

**"Go-pher"  
the FUN!**

# MINNESOTA GOPHER REGIONAL

Units 103 and 178 ♠ Patti Stuhlman, Chair ♥ Matt Koltnow, D-I-C ♣ Matt Belau, Bulletin Editor

## WELCOME To the 2025 MN Gopher Regional Bridge Tournament

You are receiving this Bulletin because you played in the 2024 MN Gopher Regional last year.

The Gopher tournament this year has a schedule that appeals to players at every level, with a full week of fun-filled bridge events: Team games, Stratified Open Pairs, and Gold Rush Pairs every day along with Intermediate/Newcomer games Monday through Thursday.

We are delighted to be **playing bridge at the Crowne Plaza Aire Hotel**, American Blvd and 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, near the MSP Airport and Mall of America. The hotel has a terrific room rate for bridge players: \$115 single or double, \$145 suite for a suite. Be sure to use the Group Code "MGB" when making your reservations. The number for reservations is 952-854-9000, and you must call the hotel to get our special room rate.

The hotel has a free Airport Shuttle; and once you're at the tournament there is free parking for bridge players! Those free spots are on the upper level of the parking ramp (be sure not to park in the "Resident Reserved" parking spots).

Meet new people, see old friends, and win lots of masterpoints. We will do everything we can to ensure you have a wonderful time.

Welcome to the MN Gopher Regional!



Patti Stuhlman  
2025 Gopher Regional Tournament Chair

## DAY 1 - MONDAY MAY 19<sup>th</sup> SCHEDULE

OPEN PAIRS.....	10am and 230pm
BRACKETED TEAMS.....	10am and 230pm
GOLD RUSH PAIRS.....	10am and 230pm
299er SINGLE SESSION PAIRS.....	10am and 230pm

Single-session entries are allowed in the OPEN PAIRS each day as a SIDE GAME alternative

Single-session entries are allowed in the GOLD RUSH PAIRS each day in case you either  
1)have something better to do for the second session (we know, it's hard to imagine,  
but it does happen) or 2)you want to play with two partners in the same day. But remember,  
**to earn gold points in the Gold Rush you must play both sessions and with the same partner**



### 299er/Intermediate/Newcomer Games

The Minnesota Gopher has offerings specifically intended for Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) players, those players with fewer than 300 master points.

These offerings include:

- 299er single session games Monday through Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.  
If you want to see what a tournament is like, try one of these games.
- Players with 0-15 masterpoints play free this week.  
Your entry fee is paid by the Gopher Regional Bridge Tournament.
- Entry fees to 299er games are \$15 a session for players with 16-299MPs.  
These games award red master points while allowing you to compete against your peers.
- Free discussions of the morning hands will be held from 1:45 -2:15 Monday through Thursday in the playing area. Buy your lunch and come to the playing area for the Lunch and Learn Program.
- Regional tournament play gives you opportunities to meet other bridge players, improve your bridge skills, and ask questions of higher-ranked players.

## CHECK OUT THE PARTNERSHIP DESK

Do you need a partner or teammates for the bridge tournament? If so, email Annie Schaeffer at [hawkeyeannie67@gmail.com](mailto:hawkeyeannie67@gmail.com) or call her at 612-987-8607. Once the tournament begins, come to the Partnership desk one hour before each session. Intermediate-Newcomer partners are made at the same partnership desk as regular games. The partnership desk will be just outside the playing area and very easy to find.

(ALSO! Partnership volunteers, especially for the under 750 for Gold Rush pairs are always in demand – if you'd like to help out, please contact Annie Schaeffer at 612-987-8607. Thanks!)

## ACBL MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

You **must** be a member of the ACBL to play in the Tournament.

Apply for a free 120-day Guest Membership at [ACBL.ORG](http://ACBL.ORG). Click **JOIN – Guest Membership**. Do this before May 15<sup>th</sup>. The ACBL will email you a membership number to use at the Tournament.

If you have **0-15 masterpoints**, you may **play for free in any game at the Gopher Regional**.

## NEW FUN AT THE REGIONAL: CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTEST

Kurt Schaeffer has created a daily crossword puzzle for attendees of the Gopher Regional. You can pick up the daily puzzle each morning at the Information Desk Monday through Friday. Give it a try and there's a prize for the overall winner!

## AT THE INFORMATION DESK

- ▶ Pick up a free pen or pencil and tournament sticker for your convention card.
- ▶ Borrow a card holder for the day.
- ▶ Check for Information, Messages, or the Lost and Found.
- ▶ Pick up a restaurant guide for the Mall of America and surrounding area.
- ▶ Check out the *What to see and do in the Twin Cities area* (Minneapolis/St. Paul and suburbs) handout.
- ▶ Play the Gopher Daily Crossword Puzzle game.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 GOPHER REGIONAL

1. Two-session Open Pairs, Gold Rush Pairs and Bracketed Team Games every day.
2. Anticipated player turnout at pre-COVID levels in the Open Pairs, Gold Rush Pairs, and Bracketed Swiss Teams.
3. Single session entries are welcome in the Open Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs.
4. Web movements are mostly used in the pair events meaning everyone plays all the boards promoting the fairest competition.
5. All Bracketed Swiss Teams are one-day two-session events, which have three or more brackets. Teams are encouraged to “play up”.
6. Discussions of the morning hands between sessions, Monday through Friday.
7. Lunch on Saturday is highly subsidized by the Tournament. Your cost is \$5.
8. Free coffee, tea and snacks are provided every session.
9. We have a great playing space, the Lounge Area, Ballroom, Wright and Runway Suites.

