

In 2015 the ACBL Presents a Golden Opportunity to Find Your Perfect Fit!

In 2015 more strats and more flights will be coming to pair events at Regional Tournaments. What this means for you is even more opportunities to compete directly with your peers. This is something ACBL Members have been asking for and the ACBL has listened.

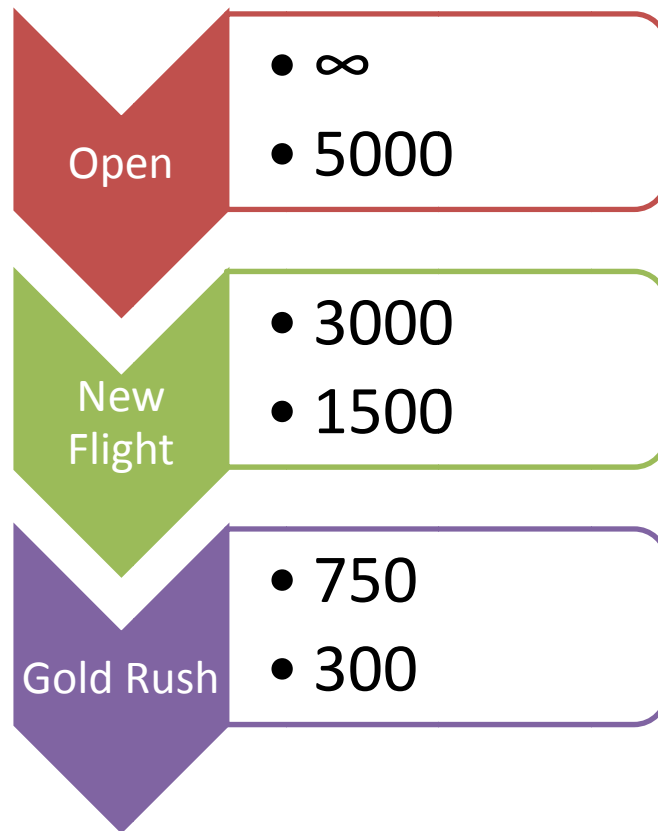
Previously ACBL regulations allowed gold points to be awarded in a flight limited to 750 masterpoints so long as it was the “B Flight” of an open event. While this was a boon to our intermediate Members

it also meant that to win gold in a pair event anyone with more than 750 masterpoints had to compete directly with pairs who could have many thousands of masterpoints. The creation of these new flights and strats gives our Members with 751-3000 masterpoints more opportunities to win gold masterpoints while competing against players of their caliber.

At the largest Regional Tournaments in 2015 the ACBL will be testing a new event structure aimed specifically at those with too many points to play in the Gold Rush Pairs. A new flight for those players with 751-3000 masterpoints has been created between the Gold Rush Pairs and the Open Flight. Tournament sponsors can choose where to place the cut off; for example, at one Tournament this new flight might be 750-1500 while at another it is 750-2000. Tournament sponsors will make this decision based on previous attendance and overall masterpoint holdings for their District.



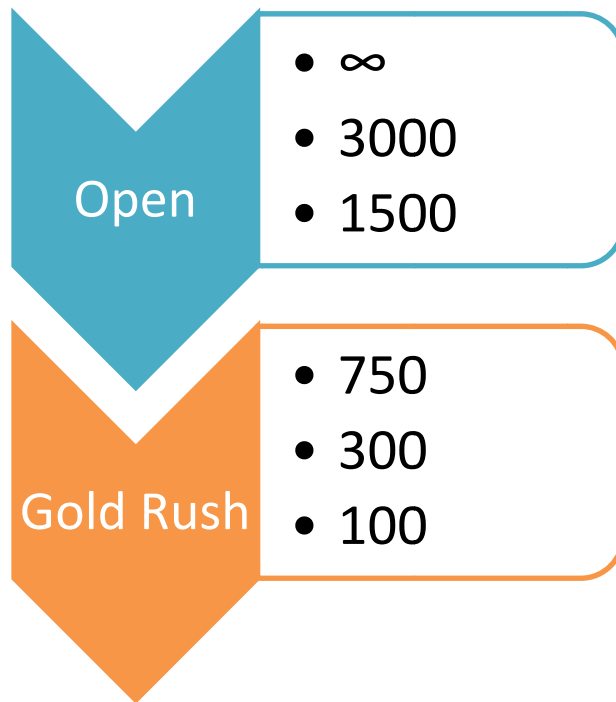
To reiterate, the Open Pairs will still resemble the A/X pairs with strats similar to “Open/5000” and the Gold Rush Pairs will also have two strats “750/300”; but in the middle there will be the brand new flight for those Members whose experience levels put them beyond the Gold Rush. This flight will be limited to players with no more than, for example, 3,000 masterpoints and will also be broken into two strats:



In 2015 this event will be limited to one regional per District plus the NABCs. That means in the coming year there will be at most 28 tournaments where you can find this event to play in. To find out which tournament in your District will be having this new event check out our [website](#). At the end of 2015, ACBL Management and the Board of Directors will examine the results of these events to determine whether or not it should become available on a wider basis in 2016 and beyond.



Another change that will have a big impact on those Members with too many points to be eligible for the Gold Rush Pairs is the addition of a third strat above the Gold Rush Pairs. The Gold Rush Pairs will remain the same with strats of 750/300/100, but instead of an open pairs above it with only 2 strats (currently these are typically open/3000) there will now be three strats, for example: open/3000/1500:



This gives our Members more opportunities to win gold points while competing with those close to their own experience level. This new event structure will become the standard at most regional tournaments and will be able to be used at any Regional Tournament in 2015.

The ACBL is very excited about these changes to pair events in 2015; and we hope that you will be too. Once you've gotten the opportunity to play in one of these new events please do let us know what you think at tournaments@acbl.org. The ACBL is committed to continually improving the tournament experience for our Members.

