

CHAPTER IX – REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

B. FINANCE

1. GENERAL

- a. Sponsoring organizations are required to pay all funds due the ACBL at the conclusion of the tournament.
- b. The ACBL strongly recommends Units and Districts make student discounts available at Sectionals and Regionals.

2. SANCTION FEES

- a. The sanction fee for 199er Regionals will be the same rate as the sanction fee for Open Sectionals.
- b. All sanction fees, per session sponsor fees and other tournament fees are subject to annual review by the Board of Directors and are posted in the ACBL Handbook, Appendix G, Prices and Fees.
- c. There will be no sanction fees for Junior/Youth Regionals or Junior/Youth Sectionals. Sanction fees do apply to Junior events at open regionals or sectionals.
- d. The sanction fee will be waived for sectional and regional tournament events which are designed to introduce new players to tournaments, and which do not charge entry fees.
- e. Each Regional will be allocated one sanction-free midnight game held to subsidize District GNT competitions. For those games held in Canada, Mexico or Bermuda, each Regional shall be allocated one sanction-free midnight game held to benefit the Zonal or National team competition.
- f. No sanction fees will be charged for free fill-ins.
- g. Management is authorized to waive any Board mandated sanction fee for cause. This authority may be used for a specific event(s) or an entire tournament.

3. NON-DUES PAYING PLAYERS SURCHARGE

Except for charity events or events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints:

- a. For all regionals, the sponsoring organization will charge a mandatory additional fee of at least \$2.00 per person per session for non-members and non-service fee paying LMs.
- b. It is suggested that the sale signage present this as a discount to members.
- c. The additional fee shall be retained by the sponsoring organization.

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C. EVENTS / SCHEDULES

1. GENERAL

a. Gold Points

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.

b. 199er Regional

At least one 2-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.

c. Management Sanctioning

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.

2. SENIOR REGIONALS

a. At senior Regionals the sponsoring organization may hold open side games or an open Sectional.

b. A 199er Regional may be held in conjunction with a Senior Regional.

3. SENIOR EVENTS

Senior events may be held with minimum age restrictions of 55, 65, or 75. Such events may be stratified by masterpoints. The masterpoint awards will be 80% for 55+ and 70% for both 65+ and 75+.

4. KNOCKOUT EVENTS

a. A sponsoring organization may run a knockout event at Regionals handicapping all teams.

b. 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.

5. UNRESTRICTED EVENTS

- a. At Regional and Sectional tournaments, two session events which are unrestricted in any way (completely open) shall be credited with all tables in play in totally concurrent events (pairs, teams or individual but not knockouts or continuous pairs) for the purpose of computing overall awards, up to a maximum total of 3 times the number of tables in play in the unrestricted event.
- b. 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 as above 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.
- c. 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.
- d. Unrestricted events of more than two sessions supersede two session events held on the first day of the multi-session event, and shall be credited with the totally concurrent first day (2 session) tables of any type, as above.
- e. Regional events at NABCs will be treated as though they are being held at a Regional tournament.
- f. Master Events, when there are no open events of the same type, will receive the higher masterpoint award based on:
 - (1) The number of tables in the event with the appropriate “M” factor, or
 - (2) The number of tables based on this event getting credit for other tables as per paragraphs (a-d.) above, with an “M” factor of 1.

6. EXPERT/AMATEUR GAMES

- a. Expert/Amateur Event
 - (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 master points 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.

- (2) (a) In a Pair event, each pair must be comprised of one expert and one amateur.
- (b) 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.
- (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.

b. Stratified by Expertise

- (1) Some arbitrary, fixed master point total would be determined to differentiate expert from amateur.
- (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.
- (3) Other existing regulations for stratified pairs apply.

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D. OPERATIONS

1. STAFFING

Regional tournaments will be staffed by directors who are ACBL employees, except as noted below.

- a. ACBL fully supports the use of Tournament Assistants to help sponsoring organizations keep their tournaments affordable. Management is directed, whenever feasible, to reduce its TD staffing requirements for a tournament when the sponsoring organization commits to hire a Tournament Assistant.
- b. The request of a Unit that its I/N Regional Tournament be run by a director not qualified to run an Open Regional may be approved by the appropriate Field Representative or ACBL Management.