

CHAPTER IX – REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

C. EVENTS / SCHEDULES

Section 1 – General

- 1.1 A player may play in and earn gold points in as many gold point sessions as possible while not entered in a concurrent or overlapping event.
- 1.2 At least one two-session event must be scheduled for 199er regional tournaments which are three days or longer in duration. All championship events may be single session for 199er regional tournaments which are two days in duration.
- 1.3 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 2 – Senior Regionals

- 2.1 At Senior regionals the sponsoring organization may hold open side games or an open sectional.
- 2.2 A 199er regional may be held in conjunction with a Senior regional.

Section 3 – Senior Events

- 3.1 Senior events may be held with minimum age restrictions of 60, 65, or 75. Such events may be stratified by masterpoints. The masterpoint awards will be 80% for 60+ and 70% for both 65+ and 75+.

Section 4 – Knockout Events

- 4.1 A sponsoring organization may run a knockout event at regionals handicapping all teams.
- 4.2 At the option of the sponsor, if fewer sessions are required than were originally scheduled, finals of knockout matches may be played at a time agreed upon by all parties. The entire match must be finished prior to the conclusion of the tournament. When this option is exercised, the two teams may enter any new event.

- 4.3 Whenever there are fewer than eight Flight A teams, volunteers may be solicited from the Flight B event to bring Flight A event up to eight teams. All teams in that flight will be assigned a handicap of a number of IMPs. Pairings shall be by random draw.
- 4.4 In a flighted Regional Knockout team event, where one or more Flight B teams volunteer to play in Flight A in order to constitute an eight team event, and thereby cause random pairings and handicapping of teams, the following method will be used to determine a team's handicap:
- a. Each team's average masterpoint holding (counting all team members) will be subtracted from 1500. Teams with an average Master Point holding of 1500 or greater receive a zero handicap.
 - b. Any remainder obtained in 1) is divided by 1000.
 - c. The quotient arrived at in 2) is multiplied by the number of boards in the match and rounded to the nearest whole number to determine the team's handicap.
 - d. If two competing teams have an average of less than 1500 MPs, the handicap for the team with the higher average is deducted from the handicap for the team with the lower average. The difference is the lower team's net handicap for the match.
- 4.5 In regional-rated KO events, teams shall be required to win two matches, not including Byes, to receive overall masterpoint awards.
- 4.6 No regional Knockout will be sanctioned unless:
- 4.6.1 The type of Knockout to be held is specified:
 - a. Flighted - One or more flights may be bracketed by design or as necessary, but the intent to bracket must be stated in the schedule.
 - b. Bracketed with random draw matches or as a seeded event.
 - c. Open, Women's or the like. Again these may be bracketed as necessary but that possibility must be stated in the schedule.
 - d. Handicapped.
 - 4.6.2 All sessions have a specifically stated starting time. (TBA is not acceptable.)
 - 4.6.3 Regional Knockouts of three sessions in length may be scheduled. The overall masterpoints will be reduced by a factor of 30%. When there are at least four scheduled sessions, attendance may dictate less than four sessions in some cases, such as a Flight A with only eight teams entering.

The intent of this regulation is to not allow 32 teams to be divided into four groups of eight in order to finish in three sessions.

- 4.7 Sponsoring organizations may choose to seed the event, randomly draw the teams into seed positions, or randomly draw the matches each round with or without stipulations on repeats. It is recommended that when an event will contain two sessions of round robin play, teams who have met previously in round robins not be allowed to meet again in a second round robin. Note that for four session events, this applies only to brackets of 9, 10 or 11 teams.

Section 5 – Unrestricted Events

- 5.1 Flighted, Stratified and Stratiflighted events count all tables in all flights/strata to determine the number of tables in the unrestricted event (the A Flight or Stratum). Two or more concurrent unrestricted events share equally the available restricted tables but not each others tables. An unrestricted event with a lower limit and no upper limit is treated as an open event when there is no concurrent open event.
- 5.2 For the purpose of awarding masterpoints, a restricted event that is two sessions, morning and afternoon, is deemed to be totally concurrent with a two-session event that is afternoon and evening. However, if a restricted event is scheduled horizontally, it is not deemed to be totally concurrent with a two-session vertical event.

Section 6 – Expert/Amateur Games

- 6.1 For each Expert/Amateur event there will be a master point total fixed in advance that will be used to determine expert. Any player whose master points are greater than that total will be an expert for that event. Any other player will be considered an amateur. The fixed total can be any number appropriate to the level of players who would normally attend the tournament. In many areas of ACBL, 300 masterpoints would be the likely choice, but it is possible that 200, 500 or even 1000 would be demographically more correct. The objective for choosing a number is to split the attendance of an event in half.
- 6.1.1 In a Pair event, each pair must be comprised of one expert and one amateur.
- 6.1.2 In a team event, the four players in play for a team must be comprised of two experts and two amateurs who can form partnerships as they wish.

6.1.3 Master points for any such event will be at 80% of Open since the event is restricted (i.e. not open to every pair). The amount of master points used to define expert would not influence the master point award.

6.2 Stratified by Expertise

6.2.1 Some arbitrary, fixed master point total would be determined to differentiate expert from amateur.

6.2.2 The event would be stratified in the following manner:

- a. Strat A - Expert/Expert - Points awarded as Open Pair based on all entered
- b. Strat B - Expert/Amateur - Points awarded at 80% of Open Pairs based on pairs in Strats B and C.
- c. Strat C - Amateur/Amateur - Points awarded on number of pairs in Strat C with appropriate M value for the masterpoint limit of event.

6.2.3 Other existing regulations for stratified pairs apply.

Section 7 – Online Events

7.1 A District may run on-line events at their Regional bridge tournament. Participation by players outside the host District is subject to the approval of the District in which the players reside. Approval for the event shall be governed by the ability of the District to meet all provisions contained in the Pair Events – General Conditions of Contest for on-line events.

7.2 ACBL Management will discuss the application for the on-line event with the DIC of the tournament. Approval will be conditioned upon the DIC's ability to provide adequate staffing to run the event.

7.3 Masterpoints will be awarded pursuant to the General Formula.

7.4 Tournament Organizers are responsible for all ACBL sanction fees, TD session fees, and online host fees that result from this event.

(Section 7 provisionally added through November 2018)