

ACBL District 14 Policies

BOARD COMMITTEES

- The Regional Tournament Committee is an ongoing committee of the District 14 Board of Directors.
- The committee will have five to seven geographically diverse members plus the District 14 Tournament Coordinator. Appointments are for a two-year term, made by the District 14 Board Chair.
- The committee has the responsibility to recommend guidelines for regional tournaments in District 14.
- Grass Roots Fund Committee

DISTRICT 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- There are no term limits for Board of Director members (10/97).
- The District 14 Secretary will distribute copies of meeting minutes to all members attending each meeting, and to each unit president.
- When the district faces an important decision and time is not a strict element of that decision, the decision should be postponed for at least one meeting so that the feelings of all the units can be adequately assessed before the decision is made.
- Board Meetings are held twice a year (See Bylaws for additional meetings)
- District 14 Board meetings should be scheduled at times when there is no conflict with multi-session Regional events..

BYLAWS

- See District 14 by-laws posted on the District 14 website.
- 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 from the last ACBL report of unit membership before the current district board meeting.
- Election of officers for District 14 will held at the last district board meeting of odd numbered years.

DISTRICT 14 DIRECTOR and ACBL BOARD

- 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.

DISTRICT 14 RECORDER

- District 14 approves the concept of a District Recorder.

FINANCES AND STAFF

- The District 14 Tournament Coordinator is to receive an annual honorarium of \$500.00, and be reimbursed \$250 for computer and office expenses.
- The District 14 Secretary/Treasurer is to receive an annual honorarium of \$500.00, and be reimbursed \$250 for computer and office expenses.
- The District 14 website coordinator will receive an annual honorarium of \$500 plus \$250 for expenses.
- 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 (or presiding officer, if needed), 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.
- No family unit shall receive more than one reimbursement for expenses from the district per district board meeting.
- No person holding more than one district position can collect more than the maximum reimbursement for one district position for the district board meeting.
- 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 meal cost at District Board Meetings from the

District treasury.

- The District 14 fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.
- An Audit Committee shall be appointed to review the District 14 books every 2 years or at the departure of a Treasurer.
- The Secretary/Treasurer shall apply for and keep a Zoom Account for the District which is capable of recording the meeting.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS: CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

I. General

- These Conditions of Contest should be posted on the District 14 website.
- All District 14 Regional Tournaments shall be conducted according to the ACBL General Conditions of Contest and District 14 Conditions of Contest. All events at Regional Tournaments shall be conducted according to the ACBL Conditions of Contest for that event as well as the District 14 Conditions of Contest for that event. Lack of knowledge of those conditions shall not constitute cause for exception.
- The Director in Charge of a Regional Tournament shall make the final decision on the interpretation of these conditions or the ACBL Conditions of Contest.
- The Tournament Committee has the authority to adjust the regional event schedule to enhance the one preset by the specific regional tournament committee.

Note: ACBL Conditions of Contest are posted at
<http://www.acbl.org/play/Conditions-of-Contest.html>

II. Participation

- Any pair or team that meets ACBL qualifications to play in an event will be allowed to play in an event if it arrives by game time.

III. Event Starting Times

- Starting times of all sessions are determined by the unit hosting a regional.

IV. Events

- Each regional must offer a two-session regionally-rated event on each full day of the

tournament.

- Any event approved by the ACBL may be held at a regional tournament except that Mixed Pairs and Women's Pairs are discouraged.
- Pair events should be scored across the field whenever possible.
- Knockout events shall have random draw throughout with no duplicated matches until the semifinals or finals. Playbacks are to be avoided as long as possible.
- Swiss Teams are required to use Victory Point scoring.
- All Knockout and Swiss Team events will use the 20 Victory Point Scale.

V. Conventions

- The ACBL General Convention Chart will govern bidding and play methods.

VI. Entry Fees

- Sponsoring units may determine the entry fees for a regional except entry fees for full-time students less than 27 years old will pay half of the posted entry fee.
- The District 14 Director is allowed to play for free at all regional and sectional tournaments in District 14. The unit may bill District 14 for these entry fees.

VII. Smoking

- All District 14 Regional Tournaments will be nonsmoking. Smoking areas will be established according to ACBL regulations and local or state laws.

VIII. Cell Phones

- During all District 14 Regional Tournament events cell phones will be turned off unless the player has the permission of the Director in Charge. The penalty for having a cell phone on will be one quarter of a board in pair events and 3 IMPs in team events.

REGIONAL AND/OR SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- Sectional tournaments are allowed on the same weekend as a regional tournament if the distance between them is 375 or more miles. For an I/N District 14 Regional, there will be no sectional within 150 miles of the regional. Waivers to this policy may be granted by the District Tournament Committee unless the I/N Regional is holding a

concurrent sectional.

- Regional Tournament schedules are to be monitored by the District 14 Tournament Committee. The District 14 Regional Tournament Committee reviews the schedules and contacts the District 14 Executive Committee for action, if necessary.
- The Regional Tournament Committee may override a regional schedule of events for regionals anticipated to have fewer than 750 tables if the local committee makes a schedule that is deemed by the committee to not have a chance to draw players from other than the local area.
- The District 14 Regional Tournament calendar, including split-site regionals, is prepared by the District 14 Regional Tournament Committee three years in advance and approved by the District 14 Board. Tournaments listed on the District 14 Regional Tournament calendar beyond three years are considered tentative.
- The length of each tournament is up to the host unit.
- District 14 assesses a \$ 1.00/table surcharge for all District 14 Regional events, including I/N Regionals, but excluding novice (less than 20 masterpoints) and charity games. It is the option of tournament chairs to cover the surcharge by increased entry fees or other means.

