

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

UNIT 125 VICHILL LEAGUE

2011-12

The following Conditions of Contest have been approved by ACBL Headquarters and are not subject to change once the league has started the first match.

1. TYPE OF EVENT

The Vichill League is a bracketed, sectionally rated team event that is played between September and May. This will be done without byes if possible. If the number of teams makes byes necessary, then any team having a bye will receive 15 victory points. The 15 points will remain as part of the final victory point total (see Scoring in Section 8).

Typically brackets will consist of ten teams. If there are nine teams each team will receive a bye as set forth in the previous paragraph. If there are eight teams, there will be two "round robin" matches that take place on the first two dates. Each team will play a total of eight boards against each team during the first two weeks. The results of those eight boards will be added to the boards played during the "regular" match between the two teams. If there is a number of teams other than 8-10, the Vichill chairperson(s) will be responsible for creating a comparable system of competition.

The entire event will be conducted as a round robin. The team in each group with the highest victory point total will be the winner. Ties will be broken based on the winner of the head-to-head match played between tied teams. If the tied teams tied their match, the tie will not be broken.

Each match will consist of 28 boards in Brackets 1-3, and 24 Boards in Bracket 4. Matches will be scored according to an IMP scale that has been approved by the ACBL and then converted to victory points in accordance with Section 8. In the case of late play, the number of boards may be adjusted. (See Section 3).

Prior to beginning the match, if team captains cannot agree on which pairs will oppose each other the director will conduct a coin flip. If one team wants to switch at the half and the other does not, then the trailing team has the option. If the teams are tied the director will conduct a coin flip.

The Vichill League will have one or two chairperson(s) who will have overall responsibility for the event. In addition, the chairpersons and the Whist Club officers will constitute a committee (the "Vichill Committee") to be used as necessary in making decisions during the year.

Each bracket will also have a Coordinator whose primary duties will include the following:

- Assist team captains in their bracket to find an appropriate substitute.
- Notify a team captain of the identity of a substitute that the opposing team proposes to use. See Section 10 for further discussion of substitutes.
- Be the primary contact for teams that have to forfeit and notify both the chairperson and the opposing team captain of this occurrence.
- Assist the chairperson in notifying team captains of any cancellations or rescheduling of matches as described in Section I.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

Each team will consist of four, five or six members. Teams will be placed in groups based on ACBL and ABA master points of its members. The Vichill Committee reserves the right to assign teams to higher or lower brackets than their master point holdings suggest if it is determined that the team is better qualified to compete in another bracket.

All bridge players (ACBL members and non-members) are welcome to play, except persons under suspension by the ACBL. This stipulation applies to both team members and substitutes. Non-members are encouraged to join the ACBL so their master points can be recorded.

A player may be a member of only one team in this event. Substitutes may play on any team as approved by the bracket coordinator based on the substitute's master point holding. If the bracket coordinator would have a conflict of interest then a chair or the Whist Club president (if no chair is available) will make the decision.

3. TIME AND PLACE

All regularly scheduled matches will be played at St. Michael's Woodside, 5025 E. Mill Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio---phone (440)-526-9696, on specifically scheduled Wednesday nights. **Play starts promptly at 7:15 p.m. and no board may be started after 10:45 p.m.** For this year latitude will be given to people who are not able to arrive until 7:30 pm. In order to respect those teams who are available and ready to play, and to make the playing area quiet for those who do start on time, the following rule will be enforced:

Upon notification to the director by the team captain that their team is ready to play and their opponent has not arrived by 7:45 p.m., a penalty of five IMPS and an additional three IMP penalty for each five-minute interval thereafter, will be assessed against the late team. A team not available to play by 8:00 p.m. will forfeit the match. The forfeit deadline may be extended at the director's discretion but the IMP penalties will continue. The number of boards will be reduced to meet the deadline of no board being started after 10:45 p.m.

If all boards in the first half of the match have not been completed by 9:00 p.m., the team captains should notify the director who will make a provisional adjustment in the number of boards for the second half so that all boards may be completed at both tables. If teams catch up, missed boards will be restored.

4. AWARDS

To be eligible for overall awards, a player must actually have played in at least 40% of the boards and participated in at least 50% of the matches played (excluding forfeits and byes) by his/her team. Players who play only part of a match will receive credit for the actual boards played in that match. Only team members meeting the 40% and 50% requirements are eligible for overall awards.

