# Lawson Bridge Studio News September 2016

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## **Club Games - Rates are for each player**

Games: 6:20 pm at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 West Belmont Ave, Chicago, JL 773-348-2378

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Sep 5	No Game Labor Day Skokie Sectional	Oct 3	Open Pairs Grass Roots Fund—\$12
Sep 7	I/N Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 5	I/N Pairs Grassroots Fund Game—\$12
Sep 12	Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 10	Open Pairs Club Appreciation Pairs—\$11
Sep 14	I/N Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 12	I/N Pairs Club Appreciation Pairs—\$11
Sep 19	Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 17	Swiss Teams Club Appreciation—\$11
Sep 21	I/N Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 19	I/N Pairs ACBL Membership Game—\$11
Sep 26	Open Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 24	Open Pairs—\$11
Sep 28	I/N Pairs ACBL Int'l Fund Month—\$12	Oct 26	I/N Pairs—\$11
		Oct 31	Open Pairs District 13 STaC—\$13

### **Cub Games in September**

Baseball season is here so traffic may be snarled on these September home dates as per the published Cub's schedule. If there are changes due to weather etc., I will not be aware of these:

Monday 1:20 pm game: Wednesday 1:20 pm game:

Monday 7:05 pm game: September 19 Wednesday 7:05 pm game: September 21

## Opening 1NT with a singleton: It's officially legal (reprinted from notification to club managers)

The ACBL Board of Directors removed a legal gray area surrounding semi-balanced notrump openers when it approved a change to the definition of a notrump opening in the General Convention Chart. The change allows players to open 1NT with hands that include a singleton ace, king or queen, as long as they do not also contain a doubleton.

Here is the new definition, effective Aug. 1:

"A notrump opening or overcall is natural if, by agreement, it contains no void, at most one singleton which must be the A, K or Q and no more than two doubletons. If the hand contains a singleton, it may have no doubleton."

This includes hand patterns such as 5-4-3-1, 6-3-3-1 and 4-4-4-1, in addition to those that were previously allowed, such as 4-3-3-3, 5-3-3-2 and 5-4-2-2.

The change was recommended by the Competitions and Conventions Committee, a group of players appointed by the Board, in an effort to bring regulations in line with popular and expert practice, said ACBL Field Manager Sol Weinstein, who supervises tournament directors.

Before, opening notrump with a singleton was considered a psych. It was legal to do, but players could not have an agreement to open such hands 1NT or 2NT. The lack of clarity was a thorny issue for directors.

"Many players were doing it anyway," Weinstein said, particularly when a different opening would create a problematic rebid. "They decided it's not right to have a rule that's contrary to the way bridge is being played." The idea of expanding the definition has been discussed for years within the committee, but previous proposals have failed because they lacked the simplicity of the new definition.

"The Laws don't allow you to limit bridge judgment," Weinstein explained. "Regulations have to conform to the Laws."

The new definition prohibits opening notrump with more shapely hands, such as 5-5-2-1, 6-4-2-1 or 7-2-2-2. "All of this has to do with your agreements," Weinstein noted. "That doesn't prohibit an out-and-out psych, but you can't keep doing that or it becomes an agreement, and an illegal one at that."

The change does not impact the one allowable exception of a partnership agreement where 1NT is treated as a 100% forcing opening bid (and not considered "natural" with any distribution). The use of such an unbalanced, non-natural 1NT opening must be alerted.

#### **September is International Fund Month**

September is designated by the ACBL as International Fund Month during this month all sanctioned club games may be held as International Fund games. Fee is \$1.00 plus standard fees with the \$1.00 going to ACBL International Fund which supports North American participation in international events. Masterpoints for these games are 63.6% sectional black points.