

Mark Chen

From: NVBA Board of Directors <announcements@nvba.org>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 9:01 AM
To: mark_chen@cox.net
Subject: NVBA Weekly Email 8/15/2022

Dear Mark:

Thursday Night Unit Games:



- Need practice of your in-person game before the First Baltimore Regional? Well, this Thursday, 8/18, NVBA will host an in-person North American Pairs Qualifier at Beth El. Games start promptly at 7:00PM. NAP Qualifier masterpoints are awarded in equal amounts of two colors - red and black - at an increased factor times the normal club game award.
- Please visit [The NVBA Unit Game](#) page on the NVBA website for additional information concerning game policies and procedures.
- For those looking for a partner for the NVBA-hosted in-person games on Thursday, Marty Bley is running a partnership desk for this event. For more information, please visit [NVBA Partnership Desk](#) page on the NVBA website.
- For those who wish to play online this Thursday, WBL will be hosting the weekly joint Unit games on BBO with Open, Flight B (under 2500), 499er, and 199er sections. The 499er and 199er games start promptly at 7:05PM. The other two - Open and Flight B - begin at 7:15PM.
- We will have the [Zoom Postgame Discussion](#) after the online play. Alan Schwartz will be this week's postgame host.

First Baltimore Regional:

- The First Baltimore Regional begins one week from today and continues thru Sunday, 8/28 at the Baltimore Convention Center.
- As the tournament organizer, District 6 sent out an email last Friday evening to their members with an update. At the same time, they updated their [Baltimore Regional](#) Tournament webpage. Please read both for the latest valuable information concerning COVID-19 precautions, event locations, and lunch options.
- Considering the extent of COVID infections at the Providence NABC and current COVID levels in Baltimore City and nearby counties, the District 6 Board of Directors has reviewed the situation and established the following COVID-19 guidelines:
 - Mask wearing will be mandatory in the playing areas.
 - Masks may not be taken off in the playing areas for eating as it is not allowed in the playing areas.
 - You may remove your mask to take a sip of water or similar liquid and then put the mask back on.
 - The break periods during each session will provide time for players to go outside and remove their masks, if necessary.

- Wear a well-fitting N95 or KN95 mask. Cloth masks only will not be allowed.
- Also, in the past two weeks, a new and third way has been added to allow pre-registration proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Now players may email their vaccination data to [Vaccination Proof](#) if you wish to send it to a NVBA email address monitored by the Tournament Chair and the Safety Chair.
- For this tournament, **Entry Express** has been activated. Entry Express is ACBL's new portal for tournaments. You are able to view tournament details and buy event entries in advance. Check it out by:
 - Go to the [Find a Tournament / My Tournaments](#) web page and locate the Baltimore Summer Regional box.
 - For additional information, including an intro video and a FAQ page, go to the [ACBL Entry Express](#) main page.
- New and Intermediate players are very welcome at the Regional. Bridge University will be held on Monday with four educational sessions and a 0 - 199 game in the afternoon. For Tuesday through Friday, there will be I/N games every day at 10:00AM and 3:00PM if there are enough people for 3 full tables. In addition, there will be an educational session 45 minutes before the afternoon game. More specific information can be found at the [Bridge University and Daily I/N Speaker Program](#) page on the NVBA website.
- Stay at the beautiful Baltimore Inner Harbor Hilton! It connects to the Baltimore Convention Center via an enclosed, climate-controlled pedestrian walkway. The special bridge room rate may still be available for online reservations! Go to <https://book.passkey.com/e/50238921> and learn if it is still available.

NVBA September Sensations Sectional:

- NVBA will be holding its September Sensations Sectional from Thursday, 9/8, thru Sunday, 9/11.
- The opening night session will be in-person Unit Games at both the NVBA and the WBL locations. The hope is to bring back the "old" pre-pandemic excitement of competing at your favorite location for lots of silver points, since combined table counts are used to determine overall masterpoints for that night.
- The tournament will then continue at the Fairfax Elks Lodge Friday thru Sunday.
- The full schedule, plus other information, can be found at the [September Sensations Sectional Flyer](#). We hope you come out to play and win!

NVBA, District Six, and ACBL News:

- There are 15 in-person club games listed with times in green on the updated [Clubs](#) page of the NVBA website that are scheduled to be held. Anyone who is interested in playing an in-person game should contact the listed director in advance to confirm the game is on and to make a reservation.
- Here is the current schedule for [NVBA online games](#) on BBO.
- District Six-wide Online Pair Games will be held as District 6 NAP Qualifier Games on two Wednesdays in August. Play for increased amounts of red and black masterpoints on this Wednesday, 8/17, and two weeks later on Wednesday, 8/31! Games begin at 7:15PM on BBO. NAP stratifications are: Unlimited/2500/500. For more information, go to [NAP - District Six Bridge](#).
- The [Bridge Heroes 2022 team](#) is continuing fund-raising for the Longest Day through August 31. If you have any questions, please contact [Kevin O'Brien](#).
- School begins this week for many young people. That means that registration is now open for the 2022 - 2023 school year program of ACBL's Educational Foundation's **BridgeWhiz** program. Classes begin Sunday, 10/17. This free, exciting, digital initiative is designed to teach young people (grades 4 - 12) the essentials of the fascinating game of bridge. For more information, see the [BridgeWhiz Flyer](#) or go to [BridgeWhiz](#) home page.

- From Thursday, 9/15, thru Sunday, 9/18, you can **Fall into Bridge** and harvest gold and red masterpoints. Play four days of single-session and two-session events in this BBO online regionally rated tournament. There will be games for players of all experience levels. See the [Fall into Bridge Schedule](#) for more information.

See you at the tables, play well and have fun!

Your NVBA Board

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