

Board of Governors Motion Issue Sheet

Submitted by: Peter Marcus

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- **Subject Matter of Motion** (insert a short phrase)

Opportunities for ACBL members, outside ACBL territories, to win gold, red and silver points.

- **Statement of Issue** (one or two sentences)

ACBL members who live outside US, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda, have almost no chance to win points other than black points. While membership fees are accepted from these people, their ability to participate fully in the ACBL masterpoint program, including to progress to and above the rank of Life Master, is almost non-existent.

- **The motion itself:**

ACBL Management will create two online bridge tournaments, in conjunction with one NABCs, which

- a) Will be limited to players whose residence is outside ACBL geographies
- b) Is only open to ACBL members in good standing, i.e., current with their dues
- c) Will provide for the opportunity to win gold, red and silver points

- **Material impacts** (what the change causes and who it affects)

This motion would require ACBL to assign a director to administer an online tournament, conducted during at least one NABC each year, that would be an online regional and an online sectional. Events would be open (choice) pairs, with three or four sessions per day, scheduled at times that would be particularly appropriate for play (in at least two) by players in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America. (I have less concern for ACBL members living in Antarctica).

In theory, one schedule would be for a 5-day tournament that would award silver points, and another 5-day tournament that would award gold and red points, run concurrently with the 10 days of an NABC (1st Friday-2nd Sunday).

Because of vacation schedules in these countries, I would recommend that it not be the Summer NABC, since those are the NABC most likely to attract foreign players to come to the US to play in a physical tournament.

- **Reasons why the Board of Governors should adopt the motion** (Please attach a succinct summary on a separate sheet of paper)

As part of marketing for a 0-750 NLM regional in Sturbridge MA (The Mine, April 11-14), we sent out almost 45,000 emails to non-LMs outside the Northeast. One of them replied to me who lived in Belgium. She raised the issue that, although she regularly paid her membership dues and was able to play in some ACBL-affiliated clubs, she had no opportunity to win points, other than

black points, without the tremendous cost of continually traveling to the US or another ACBL geography.

I told her about a regional that I knew used to exist and was held yearly at a US Air Force Base in Germany. I do not know if that tournament still exists.

However, even if it does, that does not help ACBL members in South America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Clearly, some players from outside ACBL geographies do come to ACBL tournaments, particularly NABCs. But, the vast majority of these players are international experts who come to play in our top events, not lower-point players seeking points to make LM.

With the great advances in online bridge technology, there should be no technological problem with setting up an online sectional and regional tournament and limiting participation to ACBL members whose residence is outside ACBL geographies, allowing them to form partnerships and then play an online game and win appropriate colored points for advancement to and above Life Master.

- **Risk if the motion is not approved**

These members will continue to be unserved by ACBL despite being members in good standing. The cost of extending this opportunity to these members should be negligible.

- **Existing ACBL Policies and Conditions**

None known.