

**2023 – 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS**

**CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —

## **2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

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## 2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

**THESE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST MAY NOT BE CHANGED AT ANY LEVEL OF PLAY DURING THE COURSE OF THIS EVENT. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CAUSE FOR EXCEPTION TO THESE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST.**

### SCHEDULE

1. **Club Level** May be held only in June, July and August of 2023
2. **Unit Level** As scheduled by Units & approved by the District NAP Coordinator
3. **District Level** Must be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of January, 2024.
4. **National Level** Louisville, KY 2024 Spring NABC  
Flight A Wednesday and Thursday, March 13 - 14, 2024  
Flights B & C Saturday and Sunday, March 23 - 24, 2024

### FLIGHT ELIGIBILITY

Masterpoints won and playing experience in any other bridge organizations must be taken into account for placement in the appropriate flights.

1. Flight A Open to any player
2. Flight B Players with fewer than 2500 MPs as of the June 2023 masterpoint cycle\*
3. Flight C Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 MPs as of the June 2023 masterpoint cycle.\*

\* The June 2023 masterpoint cycle is run by ACBL data processing on May 6, 2023. Any points won but not included in this cycle do not affect masterpoint eligibility.

### PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF PLAY

Flight C Eligible Players May play in Flights A, B & C unless events are concurrent.  
Flight B Eligible Players May play in Flight B and Flight A unless events are concurrent.  
Flight A Eligible Players May play in Flight A only

However, please note that in a stratified event at the Unit or District level, a player must have played in a club qualifying game and earned qualification in that flight to be eligible. If both players are not eligible to qualify for higher flights, the pair will receive masterpoints, but not qualification to the next stage for the higher flight for which they did not qualify at the club level. When designating qualifiers from a stratified field, the director should select players who are eligible for qualification, disregarding the ineligible pair(s).

### **MIXED FLIGHT PARTNERSHIPS**

1. Partnerships consisting of players of different flights must enter events in the flights for which the top player is eligible.
2. Any player who qualifies in a flight higher than his own is deemed to have also qualified in his own flight for the next level of competition.

### **CLUB LEVEL PARTICIPATION**

- Club level qualification may be earned at any club in any Unit in any District. Clubs may be in-person or online VACB virtual clubs.
1. Club level qualification is earned as an individual and not as a partnership. A player may play at any participating club as often as desired and with as many partners as desired.
  3. At the club stage, a player may qualify and earn masterpoints with any member of ACBL or with a non-member of ACBL.

### **UNIT LEVEL PARTICIPATION**

1. Both players must be members of the parent District. (See Appendix I in these Conditions).
2. Both players must have qualified in a club.
3. Any player that qualified in any club may play with any other qualified player in any Unit in their District. Each player must be a member of a Unit of their parent District.
4. Each player must be an ACBL member in good standing who has not otherwise been placed in an ineligible status by an ACBL disciplinary body.
5. A player may enter only one Unit stage competition per flight. (A stratified event covers all club flight eligibility options).
6. A player whose membership dues are paid prior to the Unit competition is deemed to be a paid member at the time of entry. **ONLY PAID MEMBERS, INCLUDING LIFE MASTERS WITH LIFE MEMBER STATUS, WHOSE DUES OR FEES ARE CURRENT PRIOR TO THE UNIT STAGE, MAY PARTICIPATE BEYOND THE CLUB LEVEL.**

### **DISTRICT LEVEL PARTICIPATION**

District Conditions of Contest will define qualification requirements. In general, to be eligible for the District stage:

- A) If there is a Unit stage – a player must have qualified at the club stage and at the Unit stage; or
- B) If there is NO Unit stage – a player must have qualified at the club stage.

## NABC PARTICIPATION

A person or pair may represent a District in only one flight at the NABC. The North American Pairs Flight A finals will be a four-session event, consisting of a two-session play-through to qualify twenty-eight pairs into a two-session play-through final with carryover as per ACBL formula. The North American Pairs Flights B & C finals will be four-session events, consisting of a two-session play-through to qualify approximately 50% of the field into a two-session play-through final with carryover as per ACBL formula.