STaC (SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CLUBS)

- A club that hasn't made its reservation three days in advance of the STaC game will be charged a \$20 late fee.
- One-half of the proceeds from the three District 14 STaC games is to be put in the Education Committee Fund, and be matched from the Grass Roots Fund.
- District 14 tournaments cannot be scheduled on the dates of the District 14 STaC.
- Most District 14 STaC games will be held Monday through Thursday. The December District 14 STaC will be a 7 day event Monday through Sunday.
- The District 14 tournament coordinator has the authority to schedule District 14 STaC games with other districts subject to the approval of the District Board (or the Executive Committee if needed).

GNT

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

I. Flights A and Superflight

- ACBL Mid-chart Conventions may be used in Flights A and Championship District 14 Finals.

- Flight A and Championship flight teams should be seeded by averaged total masterpoints except that District Champions returning with more than 50% of its members begin as #1 seed.

II. Flights B & C

- Flights B & C Swiss qualifying events should use the 20 Victory Point scale.
- If Flight B & C Finals include a knockout phase, seeding is based on the two session team qualifying performance with any ties broken by previous head to head competition, then net IMPs. If four teams remain, the #1 seed plays their choice of #3 or #4.
- The District Finals start with a two session qualifying K.O [<10 teams] or Swiss [11+ teams]

III. General

- The first weekend in May shall be reserved for a rotating Grand Nation Teams District 14 Final and Special Sectional. Recommended sites: The metropolitan areas of Des Moines, Twin Cities, Omaha, and Sioux City. No unit within 150 miles shall schedule a competing sectional.
- The format for play, for any given number of teams, should be announced in advance.
- Where there are no club qualifying games within a reasonable distance, a player including those who are out of state during the club and unit qualifying games period may petition the GNT District 14 Coordinator to play in the District 14 Final for the “buy-in” fee of \$20, preferably with a two week notice (April 15).
- Players in all flights in the GNT District 14 Finals shall be guaranteed a minimum of two sessions.
- 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 unless the sectional tournament is held at the same site (except for Rapid City).
- There is no carryover to the second day in flights with KO formats for semi-final and

final play.

- The price of team entries will be determined by the District 14 GNT Coordinator.. Fulltime students less than 27 years will pay half of the posted entry fee.
- District 14 will reimburse the D14 Open Flight championship team for up to two days of entry fees to match the ACBL policy for the three lower flights.

IV. On October 2009 the District Board endorsed the following five principles:

- Each Unit will designate a liaison for GNT coordination, typically the Unit GNT Coordinator or Unit Tournament Coordinator, who will work with the club managers in the unit to encourage GNT participation as well as coordinate with District 14 GNT coordinator.
- The District 14 GNT coordinator will prepare a list of fees due the District from each Unit at the conclusion of the club qualifying period based on reports from the ACBL Special Events coordinator.
- Unit liaisons will assist the D14 GNT coordinator to see that table fees from club qualifiers are forwarded to the District before the completion of the District Finals.
- Club managers will print report forms from GNT club qualifying games as they occur and be prepared to forward table fees and report forms when requested. Club managers need not send a series of checks after each qualifying game. Club managers will also prepare a list of GNT-qualified players for posting at the conclusion of their qualifiers.
- Units are encouraged to hold two-session Unit Finals with the following benefits and caveats:
 - a. Players can earn gold points in a two session Unit GNT game.
 - b. Players do not have to play in a Unit Final to qualify for the District Finals
 - c. Unit Finals are not designed to thin the field; the maximum number of teams will qualify (ACBLScore program will qualify 90%).

UNIT GAMES

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

GRASS ROOTS FUNDS

- District 14 will offer set awards for the years 2016, 2017, and 2018 for the NAP and GNT at \$4700 for the NAP (already approved for 2016) and \$8000 for the GNT for a total of \$12,700 per year. Any shortfall between income and expenses will be

subsidized first from the existing Grass Roots fund balance, and then from the District 14 treasury. Continue the same awards structure in future years as long and D14 has a balance exceeding \$15,000.

- Starting in 2016 and continuing in future years District 14 will hold a STaC the second week of September to promote the grass roots events and publicize the NAP District Final, and kick off the start of the GNT season. Profits from the STaC will help offset expenses of the NAP and GNT subsidies.
- Starting in 2016 Units at their open Sectionals are strongly encouraged to run two sessions per year of enhanced regionally-rated silver point Charity games for the benefit of the Grass Roots Fund. Any Unit which elects not to run these Grass Root Fund games shall have their subsequent regional table fees due the district increased to \$1.50/table. Units that jointly sponsor a regional or that sponsor a split-site regional where one unit runs the requisite Grass Root Fund games at their sectional and the other unit does not will have their subsequent regional table fees due the district increased to \$1.25/table.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

- 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.
- NAP 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 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.
- The entry fee for the District 14 Final shall be an amount commensurate with District 14 Regional entry fees. Fee may include a meal charge.
- Hospitality. Free coffee, pop, or food should be contingent on a financial surplus after the above five items are weighed against anticipated income.

- If the event has qualifying sessions prior to final sessions, 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
- Alternates with games in the upper 50% of the field can be used for the District 14 Finals.
- District 14 does not allow unit sectionals to run opposite the dates of the GNP District Finals unless the sectional is at the same site as the 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.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

- The District has a Teacher Development and Enhancement Committee. It will be responsible selecting a Teacher of the Year who will receive a plaque and \$100.