

## Recommended Changes to the Bylaws

The main purpose for these Bylaw changes is to correct awkward wording and simplify the procedures for electronic voting and disputes with Director calls.

Article I Name – no change

Article II Nature of Business; b.

1) Reason for Change: Additional health benefit

- 2018 Bylaw wording – nothing
- Proposed change – ii. providing a social network for members

Article III Membership and Dues

2) Reason for Change: Remove Dues from the title because dues are not mentioned

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Membership and Dues
- Proposed change – Membership

3) Reason for Change: Correct awkward wording and remove reference to Sections 1, 2, 3 & 4

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 1 – The GBC is deemed an open Club in accordance with the rules of the ACBL. No restrictions for membership can be made that are not in accordance with the rules of the ACBL. Therefore, any person may make application to the Treasurer for membership in the GBC will become a member upon payment of the annual dues established by the GBC. Membership in the GBC may be revoked on in accordance with the rules given in the following sections: 2 and 3.
- Proposed change – The GBC is deemed an open Club in accordance with the rules of the ACBL. No restrictions for membership can be made that are not in accordance with the rules of the ACBL. Therefore, any person who applies to the Treasurer for membership in the GBC will become a member upon payment of the annual dues established by the GBC.

4) Reason for Change: Remove Section 2, 3 & 4 to simplify players' rights with regard to a dispute at the table or online.

- 2018 Bylaw wording –
  - Section 2 – Any person deemed by the Weekly Game Director and/or Club Manager to be guilty of obnoxious behavior during a duplicate game may be suspended, temporarily, for up to seven days pending adjudication by the Disciplinary Committee. Within 48 hours, the Recorder (see Reference Documents) must be notified by the Director or Club Manager, and the Disciplinary Committee will be notified immediately by the Recorder. The accused will have the opportunity to respond to the Recorder and Disciplinary Committee prior to the final adjudication. The Disciplinary Committee has the authority to rescind the suspension or extend it to at most 60 days. The accused may appeal any extension to the Disciplinary Committee. In the event of an extension, the Club Recorder will forward a report of the case to the accused, the District 9 Recorder, and to the ACBL Recorder.
  - Section 3 – Any player who in a 12-month period has had three recordings adjudicated as unethical by the Club Recorder will likewise be referred within 48 hours of the third recording date to the Disciplinary Committee. That committee has the authority to suspend the player or players for a period of up to 60 days. The player or players may appeal the decision to the Disciplinary Committee. Further, the Disciplinary Committee has the authority to disallow a pair from playing together for a period of up to 60 days, in lieu of a full suspension. The Club Recorder will forward a report of the case to the accused, the District 9 Recorder, and the ACBL Recorder.

- Section 4 – Any person deemed guilty of conduct detrimental to the welfare of the club (e.g. felonies) may be suspended for not more than one (1) year by a majority vote of the Disciplinary Committee.
  - Proposed change – delete Section 2, 3 & 4.
- 5) Reason for Change: Add paragraph
- 2018 Bylaw wording – nothing
  - Proposed change – Members agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the ACBL. The Zero Tolerance Policy established by ACBL in 1998 is described on the GBC website. Procedures for handling violations of ZT or other issues occurring at the bridge table will be handled by the Game Director. Further issues can be addressed through use of the Player Memo.

#### Article IV Dues and Playing Fees – no change

#### Article V Officers

- 6) Reason for Change: Duplication (see Article VII; Section 2)
- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 3 The newly elected officers shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year.
  - Proposed change – delete
- 7) Reason for Change: Change Section 4 to Section 3 because we removed Section 3
- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 4 The duties of the officers shall be as follows:
  - Proposed change – Section 3 The duties of the officers shall be as follows:
- 8) Reason for Change: Remove wording referring to “presence at a meeting”
- 2018 Bylaw wording – The Officers of the GBC will receive no compensation for their services without the approval by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting of the GBC conducted as described below.
  - Proposed change – The Officers of the GBC will receive no compensation for their services without the approval by a majority vote of the members.

#### Article VI Meetings and Business Procedures

- 9) Reason for Change: Simplify notification of meetings; see Article VI Section 2 for description of electronic voting
- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 1 There shall be regular meetings of the club during April and October. If no other time is set by the Board of Directors, said meetings shall be held on the last Monday of the month. A notice of the regular meeting, which includes the agenda for the same, shall be announced at least fourteen (14) days prior to said meetings and posted on the Club Website. Matters discussed at meetings will be resolved by a hybrid of electronic voting, hand delivery, and United States Postal Service. Within a week after the meeting, a link to a ballot will be emailed to all paid up members with email addresses. Ballots will be hand delivered or sent by United States Postal Service (USPS) to those members without an email address. Members must complete their online ballots or hand-deliver or postmark their ballots within seven days of the sending of the ballot for their vote to be counted. Hard copy ballots will be considered valid if they are in an envelope with the voter’s signature over the seal, delivered by hand or by USPS. For any vote to be considered binding, at least half of the paid-up members of the club must vote. For any measure to pass, a plurality of the cast votes must vote yes for the measure.
  - Proposed Change – Section 1 There shall be regular meetings of the club during April and October. If no other time is set by the Board of Directors, said meetings shall be held on the last Monday of the month. A notice of the regular meeting, which includes the agenda for the same,

shall be announced at least fourteen (14) days prior to said meetings and posted on the Club Website.

