

## **NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

ACBL will conduct North American Bridge Championships (NABCs) utilizing efficient and profitable methods while providing outstanding playing facilities, excellent value, unsurpassed service and geographic accessibility to the most possible members.

### **Key Result Areas/Goals:**

1. Player Satisfaction
2. Income
3. Promotional Opportunities

#### **A. Objectives:**

1. Select and recommend attractive destinations. NABC host facilities should have appropriate playing space, advantageous pricing, affordability to players and a demonstrated willingness to provide exemplary service to convention groups in general and ACBL meetings and tournaments in particular.
2. With the support of local volunteers, skillfully operate and manage NABCs as premier tournaments.
3. Control costs and maintain or increase revenue to attain budgeted income.
4. Provide and promote opportunities to attract new and social bridge players to duplicate bridge.

#### **B. Preferred Dates**

Spring	Starting the second Thursday of March
Summer	Starting the third Thursday of July
Fall	Starting on Thanksgiving Day

If these dates are not available for the Spring and Summer NABCs, moving one week in either direction is allowed. Moving to the third Thursday is allowed for the Fall NABC, but it is not policy. Dates outside these preferred dates will be considered only if the site selection justifies consideration beyond the preferred dates.

#### **C. Area Selection**

No area should be considered more often than once every three years.

#### **D. Rotation and Frequency**

Orlando, San Diego, San Francisco, Toronto, Washington D.C., Reno and Las Vegas (and cities in the state of Texas) are exceptional cities for bridge players and should be considered at least every six years. Other very desirable destinations for bridge players should be considered at least every nine years.

The geographic rotation of having an NABC in each zone (East, Central and West) of the continent each year is highly desirable and should be attempted. Over an extended period of time, there should be an equal distribution of NABCs in Eastern, Central and Western locations.

Any deviation from the requirements should be clearly identified when site recommendations are presented.

#### **NABC SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES** (in order of priority):

- A. **Playing Space.** Playing space should be of the highest quality at NABCs. Factors taken into account should include:
1. **Playing Facility** - One facility accommodating all bridge play is preferred although using two adjacent facilities is allowed.
  2. **Lighting** - Exhibition level lighting is best.
  3. **Aesthetics** - Playing rooms should be carpeted and designed in a way that will reduce distractions.
  4. **Ventilation** - The facility's HVAC should be in modern, superior working condition.
  5. **Layout** - While it is preferred that all playing space be contiguous, all other factors should be considered first.
- B. **Affordability.** The ACBL will strive to offer NABCs that are **affordable** for players. This will include the following:
1. **Hotel Room Rates** - It is acknowledged that the hotel providing all, or a majority, of the playing space will presumably offer a room rate higher than other smaller hotels in the area. Every possibility to reduce the rate should be considered without compromising player services or quality of playing space. In order to provide a pricing benefit to players and additional concessions to ACBL, ACBL management may enter into multi-meeting agreements (i.e., agreements for two or more NABCs) with hotels in premier destinations.

2. Alternate Hotels - It is expected that NABC attendance will be greater if there are other lower cost hotels in the area around the playing site. If ACBL management uses its discretion in contracting with a third-party housing bureau, some information regarding alternate hotels should be provided through ACBL's housing service company.
3. Restaurants - There should be a variety of restaurants in the area around the playing site. These should range from fast food and inexpensive restaurants to full-service and fine dining. Hotel and playing facility restaurants should be open for service at appropriate times to serve bridge players.
4. Hotel Food Outlets - Cash food stations should offer a small variety of snacks, sandwiches and beverages at relatively low cost to players.
5. Parking - Parking costs should be considered when inspecting a potential NABC site. Efforts should be made to provide discounted parking for players.

Since not all NABCs are held in cities that offer comparatively lower cost hotels and playing facilities, **price/value** is an important factor to consider. Major tourist destinations offer rates that are higher than second- and third-tier cities but, if their pricing is more favorable than those rates offered to other groups or vacationers without sacrificing quality, this will be viewed as a good value for the cost.

NABCs should attract players from all parts of our member countries. As such, any destination considered to host an NABC should have **airline accessibility**. That is to say that an NABC host city should be serviced, preferably by several airlines, flying directly into that particular destination.

NABCs should be held in areas that are known to have larger bridge-playing populations within driving distance. The **support** of the local bridge organization is also important to the success of an NABC and volunteers are needed to perform the various hospitality functions.

The **history** of successful bridge tournaments in the host city and area is helpful in determining the possibility of holding a successful NABC.

Mobility-impaired and other disabled players are a growing percentage of ACBL membership. Special attention should be paid to **access for disabled players** and part of NABC tournament promotion should include "Disability Access Alerts." This will be particularly important in destinations where disabled players might face barriers to accessibility in transportation, lodging or playing space.