

# **Masters Play Free if they have club Membership Proposal**

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### **I. Proposal**

Motion: To amend the Policy and Procedures for Monthly Tournaments to include the following:

“Masters (defined as players who’s current rating supplement is 2200 or higher) are given free entry into all regular monthly events provided they are a member of the club.”

This motion to take effect as of January 1, 2012.

### **II. Overview**

Currently the Policy and Procedures for Monthly Tournaments does not state that Masters will have free entry. The current practice of giving all Masters free entry has been in place since before the establishment of the Policies and Procedures. This benefit to Masters has been advertised consistently on club flyers both printed and on the web since its establishment.

The original motivations for providing the benefit were:

- To remove the entry fee as a consideration that might prevent a master from playing. In the “2<sup>nd</sup> era” of the club (starting in 1995 when the structure of events took on its current form) the top prizes were “modest” in comparison to today’s prizes. The typical top prize was \$75 and sometimes \$100. The actual yield to the winner of the open section would then be about \$55 if they won out-right and half as much should they tie for first. By removing the entry fee the prizes were essentially boosted.
- To entice more masters to play at the club which it was hoped would induce more Expert level players and thus boost overall attendance.

The motivations for modifying this policy are:

- The club championships as they are currently organized have been well established for several years. One of the qualify rules states that all participants must be a member of the club on December 31 of the year. Since Masters generally make up a large proportion of the Championship section, the club must often reach out and obtain a commitment of joining the club to those Masters who we discovered have qualified to play after the last round in December. This effort and awkwardness would be eliminated by passing of the motion.
- Several Masters have expressed a desire to be recognized as members of the club so they volunteer to pay membership. By requiring membership for free play we provide a less

awkward mechanism for Masters to become members and we get the benefit of being able to claim participating Masters as members.

- At the 2011 General Meeting of the club, the question was raised and discussed as to what the benefit of giving Masters free entry was. It was also asked if we had considered changing this policy.
- Several times a year we may have several Masters who attend for just one event who often drop out should they no longer have a perfect score. We have even had at least one who forfeited when it was clearly explained that we required notification of withdrawal. It is this author's opinion that providing free entry promotes a less committed entry and that it creates more detriment to our club than benefit of having such players attend.

### **III. Other considerations and thoughts**

- Masters who are Senior Citizens continue to receive free membership so there will be no impact on these Masters.
- Membership entry for 4-round events is \$20 and for 5-round events is \$25. The average for a year is \$22. Current club membership is \$30. For a very minimal investment of slightly more than one months entry fee the Master can enjoy a total savings of \$230 over the course of a year  $((8 * \$20) + (4 * \$25) = \$260$  entry fee for a year).