

CHAPTER VI – CLUB SANCTIONED GAMES

D. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Section 1 – Allocation of Club Championship Game Sessions

- 1.1 Every club that conducts its sanctioned games in full compliance with ACBL regulations is entitled to a number of annual club championship games. The number of such games depends on the number of regular games the club holds.
 - 1.1.2 The allocation of all special games will be based on sessions sanctioned rather than the number of sanctions held.
- 1.2 When a club conducts two or more levels of play at the same time (for example, open and newcomer games), it must conduct its club championships for all levels simultaneously.
- 1.3 When a club recruits 10 new members, one additional upgraded club championship game may be run as a 81.8% sectional-rated game.
- 1.4 Weekly Clubs
 - 1.4.1 Each regularly scheduled weekly game is entitled to four club championship sessions per year. These may be scheduled as four one-session club championships, two one-session championships and one two-session championship, or two two-session championships.
- 1.5 Non-Weekly Clubs
 - 1.5.1 A regularly scheduled club game held at a frequency other than weekly is entitled to one session with club championship rating for each 12 meetings of its regular game. In all other respects, ACBL regulations for the use of the club championship sessions by non-weekly games are the same as they are for weekly games.
- 1.6 Member/Guest Club Championship
 - 1.6.1 Each ACBL sanctioned club that operates a minimum of 18 regularly scheduled games under one session during the year is entitled to hold a one-session Member/Guest Club Championship. A club that is sanctioned for, and conducts, from six through 10 weekly sessions is entitled to hold two Member/Guest Club Championships and a club that conducts 11 or more weekly sessions is entitled to hold three Member/Guest Club Championships.

- 1.6.2 Member/Guest Club Championships may be scheduled at any time during the year.
- 1.6.3 Once each year a Club may hold a one session Member/Guest Club Championship at a time other than that of the regularly sanctioned session. When this is the case, written permission must be obtained from all other sanctioned clubs within a 25 mile radius scheduled to hold a game at the same time.
- 1.6.4 Clubs entitled to hold more than one Member/Guest Club Championship may only move one of the events to a session for which they are not sanctioned.
- 1.6.5 Member/Guest Club Championships are open only to 1) any partnership made up of one ACBL member and one player who is a non-ACBL member or 2) any partnership made up of two individuals neither of whom are ACBL members.

Section 2. – Scheduling Club Championships

- 2.1 When a sectional (excluding STaCs) or higher rated event is being conducted within 25 miles of a club game's playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regularly scheduled club masterpoint games. This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals.
- 2.2 Calendar Quarter Scheduling
 - 2.2.1 A club must hold each of the four club championship sessions for one weekly game during a different calendar quarter of the year, except for an event it conducts in two sessions. A club may not carry over a club championship from one year to the next for the purpose of conducting a two-session event
- 2.3 Playing Site Changes
 - 2.3.1 A club may change the playing site of a club championship session from that of its regular game to accommodate increased attendance or the serving of refreshments. To change the site the club must obtain prior written approval from the unit that has jurisdiction over the area in which the championship is to be held.
- 2.4 Playing Time Changes

2.4.1 Once a year a club may hold a one or two-session club championship at a time other than that of the game it represents. To do so, the club must obtain written permission from all other clubs holding sanctioned games within a 25-mile radius that hold games on that day of the week.

2.5 Number of Boards

2.5.1 Clubs are allowed to hold either regular club championship (18+ boards) or shortened club championships (12-17) boards played. The total number of club championships, including regular and shortened, will remain the same.

2.5.2 The overall awards for shortened club championships are 60% of regular club championships.

2.5.3 The online shortened club championship (12-17 boards) overall award is capped at 4.50 masterpoints.

2.6 Two Session Club Championships

2.6.1 Conducting a two-session club championship uses two of the four quarterly club championships allocated for the year, whether they are played in two consecutive sessions in different quarters (last session of the quarter and first session of the next quarter) or in one quarter (afternoon-evening play through). For example, a club game sanctioned for Saturday afternoon may operate a two-session club championship on two consecutive Saturday afternoons. When the consecutive days fall in the same calendar quarter, the club must forgo a championship event in some other quarter.

2.6.2 Once a year a club may schedule a two-session event on a day other than that for which it is sanctioned. For example, a club sanctioned for a Wednesday session may conduct the two-session event on Saturday afternoon and evening.

2.6.3 The club must obtain written approval from all other Saturday clubs within a 25-mile radius, even if the club is itself sanctioned for either Saturday afternoon or Saturday evening. The club must forgo a club championship event in another calendar quarter if it makes use of this option.

- 2.6.4 If a club is sanctioned for Saturday afternoon and evening, it could hold a two-session club championship all in one day. One club championship session would be charged against each sanctioned game session.
- 2.7 Regular Game With Different Club Championship Time.
 - 2.7.1 If a club holds its club championship on a day for which it is not sanctioned to hold its regular sessions, and it has the written permission of other clubs holding sessions at that time, it may still hold a club masterpoint game on its regular day. The club must note the occurrence of both games on the monthly report form, attach all written permissions to it, and submit appropriate payment with the form.
- 2.8 Back-to-back Plan -In areas in which two or more clubs are sanctioned to hold games simultaneously, attendance at some clubs may drop if one of the clubs stages a club championship. To prevent this, the unit having jurisdiction may adopt and enforce a back-to-back plan, under which all clubs in the playing area holding games during the same session must schedule their club championships in direct competition with each other. Use of this plan is optional with the unit.

