

The District 5 Newsletter

District Director's Report August 2010

New Orleans is such an exciting city with such old-world charm! Usually I avoid it in summer because it is so hot and humid but I didn't mind this time because the weather was no worse than it was at home. I am sure you are wondering what I saw of the damage from the oil spill in the Gulf. Nothing was obvious despite its proximity to the accident. The ACBL Charity Foundation made a \$5000 contribution to the Louisiana SPCA and a \$5000 contribution to the New Orleans Mission as our part in helping the local wildlife and people rebound from this disaster. Districts, Units and Clubs may certainly hold games to benefit these or similar charities (but not in September which is International Fund Month).

There were no hearings before the Appeals and Charges Committee. There were a few minor revisions to the CDR (Code of Disciplinary Regulations).

Item 102-02: Amendments to Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR)

The CDR is amended as follows:

- 5.3.1 Disciplinary procedures at tournaments are intended to be expeditious. Matters heard by a TDC involving tournament discipline shall be heard and the hearing conducted at or immediately after the tournament in which the event(s) involving the discipline took place. Refer to Sections 5.3.2 through 5.3.14 for procedures specific to tournament disciplinary proceedings.

- 5.3.6 A person charged with a violation under CDR 3 shall be entitled to (See CDR 6.1 and 6.2 following):
 - (a) Receive written notice of date, time and place of hearing. Should a person admit to a charge, a hearing shall be held in order to determine and impose discipline.

- 5.3.11 A suspension or probation imposed by a TDC shall not exceed ninety (90) days nor may a probation additional to a suspension exceed ninety (90) days.

Appendix A

VI. POST-HEARING PROCEDURES

A. NOTIFICATION OF DISCIPLINE

When the disciplinary body imposes sanctions to be effective immediately, it is mandatory that such disciplinary body shall immediately notify the disciplined party in writing sanction, stating its effective date. The disciplined party or parties and the complainant shall also be told of the right to appeal and their right to request a stay of discipline pending the outcome of an appeal. The official Notice of Discipline and the official Notice of Appeal and Stay Rights will be sent by the ACBL Disciplinary Coordinator when hearing documents are received from the hearing committee chairman. The 30-day period during which an appeal may be filed will start from the date on which the ACBL Disciplinary Coordinator's official notices are mailed.

B. REPORT TO ACBL

It is mandatory that the disciplinary body send to ACBL Headquarters at the same time: 1) a full typed report of the hearing; and 2) a copy of the written decision, if any, sent to the disciplined party or parties. The report must be sent within thirty (30) days from the conclusion of the presentation of evidence.

Note: The Hearing Report form can be found at www.acbl.org – go to Rules and Regulations on the left column of the Home page, then scroll down to the form.

Effective ASAP.

The Hall of Fame Committee Operating Procedures were amended so that all NABC events that allow one to become a Grand Life Master will count toward the five events that allow one to become an elector and will be on the performance chart. Any ACBL member who has been suspended for six months or more for ethical violations will not be an elector effective on the date of suspension.

The Goodwill Committee Meeting was entirely dedicated as a memorial for Aileen Osofsky, chairman of the ACBL Goodwill Committee for many years and the embodiment of the spirit of Goodwill. In her honor the name has been changed to the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill committee.

Conditions of Contest changes:

Taking effect as soon as possible is the requirement that unless instructed otherwise by a tournament director, a member of each side must be present and seated before cards are removed from a board.

The **Platinum Pairs** will be scored across the field from the beginning of the event.

In order to be eligible for overall awards in a **StaC**, or any event that is scored across more than one club, the minimum number of boards played is set at 20.

The **0-5000 Blue Ribbon Pairs** will be a mid-chart event.

In the **Mini-Spingold**, the 0-1500 flight will no longer be limited to 5 days.

The Mid-Chart will be permitted in the 0-5000 flight but only the General Convention Chart in the 0-1500.

In the **NAP National Finals**, Flights B&C will have a four-session event with 52 to 78 pairs playing for two sessions to qualify approximately 50% of the field for the two-session play-through final with carryover as per ACBL formula.

In all **2-session Swiss events** with 4 to 9 tables in any particular flight or grouping, ACBL recommends that each team play every other team in their group. The following chart is recommended.

