

## CHAPTER VI – CLUB SANCTIONED GAMES

### A. ACBL SANCTIONS FOR CLUB MASTERPOINT GAMES

#### Section 1 – ACBL Club Masterpoint Game Sanction Eligibility

- 1.1 An ACBL club sanction grants the right to an entity to conduct bridge games at regularly scheduled times and locations and award masterpoints at those games in accordance with specific ACBL rules and regulations.
- 1.2 Every club running ACBL-sanctioned games must have a designated club manager who is the official representative to ACBL.
- 1.3 It is the responsibility of the club to comply with all local, state and federal laws. Clubs are not authorized to use the ACBL name or logo or other ACBL identification except in connection with the issuance of masterpoints.
- 1.4 Games must be conducted in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of ACBL regulations as well as the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. The success or failure of games conducted by a club is the responsibility of the club manager. The club manager is free to operate the club as he or she sees fit, as long as the operation of ACBL sanctioned games falls within the limits prescribed by ACBL.

#### Section 2 – Obtaining And Maintaining a Sanction

- 2.1 An application for an ACBL club game sanction, whether new or renewal, will not be accepted until the club manager signs the following arbitration agreement:
  - 2.1.1 Should any dispute, of whatever kind or nature, arise between the ACBL and the undersigned club, it is agreed that such dispute shall be resolved by binding arbitration pursuant to the rules of The American Arbitration Association or such other method of binding arbitration as may be agreed upon mutually by the parties.
- 2.2 Waiting Period
  - 2.2.1 When the ACBL receives an application for a new club game sanction (or reinstatement of a lapsed sanction), there is a 30-day probationary period before the sanction is issued. During this period, copies of the application are sent to an official of the unit in which the club is located and, on request, to the district director for their assessment.
  - 2.2.2 The ACBL will waive the 30-day probationary period if the unit or the district director agrees in writing to the waiver.
- 2.3 Allowable Objections to a Sanction

- 2.3.1 A unit or district director may object to a masterpoint game sanction being granted on the grounds that:
- (a) the proposed quarters are not suitable, or
  - (2) the applicant's record as an ACBL member indicates previous failures in meeting ACBL standards.
- 2.3.2 The ACBL may refuse to grant a new sanction because of the club manager's history of failure to adhere to ACBL regulations. If the ACBL rejects an application because of an objection from the unit or district director, the applicant may appeal the rejection to the ACBL Board of Directors. The applicant must make the appeal within 30 days of the date he or she received notice that the application was rejected.
- 2.4 Duration of a Sanction
- 2.4.1 A sanction is valid until the end of the calendar year for which it was issued.
- 2.4.2 The ACBL will not renew a sanction if the club fails to observe regulations, including those that concern reporting and paying for special events sanctioned by the club.
- 2.4.3 If for some reason, such as remodeling playing quarters or location loss, a club must close a game for an extended period of time, the ACBL will place the sanction on an inactive status. The ACBL will not renew the sanction for the following year unless the club has a location and a specific date when games will resume.
- 2.5 Cancellation of a Sanction
- 2.5.1 ACBL management has the right to cancel or suspend a club game sanction for cause upon thirty days notice to the club manager. Any one of the following shall constitute "cause" for cancellation or suspension:
- (a) operation of a club out of compliance with ACBL regulations
  - (b) unsuitable club venue
  - (c) discriminatory practices as set forth in the ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations.
- 2.5.2 A suspension is for a fixed period of time whereupon the sanction shall automatically renew. If a cancellation is for a fixed period of time, the club manager may apply for renewal. Cancellations may be permanent without the possibility of renewal.

- 2.5.3 ACBL management may immediately suspend or cancel a club game sanction if the “cause” for cancellation is such that continuation of the sanction will result in substantial and immediate violation of ACBL Regulations; or increase the likelihood of lawsuit against the ACBL; or result in violation of state or Federal law.
- 2.5.4 The thirty day notice of suspension or cancellation shall provide the club manager with the option of providing ACBL management with reasons in writing why the suspension or cancellation should not take place, whereupon ACBL management, in its own discretion, may leave the suspension or cancellation in place, amend the suspension or cancellation or withdraw the suspension or cancellation.
- 2.5.5 The club may file a written appeal of a suspension or cancellation with the Appeals and Charges Committee of ACBL Board of Directors within thirty days of the effective date of the cancellation, provided however, that the suspension or cancellation will remain in effect until the appeal before the Appeals and Charges Committee has been decided. In order to be considered, such written appeal must include reasons why the cancellation is inconsistent with the terms of this Section D.

### Section 3 – Cost of a Sanction

#### 3.1 New Club Games

- 3.1.1 The ACBL considers a club game new if it has not been sanctioned previously at the specific location for which it is applying, if it failed to renew its sanction by January 31, if it is on inactive status, or if it has not conducted regularly scheduled duplicate games during the preceding calendar year. However, if a club moves to a new location in the same area and retains its club number, the ACBL does not consider it new. Should a new club game sanction be denied, a specific reason will be given.

#### 3.2 Annual fee

- 3.2.1 The annual sanction fee per sanctioned game shall be \$11.50
- 3.2.2 When a club files its annual sanction application, it must include the fee for each regularly scheduled game session. This fee is paid once a year. Games that operate for a short time during the year (for example, during summer months) are subject to this fee, just as if sessions were held throughout the year.

#### 3.3 Table Fees

- 3.3.1 The fee per sanctioned game session shall be \$1.25.

- 3.3.2 Regular game table (18+ boards) fees are \$.74 and short game (12-17 boards) table fees are \$.46 per table.
- 3.3.3 A club must pay a fee for each sanctioned game session held plus a fee for each table in play. The ACBL charges only one game session fee if different levels of games are held simultaneously.
- 3.3.4 Clubs will be charged an additional \$2 per game fee if they either mail a hard copy of the monthly masterpoint and financial reports or submit reports using an outdated version of ACBLscore. Small clubs can request an exemption from these additional fees. New clubs requesting sanctions will be required to report electronically using ACBLscore.
- 3.3.5 Table and session sanction fees are waived for any game that a club schedules to recruit new members and for which it charges no entry fee.