Master points will be issued for each winning match, or on the basis of overall rank, whichever is higher. Substitutes, except as stated in Section 10, are eligible for points for winning individual matches. Points will be based on ACBL schedules and will come directly from ACBL.

Prizes will be awarded to the first place team in each flight.

5. REGISTRATION AND FEES

All teams must designate a captain and be registered with the chairpersons prior to the first scheduled match.

Fees are \$7.00 per player (\$28.00 per team). An advance payment for the last two weeks is due the first night of play, meaning that a total of \$84 is due on the first night. Fees are to be paid by both teams if there is a forfeit. Fees may be paid by check, payable to "Unit 125".

6. DUTIES OF TEAM CAPTAIN

- Properly register his/her team prior to the published deadline and check the published roster. Any corrections to the roster are to be given to the Vichill chairperson before the beginning of the first match.
- Field his/her team punctually on the scheduled dates.
- Inform the bracket coordinator and/or the opposing team captain of a desired substitution as provided in Section 10.
- Make payment of team fees, including all forfeited matches, prior to start of the session
- Make sure the team entry containing names of all players and substitutes who are participating in the match is completed. ACBL numbers should be given for all substitutes.
- Verify the score with the opposing team captain. The winning captain must turn in a score ticket at the conclusion of each match.
- Verify the accuracy of posted scores. Scores will be posted prior to the next scheduled match. Any correction must be given to the chairperson prior to the start of that match. All preceding match scores will be considered final, except for forfeits (see Section VIII, Para.) once the current (new) match has started.
- Notify both the bracket coordinator and the opposing team captain in the event your team must forfeit.

7. HANDICAP CALCULATIONS

The ACBL handicap system will apply, **but only to the top bracket**. The master points held by the persons actually playing as of the day of the match will be used in order to compute the handicap. This calculation will use the master points held by players as of the day of the match. If a match consists of 36 boards as set forth in the second paragraph of Section 1, the handicap will be seven-ninths of the one calculated when the teams play the 28 board portion plus (or minus) two-ninths of the one calculated when the teams play the 8 board portion. No team with an average of 5000 or more masterpoints will receive a handicap.

8. SCORING CALCULATIONS

The total final victory points for each team will be calculated as follows:

1. Net IMPs (after incorporating the handicap, if any) will be converted to victory points according to the scale(s) submitted and approved by the ACBL for this event. The current scale is attached as Exhibit A. Any fraction of an IMP created by a handicap will be rounded to the nearest whole number, with .5 being rounded up. (An exception to the previous sentence is that the fraction will not be rounded when determining the winner of an individual match for purposes of master points for that match. The rounding will still take place for the purpose of determining VP total.)
2. Byes will be scored at 15 VP and remain as part of the final total.
3. Forfeits will be provisionally scored at 20 VP during the year for the non-forfeiting team and zero for the forfeiting team. At the end of the year, the non-forfeiting team will have the value of each winning forfeit recalculated based upon the highest of the following: (a) 20 victory points, (b) the average of the team's victory points for all non-forfeited matches, or (c) the reciprocal of each of the forfeiting team's average victory points in all non-forfeited matches. The "reciprocal" is calculated as thirty minus the forfeiting team's average victory points in non-forfeited matches. Losing forfeits will retain the value of zero victory points. (Note that non-forfeited matches do not include byes.)
4. If a team forfeits the 28 board portion of a 36 board match that is considered a forfeit of the entire match and scores will be calculated as in Section 8.3.
5. If a team forfeits the 8 board portion of a 36 board match, the VP score will first be calculated on the basis of the 28 boards played. After that calculation is complete, the non-forfeiting team's score will be

increased by 3 VP and the forfeiting team's score decreased by 3 VP, with a maximum score possible of 30 and a minimum of 0. For example, if the forfeiting team would have won the 28 board portion by a score of 21-9, that score would be adjusted to 18-12, while if the forfeiting team would have lost the 28 board portion by a score of 28-2, that score would be adjusted to 30-0.

6. A match that is underway may not be forfeited prior to its completion without the consent of the chairperson or his or her designee. (This rule is necessary due to the round robin nature of the competition.) An appropriate penalty may be applied by the chairperson or his or her designee if this takes place

9. MATCHES AT DATES OTHER THAN THE VICHILL SCHEDULED DATES

Play of matches prior to the scheduled date is NOT permitted. Captains are obligated to obtain substitutes (Section 10) in lieu of forfeiting matches.