## QUALIFYING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

### **From Club Stage**

Eligible partnerships qualify by finishing in the top 50% of their field (rounded up and including ties) plus any pair with at least a 50.00% score not in the top half of their field. New partnerships between club stage qualifiers may be formed at the Unit stage. Only paid-up ACBL members and Life Masters whose service fees are paid prior to the Unit stage may participate beyond the club level.

### **From Unit Stage**

Eligible partnerships qualify by finishing in the top 50% of their field (rounded up and including ties) plus any pair with at least a 50.00% score not in the top half of their field. Plus, at District option, a Unit may qualify 60% of the field to the next level. New partnerships between Unit stage qualifiers may be formed at the District stage.

### **Special Advancement to District Stage**

An ACBL member who qualified at the club stage whose representation of his NCBO or ACBL in WBF competition prevents participation in the Unit level competition is granted qualification to the District final and may play with a player who has qualified at the club level and has not played in a level beyond the club level. This also applies to ACBL members who are WBF officials and NPCs and coaches on official ACBL/NCBO business preventing participation at the Unit qualifying.

### **From District Stage**

The top three eligible pairs in Flight A, and the top four eligible pairs in Flights B & C qualify to the National Final. Plus, two additional pairs in Flight A will be invited by the method outlined in Appendix II. Districts may opt to qualify alternate players for qualified players who choose not to play in the National Final (consult your District NAP Conditions of Contest). Pairs qualifying to the National Final qualify as a pair and no new partnerships may be formed at the National Final except as described in Substitutes.

## MULTI-FLIGHT QUALIFICATIONS

- Flight C players - Retain qualification in each flight (A, B & C) in which they have achieved the finish stated for each level of play.
- Flight B players - Retain qualification in each flight (except Flight C) in which they have achieved the finish stated for each level of play.

## CONVENTIONS

1. At the club stage, subject to established ACBL minimum guidelines, each club determines the conventions to be allowed in its games.
2. At the Unit stage, the ACBL Open Chart applies to stratified events. If the event is flighted, the Open+ Chart applies in Flight A, and the Basic+ Chart applies in Flights B and C.
3. At the District stage, the ACBL Basic+ Convention Chart applies in Flights B and C, and the Open+ Convention Chart applies in Flight A.
4. For the National Final at the 2024 Spring NABC, the Basic+ Chart applies in Flights B and C, and the Open+ Chart applies in Flight A.

## SUBSTITUTES

1. At any stage of the competition, the District Director (or his designee), the District NAP Coordinator or the tournament committee may approve a substitute in an emergency. A substitute must meet the eligibility requirements listed on page 1, under FLIGHT ELIGIBILITY, may not appreciably strengthen the partnership and is subject to the following limitations:
  - A) At the club or Unit stage, if a substitute plays more than 50 percent of the boards, he becomes the contestant of record if otherwise qualified.
  - B) At any stage beyond the Unit stage, a substitute is not permitted for more than 50 percent of the boards played in a qualifying session or sessions; for more than 50 percent of the boards played in a final session or sessions; or more than one session in any case.
2. Beyond the District final stage, a replacement is permitted only if one member of a pair that qualified to play in the National Final stage is either
  - A) Deceased - The surviving qualifier may select a new partner, who must be fully eligible to play in the National Final stage, or,
  - B) Medically diagnosed as being unable to travel to or play in the National Final stage and the medical condition that renders the member unable to travel to or play in the National Final stage was unknown to the member at the time of the District Final.
  - C) Unable to travel to the National Final due to COVID-19 restrictions. Per ACBL policy, all players at the NABC must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Lack of vaccination does not constitute grounds for replacement under this provision. The otherwise-qualified member may request permission to obtain a substitute. Either member will have an opportunity to provide medical documentation of the condition. The NABC leadership team will decide the request fairly and promptly and are the sole judge of whether a substitute will be allowed. Their decision will be final. If the request is

approved, the remaining qualifier may select a new partner, who will be fully eligible to play in the National Final stage.

