

Board of Governors Motion Issue Sheet

Subject Matter of Motion

Item 182-01BG: Setting a policy to minimize the negative impact of noxious tobacco odor

Statement of Issue

ACBL has an ongoing problem with players who want to be able to smoke a tobacco product and players who are sensitive to tobacco odor. There is a need for a policy to balance the needs or desires of each group. This Motion is designed to balance those needs or desires.

The Motion

ACBL Codification, Chapter VIII (North American Bridge Championships), *Part E* (Operations), *Section 1* (General Information), *Subsection 1.13* (Smoking Policy at NABCs), is amended by adding a new Sub-Subsection 1.13.2, as follows:

ACBL Smoke-Free Bridge Experience Policy

ACBL finds that smoking is a health hazard and may interfere with its members' right to enjoy a smoke-free bridge experience. ACBL encourages its members to complain when the lingering tobacco odor from a member interferes with their smoke-free bridge experience. Signage will be posted to publicize this policy. This policy will apply to all NABC tournaments and be enforced as follows:

- I. Upon receiving a complaint (verbal or written), at least two ACBL Tournament Directors will investigate to decide whether the player smells of tobacco and whether the lingering tobacco odor is more likely than not to interfere with many members' right to enjoy a smoke-free bridge experience.
- II. A warning under this policy will apply to that particular NABC tournament, including all bridge games held at that tournament, from the first bid to the last card played. All warnings are cumulative through that particular NABC Tournament.
- III. If all of the ACBL Tournament Directors who investigate a complaint agree that the player smells of tobacco **and** that the lingering tobacco odor is more likely than not to interfere with many members' right to enjoy a smoke-free bridge experience, the player will be issued a warning.
 - A. A first warning will have no discipline of any kind, other than a record being made of that warning.

- B. The next warning (second) will result in a scoring penalty of 25% of a matchpoint board, 3 Victory Points, or 6 IMPs (when VP's are not involved), depending on the form of scoring.
 - C. The next warning (third) will result in a scoring penalty of 50% of a matchpoint board, 6 Victory Points, or 12 IMPs (when VP's are not involved), depending on the form of scoring.
 - D. The next warning (fourth) will result in a scoring penalty of 100% of a matchpoint board, 12 Victory Points, or 24 IMPs (when VP's are not involved), depending on the form of scoring.
 - E. Each successive warning will result in a scoring penalty that is double the scoring penalty of the previous warning.
- IV. A player may receive no more than one warning for any given session.
 - V. Multiple complaints about the same player will not increase the likelihood that the player will be found to have violated this policy.
 - VI. Nothing in this policy may result in a player being removed from a game. This policy does not prohibit discipline for disruptive behavior that may arise from the application of this policy.
 - VII. No warning or scoring penalty administered in a previous NABC tournament may be considered or applied in the then current NABC tournament.
 - VIII. There is no appeal from a warning or scoring penalty issued under this policy.
 - IX. Nothing in this policy may be interpreted to change ACBL existing policy to allow smoking/hospitality breaks so that a player who wants to smoke will have a reasonable opportunity to do so.

Material Impacts

There is no financial impact.

There are material impacts on social interactions. The players who smoke will have an incentive to practice good hygiene. There will be every incentive for them to good social citizens. The players who are sensitive to tobacco will have the means to point out the smokers who are not being good citizens. By using at least two ACBL Tournament Directors to investigate a complaint and requiring unanimity before imposing a penalty, this policy will minimize the times when someone is treated unfairly.

Reasons Why the Board of Governors Should Adopt the Motion

Many of our members are truly sensitive to tobacco. They are confronted with another member who smokes and considers it their right to do so. This motion essentially mandates good manners on both sides of this issue. This motion creates a process to help resolve this never-ending problem. Players will not be asked to leave a game; they will suffer a gentle reminder of the need for good manners and to be sensitive to others.

Risk If the Motion Is Not Approved

There will be further conflict between smokers and non-smokers. This will result in fewer players having a positive bridge experience.