10) Reason for Change: Description of electronic voting

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2 The nomination and election of officers and five (5) elected members of the Board of Directors shall be held in October.
- Proposed change – Section 2 Voting by the general membership will be conducted electronically. A link to a ballot for voting on a matter will be provided to the members. Any member unable to vote electronically will be able to vote in person or by paper ballot. Ballots must be returned within seven (7) days after they are received. For any vote of the membership to be considered binding, at least half of the members of the club must vote. For any measure to pass, a majority of the cast votes must vote yes for the measure.

11) Reason for Change: Section 2 explains electronic voting (see above); former Section 2 is now Section 3

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2 The nomination and election of officers and five (5) elected members of the Board of Directors shall be held in October.
- Proposed change – Section 3 The nomination and election of officers and five (5) elected members of the Board of Directors shall be held in October.

12) Reason for Change: Renumber sections

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 3 Special meetings of the club may be called by the President, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or by a petition given of twelve (12) or more members of the GBC given to the Secretary. Written notice of a special meeting must be sent to all members at least seven (7) days prior to such meetings.
- Proposed change – Section 4 Special meetings of the club may be called by the President, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or by a petition given by twelve (12) or more members of the GBC given to the Secretary. Petitions must be acted upon within thirty (30) days of receipt. Written notice of a special meeting must be sent to all members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and describe the matters to be considered at the meeting.

13) Reason for Change: Renumber sections

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 4 The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31.
- Proposed change – Section 5 The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

14) Reason for Change: Voting is described in Article VI, Section 2

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 5 The Board of Directors may announce or authorize the announcement of votes on club business which do not need a meeting. By a petition to the GBC President, any 12 paid up members may likewise petition the board for a club wide vote on club business that does not require a meeting. Any matters up for a club vote will be announced a week before the voting process is set to start. Any 12 members of the club can petition to have a meeting about the matter in accordance with section 3. Such a petition will delay the vote until after the meeting. Petitions must be acted upon within 30 days of receipt. If no such petition is presented, a link to a ballot will be emailed to all paid up members with email addresses. Ballots will be hand delivered or sent by United States Postal Service (USPS) to those members without an email address. Members must complete their online ballots or hand-deliver or postmark their ballots within seven days of the sending of the ballot for their vote to be counted. Hard copy ballots will be considered valid if they are in an envelope with the voter's signature over the seal, delivered by hand or by USPS. For any vote to be considered binding, at least half of the paid-up members of the club must vote. For any measure to pass, a plurality of the cast votes must vote yes for the measure.
- Proposed change – delete Section 5

## Article VII Board of Directors

### 15) Reason for Change: Correct awkward wording (see highlights)

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 1 .... The term of the remaining board members shall be two (2) years with no more than 3 of those seats up for election in any given year.
- Proposed change – Section 1 .... The term of the Officers on the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year. The term of the remaining board members shall be two (2) years with no more than **three (3)** of **these** seats up for election in any given year.

### 16) Reason for Change: Remove reference to Club Recorder; correct awkward wording

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 3
  - a) Appoint the Club Manager and Club Recorder. Both the Club Manager and Club Recorder fulfill their ACBL specified duties.
  - b) Elect three (3) members for the nominating committee for the October elections.
- Proposed change – Section 3
  - a) Appoint the Club Manager who will fulfill his/her ACBL specified duties.
  - b) Select three (3) members for the nominating committee for the October elections.

### 17) Reason for Change: change two (2) weeks to fourteen (14) days

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 4; The Board of Directors shall meet within the last two (2) weeks prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the club and may hold additional meetings as the President or a majority of the Board of Directors shall deem necessary.
- Proposed change – Section 4; The Board of Directors shall meet within the fourteen **(14) days** prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the club and may hold additional meetings as the President or a majority of the Board of Directors shall deem necessary.

### 18) Reason for Change: correct awkward wording; remove reference to voting at a meeting (see Article VI, Section 2)

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 6; The Board of Directors shall recommend and approve any expenditures required to run the GBC such as tables, cards, rental fees for the facilities, social events, etc. However, the purchasing of capital equipment, defined as costing more than \$500, or committing the GBC to any financial obligation extending over a period of eleven (11) months or more shall require a majority vote at a regular club meeting.
- Proposed change – Section 6; The Board of Directors shall recommend and approve any expenditures required to run the GBC such as tables, cards, rental fees for the facilities, social events, etc. However, **any expenditure of more than \$500**, or committing the GBC to any financial obligation extending over a period of eleven (11) months or more shall require a majority vote **of the membership**.