The new partner must meet all of the eligibility requirements of this event. The replacement may not appreciably strengthen or weaken the partnership.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS**

When a District final is held at split sites, the qualifiers may be apportioned on any objective basis, provided the basis is published in the District's Conditions of Contest. Should a qualified pair decline to participate in the National Final, an alternate pair (based on the order of finish in the District final from the same qualifying field) will replace them.

#### **SUBSIDIES TO THE NATIONAL FINAL**

Those who qualify for participation in the National Final will be notified by the ACBL Special Events Coordinator of any subsidy their finish in the District finals may have earned. Subsidies are intended to offset the cost of travel to the NABC; in the event of an online National Final subsidies may be reduced or eliminated at the discretion of ACBL Management.

#### **DISTRICT/REGIONAL DIRECTOR AUTHORITY**

For these conditions, references to "District Director" shall be to the Regional Director (RD) when the RD is from the involved District, and when not, to a person from the involved District designated by the RD to resolve the issue(s) at hand. Such designee shall be the actual District Director if a person is still serving in that capacity.

All ACBL tournament regulations, though not specifically included in these conditions, apply to this event throughout. Only in the case of an unforeseen situation, the District Director (or his designee), in consultation with the ACBL NAP Coordinator, may make exceptions to these conditions. In emergency situations only, the District Director, on his own, may make decisions consistent with the spirit of these Conditions of Contest. In cases of dual residence, active military duty, school attendance or similar cases of extended temporary or permanent relocation, the ACBL NAP Coordinator has final authority of the residency and/or the qualification requirements (see Appendix I to these conditions). The District Director has final authority on any item not specified in the Conditions of Contest.

## 2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### APPENDIX I DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP

The North American Pairs were created initially with the expectation that players would play in and represent the District in which they lived. A member's principal residence as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Final shall establish the District in which said member is eligible to participate beyond the club qualifying stage. Changes in residence after that date shall not change the District in which the player is eligible to participate.

The expectation is that exceptions to this rule will be rare, especially in the top flight of each event. Exceptions must fall into the categories listed below in the "Guidelines for Exceptions". A player seeking an exception must obtain permission in writing from the ACBL District Director representing the District in which the member has a principal residence and from the ACBL District Director representing the District in which the member wishes to play. Both Directors must approve the request for the exception to be granted. Further, any exceptions in the highest flight of the event must also be approved by a BOD Credentials Committee. The expectation is that District Directors will approve and forward requests to the Credentials Committee only in very special cases. There is no appeal from the Credentials Committee decision.

The Credentials Committee (CC) is also responsible for clarifying which District a player is allowed to play in when said player's eligibility is in question. When a challenge to one's eligibility from a Unit final stage or later stage has been made, the CC may request documentary evidence from the member whose eligibility is in question. If a member is unable to verify to the CC's satisfaction that he or she is playing in the District of the member's principal residence, the CC shall automatically disqualify the member and his or her partner. Knowingly attempting to compete in a District in which a player is not eligible constitutes a Second Degree Ethical Violation as defined by the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

#### Guidelines for Exceptions:

As noted above, the expectation is that exceptions will be rare. Following are some situations where an exception may be considered:

- “Snowbird”. A member with seasonal residences who spends more than half of the NAP (June 1 – August 31) qualifying period in a District other than the District of his principal physical residence may play beyond the club qualifying stage in the District of seasonal residence. If he chooses to do so, he may play in the District level final of only one District. He must play in that District's District finals to be eligible to play in the National Final. All necessary approvals must be obtained before play begins at the District level.
- A player with multiple domiciles should apply to the Credentials Committee for a onetime choice of District in which he wishes to play. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. This player may be asked to document his time in each of his residences. The player must spend at least three months each year in a District in order to have it considered as a domicile possibility. Once a player



chooses a District in which to play, he must play only in that District until he no longer has a domicile in that District.

