

**PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL**  
**AT THE ALLOY, A DOUBLETREE HOTEL BY HILTON**  
**JUNE 26 – JULY 2, 2023**



**WELCOME BULLETIN**

Welcome to our new location at the newly renovated Alloy, a Doubletree Hotel by Hilton. Mark Cohen, Betsy Cutler and their Tournament committee are excited and pleased that you are here. We hope you have a rewarding, fun and enjoyable experience. If you have any questions or requests, do not hesitate to ask a member of the Tournament Committee – look for an “Ask Me” badge.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES**

District 4 and the Philadelphia Regional require all tournament attendees to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. “Fully vaccinated” means that it has been at least two weeks since receiving the second Pfizer or Moderna shot, or since receiving a single-dose CDC-approved vaccine. ***There are absolutely no exceptions.***

Do not miss out - be prepared:

- Bring proof of vaccination, it is required for entrance to the playing site.
- Safety coordinators and/or their designees will be on site an hour before game time to check vaccination cards and I/Ds for each player before they enter the playing area. Once your fully vaccinated status is verified, you will be given a plastic wristband that you can use for the rest of the time you are at the tournament. This wristband must be worn each day and at all times when you are in the hotel.

**SCHEDULE FEATURES**

This year’s schedule includes many exciting features including two-day Bracketed KO events that allow for brackets that are fairer and more comfortable and guarantee that all teams that enter the four-session event will play at least two sessions on the first day of the event – no more losing in the first session of a two-day, four-session Knockout. All teams that enter the event will pay the regular two-session team entry fee that will cover a guaranteed two sessions of Bracketed Round Robin or Swiss play. The Directors will bracket the teams, based on total masterpoints, as tightly and equitably as possible with

the only restriction being that there must be at least five teams (instead of the usual minimum nine or more) in every bracket.

The top bracket is open to all teams that voluntarily want to play in the most difficult bracket of the event. Once the directors set up the fairest brackets possible based upon attendance, each bracket will play a two-session Round Robin (less than nine teams) or Swiss (ten or more teams) with each bracket qualifying the top four teams for the second day KO phase. The four KO qualifiers in each bracket will then pay another two-session team entry fee that will cover two sessions of play on the next day: semifinals, finals, and playoff for third/fourth for the losers of the semi-final matches.

These events will be an opportunity to win a significant number of Gold Points while playing in brackets that are fair and comfortable. There is a new Bracketed Swiss-KO starting Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Additionally, there are single session 3-Strat 199er (I/N), two-session 3-Strat Gold Rush (less than 750 MP) and two session 2-Strat Mid-Flight (less than 3,000 MP) events every day except Sunday, and 2-Strat Open pairs daily so you can play at a comfortable level of competition if you do not exceed the masterpoint limits for the event you choose.

The famous, and eponymous, two-session Philly Dupli-Swiss (with pre-duplicated boards and hand records) runs on Thursday. All Pairs events also have pre-duplicated boards and hand records. Five-session horizontal morning and afternoon Side Games. A 2-session open pairs event will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM.

A new online event has been added on Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 2:15PM. Play will be on BBO. There will be a Gold Rush, Mid-Flight and Open Pair event. These games will ONLY be available to members of District 4.

It is harder than ever to forecast attendance so please understand that the Tournament Committee must reserve the right to alter event formats based upon attendance.

## [ALL ABOUT ENTRIES](#)

The cost per session per person is \$20 and includes all hospitality. Please note that each member of a five- or six-person team must pay the \$20 per person per session entry fee. ACBL policy requires that all players be ACBL members (except for the Free Relaxed Game on Monday at 2:00 PM). The Online Event entry fees are \$15 per person per session.

Non-members can apply for a free temporary 120-day ACBL membership [here](#). You can extend the free temporary membership to a full year regular membership for \$29 for the first year. Full-time students always play free and the tournament rewards full-time math students with \$1 for each session played. There is a free game on Monday at noon for players with 0 – 20 masterpoints that does not require ACBL membership.

The Philadelphia Regional at Valley Forge is a **cashless tournament** and only accepts credit and debit cards. Credit card charges will appear on statements as ACBL Tournament Entry.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The partnership desk will be open each day, starting one hour before game time of the morning and afternoon sessions. Please check in as early as possible to increase the chances of making pairings and to allow time for potential partners to discuss styles and systems.

You can also e-mail the Partnership Chair, Rex Saffer, in advance, at <mailto:rex.saffer@gmail.com>

## **HOSPITALITY**

The Tournament serves free coffee, and tea on Tuesday to Sunday from 9:15AM to 10:00AM.

