

CHAPTER X - SECTIONALS

A. GENERAL

Sectional Tournament Scheduling and Allocations (102-40) (103-162)

1. SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT ALLOCATIONS

- a. Each unit is required to hold a Sectional at least once every two years.
- b. Sectionals are allocated to Units. There are no restrictions as to the number of Sectionals a Unit may conduct. A District has the right of approval for Sectionals conducted by its Units. A Unit must abide by the decision of the District as to how many Sectionals it may run.
- c. Sectionals must be at least two days and no more than five days in duration, with the exception of Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs). STaCs must be at least two days and no more than seven days in duration. A unit may not attempt to circumvent this rule by scheduling back-to-back sanctions that run consecutively.
- d. The Las Vegas Unit 373 is grandfathered permission to run:
 - (1) Two, and only two, Sectionals per year which may be up to six and one-half days in length; or
 - (2) One six and a half day Sectional and up to two Sectionals not to exceed five days; or
 - (3) An unlimited number of standard Sectionals.
- e. Sectionals may be Open, Senior, Limited by masterpoints (specifically, 0-100; 0-200; 0-300 or Non-LM), Junior, Youth, Progressive Style or STaC. Sectional senior, youth or junior tournaments may be combined with limited-by-masterpoint tournaments. In these instances the higher sanction fee will apply.
- f. A Unit may join with another Unit(s) to run a Sectional or a STaC. A Unit may, with permission of the Unit and District(s), hold a Sectional in a contiguous Unit.
- g. A Sectional may schedule up to four (4) sessions of championship rated events per day with no decrease in masterpoint awards. Management may, with cause, disallow more than two (2) championship sessions per day.
- h. Sectionals at Sea are allocated only by the ACBL.
- i. An open Sectional may be run concurrently with a Regional restricted by age or masterpoints, with the permission of the Unit in which the Regional is being held.

2. SCHEDULING OF SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- a. A Sectional may be scheduled and sanctioned at any time provided the tournament can be included in the tournament listings in the Bridge Bulletin at least one month prior to the tournament and all rules and regulations regarding conflicts are met.
- b. If a sanction application is submitted less one year in advance, the Unit loses its claim to the dates.
- c. All Sectionals have the same status and the same rules and regulations apply.
- d. A sanction application to hold a Sectional will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt by the ACBL Tournament Department. The process is as follows: the Unit Tournament Coordinator will submit an online sanction application to ACBL headquarters, which shall automatically be forwarded, without review, to the District Tournament Coordinator for approval. Upon District Tournament Coordinator approval, the application will be reviewed for sanctioning by the ACBL Tournament Department.
- e. Approval of Sectional sanction applications will be made one year out, or immediately upon approval if received less than one year out.
- f. Questions concerning scheduling and other conflicts for Sectionals will be resolved by the Unit(s) and the District Organization involved.
- g. Districts and Units perceiving a conflict with other Units or Districts must notify Management or the Arbitration Board within 30 days of the tournament posting on the website.
- h. When a Unit perceives a conflict between its Sectional and a tournament in another District, the Unit Tournament Coordinator shall work through his District Tournament Coordinator to initiate the processes of conflict resolution in the same manner that Regional conflicts are resolved.

3. STaCs

- a. A STaC may be scheduled for up to seven consecutive days, but may include only one weekend -- however, Management may grant an exception to the weekend requirement for cause. A sanction application must be sent to the appropriate District Tournament Coordinator at least 12 months prior to the scheduled tournament date. The ACBL may sanction a STaC when it receives the sanction application with fewer than 12 months advance notice if there are no scheduling conflicts and the STaC can be advertised in "The Bulletin" calendar schedule at least one month prior.
- b. While only Units may apply for a sanction to hold a STaC there is no objection to a Unit nominating a District or Districts to conduct the tournament. In District-wide STaCs all clubs within the District(s) must be offered the opportunity to participate. Participation is at the club level when sponsored by a District. If a Unit outside of the sponsoring District chooses

to participate, all clubs within that Unit must be invited to participate.

