

CHAPTER XIII – GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

F. EVENTS

Section 1 – Tournament Events and Restrictions

- 1.1 The sponsor of an ACBL-sanctioned tournament must, prior to submitting a schedule for approval or publicizing a schedule, request and receive permission from ACBL management if intending to schedule an event which does not conform to practices in common tournament usage. This requirement applies in all situations, and specifically in situations where existing Conditions of Contest or other ACBL regulations appear to be silent, ambiguous or even permissive.

This includes, but is not limited to, number of boards played, number of matches played, scoring method, flight or strata limits, bracket size, awarding of masterpoints and pigmentation thereof, etc.

Permission may be denied or may be granted with specific conditions attached, including ones pertaining to masterpoint issuance. (Effective January 1, 2020 including tournaments already advertised.)

- 1.2 The following event types and restrictions are authorized for ACBL-sanctioned tournaments. ACBL management is authorized to sanction other events on an experimental basis:

1.2.1 Type

- a. Individual
- b. Pair
- c. Team (Swiss, BAM, Knockout or any combination of these)
- d. Pair/Team (one-session event with masterpoints to be the greater of the pair event or the team event)

1.2.2 Gender

- a. Open
- b. Women's
- c. Mixed

1.2.3 Age

- a. Open
- b. Junior
- c. Youth
- d. Senior (born prior to January 1, 1960 or grandfathered in) (Effective January 1, 2020.)
 1. Whenever the age limit for participation in Senior events is changed by action of the ACBL Board of Directors, any members who qualified as Seniors before the effective date of the age change shall be grandfathered in and continue to be considered Seniors after that date, even if their age no longer qualifies for the new Senior definition.

Note: This grandfathering provision does not affect Super Seniors.

1.2.4 Events

- a. Open: No masterpoint restriction
- b. Flighted (by masterpoints only): Three flights event. Each flight may have two strats.

Players who win, or at any time in the past won, an ACBL or WBF event which qualifies them to achieve Grand Life Master (GLM) status upon meeting all other GLM requirements, may not enter a masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in non-bracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing purposes in bracketed events. (Passed June 17, 2020; Effective January 1, 2020)

Note: Flighted KO events at Regionals may be bracketed (but may not be randomly grouped) to finish in four sessions.

- c. Stratified (by masterpoints only): Two or three strats. Up to five strats are permitted in a one-session event which has an upper limit of 300 or fewer masterpoints – specifically an I/N event.

Players who win, or at any time in the past won, an ACBL or WBF event which qualifies them to achieve GLM status upon meeting all other GLM requirements, may not enter a masterpoint-restricted event, may play only in the top stratum of the top flight in non-bracketed events, and will be assigned eligibility points (if and as necessary) to bring them to 10,000 masterpoints for bracketing

purposes in bracketed events. (Passed June 17, 2020; Effective January 1, 2020)

Note: At sponsor option, the stratification of a team in an Open Stratified Swiss event may be determined by the average masterpoint holding of all team members.

- d. Stratiflighted (by masterpoints only): Two flights with up to three strats in each flight.

NOTE: Only flights/strats with 750 masterpoints or greater in two-session Regional events are eligible for gold points.

- e. Handicapped: Based on masterpoint holding of entrants.
- f. Bracketed (KO and Swiss Teams): Based on the masterpoint holding of entrants.

Any player entering a bracketed event who has won an event that would qualify that individual to be designated a Grand Life Master when 10,000 masterpoints are accumulated will automatically be assigned the higher of their actual masterpoint holdings or 10,000 masterpoints when determining their team's bracket designation. In a Bracketed Swiss in which the top bracket is open to all teams, or in which there is a Flight A/X Swiss being played simultaneously, such player shall be placed in the top bracket, or Stratum A of the Flight A/X Swiss, as applicable. (Effective January 1, 2020)

- g. Masters: One member of each partnership must meet the minimum limit.
- h. Non-Life Masters: All entrants must be under the maximum limit.
- i. Life Masters: All entrants must meet Life Master requirements.
- j. Restricted (upper masterpoint limit): All entrants must be under the maximum limit.)
- k. Side Game Series (Open Pairs game only): May not be restricted by age, gender, or masterpoint holding (may be stratified for single side game session awards only).
- l. Choice (Pair game only): An event which is scheduled for three sessions during one calendar day (morning, afternoon and evening), and a pair must choose to play in only two of the three sessions. Concurrent event rule does not apply to any pair in this event during their un-played third session.

