

## ACBL Sanction Fees and Point Awards

by Bob Gruber

While the ACBL sanction fees are not a secret, most players don't navigate the ACBL website to find the masterpoint awards charts.

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/clubs/SpecialGamesChart2019.pdf>

Not all clubs conduct all the various types of special games, but some are fairly universally held, so a subset of the charts should suffice to satisfy the curiosity of most players. Masterpoint ratings are as of 9/18/2019. Frequency is per sanctioned game.

Event	Masterpoint Rating	Frequency (per sanctioned game)	Sanction Fees
<b>Club Championship Game</b>	63.6% Sectional-rated Black points	1/calendar quarter (4 total/year)	\$1.00 per table
<b>Club Membership Game</b>	81.8% Sectional-rated Black points	1/ year	\$1.00 per table
<b>Club Appreciation Pairs Game</b>	81.8% Sectional-rated Black points	Any mix, total of 2, Club Appreciation games per sanctioned session in October only	\$1.00 per table
<b>Club Appreciation Team Game</b>	5% gold not to exceed .25 – remainder 81.8% sectional-rated Black points		
<b>Upgraded Club Championship</b>	81.8% Sectional-rated Black points	As earned (1 for each 10 new ACBL members)	\$1.00 per table
<b>Unit Championship</b> <b>Special Sanction Required</b>	63.6% Sectional rated Black pts	Max of 24/yr	\$2.25 per table
<b>Charity Game</b>	81.8% Sectional rated Black points	Exclude Jan, May, Sep	\$4.00 per table extra
<b>Junior Funds Game</b>	63.6% Sectional rated Black points	Exclude Apr, May, Sep	\$4 extra per table + regular sanction fees.
<b>Grand Nat'l Teams (GNT)</b>	81.8% Sectional rated, half red, half black	Starts in September	\$1.25 per table
<b>North Amer. Pairs (NAP)</b>	81.8% Sectional rated, half red, half black	2/sanctioned session per month in Jun/Jul/Aug	\$5.00 per table
<b>Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) — GW</b> <b>Special Sanction Required</b>	100% Sectional rated; if you do very well against all participants, lots of Silver Points are possible	Great Western STaC is 3 times per year in roughly May, August, December	\$6.50 per table, which is roughly \$1.38 extra per person.
<b>Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) — D23</b> <b>Special Sanction Required</b>	100% Sectional rated; if you do very well against all participants, lots of Silver Points are possible	D23 STaC is 3 times per year in roughly Mar, Jul, Nov	\$5.00 per table. This is roughly \$1.05 extra per person.

Regular club game fees

63.6% Sectional rated is approximately 2X the normal points for those placing in the Overall standings  
 81.8% Sectional rated is approximately 2.5X the normal points for those placing in the Overall standings  
 100% Sectional rated is approximately 3X the normal points for those placing in the Overall standings  
 125% Sectional rated is approximately 4X the normal points for those placing in the Overall standings

In the Sanction Fees column, the STaC fees are probably of the greatest interest. Unlike the chart here, if you look at the full chart, you will notice that STaC games are not listed. That's because the sponsoring organization may be a single District or a combination of districts. It's the sponsoring organization that determines the final fee a club pays to participate, so there can be a multitude of Frequencies and a multitude of Sanction Fees. Too many to include in a chart for the entire ACBL. (<http://www.acbl.org/acbl-content/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/District-map.pdf>)

In this paper, I'm focusing on the Great Western STaC—sponsored by about 7 Districts in the Western U.S.—as representative. \$6.50/table is the cost to clubs in Districts 17, 21, and 22. D17 includes all or parts of 6 states. D21 is concentrated around the San Francisco Bay Area. D22 encompasses all of California below D21 with the exception of D23, which is an enclave of Los Angeles and its greater metropolitan area. The other Districts in the Western Conference charge \$7.50/table.

As noted in the chart here, \$6.50/table is approximately \$1.38 more per person than regular club game fees. Within Southern California, some groups charge \$2 more per person. Santa Barbara is an example. Some charge nothing extra. Ventura unit-owned games are an example. Most clubs charge at least \$1 extra. And, of course, some clubs charge \$1.50 extra, which most closely approximates the extra charge to the club without creating a scramble for lots of small change.

### Yearly Club Sanction Renewal

In addition to the game sanction fee (\$1 per table for regular club games), clubs must pay a yearly sanction fee. In 2019 this fee was \$11.50 per sanctioned session and was due by 31 January.

### Classification of Games (from Sanction Renewal form)

- CLASS 1 Bridge Plus+ games open to players with fewer than five masterpoints.
- CLASS 2 Newcomer Games open to players with fewer than 20 masterpoints. The maximum can be lower but cannot exceed 20 masterpoints.
- CLASS 3 Invitational games, for firm personnel, or any club which has masterpoint limitations or any restrictions on partnerships.
- CLASS 4 Open games with no restrictions.