- c. The organization receiving the sanction (sponsoring organization – ‘SO’) is responsible for the collection of any fees due from a participating ACBL sanctioned game.
- d. A sponsor may schedule morning, afternoon and/or evening sessions. For the purpose of determining in which session a club should participate, use the standard club session designations. Many STaCs schedule only two sessions per day. The local sponsor must designate the sessions to be scheduled. As an example: Morning games would be those starting prior to 12:00 local time, afternoon games start prior to 18:00 local time, and evening games 18:00 and later. Morning and afternoon games may not be combined as day games.
- e. When a club wishes to participate in a STaC for a session other than their regularly scheduled game, the unit may decide these cases. This authority to disallow a club from participating in a STaC extends only to games which conflict with another game for that session and only to games being conducted at other than their regularly scheduled time. Any club desiring to participate at their regularly scheduled time must be permitted to do so.
- f. In order to be eligible for overall awards in a STaC, or any event that is scored across more than one club, the minimum number of boards played is set at 20.

4. LIMITED SECTIONALS

a. Non Championship Sectional

A unit of 200 members or less or a sectional tournament which averages 15 or fewer tables per session may run up to three non-championship sectionals a year.

- (1) This sectional is not required to use a Tournament Director.
- (2) A qualified club director or a local-rated director may be used.
- (3) The sectional will award silver points.
- (4) The M value will be no greater than .65 of Open.
- (5) The sectional must have a sanction and meet all other requirements.
- (6) The sectional will be listed in the Bridge Bulletin with an * that it is non-championship with silver points and .65 of Open.
- (7) The sanction fees will be the same as for a Championship Sectional.

b. 0 - 99 Sectionals

A Unit not running at least two 99er Sectional tournaments per year is encouraged to grant approval to any club within its jurisdiction that applies for a sanction to run such a tournament. Sanction notification/application per existing regulations will be forwarded to the District’s tournament coordinator for his or her approval.

5. SECTIONALS AT SEA

All Sectionals at Sea (SAS) shall be subject to the following regulations:

An application for sanction should be submitted to the ACBL at least three months in advance. (Send request to tournaments@acbl.org)

- a. The application will contain the following information:
 - (1) Ship's name and Cruise Line, departure/arrival dates, and ports. Plus the Sponsor or Unit/District name, address and email.
 - (2) A schedule of all ACBL events with scheduled lectures.
 - (a) The schedule must meet the criteria as for a land-based Sectional.
 - (b) The schedule and any advertising must be approved by ACBL.
 - (3) A list of directors who will be operating the games.
 - (a) Directors must be approved by ACBL.
 - (b) ACBL may require the director(s) to take a certification test.
- b. Masterpoint awards will be:
 - (1) 80% of Open Sectional if an active tournament director is requested and assigned.
 - (2) 65% of Open Sectional (non-championship) if an active ACBL tournament director is not utilized.
- c. There should be adequate playing space for all sessions scheduled and expected attendance.
- d. The SAS bridge package may be purchased in advance or on board, albeit at different prices, subject to available playing space and staffing.
- e. A Sectional at Sea sanction fee of \$10.00/table is payable to the ACBL.
- f. If an active tournament director is assigned, the tournament director per-session fee will also be payable to the ACBL. There will be no sectional surcharge. The sponsor will be responsible for the director(s) transportation costs.
- g. Sectionals at Sea will be subject to the same general conflict rules as land-based Sectionals. Currently, no SAS may depart from a port within 25 miles of a concurrent land-based Sectional or Regional.

6. OTHER

Management is authorized to award a sectional sanction to a non-ACBL sponsor to conduct a tournament in other than ACBL territory as long as:

- a. the NBO (if no NBO, the appropriate WBF zonal representative) gives written permission,
- b. tournament directors meet ACBL standards,
- c. normal per table sanction fees are paid to ACBL,
- d. the sponsoring organization will abide by all ACBL regulations then in effect,
- e. the host country's laws are not contrary to ACBL regulations then in effect.