#### Section 4. Sanctioned Game Provisions

##### 4.1 Scheduling Masterpoint Games

- 4.1.1 A club may conduct one or more regularly scheduled games under one sanction at varying sites.
- 4.1.2 The club must list all regularly scheduled games that will award masterpoints and all addresses where these games will be held on the sanction application.
- 4.1.3 Once the sanction is granted, only those game sessions listed on the application may award masterpoints.
- 4.1.4 If a schedule change is contemplated or proposed, two weeks notice must be given to ACBL before the change may be made.
- 4.1.5 No notice is necessary if a club's regularly scheduled session falls on the evening (6:00 p.m. or later) of December 31 (New Year's Eve). The club may schedule two sessions of play that night - one to begin before midnight and the other after.

##### 4.2 Adding games

- 4.2.1 A club may add or change game sessions on a sanction any time during the year, provided that it notifies the ACBL Club and Member Services Department and pays a fee for each game session changed.

##### 4.3 Cancelling Sessions

- 4.3.1 ACBL regulations permit the canceling of a specific session without penalty. The club manager or director must note the canceled game

session on the Monthly Report Form. No fees are refunded for canceled game sessions.

#### 4.4 Non exclusivity of Sanction

- 4.4.1 ACBL sanctions are not exclusive. The ACBL encourages open competition among clubs and will sanction two or more club games simultaneously in the same community but usually not at the same location. When two or more club games occupy the same quarters (as happens when a group of sanction holders cooperate to maintain a city bridge center,) they may not operate simultaneously unless their games are of a different class.
- 4.4.2 Units may not compete with existing club sessions. A unit may sponsor a club session or sessions when no existing club session(s) is in operation in a given area. Exception: Units operating a club-type session prior to a new session receiving sanction may continue to do so.

#### 4.5 Clubs in Good Standing

- 4.5.1 Clubs that operate in full compliance with ACBL regulations remain in good standing. On application, the ACBL will renew their game sanctions for the following year. However, the ACBL will not renew sanctions for clubs that have unresolved problems with monthly or special game reports until the problems are resolved. The ACBL is not obligated to renew sanctions for clubs with significant violations of ACBL rules and regulations.

### Section 5 Sanctioned Club Game Requirements

#### 5.1 Manager

- 5.1.1 Every ACBL sanctioned masterpoint club game must designate an active ACBL member in good standing with all service fees and dues paid as its manager. The club manager is accountable to the ACBL for the enforcement of ACBL rules and regulations in all sanctioned games the club conducts. The club manager must supervise the following activities:
  - (a) Preparation and filing of the Monthly Financial and Masterpoint Report(s) The signature of the club manager must be on the form when it is filed.
  - (b) Correspondence with the ACBL on club game matters
  - (c) Application for sanction renewals and reporting any change of club managers or session changes on a form provided by the ACBL.

#### 5.2 Late Charge for Overdue Club Monthly Reports and Rating Point Reports

- 5.2.1 Club managers who do not submit timely club reports will be charged \$.25/day after the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month up to a maximum of \$5.00 for the first month. These clubs will be notified that such reports must be submitted along with any late charges within thirty (30) days. If a report and late charges are not received within the thirty (30) days, an additional \$25.00 charge will be assessed and the club will be suspended until the report and monies due, including the late charges, are received at Headquarters.

## Section 6 Miscellaneous Club Regulations

### 6.1 Legal Defense of Clubs in Civil Actions

- 6.1.1 The ACBL CEO is authorized to have the ACBL participate to the extent and in such form as the CEO deems reasonable in the defense of a club/club manager/club official who is sued as the sole result of having enforced conditions of his/her sanction.

### 6.2 Relationship of clubs, Units and the ACBL

- 6.2.1 The primary concern of the ACBL is the welfare of its members as it relates to the game of bridge. Thus, regulations have been established by the ACBL to protect the interests of its members. However, these regulations are only in force during ACBL sanctioned masterpoint games. Only the ACBL can assess discipline against a club for a violation of ACBL regulations.

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### **B – Types of Club Masterpoint Games**

#### Section 1 Open Games

- 1.1 An open game is open to all ACBL members. Prohibiting or allowing non-members of ACBL to play does not affect open game status.
- 1.2 In an open game a club may stipulate that each participant hold a minimum number of masterpoints but cannot stipulate a maximum. For example, an open game could specify that all players must have no fewer than 20 masterpoints but could not refuse entry to a Life Master.
- 1.3 Club managers may regulate conventions in games conducted at their clubs. A complete list of conventions that may be used for club play is shown on the ACBL General Convention Chart/Midchart/SuperChart
- 1.4 A club that charges a membership fee may conduct an open game, but the game must be open to all ACBL members, whether or not they are members of the club. However, the club may allow its own members to play at a reduced fee. The entry fee for a non-member may be as much as 50% more than a member's entry fee. However, if the member entry fee is less than \$1.00, a surcharge of \$.50 for non-members is permissible.
- 1.5 An open pair game must have a minimum of two-and-one-half tables. A two-table individual with a one-winner movement or a two-table team game (match awards only) is allowed. In any open club game every contestant must be scheduled to play a minimum of 18 boards to receive full masterpoint awards.
- 1.6 Sanctioned clubs may hold shortened regular open games with a minimum number of boards played of 12-17. Masterpoints are awarded at 60% of the award for open games. Sanction fees are reduced for games of 12-17 boards.

#### Section 2 – Invitational/Restricted Game

- 2.1 An invitational game is one that limits or places restrictions on who can participate in its events. Participation commonly is limited to:
  - a) Members and guests of the organization that holds the sanction (such as country club or fraternal organization).
  - b) Personnel (and their families and guests) of industries that are currently participating in commercial and industrial leagues
  - c) Players who hold fewer than a stipulated number of masterpoints (when the maximum permitted is fewer than 20, the game is defined as a newcomer game)
  - d) Sections or directions segregated according to strong and weak pairs

- e) Strong players forbidden to play as partners
  - f) Life Masters excluded or required to play with non-Life Masters
  - g)  Members of one sex only
- 2.2 Eligibility may be restricted for any reason except those that violate ACBL bylaws.
- 2.3 An invitational/restricted game may have no fewer than two-and-one-half tables (except in the case of a two-table individual with a one-winner movement or a team game), and every contestant must be scheduled to play a minimum of ~~18~~ 12 boards.

