



14-06

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## *Shuffling Update and the PBS Bid/Award Window*

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## Introduction

This PBS Notepad will serve as refresher as to where pilots may find discussions and tutorials on the PBS Shuffling and Denial Mode logic. There is a clarification on how PBS handles shuffling with Top Down Inclusion and a few examples are presented. In addition, there is a section on the on the monthly bidding time lines for regular schedule and CQ.

## Denial Mode and Shuffling

Both Denial Mode and Shuffling have been covered in depth in previous PBS Notepads. We suggest reviewing these two important logic features of PBS in both the PBS Gouge as well as reviewing the [PBS Logic](#) video found on the [PWG YouTube Channel](#).

Shuffling is often misunderstood. Shuffling takes away a pairing awarded at a higher preference and substitutes pairings awarded from a lower preference. What is often misunderstood is that this process is beneficial in that PBS only does this to protect a higher restriction.

There is one important clarification that we would like to make in how and when PBS will shuffle, which has changed since the enhancement of Denial Mode with the implementation of Top Down Inclusion logic. There is also an enhancement to the shuffling logic, as now PBS is able to consider lower restrictions even if it had to shuffle pairings from above those restrictions.

There are two situations that we would like you to consider; Conditional Pairings Bid Groups without a Clear Schedule and Start Next Bid Group and Pairings Bid Groups that end with a Clear Schedule and Start Next Bid Group.

## Pairings Bid Groups without a CSSN

### Former Denial Mode Logic

Prior to implementing Top Down Inclusion (TDI), Denial Mode was strictly a bottom to top process. PBS would deny bid lines in a step-by-step process as required to successfully build you a schedule. PBS would attempt to shuffle in advance of each step of Denial Mode. Under that former logic, PBS could not shuffle above a negative bid line (prefer off or avoid) until that line had been denied. Here is an example demonstrating that former logic:

1. Start Pairings
2. Prefer Off Saturdays
3. Avoid Redeyes
4. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=4 Days
5. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=3 Days
6. Avoid Pairings if Carry-out > 0 days  
Award Pairings

In the bid example above, under the previous logic, If PBS was unable to build you a schedule within the LCW after having processed the system generated Award Pairings Line, its first step would be to attempt to shuffle, but since line 6 is a negative bid

line, *it could not yet shuffle*. PBS would have had to deny line 6 and would then have made a second completion attempt starting again at the top of this bid group.

1. Start Pairings
2. Prefer Off Saturdays
3. Avoid Redeyes
4. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=4 Days
5. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=3 Days
- ~~6. Avoid Pairings if Carry-out > 0 days~~  
Award Pairings

If PBS was still unable to build you a schedule within the LCW after this completion attempt *it could now shuffle* since the existence of the negative bid in line 6 had been removed through Denial Mode.

*With the implementation of Top Down Inclusion this has now changed.*

### Shuffling with Top Down Inclusion

Since Denial Mode with Top Down Inclusion is no longer a strictly bottom to top process, it is now possible and preferable for PBS to be able to shuffle above negative bid lines. Consider the same bid as before:

1. Start Pairings
2. Prefer Off Saturdays
3. Avoid Redeyes
4. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=4 Days
5. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=3 Days
6. Avoid Pairings if Carry-out > 0 days  
Award Pairings

Now if PBS cannot build you a schedule within the LCW after having processed the system generated Award Pairings line, it will first attempt to shuffle, and can do so even though there is a negative bid in line 6 below the two award bids in lines 4 and 5. *This is a significant enhancement, as it will lead to more of your bids potentially being honored and result in superior line construction.*

### Pairings Bid Groups with a CSSN

In the event that you have a pairings bid group that ends with the conditional bid Clear Schedule and Start Next Bid Group (CSSN), it is still possible to attempt to prevent shuffling although *it is our recommendation to avoid this technique*. Consider the same bids as before but now with a CSSN added at the end:

1. Start Pairings
2. Prefer Off Saturdays
3. Avoid Redeyes
4. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=4 Days
5. Award Pairings if Pairing Length=3 Days
6. Avoid Pairings if Carry-out > 0 days

## 7. Clear Schedule and Start Next Bid Group Award Pairings

Since there is no Denial Mode in bid groups that end in a CSSN, the only process available to fix an impossible award is shuffling. In the example above, if PBS is unable to build you a schedule within the LCW by the time it reaches line 7, it *cannot shuffle* because of the negative bid in line 6. Adding negative bid lines such as this and attempting to prevent the shuffling process may lead to far inferior awards.

