

Progressive Sectional Special Conditions of Contest

GENERAL INFORMATION

In a progressive sectional, players qualify at their home club, and the finals are held at a pre-designated, suitable location. Approval to hold a progressive sectional must be granted by the district in which the unit resides and from the ACBL. The same rules apply for sanctioning as for other sectionals.

A progressive sectional must be made available to all clubs within the sponsoring unit. Surrounding units may be invited to have their clubs participate if this is desirable. Clubs outside of the unit may apply to the sponsoring unit for sanctions. These clubs would be bound by the same rules and regulations as the clubs within the sponsoring unit.

Progressive sectionals consist of one week of qualifying with a single-session final. Every time a club meets during a week entitles that club to one qualifying session during the qualifying round(s) of the progressive sectional. A club meeting once a week can hold one session. A club meeting 14 times a week can hold up to 14 sessions. A second week of qualifying may be scheduled so that two single-session final events may be scheduled for the same day. (Those qualified from the first week would play in the first session. Qualifiers from the second week would play in the second session.) Club sanctions are issued at no charge.

Again, all clubs in the sponsoring unit must be allowed to participate. (Invitational clubs must be allowed to participate, but masterpoint awards are 80% of sectional). Qualifying rounds must be conducted at the same site and time as regular club games and within the allotted time frame.

QUALIFYING ROUNDS

All pairs who finish average or above, or all pairs placing in their section, whichever is greater, qualify for the finals. The players qualify as individuals and may qualify as often as they like. They may play in the finals with any other player who has qualified for that event. The qualifying round may be open, flighted or stratified. If flighted or stratified, the flight/strat limits *must* be the same at all participating clubs. If the qualifying round is flighted or stratified, the finals *must* be flighted or stratified.

If the qualifying round is stratified, the following must be done:

Report forms must accurately reflect the table count, rank and masterpoint limit for each strat. The strats must be evenly divided N/S and E/W (a 10-table game with six Strat B pairs must be split three pairs N/S and three pairs E/W, not 4-2 or 5-1, e.g.) Should you have only two or three pairs of Strat A, you may not put all of the A pairs one direction.

FINAL ROUNDS

There is a one-session final for each qualifying event that was played in the clubs. The finals must be held on the same day at the same place. Qualifiers may play only in the event for which they are qualified, but directors may use non-qualifiers to fill a half-table. A non-qualifier is ineligible for overall awards. A non-championship side game event may be held so players who are only eligible for one final session will have an event during the other session.

MASTERPOINT AWARDS

All masterpoint awards are based on sectional rating. The size of the award for the finals is calculated as though it were a two-session game with one-third of the field eliminated. There are no overall masterpoint awards for any event, including Swiss Teams, during the qualifying rounds. All masterpoint awards are silver. Side game events do not add to the table count of the finals award.

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CONVENTIONS

The ACBL General Conventional Chart will be in effect in all stages of the competition.

DIRECTORS

The DIC of the finals should be of TD rank or higher. In all instances, the DIC will be assigned by the ACBL Tournament Department. During the qualifying rounds, local club directors are responsible for conducting the games in accordance with the conditions specified by the sponsoring unit and these Conditions of Contest.

ENTRY FEES

For each club qualifying round, the ACBL will receive the current sanction fee per table per session. The fee charged at the clubs may be designated at the club or by the unit. Clubs belonging to units other than the home unit may be charged an additional \$1.00 per table, which goes to the home unit. Table fees for the finals are set by the unit. The unit is responsible for paying all TD fees and the current sanction fee per table due ACBL. There is no sectional surcharge.

For additional questions regarding progressive sectionals, contact the ACBL Tournament Department at 662-253-3100.