### Section 3 – Newcomer Games

- 3.1 A newcomer game is limited to players who hold fewer than 20 masterpoints, although a club can set a lower maximum, such as 1 masterpoint, if it so desires.
- 3.2 A newcomer game is conducted to acquaint new players with duplicate bridge and to encourage participation by inexperienced players.
- 3.3 A newcomer game must consist of at least two and one-half tables. However, there are masterpoint awards for two-table newcomer games conducted as individuals or team games.
- 3.4 Participants must be scheduled to play a minimum of 6 boards.
- 3.5 Any club with a sanctioned game may conduct a newcomer game session. The game session may be run any time. The club must list the newcomer game session on the sanction application and the monthly report. When the newcomer game is run concurrently with another sanctioned game, only the table fees are due ACBL.
- 3.6 When the director or club management determines that the ability of a player is vastly superior to that of the other newcomer game participants, the club may refuse entry of that player in its newcomer events. In such a case, the director should advise the player, as diplomatically as possible, that he or she is too proficient to play in the newcomer game. The director should encourage the player instead to participate in the club's games with a higher masterpoint limitation or the open games.
- 3.7 Players With 20 or More Masterpoints
- 3.7.1 Subject to specified conditions, a club may allow one or two players who hold 20 or more masterpoints to play in a newcomer game. This would be the case when there is a single newcomer player available whose participation would eliminate a half-table movement. For example, if there were 13 pairs plus one single, there would be a 6½ - table game which, by



adding a player, would become seven tables. In this instance, the club may allow one non-newcomer to play.

- 3.7.2 When there is an odd number of newcomer pairs entered, resulting in a half-table movement, the club may allow two non-newcomer players to participate if each plays with a newcomer partner and if a Mitchell-type movement is used; that is, the two newcomer/non-newcomer pairs sit in opposite directions. These pairs are ineligible for masterpoint awards from the newcomer event. In no case may the two non-newcomer players play as partners.
- 3.7.3 A partnership, including one with a fill-in player (non-newcomer), may use only the conventions the club allows for that game.
- 3.8 Pairs in which one partner is a non-newcomer will not receive masterpoints and will not be ranked. For example, if an ineligible pair earns sufficient matchpoints to have finished second, that pair is not ranked. Instead, the third-place pair is ranked second and receives the second place masterpoint awards. In such a case, all lower-ranked pairs move up one rank, accordingly.
- 3.9 Ineligible pairs count in table totals. For example, the ACBL considers as a three-table game one that consists of four pairs of newcomers and two other pairs, each of which is made up of one newcomer and one non-newcomer, even though the two mixed (non-newcomer and newcomer) pairs are ineligible for masterpoint awards.
- 3.10 At the discretion of club management, three-member pairs may participate in newcomer games. The club will apportion earned masterpoints among the three players in a ratio that approximates the number of boards each played.

#### Section 4 – Special Fund Games

- 4.1 Clubs are allowed to hold games to benefit special funds. These games are charged an extra per table fee to be remitted to the ACBL (except for games to benefit a local charity.)
- 4.2 The month of January is reserved for Grass Roots Fund Games, the month of February is reserved for Junior Fund Games, the month of April is reserved for charity games and the month of September is reserved for International Fund games; in those months any and all ACBL sanctioned club sessions may be special games for the named funds. In the remaining eight months of the year, one game per month per sanctioned session may be a special [fund](#) game for the benefit of the Grass Roots Fund, Junior Fund, International Fund, Educational Foundation or charity. A regularly scheduled club game held at a frequency other than weekly may hold one special "fund" game every fourth game. The

masterpoint rating for all of these special games will be 70% of Sectional Rating maintaining the current cap of 6.00 masterpoints.

4.3 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 (i.e., no special games). This regulation does not apply to Limited/Restricted Sectionals.

#### 4.4 Charity Games

##### 4.4.1 Beneficiaries

4.4.1.1 The first charity club championship held each year must name an Official ACBL Beneficiary, i.e., the ACBL Charity Foundation or the CBF Charitable Fund (for games held in Canada) as its principal beneficiary. Under exceptional circumstances and on written application to the ACBL, the ACBL may permit a club to hold its first charity game of the year for a local beneficiary and its next game for an official ACBL beneficiary. Of the proceeds from the first and every other odd-numbered subsequent charity game, a minimum amount per player (currently \$1) must be contributed to the ACBL Charity Foundation or the CBF Charitable Fund (for games held in Canada.)

4.4.1.2 A club that has selected a secondary beneficiary may make whatever contribution it chooses out of the surplus proceeds from the charity session. Some local charities provide playing space and publicity in exchange for a portion of the proceeds.

4.4.1.3 The second charity club championship may be conducted on behalf of a local charity, if the Internal Revenue Service approves the charity as tax-exempt. Note: the ACBL Educational Foundation qualifies as a local or secondary beneficiary. A minimum amount per player must go to the beneficiary.

##### 4.4.2 Two Session Charity Games

4.4.2.1 Clubs may use their charity fund sessions to conduct one two-session charity fund championship. The same ACBL regulations that pertain to a two-session club championship apply to a two-session charity fund championship. This includes the right to schedule the charity event at a time and place that differs from that of the regular game.

4.4.2.2 Both sessions give 70% sectional-rated black points. The entire contribution must be made to an official ACBL beneficiary. See C. below. A club may charge any table fee that it chooses.

4.4.2.3 A club may divide the proceeds from a two-session event equally between an official ACBL beneficiary and local beneficiaries. If the sessions are unequal in size, the official ACBL beneficiary receives a minimum amount per player from the larger session and the local beneficiary a minimum amount per player from the smaller session.

4.4.3 Any club that, in any calendar year, runs one or more allowed special local charity games that are sanctioned for extra masterpoints must make available for public inspection an accounting of all funds raised in such games no later than February 28th of the following calendar year.

