

MINUTES
ACBL District 18 Board Meeting
15 November 2023 6:00pm
Online via Zoom

Attendees

Andy Anderson, President and SK representative

Ray Fink, Secretary and WY representative

Tom Romine, Treasurer and MT representative

Steve Lawrence, AB representative

Irene Monical, UT representative

Don Greenwood, D18 STaC Coordinator

David Johnson, D18 Pianola Coordinator

Melissa Martin, D18 GNT Coordinator

Tim White, Region 13 Director

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the previous board meeting (18 May 2023) were approved.

2. ACBL Representative Report – Tim White, Region 13 Director
 - a. The Appeals Committee has heard 26 cases in the past few months
 - b. There is now an 11% rebate of member dues to the Unit. This is intended for the purpose of retaining and increasing membership. Board is considering a motion to have additional increments returned to the Unit based on performance on this goal.
 - c. Units are no longer required to hold sectional tournaments.

3. Tournament Reports
 - a. Regina (May 1-7): Attendance 346.5 tables, made approximately \$2000 CAD. They are searching for a venue for their next regional
 - b. Salt Lake City (May 15-21): Attendance 406 tables, lost approximately \$5468 USD. Evening social events were poorly attended. In retrospect, too many promotional flyers were printed. Minimum food & beverage commitments in the hotel contract were difficult to meet.
 - c. Calgary U750 (July 28-30): Attendance 129 tables. The tournament made about \$2000 CAD, although attendance was down (39% of 2019 attendance).
 - d. Edmonton (August 8-13) : Attendance 488 tables. The tournament lost money. The cost for the playing site was \$12-13K CAD. The hotel room rates were considered prohibitive by many players.
Taken together, the Calgary and Edmonton regionals approximately broke even financially.
 - e. Kalispell (September 18-24) : Attendance 325 tables. This table count was substantially below expectations. The tournament lost approximately \$4600 USD. Consensus was that the 1:00 and 7:00 schedule was less attractive to players; also, holding a third daily

session (morning) meant that an additional director was needed, with associated travel and per diem costs.

4. Financial Status Reports

- a. USD account (Tom Romine): The District lost \$11,720 USD year to date. The US account has about \$11-12K on hand
- b. CAD account (Steve Lawrence): The District lost \$2100 CAD year to date. The CAD account has about \$56K on hand.

5. GNT Coordinator Report (Melissa Martin)

District GNT Finals were held online April 7-8. 2 teams in Championship Flight, 2 teams in Flight A, 8 teams in Flight B.

The District showed a net loss of about \$4000 (travel subsidies to winners, less registration fees). Encouraging more participation, especially Unit-level F2F qualifying events, can help reduce these losses.

ACTION ITEM: Board members send suggestions to Andy for changing subsidy amounts and other ways to lessen financial impact.

6. STaC Report (Don Greenwood)

The financial logistics remain awkward for Canadian clubs, who are generally not interested in the difficulty of sending USD to tournament coordinators.

7. NAP Report (Ray Fink)

The District NAP Finals were held in-person during the Kalispell regional. A total of 7 tables were in play (4 pairs in Flight A, 8 pairs in Flight B, 2 pairs in Flight C). The District does not have any financial involvement in NAP events.

Ray intends to propose holding future District NAP Finals online.

8. Website Report (Andy Anderson)

The District website is operational. <https://www.wasumi.org/>

9. Tournament Scheduling and Upcoming Regionals (Doug Rankin)

The every-two-years rotation for Calgary has not been resolved.

The Idaho Falls Unit held a Local Sectional in August, this was the only sectional tournament held in Idaho since Covid-19 shutdowns.

Saskatchewan is planning to hold Open and U750 regionals in alternating years.

Utah is looking for lower-cost tournament venues.

Upcoming Regional schedule:

- a. Lethbridge (April 8-14, 2024)
- b. Saskatoon U750 (July 12-14, 2024).
- c. Calgary (August 12-18, 2024)
- d. Helena (September 2-8, 2024). The tournament will be held at a county fairgrounds building, much lower cost than a hotel playing site.
- e. Lethbridge U750 (September 27-29, 2024)

- f. Billings 2025. The tournament committee is still looking for an affordable playing site.

10. Financial Policy Reviews

The District is looking for ways to reduce the costs associated with Regional Tournaments, and agreed to set the following policies:

- a. Caddies provided only for two-session Swiss team events; none for knockout events or single-session Swiss.
- b. Publicity – no more printed flyers; rely on email via Pianola.
- c. Novice Reception: eliminate these, the attendance is not that successful.

11. Previous Board Decisions Via Email Chain

- a. Free Plays for U750 Tournament Chair The Tournament Chair is awarded 1 free play per session. These may be used at a District 18 event of their choice: the current tournament (if eligible), a reward to other volunteers, or at a later District 18 event. The District will issue written certificates for these.
- b. Youth Entry Fees at D18 Regionals Youth entry fees will be the same as ACBL policy for discounted play at NABCs:
 - Non-I/N Regional-rated events – U21 Free, Fulltime Students 21-26 \$5.00
 - I/N events – all U26 play Free
- c. Regional Entry Fees For 2024, a target of CAD \$17/session for Canadian events. For US events, entry fees TBD.
- d. Knockout Teams For straight knockout events, District policy is match pairing by random draw, except no replays until unavoidable. For events that have a Soloway-style qualifying round, the semifinal matches are seeded based on the qualifying results (1st versus 4th, 2nd versus 3rd, with random draw in the event of ties).