Four Teams	Three matches of 18-20 boards
Five Teams	Four matches of 13-15 boards
Six Teams	Five matches of 10-12 boards
Seven Teams	Six matches of 9 boards
Eight Teams	Seven matches of 7-8 boards
Nine Teams	Eight matches of 6-7 boards

The following rules apply for all the District Finals of the GNT's effective January 1, 2011.

# of teams entered/flight	% of Max Award/flight for games of unlimited size.	# of Overall Places
1	As awarded	None
2	50%	1
3-4	67%	1
5+	100% for 3+ sessions played in district final and 67% if only 2 sessions.	As specified for the type of event, if any Phase is a KO, the depth of awards is as specified for a KO event of the same size as the original number of district final entries.

No need to worry yet, but when the alert procedure is updated the board has requested that it will include that the need to pre-alert short (5 card weak 2s and 6 card 3-level major suit) pre-empts and/or undisciplined (less than Q high) pre-empts will no longer be required. The pre-alert will be replaced by a simple alert upon occurrence. 6-card 3-level pre-empts are not alertable. Please continue the old way until the entire update is completed.

There are a couple of new events:

There will be a one session **Canadian Bridge Federation Simultaneous Pairs** annually beginning in 2011. This event will be sectionally rated with overall Canada-Wide awards and awards in each of the six Canadian Zones.

There will also be a **Senior Mixed Pairs** on Wednesday and Thursday of the Fall NABC with two qualifying sessions and two final sessions. The award for first will be 80 platinum points. Other awards follow the four session pair event formula.

NABC items:

The National Recorder's responsibilities were adjusted such that one of his duties is to determine when to videotape in conjunction with an investigation.

The **Mixed BAM Teams**, currently being played at the Summer NABC will be named the Richard Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams. The Chicago Trophy which is now awarded to the winners of the Mixed BAM Teams, will be retired and replaced by a new trophy.

The starting times for the **NABC in Philadelphia** in 2012 will be 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM (give or take 30 minutes).

Board Committees:

There will be a new committee to study the entire structure by which ACBL masterpoints will be awarded.

A committee to study Regional and Sectional Allocation and Conflicts met at great length. **Item 102-140: Sectional Tournament Scheduling And Allocations**

SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING AND ALLOCATIONS

A. SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT ALLOCATIONS

1. Sectionals are allocated to Units. There are no restrictions as to the number of Sectionals a Unit may conduct. A District has the right of approval for Sectionals conducted by its Units. A Unit must abide by the decision of the District as to how many Sectionals it may run.
2. Sectionals must be at least two days and no more than five days in duration, with the exception of Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs). STaCs must be at least two days and no more than seven days in duration. A unit may not attempt to circumvent this rule by scheduling back-to-back sanctions that run consecutively.
3. Sectionals may be Open, Senior, Limited by masterpoints (specifically, 0-100; 0-200; 0-300 or Non-LM), Junior, Youth, Progressive Style or STaC. Sectional senior, youth or junior tournaments may be combined with limited-by-masterpoint tournaments. In these instances the higher sanction fee will apply.
 - a. The Las Vegas Unit 373 is grandfathered permission to run two, and only two, Sectionals per year which may be up to six and one-half days in length, or
 - b. One six and a half day Sectional and up to two Sectionals not to exceed five days,or
 - c. An unlimited number of standard Sectionals.

4. A Unit may join with another Unit(s) to run a Sectional or a STaC. A Unit may, with permission of the Unit and District(s), hold a Sectional in a contiguous Unit.
5. A Sectional may schedule up to four (4) sessions of championship rated events (no decrease in masterpoint awards) per day. Management may, with cause, disallow more than two (2) championship sessions per day.
6. Sectionals at Sea are allocated only by the ACBL.
7. An open Sectional may be run concurrent with a restricted Regional, by age or masterpoints, with the permission of the Unit in which the Regional is being held.

