



American Contract  
Bridge League

## District Director's Report -August 2014

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### July CEO Report

*Selected bits from a report by Robert Hartman*  
Membership is up slightly 167,895 at the end of June.

Technical advances:

- Job applications on line soon
- Web-based compliance training about harassment as well as TD training.
- Bridge Bulletin Viewer that allows searching for articles in past bulletins.
- Mobil results and daily bulletins for NABCs

Donations for The Longest Day had already exceeded \$400,000 by mid July.

Learn Bridge in a day has lots of support available from the Educational Foundation and the ACBL. Please check the ACBL website for information on marketing and email blast support.

Units are encouraged to set up facebook pages to advertise their events. These pages will be promoted on the ACBL's facebook page.

Marketing has a program to help clubs build attendance and a resource center to help with advertising. The new logos are available and those publicizing an event and applying for financial assistance must use the new logo with the picture and the text. A sample is at the top of this page.

### New Masterpoint Plan Needs Second Reading

A committee has studied the entire masterpoint structure and has suggested many changes that will be voted on again at the Fall NABC. If passed, they will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

#### New Events Proposed for Regionals:

We have all noticed the problems created by the Gold Rush Events for the people over 750 points that don't want to play in Flight A. At Regionals, a stratiflighted event may be run with three Gold Rush Flights in B/C/D (0-100, 100-300, and 300-750) and the upper flight may have 3 strats as well (perhaps 750-1500, 1500-3000 and 3000).

One tournament per district may run an event in 2015 that has three flights and each flight may have 2 strata. This will work best at large regionals as this format requires three separate pair events. If it proves successful this restriction will be lifted.

#### Changes To The Masterpoint Structure:

There are adjustments to how tables are counted, the depth of the awards, the rating of events, the awards for the number of sessions in an event and a 25% increase in the masterpoint awards for pair games vs. teams. Far too complex for this report. The summary by Russ Jones will be on the District Website [www.D5bridge.com](http://www.D5bridge.com) attached to this report.

### Special Games for Clubs

The International Fund Game #1 will be held annually on Super Bowl Saturday.

The Junior Fund Month is moving from February to January and the Grass Roots Fund Month moves from January to May. Charity Fund Month remains in April and International Fund Month remains in September. During the Fund Months those are the only special games that can be run by clubs.

## What happened to the plans for a New ACBLScore?

1. The ACBL has made the decision to discontinue the ACBLScore+ project. A working group consisting of Board members, internal staff and outside experts determined efforts to develop a completely new system ACBLScore+ fell short of what was required to work for the League's members. The ACBL Board of Directors agreed with this decision at its July meeting in Las Vegas.
2. The ACBL is now moving forward with plans to enhance the features and benefits of its existing scoring software, ACBLScore, and extend the life and functionality of the software for a long time to come.
3. The ACBL is already enhancing the scoring software to give it more features and to integrate it more easily into complimentary systems. For examples, we have integrated data population with TourneyTrax, and we are building integration to create real time result display features on the web.
4. The total capitalized costs of the ACBLScore+ project is in excess of one and a half million dollars and we are determining what portion of the project product can be repurposed into the enhanced ACBLScore.

### Tournament Director University is coming!

A lot of research has gone into studying the TD structure and how TDs are trained. The Customer Service part of their job is becoming increasingly important and the retiring of many seasoned TDs has caused an urgency to rethink all facets. With the old time table it could take up to 7 years to get a director trained to be a full time director. The new plan takes less than a year

- A pilot project beginning in September will take 5 people and test a program to have them fully capable of being an independent member of a directing team in only 7 months.
- Field training for TDs is the second part. This prepares Directors to run an event themselves
- Step 3 field training will prepare a director to run a tournament on his own.

Current directors will also be exposed to Customer Service programs. Future plans are to make similar programs available for Club Directors, Tournament Assistants and Volunteers.

### New NABC Events

- Mixed Swiss Teams
- 0-10,000 Imp Pairs
- 0-10,000 Fast Pairs
- 10K Swiss moved to the first weekend at the Fall NABC.