- A participant who is a full-time student, a member of the armed forces or an employee requiring temporary relocation may play in the District in which he temporarily resides.
- In rare cases, a player who is a member of a Unit in a District in which he does not reside may seek permission to play in the District in which he has a Unit membership. Such an exception will be considered only if all of the conditions below are met:
  - Lives sufficiently close to the District borders;
  - Has been a member of the Unit in which he wishes to play for at least 5 years continuously prior to the start of the competition in the year for which the exception is being requested.;
  - Must not have played in the GNT or NAP in another District for that period of time.;
and
    - Must have been actively involved as a volunteer in the Unit or District in which he wishes to play for at least two years. Possibilities include, but are not limited to: Unit or District Board Member, Chair of NABC or major NABC Committee, District or Unit Recorder, Tournament Chair, or Club Manager.

Any player seeking an exception for this reason must document the reasons why an exception should be considered and send it to both District Directors involved, as described above. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. The District Director of the District in which the player seeks to play must confirm the fact that the player has been an active volunteer in the District (or Unit) where the player does not live. If the player seeks to play in Flight A, the District Director must then forward such a request to the Credentials Committee. Should an exception be granted for this reason, the player is eligible to play only in that District and may not change Unit affiliation unless the player's principal physical residence changes.

- The Credentials Committee may consider exceptions under unusual circumstances for otherwise eligible players who change their District through a change in their physical domicile after June 1. Requests shall be made at least 30 days before the District Level final.

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### APPENDIX II SELECTION OF ADDED PAIRS TO NATIONAL FINAL – FLIGHT A

In addition to the three top pairs in Flight A determined at the 25 District finals, two more pairs for the flight will be invited to participate in the National Final determined as follows:

One of the two extra pairs will be the previous year's winners at the National Final. This pair may, if they wish, play in the current event at any stage for which they are eligible and qualified. Should either or both players move to a different District, the pair is still deemed to represent their original District. The second pair will represent the highest ranked District as determined by the method described below.

#### DETERMINATION OF EXTRA PAIR

For Flight A, Districts will be ranked from 1 to 25 on two scales:

1. The total tables in play at the club level (in each flight) based on reports received at ACBL headquarters by October 1. (The lowest table count will be assigned a value of 1 and the highest a value of 25)
2. The ratio of total tables in play at the club level in each flight to the total membership of that flight in the District as of May 1 Data Processing computer cycle.
3. The values determined in numbers 1 and 2 above will be added and the District with the highest total will earn the extra berth.
4. Ties will be broken in favor of the highest participation percentage and then by total club level participation.
5. The home District of the previous year's Flight A winner is not eligible to earn the other Flight A extra pair regardless of their ranking as determined by steps 1 - 4 above.

## 2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### APPENDIX III RIBBON QUALIFICATIONS EARNED

Flight	Single-Site District Final	Split-Site - Separate Ranks	National Final
<b>A &amp; B</b>	1st and 2nd (plus ties) = Blue Ribbon Q	1st at each site (plus ties) = Blue Ribbon Q	Top Ten (plus ties) = Blue Ribbon Q
<b>C</b>	1st and 2nd (plus ties) = Red Ribbon Q	1st at each site (plus ties) = Red Ribbon Q	Top Ten (plus ties) = Red Ribbon Q

## 2023 – 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### APPENDIX IV MASTERPOINT AWARDS

NOTE: FOR ANY STAGE PLAYED ONLINE, MASTERPOINT AWARDS ARE REDUCED BY 20% FROM THE VALUES GIVEN BELOW.

#### CLUB STAGE

1. Flight A awards at an Open Club are as listed on the Championship Rated Masterpoint Award Chart (<http://cdn.acbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Pairs-Awards.pdf>), divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.
2. Flight B awards at an Open Club are 70% of the awards on the Championship Rated Masterpoint Award Chart, divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.
3. Flight C awards at an Open Club are 50% of the awards on the Championship Rated Masterpoint Award Chart, divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.
4. At an Invitational Club, the masterpoint awards are 80% of the awards at an Open Club, divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.

