

Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: August 10, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM ET

Location: Online Meeting (Zoom)

ATTENDEES	Title	
Shelley Burns	President, Director Zone VI	Present
Allan Callard	Vice-President, Director - Zone I	Present
Xavier Combey	Director - Zone II	Present
Terry Du	Director - Zone III	Present
Marielle Decelles-Brentnall	Director - Zone IV	Present
Lois Matton	Treasurer, Director - Zone V	Present (joined at 6:27 p.m.)
Paul Janicki	Director at Large	Present
Kathy McDonald	Director at Large	Present
Sondra Blank	Executive Administrator	Present
Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	Present

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Shelley Burns called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM Eastern Time. The meeting was conducted via zoom video conference.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 2026 Board Meeting Minutes (Penticton).

- Moved by: Allan Callard
- Seconded by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall
- Result: Carried
- **Motion 26-35**

3. RATIFICATION OF EMAIL MOTIONS

The following motions, previously passed by email vote, were ratified by the Board:

Motion 26-34– Director at Large

The Board ratified the email motion appointing Kathy McDonald (Club Manager, Kingston) as Director at Large. Shelley Burns welcomed Kathy to her first official Board meeting.

- Moved by: Lois Matton | Seconded by: Terry Du | **Carried**

4. UPDATE ON EVENTS

4a. Maple Leaf Games

The 7:00 p.m. ET Friday time slot continues to improve attendance, with 8–9 tables in recent weeks. The sign-up form on RealBridge currently shows an incorrect time (8:00 p.m.)

- Lois will contact Andy at RealBridge directly to make the correction.

4b. Celebrity Auction

- Lois will contact Andy at RealBridge directly to make the correction.
- Board members travelling to the World Championships in Poland will distribute bookmark reminders and a QR code/URL so people can sign up for the celebrity auction on the spot.
- The email solicitation to past celebrities will go out after the Board returns from Poland.
- Wenbo Gu(Casper's father) will assist with video production and social media strategy; a marketing meeting is planned for Thursday.

Action: *Sondra will create a shared marketing-materials folder on SharePoint.*

4c. 2027 Canadian Championships

- Qualifying games: Clubs may apply for sanctions to run CNTC/COPC qualifier games starting September 1, 2026.
- Round robin dates: The Board discussed a conflict between the published dates for the 2027 CBF Round Robins and the Toronto sectional. The Board agreed that the published 2027 CBF dates will remain unchanged.
- Schedule: The Board reviewed the schedule and confirmed the original schedule (open followed by mixed, overlapping seniors in the final weekend, with women's on the final day of the open) remains preferable to the alternative considered. A proposal from Bob Kuz to run team quarterfinals online in advance of the in-person event (to eliminate all overlaps) was discussed and considered worth investigating for future years, but not for 2027.
- Hall of Fame: Lois noted the Hall of Fame reception falls on the final Saturday night of the Open, and that scheduling more flights to conclude that day allows more medal presentations to be made in person; the Board agreed the existing schedule already achieves this well.
- Hotel contract: Lois presented the Travelodge Quebec City contract (co-located with the regional). A motion was made to approve the total contract amount.
- The Board discussed the room block (151 rooms, with an 80% / 121-room fill commitment) and agreed not to revise the block size before signing, given the extensive prior negotiation; Lois will coordinate with the regional organizers and monitor availability, renegotiating room numbers later if needed rather than delaying the contract.

Motion 26-36: That the CBF commit to the Travelodge Quebec City contract for the 2027 CNTCs (May 2027), including the venue for the Hall of Fame banquet, for a total of \$7,275.

- Moved by: Lois Matton
- Seconded by: Xavier Combey
- Result: **Carried**

4d. 2026 Fall Team League

- Registration will open once the new CBF website is live (to avoid split registrations across the old and new sites).
- The league runs 9 weeks plus playoffs beginning October 1, 2026, breaking for NABC week in early December, with playoffs following.
- Entry remains open to non-CBF members at a \$15 per-person surcharge.
- Teams will be stratified into flights by masterpoints if there are enough entries (a B/C flight is not being pre-listed to avoid repeated cancellations)

4e. 2026 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship (CMPC)

The event has been moved from October 24–25 to November 7–8, 2026. Dominique Guay will direct. Conditions of Contest are still to be finalized, contingent in part on ACBL/RealBridge completing scoring-automation programming, tentatively expected in the fall.

4f. 2027 Canadian Open Pairs Championship (COPC)

The Board discussed and agreed to hold the COPC on May 1–2, 2027, to avoid conflicting with the Gatlinburg Regional (April 19–25) and Mother's Day (May 9), while allowing players to still reach the start of the Regina Regional (starting May 3).

4g. Erin Berry Rookie Master Game

Scheduled for October 13; clubs may run and play the hands at any time. Danny Miles will provide the hand analysis. Entry fee remains \$4 per table; national winners receive certificates and medals (plaques have been discontinued).

