

District Director, Joann Glasson
February 2022

ACBL Board

The ACBL held our first special board meeting of 2022 by Zoom on January 17th and two important issues were on the agenda.

NABC Schedules

Starting with the Providence NABC, all NABC and NABC+ events will be held on a 10 and 3 schedule. It is very likely that all regional events will be held on that schedule as well with some games at 7:30 in the evening for working players.

Philadelphia pioneered this schedule years ago at the 2012 NABC and Danny Sprung and the Competitions and Conventions Committee have finally put forth this schedule for all future NABCs.

The reasons given for this change are:

1. The entire bridge world outside of North America runs on a daylight schedule.
2. In North America, sectional and regional tournaments have almost all successfully transitioned to this schedule.
3. At an NABC, local players don't want to drive home at rush hour or close to midnight.
4. The aging demographic prefers a daylight schedule.
5. Economics of holding any events at 1 and 7:30 - Austin numbers show that the 1 and 7 regional events are not well attended.
6. It requires 2 extra director sessions to hold regional 1 and 7 events— not economically feasible when moving towards smaller NABCs.
7. Philadelphia NABC ran successfully on 10 and 3 schedule. In cities like Philly, where parking is very expensive, locals can use the train for the earlier schedule.
8. Players like a short lunch break between sessions and then a civilized dinner after the session where they can drink wine and discuss the hands.

Institute for Bridge Arbitration (IBA)

AJ Stephani, Mark Friedlander and others on their committee are putting into place a new arbitration process to handle high-level cheating cases.

The Institute for Bridge Arbitration is an independent organization whose mission will be to recruit expert bridge players who are willing to donate some of their time to serve as arbitrators in bridge cheating disputes. The IBA will train the volunteering experts to be arbitrators in complex disputes and has established a working relationship with the American Arbitration Association (and its affiliate organization, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution) so that when “bridge cheating cases” go to arbitrations administered by these organizations, the AAA will choose the arbitrators to decide them from the roster of trained bridge experts that IBA will make available to them. It has been relatively inexpensive to establish the IBA; everyone working for or with IBA would be volunteering their time and would be reimbursed only for out-of-pocket expenses, which should be fairly nominal.

This innovation is an exciting first step in streamlining how the ACBL handles bridge cheating. It will begin work with major cases reported after February 1, 2022.

Stay well and please [contact me](#) anytime with any questions or concerns.

Joann