#### UNIT STAGE

Flight	Color One Session	Color - Two Sessions or More Overall Section		Rating
<b>A</b>	Red	20% G, 80% R	Red	100% of Sectional Rating
<b>B</b>	Red	10% G, 90% R	Red	70% of Sectional Rating
<b>C</b>	Red	5% G, 95% R	Red	50% of Sectional Rating

#### DISTRICT STAGE

Flight	First Overall			Color - Overall Awards	Color - Section Top	Color - Session Awards	Rating of Session Awards
	2 Sessions	3 Sessions	4 Sessions				
<b>A</b>	32.00	40.00	48.00	100% Gold	Gold	Red	100% of Regional
<b>B</b>	22.50	28.00	33.50	100% Gold	Gold	Red	70% of Regional
<b>C</b>	15.00	17.50	20.00	50% Gold 50% Red	50% Gold 50% Red	Red	62.5% of Regional

**NOTE: In Districts holding a separately scored and ranked split-site final, the applicable first place award will be divided in proportion to each site's share of the total tables.**

#### NATIONAL FINAL

Flight	1st Overall Points	Session Awards
<b>A</b>	100.00 Platinum (Gold if played online)	Platinum (Gold if online) at 100% of National Rating

<b>B</b>	60.00 Gold	Gold/Red at 70% of National Rating
<b>C</b>	13.34 Gold, 26.66 Red	Red at 50% of National Rating (Except Section Top 1/3 Gold, 2/3 Red)

## 2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### APPENDIX V

#### **STRATIFYING YOUR CLUB, UNIT AND DISTRICT NAP GAME NOTE: SET YOUR STRATS USING THE NAP LIMITS - NONE/2500/NLM (<500)**

1. At the club level, the club may always choose to stratify qualifying games. It may not be possible to specify strats for club qualifiers run online by a VACB Virtual Club. If that is the case, reporting will be available that will allow a list of qualifiers to be generated by ACBL Live for Clubs.
2. At the Unit level, Units are encouraged to stratify but are allowed to flight events.
3. At the District level, stratification is **NOT** recommended but a two-session play-through stratified event is allowed when attendance is insufficient to support separate flights.
4. In a stratified event, pairs from each flight should be evenly distributed in the North-South and East-West fields.
5. Flight A, B or C pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of the Flight A field (N-S or E-W) qualify for the next level of play in Flight A.
6. Flight B or Flight C pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of the Flight B field (N-S or E-W) qualify for the next level of play in Flight B.
7. Flight C pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of the Flight C field (N-S or E-W) qualify for the next level of play in Flight C.
8. A pair with a final score of 50.00% or higher (even though the finishing position is not in the top half of the field) is deemed to also be in the top half of the field.
9. At the club level, Flight C (NLM) may be a “stand-alone” stratified event with the club selecting its own limits for lower strats. These lower strats do not qualify for later stages, and award black masterpoints only.
10. Flights A and B may be run as a stratified event (with Flight C run separately).
11. Flights B and C may be run as a stratified event (with Flight A run separately).
12. At the Unit level, to be eligible to compete in any particular flight, a pair must have played at the club level and qualified in that particular flight. For example, any Flight C player who qualified at the club level in both B and C may compete at the Unit level in B and C but not in A.
13. At the District level, to be eligible to compete in any particular flight, a pair must have played at the Unit level (if required by District conditions) and qualified in that particular flight. For example, any Flight C player who qualified at the Unit level in both B and C may compete at the District level in B and C but not in A.
14. Qualifiers are determined for each strat across the field at large.
15. Ineligible players are disregarded when selecting qualifiers from a stratified field.
16. At District option, 60% of the field at the Unit level may be qualified.
17. At both the club and Unit level, the District has the option of qualifying all pairs if fewer than five pairs enter the scheduled qualifying event and all pairs paid their entry fees. This also applies when an insufficient number of pairs enter the lowest strat of a scheduled stratified game. Sanction fees, player numbers and names must be submitted to ACBL.
18. A District running a stratified District Final must continue the same format for all sessions.

## 2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### APPENDIX VI ORGANIZERS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Organizers and directors should be familiar with all Conditions of Contest in order to conduct the event.

#### DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Each District will appoint a District NAP Coordinator whose duties are to:

1. Submit to ACBL Headquarters, prior to commencement of the event, a set of District NAP Conditions of Contest supplementing the National Conditions with the District's options and specifics. This should be completed prior to the start of the Club Qualifying period (i.e. June 1).
2. Provide necessary information to players, clubs and Units.
3. Perform all other functions necessary for the smooth and efficient operation of the contest at all stages within the District.

#### CLUB STAGE

1. Clubs may hold up to two (2) club qualifying games in each of the three months (June, July, August) for each weekly sanctioned session held that month. This applies to each flight.
2. No special sanction is required; clubs should use the club number as the sanction number.
3. A club may hold a qualifying game at a time for which it is not sanctioned only by obtaining permission from the club's home Unit.
4. A club may hold a qualifying game at a different location (to accommodate expected attendance) provided the game is at the same time as its regularly scheduled sanctioned game and the move is adequately publicized.
5. A club may hold a regular club game simultaneously with any flight of a NAP qualifying game.
6. An *invitational club* (a club open to members only) may conduct a NAP qualifying game:
  - A. under its usual rules and award masterpoints at 80% of an open club; or
  - B. may, with Unit permission and appropriate publicity, hold an open qualifying game for any NAP flight provided the game is open to any ACBL member fitting any applicable flight participation requirements.
7. A club-stage game may not be held within 25 miles of a Sectional tournament within the District without permission of the District Director or his designee. Since virtual clubs have no physical location from which 25 miles may be measured, no online club-stage games may be held by a club in a Unit which is hosting a Sectional.
8. All club-stage games conflicting with a Regional tournament in that District may be prohibited by the District. Club-stage games MAY conflict with online Regional-rated events run by ACBL. (Consult your NAP District Conditions of Contest)
9. A club-stage event must have a club or higher-rated director. ACBL recommends a nonplaying director, but games of one section with 17 tables or fewer (at the club or Unit stage only) may have a playing director.

10. Sections should not be larger than 17 tables. Boards should be duplicated when there are two or more sections. The game should be seeded regardless of size.
11. The game director may issue qualifying slips to the qualifiers. ACBLscore will print qualifying slips if needed; for virtual games, this does not apply. Players can see their qualification status in ACBL Live for Clubs.
12. At a club-stage game, each pair must be scheduled to play at least 21 boards.
13. A list of all the qualifiers from each game must be submitted to the District NAP Coordinator or his designee. This will be done automatically by ACBL Live for Clubs.
14. Fees of \$5.10 (U.S.) per table, per session are due ACBL and are paid via the usual ACBL Live for Clubs process.
15. Club NAP qualifying games must be stratified using these limits: Open/2500/NLM<500.
16. A stand-alone Flight C event may be stratified, using levels as deemed appropriate by the club. Only those players placing in the top strat (NLM <500) will be eligible to qualify to advance to the Unit stage. Only overall awards in the top strat will be half red, half black masterpoints; lower strats award only black masterpoints
17. See Qualifying for the Next Level for determination of qualifiers.
18. When an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than five pairs) enter a scheduled qualifying event, all players who pay their entry fee are qualified to the next stage of competition.
19. When an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than five pairs) enter the lowest strat of a scheduled stratified game, all players who pay their entry fee are qualified to the next stage of competition.
20. A list of all qualifiers from each game, taken from ACBL Live for Clubs, will automatically be submitted to the District NAP Coordinator or his designee.
21. If no clubs in a particular Unit hold club level qualifying games, then the Unit must hold a club level qualifying game.

