

Lawson Bridge Studio News June 2020

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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, IL

Jun 1	To Be Announced (TBA)	Jul 1	To Be Announced (TBA)
Jun 3	TBA	Jul 6	TBA
Jun 8	TBA	Jul 8	TBA
Jun 10	TBA	Jul 13	TBA
Jun 15	TBA	Jul 15	TBA
Jun 17	TBA	Jul 20	TBA
Jun 24	TBA	Jul 22	TBA
Jun 26	TBA	Jul 27	TBA
Jun 29	TBA	Jul 29	TBA

Since this newsletter goes to players who also play at many different clubs, speaking for all the club managers we say thank you for playing online and designating their club for receiving funds back from the ACBL through the initiatives: Support Your Club Games and ACBL Virtual Club Games.

In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages, there will be no games until it is safe to hold them, thus the To Be Announced. Also see the www.bridgeinchicago.com for the latest closing of games. As I write this Illinois is planning to enter its Phase 3 reopening plan. Brief synopses of the reopening phases from Restore Illinois dated May 5, 2020 are:

Phase 3. Recovery: The rate of infection among those surveillance tested is stable or declining. COVID-19-related hospitalizations and ICU capacity remains stable or is decreasing. **Face coverings in public continue to be required.** Gatherings of 10 people or fewer for any reason can resume. Select industries can begin returning to workplaces with social distancing and sanitization practices in place. Retail establishments reopen with limited capacity and select categories of personal care establishments can also begin to reopen with social distancing guidelines and personal protective equipment. Robust testing is available along with contact tracing to limit spread and closely monitor the trend of new cases. Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops, and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions.

Phase 4. Revitalization: There is a continued decline in the rate of infection in new COVID-19 cases. Hospitals have capacity and can quickly adapt for a surge of new cases in their communities. Additional measures can be carefully lifted allowing for schools and childcare programs to reopen with social distancing policies in place. Restaurants can open with limited capacity and following strict public health procedures, including personal protective equipment for employees. Gatherings with 50 people or fewer will be permitted. Testing is widely available, and tracing is commonplace. Restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, childcare and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. **Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.**

Phase 5. Illinois Restored: Testing, tracing and treatment are widely available throughout the state. Either a vaccine is developed to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, a treatment option is readily available that ensures health care capacity is no longer a concern, or there are no new cases over a sustained period. All sectors of the economy reopen with **new health and hygiene practices permanently in place.** Large gatherings of all sizes can resume. Public health experts focus on lessons learned and building out the public health infrastructure needed to meet and overcome future challenges. Health care equity is made a priority to improve health outcomes and ensure vulnerable communities receive the quality care they deserve. Conventions, festivals, and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures in place reflecting the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on this I don't see bridge games opening until Phase 5, then it is going to depend on how we are going to organize the game with new safety and guidance procedures. **I don't see us returning to playing as we were before the pandemic because we are entering a new way living.** In addition, most of us rent space in another venue, thus we will probably need to follow also their requirements as they institute the new safety and guidance procedures for their facilities.

A recent CDC planning guidance states that 35% of cases are asymptomatic based on current symptoms of the disease. So, one may be a carrier of the virus and not know it. This is why social distancing and wearing a mask is so important to protect others that one may come in contact with. Just as an example of the uncertainty that we can attach to who has the worse symptoms is the statement by my roommate, a supply person in a northside hospital, that in his hospital those in the 30-50 age group had more severe symptoms than those over 70. As a scientist we are slowly learning more each day about how this virus affects people in so many different ways requiring continual change in guidance for health protection.