

OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE M. A. LIGHTMAN BRIDGE CLUB

Whenever the context indicates, the masculine gender shall encompass the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall encompass the plural or vice versa. The American Contract Bridge League shall be designated as ACBL.

NAME

1. The M. A. Lightman Bridge Club (the “Club”) is operated by M.A. Lightman Bridge Club, Inc., a Tennessee not for profit corporation (the “Corporation”).

MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility for membership

Any person may be a member of the Club (“Member”) who meets the following criteria:

- Willing to pay the current amount of dues to join, or was granted an honorary membership by previous action by the Board of Directors of the Corporation (the “Board” or the “Board of Directors”)
- Must not be under a current suspension from the Club
- Must not have been permanently barred from any ACBL club
- Must not have a reputation for unacceptable behavior as a bridge player, as determined by the Board in its sole discretion

The Board reserves the right to refuse membership to any person other than for reasons of race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, and physical handicap or on his proficiency at bridge.

The Corporation has no members and mere membership in the Club does not entitle any person to any ownership interest or governance rights with respect to the Corporation.

2. Rights and Obligations

- a. Club Members shall be required to abide by and to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Club regulations, policies, code of conduct and ethical standards as promulgated by the Board.
- b. Subject to the Bylaws of the Corporation and applicable law, the Board may from time to time elect to be guided or bound by the vote of the Members of the Club with respect to the election of members of the Board of Directors.

3. Termination of Membership

- a. Failure to pay dues shall result in termination of membership.
 - b. Expulsion for disciplinary reasons shall result in *permanent* termination of membership. No refund of any amount of dues will be made to a member that is suspended or expelled.
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4. Membership Meetings

a. The Club will hold Annual Meetings of its Members on the second Saturday of July each year, except when the second Saturday conflicts with the summer NABC; in those years, the meeting will be held the Saturday following the end of the summer NABC. Notice of meetings and elections will be mailed out 14-28 days beforehand.

b. The agenda of the Annual Meeting shall include but not be limited to announcement of the Board member election results, presentation of annual reports and financial reports, and the transaction of such other business as deemed appropriate by the Club Manager or the Board.

c. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Board or the Club Manager at any time.

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

1. Calls during game

a. Game directors shall enforce game rules and policies as established by the Board.

The game directors have the authority to demand that any person leave the premises immediately, even during the middle of an event.

b. Game directors shall handle and rule on any disciplinary calls made during the course of a game. If a person is involved in repetitive violations, the game director must call this to the attention of the Club Manager.

c. The forming of an Appeals Committee regarding rulings made by a director during a game shall be at the discretion of the game director.

d. If the director deems any situation sufficiently serious, he shall file a detailed report with the Club Manager.

e. If the Club Manager deems the situation sufficiently serious, he may impose an appropriate penalty which may include barring a player(s) for a specific time.

2. Actions on club grounds

a. Anyone involved in an incident that could require disciplinary action, or any observer of such an action, may file a detailed report with the Club Manager or any member of the Board of Directors and request disciplinary action.

b. The Club manager shall decide whether an incident is actionable. The Club Manager shall handle behavior problems in accordance with applicable ACBL guidelines.

3. Disciplinary Appeals Committee

a. The President may appoint a Disciplinary Appeals Committee when necessary.

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Utmost care must be observed in appointing the appeals committee so that it is as neutral and unbiased as possible.

(The reason for not having a standing Disciplinary Appeals Committee is to avoid possible conflicts of interest requiring a member to decide whether or not to recuse himself from the committee.)

- b. Frivolous appeals shall be dealt with severely.
- c. Any Disciplinary Appeals Committee action shall take place at a special hearing to which only those involved shall be invited.
- d. Advance notice of at least seven (7) days shall be given to those involved.
- e. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee shall prepare a record of the Appeal and shall forward that record with recommendation to the Board. The Club secretary shall maintain a record of all disciplinary actions handled by the Disciplinary Appeals Committee.
- f. The Board shall strongly consider the recommendation of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee and shall either affirm, amend, or reject the Appeal. The decision of the Board shall be final.

GAME DIRECTORS

1. Certification

All game directors must be certified by the ACBL.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Sell entries and file required financial reports including rents paid for the use of the Club according to the schedule set by the Board.
- b. Start games in a timely and orderly fashion.
- c. Enforce Club game rules and policies as established by the Board.
- d. Not play unless needed to fill out the movement.
- e. Handle disciplinary problems
- f. Score games accurately.
- g. Post results and relay results as instructed, including uploading game results to the web.
- h. Store supplies and tidy the playing area at the conclusion of the game.

GAMES

1. Schedule

- a. The Club shall maintain a regular schedule of games and shall conduct special games as needed or requested.
 - b. The Club shall cooperate with the ACBL's charity efforts by staging special games for charity.
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- c. The Club shall cooperate with the ACBL by promoting Grand National Teams and Grand National Pairs events.
 - d. The Club shall participate in Sectional Tournaments At Clubs (STACs) when they are scheduled for District 10.
 - e. All games shall begin at the times set by the Club Manager.
2. Types of games
- a. Stratification shall be in effect for all club games unless specific rules are set up for handicap games.
 - b. Whenever possible, game directors shall set stratification tabs in such a way that players in all strats have a chance to win awards.
 - c. Stratification for Unit, District or special ACBL games shall be set as stated in the regulations for those games.
3. Length of games
- a. Every effort shall be made by game directors to make sure that all regular games consist of at least 24 boards.
 - b. Games involving novices and newcomers may consist of fewer than 24 boards.
 - c. Game directors shall be expected to move all games at a reasonable pace
4. Correction period
- Valid corrections may be made until the correction period closes 48 hours after the scores have been posted unless ACBL requires otherwise.

TOURNAMENTS

1. Types
- a. Club championships shall be scheduled regularly in accordance with ACBL regulations.
 - b. Local championships, which require special ACBL Sanctions, shall be set up by the Club Manager in accordance with ACBL regulations.
 - c. The Club shall participate in Sectional Tournaments At Clubs (STACs) when such tournaments are available.
 - d. The Club shall participate in the qualifying rounds of the North American Pairs and the Grand National Teams. The president shall appoint a standing Grand National committee to promote and handle any affairs concerning these tournaments.
 - e. Special charity games shall be scheduled from time to time.
 - f. The Club may participate in any special tournaments sponsored by the ACBL.
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BINDING ARBITRATION

Binding Arbitration Agreement

- a. In the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, any dispute which is in any way related to membership in the Club or any action for damages or injunctive relief against the Club, or any action to reverse, amend, modify or delay enforcement of a disciplinary action by the Club, regardless of the facts or the legal theories which may be involved, shall be resolved by binding arbitration before the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") by a single arbitrator in accordance with the Commercial rules of AAA in effect at the time the arbitration proceeding is initiated.

- b. The arbitration hearing shall be held at such time and location as the parties may agree in writing. The arbitrator shall prepare in writing an award which includes the legal and factual reasons for the decision. The parties shall divide equally the costs of the arbitration and shall pay their respective attorney fees and expenses, but the arbitrator may assess all such costs and the prevailing party's attorney fees and expenses to the non-prevailing party in the arbitration award. The provisions of the Federal Arbitration Act shall apply to arbitration between the Club and its members.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The fiscal year for the Club shall run from July 1 to June 30.
2. The Club shall not make loans to any director, officer or member.
3. Club facilities are available to other persons and organizations on a rental basis.

July 1, 2014

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