



Dear District Presidents, Unit Presidents and Tournament Chairs,

In February, the ACBL announced that all regional and sectional tournaments would not be staffed with ACBL Tournament Directors through July 2021 ([email](#)). In July, that moratorium was extended through the end of August ([email](#)). These decisions were based on four major criteria set by ACBL management for the safe return to face-to-face tournaments, including local restrictions, virus positivity rates, vaccination rates and local bridge club activity.

The ACBL will only staff open sectionals that begin in September 2021 if the above criteria are met. After running the analysis for this group of tournaments, most of the 26 tournaments scheduled did *not* meet the outlined criteria. Four tournaments ([list](#)) have met the four major criteria and will be staffed.

An additional six tournaments ([list](#)) are being considered. However, in July the ACBL Board of Directors passed a policy that masks will not be required for tournaments where all players are fully vaccinated. ACBL management has determined, based on the criteria described above, that it is not safe for its employees to staff these seven tournaments unless masks are required. Those seven tournaments can either choose to be canceled by the ACBL or voluntarily require masks for all attendees.

If you have planned an open sectional to begin in September, a member of the Tournaments Team will reach out to you regarding its status.

Currently, there is one open regional scheduled to begin in September (Seaside, Oregon). We are holding off on making a staffing decision for this tournament until August 20, which is approximately 30 days before it is scheduled to begin.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and will communicate a decision regarding October tournaments by September 15, 2021.

Like you, we are eager to return to in-person tournaments; however, the health and safety of attendees, volunteers and ACBL staff is of the utmost importance. The protection of all who are present must be a priority. You each will make your own decision about when it is safe to return to face-to-face tournaments; however, we must make that decision on behalf of our employees.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and all that you have done, and continue to do, for the game of bridge.

Sincerely,
Joseph Jones
Executive Director
August 16, 2021