



D21 President's Report

Jim Coke, President, District 21 Board of Directors

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Grass Roots Fund

The Grass Roots Fund (GRF) pays some expenses for our grass roots events – the Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs. These events are intended to give all players a chance to win an NABC title so the GRF pays for some of the expenses that players would have to pay on their own. These include subsidies for players to travel to the NABC and some game fees at the NABC for these events. As the North American Pairs coordinator for D21, I was surprised at the number of players who have told me how much these subsidies mean to them. I've heard several reports from players that the subsidy was absolutely necessary for them to attend the Finals at an NABC.

All this is wonderful except we recently got a surprise from the ACBL. It turns out that they were incorrectly calculating the expenses that needed to be paid by each District's GRF for the District's share of these subsidies. The corrected version of this calculation costs the District significantly more money. Our current rate of contributions to the Grass Root Fund just barely covered the expenses billed back from ACBL in the old calculation. Now just to have this fund break even, we need to raise more money for the Grass Roots Fund.

There are two ways that we can accomplish this:

1. Clubs can offer Grass Roots Fund games which offer enhanced master points including overalls. During the month of May, all charity games are designated for the GRF. Clubs are not allowed to offer Grass Roots Fund charity games in January, April and September but during the other 8 months of the year, the club can name the GRF as the beneficiary of a charity game.
2. Units may elect to hold two sessions of charity games during a Sectional and these games will pay master points as a regionally rated event. The sanction fees will be increased by the normal amount charged for a charity game so there is a significant jump in master points for the standard ACBL charity game charge. The sponsoring unit must select an ACBL charity – I hope they will choose the ACBL Grass Roots Fund.

When the ACBL collects money for the GRF, all that money is paid out to district Grass Roots Funds – 80% directly to the district's fund and 20% that is used to level the playing field among all the districts' GRFs. So, I'm hoping that you club managers and unit boards will take advantage of these opportunities to earn more master points for your players while enabling more players to participate in two events at our North American Bridge Championships.

Jim Coke
ACBL District 21 President