4.4.4 A club conducting invitational games may hold allocated charity championships as open events in which all ACBL members are allowed to participate, rather than conduct them as invitational events. The club must adequately advertise the fact that the game will be open. The rules for awards for an open charity championship held by an invitational club are the same as those for an open club.

#### 4.4.5 Reporting Charity Fund Games

4.4.5.1 Clubs must report on the monthly financial report games conducted for local beneficiaries, listing the name of the beneficiary and the net amount contributed. In this case, however, they should send the contribution directly to the charity.

#### 4.5 Educational Foundation Games

4.5.1 During any months, excluding January, February, April and September, one game per month per sanctioned session may be a special fund game for the Educational Foundation.

#### 4.6 Grass Roots Fund Games

4.6.1 The month of January is designated as “Grass Roots Fund Month.” Clubs may hold special games under the same rules and regulations applicable to the other special fund months (currently benefitting the Junior and International Funds and the ACBL Charity Foundation.)

4.6.2 Funds raised shall be returned annually no later than March 31 to the individual District in which those funds were raised, and shall be used by the District to help fund Grass Roots Events. Grass Roots Events are defined as the Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs.

- 4.6.3 The ACBL shall not charge the Districts any fee for the cost of collecting and disbursing these funds.
- 4.6.4 The Grass Roots Fund shall be considered an additional, eligible beneficiary from regionally rated games at sectionals along with the Junior and International Funds and the ACBL Charity and Educational Foundations.

## Section 5 – Other Club Games

### 5.1 Introductory Games

- 5.1.1 A club may conduct ACBL introductory games without first obtaining sanctions, but the games must have ACBL approval. The director usually issues club masterpoint receipts. Each game must have at least three tables, and each player must be scheduled to play a minimum of 6 boards.

### 5.2 Handicap Games

- 5.2.1 Clubs may establish handicaps by averaging a player's previous performances in comparable club game sessions or by considering the player's ACBL rank.

### 5.3 Stratified Pairs

- 5.3.1 A stratified pair game is one that produces more than one set of winners. All pairs are ranked in the top strat; the pairs in the top strat are eliminated in determining the ranks in Strat B; both A and B pairs are eliminated in determining the ranks in Strat C. It is possible for Strat B and C pairs to place in the higher strat, but Strat A pairs are eligible for A awards only; and Strat B pairs are eligible for A and B awards only. The strat in which a pair plays is determined by the player who has the most masterpoints or by the average masterpoints of the players.
- 5.3.2 Stratified pair games may be conducted with two or three strats. The lowest strat may have any upper masterpoint limitation suitable for the club. The lowest strat must have at least five pairs for overall awards to be issued and at least three pairs in a comparison group for section awards to be issued. There should be approximately the same number of pairs sitting N/S and E/W in each strat, so that the section awards will be equal.
- 5.3.3 The game is first scored on the total number of tables in play, and masterpoints are computed from the Open/Invitational point award chart. Awards for the second strat include tables in the remainder of the game (all but the top strat) and are computed from the appropriate point award chart.

- 5.3.4 In a Newcomer strat (0 to 20 masterpoints), only tables in this strat receive masterpoints, from the newcomer award chart.
  - 5.3.5 If a player places in more than one strat, the player receives the higher of the two awards, not both.
- 5.4 Home Style
- 5.4.1 Home-style bridge may be used in club games only. It may be used in club championships and charity club championships but not for ACBL-wide events, district-wide events, or any other special events. Clubs must apply to the ACBL to conduct home- style bridge games that issue masterpoints.
- 5.5 College Program
- 5.5.1 A sanction application will be provided to any student or faculty member who is interested in operating a sanctioned bridge game on any campus within ACBL jurisdiction.
  - 5.5.2 Games are to be open to students, faculty members, and their spouses only.
  - 5.5.3 No matter how many times a year a game is scheduled, an annual fee for each game session must accompany the application. The sanction year runs from January 1 through December 31.
  - 5.5.4 The college game is not required to operate on a regular schedule. The day of the week may be changed if the change does not interfere with the schedule of an existing open club on the campus.
  - 5.5.5 The game will be allotted one session with club championship rating for every 12 regular sessions played.
  - 5.5.6 The college game is rated as an invitational game.
  - 5.5.7 Each game must submit a Monthly Report of all game activity that occurred during the preceding month..
  - 5.5.8 A fee for each game plus a fee for each table must be sent with the report form.
  - 5.5.9 A faculty adviser must co-sign the sanction application and must agree to serve as the official ACBL contact.
- 5.6 Easybridge

- 5.6.1 Easybridge! is a program and series of books designed to develop newcomer game(s) in clubs
- 5.7. High School Program
  - 5.7.1 A high school program similar to that offered to a college is available.
  - 5.7.2 The minimum number of boards played for a 0-5MP game conducted in schools is six for middle-schools through college. The masterpoint award will be .03 per table.
  - 5.7.3 There are no sanction or table fees associated with these games.
- 5.8 Pupil Games
  - 5.8.1 A bridge teacher may apply for a special sanction to conduct a pupil game. The sanction will be free of charge if: (1) the applicant is an ACBL member, (2) the game is restricted to bona fide students of the sanction holder, (3) the lessons run for a minimum of 45 minutes, and (4) at least six boards are to be played.
  - 5.8.2 A minimum of at least eight participating students is required. If there are only two tables, the game must be run as a team event, individual event, or Swiss pair game.
  - 5.8.3 The game may be sanctioned as a regularly scheduled session or periodically, subject to ACBL regulations. The sessions may be run at different times and places from the lessons.
  - 5.8.4 A monthly report form is not required for pupil games, and there are no session or table fees.
  - 5.8.5 The teacher who runs the game need not be an ACBL club director.
- 5.9 Bridge Plus
  - 5.9.1 These games provide a transition from ACBL beginning bridge classes to newcomer games conducted at ACBL-sanctioned games. They are operated by ACBL accredited teachers. Players are encouraged to ask the teachers for advice on bidding and playing the hands.
  - 5.9.2 A sanction is required to conduct an ACBL Bridge Plus game. Bridge Plus sanctions are issued free of session fees if all of the following conditions are met:

- a) The applicant must be an ACBL accredited teacher or a club manager in conjunction with an ACBL accredited teacher, but only the teacher is authorized to run the game.
- b) Only bona fide students with fewer than 5 masterpoints may participate in the game.
- c) The game must consist of a minimum of six boards.
- d) The game must be sanctioned for weekly operation and should be run for no fewer than two hours and no more than two-and-one-half hours.
- e) Monthly Report must be sent to ACBL by the tenth of the month following the month in which the game was held.