### 19) Reason for Change – correct awkward wording

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 7; The use of any equipment or items belonging to the GBC shall be prohibited without the approval of the Board of Directors at a scheduled Board meeting. The use of any capital equipment as defined in Section 6 above, belonging to the GBC shall be prohibited without the approval of a majority of the Board and subsequent approval vote by the club membership.
- Proposed change – Section 7; The use of any equipment or items belonging to the GBC shall be prohibited without the approval of the Board of Directors at a scheduled Board meeting. The use of any **GBC** equipment which cost \$500 or more shall be prohibited without the approval of a majority of the Board and subsequent approval vote by the club membership.

## Article VIII Nominations and Elections

### 20) Reason for Change – Refer to Article VI, Section 2 to describe electronic voting

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 3 The election will be conducted as directed by the Nominating Committee. Within a week after the meeting, a link to a ballot for officers will be emailed to all paid up members with email addresses. Ballots will be hand delivered or sent by United States Postal Service (USPS) to those members without an email address. Members must complete their online ballots or hand-deliver or postmark their ballots within seven days of the sending of the ballot for their vote to be counted. Hard copy ballots will be considered valid if they are in an envelope with the voter's signature over the seal, delivered by hand or by USPS. For any vote to be considered binding, at least half of the paid-up members of the club must vote. For any measure to pass, a plurality of the cast votes must vote yes for the measure.
- Proposed change – Section 3 The election will be conducted as directed by the Nominating Committee. Election of board members and officers will be conducted electronically in accordance with Article VI, Section 2.

### 21) Reason for Change – Correct confusing word choice

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 4 A plurality vote shall elect the Officers and Board of Directors. The current Board of Directors will break ties.
- Proposed change – A **majority** vote shall elect the Officers and Board of Directors. The current Board of Directors will break ties.

## Article IX Committees

### 22) Reason for Change – remove reference to Club Recorder and Disciplinary Committee

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 1 In January, the current President shall appoint, with prior approval of those elected to serve as members of the Board of Directors during the ensuing year, Chairpersons of the following committees: Audit, ByLaws, Social, Membership, Publicity, Tournament, Education, and Development. At the same time, the Club Recorder shall appoint the chair of the Disciplinary Committee
- Proposed change – Section 1 In January, the current President shall appoint, with prior approval of those elected to serve as members of the Board of Directors during the ensuing year, Chairpersons of the following committees: Audit, By-Laws, Social, Membership, Publicity, Tournament, Education, and Development.

### 23) Reason for Change –remove reference to Club Recorder and Disciplinary Committee

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2 With the exception of the Disciplinary Committee, each committee chairperson shall select members of his/her committee without restriction to number and shall immediately file a list of such members with the Secretary. The Club Recorder will select the four members of the Disciplinary Committee. Each committee chairperson shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and to the membership at large for the proper performance of the duties as follows:
- Proposed change – Section 2 Each committee chairperson shall select members of his/her committee without restriction to number and shall immediately file a list of such members with the Secretary. Each committee chairperson shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and to the membership at large for the proper performance of the duties as follows:

### 24) Reason for Change – Clarify wording

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2, a) The Audit Committee shall audit all accounts of the club and make a report to the membership at the regular business meeting in January and at other times when requested by the Board of Directors or by any five (5) members.

- Proposed change – Section 2, a) The Audit Committee shall audit all accounts of the club and make a report to the membership at the **first** regular business meeting **of each calendar year** and at other times when requested by the Board of Directors or by any five (5) members.

25) Reason for Change – correct spelling

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2, b) The By-Laws Committee shall receiver and evaluate suggestions for changes in the By-Laws and make recommendations concerning such changes.
- Section 2, b) The By-Laws Committee shall **receive** and evaluate suggestions for changes in the By-Laws and make recommendations concerning such changes.

26) Reason for Change – delete “attendance at all tournaments conducted or sponsored by the club and to inform members of the results of play by reporting the activities of the club through appropriate news media. The Publicity Committee shall also prepare and distribute appropriate notices of all special games and Sectional Tournaments conducted or sponsored by the GBC.”

