

**DISTRICT 11
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
(Via Zoom)
February 26, 2021
7:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

Officers – Steve Moese, President; Andra Gyor, Vice President; Maribeth Ransel, Secretary
Voting Members – Georgia Banziger, Joyce Dennis, Andra Gyor, Terrell Holt, Maribeth Ransel, Hannah Davis, John Van Cleve, Trish Jones, Howard Sanders, Jim Olson.

Members – AJ Stephani, District Director; Steve Moese, Webmaster

BoG Representative: Vangie Smith

CALL TO ORDER:

- Zoom meeting was called to order by President Moese. Steve then acknowledged the presence of a quorum.
- Evansville Board Member Jeff Chapman underwent a triple bypass operation earlier this week and we send our wishes for a complete recovery.
- Steve expressed the Board’s condolences to Bill Sentman’s family and friends, and the Board offered a minute of silence in memory of this past D11 President.
- Steve welcomed Vangie Smith, a representative to the BoG. He mentioned that our representatives have an important responsibility to ensure communication between this board and the units we serve.

At this point, Steve turned the meeting over to Ryan Schultz, NAP/GNT Coordinator to lead the discussion regarding the GNT protocol for 2021. (Ryan’s proposal document can be found at the end of these minutes.) Ryan went through the proposal step-by-step and answered all questions from the board. The following represents the discussion that took place regarding various items in Ryan’s proposal. All motions and votes can be found at the end of these minutes.

- **Q.** First there were several questions for Ryan regarding the video connection he referenced in his proposal.
- **A.** The video connection will protect both sides for purposes of security. Ryan stated that the video would be set up so that South would be connected with West, and North would be connected with East during the events.

Ryan stated that each match would be played at a specified time and that there would be enough time between matches for the participants to check and report scores before the next match begins.

Registration and Payment: Ryan stated that the District must be responsible for registration and money management of the games. Ryan suggests that the Board consider using Bridge Winners to facilitate the payments for the games as BW is able to process credit cards and keep track of the money taken in. There is a 6% surcharge to the District from Bridge Winners, but it would be worth it to not have to have someone else from the District tasked with providing the bookkeeping for the payments. Someone suggested we consider Pay Pal. Steve stated that Pay

Pal would not have access to player information such as ACBL player numbers, however Bridge Winners has all of this information available to facilitate the registration process. Ryan stated that he would manage the scheduling of the games and any other items that needed to be conducted by the District.

Advertising: is also the responsibility of the District. Ryan sees Pianola as a useful tool to handle most of the advertising but recognizes that we will need the assistance of all Board members to promote the event within their units. AJ expressed concern that District players will need a lot of encouragement to form teams and play team games online. Steve urged Unit Presidents to schedule BBO Swiss Team events and to encourage players at their VABC games to play in the District GNT qualifying event online. We need to have VACB game owners promote the GNT finals in order to create demand and a reasonable turnout.

Cost: Ryan suggested that because we will save money from not having to rent a facility, we could drop the player costs to \$10 from the usual \$12.50 per game. However, Steve reminded the Board that because we have not had our usual income for the past year, it might be best to keep the cost where it has been. He also feels that by keeping it the same, players will not see the event as having less value, and when we return to having the event face-to-face, players will not tend to complain about higher fees. Trish asked how many Boards would be played per session and Ryan said it would be the same as delineated in the CoC from past years. Ryan believes that with just four teams per flight, the District can still see a profit of about \$2,000. Each additional team playing will increase the eventual profit for the District.

Prize versus Stipend for Winners: Although the Board has previously discussed prize money to be given to the winners of this year's NAP, no such discussion had occurred about the GNT. (The NAP funds were determined to be given this year as "prize money" for all those winners who play in the ACBL online finals.) Most Board members agree that the usual stipend is given to support travel fees and entries for the finals. Steve said he would, therefore, not support giving the regular District stipend this year for GNT qualifiers since the play will be online, but that the Board should pay all entry fees in the online finals. The Board agreed with Steve's suggestion.

