

CHAPTER IX - REGIONALS

A. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING AND SANCTIONING

Section 1 – Regional Tournament Scheduling

- 1.1 Every district must appoint a Tournament Coordinator.
- 1.2 The minimum/maximum number of days a regional may be held is as follows:
 - a. Open or Senior Regional – minimum of three days.
 - b. Youth Regional, Junior Regional and masterpoint limited Regionals – minimum of two days.
 - c. Individual Regional – no more than two and one-half days. In addition one-session charity or fund game may be held the afternoon of the first day.
- 1.3 A regional may not be more than seven days in duration.
- 1.4 A full seven-day regional may not schedule any events before 1 p.m. on the first day of the tournament.
- 1.5 Only events scheduled for two or more sessions at regionals may award gold points.
- 1.6 All single-session events, except Side Series Pairs on the first day of a full seven-day regional must be run for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the Canadian equivalent of these.
- 1.7 A regional may run two-session gold point events on the first day of the tournament. In addition, a regional may schedule the first two sessions of a KO event on the first day of the tournament.
 - 1.7.1 The first session of all two-session, gold point events on the first day of a full seven-day regional must be run for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the Canadian equivalent of these.
 - 1.7.2 The second session of all two-session, gold point events on the first day of a full seven-day regional must be run for the benefit of one of the above-listed funds or a local charity.
- 1.8 In addition, a one-session event that is run for the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund, or the Canadian equivalent of these may be held during

any day of a regional. The minimum monetary contributions for the above-listed fund, foundation or charity games is \$7.00 per table, per session.

- 1.9 A regional tournament may start on any day of the week and (with the exceptions of Regionals at Sea) must be scheduled on consecutive days until its conclusion.
- 1.10 Exclusive of Knockout Teams and Side Game Series events, a regional may schedule up to four gold point sessions per day. For purposes of this regulation overlapping schedules are deemed to be the same two sessions since participation in one of the events preclude entry into the other. For example 10 a.m./3 p.m. and 1 p.m./7:30 p.m. Management may, with cause, disallow more than two gold point sessions per day.
- 1.11 ACBL regional tournaments will not be sanctioned to run concurrently with any portion of a North American Bridge Championship.
- 1.12 A regional restricted by age or masterpoints may run an open sectional tournament concurrently with the regional with the permission of the unit in which the regional is being held. An open or individual regional may not run a sectional in conjunction with the regional.
- 1.13 A North American Pairs District Final, a Grand National Teams District Final or the CNTC may be run concurrently with a regional or sectional. If they are run concurrently with a sectional, the District must have permission from the sponsoring Unit. Such events must also conform to the scheduling restrictions of their respective conditions of contest.
- 1.14 Whenever the ACBL Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee, is considering holding a special event at a regional, or any other district function, that district's president and District Director must be notified, and such event(s) must not be scheduled without permission of the district through such notice from the District Director.

Section 2 - Regional Tournament Allocations

- 2.1 Regionals are allocated to ACBL districts. A district may conduct its regionals or allocate them to units within the district. Additionally, the WBF and the CBF may be awarded a regional according to 2.8 below.
- 2.2 Each district is allocated four annual regionals which may be open or senior. Each district is allowed to split one regional. In addition, a district is allocated three limited regionals which may be any of the following:
 - a. Junior regional
 - b. Youth regional