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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.
- c. Except for charity events or events limited to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints:
 - (1) For all sectionals, the sponsoring organization shall charge a mandatory additional fee of at least \$1.00 per person per session for non-members and non-service fee paying LMs.
 - (2) It is suggested that the sale signage present this as a discount to members.
 - (3) The additional fee shall be retained by the sponsoring organization.

2. FEES AND CHARGES

- a. Sectional tournaments are charged a surcharge in lieu of the transportation cost of the highest-ranking director, in addition to the usual table sanction fees, and tournament director fees.
- b. STaC sanction fees are calculated on a sliding scale dependent on the number of tables in the STaC.
- c. The added fee of \$1.00 per player, that is required to be collected at Sectionals from non-members or non-service paying LMs, is waived for STaCs.
- d. Sectionals at sea have a unique schedule of fees and charges.
- e. All of these fees are subject to annual review by the Board of Directors and are posted in the ACBL Handbook, Appendix G, Prices and Fees.
- f. 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.
- g. The sanction fee for sectional tournaments limited to non-LM or to players with fewer than 300 masterpoints is \$1.00 less per table than for an open sectional.
- h. No sanction fees will be charged for free fill-ins.
- i. 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.

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C. EVENTS / SCHEDULES

1. EVENTS

- a. In flighted events other than Life Master events, partnerships crossing masterpoint boundaries will be required to enter the flight appropriate to the higher-ranking partner.
- b. Strata-flighted events at sectionals may be advertised and run with a combined A and B flight in one group playing together and the C flight playing separately.
- c. 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+.

2. SCHEDULING

- a. When sanctioning Sectionals, Management will notify the tournament chairman and District Director (or his/her designee) when proposed events or Master Point ranges seem inadvisable or inappropriate.
- b. 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.

3. 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.

- d. At Sectional tournaments, one session events which are unrestricted in any way and are not concurrent with either session of a two-session event shall be credited with all tables in play in concurrent events (as above) 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. Any two session unrestricted event at a Sectional receives table credit from all restricted events held either totally concurrent or concurrent with the first session, as above.

4. INTERNATIONAL FUND GAME

- a. All Units (i.e. Sectional Sponsors), are permitted to run up to two (2) International fund sessions at each Sectional with the exception of STaCs.
- b. An International Fund game can be run as an open game, senior game, team or pair game, newcomer game, or any other game that is run at a Sectional.
- c. The point awards will be regionally rated silver points.
- d. The Sponsor of the sectional will be charged \$1.00 per player. In Canada the charge will be \$1.00 Canadian.
 - (1) If the game is run at a Sectional in the US, the money will go to the US International Fund.
 - (2) If the game is run at a Sectional in Canada or Mexico, the money will go that NBOs International Fund.
- e. The normal sanction fee for Sectionals will also be charged to the Sponsoring Organization.

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D. OPERATIONS

1. STAFFING

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

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. Intermediate/Novice Sectional Tournaments

- (1) Sectionals with an upper masterpoint limit of 100 masterpoints or fewer may be run by non-rated directors.

- (2) Sectionals with an upper masterpoint limit of more than 300 masterpoints must be run by a director of Tournament Director rank.

- (3) With Management approval, a Sponsoring Organization may run a limited sectional with a maximum of 299 Masterpoints using directors who are not ACBL employees.

- c. A Unit may request Tournament Directors of their choosing, given cause. When the sponsor of a Sectional Tournament requests and receives approval to have a Tournament Director other than one who would have been assigned by ACBL (nearest Director of highest rank), that sponsor will assume the financial responsibility for the difference in the transportation expenses.

- d. A playing director is permitted for STaCs when hand records are not being used and the entry is eight or fewer tables. The playing director does not receive masterpoints, only the partner and/or teammates do.