

General Conditions of Contest and Guidelines for Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs)

Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaCs) provide bridge players with the opportunity to win Silver Points at their local clubs. All of the ACBL's rules, regulations, and procedures for running a Sectional tournament apply to the organization and management of a STaC. ACBL's current STaC guidelines and fees will apply.

Sponsoring organizations may, with ACBL approval only, amend these conditions for a specific event. Such amendments should appear in all printed tournament schedules and be posted prior to the start of event.

The Director in Charge shall make the final decision on any item in these conditions. Furthermore, the Director in Charge will resolve any issue not specifically covered.

SPONSORING UNIT

1. A STaC may be scheduled for up to seven consecutive days, but may include only one weekend -- however, Management may grant an exception to the weekend requirement for cause. A sanction application must be sent to the appropriate District Tournament Coordinator at least 12 months prior to the scheduled tournament date. The ACBL may sanction a STaC when it receives the sanction application with fewer than 12 months advance notice if there are no scheduling conflicts and the STaC can be advertised in "The Bulletin" calendar schedule at least one month prior.
2. While only Units may apply for a sanction to hold a STaC there is no objection to a Unit nominating a District or Districts to conduct the tournament. In District-wide STaCs all clubs within the District(s) must be offered the opportunity to participate. Participation is at the club level when sponsored by a District. If a Unit outside of the sponsoring District wants to participate, all clubs within that Unit must be invited to participate (The unit must receive approval from it's district coordinator).
3. A sponsor may schedule morning, afternoon and/or evening sessions. For the purpose of determining in which session a club should participate use the standard club session designations. The local sponsor must designate the sessions to be scheduled. As an example: Morning games would be those starting prior to 12:00 local time, afternoon games start prior to 18:00 local time, and evening games 18:00 and later. Morning and afternoon games may not be combined as day games nor may afternoon and evening games be combined..
4. STaC sessions may be scheduled at any participating club for any session that the club has a regularly sanctioned game at that club. Additional games may be held at the option of the sanctioned club. However, when a scheduling conflict exists, preference shall be granted to the club that holds a regularly scheduled game (within a 25 mile radius) at the time in question. The STaC sponsor has the final decision.
5. Each Sponsor must develop a schedule of games and Conditions of Contest. This schedule and the CoC will be posted on ACBL's web site. Open and limited Stratified Pair and Swiss team events may be scheduled. All pair events are single-session events. Team games shall be stand-alone events at the site played.
6. All masterpoints awarded are silver and sectionally rated. Overall awards are based on the total entry in each event except that Swiss Team overall awards are based only on the entry at each individual site. Open Swiss Team overall awards do receive credit for limited event tables at the same site. Open Pair events do not receive credit for other limited event tables at the same site, unless they are not combined with other clubs in the main STaC.

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7. The use of hand records is encouraged but not required. For a STaC using hand records, games at sites not using hand records will be entered as a side game for ranking and masterpoint awards (65% of sectional rating).
8. Masterpoint levels and strat limits will be set by the STaC sponsor. The strat levels will be the same for all open pair games and for like limited pair games. Swiss team events are at club option.
9. The sponsor is responsible for notifying all club managers to register for the upcoming STaC. An e-mail blast may be requested for those managers with an address on file. Snail mail notification will need to note that they must register online and submit results by e-mail to participate.
10. The organization receiving the sanction (sponsoring organization – ‘SO’) is responsible for the collection of any fees due from a participating ACBL sanctioned game. Each participating club is responsible for submitting all fees to the sponsoring organization in a timely manner. The ‘SO’ is also responsible for ensuring that all fees due the ACBL are remitted in a timely manner. Should a participating club owe a debt to a unit, district, conference or ACBL, the ‘SO’ may ask Management for assistance in collection as permitted by ACBL regulations.

PARTICIPATING CLUBS

1. Any club within the area of the participating Unit may hold a STaC game in lieu of its regularly scheduled club game. Additional games may be held, as noted above.
2. The ACBL General Convention Chart will be used unless the sponsor specifies and advertises otherwise.
3. A minimum section size of 10 pairs is needed to be included in the Championship session. Sections with fewer than 10 pairs may be reported, combined, and included as a separate Sectionally rated Championship event. This restriction may be modified or waived, prior to the start of the tournament, at sponsor option.
4. Invitational (not masterpoint limited) games will be scored and ranked as stand alone sectionally rated Championship event with 1 restriction (80% sectional rating). Invitational clubs will use the same limits as the open event and will be combined for overall ranking. Invitational games may not be declared as Open for the tournament.
5. Limited masterpoint games will be scored and ranked alone unless a like limited masterpoint game is held at one or more other STaC sites. In this case, these games will be scored together for overall rankings and masterpoint awards. Limited games may not be declared Open for the Tournament.
6. Playing directors may not duplicate the boards in games using hand records. The club director of such a game may play only with the consent, in advance, of the DIC of the STaC.
7. Non-playing directors are encouraged but not required for games with no more than one section of 17 tables or fewer. Non-playing directors are required in games larger than 17 tables or with two or more sections. Club Directors who are eligible to play will receive masterpoints.

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8. Each club must report its results to the (DIC) within the designated time limit. The time limit is 24 hours from the end of its game unless the sponsor specifies an earlier time limit. In no case may this time limit be less than twelve (12) hours from the end of the game. Club games not reported within the time limit will be scored, ranked, and issued masterpoints as a sectionally rated side game if received prior to the final reporting period.
9. Reporting will be by e-mail attachment of the game file. At sponsor option, special reporting arrangements may be made for games with fewer than 17 tables. Reporting procedures will be posted with the sponsor's STaC Conditions of Contest.
10. The final reporting period for the STaC ends 12 hours after the last event ends. Later reports will be returned to the club, to be reported as a regularly scheduled club session.
11. The correction period at each club is the same as the reporting time limit. A club must post a copy of the recap for inspection at the end of each session.
12. The club manager must register for all sessions to be held using the registration process available on ACBL's web site at least two days prior to the start date of the STaC. Late registrations are at the discretion of the DIC.
13. The club must notify the STaC DIC of any scheduled session that is canceled within one hour of the start time for the session.
14. The STaC sponsor may require clubs to download hand record files from ACBL's web site.
15. 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.

DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE

1. The DiC of a STaC must be an ACBL Tournament Director or higher rank.
2. The DiC of a STaC, and the sponsor, will develop reporting guidelines and specific conditions of contest to be posted on ACBL's web site at least six weeks prior to the start of the STaC..
3. The DIC of a STaC will label hand records when used.
4. The DiC will organize and provide results to participating clubs for each session after the deadline for reporting the game results.
5. The DiC will create reports at the end of the STaC as requested by the sponsor.
6. The DiC will provide standard Sectional tournament reports.
7. In addition to the expected functions of a DIC, the DIC may be asked to perform a variety of additional tasks. Typical tasks may include distribution of hand record printouts, pre-tournament advertising, or a post-tournament bulletin. The DIC and the sponsor will determine the time and fees for these tasks.