1.2.5 Scoring Methods

- a. Individual: Matchpoints, IMP
- b. Pair: Matchpoints, IMP, Victory Points
- c. Team: Win-Loss, Victory Points, Total Points, Board-A-Match
- d. Pair/Team: Matchpoints plus Board-A-Match Team (must be one-session event only)

1.2.6 Regional Strat/Flight Upper Masterpoint Limits

Pairs may be flighted or stratified or a combination (stratflighted). If there are two flights, you are permitted up to three strata in each flight. If there are three flights, you are permitted up to two strata in each flight. Flight/strata limits are:

Pairs

Flight A	0-infinity; if stratified, the lower strata must be at least 500 above top of B and no more than 6,000.
Flight B	Must be at least 500 above C top.
Flight C	Can have up to two strata with the top masterpoint limit at least 500 under lower strata of B.

Note: Pairs can also be stratified by expertise with Strat A being both players over a certain masterpoint level, Strat B being one player over and one player under that level, and Strat C being both players under the level.

Flighted Knockout Teams

Flight A	0-infinity.
Flight B	Must have upper level of at least 500 above top of C, if that flight exists.

1.2.6.1 Bracketed Knockout and Swiss Teams

Must be bracketed by either the average masterpoints of all team members or the total of the top two masterpoint members. Can be bracketed to end in three sessions

Swiss Teams can be flighted, stratified or stratflighted. If there are two flights, you are permitted up to three strata in each flight. If there are three flights, you are permitted up to two strata in each flight. Flights/strata are:

Flight A	0-infinity. If stratified, the lower strat must be at least 500 above top of B and no more than 6,000.
Flight B	Must be at least 500 more than top of C.
Flight C	Can have up to two strata with the top masterpoint limit at least 500 under lower strat of B.

1.2.7 Sectional Strat/Flight Upper Masterpoint Limits

The same strat/flight rules apply to pair and team games in subsection 1.1.6.

1.3 In stratiflighted events, the Sponsoring Organization may choose to stratify the top flight into two strata (A-1 and A-2).

Masterpoint awards for the second strat of the unlimited portion of a stratiflighted event (two-fold stratified event) shall be as follows:

- a. Additional "M" factors are:
 - 0-3,000 = 0.90
 - 0-5,000 = 0.95
 - 5,000+ = 1.00
- b. Upper masterpoint limit for Strat A-2 is selected from among 1500, 2000, 3000, or 5000 at sponsor option with the proviso that the limit is at least 500 points higher than Strat B.
- c. For this type of event only, the upper three strats in Regional events may award gold points for overall and section tops as long as the upper limit of each is at least 750 masterpoints.
- d. Session and Overall Masterpoints.
 1. Session masterpoint awards for both strats will be calculated using the appropriate "M" factor and the number of pairs in the comparison group.
 2. Overall awards for the unlimited Strat A-1 are calculated as now using the general formula based on the total number of tables in play in all strats.
 3. Overall awards for the second Strat A-2 are calculated using the general formula (and the appropriate "M" factor) and based on the number of tables in A-2 plus the number of tables in the strats other than A-1 and A-2. Tables from other restricted events used in the calculation of Strat A-1 overall award are not used in the calculation of the Strat A-2 overall award

4. The depth of the A-2 award shall be a maximum of 35% of the A-2 field.

- 1.4 In stratiflighted and limited pair and team events, once the flight of the pair or team is determined, stratification within each flight may be based, at sponsor option, on the average masterpoint holding of the team or pair.
- 1.5 In stratified events, the stratification level of a team or pair may be based, at sponsor option, on the average masterpoint holding of the team or pair. This option may be exercised in both club or Unit games, and tournaments but not in qualifying events.
- 1.6 Senior events may be held with minimum age restrictions of 60 (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 (events for those 75+ are referred to as “Super Senior” events). Such events may be stratified by masterpoints. The masterpoint awards will be 80% for 60+ and 70% for 75+. (Age limit transition effective 1/1/2020.)
- 1.7 At the local host organizations option, Regional fast open pair events at NABCs may be 24, 26 or 27 boards.
- 1.8 At sponsor option, Classic Bridge sections may be scored separately from overall events. There may be separate winners for the open game and separate winners for Classic Bridge.

Classic Bridge: Limited conventions and the classic convention card used; available at clubs, Sectionals, Regionals, and NABCs; masterpoints same as open games; no Alerts; no appeals committees.

- 1.9 ACBL management's guidelines for holding Expert/Amateur events, whether stratified or not, at Sectional and Regional tournaments are approved.

(See also Codification Chapter IX – Regional Tournaments, C. Events/Schedules, Section 6 – Expert Amateur Games.)

- 1.10 The conditions of contest for Team of Two Pairs are amended to require the team's total matchpoint score to be calculated in determining all rankings.

Example: Each pair sits the same direction in different sections. The event is scored as a normal pair game. The matchpoint scores of each pair are added together. The sum is their team's score.