B. SCHEDULING OF SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. A Sectional may be scheduled and sanctioned at any time provided the tournament can be included in the tournament listings in the BULLETIN at least one month prior to the tournament and all rules and regulations regarding conflicts are met.
2. If a sanction is submitted less one year in advance, the Unit loses its claim to the dates.
3. All Sectionals have the same status and the same rules and regulations apply.
4. A sanction application to hold a Sectional will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt by the ACBL Tournament Department. The process is as follows: the Unit Tournament Coordinator will submit an online sanction application to ACBL headquarters, which shall automatically be forwarded, without review, to the District Tournament Coordinator for approval. Upon District Tournament Coordinator approval, the application will be reviewed for sanctioning by the ACBL Tournament Department.

5. Approval of Sectional sanction applications will be made one year out, or immediately upon approval if received less than one year out.
6. Questions concerning scheduling and other conflicts for Sectionals will be resolved by the Unit(s) and the District Organization involved.
7. Districts and Units perceiving a conflict with other Units or Districts must notify Management or the Arbitration Board within 30 days of the tournament posting on the website.
8. When a unit perceives a conflict between its Sectional and a tournament in another District, the Unit Tournament Coordinator shall work through his District Tournament Coordinator to initiate the processes of conflict resolution in the same manner that Regional conflicts are resolved.

Effective immediately.

Carried unanimously.

Item 102-141: Regional Tournament Scheduling And Sanctioning

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING AND SANCTIONING

A. GENERAL

1. Every District must appoint a Tournament Coordinator.
2. ACBL Regional tournaments will not be sanctioned to run concurrently with any portion of a North American Bridge Championship.
3. A restricted Regional, by age or masterpoints, may run an open Sectional tournament concurrently with the Regional with the permission of the Unit in which the Regional is being held. An open or individual Regional may not run a Sectional in conjunction with the Regional.
4. A North American Pairs District Final, a Grand National Teams District Final or the CNTC may be run concurrently with a Regional or Sectional. If they are run concurrently with a Sectional, the District must have permission from the sponsoring Unit. However, such events must also conform to the scheduling restrictions of their respective conditions of contest.

B. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT ALLOCATIONS

1. Regionals are allocated to ACBL Districts. A District may conduct its Regionals or allocate them to Units within the District. Additionally, the WBF, the CBF and the USBF may be awarded a Regional according to regulations occurring later in this document.
2. Each District is allocated four annual Regionals which may be open or senior. Each District is allowed to split one Regional. In addition, a District is allocated the following tournaments annually:
 - a. One Junior Regional
 - b. One Youth Regional.
 - c. One 0-199er Regional, or one 0-299er Regional, or one Non-Life Master Regional or one Non-Life Master Regional with an upper limit of 500 MPs.

3. Upon request and verification, a District with 9,000 to 12,000 ACBL members is allowed one additional Regional each year; a District with 12,000 to 15,000 members is allowed two additional Regionals each year; a District with 15,000 to 18,000 members will be awarded three additional Regionals each year, and a District with 18,000 or more is allowed four additional Regionals. Membership qualifications for such additional Regionals will be based on a calendar year's average of the four QUIP reports of 3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31. For example, a District earning a qualification based on 2009 QUIP reports may schedule the additional Regional beginning 2011.

4. Any annual Regional held at, or near, the same site that reaches 3,000 tables for the tournament three out of four consecutive years will be awarded and this will not count against the District's base allocation. This tournament must remain in the same locality unless there are extraordinary circumstances verified by Management. Any additional Regional earned by consecutive table counts in excess of 3,000 will entitle the qualifying District to conduct the additional Regional in the year immediately following the qualification.

5. If a District fails to maintain the requirements for an additional Regional (either by a drop in total membership or by the failure of a 3000 table-plus tournament to maintain such size), the District will be entitled to keep its additional Regional(s) for two years. If, within the two-year period, the District again meets the requirements, the additional Regional (s) may continue to be scheduled without interruption.