5.9.3 If an accredited teacher is not able to meet all the above conditions, he or she may conduct a cost-free sanctioned pupil game.

5.9.4 The teacher who runs the game need not be a club director. The teacher/director resolves all irregularities.

5.9.5 At the teacher's discretion, beginning bridge players with whom he or she is acquainted or friends of the students may play in Bridge Plus games.

## 5.10 Cruise Ships

5.10.1 The ACBL sanctions duplicate games as part of the social program aboard cruise ships. The following sanction fees will be charged:

- \$200 - per ship for an entire year
- \$100 - cruises of from 8 to 30 days
- \$50 - cruises of from 4 to 7 days.

5.10.2 Whoever receives sanctions for cruise ships are expected, within the constraints placed upon them by the cruise lines, to actively promote the ACBL for the purpose of recruiting new members.

5.10.3 Cruise ships need not hold club masterpoint games at regularly scheduled intervals.

5.10.4 The technical operation of the games must follow the regulations set forth for most sanctioned club games, with the following exceptions:

- a) There are no table and session fees, and the director of the sanctioned cruise game does not have to submit a Monthly Financial Report form.
- b) Masterpoint awards are 50% of the award for an open club game.
- c) Directors also may hold Newcomer games if warranted.
- d) ACBL regulations require that these games have a club or higher rated director.

e) There is no requirement that a specific number of boards be played during a session. Masterpoint awards for such events are the same as they are for a complete game.

5.10.5 As a supplement to the cruise games authorized, cruise championships may be scheduled in accordance with the following regulations:

a) One cruise championship event may be held for every 14 days (or portion thereof) of a cruise

b.) Masterpoint awards for cruise championships are 50% of an open game championship.

5.10.6 Players who earn masterpoints in a cruise game receive their points from the ACBL.

5.10.7 Directors or managers on cruise ships need not pay the per table session fees, but must submit club masterpoint reports to the ACBL at the end of the cruise.

## 5.11 Land Cruises

5.11.1 The sanction fees for land cruises are the same as they are for ship cruises. The only difference is that the “cruise” is held on land.

5.11.2 A \$30 fee will be changed to sanction Land cruises up to 3 days.

5.11.3 Land cruises that operate at a single site in an ACBL country for more than 14 days will be sanctioned as a club game and report as one.

5.11.4 All other land cruises held in an ACBL country that are open to all ACBL members will be able to award masterpoints at full open club value.

5.11.5 There is no charge for games held in non-ACBL countries.

5.11.6 Masterpoint awards for games held on land cruises will be 50% of an Open Club game.

## 5.12 Penal Institutions

5.12.1 The ACBL will sanction games in penal institutions in North America. These games must be run by a club or higher rated director. The ACBL may substantially reduce or eliminate charges to clubs in prisons or mental institutions.

5.12.2 The ACBL will assist and encourage the teaching and playing of bridge in penal institutions in North America.



- 5.12.3 Any person who is incarcerated in a place of penal confinement may, upon application, become a member of the ACBL.
- 5.12.4 In institutions which permit inmates to leave such institutions for limited periods of time, such an inmate may, with the sponsoring organization's approval, compete in sanctioned ACBL activities. Any award won by such inmate in a sanctioned activity within or without the place of penal confinement shall be treated as awards won by any other player in equivalent competition.
- 5.12.5 In the assistance and encouragement of bridge, Management may, upon application, sanction games within places of penal confinement and may supply cards, boards, instructional material and direction.

### 5.13 Foreign Clubs

- 5.13.1 Bridge club games at locations outside of Bermuda, Canada, Mexico and the United States may be sanctioned at the discretion of Management, subject to the following guidelines:
  - a) Where there is no indication of a local bridge organization or local bridge club game, sanctions may be freely issued.
  - b) Sanctions may be issued for "isolated" locations, such as military bases, consulates, etc.
- 5.13.2 Where there is a local bridge club in operation, efforts will be made to minimize competition or interference between such a club and an ACBL club. If all parties agree, joint sanctions will be encouraged. If a local club appears to have legitimate concerns that an ACBL club is unduly interfering, or would unduly interfere, with the operation of the local club, then any sanction granted to the ACBL club to run sanctioned games will be subject to restrictions that minimize such interference; e.g., play restricted to citizens of ACBL NCBOs with guest privileges no more than once a month.

## Section 6 – Miscellaneous Rules Relating To Club Masterpoint Games

### 6.1 Two Table Team Games

- 6.1.1 Two-table sanctioned team games at club sessions will be allowed to award masterpoints. Regular session and table fees would apply.
- 6.1.2 Short matches are permissible and makeup of teams or partnerships may be changed for each match.

6.1.3 The masterpoint awards will be .01 masterpoint per board played and there will be match awards only. There are no overall awards.

## 6.2 Club Handicapping; Master Point Awards

6.2.1 The masterpoint awards for club handicap games can be as currently given or at the discretion of the club as follows:

- a). 100% awards for scratch winners for the class of game involved.
- b). 50% awards for handicap winners.
- c). Players receive the higher of the awards, but *not* both.

## 6.3 Masterpoint Races – Games at Clubs

6.3.1 All sanctioned games held at clubs, with the sole exception of STaCs, are to be counted in Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs masterpoint races at Unit, District and ACBL wide levels.