Calendar: Ryan believes that we need three weeks for registration and then Ryan will need to have additional time to get the schedules for the events put together. According to the calendar he has proposed (see proposal), Ryan took care to avoid Mother's Day and Easter. Steve asked Ryan to also clear April 24/25 from his calendar so that people could play in the ACBL Online Regional. Ryan stated he thought this could be done if we use Bridge Winners in the registration process to save time. Ryan will make the necessary arrangements for a TD and for the assistance of Bridge Winners. Based on those arrangements, he will put the final touches on the calendar and send the updated calendar to the Board when it is complete.

Playing in more than one bracket: The Board questioned whether teams should be able to play in more than one bracket, and a vigorous discussion occurred. This could take place if the qualifying events were held on separate days. Some felt teams should only be able to play in one bracket. Others felt that that if you qualify in two brackets, you must "play up" thereafter. (In NABC finals, players may only play in one bracket.) Others felt that all flights should play at the same time so that people would not have a choice to play in two brackets.

- **Q.** Steve asked Ryan about the original Conditions of Contest on the website and asked that an appendix be added that would reflect the updates that were made with this meeting.

- **A.** Ryan stated that he had already added an appendix to the original document and would make the other changes that came about as a result of this Special Meeting.

Unit support: AJ initiated a discussion regarding the need for all Units to concentrate on getting clubs to advertise the GNT event and to work on encouraging players to form teams to play. In addition to Pianola, Unit Presidents are encouraged to work with local clubs to do as much email advertising as possible. Clubs should also schedule team games online so that players get used to the concept again. Steve mentioned that there are places online where team games can be played. They are not related to BBO and do not give MPs, but they are good places for players to practice. Also in March, there will be some ACBL online team games. It was suggested that half-way through the registration phase, Ryan take a look at how many teams have signed up so we know which Flights need addressing. AJ agreed to design a flyer for the event. Ryan will send Steve wording for the Pianola message and for the online announcement on the D11 website.

Motions and Votes:

- **Moved and Seconded** that for 2021, District 11 will not pay the usual stipend for those who move to the online GNT Finals sponsored by the ACBL, but the District will pay all entry fees for the online Finals events. (Jones/Van Cleve. Passed 10/0).
- **Moved and Seconded** that the entry fee for the qualifying events be kept at \$12.50 per person (\$50 per team maximum) for qualifying sessions on Day 1, but the charge will be \$12.50 per person on Day 2. (Gyor/Van Cleve. Passed 9/1).
- **Moved and Seconded** that District 11 accepts Bridge Winners as our service for GNT Registration and Payment for fees related to the District GNT events. (Trish/VanCleve. Passed 10/0)
Note: The Board understands that there will be a 6% service fee charged by Bridge Winners.
- **Moved and Seconded** that the District GNT KO phase will be held over two days. If a team wins in two flights, the team must “play up” in the NABC Finals. The K/O flights will feature Flights A/C on Day 1, and Flights B/Open on Day 2. (Gyor/Banziger. Passed 9/0/1).
- **Moved and Seconded** that Ryan amend the original Conditions of Contest appendix (which can be found on the District website) to reflect that teams playing in more than one Flight must “play up” if they win in two flights. (Banziger/Van Cleve. Passed 10/0).
- **Moved and Seconded** that the Special Meeting of the Board be adjourned. (VanCleve/Jones. Passed 10/0).

The Board accepts Ryan Schultz’ proposal for the District GNT events with the changes made per the motions at this meeting.

Next Board Meeting on Zoom: June 3, 7:30 PM

ADDENDUM: Bridge Winners is unable to process the second day fee schedule for the GNT as proposed in these minutes. On March 1, 2021, the District 11 Board approved the following:

We recommend charging all teams \$50 per session regardless of number of players for both qualifying and finals sessions.