### Takeaways and Recommendations

- Please review Denial Mode and Shuffling in the PBS Gouge and review the PBS Logic Video on the PWG YouTube Channel
- Shuffling is a very important part of the PBS award logic and fundamental to how the system works
  - It is not a function used to deny pairings to senior pilots in order to build junior pilots lines
  - Shuffling is only invoked by the system when and if the attempted awards that you have asked for simply cannot build a legal line within the LCW
- How and when shuffling may occur has changed with Top Down Inclusion
  - In Pairings Bid Groups that do not end in a CSSN, shuffling may occur above negative bid lines
  - In Pairings Bid Groups that end in a CSSN, shuffling may not occur above a negative bid line

### PBS Bid and Award Windows

As a reminder for our pilots who have been at Delta Air Lines for a while and for those new to our company, we would like to remind and introduce you all to the monthly time line for events that are associated with PBS. Our PBS system is used for two separate types of bidding; our monthly schedules and CQ. In addition to the bidding that is done in PBS, there are a few functions that reside within iCrew that all Delta pilots must be aware of and should understand how to utilize, to include, but not limited to Vacation Move-ups, CQ Golden Day submissions, and Golden X-Day bidding.

The following chart has a breakdown of the monthly timeline.

## Monthly Timeline

Day of Calendar Month	Event
Before the <b>21st</b> day of the month that is two months prior to the bid period in which a pilot may be scheduled for CQ	<i>Pilot designates CQ Golden Day preference</i> <i>Pilot advises Crew Resources (via DBMS) of training unavailability in the bid period following the subsequent bid period</i>
Before <b>1800E</b> on the <b>25th</b> day of the month that is two months prior to the bid period for which CQ training events are being awarded	CQ training events published
At <b>1800E</b> on the <b>25th</b> day of the month that is two months prior to the bid period for which CQ training events are being awarded	CQ bidding opens
At <b>1800E</b> on the last day of the bid period that is two bid periods prior to the bid period for which CQ training events are being awarded	CQ bidding closes
At <b>0800E</b> on the <b>1st</b> Before <b>1800E</b> on the <b>4th</b>	Vacation move-ups close Bid packages distributed electronically PBS Regular and Reserve Bidding Opens Reserve Golden X-Day Bidding Opens in DBMS Vacation move ups posted Qualification training posted CQ training posted Asterisk rotation changes posted
Before <b>1800E</b> on the <b>11th</b>	Pilot advises Crew Scheduling of known absence (e.g., MLOA, scheduled accident leave, scheduled sick leave) in subsequent bid period
On the <b>11th @ 1800E</b> On or before the <b>17th @1800E</b>	Line bidding closes FAR and PWA time and duty adjustments completed (line adjustment) Adjusted lines made available for viewing in DBMS
On the <b>19th @ 0800E</b> Before <b>1800E</b> on the <b>19th</b> On the <b>20th @ 0700E</b> (and through the end of bid period at all PCS run times from table in <b>Section 23 B.2.</b> )	Reserve Golden X-Day bidding closes Reserve Golden X-Day awards published Daily next bid period PCS process begins
On or before the last day of the bid period	Deadline for submitting bank transactions

## Monthly Schedule Bidding

### PBS Bid Window

The following list and commentary will focus strictly on the PBS Bid Window

- PBS bidding for the upcoming month (bid month) must be open NLT 1800E on the 4th of each month
- NLT 1800E on the 4th of each month the following must have occurred
  - PBS Bid Packages will be made available on the DeltaNet
  - Vacation Move-Ups must be posted
  - Qualification Training must be posted
  - CQ Training must be posted
  - Asterisk rotation changes posted
  - The PBS system will be unlocked and open for bidding
    - The pairings data for your category will be loaded
    - The initial data load from iCrew will have been accomplished
    - Your PBS Calendar and Results Tab will reflect the most recent version of your schedule and VTS events
    - iCrew data will be refreshed in PBS once or twice a day during times of low bidder volume

Please be pro-active in your bidding habits. The PWA provides each Delta pilot with a full seven days in which to submit current bids each month. In addition we highly recommend having a Default bid on file in PBS as a safeguard against the possibility that something has prevented you from bidding. A Default bid may be submitted any time the system is not locked out for an award.

