

IDEAS FOR SOLUTIONS

General Canadian issues

1. ACBL could set up a permanent committee on Canadian affairs with non-Board Canadian input. CBF could assist in this.
2. ACBL Board should not automatically apply all rules and policies in Canada as it does in the USA. ACBL could, for example, earmark specific education and marketing funds for Canada which can be administered and directed by Canadians – CBF could assist in this.
3. More coverage of Canada's Bridge Week in the Bulletin and on the web site would be helpful. The Bulletin in general should make an effort to provide more coverage to Canadian players and events.
4. ACBL needs to establish rates at less than exchange for membership fees, club and tournament sanctions, and directors' fees in Canada. This a simple business decision based on the cost of comparable goods and services in Canada.
5. ACBL could be redistricted so that Canadians are always represented by Canadians on the ACBL Board. However, it should be recognized that many Canadians in cross-border Districts are content with the current situation.
6. As examples of what could be done, ACBL could fund the distribution and improvement of an existing French-language magazine; make French-language bridge materials available through The Bridge Source; translate club and member communications into French. (Note that any translation needs to be done in Quebec, for regional language reasons. However, the need for French is not solely in Quebec; Canadian members should be able to select their language of preference for communications and publications.) Again, CBF could administer funds to accomplish this.
7. Provide value-added services that actually have value for Canadian members; the CBF could assist with this.

CBF issues

1. The Zonal WBF body should be one on which CBF has a direct voice and influence.
2. *The ACBL Board has never been given the authority to speak for Canada at the WBF; it has simply assumed it.* The Zonal authority should consist of representatives of the USBF, the CBF and the Mexican BF.

Generic issues

Addressing many of these will require a fundamental shift in the ACBL's direction and thinking:

1. Creation, alongside masterpoints if necessary, some kind of real ranking system that rewards current performance and ability.
2. ACBL resources should be directed towards assisting the clubs in marketing and promoting the game, and teaching it to newcomers of all ages.
3. ACBL needs to find a way to reach out to social players and include them in the bridge community.
4. ACBL should move to improve its systems, its efficiency, and its ability to hear and respond to member concerns.