- c. Non-Life Master regional with an upper limit of 750 masterpoints. (Effective January 2016)
- 2.3 Upon request and verification, a district with 9,000 to 12,000 ACBL members is allowed one additional regional each year; a district with 12,000 to 15,000 members is allowed two additional regionals each year; a district with 15,000 to 18,000 members will be awarded three additional regionals each year, and a district with 18,000 or more members is allowed four additional regionals. Membership qualifications for such additional regionals will be based on a calendar year's average of the four QUIP reports of 3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31. For example, a district earning a qualification based on 2009 QUIP reports may schedule the additional regional beginning 2011.
- 2.4 Any annual regional held at, or near, the same site that reaches 3,000 tables for the tournament three out of four consecutive years will be awarded to its district and this will not count against the district's base allocation. This tournament must remain in the same locality unless there are extraordinary circumstances verified by management. Any additional regional earned by consecutive table counts in excess of 3,000 will entitle the qualifying district to conduct the additional regional in the year immediately following the qualification.
- 2.5 If a district fails to maintain the requirements for an additional regional (either by a drop in total membership or by the failure of a 3000 table-plus tournament to maintain such size), the district will be entitled to keep its additional regional(s) for two years. If, within the two-year period, the district again meets the requirements, the additional regional (s) may continue to be scheduled without interruption.
- 2.6 In addition, the following off-shore and special regionals are allocated:
 - a. Alaska – D19
 - b. Bermuda – D2
 - c. Hawaii – D20
 - d. Mexico(2) – D16
 - e. Arizona Seniors – D17
 - f. Cape Cod Seniors – D25
 - g. New England Individual
- 2.7 No district may be awarded more than nine regionals in a calendar year under this allocation formula.
- 2.8 The following regionals are not allocated to any specific district:
 - 2.8.1 World Bridge Federation, when a WBF championship is held in Zone 2, such regionals to be held at the site where the championship is being held. A regional running concurrent with a World Bridge Championship may be of a length equal to the WBF Championship.

- 2.8.2 An annual regional is awarded each year to the CBF for the purpose of supporting teams representing Canada in international competition. Depending on the location the affected District and the CBF must agree on the specifics (e.g. date, schedule and fund-sharing). The normal conflict rules shall apply to the scheduling of the tournament.
- 2.9 A district may move a regional from the calendar year in which it hosts an NABC to any of the three prior years or any of the three succeeding years providing the regional meets with all requirements under “ Regional Tournament Scheduling.” This regulation extends to include Acts of God or hotels canceling contracts. Other unforeseen circumstances may be included as determined by the Arbitration Panel.
- 2.10 A district may join with other districts to co-sponsor a regional or to hold a split regional. If co-sponsored, but held at one site, the tournament will count against one district’s allocation. If co-sponsored but held at two different sites the tournament will count against both districts’ allocations. A district may, with permission, hold a regional in a contiguous district.
- 2.10 The Regional Tournament Allocation Plan will be reviewed at least every five years.

Section 3 – Regional Tournament Sanctioning

- 3.1 A sanction application to hold a regional must be submitted to the ACBL Tournament Department three years in advance in order to protect the dates. If a sanction is not submitted at least three years in advance, the district may lose its claim to the dates.
- 3.2 A district that holds a regional on the same dates and at the same sites/areas two out of three years will be placed on the traditional date list for regionals. The list is available from tournaments@acbl.org. Easter week and other fluctuating holidays are noted as exceptions.
- 3.2.1 The dates are protected except for one day at either the beginning or end of the tournament. A tournament with a two or more day encroachment on a traditional date tournament will not be sanctioned.
- 3.3 If a district has a traditional annual date but the site/area does not remain constant, it is no longer a traditional date.
- 3.4 Regionals in the schedule for a specific date and location that move their location more than 50 miles within one year from this date will be subject to the “New Tournament Rules” (in other words this move will be treated as a new tournament).

- 3.5 A regional appearing on the traditional date list which is not held for two years within a three year period will be removed from the list.
- 3.6 The tentative tournament schedule is updated immediately on the website following any change to TourneyTrax.
- 3.7 A regional may be scheduled and sanctioned at any time provided the tournament can be included in the tournament listing in the Bridge Bulletin at least two months prior to the tournament and all rules and regulations regarding conflicts are met.
- 3.8 A regional scheduled and sanctioned more than a year in advance takes precedence over a sectional regardless of when the sectional was sanctioned.
- 3.9 All tournament sanction applications must be submitted electronically.
- 3.10 A sanction application to hold a regional will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt by the ACBL Tournament Department. All applications received must be approved by the District Tournament Coordinator.
- 3.11 Approval for regional sanction applications will be sent three years out or immediately upon approval if received less than three years out.
- 3.12 If it is in the best interests of bridge and ACBL, management may, at its discretion, grant a sanction even though such a sanction would violate an existing regulation. Irrespective of this authority, another unit or district retains the right of appeal for arbitration if the matter concerns violation of a conflict regulation. Management will notify the board at least three times a year of instances where management has varied from the regulation.

