

CHAPTER X – SECTIONALS

C. EVENTS/SCHEDULES

- 1.1 Strata-flighted events at Sectionals may be advertised and run with a combined Flight A and Flight B flight in one group playing together and the Flight C playing separately.
- 1.2 Senior events may be held with minimum age restrictions of 60 (60 as of January 1, 2020, 61 as of January 1, 2021, 62 as of January 1, 2022, 63 as of January 1, 2023, 64 as of January 1, 2024, and 65 as of January 1, 2025) or 75. Such events may be stratified by masterpoints. The masterpoint awards will be 80% for 60+ years of age and 70% for 75+ years of age. (Age limit transition effective 1/1/2020.)

(See also Ch. XIII – General Tournament Information, F. Events, Section 1 – Tournament Events and Restrictions)

Section 2 – Scheduling

- 2.1 When sanctioning Sectionals, ACBL management will notify the Tournament Chair and the District Director (or his/her designee) when proposed events or masterpoint ranges seem inadvisable or inappropriate.
- 2.2 If it is in the best interests of bridge and the ACBL, 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 to the Arbitration Panel if the matter concerns violation of a conflict regulation. ACBL management will notify the Board of Directors at least three times a year of instances where ACBL management has varied from the regulation.

Section 3 – Unrestricted Events

- 3.1 At Sectional tournaments, 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 three times the number of tables in play in the unrestricted event. In the event that a concurrent NLM Regional is held at the same site, the unrestricted event shall be credited with 65% of any pair or Swiss tables in the NLM Regional held during the same session for the purpose of calculating overall awards.
- 3.2 For the purpose of awarding masterpoints, a restricted event that is two sessions, morning and afternoon, is deemed to be totally concurrent with a two-session event that is afternoon and evening. However, if a restricted event is scheduled horizontally, it is not deemed to be totally concurrent with a two-session vertical event.

Section 4 – Special Games at Sectionals

- 4.1 All Units (i.e. Sectional sponsors) are permitted to run up to two special game sessions at each Sectional with the exception of STaCs. In the USA, these special games may be to benefit the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the ACBL Junior Fund. In other countries, they may benefit the NBO equivalent, if it exists, or an ACBL fund/foundation if it does not. The choice of beneficiary shall be made by the tournament sponsor.
- 4.2 Such a special game may be run as an open game, senior game, team or pair game, newcomer game, or any other game that is run at a Sectional.
- 4.3 The masterpoint awards will be Regional-rated silver points.
- 4.4 The sponsor of the Sectional will be charged USD \$1.00 per player. In Canada, the charge will be CAN \$1.00 per player. In other countries, the sponsor will be charged USD \$1.00 per player. These funds shall be included in the tournament report and shall be dispersed to the appropriate organization chosen by the tournament sponsor.
- 4.5 The normal sanction fee for Sectionals will also be charged to the sponsoring organization.