<b>UNIT STAGE - ORGANIZATION</b>
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1. A District may opt not to require Unit qualifying games.
2. If a District does not require Unit qualifying games, Units within that District may still hold non-qualifying Unit finals at their local discretion; District may hold a multi-Unit single-site Unit final prior to the District final; or eliminate the Unit stage, qualifying directly from the clubs to a District final.
3. If Unit finals are held, the following options are available:
  - A. A one-Unit Unit final sponsored by the Unit or by the District;
  - B. A multi-Unit single-site Unit final sponsored by one or more Units or the District;
  - C. A Unit semi-final game (club-stage rating) to qualify a reasonable number of pairs to a Unit final (with District permission after multiple stage qualifiers); or
  - D. A concurrent multiple-site Unit final (but not if a Unit semi-final is held). Games in a multiple-site Unit final should be concurrent.
4. At least 90 days prior to the event, a sanction application approved by the District NAP coordinator must be submitted to ACBL Headquarters for each Unit final.
  - A. Go to <https://www.acbl.org/administration/#units>, click on Sanction Applications and then select Unit NAP Sanction Application. Fill out the form and click on the submit button.
  - B. Your application will come to the Special Events Department via e-mail.
  - C. Your submission will be acknowledged and copied to your District Tournament Coordinator, who can then approve it or inform you of any objections.

- D. Your sanction number is the letter “U” followed by the Unit number unless the event is directed by an ACBL-assigned Director in which case you will be notified of the sanction number.
- 5. The sponsor is responsible for obtaining a director (club- or higher-rated) for each game site and for obtaining supplies, etc.

### UNIT STAGE - CONDUCTING AND REPORTING

- 1. The Unit final may be one or more sessions. (Overall awards in a two-session or more Unit final are part gold. See Appendix IV – Masterpoint Awards).
- 2. The first session of a Unit final may be used to qualify at least 70% of the field for the second session. The percent of the field to qualify must be announced no later than the second round in session one. A consolation session for non-qualifiers may be held awarding black points at 65% of sectional rating for Flight A, black points at 53% of sectional rating for Flight B and black points at 39% of sectional rating for Flight C.
- 3. Each session of a Unit final must be at least 24 and no more than 30 boards.
- 4. Ineligible pairs playing to fill out the movement will receive **session** awards (no overall awards) won but may not qualify for the next stage of the event. If the ineligible pair includes one or two players with more masterpoints than permitted in the flight they are filling in, duplicate masterpoint awards will be issued by ACBL.
- 5. A player arriving to play must advise the director of the name of the club at which he qualified.
- 6. The game director may issue qualifying slips to qualifiers. ACBLscore will print qualifying slips if needed.
- 7. Game results must be reported to the District NAP Coordinator.
- 8. A fee of \$8.10 (U.S.) per table, per session must be remitted to ACBL.
- 9. Unit finals may not be played online.

### DISTRICT STAGE

- 1. The District Coordinator must submit the sanction application to ACBL Headquarters 90 days prior to date of the event, or by August 1, whichever is earlier. Application is by email to [tournaments@acbl.org](mailto:tournaments@acbl.org).
- 2. A tournament director will be assigned by the Tournament Department to officiate at each District final. ACBL will attempt to assign requested directors. A District final may be:
  - A. A two-session playthrough event.
  - B. A three-session event, the first two sessions playthrough to qualify approximately 50% of the field for the final session (with carryover as per ACBL formula).
  - C. A four-session event, the first two sessions playthrough to qualify approximately 50% of the field for the final two playthrough sessions (with carryover as per ACBL formula).
  - D. A four-session playthrough event.
- 3. A District may hold a split-site District final; each site governed by the same conditions of contest as detailed in the District’s submitted conditions. The DICs at both sites should coordinate the reporting of results to be certain the determination of rankings is reported accurately.
- 4. Each session must be at least 24 boards and no more than 30 boards.



5. Only ACBL members in good standing may participate. Ineligible pairs playing to fill out the movement will receive any **session** awards (no overall awards) won but may not qualify to the next stage of the event. If the ineligible pair includes one or two players with more masterpoints than permitted in the flight they are filling in, duplicate masterpoint awards will be issued by ACBL.
6. When a qualifying format is used, the District may run a one or two-session consolation for the non-qualifiers.
7. Stratification at the District final is NOT recommended, but a two session playthrough stratified event is allowed when attendance is insufficient to support separate flights.
8. A fee of \$8.10 (U.S.) per table, per session must be submitted to ACBL. (NAP games held in conjunction with other tournaments will not be charged more or less than their prescribed sanction fees). District finals held online will incur a fee of one additional director session per day of competition.
9. District stage competitions may not be held during an NABC.

