

CHAPTER XIII – GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

A. GENERAL

Section 1 – Player Entry, Rights and Expectations

- 1.1 The Director-in-Charge of an ACBL-sanctioned tournament may require an ACBL member to enter a Flight, Strat or Bracket above that dictated by his ACBL masterpoint holding if the member is deemed to have equivalent bridge experience. The Director-in-Charge may require a non-member to enter a Flight, Strat or Bracket equivalent to that non-member's past bridge experience. The Director-in-Charge may require any entrant who is a member of another NBO to play in Flight A if a lower status is not confirmed by the other NBO.
- 1.2 Non-ACBL members who have represented their country in World Championship events organized by the WBF, when playing in ACBL stratified or flighted events, are required to play in Flight A. Players may request exemption from this rule for valid cause.
- 1.3 A player may play and earn masterpoints in as many sessions of bridge as possible while not entered in a concurrent or overlapping event. An exception is made for players on teams with more than four members or teams with byes who may play in concurrent one-session events only. For this purpose, Side Game Series (Continuous Pairs) are considered one-session events without access to gold points for that session (nor may that session's score be used to determine an overall rank). In such cases, masterpoints may not be earned in both events – the higher award will be retained, and the lower award will be deleted.
- 1.4 Any pair may withdraw between sessions of a multi-session pair event if it has the permission of the Director-in-Charge, who may allow the withdrawal if there is no irreparable damage done to the seeding or the movement. Any entry fees already paid shall be kept by the sponsoring organization. Such contestants are allowed to play only in side games until the completion of the event from which they withdrew.
- 1.5 New entries are not allowed in team games once the initial session has begun. New pairs may be admitted to the second session of a pair game for session awards only at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

Note: This subsection is not intended to disallow exceptions by a Tournament Director or tournament chair for cause that was beyond the control of the team.

- 1.6 When a position in an ACBL competition is vacated, participants shall be advanced to fill the position. Insofar as possible, all awards, rights and honors

associated with the vacated position will accrue to the advancing contestants. No portion of the foregoing applies when the vacancy results from disqualification for ethics violations.

- 1.7 Contestants in ACBL-sanctioned events are obligated to play to win each match or board.
- 1.8 No player has the right to bar all kibitzers from his table, but each player has the right to bar one individual (excluding tournament officials, the recorder or his designees, or officially approved members of the press) from kibitzing play at his table during a session without assigning cause. (A traveling player may bar only one individual during a session without assigning cause.) Any kibitzer may be barred for cause by the Tournament Director.
- 1.9 It is improper to "wander" during ACBL-sanctioned tournaments. The following penalties shall be exacted by the Tournament Directors with the penalties being cumulative for each tournament: for the first offense during a tournament, a warning; for the second offense, a minimum penalty of one half board; for the third offense, a minimum penalty of one full board; and for the fourth offense, suspension from participation for the balance of tournament. All incidents shall be recorded by the Tournament Director with the tournament committee and all matchpoint penalties shall be recorded with ACBL management as part of the tournament report. This action shall not be deemed to preclude any further disciplinary action.
- 1.10 Any time an ACBL member, because of a physical disability or handicap, needs the aid of special equipment or special consideration (e.g., braille cards or bidding boxes, permanent North/South position, etc.), no ACBL-sanctioned club, Unit, District or tournament may prohibit the use of said equipment or the allowance of such special consideration.
- 1.11 Face-down opening leads shall be required at all ACBL-sanctioned events.

Section 2 – Miscellaneous

- 2.1 There shall be a regular review of the Masterpoint Plan on a five-year basis.
- 2.2 ACBL may sanction bridge events that run a concurrent Calcutta.
- 2.3 ACBL tournaments (not including STaCs) may not offer discounts, perks or amenities to players classified by affiliation with a particular District, Unit or club to attend that tournament instead of a contemporaneous tournament or club-sponsored event without written permission of the District President or Unit President or Club Manager affected. Discounts, perks or amenities offered generally to players classified in other ways (e.g., by rank or masterpoint holding) are permitted. **(Effective January 1, 2020.)**