## GOPHER REGIONAL DAILY BULLETINS

Can be found by clicking here: <https://live.acbl.org/fr-bulletins/2505109>

## CROWNE PLAZA AIRE ONSITE DINING

AiRECraft Grill Breakfast 7:00-10 am/Lunch 11am-2:30 pm/Dinner 5:00pm-9:00 pm

Caribou Coffee Kiosk Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Hours: 5:30 am-9:00 pm

Enjoy a tournament \$15 lunch deal or \$10 pizza-and-beverage deal, Monday-Friday in the restaurant.

Grab & Go near the Registration Desk with salads, snacks, and prepared foods.

## PLEASE NOTE:

The Gopher Regional is a cashless tournament. **Entry Express is not available for Regionals or Sectionals anymore**, so arrive with plenty of time to purchase your entry. COVID Vaccinations are not required. Please wear a mask at the table if your opponents ask you to do so. Free masks are available at the Information Desk. If you feel sick, please stay home!

MINNESOTA GOPHER REGIONAL – MAY 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**"Go-pher"  
the GOLD!**

# MINNESOTA GOPHER REGIONAL

## May 19-24, 2025



**Crowne Plaza Aire Hotel**  
American Blvd + 34th Avenue  
Bloomington MN 952-854-9000

Reserve by 4/28 with Rate Code **MGB**  
\$115/single/double, \$145/suite



JUST SCAN THIS CODE ▲



### TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Super convenient 10am and 230pm schedule
- 299er single-session games every session Monday through Thursday
- FREE "Lunch 'N' Learn" lessons for Advancing Players Tuesday through Thursday
- FREE Discussion of the morning hands inbetween sessions Monday and Friday
- Side game option: single-session Gold Rush or Open Pairs entries welcome
- Walking distance to Mall of America (for endless food options, shopping and FUN)

#### Monday May 19

- 10 AM  
OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2)
- 2:30 PM  
OPEN PAIRS (2nd session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (2nd sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (2nd session of 2)

#### Tuesday May 20

- 10 AM  
CONNIE NELSON OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2)
- 2:30 PM  
CONNIE NELSON OPEN PAIRS (2nd session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (2nd session of 2)

#### Wednesday May 21

- 10 AM  
ROGER MELAAS OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2)
- 2:30 PM  
ROGER MELAAS OPEN PAIRS (2nd session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (2nd sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (2nd session of 2)

#### Thursday May 22

- 10 AM  
LARRY OAKEY OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
LARRY OAKEY GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2)
- 2:30 PM  
LARRY OAKEY OPEN PAIRS (2nd session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (2nd sess of 2)  
LARRY OAKEY GOLD RUSH PAIRS (2nd session of 2)

#### Friday May 23

- 10 AM  
CAROL MAHONEY OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2)
- 2:30 PM  
CAROL MAHONEY OPEN PAIRS (2nd session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (2nd sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (2nd session of 2)

#### Saturday May 24

- 10 AM  
OPEN PAIRS (1st session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (1st sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (1st session of 2)
- SATURDAY LUNCH INCLUDED FOR ALL PLAYERS \$5/PERSON
- 2:15 PM/TBA  
OPEN PAIRS (2nd session of 2)  
BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS (2nd sess of 2)  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (2nd session of 2)

**Tournament Chair: Patti Stuhlman**  
(pattistuhlman123@gmail.com) 612-865-2527

**Partnership Chairs: Annie + Kurt Schaeffer**  
(hawkeyeannie67@gmail.com) 612-987-8607

PHOTOS, RESULTS, AND MORE INFO  
SCAN w/YOUR PHONE CAMERA ▶

[bit.ly/gopherregional](https://bit.ly/gopherregional)



Card fees: \$15/session (+\$4 if unpaid) Students under 25 w/ID: \$5/session ACBL sanction #R2505109

Open Stratification: Unlimited/3000/1500 (avg of both players) Gold Rush Strats: 750/300/100 (no player w/more than 750 MPs)  
Director may divide brackets by MP holdings as deemed appropriate; team strata determined by avg of all team members

**PLAYERS UNDER 15 MASTERPOINTS PLAY FOR FREE IN EVERY EVENT ALL WEEK!**

# 2026 SUMMER NABC TOURNAMENT

Minneapolis is hosting the 2026 Summer NABC tournament at the Minneapolis Convention Center next July! The Minneapolis Hilton and Hyatt are the tournament hotels.

We will have a table at the Gopher Regional where you can sign up to volunteer at the NABC next summer or dedicate a game to your favorite partner, teacher, or bridge club.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**July 9-19, 2026**

**Minneapolis NABC**