The Vichill chairpersons reserve the right to reschedule match dates in the event of severe inclement weather. Rescheduling is mandatory if either the Independence school system or the Brecksville-Broadview Heights school system is closed due to weather. (However, if the schools are open Vichill may still be canceled if inclement weather arrives later in the day.) A Vichill chairperson will notify the bracket coordinators / team captains of a postponement. Bracket coordinators / team captains will be notified of any matches rescheduled as soon as a new date has been confirmed. Notice of any rescheduling will be posted on the Whist Club website, whistclub.org.

Individual team postponements are permitted only under exceptional circumstances. Authorization must be given by the Vichill Committee.

Examples of exceptions considered:

- Same day medical emergencies due to a serious accident or other severe health related issues.
- Severe weather in locally specific areas of northern Ohio making it impossible or dangerous for team members to travel.
- Same day personal catastrophes.

Any approved postponement should be played at an ACBL sanctioned game approved by the Vichill Chairman. This should be played prior to the next scheduled Vichill game date. If this is not possible due to the Vichill schedule or other good cause, and both captains agree to a different location or date, the approval of the chairperson is required. Note: The \$28 per team Vichill fee will still be due and a separate fee may be collected by the director at the other location.

10. SUBSTITUTES, REPLACEMENTS, AND ADDITIONS

Team captains shall ascertain, well in advance of scheduled games, whether four players will be available. If not, the captain will make every effort promptly to obtain a substitute.

The team captain should notify the bracket coordinator in advance of the game of the name of any proposed substitute. The bracket coordinator will notify the opposing team's captain of the substitute. If the opposing team captain is dissatisfied with the proposed substitute, that captain may protest the choice to the Vichill chairperson. After the chairperson reviews the situation, a final decision will be made that is not subject to any further appeal. If the chairperson would have a conflict of Interest then the Whist Club president or the bracket coordinator (in that order) will make the final decision.

To maintain team identity, Captains are encouraged to field as few substitutes as possible. Three or four substitutes can only be used in case of extreme emergency.

No team may use a sub in lieu of a regular team member who is available to play and no sub or replacement player will be approved who would, in the opinion of the Vichill chairperson, improve the caliber of the team

beyond the expected level for the bracket in question. While not an absolute requirement, a substitute should typically not have more master points than 150% of either the team or bracket average. If a substitute is not an ACBL member, he or she will be deemed to have the same number of master points as the person with the most master points playing that evening for that team. Coordinators and team captains will be given the team and bracket average for their brackets prior to the first match.

Typically additional players may not be added to the team after the first match. However, any team which permanently loses a player, due to unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances, may, subject to approval of the Vichill chairperson, designate a replacement member. Such designation may occur at any point during the season. Additions which would have affected the bracket assignment are not permitted.

No team member may sub for another team in the same or lower bracket and no member may change teams after the first match has been played. However an existing team member, who is not playing with his/her team and is "on-hand" during the regular Vichill night, may fill-in for a member of a team in a higher bracket. To do this requires:

- An unusual situation causing a team member from one or both teams to not be present.
- Agreement of both team captains, such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld.
- Approval of the Vichill chairperson if available, or otherwise the Whist Club president.
- NO master points will be earned by the substitute, only by the regular members or a non-team substitute.

11. APPEALS OF DIRECTOR RULINGS

Any team that believes a ruling by the director needs further review or discussion must inform both the director and the opposing team's captain prior to the end of that night's session that it is appealing. The director will inform the chairperson that a committee of 3 to 5 qualified people needs to stay and hear the appeal. This committee will attempt to reach a decision that evening. In the event that a decision can not be reached due to the unusual nature of the appeal, the chairperson will contact the appropriate person at the ACBL to assist with a ruling. That ruling will be communicated by the chairperson to the captains.

September 21, 2011

Victory Point Scale

Brackets 1 – 3

0	15-15
1 – 2	16-14
3 – 4	17-13
5 – 7	18-12
8 – 11	19-11
12 – 15	20-10
16-20	21-9
21-26	22-8
27-33	23-7
34-41	24-6
42-50	25-5
51-60	26-4
61-71	27-3
72-83	28-2
84-95	29-1
96+	30-0

Bracket 4

0-2	15-15
3 – 5	18-12
6 – 8	19-11
9 – 12	20-10
13-16	21-9
17-21	22-8
22-26	23-7
27-31	24-7
32-37	25-5
38-44	26-4
45-52	27-3
53-61	28-2
62-71	29-1
72+	30-0