

# ACBL District 14 Policies

May, 2008

## **BOARD COMMITTEES**

- The Regional Tournament Committee is an ongoing committee of the District 14 Board of Directors.
  - Membership consists of one member from each unit in District 14 and appointments by the District 14 Board Chair are for a two-year term.
  - Committee has the responsibility to recommend guidelines for the scheduling of regional tournaments in District 14.

## **DISTRICT 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- There are no term limits for Board of Director members (10/97).
- The District 14 Secretary will mail copies of meeting minutes to all attending each meeting, and in addition to each unit president.
- When the district faces an important decision and time is not a strict element of that decision, then the decision should be postponed at least for one meeting so that the feelings of all the units can be adequately assessed before the decision is made.

## **BYLAWS**

- See District 14 by-laws revised 5/08.
- Each unit gets one vote, plus one vote for every 100 members, plus one vote for any remaining fraction of 100 members. The total votes allocated to each unit shall be divided equally between the Board members present representing that unit. The membership of a unit shall be the number of members recorded by the ACBL.
- Election of officers for District 14 will be every other year at the fall meeting.

## **REGIONAL AND/OR SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

### Scheduling

- Starting times between the beginning of the afternoon and even sessions are determined by the unit hosting the regional.
- Sectional tournaments are allowed on the same weekend if the distance from the regional is 375 or more miles.
- Regional Tournament schedules are to be monitored by the District Board. The District 14 Tournament Coordinator reviews the schedules and contacts the District 14 Executive Committee for action, if necessary.
- Split site regionals are to be determined and scheduled by the District 14 Board three years in advance, with plans beyond four years to be tentative.

- Regional tournament schedules are to be submitted and approved by the District 14 Tournament Coordinator prior to publication.
- The length of each tournament is up to the host unit.
- District 14 Board meetings should be scheduled at times when there is no conflict with knockout events.
- District 14 tournaments cannot be scheduled on the dates of the District 14 STaC.

### Events

- Masters Pairs and Mixed Pairs are not suggested events.
- Victory point scoring is mandatory

NOTE: Districts have jurisdiction over regional tournaments/events and units over sectionals. Therefore, all District 14 policies regarding Swiss team rules apply to regional events in District 14. It is recommended that units adopt similar rules for sectionals to maintain consistency within the district.

- Knockouts have random draw throughout with no duplicated matches until the semifinals or finals. Playbacks are to be avoided as long as possible.
- Teams may withdraw if all members of the team request it and have the Director's approval.
- Any player arriving to play by the scheduled (posted) game time is allowed to play.

### Scoring

- Pair events should be scored across the field when feasible to determine overall winners, and section awards by ranking in individual sections.

### Other

- Tournament chairs are to submit a written financial statement and an analysis of the tournament to the District.
- District 14 assesses a \$ 1.00/table surcharge for all District 14 Regional events, excluding novice and charity games. It is the option of tournament chairs to cover the surcharge by increased entry fees or other means.
- District 14 will charge players 17 years of age and younger an entry fee of \$1 at its tournaments

## **GNT**

*Reminder: Conditions of Contest are distributed annually by the GNT chair.*

### Flight A and Superflight

- ACBL Mid-chart Conventions may be used at Flight A and Superflight District 14 Finals.
- Flight A Superflight teams should be seeded by total masterpoints.

### Flights B & C

- Flights B & C Swiss qualifying events should use the 20 Victory Point scale.
- Flights B & C Finals are to be seeded in the knockout based on the Swiss team qualifying with any ties broken on the basis of lot.
- The District Finals start with a two session Swiss, and the top 8 teams play a straight knockout semifinal and final.
- At the District Flight B & C Finals individuals can form teams regardless of the results at the Unit Finals, as long as the individuals played in their Unit Final.

### General

- The format for play, for any given number of teams, should be announced in advance.
- It is the option of the unit to hold Unit Finals. Players who do not play in a Unit Final (either because their unit chose to not hold a Unit Final or because their unit did hold a Unit Final but they chose not to play in it) will be required to pay an \$11 surcharge at the District Final.
- It's suggested that GNT District Finals be held in a city like Des Moines, Omaha, or Minneapolis.
- Players in all flights in the GNT District 14 Finals shall be guaranteed a minimum of two sessions.
- The District 14 Board of Directors is responsible for setting the GNT District Final dates and sites at least three years in advance. The preferred date for the District 14 GNT finals is the fourth weekend in April.
- District 14 allows stratified games at the club level and clubs are encouraged to run separate events whenever possible.
- District 14 sponsors the District 14 Final including responsibilities for collecting income and covering all expenses.
- District 14 does not allow unit sectional tournaments to run opposite the dates of the GNT District Finals.

- No scrip is to be given to the District 14 first place winners. Cash awards are based on GNT income to District 14. The event is self-supporting.
- GNT money awards should be split equally among the four flights.

