

**It’s tournament time!!!**

Indeed it is. In a couple weeks, folks from across the country will be gathering at the Odawa Casino to participate in our Tip of the Mitt regional tournament. We begin play on **Monday August 13** and finish up on **Sunday August 19**. Most days you can play morning, afternoon, or evening . . . or all three! You can play pairs games or team games. You can play limited games (limited to only those players with no more masterpoints than the specified limit) or you can play open games (no limit on the number of masterpoints you have accumulated). You can play with the same partner or with different partners. You can scan the room to find some of those same folks who write columns in the Bridge Bulletin. In between game sessions, you can chat with ACBL president Jay Whipple, who is planning to attend most of the week. Lots of choices, and lots of opportunities for gold points.

Here’s a link to the schedule of events so you can peruse it in advance and decide which events (and day/time) are ones you’d like to play in: <https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4089a7_8979783194da41d5ac309cc82e01ef00.pdf>

You may not be familiar with some of the terminology in the event listing, so here is an attempt at a short clarification for many of them:

* **Morning (and Afternoon) Side Game Series** – Each morning, Tues through Sat, there is a pairs game for you to compete in. You can play in any or all of them. Red masterpoints are awarded for each single session. At the end of the week, your best two games will be combined to create a separate competition. Gold masterpoints are awarded for the winners of the combined event. You may play with the same or different partner for any of these sessions. The Afternoon Side Game Series is identical to the Morning Side Game Series except that it is conducted in the afternoon. Key item here is that Morning scores and Afternoon scores are not permitted to “cross over.” They are kept separate in the combined competition.
* **Gold Rush Pairs** – This is a pairs game just like we hold at the club, and it’s held in both the morning and in the afternoon of each day except Thursday. Red points are awarded for each single session. However, if you play **both** morning and afternoon sessions **of the same day**, you will be entered into a combined competition with gold masterpoints awarded. This competition is available only to those players with less than 750 masterpoints.
* **A/X/Y Open Pairs** – This is actually two pairs games. The high masterpoint players (e.g., over 3000) and only those players will play against each other (that would be the **A** players). The rest of the players will participate in the **X/Y** game, which is just like a club game. Note that there is a Session 1 and a Session 2. You may play in either of them and be awarded red points, but you must play in both sessions to win gold points.
* **K/O (KnockOut)** – KnockOut is a team game. Note that there are 4 sessions. If you win Session #1, you get to play in Session #2, and so on for sessions 3 and 4. If you lose Session #1, your team is “knocked out” of that event, hence the name. Each session is a 24-board event, which is the same number of boards you play at the club. You may have a team of 4, 5, or 6 team members but only 4 play any one session. The game is played with 2 of your players sitting N/S to play the 24 boards. Your other 2 players sit E/W at a different table and play against the other 2 players from the same team that your N/S players are playing. They will play the same 24 boards, but as you can see, they play them in the opposite direction. The winner is determined by comparing scores board-by-board and totaling the delta scores for all 24 boards. For example, if you played N/S at 3 spades and made 4, you scored 170. If at the other table, the opponents N/S pair played 4 spades and made it, they scored 420. The delta is 250 in favor of the opponents. This value is converted into a measure called IMPS. The IMPS for the 24 boards are totaled to determine the winner.
* **Swiss Teams** – This is another team game. It’s very similar to the KO team game described above. The major difference is that in Swiss teams you play seven different opponents and you don’t get knocked out. The game consists of seven rounds of 7 boards against 7 different opponents. That’s the equivalent of playing two sessions at the club. (There are some single session Swiss teams which consist of four rounds of 6 board each.) The Sunday game begins at 10:00, takes a break for lunch, and concludes about 5:30. Scoring for Swiss is similar to that for KO’s . . . delta scores are converted (this time to Victory Points) and totaled for the day.

Well, there’s the short course on most of the events. If you have any questions, give Mike a shout (mmsears@sprynet.com).

If you need a partner, we’ll have a partnership desk to help you find a partner for pairs or to find a pair for the team games. Julie Kennedy (tandjken@centurylink.net) can help you with that.

We’ll have a registration desk for you to sign in at the first time you play during the week. We’d like to know if you think you’ll play the Sunday Swiss game (no commitment, but it helps us order the right number of lunches), and we’d like to give you your registration gift!

See you there!