

Pairs Events

General Conditions of Contest

These Conditions of Contest (CoC) may not be changed at any level of play during the course of the event. Sponsoring organizations may amend these conditions for specific events, but such amendments must appear in all printed tournament schedules.

These conditions apply to all pairs events. At the North American Bridge Championships (NABCs), there may be additional conditions. In such cases, the specific conditions will supersede the general ones. These conditions must be available.

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

ENTRY AND PARTICIPATION

1. Each partnership will consist of two players. In events with a masterpoint restriction, the partnership's entry will be based on the player with the higher masterpoint holding. However, Life Master events require that both members of a pair be ACBL Life Masters or its equivalent.
2. Each player must play at least 70% of the boards scheduled to be played by the partnership to be eligible for either session or overall masterpoint awards. A fill-in pair must play at least 87.5% of the available boards to qualify for overall awards.

PLAY

1. All schedules must be approved by the ACBL Tournament department six months in advance.
 - In flighted events, groups are segregated by masterpoint totals.
 - In stratified events, the groups play together but are ranked both collectively and separately.
 - In strati-flight events, at least one group is segregated and another stratified (i.e. A is Open, B is stratified with the top group 300-1000 and the second group 0-300).
2. Events may be run from one to six sessions and may reduce the field after specified sessions. Consolation events may be run concurrently with the final session(s).
3. A Side Game Series may be run at ACBL tournaments. These must be at least three sessions. Individual sessions may be stratified and award overall and section awards based on side game rating. A player competes as an individual, and overall placing will be determined by the percentages of his two best sessions.

4. A player may enter and earn masterpoints in as many sessions as possible while not entered in a concurrent or over-lapping event.
5. Exception: Players on teams with more than four members, or teams with byes, may play in concurrent one-session events. For this purpose, Side Game Series are considered one-session events, with no access to gold points for that session, nor may that session's score be used to determine overall rank. In such cases, masterpoints may not be earned in both events. The higher award shall be retained, the lower award deleted.
6. Management may authorize Barometer scoring with publication of previous rounds' results during a session for any matchpoint event.

SEEDING

Every effort should be made to seed all sections of the field in both directions. *(Note: This is usually accomplished by making random adjustments in the starting position of one of the seeded fields each session.)* While the sponsoring organization may provide assistance, the final decision in all matters relating to seeding the event will rest with the DIC.

QUALIFYING EVENTS AND CONSOLATIONS

1. Events of two or more sessions may be run as some number of qualifying sessions and some number of final sessions. Consolation events may be scheduled for non-qualifiers.
2. A carryover will be calculated based on scores in the qualifying session(s). The maximum spread will be equal to the number of sessions in the events times top in the final session(s). For six-session events with two cuts, the maximum spread for the middle two rounds will be only two and one-half times top in the semifinal sessions.
3. Carryovers will be based on the following formula: $C = (M - m) [(Q/E)(AxBxQ)/S]$ where
 - C = carryover
 - B = number of boards played in qualifying session(s)
 - S = sum of the scores of all qualifiers
 - M = matchpoints of a given pair
 - m = matchpoints of lowest qualifying pair
 - E = pairs entered in the event
 - Q = pairs to be qualified
 - A = average on each board in the final session(s)

If the formula determines the high carryover to be above the allowable limits, the formula is abandoned and the following procedure is followed: Subtract the low-qualifying score from the high-qualifying score and divide this number into the maximum allowable carryover. The resulting factor is multiplied by the difference of a score and the low-qualifying score. Thus the low qualifier will have a carryover of zero, and the high qualifier will have the maximum allowable carryover.

4. Ties for the final qualifying position will be broken as follows:
 - Considering only boards played in common, a pair will receive one point for each board played on which it outscores the other tied pair(s) and one half point for each tied board. In addition, on boards not played in common, a pair will receive one point for a score above average and one half point for a score of average.
 - If the above does not break the tie, or in cases where the pairs played no boards in common, compare matchpoints on all boards against average. Award a pair one for each score above average and one-half for each score of average.

TARDINESS & SUBSTITUTIONS

1. Substitutes are subject to the discretion of the DIC and may not appreciably strengthen the partnership or team.
2. A qualified pair not seated within 10 minutes after the announced starting time of a final session will be replaced by the highest available alternate qualifier.

CORRECTION AND APPEAL PERIODS

1. The score correction period for player errors expires at the completion of play of the session following the one in which the error occurred or 30 minutes after completion of the last event of the tournament, whichever is earlier.
2. For director errors, the correction period expires 24 hours after the completion of the event or 30 minutes after completion of the last event of the tournament, whichever is earlier. The DIC in consultation with the ACBL Senior Director of Bridge, however, may in unusual circumstances elect to make a correction of a director error at a later time.
3. For qualifying events, the score correction period for both player and director errors expires one hour before the first session following qualification. The carryover score for qualifiers may be corrected up until the end of the first session following qualification.
4. The appeal period of or for a director's ruling expires 30 minutes after the completion of a session or at the starting time of the next session, whichever is earlier.