6. In addition, the following Off Shore and Special Regionals are allocated:
 - a. Alaska – D19
 - b. Bermuda – D2
 - c. Hawaii – D20
 - d. Mexico(2) – D16
 - e. Arizona Seniors – D17
 - f. Cape Cod Seniors – D25
 - g. New England Individual – D25

The following Regionals are not allocated to any specific District:

- h. Canadian Bridge Federation (one per year)
 - i. United States Bridge Federation (one per year)
 - j. World Bridge Federation, when a WBF championship is held in Zone 2, such regionals to be held at the site where the championship is being held.
7. An annual Regional is awarded each year to the USBF for the purpose of supporting teams representing the United States in international competition, and to the CBF for the purpose of supporting teams representing Canada in international competition. Depending on the location (land or sea) the affected District and the USBF or the CBF must agree on the specifics (e.g. date, schedule and fund-sharing). The normal conflict rules shall apply to the scheduling of the tournament.
8. No District may be awarded more than nine Regionals in a calendar year under this allocation formula.
9. The minimum/maximum number of days a Regional may be held is as follows:
- a. Open or Senior Regional -- minimum of three days.
 - b. Youth Regional, Junior Regional and masterpoint limited Regionals – minimum of two days.
 - c. Individual Regional -- no more than two and one-half days. One session charity or fund game may be held in the afternoon of the first day
 - d. A Regional may not be more than six and a half (6.5) days in duration. In addition, a one-session event that is run for the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, or the Canadian equivalent of these may be held the afternoon of the first day of a six and one-half day Regional. The current formulas will be used to determine the minimum monetary contributions for these games.
 - e. A Regional running concurrent with a World Bridge Championship as per 6j above, may be of a length equal to the WBF Championship.
10. Only events scheduled for two or more sessions at Regionals may award gold points.

11. A District may join with other Districts to co-sponsor a Regional or to hold a split Regional. If co-sponsored, but held at one site, the tournament will count against one District's allocation. If co-sponsored but held at two different sites the tournament will count against both District's allocations. A District may, with permission, hold a Regional in a contiguous District.

12. Exclusive of Knockout Teams and Side Game Series events, a Regional may schedule up to four gold point sessions per day. For purposes of this regulation overlapping schedules are deemed to be the same two sessions since participation in one of the events preclude entry into the other. For example 10:00 a.m./3:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m./7:30 p.m. Management may, with cause, disallow more than two gold point sessions per day.

13. A District may move a Regional from the calendar year in which it hosts an NABC to any of the three prior years or any of the three succeeding years providing the Regional meets with all requirements under "Scheduling of Regional Tournaments." This regulation extends to include Acts of God or hotels canceling contracts. Other unforeseen circumstances may be included as determined by the Arbitration Panel.

14. Whenever the ACBL Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee, is considering holding a special event at a Regional, or any other District function, that District's president and District Director must be notified, and such event(s) must not be scheduled without permission of the District through such notice from the District Director.

15. The Regional Tournament Allocation Plan will be reviewed at least every five years.

C. SCHEDULING OF REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. A sanction application to hold a Regional must be submitted to the ACBL Tournament Department three years in advance in order to protect the dates. If a sanction is not submitted at least three years in advance, the District may lose its claim to the dates.

2. A District that holds a Regional on the same dates and at the same sites/areas two out of three years will be placed on the traditional date list for Regionals. The list is available on the Coordinator's Bulletin Board. Easter week and other fluctuating holidays are noted as exceptions.
3. If a District has a traditional annual date but the site/area does not remain constant, it is no longer a traditional date.
4. Regionals in the schedule for a specific date and location that move their location more than 50 miles within one year from this date will be subject to the "New Tournament Rules" (in other words this move will be treated as a new tournament).
5. Tentative tournament schedules for the current year and following years will be posted on the ACBL website, and updated daily. An updated list noting additions and deletions will be posted every two weeks on the Coordinator's Bulletin Board.
6. A Regional appearing on the traditional date list which is not held for two years within a three year period will be removed from the list.
7. A Regional may be scheduled and sanctioned at any time provided the tournament can be included in the tournament listing in the *ACBL BULLETIN* at least two months prior to the tournament and all rules and regulations regarding conflicts are met.
8. A Regional scheduled and sanctioned more than a year in advance takes precedence over a Sectional regardless of when the Sectional was sanctioned.
9. All tournament sanction applications must be submitted electronically.

10. A sanction application to hold a Regional will be acknowledged immediately upon receipt by the ACBL Tournament Department. All applications received must be approved by the District Tournament Coordinator.

11. Approval for Regional sanction applications will be sent three years out or immediately upon approval if received less than three years out.