## 6.4 Addition of M Factor for Special Club Games

6.4.1 The formula for masterpoints for special games at clubs will have the appropriate “M” factor applied when there are masterpoint limitations in exactly the same manner as the “M” factor is applied to all games conducted at tournaments

## CHAPTER VI – CLUB SANCTIONED GAMES

### C. General Club Game Regulations

#### Section 1 – Incentive Programs for Clubs

##### 1.1 New Member Recruitment

- 1.1.1 Club officials can offer a reduced price one-year membership to new members. If an applicant is found to have been a member previously, the membership fee will be pro-rated at the current membership rate.
- 1.1.2 Clubs can earn an upgraded club championship (sectional-rated black points) by recruiting 10 new members. The 10 new members need not be recruited within any specific time period
  - 1.1.2.1 A maximum of two upgraded club championship games per session may be held in one calendar year.
- 1.1.3 For every 25 new members recruited in a year, a \$100 gift certificate to Baron Barclay Bridge Supplies will be awarded.
- 1.1.4 For every 100 new members recruited (regardless of the number of years it takes to recruit them) a bonus check for \$500 will be given. In addition, for the first 100 new members recruited, the ACBL will send a certificate recognizing the recruited as an ACBL Star Recruiter. Only club officials submitting their Social Security number or Tax Identification Number with the application will be eligible for rebates and certificates.

##### 1.2 Newcomer Game Incentives

- 1.2.1 Clubs holding newcomer games (an upper masterpoint limit of not more than 20) at the same time as an open, invitational or restricted game may include the newcomer game tables when computing awards for the open, masterpoint-restricted or invitational game.
- 1.2.2 If a club chooses to run a flighted game, tables in any restricted sections count toward club masterpoint awards for any unrestricted section in play at that club during that session, (subject to the usual restriction for a rating point game, that the maximum awarded shall be 1.50). If there are two or more unrestricted sections, they shall share the credit for any other tables equally.

##### 1.3 Cooperative Advertising Program

- 1.3.1 The ACBL will subsidize teachers, clubs and units who wish to use advertising to recruit students for bridge lessons or to promote the game. This subsidy will be 75% of the cost of the advertising program up to a maximum of \$1,000 per program.
- 1.3.2 Advertising must be for newcomer programs, beginner bridge lessons or ACBL membership. Eligible media are radio, television, newspapers, magazines, direct mail, outdoor, yellow pages, flyers, handbills and statement stuffers.

## Section 2- Game Director

- 2.1 Management is and shall be the sole arbiter of the right of any club level, or higher, director to conduct any ACBL sanctioned tournament or game.
- 2.2 ACBL management has the right to cancel a club director's accreditation for cause upon thirty days notice to the club director. Either of the following shall constitute "cause" for cancellation of accreditation:
  - a) direction of a club game out of compliance with ACBL regulation
  - b) unsuitable club venue.
- 2.3 A cancellation of accreditation is for a fixed period of time whereupon the club director may apply for reinstatement of accreditation (a new examination may be required by ACBL management for reinstatement); or, a cancellation may be permanent without the possibility of reinstating accreditation.
- 2.4 The thirty day notice of cancellation of accreditation shall provide the club director with the option of providing ACBL management with reasons in writing why the cancellation should not take place, whereupon ACBL management, in its own discretion, may leave the cancellation of accreditation in place, amend the cancellation or withdraw the cancellation
- 2.5 The club director may file a written appeal of a cancellation of accreditation with the Appeals and Charges Committee of the ACBL Board of Directors within thirty days of the effective date of the cancellation, provided however, that the cancellation will remain in effect until the appeal before the Appeals and Charges Committee has been decided. In order to be considered, such written appeal must include reasons why the cancellation is inconsistent with the terms of this Section C.
- 2.6 ACBL management may cancel a club game director's accreditation without notice if the "cause" for cancellation is such that continuation of the club director's club activities will result in substantial and immediate violation of ACBL Regulations; or increase the likelihood of lawsuit against the ACBL; or result in violation of state or Federal law.

## 2.7 Club Directors at Special Events

- 2.7.1 Non-playing directors are encouraged but not required for games having not more than one section of 17 tables or fewer for the following special events held at clubs or units: ACBL-wide International Fund Games, ACBL-wide Charity Games, Junior Fund Games, International Fund Games, Educational Foundation Fund Games, Senior Pairs, Worldwide Pairs, ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Games, Membership Games, NABC Promotional Games, GNT Fund Raisers, Club Appreciation Games, Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STAC) Games, the Canadian Olympiad, the COPC, the CNTC, the North American Open Pair Club and Unit Qualifying stages, the Grand National Team (GNT) Club and Unit Qualifying stages, Unit Championships, and Unit Charity Championships.
- 2.7.2 Playing directors in STaC games and their partners are ineligible to receive overall STaC masterpoint (silver point) awards, but are eligible to receive section awards. At Sponsor option, the above restriction may be waived. Such waiver shall be noted on the sanction application submitted to ACBL Headquarters.

## Section 3 – Systems and Conventions

- 3.1 The ACBL retains the right to approve or disapprove any bidding or defensive carding (lead or discard signal) convention for general use in ACBL-sanctioned tournament events. In exercising this right, the ACBL has established convention charts that list conventions permitted in games having varying degrees of difficulty.
- 3.2 A club manager can bar or allow specific conventions and can bar certain conventions in novice games but allow them in open games. The types of events for which this applies are club masterpoint games, club championships, club charity events, ACBL-wide events, unit championships, unit charity events, district charity events, and the North American Pairs events.
- 3.3 The Alert procedure and the skip-bid announcement are procedures used in tournaments and are optional (and strongly encouraged) in club games.
- 3.4 When masterpoints are awarded for overall positions in several locations, such as unit-wide games, STaCs, etc., all conventions in the ACBL General Convention Chart must be allowed unless the conditions of contest specify otherwise. Use of the Alert procedure is mandatory, and the rules that govern skip-bid announcements are applicable.
- 3.5 Occasionally special games, such as the GNT event, may be held in clubs. In such a case the club manager must check the conditions of contest to be sure to conduct the game in conformity with rules.

- 3.6 The ACBL recommends that clubs which are inclined to permit patrons to test new or little-known conventions or systems restrict such testing to one of several scheduled game sessions. If experience indicates that the majority of the club players welcome this policy, it can be extended easily to other sessions. In any case, players must have the approval of the director before using any convention not specifically authorized. The ACBL recommends that each club post a list of approved conventions in a conspicuous place on its premises.