### **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

- Unit committees and other disciplinary bodies are required to submit written reports of disciplinary action to the District 14 Judiciary Committee.
- District 14 recommends that every unit establish a Judiciary (or Conduct) and Ethics Committee to solve local problems. Any member disciplined at the unit level must be informed of that action by registered mail and informed of their right to appeal to the District Judiciary Committee.
- No reimbursement will be given the District 14 Judiciary Committee for travel, but required expenditures such as phone bills, postage, etc. will be paid.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Units are responsible for the distribution of unit publications to others outside of their unit in District 14.
- All unit publications in District 14 should be sent to other unit editors and unit officers in the district.
- District 14 units are encouraged to advertise District 14 regionals in all District 14 unit publications. Schedule of events and starting times should be included in the publication.

### **DISTRICT 14 DIRECTOR and ACBL BOARD**

- The District 14 representative on the ACBL Board of Directors is allowed to play free at all sectional and regional tournaments in District 14.
- In District 14 the District Director on the ACBL Board of Directors will handle requests for transfer of memberships from one unit to another unit, both within district 14 and across district lines.

### **UNIT GAMES**

- Units should not hold unit games when there is a sectional tournament within 100 miles.

### **FINANCES AND STAFF**

- The District 14 Tournament Coordinator is to receive an annual honorarium of \$750.00, and be reimbursed for District 14 Board meeting expenses.

- The District 14 Secretary/Treasurer is to receive an annual honorarium of \$750.00, and be reimbursed for District 14 Board meeting expenses.
- The District 14 website coordinators will receive yearly honoraria of \$500 (Larry Delfs) and \$250 (Peggy Kaplan).
- Any District 14 chairperson requested by the District to attend a District 14 Board Meeting can be reimbursed for expenses. In order to be reimbursed, the chairperson must submit a bill, which could include expenses for mileage and one night's lodging.
- The District 14 President, ACBL District Director and Secretary/Treasurer are to be reimbursed one day's expenses (mileage, per diem, and hotel) to attend District 14 Board Meetings.
- Units in District 14 are allowed (optional) to bill District 14 for the District 14 ACBL District Director's entry fees to sectional and regional tournaments.
- District 14 uses the ACBL's mileage and per diem rate.
- Each unit is responsible for determining the extent to which they will subsidize their representatives' participation on the Board of Governors Meetings and/or District 14 Board of Directors Meetings. They are also responsible for subsidizing it to the extent determined.
- The District 14 Treasurer pays the cost of breakfast at District Board Meetings from the District treasury.
- District 14 fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.
- An Audit Committee can be appointed to review the District 14 books each year and seek assistance as necessary.

#### **NORTH AMERICAN OPEN PAIRS (NAOP)**

- Individuals may qualify in different units during the first round of qualification.
- Each unit is responsible for setting up its own final and is financially responsible for the outcomes.
- NAOP District Final will be a single site final.
- It is desirable to have the District Playoffs in conjunction with a sectional tournament.
- If the chairperson follows the budget estimate guidelines listed below, District 14 will reimburse the host unit for a loss incurred. An estimated budget should be prepared and sent to the District 14 Chair of the North American Open Pairs.
- Director. The head director must be regionally rated. The director may ask for a per diem.

- Site Rental & Related Expenses. Janitor, security, property damage
- Miscellaneous. Postage, phone calls, supplies, table and chair rental or moving.
- Caddies. One caddy per 14 table section; one caddy per two 9-table sections. Maximum fee of \$20.00 per day (\$10.00 per session).
- The entry fee for the District 14 Final is \$11/person.
- Hospitality. Free coffee, pop, or food should be contingent on a financial surplus after the above five items are weighed against anticipated income.
- Every effort should be made to use the top 50% of the field to gain the maximum revenue.
- In case of real family emergencies, weather, or other problems, players should have their money refunded. These refunds are a viable event expense.
- In the case of a rule change to two sites, the District 14 division would be:
  - a) MN & ND
  - b) IA, NB, SD
- District 14 opposes cutting the event to two North American Open Pair representatives per district.
- Alternatives with games in the upper 50% of the field can be used for the District 14 Finals.
- District 14 awards Bonus Qualifying Pairs to the playoff site with the highest percent of participation at the club level.
- District 14 does not allow unit sectionals to run opposite the dates of the GNP District Finals. .
- Anyone who qualifies at the club level may play in the District Final.
- District 14 Finals will have the following format: Flights A and B – 4 session play-through, Flight C – 2 or 4 session final, determined sufficiently in advance by the NAOP chair.

## **BIDDING BOXES**

- Pairs using bidding boxes in District 14 events may bid verbally only at the request of the other pair at the table. (The other pair has the option of both oral and bidding box bids.)
- Bidding boxes are to be used for 0 Flight A & B regional events. Bidding boxes are not required but should be available for Flight C and Novice/Intermediate events.

## **DISTRICT 14 RECORDER**

- District 14 approves the concept of a District Recorder.

## **CELL PHONES**

- During all District 14 events cell phones are to be turned off in the playing area. Special permission for extenuating circumstances may be requested from the Director in Charge. The penalty for having a cell phone one will be one-quarter board.

## **SMOKING POLICY**

- District 14 subscribes to the ACBL Smoking Rules and Regulations.

Smoking is not permitted during bridge play or within playing areas at an NABC. Distinctly separate smoking areas will be provided at NABCs as allowed by state and local ordinances. These areas will not be the hallways immediately outside the playing area, near rest rooms or snack bars or in any area where non-smokers may be exposed.

All pair events at an NABC will have two hospitality breaks per session of at least five minutes.