Additionally, the Tournament serves a free meal between sessions Monday through Sunday. Lunch menus will vary and be posted in the Daily Bulletins.

## **BULLETIN PHOTOS**

If you have won any strata or overall event or became a Life Master, or achieved a new Life Master ranking, please stop at one of our desks and ask one of our volunteers to take your picture for the online bulletin. Make sure you have signed up for Fast Results (instructions below) so that you can see your smiling face in the morning.

## **GET YOUR DAILY BULLETIN**

The Philadelphia Regional uses Fast Results for our Daily Bulletin. Results will be sent to your device by the Common Game shortly after the end of the event.

To receive an email with a direct link to your personal results and your daily bulletin, send an email to [FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com](mailto:FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com) with your ACBL number in the subject line. There is no need to put anything in the message, just click and send.

## **INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER PROGRAM**

Intermediate and Newcomer players have great options at the Philadelphia Regional. The schedule kicks off with a free Monday lecture by Denis Shaub and a free, relaxed game for players with 0 – 20 masterpoints. Stratified 299er games and 3-Strat Gold Rush (0 – 750) events run every day. Every day, there is also a 2-Strat Golden Mid-Flight event for players with fewer than 3,000 masterpoints.

## **INTERMEDIATE/NEWCOMER LECTURE SERIES**

A daily, free lecture series is offered. Monday's lecture is at 11:00am. Tuesday to Friday lectures are at 9:00am.

Monday, June 26	Dennis Shaub	"Communicating with Opening Leads"
Tuesday, June 27	Ala Hamilton-Day	"Odds and Percentages"

Wednesday, June 28	Dan Boye	“Signals and Discards”
Thursday, June 29	Joann Glasson	“Declarer Errors in Notrump”
Friday, June 30	John Dickenson	“Jacoby 2NT Follow Ups”
Saturday, July 1	Bernadette May	“Stayman and Jacoby – Weak Hand”

## ZERO TOLERANCE

The ACBL Zero Tolerance (ZT) Policy is in effect throughout the tournament. District 4 and the Tournament Committee of the Philadelphia Regional at Valley Forge expect all players and participants to behave in accordance with this policy at all times towards their partners, opponents, directors, caddies, tournament officials, and hotel staff. Players should call a director to handle any breaches of ZT, the rules, or code of ethics. Commendable behaviors under ZT include being a good host and guest at the table. Unacceptable behaviors include: rudeness, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence; negative comments about the opponents’ bidding or play; gloating; constant, unwelcome, or gratuitous lessons or analysis; arguments with the directors; and ringing cell phones. Recorder forms are available from a director to send to the ACBL a record of unacceptable behavior. Lou Glasthal is the District 4 Recorder. [glasthal@comcast.net](mailto:glasthal@comcast.net)

## SMOKING AND SCENTS POLICY

Smoking is prohibited in The Alloy.

All District 4 Tournaments, including the Philadelphia Regional at Valley Forge, are fragrance free. Players must refrain from wearing any of the following: cologne, after shave lotion, perfume, perfumed hand lotion, fragranced hair products, and/or similar products when taking part in our tournaments. These fragrances can cause serious health issues for migraine sufferers and players with breathing-related problems.

## ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Except for health-related equipment or by permission of the Director-in-Charge, cell phones, pagers, or any similar communication equipment must be turned off and may not be used or operable on the Convention Floor during a session of play.

## WHO’S WHO

<b>Tournament Co-Chair:</b> Mark Cohen	<a href="mailto:markacohen@msn.com">markacohen@msn.com</a>
<b>Tournament Co-Chair:</b> Betsy Cutler	<a href="mailto:betsy2955@gmail.com">betsy2955@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director-in-Charge:</b> Rob Maier	<a href="mailto:robert.maier@acbl.org">robert.maier@acbl.org</a>
<b>Partnerships:</b> Rex Saffer	<a href="mailto:rex.saffer@gmail.com">rex.saffer@gmail.com</a>

**I/N Co-Chairs:** Joan and Bill Goldstein

[goldstein2101@comcast.net](mailto:goldstein2101@comcast.net)

**Restaurant Guide:** Mark Cohen

[markacohen@msn.com](mailto:markacohen@msn.com)

**Daily Bulletins:** Kurt Engleman

[kurt.engleman@verizon.net](mailto:kurt.engleman@verizon.net)