#### Section 4 – Club Discipline

- 4.1 Club management should deal promptly and fairly with all cases of improper conduct that occur during an ACBL-sanctioned masterpoint game in the club, including cases of unethical practices.
- 4.2 The club manager should either handle these situations personally or establish a standing committee to review all disciplinary problems.
- 4.3 Clubs holding non-sanctioned games may deal with problems arising in these games as they see fit.
- 4.4 The club manager can handle many behavior problems by discussing them with the offenders, by issuing a warning, or declaring a period of probation.
- 4.5 In extreme cases or cases of repeat offenses, the manager can bar an ACBL member from the club game for a stipulated period of time, or permanently.
- 4.6 No open club may bar an ACBL member or members as a class, based upon the player's race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, and physical handicap or on his proficiency at bridge.
- 4.7 Unless a non ACBL member is currently suspended or expelled from participation in ACBL sanctioned events, permission to play in an ACBL sanctioned event at that club is at the sole discretion of the club management and the ACBL has no jurisdiction. Therefore, except for a barring alleged to be for the above discriminatory reasons, these regulations do not apply (i.e. the ACBL requirements and rights enumerated in this section do not extend to non ACBL members).
- 4.8 Except as detailed in the previous paragraph, a club may bar an ACBL member for whatever reason it deems proper and consistent with ACBL Rules and Regulations and the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge.
- 4.9 An obnoxious or incompatible partnership may be barred as a pair, but each player may be permitted to play with other partners.

- 4.10 To bar an ACBL member, club management must notify the member in writing and send a copy of the notification to the ACBL Club Member Services Department. The notification must include the member's name and player number and the reason for the barring.
- 4.11 An open club can bar members from its regularly scheduled club masterpoint games, membership games, ACBL-wide games, club championships, charity and international fund club championships, and other special events specifically allocated to clubs as outlined above.
- 4.12 These regulations also apply to a club with an invitational sanction except that the club has the additional authority to refuse admittance to an invitational game to someone who does not meet the criteria upon which the invitational sanction is based (e.g. a member who has 500 masterpoints is denied admittance to an invitational game that is limited to members with less than 300 masterpoints).
- 4.13 If the member feels that his barring does not comply with these regulations prohibiting barring players as a class, religious or political affiliations, race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, physical disability or proficiency at bridge, he or she may appeal the barring to the unit disciplinary committee.
- 4.14 Appeals from the unit disciplinary committee may be filed in accordance with and under the authority of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Until the appeal is lodged and heard, the player remains barred unless reinstated by the club unless a stay is granted by the Unit Disciplinary Chairperson.
- 4.15 A club may extend the barring of an ACBL member from Grand National teams, North American Pair events, STaCs, qualifying sessions of a progressive sectional, unit or district competitions, and/or unit-wide or district-wide championships held at the club.
- 4.16 A member so barred may appeal the extension of the barring under the process described in the previous paragraph. In such cases, the written notice to the member barred must include the member's right to appeal the action to the Unit Disciplinary Committee in which the club is located within thirty days of the action taken by the club. Such written notice is required, otherwise the barring shall not be effective.
- 4.17 Units have jurisdiction in hearing appeals of a barring from a sanctioned game at a club.

## Section 5 – Operation of Clubs

- 5.1 The ACBL grants a club game sanction on the condition that the club conduct all game sessions in full compliance with ACBL regulations. To retain a sanction the club manager must observe both the letter and the spirit of ACBL regulations.

## 5.2 Cancellation of a Regular Game Session

5.2.1 A club must hold regularly sanctioned game sessions as provided on its approved application. A club may not change a regularly sanctioned game session to a different day or time, even temporarily, without prior ACBL approval.

5.2.2 A club may cancel a regularly scheduled game session because of:

- a) Unusual weather such as a snowstorm, hurricane, or tornado alert
- b) A conflict with a higher rated event (optional - not required, but only a regular club game may be held)
- c) Holidays such as Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and Christmas and other religious holidays
- d) Not enough tables for a legal game
- e) In the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda, all statutory holidays, as well as local, provincial, national and religious holidays

5.2.3 There are no game or table fees for sessions canceled for an approved reason. The club must note the reason for a cancellation on the Monthly Report Form.

5.2.4 A club may not make up canceled games.

## 5.3 Club Records

5.3.1 The club must post recap sheets at the club and/or provide electronic access to the recap for each game no later than the next session of that game. Travelers, if used, must be available for player review through the next session of that game. The club must retain the game records for at least three months. For other than regular club games, the club must retain the game records for at least six months.

## 5.4 Non-ACBLscore Club Fees

5.4.1 Clubs not using ACBLscore to submit their monthly financial and masterpoint reports must pay an additional \$2.00 per game sanction fee.



## 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 ten new members, one additional club championship may be run as a 100% sectionally-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 ten weekly sessions is entitled to hold two Member/Guest Club Championships and a club that conducts eleven 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 ten games a week, it may hold ten Membership Games per year.)
- 3.2 Only Life Members and paid-up 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 100% 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

Events that are not specific club games are often held in clubs.

- 4.1 Grand National Teams
  - 4.1.1 The Grand National Team event is divided into four flights: The district has the option of conducting any fair bridge competition it chooses to select a winning team for each flight, which is then entitled to play in the National Finals at the Summer NABC. Sometimes a GNT club round qualifying is scheduled, but participation by an individual club is optional.
  - 4.1.2 A district may permit each club within its area to hold one sectional-rated event (for as many game sessions as the club has sanctioned) as a fundraiser for the Grand National Teams or the Canadian National Team Championship. Each district sets the amount its clubs remit to it, to a maximum of \$6.00 per table.
- 4.2 North American Pairs
  - 4.2.1 The North American Pairs is divided into three flights. The club qualifying rounds for all NAP flights are held in June, July, and August. A club may

conduct two qualifying events in each flight for every weekly game sanctioned during each of these months.