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Hall of Fame

Marielle reported no response yet from Nader Hanna on Barry Senensky's Hall of Fame proposal (last contact approximately one month prior). She will follow up again next week.

Junior Committee

Sondra reported on Danny Miles's behalf: Olivia Laufer won gold in the U26 side pairs in China, and Casper (Gu) also performed well. The Board reviewed positive feedback (and one complaint) regarding recent social media recognition of the Canadian youth Swiss Teams win at the Minneapolis NABC.

Conditions of Contest

Xavier reported the first draft of the CNTC Conditions of Contest has been circulated to the committee (Paul Janicki, Danny Miles, Nick Gartaganis, Steve Mackay, Mike Hargreaves) and to Shelley and Sondra; comments are still being collected. Xavier will send a highlighted summary of proposed changes to the Board at least 4 days ahead of the next meeting.

6. TREASURER REPORTS

Lois did not prepare a separate July financial statement, as figures were consistent with June. Key items:

- Charitable donations: Each zone has \$400 to allocate to a registered charity of the Zone Director's choosing; Lois needs recipients from Shelley, Allan, Xavier, Terry, and Marielle before the end of August.
- Junior Fund: Per ACBL codification, all Junior Fund month (January) proceeds collected by clubs go to and remain with ACBL; ACBL may, at its discretion, allocate some back to CBF. There is no guaranteed return specific to CBF promotion of Junior Fund month.
- International Fund Games: Similarly, funds raised go to ACBL and are used to pay Canadian WBF dues (covering all Canadian ACBL players, not just CBF members), and is not returned to the CBF. The cost to run one is approximately \$5.25–\$6.00 USD extra per player.
- GIC: Lois confirmed the \$20,000 redeemable GIC requested at the Penticton meeting has been set up and can be cashed at any time.
- Junior Fund administrative fee: Cindy Shoemaker (ACBL) has indicated CBF should not deduct its 5% administrative fee from Junior Fund monies. Lois will continue discussions with Cindy regarding releasing the funds, noting not all Junior Fund monies originate from ACBL.
- Per the ACBL codification (page 44), Canadian juniors remain eligible for up to \$25,000 from ACBL, notwithstanding a later, less generous internal motion.

7. IT AND WEBSITE

- Sondra reported the new website is expected to go live shortly. Transitioning from a staging site with no anticipated downtime.
- Sondra will proceed with testing WooCommerce, Stripe, and Ultimate Auctions integrations.
- Allan requested a preview link for Board members, which Sondra provided.

8. DISCOUNT POLICIES

Junior Membership and Discount Policy

- CBF membership fee remains a flat \$25 for all members regardless of age (no separate junior membership rate), to simplify administration.

Junior Event Discount

- The Board discussed and agreed that CBF members under age 26 will pay half price to participate in the pairs events and in the round robin and playoffs of the team events at the Canadian Championships, but not for club qualifiers, the Fall Team League, or the Maple Leaf Games, which are already considered low-cost.
- Discounted entries will initially be processed manually (reimbursement after payment).
- The Board agreed this policy should be documented in writing and posted to the CBF website policies section; communication to members will be held until after the World Championships in Poland.

Motion 26-37: That CBF members under age 26 pay half price to participate in Canadian Championship pairs events and in the round robin and playoffs of Canadian Championship team events.

- Moved by: Shelley Burns
- Seconded by: Paul Janicki
- Result: Carried

Board/Staff Entry Fees

The Board agreed (recorded as a Board decision rather than a formal motion) that Sondra Blank and Louise Mascolo may play in CBF championships on the same no-fee basis already extended informally to Board members, to keep administration consistent.

The Board also agreed this policy, along with the junior discount policy above, should be documented in writing and posted to the Policies section of the CBF website.

9. ACTION ITEMS FOLLOW-UP

- CBF membership renewal visibility on the ACBL website: ACBL technical department has declined to change the display; item carried forward.
- Synchronizing CBF and ACBL membership renewal dates: raised by Allan Callard as a future improvement; not currently feasible as the CBF does not have members' ACBL expiry dates. Carried forward.
- Maple Leaf Games promotion / live club results emails: deferred; expected to improve once quarterly newsletter content is in place.
- Bridge Canada magazine article (celebrity auction focus): Allan Callard to provide a draft by the following day, ahead of Wednesday's deadline.
- Annual zone charity donations: zone directors to advise Lois Matton of recipients by end of August
- Solicitation of nominations for vacant zone director positions: email sent by Sondra Blank; no responses received to date. Paul is following up on a potential Toronto-zone candidate.
- Maple Leaf Games sign-up form time discrepancy (7:00 PM website vs. 8:00 PM on RealBridge home-club form): Lois Matton to raise with Andy at RealBridge; form to reference "Friday" without stating a specific time to avoid future conflicts.
- Richmond Trophy certificates: 2025 digital certificates and zone distribution lists are posted to SharePoint (Events and Competitions > Mini Richmond Awards); zone directors to email recipients.
- CBF website trophy-winner recognition policy update (digital certificates in place of pins, applicable up to 1,500 points): not yet completed.
- Confirmation of WBF policy on transgender/non-binary players: no response yet from WBF; Paul to raise at the upcoming WBF meeting.
- Follow-up with Neil regarding Bridge Canada magazine honorariums and revenue strategies: not yet actioned.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Zonal Playoff Format – World Championships