### PBS Award Window

- At 1800E on the 11th of each month the PBS Bid Window closes

Once the PBS Bid Window closes it cannot be opened for any reason. It is for this reason that we stress pro-active bidding habits. The closure of the bid window marks the beginning of the PBS Award Window.

- NLT 1800E on the 17th of each month, the PBS awards must be completed and the schedules loaded into iCrew
  - Please refer to Scheduling Alert 14-08 for an explanation of the Line Award Process and PCS considerations during the PBS Award Window

The PBS Administrator will publish the preliminary PBS results on the Crew Resources and Scheduling (CR&S) page each month during the PBS Bid Award Window. Please note that this is accomplished when time permits while the PBS Working Group is finalizing the results for the entire company. Sometimes this may be done quickly, and sometimes it may take a few days, but it will be done as soon as possible. The priority is to get the entire airline done within the window dictated by the PWA (NLT 1800E on the 17th of each month). Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- There is no defined order in which categories are completed, but the Captain category for a particular base/aircraft must be completed before the First Officer category can be started

- For example, all of the 73N A categories may be started at the same time, but a PWA-compliant solution may not be achieved at the same time. As a result, the NYC 73N A may still be incomplete while the LAX 73N A has been completed, and the LAX 73N B is now being worked on
- All categories are treated equally and in the same manner. Some categories may be finished sooner than others and the results from month to month and year to year have absolutely no effect on the processing order for subsequent bid periods
- When the PBS Committee has approved a particular PBS solution, those results are posted on the CR&S page as soon as practical. The PBS Committee will then send a text blast using the *PilotBlast* system [link](#). If you are not signed up for this service we suggest that you do so

It is not necessary to contact the PBS Committee or the PBS Administrator during the award window. A text message will notify you when it is possible to review your category's awards. Sending repeated emails and making phone calls asking where and when your awards will be made available is nothing more than a distraction. We understand and sympathize with your desire to have your month's schedule as soon as possible, and that is exactly what the PBS Working Group is trying to facilitate. We ask for your patience and remind you again that *the PWA requirement for the posting of PBS awards is NLT 1800E on the 17th of each month*. Anything earlier is simply a benefit.

When the PBS Administrator posts the preliminary awards, those awards are subject to change. Once an award is acknowledged in iCrew, the results are finalized. The Wide Report, Reasons Report, Roster Report and Pairings Report for each category are posted on the CR&S web page.

### Post-PBS Award Window Events

Although not part of PBS bidding, there are a couple of steps following the distribution of the monthly schedules in iCrew. These functions will be available as soon as the schedules are released in iCrew.

- Reserve Golden X-day bidding closes at 0800E on the 19th of each month
  - iCrew Bids>Initial Bid>PBS Reserve Golden Day Bids
- NLT 1800E on the 19th of each month, Golden X-day awards are published in iCrew
- The first pre-month PCS run begins at 0700E on the 20th of each month

### CQ Bidding

There is a full explanation of CQ bidding found in the PBS CQ Bidding Guide. Please refer to this document for a full explanation of the process, requirements, and bidding techniques.

Each pilot is responsible for knowing his CQ requirements and when they become eligible for training. Each pilot will get a popup message reminding them to bid for the CQ Golden Days.

- NLT the 21st of each month, CQ Golden Days must be submitted

- iCrew>Personnel>Training/VTS>Display/Update Recurrent Training Golden Days
- Keep in mind that CQ bidding is done essentially two months prior to the CQ month. For example, CQ bidding for November 2014 will take place in the last week of September 2014
- CQ Golden Days may be entered for the entire year but the bid submission that is most important is for the next CQ bid month
- CQ Bidding for the next CQ bid month (two months from the current calendar month) opens NLT 1800E on the 25th of each month
- NLT 1800E on the 25th of each month the following must have occurred
  - CQ Training Events published
    - CQ Bid Packages may be found on the Crew Resources and Scheduling page of the DeltaNet
    - CQ Training Patterns will be loaded in PBS
- CQ Bidding closes at 1800E on the *last day of the bid period* that is two months prior to the bid period in which the CQ events are to be awarded
  - This is an important distinction as bid periods do not always align with calendar months
  - For example, the CQ bidding for October 2014 closed at 1800E on August 30th, not August 31st
    - August 30th is the last day of the August bid period
    - August 31st is the first day of the September bid period