

**CONDITIONS OF CONTEST  
CLEVELAND WHIST CLUB  
(ACBL UNIT 125)  
VICHILL LEAGUE  
2014-15**

**I. TYPE OF EVENT**

The Vichill League is a bracketed, sectionally rated team event played in nine sessions between September and May.

The number of brackets and teams per bracket are based on the number of teams entered.

The Vichill League is a round robin tournament within each bracket with the round robin format (number of boards and round robin movement) determined by the number of teams in a bracket. The team in each bracket with the most victory points wins. Ties are broken based on the winner of the head-to-head match played between tied teams. If the tied teams tied their match, the tie is not broken.

Round robin matches normally are 24 to 28 boards, but may be adjusted based on the number of teams in a bracket. Matches are scored according to an ACBL approved IMP scale and then converted to victory points in accordance with Section VIII, Scoring Calculations. A victory of one IMP or more is considered a win for purposes of master point awards. In the case of late play, the number of boards may be adjusted. (See Section III).

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

The Vichill League has one or two Chairpersons (referred to as Chairperson in this document even if there are two Chairpersons) who have overall responsibility for the event. In addition, the Chairperson, the Cleveland Whist Club President (President) and additional Cleveland Whist Club members selected by the President and Chairperson

constitute a committee (The Vichill Committee) to be used as appropriate in making decisions during the year.

Each Bracket has a Coordinator whose primary duties include the following:

- Assist team captains in their bracket to find appropriate substitutes.
- Review requests for the use of substitutes and determine if the substitute is appropriate for the bracket.
- Notify team captain of the substitute that the opposing team proposes to use. See Section X for further discussion of substitutes.
- Be the primary contact for teams that forfeit a match and notify both a 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 IX.

## **II. TEAM COMPOSITION**

Each team consists of four to six members. Teams are placed in groups based on ACBL and ABA master points of their members. The Vichill Committee (defined in Section I) may assign teams to higher or lower brackets than their master point holdings suggest if the Vichill Committee determines 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 ACBL. This stipulation applies to both team members and substitutes. Non-members are encouraged to join ACBL so that their master points can be recorded.

A player may be a member of only one team in this event.

## **III. TIME AND PLACE**

All regularly scheduled matches are 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 **7:00pm and ends at 11:00pm. No board may be started after**

**10:30pm.** 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 is enforced:

Upon notification to the director by the team captain that his or her team is ready to play and their opponent has not arrived by **7:15pm**, a penalty of five (5) IMPS and an additional three (3) IMP penalty for each additional five-minute interval, is assessed against the late team. A team not available to play by **7:30pm** forfeits the match. The forfeit deadline may be extended at the director's discretion but the IMP penalties will continue. The number of boards may be reduced, at the director's discretion, to meet the deadline of no board being started after 10:30pm.

If all boards in the first half of the match have not been completed by **8:45pm** the team captains may 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 may be restored.

#### **IV. AWARDS**

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

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

Prizes are awarded to the first place team in each flight.

#### **V. REGISTRATION AND FEES**

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

Fees are **\$8.00 per player, \$32.00 per team**, with an advance payment of the last two weeks, amounting to \$96.00, being paid the first night of

play. Fees are to be paid even if team forfeits. Checks may be made payable to Unit 125.

## **VI. TEAM CAPTAIN'S DUTIES**

- 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 date.
- Inform the bracket coordinator and/or the opposing team of a desired substitution as provided in Section X.
- Make payment of team fees, including all forfeited matches prior to start of the session
- Make sure team entry containing the names of all players and subs who are participating in the match are completed. ACBL numbers should be given for all subs.
- Verify the score with the opposing team captain. Winning captain must turn in both score tickets at the conclusion of each match, designating total IMP'S won by each team
- Verify the accuracy of posted scores. Scores are posted on the Cleveland Whist Club web site as soon as possible following a match and no later than the next scheduled match. If a Captain believes a posted score is incorrect, he or she must notify the Chairperson as soon as possible after discovering the possible error. The Chairperson will review the posted scores and determine if a correction needs to be made. If a Captain does not notify the Chairperson of a possible error in the posted scores before the beginning of the next Vichill League match, no adjustment is made regardless of the circumstances of the error. All preceding match scores are considered final, except for forfeits.
- Notify both the bracket coordinator and opposing team captain in the event your team must forfeit.

## **VII. HANDICAP CALCULATIONS**

An ACBL approved handicap system is used, but only in the top bracket. The master points held by the persons actually playing as of the day of the match are 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 is played over two or more sessions the handicap is calculated based on the handicap

calculated for the longer session adjusted by a portion of the handicap calculated for the shorter session based on the ratio of the number of boards played in each session. For example, if the match is 36 boards played in two sessions consisting of 28 boards and 8 boards, seven-ninths of the handicap calculated when the teams played the 28-board session is used plus (or minus) two-ninths of the handicap calculated when the teams played the 8 board portion. Note that there is no handicap involving teams that both average 5000 or more master points per player in the session.

