

**District Director, Joann Glasson**  
**September 2021**

## **BRIDGE AND THE CORONA VIRUS - ACBL TOURNAMENT POLICIES**

We are all anxious to return to tournament play - it's been way too long - but the latest news on the Delta variant have put yet another stumbling block in the way.

The ACBL cancelled all regional and sectional tournaments scheduled in the month of August. The reason for the cancellation was the concern both for the players and for the staff and volunteers that run the tournaments.

From September 1 and going forward, tournaments are being reviewed individually, as to whether or not they can be safely held. Whether a tournament can be held depends on the restrictions for large gatherings in place for that particular location and the local positivity rate. Regions with positivity rates below 5% may be held, regions between 5% and 10% will be considered on a case by case basis. Regions with a positivity rate above 10% will not be staffed by ACBL directors.

Mask wearing requirements for tournaments also vary for the same reasons. Here's the current official policy on mask wearing at tournaments:

"Subject to change at any time, anyone who has received the required doses of a Covid-19 vaccine (under Health Canada, CDC or Mexico Ministry of Health guidelines) at least 14 days prior to their attendance at a bridge tournament may be requested to wear a mask at said tournament if Health Canada, CDC, or Mexico Ministry of Health guidelines recommend this. This ACBL policy does not countermand any ordinance or law in effect at the site of the tournament."

## **VIRTUAL CLUB GAMES**

The system of virtual club games (VACB) that we play in online were created by Jay Whipple and BBO CEO, Uday Ivatury, in an effort to provide a platform for local bridge clubs to operate during the pandemic and to protect these business so that they would be able to reopen face-to-face after the pandemic. An integral part of their plan was to protect the small and intermediate size clubs from poaching of their members by competitive pools of clubs from other areas of the country. That is the reason for the visitor guest policy that was imposed on all participating clubs.

At the Board Meeting that was held this week, the Board unanimously voted to continue to enforce the visitor guest policy until we are safely out of the pandemic. Management has been directed to implement that policy so that we can look forward to the reopening of our clubs when it is safe to play in person again.

Stay well and please contact me anytime with any questions or concerns: [joannglasson@msn.com](mailto:joannglasson@msn.com)

Joann