/Discipline Update



CBCD Summary (July 2025)



REQUEST					EXAMINATION			CHARGE					RESOLUTION						YELLOW		
Date Requested	Date Returned	Players Requested*	Reds from players Requested	% of Reds from Players Requested	Players Examined*	Reds from Players Examined	% of Reds from Total Players Examined	Reds Charged (excluding Stripes)	Red Stripes Charged	Y or G partners of a Red Stripe Charged	Reds Charged w Multiple Partners	EDP	FTD	IBA	NR	RTAD	Warning	Pending	Yellows from Players Examined	Yellows w Red Partner	Y/G Stripes
1/31/24	2/14/24	190	1	0.53%	834	2	0.24%	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2/1/24	2/14/24	168	0	0.00%	558	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
2/9/24	2/16/24	205	4	1.95%	488	4	0.82%	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
2/14/24	2/26/24	894	18	2.01%	3137	36	1.15%	25	0	0	7	0	4	3	12	4	2	0	28	0	6
2/22/24	3/9/24	981	20	2.04%	3171	56	1.77%	53	0	0	16	1	27	1	7	0	12	2	60	7	0
3/7/24	3/8/24	11	0	0.00%	32	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/8/24	5/2/24	1196	50	4.18%	4065	83	2.04%	73	1	1	4	3	42	2	7	0	14	7	36	3	12
5/21/24	5/21/24	8	8	100.00%	17	8	47.06%	8	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	0
6/13/24	6/20/24	1559	36	2.31%	4649	54	1.16%	51	1	0	5	1	27	2	5	3	10	4	48	4	0
7/26/24	8/7/24	2013	59	2.93%	6273	100	1.59%	86	3	2	7	2	43	2	11	4	19	10	55	9	6
9/16/24	10/10/24	6	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/7/24	1/7/25	4858	441	9.08%	14636	662	4.52%	590	0	0	58	1	427	3	3	13	126	15			
OTHER		35	2	5.71%	35	2	5.71%	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0			
TOTAL		12124	639	5.27%	37875	1007	2.66%	892	5	3	97	10	571	15	50	24	165	42	237	23	24

*The changes in some of the number of players requested and examined are due to early adjustments in reporting methods, exclusion of online handles without ACBL numbers, and the initial inclusion of employees and members who had no online play or handles.

Notes:

- Players Examined: Excludes partners of players with no ACBL # associated w the online handle. Includes Reds identified as Stripe.
- Reds Charged: The following reasons are why a player may not be charged: deceased, previously charged on prior examination, player RTAD prior to examination, or the matter is pending further investigation.
- EDP: The EDP on 2/9/24 resulted in expulsion of both players.
- Y or G partners of a Red Stripe Charged: Player listed are also included in "Yellows from Player Examined" and in "Y/G Stripes".

Legend

- EDP: Expedited Disciplinary Panel
- FTD: Fast-Track Discipline
- IBA: Institute for Bridge Arbitration
- NR: Negotiated Resolution
- RTAD: Resigned to Avoid Discipline



CBCD Update - as of Jul 23, 2025 -



- Latest runs were 11/7/24 (4856 players) and 35 ad hoc runs (committees, AC members, ...)
- Much time (since MEM) has been spent on finishing Nov 7 processing, disciplinary changes, and CDR updates
 - New 10,000 player run to be submitted in August
- Players charged: 900
- Overall rate of Reds now ~3% (will come down somewhat, as all prior PMs have been run)
- IBA Update
 - 3 Cases (5 players) resolved since MEM
 - 4 Cases (7 players) completed, awaiting verdict
 - 4 Cases (8 players) pending