D. SPLIT SITE REGIONALS

A District may split one of its Regionals and hold it at two sites on the same dates

1. The same events will be played simultaneously at both sites and will be played throughout. Upon request, management may approve different starting times for the same session at the two sites for the same events.

2. Knockout Teams will be the only championship event to have first and second overall positions at both sites. There must be at least three teams for there to be an event, and if there are fewer than eight teams, there will be at least a three session round robin. If entry consists of five, six or seven teams, only the team finishing in first place will earn Blue Ribbon qualification. If fewer than five teams enter the event, none will earn Blue Ribbon qualification.

3. Masterpoints shall be awarded as follows: All awards shall be multiplied by .80. For all events other than KO, overall masterpoints for first and second (and ties for second) will be awarded based on the total attendance at both sites. Overall awards for other than first and second (and ties) will be made at both sites based on attendance at the respective sites (the depth of the awards shall be similarly based).

4. Identical hand records must be used at both sites, for all events with one overall winner unless Management authorizes the use of different hand records due to significant differences in starting times or other special circumstances.

5. At Split Regionals, Swiss Teams events will be separate and overall winners will be declared at both sites. Only first place overall winners at each site shall earn Ribbon qualification.

E. TOURNAMENT CONFLICTS

1. If the ACBL Tournament Department anticipates a possible conflict with a tournament already sanctioned or a Traditional Date tournament the Department should immediately notify the person applying for the sanction, the District Tournament Coordinator and the District Director.
2. If a District Tournament Coordinator believes that a tournament request is in conflict with one of its tournaments, he must first notify ACBL Tournament Division and endeavor to resolve the conflict with the District in question. The District Director(s) from the Districts involved in a possible conflict will be notified by Management of the possible conflict as soon as Management is aware of it.
3. An Arbitration Panel is established. All panel members will be District Directors or their designees.
 - a. The Panel will consist of five people, two from each zone without the conflict and one from the zone with the conflict. No one from the Districts involved may sit on the Panel.
 - b. If there is a conflict between two Districts or more in different zones, three people from the third zone and one from each of the two zones with a conflict will be on the Panel. Again, no one from the Districts involved may be on the Panel.
 - c. For the selection process, the zonal representatives will pick the members of the Panel from their zones as long as their zone is not involved. The ACBL President or Chairman of the Board will appoint the person from the “conflict” zone. Since the list of District Directors is updated each year, the list will be automatically current.

4. Timeliness.

- a. For timely sanction applications, if the parties involved cannot resolve the conflict, both applications will be sanctioned with the following proviso: the timely application of a traditional tournament date will take precedence over the timely application of a non-traditional tournament date.
- b. In cases where there are a timely and an untimely application: If the District with the timely application claims there is a conflict, the Arbitration Panel agrees there is a conflict and the conflict cannot be resolved, the untimely application will not be sanctioned.
- c. For equally untimely sanction applications, both applications will be sanctioned. For the purpose of defining “equally untimely,” applications received that would be listed on consecutive bi-weekly updates will be so deemed.
- d. The cases where there are non-equal untimely applications will be treated the same as timely/untimely with the earlier application being timely and the other untimely.

5. Determination.

The Arbitration Panel will make a determination that a conflict exists after a request from Management or a District holding, or applying for, a sanction. Decisions will be reached after consulting internal resources, demographics of tournament attendance (if available), usual tournament size, data from involved parties, etc. The decision of the Arbitration Panel will be FINAL.

Our regionals were not affected by the changes. The procedures for resolving conflicts in the schedule are laid out in this document. If you feel there is a conflict of your tournament with someone else's at the same time, please discuss it with the Unit and District tournament coordinators. The coordinator for District 5 is Alex Bealles awbealles@zoominternet.net.

NABCs approved:

Spring of 2016 will find us back in Reno at a new location, The Silver Legacy in downtown. It is a very nice facility that I am sure you will enjoy.

In Orlando we will have a new location in the Fall of 2016 and 2022 at the Swan and Dolphin on the Walt Disney World property. Plan those vacations now!

Don't forget the Buffalo Regional the last week of October. The District Finals of the North American Pairs will be held there Saturday and Sunday October 30-31.

For comments and suggestions email shortsuit@sbcglobal.net or phone 440-333-2536.