



# Upcoming Sectionals

## Denver Winter Sectional Golden, Colorado January 8-11

Colorado's first bridge tournament of the year will be at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. It starts with a one session Swiss on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. and then has the usual schedule, including a 10:00 a.m. start on Saturday. More information is at [denverbridge.com](http://denverbridge.com) and in the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*

## Tucson Winter Sectional Tucson, Arizona January 8-11

The Holiday Inn on Palo Verde in Tucson, just off of I-10 will again host this sectional. Use the booking

code "ABC" before December 29 to get the reduced room rate of \$79.00, which includes a breakfast buffet and Wi-Fi. There is free coffee and tea, bagels and cream cheese, smoked salmon, and pastries, every morning. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for more details.

## London Bridge Sectional Lake Havasu, Arizona January 16-19

Enjoy Arizona's only all beach-front resort, with pleasant January weather at the London Bridge Sectional. The four-day tournament (Friday through Monday) is held at the Elks Club Lodge and includes two Knockout Teams. More information is in the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

## Under 500 Non-Life Master Sectional Tempe, Arizona January 17-18

The Pera Club is hosting this Non-Life Master Sectional. There will be pre-dealt hands even in the Sunday Swiss, and between sessions a local expert will review the deals you played. More information is in the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

## Winter Sectional Yuma, Arizona February 5-8

Yuma's four day Winter Sectional is at the Quality Inn at 711 East 32nd Street. Yuma is a snowbird haven

due to its lovely winter weather. Nearby are the "Star Wars" sand dunes on the border with California. Come and play. Details are in the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

## Northern Colorado Winter Sectional Loveland, Colorado February 6-8

This popular sectional is right off I-25 exit 259, about an hour north of Denver, at the Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex. On Sunday a hot lunch will be provided between sessions.

More information is available online at [northerncoloradobridge.com](http://northerncoloradobridge.com) and in the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

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very unhappy because you did not tell partner what to lead, then bid your suit now.

### The Takeout Double

Not all hands that wish to compete after the opponents open have a five card or longer suit to bid, and still fewer hands meet the requirements for a 1NT overcall. The most frequent hand type which wants to get involved is one with a minimum of three cards in each of the unbid suits, wanting partner to pick one of them for a trump suit. This hand makes a takeout double. How does partner know that double is takeout? When double is the first bid made by our side and the opponents have opened in a suit below game level, then the double is takeout.

The perfect hand pattern to make a takeout double is 4-4-4-1 with a singleton in the opponents' suit, but more often you are 5-4-3-1, 4-4-3-2, or even 4-3-3-3. Note that it is fine to have a five card minor, but

with a five card major you usually prefer an overcall to a takeout double unless the major is very weak. Only make a takeout double on a 4-3-3-3 hand pattern with too much strength to pass and a hand unsuitable for 1NT.

The takeout double is also used if you have 19+ points - you start by making a takeout double no matter what your hand pattern is. Then on the next round of bidding you bid a new suit or notrump to indicate that you have the strong hand type.

### The Jump Overcall

The jump overcall is a preemptive bid showing length and strength in the suit bid but not much else. Preempting was covered in "Basic Bidding 8," which is reprinted at [d17acbl.org/index.php?page=preempting-and-weak](http://d17acbl.org/index.php?page=preempting-and-weak) - on the district website along with all the other regular columns.

### Two Suited Bids

With two five card or longer suits and preemptive values there are several bids you can use. A jump to 2NT over the opponent's opening bid shows the two lower unbid suits, thus the minors when they have opened a major and the other minor and hearts when they open a minor. This is called the Unusual Notrump. Cue-bidding the opponents' suit when they have opened a minor shows both majors. Cue-bidding the opponents' suit when they have opened a major shows the other major and an unknown minor. This cuebid is called Michaels. Partner can ask which minor you have by bidding 2NT.

### When Both Sides are Bidding

When both sides are bidding, the best score available will not always be a plus score. Sometimes you have to aim for a small minus. For example, going down one for a loss of 50 or 100 points is an

improvement over letting the opponents make +110 or +140.

The Law of Total Tricks (see the book "To Bid or Not to Bid" by Larry Cohen) gives a good guideline for when to keep bidding and when to pass in a competitive auction. A simple rule of thumb based on the Law is that your level of safety is to contract for the number of tricks equal to your partnership's total number of trumps. So, for example, if you think your side has nine trumps you should be able to safely bid to the three level and thus contract for nine tricks.

