

District Director, Joann Glasson
January 2021

ACBL Committee Structure

As part of the reduction in size of the ACBL Board of Directors, non-core committees that had previously been part of the board responsibility have been moved into the hands of committees that are composed of members of our bridge community that are experts in the area. The Masterpoint Committee is one of those committees.

Two motions that came from the Masterpoint Committee were approved at the December special meeting of the ACBL Board.

Strength of Field:

In all tournament events for which the overall awards are calculated by formula, including Individuals, Pairs, Swiss Teams, Board-a-Match Teams, excluding STaCs and events with arbitrary first place awards, such as the Grand National Teams and excluding all events with a knockout phase, the masterpoint formula shall be modified to account for the strength of the field in that event by the method detailed below, and that such method be amended in the future to account for improvements in methods for estimation of players' abilities and for other factors that have not yet been adequately accounted for.

This motion will likely take some time to be implemented as the technology is quite complicated but the effective date is listed as 1/1/21 or as early as it can be achieved.

Online Masterpoint Awards:

In all events conducted online in which ACBL gold, silver or red points are awarded, not including club games, all masterpoint awards shall be 80% of the amount that would be awarded in a face-to face game of the same structure, as calculated by the applicable formulas.

You will not see any change in the current masterpoint awards since this reduction is already in place in the events that are being played online.

The Competitions and Conventions Committee has introduced a new alert procedure system that will become effective January 1, 2021.

Here is the full text of the new [Alert Procedure](#). Changes include that instead of announcing "transfer", we will announce the suit shown, e.g. "hearts". Support doubles and redoubles are no longer alerted since they have become so commonly used.

With the arrival of new vaccines, I hope that we will soon once again be able to meet at the bridge table. I wish you all a healthy and fun-filled 2021!

Stay well,

Joann