

JANUARY AIRPORT BID ASSISTANCE SCHEDULE

Feb block month 30 days - starting Jan 31 - Mar 01
 85 hour block month
 Olympics: Feb 12 -Feb 28

Jan 15	10:00 - 4:00
Jan 18	9:30 - 3:30
Jan 19	9:30 - 3:30
Jan 20	9:30 - 3:30

The Olympics encompass a 17 day stretch in February. There is a high probability that we will see significant unstacking for both Reserves and Blockholders during this time period.

The more time off that is requested and honoured during this period, the more this will force flying at the junior seniority levels. The system must respond by awarding pairings (unstacking) on the critical dates where the operation requires coverage.

It is always difficult to know in advance how the Awards will play out however the rule of thumb for bidding sequence is to always:

- Request hours off first on a specific date (in case you can't hold the day)
- Request the same day off
- Request routes or pairings on that date in case you have to fly (unstacked)

- Line 1) Time of Feb 16 00:01 -13:00
- Line 2) Time off Feb 16
- Line 3) Award if HNL if departing on Feb 16

In this scenario, the bidder would prefer to hold until 13:00 off (at minimum) but they really prefer the entire day off. PBS reads line by line. This means that it will try to award the hours off first if seniority allows. Then it reads the second line and attempts to honour the entire day off if seniority allows. If the bidder is not senior enough to hold either the hours or the day off, they must fly. This bidder has now requested to fly to HNL should they be unstacked. The pairing that you bid for is not always available in the stack pool or there may be conditions which affect you being awarded it, however this is the best way to attempt to cover yourself when bidding.

Pairing Optimizer

On January 4th, your Base President, David Pacheco and your PBS Committee attended a demo for the Pairing Optimizer. Both domestic and overseas pairings will be constructed using the Optimizer beginning with the February block month. As usual, your Committee will be reviewing the pairings and requesting revisions if there are C/A violations present. If pairings are revised, they can be renumbered which could affect your bids. This is why we are recommending that you incorporate route bidding along with criteria into your bids for the go forward.

If you bid a route on a specific date, it gives you the opportunity to be awarded the pairing in case the pairing number is revised.

We suggest you become familiar with using the Pairing Search function to view the pairings which are loaded into PBS as they usually differ from the originally published bid package. Lastly, pairing revisions can occur every month right up to bid close; therefore it is best to check revisions on the Portal nearest the end of bid closed.

If you require any assistance, our contact info is 604 279-9905 ext 310 or blocking@local4094.ca.

Kim Hansinger
Local 4094 Blocking Committee Chairperson
Vancouver (YVR)