Shelley Burns raised the CBF's ongoing negotiation with the Mexican Bridge Federation (Patricia Herrera) regarding the format of the Canada–Mexico zonal playoff for the World Championships. The Board discussed the financial and logistical burden of in-person playoffs and support (from WBF President Frank NABF contacts) for moving to an online format. Mexico has declined to date and has indicated Canada is expected to travel to Mexico for the upcoming playoff. Shelley Burns will continue discussions with the WBF and NABF. Arbitration may be required if no agreement is reached. No motion was made; Shelley Burns will lead this item going forward.

Governance – Committees Requiring Review

- CBF Disciplinary Committee: current listed membership includes individuals no longer active or, in one case, believed deceased; membership is not regionally balanced. The Board agreed this needs to be reviewed and updated and carried the item forward to the next meeting.
- Appeals Committee: the Board noted the formal standing committee (as listed) is outdated; in practice, appeals panels are assembled from playing captains/players at the relevant event. The Board agreed this structure needs to be formally documented and carried the item forward to the next meeting.

Event Naming Conventions

- Use "Open" in place of "A" to describe the top flight (e.g., CNTC Open Teams).
- Use "Teams" rather than "Flight" for the B and C flights (e.g., CNTC B Teams, CNTC C Teams), for clarity and consistency, including in French translation.
- Spell out event names in full on first reference on the website, with the acronym introduced in brackets thereafter (e.g., "Canadian National Teams Championship (CNTC)").

Richmond Trophy Eligibility

Sondra noted correspondence from Jonathan Steinberg questioning whether Richmond Trophy eligibility should require Canadian residency rather than citizenship alone, given examples of players with limited ongoing ties to Canada. The Board discussed possible alignment with GNT-style residency rules but reached no resolution. The matter was deferred for further discussion by email; no motion was made.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Motion	Moved / Seconded	Result
26-35: Approve August minutes	Callard / Decelles-Brentnall	Carried
26-24: Ratify email motion: That Kathy McDonald be appointed as Director at Large.		Ratified (carried by email)
26-36: That the CBF commit to the Travelodge Quebec City contract for the 2027 CNTCs (May 2027), including the Hall of Fame banquet venue, for a total of \$7,275.	Matton / Combey	Carried

26-37: That CBF members under age 26 pay half price to participate in Canadian Championship pairs events and in the round robin and playoffs of Canadian Championship team events.	Burns / Janicki	Carried
26-38: To adjourn the meeting	Callard / Janicki	Carried

ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY

Action	Owner	Due / Target	Completed
Finalize Conditions of Contest for the 2026 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship (online, RealBridge/ACBL scoring)	Xavier / Committee	October 1	
Contact Andy at RealBridge to correct the Maple Leaf Games sign-up time (remove specific time, reference "Friday" only)	Lois	ASAP	
Advise clubs/members that junior/under-26 discount does not apply to CBF membership dues	Sondra	September 15	
Post revised trophy category winners recognition policy (digital certificates, no pins, cap at 1,500 MPs) to CBF website	Sondra	Ongoing	
Post junior/under-26 discount policy and board/staff complimentary-entry practice to CBF Policies page	Sondra / Louise	Ongoing	
Draft congratulatory email for Richmond Trophy category winners	Allan	Outstanding	
Distribute the Mini-Richmond digital certificates to zone recipients (files on SharePoint)	Zone Directors	ASAP	
Advise Lois of zone's \$400 charitable donation recipient	Zone Directors	End of August	
Continue negotiating online Canada-Mexico World Championship playoff format with Patricia Herrera; consider WBF/NABF discussion or arbitration	Shelley / Sondra / Paul	Ongoing	
Confirm WBF policy on transgender/non-binary player eligibility	Paul	Ongoing	
Revise Disciplinary Committee membership (confirm still-active members, ensure 5 members, notify appointees)	Sondra / Board	Next meeting	
Revise Appeals Committee structure (team-captain-designated player model; confirm required number)	Sondra / Board	Next meeting	
Resolve Richmond Trophy eligibility question	Board (by email)	Ongoing	
Follow up with Neil re: Bridge Canada Magazine honorariums and revenue strategies	Shelley	Outstanding	

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM Eastern.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 26-38: to adjourn moved by Allan Callard, seconded by Paul Janicki.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM Eastern Time.

 Shelley Burns, President Date: _____	 Sondra Blank, Executive Administrator Date: _____
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