### NAP/GNT News

- 4 pairs will qualify per flight in NAP Flights B and C. Qualifiers make your plans to attend the District Finals in Erie PA October 11 and 12.
- Screens will be used in GNT Flight B when they are used in Flight A if space allows.

### Club Corner

Clubs may run up to 2 sessions a year at a date and time not currently sanctioned. This may only be a regular club game not a special game.

When a series game is run at a club each club session may only be part of one series.

## Masterpoints

The 'magic' formula by which we calculate masterpoints for Swiss and pair games is:

$$B \times R \times S \times M \times P \times T$$

While this may seem like a lot of nonsense, each of these variables are very important and several changes were suggested during the last session of the Board of Directors, which will take affect if approved January 1, 2015. This document will attempt to explain each of the variables and how they were changed during the past session.

### New Events

Two new events will be added for tournaments. First, tournaments which hold the current A/X and Gold Rush Pairs can now add a third strata to the top flight. This gives a total of three stratas in the top flight and up to three stratas in the second flight. A suggested structure would be:

A1 – unlimited	A2 – 1500 to 3000	A3 – 750 to 1500
B1 – 300 to 750	B2 – 100 to 300	B3 – 0 to 100

In the above example, all 'A' stratas would pay gold points in a 2-session regional event, along with B1. The other two stratas will pay red points. This structure provides a better opportunity for those players with too many points for the Gold Rush who have to play in the "A" flight.

The second new event will be three flights with each flights allowing two stratas each. All stratas that have an upper-limit of 750 or more will pay gold points in a 2-session regional event. This event is on a trial basis and will be used at regionally-rated events at NABCs and each district may approve its use in only one tournament per district in 2015. Should this event prove successful, this restriction will be removed in the near future. This event will probably be more useful and successful in larger regionals as you are running three separate pair games at the same time. A suggested structure would be:

A1 – unlimited	A2 – 2500 to 5000
B1 – 1500 to 2500	B2 – 750 to 1500
C1 – 300 to 750	C2 – 0 to 300

### B = Number of Tables

The current formula is for 60 or fewer tables,  $B = (\text{Tables} + 10) / 60$ . With over 60 tables, the formula is  $B = \text{Log}_{10} (\text{Tables} / 4)$ . The effects of the logarithm function is that the increase in awards is reduced significantly after 60 tables.

The major change passed by the board applies only to stratified/strataflighted events at regionally-rated events. In all other events, "B" will remain the same as the current formula. Currently, in regionally-rated stratified/strataflighted events, the top strata "A1" receives credit for all table in lower flights within the same game and other limited games held at the same time. This is called 'concurrent table count'. Under the new proposal, strata "A1" will calculate "B" based upon only the number of tables within its own flight given the multiplier:

$$(3 \times \text{the first 15 tables}) + (2 \times \text{the next 10 tables}) + (\# \text{ of remaining tables} < 100)$$

Therefore, the award for the top strata will NO LONGER DEPEND on lower flights but will remain constant no matter the size of the concurrent events. The other stratas in the top flight (A2 and A3) will receive awards based upon their respective percentage of the top flight.

For example, suppose you held the following two flight event:

A1: 10 tables	A2: 12 tables (old X strata)	A3: 10 tables (optional)
B2: 30 tables (300-750)	B3: 40 tables (100-300)	B3: 30 tables (optional)

The top A1 strata would get credit for  $(3 \times 15) + (2 \times 10) + 7$  (remainder of 32) = 72 tables. Whereas before, they received credit for 172 tables to include the Gold Rush Pairs. The “B” for the Gold Rush remain unchanged. Notice that this also changes how “X strata” (now the A2 strata) awards are calculated. It is strictly on the percentage that “X” contributes to the total A flight.

The overall effect of this change will cause the awards for small A flights with a large Gold Rush to be reduced, while the awards for an A flight with a comparable Gold Rush will see very little change.