Section 4 – Tournament Conflicts

- 4.1 If the ACBL Tournament Department anticipates a possible conflict with a tournament already sanctioned or a Traditional Date tournament the department should immediately notify the person applying for the sanction, the District Tournament Coordinator and the District Director.
- 4.2 If a District Tournament Coordinator believes that a tournament request is in conflict with one of its tournaments, he must first notify ACBL Tournament Division and endeavor to resolve the conflict with the district in question. The District Director(s) from the districts involved in a possible conflict will be notified by management of the possible conflict as soon as management is aware of it.
- 4.3 An Arbitration Panel is established.

- 4.3.1. All panel members will be District Directors or their designees.
 - 4.3.2. The panel will consist of five people, two from each zone without the conflict and one from the zone with the conflict. No one from the districts involved may sit on the Panel.
 - 4.3.3. If there is a conflict between two districts or more in different zones, three people from the third zone and one from each of the two zones with a conflict will be on the Panel.
 - 4.3.4. For the selection process, the zonal representatives will pick the members of the panel from their zones as long as their zone is not involved.
 - 4.3.5. The ACBL President or Chairman of the Board will appoint the person from the “conflict” zone. Since the list of District Directors is updated each year, the list will be automatically current.
- 4.4 Timeliness.
- 4.4.1 For timely sanction applications, if the parties involved cannot resolve the conflict, both applications will be sanctioned with the following proviso: the timely application of a traditional tournament date will take precedence over the timely application of a non-traditional tournament date.
 - 4.4.2 In cases where there are a timely and an untimely application: If the district with the timely application claims there is a conflict, the Arbitration Panel agrees there is a conflict and the conflict cannot be resolved, the untimely application will not be sanctioned.
 - 4.4.3 For equally untimely sanction applications, both applications will be sanctioned. For the purpose of defining “equally untimely,” applications received that would be listed on consecutive bi-weekly updates will be so deemed.
 - 4.4.4 The cases where there are non-equal untimely applications will be treated the same as timely/untimely with the earlier application being timely and the other untimely.
- 4.5 The Arbitration Panel will make a determination that a conflict exists after a request from management or a district holding, or applying for, a sanction. Decisions will be reached after consulting internal resources, demographics of tournament attendance (if available), usual tournament size, data from involved parties, etc. The decision of the Arbitration Panel will be FINAL.

Section 5 – Split Site Regionals

- 5.1 A district may split one of its regionals and hold it at two sites on the same dates.
- 5.2 Split-site Regionals award masterpoints according to the General Regional Masterpoint Formula
- 5.3 Split-site regionals count as one tournament under the Regional Allocation Formula listed in section 2.
- 5.4 Each Split-site Regional may run a different schedule than its corresponding Split-site Regional and no events are combined between the two sites.

Section 6 – Regionals at Sea

- 6.1 The ACBL and only the ACBL shall be permitted to sponsor Regionals at Sea (“RAS”).
- 6.2 The ACBL may sponsor up to four RaS per year.
- 6.3 Three of the four RaS should depart from different geographic “areas.” The areas are defined as East Coast (Atlantic other than Florida), West Coast (Pacific) and Gulf Coast (Gulf of Mexico plus the entire Florida coast.) ACBL Management shall, to the best their ability, attempt to avoid conflict with land-based Regionals.
- 6.4 Except as specified in this motion, RaS must conform to the same rules and regulations as land-based Regionals.
- 6.5 RaS are exempt from the rules regarding maximum tournament sessions and days. The tournament schedule will be determined by the tournament manager subject to the approval of the ACBL staff.