Section 3 - Membership Games

- 3.1 The number of one-session Membership Games a club is allotted is proportionate to the overall club activity. A club may hold one membership game per year for each regularly sanctioned session. (If a club runs one game a week, it may hold one Membership Game per year; if a club runs 10 games a week, it may hold 10 Membership Games per year.)
- 3.2 Only Life Members and paid ACBL members are eligible to play in membership games. Before the game begins, the director should make it clear to all participants that if an ineligible player enters, neither the player nor their partner will receive point awards.
- 3.3 The point awards for an open game are 81.8% sectional-rated black points and the session designated for the game must be one for which the club is sanctioned.
- 3.4 Scheduling a Membership Game
 - 3.4.1 A club may schedule a membership game any time during the year, as long as the date does not conflict with the dates of sectional (excluding STACs) or higher-rated events or qualifying games for the NAP or the GNT that are being held within 25 miles of the club game's playing site. This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals..

- 3.4.2 The session designated for the game must be one for which the club is sanctioned.
 - 3.4.3 A club entitled to hold more than one membership game must schedule each one on a different session (for example, not two Friday nights).
 - 3.4.5 A club may change the playing site of a membership game from that of its regular playing site to another location by obtaining prior written approval from the unit that has jurisdiction over the new site.
- 3.5 Type of Event
- 3.5.1 A membership game must be a one-session event. Usually it is an open pair contest. However, a club may conduct any type of standard event it deems appropriate for its players.
- 3.6 Membership Game Director
- 3.6.1 Only a club or higher rated director may conduct a membership game (a playing director is permitted, but not recommended for a game of 17 tables or fewer in one section). The membership game is operated exactly the same way as a club championship.
- 3.7 Point Awards
- 3.7.1 Point awards in the membership game are based on sectional rating. Only ACBL may issue the awards. Open games receive full sectional rating, invitational/restricted games receive 80% of sectional rating, and newcomer games receive 50% of sectional rating.

Section 4 – Other Frequent Club Events

- 4.1 North American Bridge Championship Promotional Game
- 4.1.1 The ACBL allocates to each district one week of sectional-rated NABC fund-raising games in each of the three years prior to a North American Bridge Championship held within the district.
 - 4.1.2 The district schedules a week for the event, and the ACBL notifies all clubs within the district advising them that the events may be held during their regular meeting times.
 - 4.1.3 Clubs may hold the same number of these sessions as their allocated number of membership games.

- 4.1.4 A participating club must remit a sanction fee per table to the ACBL with the report form.
 - 4.1.5 The district establishes the additional fees for this event, which are submitted directly to the district.
 - 4.1.6 These events award sectional-rated black points, with session and overall awards at each site based on the number of tables in play at that site. Open games earn full sectional rating. Invitational/restricted games earn 80% of sectional rating, and newcomer games earn 50%. If the club chooses, these events may be stratified.
- 4.2 Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs)
- 4.2.1 Clubs may also participate in Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) and the qualifying rounds of a Progressive Sectional when these are sponsored by the club's unit.
- 4.3 Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games
- 4.3.1 October has been designated as Club Appreciation Month. During this month, club managers may run one Club Appreciation Pair Game and one Club Appreciation Team Game in place of a regularly scheduled session.
 - 4.3.2 The pair game pays 81.8% of sectional-rated black, and the team game pays sectional Swiss rating with 5% gold. (A player can win a maximum of .25 gold.)
- 4.4 Inter-Club Championship Games
- 4.4.1 Clubs may use their quarterly club championship sanction to hold combined games including two or more clubs not necessarily within the same unit. Each participating club must use their club championship allotment and clubs may schedule as many of these games as they have allotted.
 - 4.4.2 Overall awards are based on the entire field and the same hands are to be used by participating clubs.
 - 4.4.3 This game is to be coordinated by the unit(s) in which the clubs are located and all clubs in the unit(s), sanctioned for the session the game is held, must be allowed to participate.

- 4.4.4 This game must be sanctioned by the ACBL at least 60 days in advance of the event.
- 4.4.5 ACBL management is authorized to sanction and conduct inter-club championships, which are administered online but played “live.” The ACBL may sanction and conduct the event or the ACBL may hold the sanction and sublet the administration of the event.
- 4.4.6 If requested by a group of clubs, the ACBL may authorize (grant a sanction to) a qualified person to administrate such an online-administered, inter-club championship for those clubs. The ACBL may also authorize (grant a sanction to) a qualified person to conduct an online-administered inter-club championship or sanction the event.
- 4.4.7 In addition to a club’s regular club championships, the club may participate in an additional four inter-club championships administered online. A club may not use one or all of its regular quarterly club championships to participate in inter-club championships administered electronically.
- 4.4.8 The masterpoint awards for this event are the same as inter-club championship administered manually.

Section 5. - Fees and Charges

- 5.1 Clubs are expected to submit game reports including applicable fees to the ACBL along with their month end report for Special Event games held in that month. See Chapter VI.A. 5.2.1 for information about late charges. If Special Event games are sanctioned and then cancelled, failure to report the cancellation is subject to late charges and revocation of the sanction to run games.