## **VIII. SCORING CALCULATIONS**

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

1. Net IMP's (after incorporating the handicap, if any) are 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 is 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 are scored at 15 VP and remain as part of the final total.
3. Forfeits are provisionally scored at 20 VP during the year for the non-forfeiting team and zero (0) 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) average of their 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 (0) 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 are calculated as in Section VIII.3.
5. If a team forfeits the 8 board portion of a 36-board match, the VP score is calculated on the basis of the 28 boards played. After that calculation

is complete, the non-forfeiting team's score is 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 President. (This rule is necessary due to the round robin nature of the competition) The Chairperson or President may apply an appropriate penalty if an underway match is forfeited.

## **IX. MATCHES AT DATES OTHER THAN SCHEDULED DATES**

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

The Vichill Chairperson may reschedule match dates in the event of severe inclement weather that causes St. Michael's to close. Rescheduling is automatic if 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 are notified of any matches rescheduled as soon as a new date has been confirmed. Notice of any rescheduling is posted on the Whist Club website, [whistclub.org](http://whistclub.org).

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

Examples of exceptions considered are:

- 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 must be played at a regular scheduled Unit Club game 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 \$32 per team fee will still be due and a separate fee may also apply to the director at the other location.

## **X. SUBSTITUTES, REPLACEMENTS, AND ADDITIONS**

To maintain team identity, Captains are encouraged to field as few subs as possible.

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

As far in advance of the game as possible, a team captain needing to use a substitute must notify the bracket coordinator the name(s) of any proposed substitute(s). The bracket coordinator will consider the proposed substitutes and approve or disapprove the substitution and notify the opposing team's captain of his or her decision. If the bracket coordinator has a conflict of interest then a Chairperson or the President (if no Chairperson is available) decides the suitability of a substitute for a bracket. If the opposing captain is dissatisfied with the bracket coordinator's decision, that captain may protest the choice to the Vichill Chairperson. The Chairperson will review the situation and make a final decision as to whether or not the proposed substitute may be used. 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.

No substitute is approved who would likely improve the caliber of the team beyond the expected level for the bracket in question.

The bracket coordinator, and ultimately the Chairperson in the event of an appeal of a bracket coordinator's decision, determines if a proposed substitute would likely improve the caliber of the team beyond the expected level for the bracket and will consider the following guideline, and any other relevant facts, in making a decision:

Substitutes typically do not have more master points than 150% of the higher of:

- (1) the masterpoints of the player being substituted for or
- (2) the average team masterpoints in the bracket.

If a substitute is used without prior approval (e.g., no time to get approval), and the Chairperson determines that the substitute does not meet the standard for a substitute in the bracket, the Chairperson may apply a handicap to the match in which the substitute was used. The handicap is determined using the ACBL team handicap formula. If a substitute is not an ACBL member, he/she is deemed to have the same number of masterpoints as the person with the most master points playing that evening for that team.

Three substitutes may only be used in cases of extreme emergency. If any team designates a “permanent” substitute, that person may not substitute on any other team and will not qualify for any overall awards.

No team may use a substitute in lieu of a regular team member who is available to play.

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

No team member may substitute 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 President
- **NO** master points are earned by the substitute, only by the regular members or a non-team substitute

## **XI. APPEALS OF DIRECTOR RULINGS**

Any team Captain who 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 and ideally should make the notification as soon as a ruling is made. The director will inform the



Chairperson and President if an appeals committee is needed. The Chairperson, or in the absence of a Chairperson the President, will select at least three, but not more than five, qualified people playing that night to act as an appeals committee. The Chairperson and President may participate in the appeal process as non-voting members of the appeals committee.

The appeals committee will make a decision the night of the match unless it determines that due to the unusual nature of the appeal no decision should be reached without consulting the appropriate person at the ACBL. If the ACBL is consulted, a Chairperson, and at least one member of the appeals committee, will contact the appropriate person at the ACBL to assist with the final decision. The Chairperson will notify the captains of the decision if it is not made the night of the match.

Updated August 7, 2014

**Exhibit A  
Victory Point Scale**

<b>28 Boards</b>			<b>24 Boards</b>	
<b>IMPs</b>	<b>Victory Points</b>		<b>IMPs</b>	<b>Victory Points</b>
0	15-15		0-2	15-15
1-2	16-14		3-5	18-12
3-4	17-13		6-8	19-11
5-7	18-12		9-12	20-10
8-11	19-11		13-16	21-9
12-15	20-10		17-21	22-8
16-20	21-9		22-26	23-7
21-26	22-8		27-31	24-6
27-33	23-7		32-37	25-5
34-41	24-6		38-44	26-4
42-50	25-5		45-52	27-3
51-60	26-4		53-61	28-2
61-71	27-3		62-71	29-1
72-83	28-2		72+	30-0
84-95	29-1			
96+	30-0			

<b>36 Boards</b>	
<b>IMPs</b>	<b>Victory Points</b>
Zero	15 to 15
1 through 3	16 to 14
4 through 5	17 to 13
6 through 9	18 to 12
10 through 14	19 to 11
15 through 19	20 to 10
20 through 26	21 to 9
27 through 33	22 to 8
34 through 42	23 to 7
43 through 53	24 to 6

<b>36 Boards</b>	
44 through 64	25 to 5
65 through 77	26 to 4
78 through 91	27 to 3
92 through 105	28 to 2
106 through 122	29 to 1
123+	30 to 0