Here are a couple of simple guidelines for competitive bidding:

1. Never let the opponents play in two of a major when they have an eight card fit.
2. Think twice about bidding three over three. Often both sides are going down at the three level.

Next month we will discuss responding to takeout doubles and overcalls.

## Northern Colorado Sectional February 6-8, 2015

Larimer County Fairgrounds - The Ranch - McKee Building  
Exit 259 off I-25 (Crossroads to Fairgrounds Avenue)  
Loveland, Colorado

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2015

9:30 a.m. Knockouts - 1st Round (Top bracket may be handicapped.)  
Stratified Pairs Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

1:30 p.m. Knockouts - 2nd Round  
Stratified Pairs Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

4:45 p.m. "Let's Talk Bridge" - A Discussion of Some of the Day's Hands  
Pizza, Salad, and Pop (Tickets on Sale for \$6 During the Day)  
6:30 p.m. Single-Session Swiss Teams Game (4 Rounds of 7 @ \$40 Per Team) + Final Round of Knockouts

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs - First Session  
Stratified Pairs Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

3:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs - Final Session  
Stratified Pairs Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 299er Single Session

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015

10:00 a.m. Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams Including 299er Flight (7 Rounds, 8 Boards Per Round)

**Entry Fees:** Pairs - \$10.00 per person per session (\$13.00 per person for unpaid or non-ACBL members)  
ACBL Members with 0-5 Masterpoints play free in single session 299er games on Friday.  
Sunday Swiss - \$104.00 per team, includes lunch and dessert

### Stratifications: (NOTE - All Stratifications by Average Masterpoints)

**Stratified Open Pairs:** Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams:  
A/B/C = 2,000+; 750-2000; 0-750 A/X = 3,000+, 0-3,000  
B/C = 750-1,500; 0-750  
**Stratified 299er Pairs:** 299er Swiss Teams (Two Separate Sessions):  
D/E/F = 150-300; 50-150; 0-50 D/E/F = 150-300; 50-150; 0-50

Co-Chairs: Frank DeMeyer ([demeyerf@hotmail.com](mailto:demeyerf@hotmail.com), 970-416-8500)  
Marty Gutschentritter ([mjgutsch@centurylink.net](mailto:mjgutsch@centurylink.net), 970-988-7626)  
Vicki Hamende ([vickihamende@gmail.com](mailto:vickihamende@gmail.com), 970-219-9355)  
John Wolf ([john-wolf@comcast.net](mailto:john-wolf@comcast.net), 303-810-4902)  
Partnerships: Marsha Effner ([marshaeffner@gmail.com](mailto:marshaeffner@gmail.com)) and Marge Webster ([mweb622@gmail.com](mailto:mweb622@gmail.com))  
Director: Bill Michael

Unit 363 [www.NorthernColoradoBridge.comSanctionS1502057](http://www.NorthernColoradoBridge.comSanctionS1502057)



## Non Life Master Sectional

January 17 & 18, 2015  
No player over 500 MP  
No Life Masters

All games award **Silver Points**  
Sponsored by: Unit 351 & 354  
Sanction # 1501091

**Saturday**

**10:00 AM: Single session stratified pairs  
Pre-dealt hand & hand records**

**1:45 PM: Review morning hands with local expert**

**2:30 PM: Single Session stratified pairs  
Pre-dealt hands & hand records**

**Sunday**

**Swiss Teams**

**9:30 AM: Swiss Team strategy & explanation**

**10:00 AM: Session 1 Swiss Teams  
Pre-dealt hands & hand records**

**1:45 PM: Review morning hands with local expert**

**2:30 PM: Session 2 Swiss Teams  
Pre-dealt hands & hand records**

Saturday Entry Fees

\$12 per person ACBL Members  
\$15 per person non/unpaid members

Sunday Swiss Team Entry Fees

\$26 per person ACBL Members  
\$32 per person non/unpaid members

Entry Fee includes lunch

**Where**

The PERA Club  
1 East Continental Dr, Tempe AZ 85281

**Tournament Chairs**  
JoAnne Lowe Jim Horton  
480-577-9833 480-200-7566  
Partnerships: Michelle Steiner  
480-219-8796 [michelle10042002@cox.net](mailto:michelle10042002@cox.net)