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2, e) The Publicity Committee shall work to promote attendance at all tournaments conducted or sponsored by the club and to inform members of the results of play by reporting the activities of the club through appropriate news media. The Publicity Committee shall also prepare and distribute appropriate notices of all special games and Sectional Tournaments conducted or sponsored by the GBC.”
- Proposed change – Section 2, e) The Publicity Committee shall work to promote **club tournaments and games and GBC in general in appropriate news media.**

27) Reason for Change – remove “as” correct awkward wording

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2, f) The Tournament Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for the scheduling and proper conduct of an annual tournament with a sectional or higher rating by the ACBL, provided the club has voted to sponsor such **as** a tournament in any given year. The Tournament Committee shall stipulate and procure all prizes to be awarded to winners in all tournaments conducted or sponsored by the club.
- Proposed change – Section 2, f) The Tournament Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for the scheduling and proper conduct of an annual tournament with a sectional or higher rating by the ACBL, provided the club has voted to sponsor such a tournament in any given year. The Tournament Committee shall stipulate and procure all prizes to be awarded to winners in all tournaments conducted or sponsored by the club.

28) Reason for Change – remove Disciplinary Committee from bylaws

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2, i) The Disciplinary Committee will adjudicate discipline issues as described in Article III, Sections 2, 3, and 4. Any action of the committee requires 3 members to vote, carried by a majority of voters.
- Proposed change – Section 2, i) deleted

29) Reason for Change – remove item j; Ad hoc Appeals committee included in final paragraph of Article IX

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 2, j) An ad hoc Appeals Committee, appointed by the Weekly Game Director, shall hear all appeals made by any player concerning a Weekly Game Director’s ruling and shall be composed of experienced bridge players who were present at the game. They have the authority to award adjusted scores and to report unethical conduct to the Club Recorder.
- Proposed change – An ad hoc Appeals Committee, appointed by the Game Director **of the game in question**, shall hear all appeals made by any player concerning a Game Director’s ruling and shall be composed of experienced bridge players who were present at the game. **Further issues can be addressed through use of the Player Memo.**

#### Article X Weekly Game Directors

30) Reason for Change – remove Weekly from the Article X title

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Weekly Game Directors
- Proposed change – Game Directors

31) Reason for Change – remove “weekly” from the description

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 1 The Weekly Game Director (or Directors) shall be appointed by the President with input from the Club Manager.
- Proposed change – Section 1 Each Game Director shall be appointed by the President with input from the Club Manager.

32) Reason for Change – remove “qualified director”

- 2018 Bylaw wording – The Weekly Game Director shall be a certified director or qualified director.
- Proposed change – Section 2 Each Game Director shall be a certified director.

33) Reason for Change – remove “weekly” and reference to Article IV, section 5

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Section 3 The Weekly Game Director shall be paid a fee for directing subject to the constraints in Article IV, Section 5 of these by-laws. The fee for each session shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of voters at a GBC meeting.
- Proposed change – Section 3 Each Game Director shall be paid a fee for directing. The fee for each session shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of voters.

#### Article XI Parliamentary Authority

34) Reason for Change – update Roberts Rules of Order reference

- 2018 Bylaw wording – The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th edition, Da Capo Press, ISBN030682020X, 2011, or later edition as approved by the Board of Directors) shall govern the GBC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which the club is not inconsistent with these by-laws.
- Proposed change – The rules contained in *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* (12<sup>th</sup> edition, ISBN1541736699, 2020, or later edition as approved by the Board of Directors) shall govern the GBC in all cases to which they are applicable.

#### Article XII Amendments to By-Laws

35) Reason for Change – remove Option A and Option B

- 2018 Bylaw wording – Notification for by-law amendments must be submitted by the Board of Directors to the full paid-up membership by e-mail or for those without e-mail addresses by regular mail, at least seven days before before the voting process begins. The exact wording of the revised and original by-laws must be included. The notification must also include how the issue will be voted upon (Option A or Option B) below.
- Proposed change – Notification for by-law amendments must be submitted by the Board of Directors to the full membership by email or for those without email addresses by regular mail, at least seven days before the voting process begins. The exact wording of the revised and original by-laws must be included.

36) Reason for Change – remove Option A and Option B

- 2018 Bylaw wording –
  - Option A: A link to an electronic ballot is submitted to the membership for those with an e-mail address and by either hand delivery or United States Postal Service (USPS) for those without within a week of the announcement of the amendment. The ballot is due (or postmarked) within 7 days of the sending. Hard copy ballots will be considered valid if they

are in an envelope with the voter's signature over the seal, delivered by hand or by USPS. The amendment passes if (1) At least two-thirds of the voters vote in favor and (2) At least 50% of the members vote.

- Option B: At any regular or special meeting of the club, an amendment to the By-Laws may be voted on provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous regular business meeting or copies of it distributed to the membership at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting at which it is to be presented. To pass, the affirmative votes must be the larger of two-thirds of the members attending and one quarter of the total membership. If an amendment fails, a simple majority of members present can require a re-vote using the process in Option A.
- Proposed change – Voting on by-law amendments will be conducted electronically in accordance with Article VI, Section 2.

Article XIII - Dissolution --- no change