

**2026 WBL Unit Knockout
Flights A and B
Conditions of Contest**

FORMAT OF EVENT: This is a single elimination knockout. There will be an Open Flight (A), and a Flight (B). Players may enter both flights if they are eligible.

ENTRY FEE: \$30 per team. Payment can be made via check payable to the Washington Bridge League, and mailed to Bob Ives, 5120 Cammack Dr, Bethesda, MD 20816, or sent via Venmo to @WBL147. Cash is not accepted.

Eligibility: The **Open Flight** is open to all players. Flight B is open to all players with fewer than 3000 master points.

LENGTH OF MATCHES: Matches will be 24 Boards played in 12-board halves.

LENGTH OF EVENT: This is a single knockout event and will continue until all teams but one has lost a match. The Coordinator will establish reasonable deadlines for the completion of each match and notify the team captains. Teams are expected to complete matches by the deadlines or be subject to penalty.

BRACKETS: The Coordinator will set up the brackets on a random basis. Teams will be placed in a normal 8, 16 or 32 team bracket. Top seeded teams may receive a first-round bye.

SEEDING:

Seeding will be by random draw.

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES: These include, but are not limited to:

- (a) payment of the \$30.00 entry fee at the time entries are submitted;
- (b) arranging as early as practical with all other Captains the date, location, and starting time of all matches;
- (c) ensuring that at least there are 12 boards with cards available for home games;
- (d) agreement prior to start of play upon the minutes of lateness, if any; all official team communication with the Coordinator or Committee, including reporting of scores, appeals, claims of forfeit, requests for modification of team membership or captaincy, and proper advance notice of all matches including the dates locations and official starting time. ***The match results and the lineups must be emailed to the Coordinator and copied to the Webmaster washingtonbridgeleagueunit147@gmail.com. (Note new address)*** within 48 hours of the completion of each match. Late reporting is discourteous and an inconvenience to the Coordinator and the rest of the event participants; and
- (e) Knowing the Conditions of Contest.

Team Members' Responsibilities: Since reporting correct results to the Coordinator is important, any team member is allowed to report the result of their match. This will ensure that credit for the match will be given.

SCHEDULING: All Captains are encouraged to schedule and play their matches as soon as possible. Any scheduling difficulties must be discussed with the Coordinator or, in his absence, a Committee member prior to the deadline. If agreement between two opposing Captains cannot be reached, the Coordinator will set the date of the match.

To set up matches online:

1. On BBO, go to "Competitive."
2. "Team Match"
3. "Create Team Match"
4. "Options" at center top of the page and put in 12 boards
5. "Reserve seats" next to options at top of screen
6. Fill in the BBO player ids each player.
7. And then start.

Table Options: No Barometer scoring, Kibitzers will be allowed only if both teams agree. No Undos are allowed.

LINEUP PROCEDURES: Players may just sit in the (appropriate direction) at the tables. If a problem arises, seating rights can be determined by a coin flip. If both teams do not agree to a coin flip, each captain (or designee) will write down their N/S and E/W players independently. During the second half, the team that is behind will have their choice of opponents. Except for emergencies or illness, no change of players will be permitted during a 12-board half.

TARDINESS: Arriving late to a match is a discourtesy to your teammates and opponents. The section below describes the penalties for lateness. These penalties may be appealed as described below but are not subject to discussion by the participants. Such discussion can only further delay the match and cause increased penalties. The only appropriate discussion of tardiness is that the team captains must agree on the time that each team was prepared to begin play.

Definition of starting time: The starting time of a match is defined as either the scheduled starting time (which should have been sent to the Coordinator when the match was scheduled) or the time at which four members of one team are ready to begin play, whichever is later.

Lateness Penalties: A penalty of three IMPs per each five minutes or fraction thereof after the first ten minutes of lateness with a maximum of 18 IMPs will be assessed against the late-arriving team. A team may appeal to the Coordinator to

get the penalty reduced because of extenuating circumstances. The appeal will be decided by the RR Committee.

