

# **District 4 Regional Tournament Basics** *(May 2025)*



[www.4acbl.org](http://www.4acbl.org)

Before offering more specific information about Regional tournaments, below is a quick rundown of the various types of tournaments offered by the ACBL:

- **Sectionals:** Sponsored by Units, offering team and pairs games, awarding SILVER points
- **Regionals:** Sponsored by Districts, offering team and pairs games, awarding primarily GOLD, but also RED points
- **Nationals (NABC):** Sponsored by the National ACBL, offering both Nationally and Regionally-rated games, awarding PLATINUM (Nationally rated events only), GOLD, and RED points

## **Regional Tournament Basics:**

- **Attendance:** Hundreds of people attend Regionals, and though you'll see many local players at nearby Regionals, other attendees may travel significant distances to be there. Why do so many people go to Regional Tournaments? Because its challenging & fun!

- **Game Offerings:**

- Pairs (2 players): Usually 3 levels of Pairs games are offered:

- Gold Rush (up to 750mps);
- Mid-Flight (up to 3,000 or 3,500); and
- Open Pairs (anyone may enter).

Within each of these Flights, there is additional stratification which groups players by masterpoints for the purposes of point awards. The purpose of Flights is to provide the entire field of players a more equal chance to earn masterpoints.

Note: All District 4 Regionals offer Single Session play for Pairs. What does that mean? It means if you only have the time or stamina for one session of bridge per day... we will be delighted to accommodate you!

- Teams (4-6 players): Knock-Outs, Swiss Teams, Bracketed Teams

- Knock-Outs are typically a 2-day event (4-sessions) with some teams being knocked out after the first day, and only the best-performing teams progressing to the semi-finals then finals on Day 2.
- Swiss/Bracketed Teams are typically 1-day events (2 sessions) with round-robin play.

- **Masterpoint Awards:**

- The more pairs or teams in an event, the more masterpoints are awarded
- 2 & 4-session events award GOLD points to overall winners. Even if you don't score well enough to be among the top winners, you may still earn RED points depending upon your final score in the event.

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- **Hospitality & Services at District 4 Regionals:** All District 4 Regionals has its own unique style and flair, but each one of them offers the following:
  - **Partnership Desk:** Contact information for the Partnership Chair is listed on the Regional flyer. If you are unable to find a partner or teammates, don't be shy about reaching out to the Partnership Chair for assistance before attending the tournament. The Partnership Desk is also open daily at Regionals to assist players in finding a partner or teammates. You'd be surprised at how many long-term bridge friendships were made as a result of a Partnership Desk pairing!
  - **Hospitality:** Typical at a District 4 Regional is complimentary morning coffee and a complimentary meal between sessions each day. Tournaments may also choose to offer additional hospitality – which is currently done by:
    - Rehoboth Beach – complimentary morning pastries daily; live music, wine, charcuterie mid-week; and
    - Lancaster – Reception with complimentary beverages and food, Monday a day's end

Be sure to review the Regional flyer which will highlight any special hospitality being offered at each Regional.

Why does District 4 offer complimentary food? We do it because we know you have a choice where to spend your time and money, so it's important to us that you're able to relax and enjoy your time with us. Some have described our Regionals as "bridge camp", where we play together, enjoy meals together, and just have a wonderfully good time together! Our motto is "Be nice to your opponents, and nicer to your partner". It's our goal that when you finish your time at our Regionals, you're already making plans for next year's event! Our end-of-tournament survey results are consistently strong, and we appreciate and use constructive feedback to continually improve and tweak Regionals to make them even better.

- **Bridge Lectures:** Each Regional offers a schedule of bridge lectures by District 4 teachers, bridge professionals, or excellent players. Consult the flyer for each Regional for more information.
- **Welcome Desk:** A good place to learn more about the area, where to purchase entries, venue layout, local restaurants, etc.
- **Stickers:** No doubt you've seen convention card holders decked out with embroidered stickers from Regional tournaments. Many Regionals offer these stickers to all attendees as a memento. Be sure to pick yours up (typically at the Welcome Desk)
- **Restaurant Guide:** A list of local restaurants to help you make dinner dates with your favorite bridge players
- **Entry Fees:** Currently range from \$23-\$25 per person, per session and are subject to change. All District 4 Regional entry fees include the complimentary meals & hospitality listed above.

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- **Daily Bulletin:** An electronic bulletin is available to all attendees, delivered via email daily as a way to report on the prior day's winners, upcoming bridge lectures, and other important bits of information.

>>>To sign up for automatic bulletin delivery every time you attend a District 4 Regional, send an email to: [FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com](mailto:FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com), place your ACBL # in the Subject line & send it (no need to add a message in the email)

- **Who's Who at a Regional Tournament:**

- **Tournament Chair:** Maintains overall responsibility for the event and recruiting volunteers for the varied responsibilities and duties that are critical to making the event a success:
- **Partnership Chair:** Prior to the tournament, works to find as many partners/teammates as requested. Sometimes filling all requests prior to the tournament is not possible, but the Partnership Chair continues to work throughout the tournament to align bridge players for successful pairings.
- **Hospitality Chair:** Responsible for the terrific hospitality provided throughout the tournament.
- **Welcome Desk Chair:** Well-informed and ready to respond to player questions about bridge lectures, local restaurants, tourism ideas, etc. This is your one-stop resource for tournament information
- **Director in Charge:** An ACBL Director who is in charge of the running of all events during the tournament. They will employ a team of Directors who are there to offer guidance, make rulings, and generally to make sure the game is moving along smoothly.

- **When & Where are District 4 Regionals Held?**

District 4 sponsors 4 Regionals annually, with locations and timing as follows: (*exceptions noted*)

- **Rehoboth Beach:** Late April/Early May; Rehoboth Beach Convention Center, DE
- **Philadelphia:** Week prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday; *the* Alloy Hotel, King of Prussia, PA
  - NOTE 2: 2026 timing is affected by World Cup Soccer Games in Philadelphia – revised Regional dates are August 3-9, 2026)
- **Finger Lakes:** 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August; Finger Lakes Region, NY
  - NOTE 2: 2026 will be week of June 8 as a result of Philadelphia Regional shift to August
- **Lancaster:** Begins the last Monday in October; Spooky Nook Sports, Lancaster PA