R = Classification of Tournament

Currently, the rating of all tournament events are as follows:

Unit Championships	=	8.5
Sectionals and Stacs	=	10
Regionals	=	14
Nationals	=	22.5

Under the new masterpoint formula, the following rating system would be used:

Club Special Games – Group One	=	7
Club Special Games – Group Two	=	9
Unit Championships	=	7
Sectionals	=	11
Stacs	=	9
Regionals	=	14
Nationals	=	22.5

The overall effects of this change is that awards at full sectionals will increase by 10% and the awards for Stacs will decrease by 10%. This was deemed needed due to the controlled atmosphere at a true sectional with the use of duplicated boards and an ACBL TD employee. Certain club games will also be affected. The following list of club special games will be decreased from full sectional rating to 90% sectional rating:

Club Appreciation Team/Pair Games	Club Membership Games
Upgraded Club Championships	Instant Matchpoint Games
NAP/GNT Club Games	ACBL-Wide Charity/Fund/Senior Pairs
World Wide Bridge Contest	GNT Fund/NABC Promotional Games

The following club special games will be decreased from 85% of sectional rating to 70%:

Club Championships	Inter-club Championships
Junior/Charity/Grass Roots/International/Education Fund Games	

S = Number of Sessions

The current formula for number of sessions is and will remain:

# OF SESSIONS	FACTOR
1	1.00
2	1.50
3	2.00
4	2.50
5	3.00
6	3.50

M = Masterpoint limit

This factor ranges from approximately .15 to 1.0 based upon the masterpoint limit of the event, with 1.0 always given to the open flight. Currently, this formula reaches 1.0 when the masterpoint limit is set to 6,136 or higher. The new formula will reach 1.0 when the masterpoint limit reaches 8,000. The effect of this change is a slight reduction in masterpoints for those flighted events from 0-20 to 0-6000. A new reduction will be added to those events that are limited to 0-7500.

P = Restricted by Age, Sex, or Mixed

This factor places a 20% reduction on awards if the events restricted participation based upon anything other than masterpoints. This could include age, sex, team makeup (mixed), or several other components. This is unchanged by the new proposal.

T = Type of Game

Under the current formula, Swiss and Pair events were unaffected by this part of the formula because their value was set at 1.0. The two events currently effected are BAM Teams (which receives a 1.1 or 10% bonus) and Individual games (which receive a 25% reduction in awards). Under the new formula, pairs will be changed to 1.25. This mean a **25% increase** in the base awards for all pairs games other than standard club games. This was done to make the awards for pairs more comparable to team games.

Other Changes

The depth of awards will be 25% of the number of pairs in a pair event and 25% of the number of teams in a team event. In addition, the cap of overall awards going down until it reaches 10% of 1<sup>st</sup> place has been changed to going down until it reaches 1.0 masterpoints. The main effect of this change is more pairs/teams receiving gold points in the overalls of Gold Rush games.

A major change in the KO formula is also included in the new masterpoint formula. There will no longer be a reduction in overall awards below 1<sup>st</sup> place for 3-session KOs. For example,

1 <sup>st</sup> in a 3-session KO by formula	25
1 <sup>st</sup> in a 4-session KO by formula	25
2 <sup>nd</sup> in a 3-session KO by formula	17.5
2 <sup>nd</sup> in a 4-session KO by formula	17.5
3 <sup>rd</sup> in a 3-session KO by formula	8.75 (for winning playoff)
3 <sup>rd</sup> in a 4-session KO by formula	10 (for placing 3/4)

Also, there will also be a bonus factor for brackets larger than 16 and the match awards have been increased from 7.5% of 1<sup>st</sup> place to 10% of 1<sup>st</sup> place.

For National Event, the 1<sup>st</sup> place awards have been changed for 13 different events and a team that receives a bye in a NABC+ event will no longer be credited with a win toward the two win requirement to place in the overalls.

Masterpoint Summary kindly provided by District Director Russ Jones of Arkansas. Thanks to Russ for this explanation.