PROPOSAL FROM RYAN SCHULTZ TO THE DISTRICT 11 BOARD:

D11 GNT ONLINE OVERVIEW Special D11 Board Meeting Feb 26, 2021

Background Information

- D11 is required to determine district winners before June 30
- ACBL is allowing maximum flexibility in terms of scheduling and managing the event
- A minimum of one session is required to pay the ACBL DIC to report results
- In the event of a Swiss match, D11 could use the new BBO Swiss feature under Virtual Clubs, but handling 5-6 person teams may be difficult/impossible. This will also require the use of a different Swiss VP Scale than specified in the CoC.
- Historically, a Swiss is only needed for Flight B
- ACBL is requiring security measures (audio or video connections) for the KO phase
- ACBL DIC will be responsible for reporting masterpoints based on results provided by the GNT coordinator.

Registration

- D11 is responsible for managing event entries and payments
- Recommendation: Using Pianola and the D11 Website to advertise the event including schedule, costs, and conditions of contest. Teams should have at least three weeks during March to pre-register and pay. Payments must be received by the deadline.
- Recommendation: The D11 Treasurer should be responsible for collecting payments from eligible teams. Teams should send one check per team to cover the qualifying phase costs. Teams playing in the KO phase will send a second check covering both sessions. If knocked out in the semifinals those teams will receive refunds
- If anyone believes we can support alternative forms of payment, please advise

Costs

- Sanction fee of \$2.25/table applies to the entire event
- ACBL director cost per session is \$210
- For the KO Phase a flat two-session rate covers all director costs even if the flights are all held on different days
- Historical entry fee is \$12.50/player/session
- If we assume that 4 teams enter each flight and ACBL runs only the KO phase that would yield a profit of \$2254
- Any additional teams would add \$95/team to the total profit
- If we want ACBL to run Swiss/Round Robin formats that would reduce profit by \$420
- Recommendation: Given that D11 is only expected to cover \$1800 for the NAP and entry fees for the GNT in 2021, D11 should strongly consider lowering the entry fees.
- At \$10/player/session the profit would still be a base of \$1694
- Proposed cost/team for each phase = \$80

Nominal Calendar

- Pre-Registration: March 1 - April 2
- April 7: Qualifying Schedule/Format Released
- April 10 - April 11: Flight C Round Robin / Swiss *Note Sunday only if needed
- April 17 - April 18: Flight B Round Robin / Swiss *Note Sunday only if needed
- April 24 - April 25: Flight A Round Robin / Swiss *Note Sunday only if needed
- May 1 - May 2: Open Flight Round Robin / Swiss *Note Sunday only if needed
- May 12: Registration Deadline and Payment for KO Phase
- May 15: KO Phase, Flights A and C
- May 16: KO Phase, Flights B and Open

D11 Online CoC Supplement

- A. Pre-registration and payment is required by the deadline to participate. Teams advancing to the KO phase must also submit payment by deadline to be eligible.
- B. Teams must provide the GNT coordinator a full roster with names, ACBL numbers, e-mail addresses, BBO usernames, and the captain's phone number.
- C. Once registration closes the GNT coordinator will release a schedule and match assignments for the Round Robin/Swiss.
- D. The Round Robin/Swiss Qualifying will be self-directed on BBO. Teams will play up to eight rounds depending on entries
- E. Each Flight will play on a specified Saturday with the possibility of roll over into Sunday as needed.
- F. Pairs are required to have completed convention cards and should provide full disclosure of their methods using some combination of the BBO chat and the alert system. Penalties will be issued for a failure to comply with these requirements.
- G. The GNT coordinator will handle any disputes regarding irregularities. Teams are expected to make every attempt to conduct matches in a timely fashion and resolve irregularities fairly.
- H. In cases where matches are not played and no fault can be determined both teams will receive zero victory points.
- I. Security measures such as audio/video connections between screenmates are highly encouraged for the qualifying phase. These measures are required for the KO phase.