- 4.2.2 A game may be held as a stratified event. If there is a separate Non-LM qualifying game, it may be stratified as 0-20, 20-100, 100-500 (non-LM).
- 4.2.3 A club may move the site of its NAP qualifying game to accommodate increased attendance, but the club must hold the event at the same time as one of its regular sanctioned game sessions.
- 4.2.4 Clubs hosting NAP games must return the financial report and fees due by the 10th of the following month.
- 4.2.5 Each club must schedule its NAP game on one of its sanctioned sessions (exceptions can be approved by the unit) within the specified month for qualification.
- 4.2.6 The ACBL recommends that games of 18 or more tables be divided into two or more sections.
- 4.2.7 Duplicated boards across all sections are desirable but not mandatory. A minimum of 21 boards must be played, and all games should be seeded. The ACBL issues all masterpoints earned at NAP events.
- 4.2.8 A club level-qualifying event must be a one-session open pair event.
- 4.2.9 A club-stage event must have a club or higher-rated director. The ACBL recommends a non-playing director, but games of one section with 17 tables or fewer may have a playing director.
- 4.2.10 In emergencies, substitutes may play up to 50% of the boards. Substitutes who play more than 50% of the boards acquire the rights of the original contestants. Masterpoint awards are 100% sectional rated, ½ red, ½ black.
- 4.2.11 An invitational club may participate and qualify players for the unit level competition. Masterpoint awards for invitational flights are all black and are equivalent to 80% of sectional rating.
- 4.2.12 With prior unit approval, an invitational club may open its games to all ACBL members, with players earning the same masterpoint awards as they would at open clubs.
- 4.2.13 Before approval is granted, however, the unit must be satisfied that the club will adequately advertise the fact that the game will be open. If a unit refuses permission for an open game, a club may appeal the unit's decision to the district organization.

- 4.2.14 Players may participate in club level NAP competitions outside their home districts. These players will receive any masterpoints earned and any qualifications earned are for the next level of play in their home district.
  - 4.2.15 At a club level qualifying game, all eligible individuals who earn masterpoints or finish in the top half of the field, and any individuals who score 50% or better, earn qualification to play at the unit level.
  - 4.2.16 For the unit level competition, both members of the pair must play in their home district. No player may enter more than one unit level competition per flight.
  - 4.2.17 All participants at the unit level must be ACBL members in good standing and be current in payment of dues or Life Master service fees. Non-members may join the ACBL at the time they register to play. To accommodate non-members and others who do not wish to play in the NAP event, a club may conduct a regular game at the same time as the qualifying event.
- 4.3 North American Bridge Championship Promotional Game
- 4.3.1 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.
  - 4.3.2 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.
  - 4.3.3 Clubs may hold the same number of these sessions as their allocated number of membership games.
  - 4.3.4 A participating club must remit a sanction fee per table to the ACBL with the report form.
  - 4.3.5 The district establishes the additional fees for this event, which are submitted directly to the district.
  - 4.3.6 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.
- 4.4 Sectional Tournaments Held at Clubs (STACs)

- 4.4.1 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.
  
- 4.5 Club Appreciation Games
  - 4.5.1 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.
  - 4.5.2 The pair game pays 100% of sectional rating (all black), and the team game pays sectional Swiss rating with 5% gold. (A player can win a maximum of .25 gold.)
  
- 4.6 State, Province, Country (SPC) Championships
  - 4.6.1 This is an event in which each participating ACBL SPC may name a champion in each category by means of a fair competition that is not necessarily the same from SPC to SPC. The type of event and conditions of contest must be submitted to and approved by the ACBL Tournament Department.
  - 4.6.2 There will not be a national final. The event may be flighted.
  - 4.6.3 With ACBL Management approval, this event or any portion may be run through an on-line service. At SPC option, each flight may be played at three or fewer levels.
  - 4.6.4 ACBL Rules and Regulations apply to all play in the event and supercede special SPC conditions in cases of conflict.
  
- 4.7 Inter-Club Championship Games
  - 4.7.1 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.
  - 4.7.2 Overall awards are based on the entire field and the same hands are to be used by participating clubs.



- 4.7.3 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.
- 4.7.4 This game must be sanctioned by ACBL at least 60 days in advance of the event.
- 4.7.5 ACBL Management is authorized to sanction and conduct inter-club championships, which are administered online but played “live.” ACBL may sanction and conduct the event or ACBL may hold the sanction and sublet the administration of the event.
- 4.7.6 If requested by a group of clubs, the ACBL may authorize (grant a sanction to) a qualified person to administer 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.
- 4.7.7 In addition to a club’s regular club championships, the club may participate in an additional four (4) 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.
- 4.7.8 The masterpoint awards for this event are the same as for an inter-club championship administered manually.
- 4.8 Canadian Bridge Federation Simultaneous Pairs
  - 4.8.1 There is a one-session Canadian Bridge Federation Simultaneous Pairs that runs annually and awards sectionally rated masterpoints. In addition to overall Canada-Wide awards there will be overall awards in each of the six CBF Zones.
- 4.9 ACBL-wide Senior Pairs
  - 4.9.1 The masterpoint rating for the ACBL-wide Senior Pairs is 80% Sectional rating and the sanction fee is \$4.00 per table.
- 4.10 WBF Simultaneous Pairs
  - 4.10.1 The WWP Simultaneous Pairs may be held at clubs, Sectionals or Regionals.

- 4.10.2 .In all cases, half /red, half /black points will be awarded or whatever is approved by the ACBL Board of Directors.
  - 4.10.3 When this event is held as part of a 2 session event, the sponsoring organization pays the sanction fee for the WWP for those players entered in both the tournament event and the WWP. One sanction fee only is paid. The event is scored twice - once as the WWP and once as the tournament event. Participants entered in both are eligible only for the higher masterpoint award. Note: Points remain half /red, half black for the WWP either red/gold or silver as is appropriate for the tournament event.
  - 4.10.4 When the WWP is held at a Sectional or Regional, it should have its own separate section except that the organization may offer this event, in addition, to those playing in a two-session event, one session of which is concurrent with the WWP.
  - 4.10.5 A one (1) session event may not be played as a WWP and a Tournament Event...i.e. - the event awards only WWP masterpoints. In a one session event a player is only eligible for masterpoints from one event.
- 4.-11 Instant Matchpoint Game
- 4.11.1 Games meeting open standards will be considered in the open contest. (Note: ½ table games will be included.)
  - 4.11.2 Minimum boards to be played by any pair in the open contest is 20.
  - 4.11.3 Howell movements meeting open standards will award a Gold Point for first place.

## 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