

The 43rd Los Angeles Open

June 4-7, with the BMAB on June 3. This is one of the oldest and among the most important ABT events in the U.S. **We want you here, but we also want you safe.** We understand your concerns. While nothing is 100% safe (including remaining in your home city,) here are the steps being taken to ensure your good health and comfort:



WHAT LAX IS DOING

- Installing more than 750 additional hand sanitizer stations throughout the terminals at LAX.
- Cleaning the public areas and restrooms at least once per hour.
- Using virus and bacteria-killing disinfectants.
- Increasing deep cleaning throughout the airport, focusing on “high touch” areas at the airport like handrails, escalators, elevator buttons and restroom doors.
- Coordinating with the contracting partners to ensure that their cleaning crews are following the same protocols, e.g. the hotel & rental car shuttle busses, Lyft, Uber.
- Adding signage to high-traffic areas, including areas with passengers, with information on how to reduce the spread of illness and symptoms of the coronavirus.
- CDC employees stationed at LAX are proactively contacting all passengers arriving from China with health and travel questionnaires for self-identification.
- Public health staff will also proactively monitor for signs of ill passengers who present signs and symptoms of disease at LAX.

WHAT YOUR AIRLINE IS DOING

- Airline CEOs are sending email blasts informing their passengers of extraordinary means being taken by each individual airline. Most are similar to one another and all involve deep cleaning of airliners. Check the website of the airline you fly to Los Angeles for the CEO message.

WHAT THE HILTON IS DOING

- The LAX Hilton is especially proactive. They have installed hand sanitizers in the public areas and we will have hand sanitizers in our ballroom meeting space. All guest rooms and public areas are receiving daily deep cleaning (special disinfecting cleansers) from the surfaces to the elevator buttons! Signs are posted throughout the hotel with hand-washing instructions.

WHAT WILL BE IN OUR BALLROOM

- Surgical gloves - I have obtained medical gloves for your use, so you do not have to touch any surfaces with your bare hands.
- Wipes - I got 'em! You can wipe down equipment.
- Increased nightly cleaning - For our event, the cleaning by the hotel staff will be increased and focus on “high-touch” areas like handrails and doorknobs.
- Coughing or sneezing - Anyone who exhibits signs of influenza will not be permitted to remain at the tournament regardless at what point the illness is revealed. **IF YOU HAVE A COLD, STAY HOME.**
- Other countries - We will be instructing attendees coming from or passing through endangered countries to not attend this event.
- Convenient to wash hands - There are restrooms right outside the ballroom so you can conveniently wash your hands throughout the day.

We want you safe, but we also want you here. If you have any other ideas, please let me know by private return email. Our mission is for you to have the most enjoyable time possible at our Southern California tournaments.

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY VISITED OR ARE COMING FROM OR PASSING THROUGH CHINA, ITALY, IRAN OR ANY OTHER HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS COUNTRY, WE RESPECTFULLY INSTRUCT YOU TO POSTPONE YOUR JOURNEY TO LOS ANGELES TO A FUTURE TIME. ADDITIONALLY, ANY ATTENDEE WHO EXHIBITS SIGNS OF INFLUENZA ONSITE WILL BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE, REGARDLESS AT WHAT POINT IN THE TOURNAMENT THE ILLNESS IS REVEALED.

Register for the tournament without worry; you may cancel with full refund up to start of play.

The Los Angeles Open will have, in addition to the BMABs, a Speed-gammon tournament, plus Ladies -- Wonder Women -- tournament, Doubles, Juniors, Seniors, DMP and blitzes. The main event has four classes covering all players from rank beginners to elite, and the format gives you TWO chances to win and THREE chances to cash. There are two high equity jackpots, a Calcutta Auction, a raffle for a \$900 board, a free lecture by Steve Sax and a Falafel Memorial complimentary breakfast. With HOF Patrick Gibson returning as Executive Tournament Director, and Ben Friesen as Tournament Director, you can be assured this tournament will run smoothly as in the past. You may also be rest assured I will do everything I can to make your time here pleasant, safe and memorable.

Please come.

Warm regards,



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