

# Board of Governors Motion Issue Sheet

## Subject Matter of Motion (insert a short phrase)

Allowing Limited Substitution at NAP National Final Stage

## Statement of Issue (one or two sentences)

The only allowed substitution at the NAP National Final is because of death. There are other compelling circumstances that justify allowing substitution.

## The motion itself:

*It is hereby moved* that the NAP Conditions of Contest, section on “Substitutes”, Part 2, be amended to read as follows:

Beyond the district final stage, a replacement is permitted only if one member of a pair that qualified to play in the National Final stage is either:

- A) Deceased.
  - 1) The surviving qualifier may select a new partner, who will be fully eligible to play in the National Final stage.
- B) Medically diagnosed as being unable to travel to or play in the National Final stage **and** the medical condition that renders the member unable to travel to or play in the National Final stage was unknown to the member at the time of the District Final.
  - 1) The otherwise qualified member may request permission to obtain a substitute. Either member will have an opportunity to provide medical documentation of the condition. ACBL Management will decide the request fairly and promptly, and is the sole judge of whether a substitute will be allowed. Its decision will be final. If approved, the surviving qualifier may select a new partner, who will be fully eligible to play in the National Final stage.
- C) The new partner must meet all of the eligibility requirements of this event listed. The replacement may not appreciably strengthen or weaken the partnership.

## Material impacts (what the change causes and who it affects)

This change places a burden on the member who wants to play in the National Final stage to get medical documentation that his or her partner cannot travel to or play in the National Final stage. This includes information showing that the medical condition was unknown at the time of the District Final.

It also places a burden on ACBL Management to act fairly and promptly when receiving this request.

**Reasons why the Board of Governors should adopt the motion (Please attach a succinct summary on a separate sheet of paper)**

Our members are aging. For example, strokes, sudden onset dementia and heart attacks are facts of life for our aging membership. These events cannot be predicted. It is unfair to prevent one otherwise qualified member from playing in the National Final stage when he or she could not know that his or her partner would suddenly and unexpectedly become unable to travel to or play in the National Final stage. It is the same logic that brought about the previous change that allowed substitution in the event of death - *no one expected this to happen*.

This motion does not allow substitution when the medical condition is known before the District Final. Some examples of this include elective surgery that could be postponed until after the National Final stage, or a long-term condition such as diabetes or cancer.

**Risk if the motion is not approved**

Otherwise qualified members who earned a trip to the National Final stage will be denied that opportunity for reasons out of their control, and had no reason to expect.