Forfeiture: If a team is over 40 minutes late, the opposing Captain may call the Coordinator or, in his absence, a committee member, and request a win by forfeit. An attempt shall be made to reschedule the match in which case the offending team will be assessed an 18 IMP late penalty. The intent of the Committee is to hold matches, and every effort will be made to have a match played rather than declared a forfeit. The Committee expects full cooperation from all teams in accomplishing this aim.

SLOW PLAY: Play is expected to progress at the rate of 7-1/2 minutes per board, or one hour and 30 minutes per 12 boards. Complaints of slow play may be made to a director (if available) during the match or to the Coordinator in writing when reporting the scores.

SUBSTITUTES: A team must field at least three registered members unless special Committee approval is granted. If a substitute is needed, the Player Evaluation Subcommittee (PES), headed by Barry Falgout fraznoid@yahoo.com or (240) 506-2455) must approve the substitution. The substitute should not improve the team by partnership or ability. A substitute may not be a member of another team still playing in this event. As a matter of courtesy, attempts should be made to notify the opposing team Captain. The opposing Captain may not appeal an approved substitution.

If the PES cannot be reached a Committee member must be notified of the proposed substitution.

QUALIFICATION: By ACBL rule, for a player to receive overall master point awards, the player must have played at least 50% of the total hands played by the team. All team members must play half of the final match to receive master-points for winning the event.

CONVENTIONS: Open+ conventions will be allowed. Conventions not on the general chart must be pre-alerted and defenses provided in writing. Special carding agreements and treatments must be pre-alerted.

TIE BREAKING: In the event of a tie, there will be four (4) board playoffs until the tie is broken. If both teams prefer not to proceed with a playoff, the team captains, or their designees will flip a coin to determine the winner

RULINGS: In the case of an irregularity, a Director must be called. Hank Meyer is the Director-in-Chief for this event. He can be called at 240-441-2701. If he cannot be reached, contact a Committee Member, and play a provisional board.

Notification of any Appeals must be given to the opposing Captain by the end of the half in which the infraction took place, or within 60 minutes of a Director's delayed ruling. The appeal must be filed with the Coordinator within three days.

Appeals without Merit: Frivolous protests will be penalized by banning any protest by the complaining parties and team Captain for the remainder of the event and in the next Round Robin and Knockout.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES: The Coordinator, in consultation with other Committee members, has the authority to interpret the rules in the best interest of the event. Modification of the rules during the event can only be made by a majority vote of the Committee.

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS: Any complaints or concerns should be addressed to the Complaints Committee:

Barbara Doran (CHAIR) barb.doran@verizon.net 301-608-0347
Steve Robinson robinswr@erols.com 571-831-4188
Alex Gretsinger agretsinger@gmail.com 410-949-4834

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Committee members should recuse themselves from participating in making decisions on issues before the Committee if they, or their spouses or significant others, would be directly affected by the outcome.

COORDINATOR: The Coordinator for the A/X (Open) event is **Steve Robinson**. He can be reached at 571-831-4188 or by email at robinswr@erols.com.

The Coordinator for the Flight B (0-3000) event is Alex Gretsinger. He can be reached at 410-949-4834 or by email at agretsinger@gmail.com.

If the Coordinator cannot be reached regarding an urgent matter a Committee member should be contacted.

Requests for substitutions should be directed to Barry Falgout by email to fraznoid@yahoo.com or by phone at (240) 506-2455.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Dave Ruderman davidru_999@hotmail.com 301-384-8825

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bill Cole	colebridge@aol.com	301-649-1350
		C: 301-602-9024
Chuck Dearolf	dearolf@rcn.com	617-412-1951
Barbara Doran	barb.doran@verizon.net	301-608-0347
Kim Gandy	kim@gandylornell.net	202-641-1902
Barry Falgout	fraznoid@yahoo.com	240-506-2455
Alex Gretsinger	agretsinger@gmail.com	410-949-4834
Clyde Kruskal	cpkfam@gmail.com	
Lloyd Rawley	lloydthevoid@hotmail.com	240-535-9429
Steve Robinson	robinswr@erols.com	571-831-4188
		C: 703-862-2417