## **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

### **Monday, June 26**

12:00: **0- 20 Relaxed Game** (NO ENTRY FEE; <20 MP)  
12:00: 199er Pairs (session 1 of 1 <200 MP)  
12:00 & 4:15: Top Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
12:00 & 4:15: **Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
12:00 & 4:15: **Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**  
12:00 & 4:15: Bracketed Knockouts (sessions 1 & 2 of 4)  
4:15: Charity Stratified Open Pairs (single session)

### **Tuesday, June 27**

10:00 & 2:15: Top Flight Pairs sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00 & 2:15: **Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
10:00 & 2:15: **Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**  
10:00 & TBD: Bracketed Knockout (sessions 3 & 4 of 4)  
10:00 & 2:15: Bracketed Teams – (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00: **199er Pairs (session 1 of 1: <200 MP)**  
10:00: Morning Side Series (session 1 of 5)  
2:15: Afternoon Side Series (session 1 of 5)  
7:00: Tues/Wed Evening Stratified Pairs (session 1 of 2)

### **Wednesday, June 28**

10:00 & 2:15: Top Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00 & 2:15: **Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
10:00 & 2:15: **Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**  
10:00 & TBD: Bracketed Knockout (sessions 1 & 2 of 4)  
10:00: **199er Pairs (session 1 of 1: <200 MP)**  
10:00: Morning Side Series (session 2 of 5)  
2:15: Afternoon Side Series (session 2 of 5)  
7:00: Tues/Wed Evening Stratified Pairs (session 2 of 2)

### **Thursday, June 29**

10:00 & 2:15: Open Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00 & 2:15: Top Flight Dupli-Swiss (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00 & 2:15: **Mid-Flight Dupli-Swiss (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
10:00 & 2:15: **Gold Rush Dupli-Swiss (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**  
10:00 & TBD: Bracketed Knockout (sessions 3 & 4 of 4)  
10:00: **199er Pairs (session 1 of 1; <200 MP)**

10:00: Morning Side Series (session 3 of 5)  
2:15: Afternoon Side Series (session 3 of 5)

### Friday, June 30

10:00 & 2:15: Top Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00 & 2:15: **Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
10:00 & 2:15: **Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**  
10:00 & TBD: Bracketed Knockout (sessions 1 & 2 of 4)  
10:00: **199er Pairs (session 1 of 1: <200 MP)**  
10:00: Morning Side Series (session 4 of 5)  
2:15: Afternoon Side Series (session 4 of 5)

### Saturday, July 1

10:00 & 2:15: Top Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00 & 2:15: **Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
10:00 & 2:15: **Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**  
10:00 & TBD: Bracketed Knockout (sessions 3 & 4 of 4)  
10:00 & 2:15: Bracketed Teams – (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
10:00: **199er Pairs (session 1 of 1: <200 MP)**  
10:00: Morning Side Series (session 5 of 5)  
2:15: Afternoon Side Series (session 5 of 5)  
2:30: **Online on BBO – Open to District 4 members only:**  
**Top Flight Pairs** (sessions 1 of 2)  
**Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 1 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
**Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 of 2; < 750 MP)**

### Sunday, July 2

10:00 & TBA: Bracketed Teams (sessions 1 & 2 of 2)  
2:30: **Online on BBO – Open to District 4 members only:**  
**Top Flight Pairs** (sessions 2 of 2)  
**Mid-Flight Pairs (sessions 2 of 2; < 3000 MP)**  
**Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 2 of 2; < 750 MP)**

Stratification (subject to Director's discretion) by average unless otherwise noted

0-20 Pairs: 0-5; 5-10; 10-20

**199er Pairs:** 0 - 20; 20 – 75; 75-200

**Gold Rush Pairs/Swiss:** 0 - 100; 100 - 300; 300 - 750

**Mid-Flight Pairs/Swiss:** 0 - 1500; 1500 - 3000

**Top Flight Pairs/Swiss:** 0 - 5000; 5000+

**Side & Open Pairs:** 0 - 750; 750 - 2500; 2500+

Teams: Assigned by Director according to attendance.

Event formats may be altered based upon attendance  
Stratification determined **by average** unless otherwise noted.  
No individual may be above the maximum for an event  
Open+ Chart conventions in top bracket of Bracketed Swiss - KOs with 2-session  
(Round Robin) Swiss Qualifier.  
Top Flight Dupli-Swiss and top bracket Swiss qualifiers of Bracketed Kos will use the  
USBF Continuous Victory Point Scale

Bracketed KO teams will play a Bracketed Swiss Teams for two sessions the first day.  
The top four teams will advance to the KO phase the second day. Directors will use their  
discretion to assign teams to the brackets to make them as fair as possible.

**Registration for online games opens on Friday, June 30**

On BBO click ACBL World and select one of the three 'Valley Forge Regional Online'  
games that you would like to play.