## 2023 - 24 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

### Appendix VII CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR ONLINE DISTRICT NAP FINALS

#### General Conditions

1. This event will be hosted by Bridge Base Online (BBO), which is the only approved host for games awarding ACBL masterpoints. BBO will charge a fee of 25% of gross entry sales to host the event.
2. Regarding any of these conditions, the decision of the Director in Charge (DIC) will be final. The DIC is empowered to remedy any omissions in these CoC.
3. Unless specifically noted below, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the ACBL Convention Charts, the ACBL Alert Procedures, the CoC for the 2023-24 NAP, General CoC for Pairs events, Appendix O for Online Play and ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy shall govern this event.
4. The DIC must be an ACBL Director, with the rank of Tournament Director or higher, and shall have the authority to assign his own staff.
5. The Tournament Organizer will provide a format for the event which includes contingencies for any number of pairs in each flight.
6. If feasible, contestants in each flight will play the same deals as others within their flight.
7. Each Contestant shall have access to these CoC and the event's format (#5 above). Failure to have reviewed these conditions, or lack of proficiency with computers or the software used by the online host does not excuse any irregularity, or violation of these conditions.
8. Each pair must pre-register no later than one week prior to the announced date of the contest. Late entrants may be accepted for the convenience of the movement and only at the discretion of the DIC. At the time of pre-registration, pairs are required to submit the following information for each pair member:
  - Name
  - ACBL Number
  - BBO ID
  - Any special needs not addressed by these CoC.
9. In the event a Contestant who, due to disability, is unable to use a computer, and in all cases where a Contestant does not have the requisite computer skills, said Contestant may appoint an Operator to relay calls, plays and explanations thereof. The Operator must be named in preregistration and is subject to the approval of the DIC.
10. Should a technical difficulty delay play for one or more tables, play in all unaffected tables shall continue and 15 minutes will be allotted to resolve the issue before play is suspended. If play is suspended for longer than 15 minutes, the decision of the DIC about the continuation of the event shall be final.

## **Security**

1. Proctored sites are no longer required. Players may participate from any location, provided that partners are not playing from within the same room.
2. Contestants are not permitted to be in possession of any electronic communication devices while they are competing. While it is impossible to monitor this directly, any evidence of communication external to BBO, electronic or otherwise, will constitute a violation. VIOLATION OF THIS CONDITION WILL RESULT IN A MANDATORY PENALTY OF ONE FULL BOARD, AND A SECOND VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN THE PAIR'S DISQUALIFICATION.
3. Contestants may only run the following applications during the play period:
  - A. Bridge Base Online app or an internet browser for the purpose of accessing BBO
  - B. A document reader with approved written defenses from ACBL's defense database (Flight A only).
4. Contestants must not relay any extraneous information through chat visible to partner.
5. Suspicious calls or plays should be reported to the Director. All calls and plays are subject to review by the ACBL Recorder or his designee.

## **The Play**

1. Contestants are required to post a complete convention card, in ACBL format, including any supplemental notes.
2. The ACBL Open+ Chart applies to the Flight A Finals. Pairs playing methods requiring a written defense must pre-alert their opponents and post a written description of their method(s) along with their convention card. Contestants opposing a pair playing such methods are permitted to access the ACBL's defense database and keep said defenses open in their internet browser.
3. The ACBL Basic + Convention Chart applies to Flight B and C.
4. The Director must be summoned electronically for any irregularity which occurs during play. Once the Director has been summoned, all play and bidding shall cease until the Director authorizes its continuation.
5. Contestants are required to alert and explain their own calls (not their partner's). When one makes an Alertable call, the bidder must give a full explanation of the agreement to his opponents (and only his opponents.) Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.
6. Any Contestant may request, but only at his turn to call or play, information concerning an opponents' methods. Such inquiries may be asked of either or both opponents but must be asked in a private chat. Replies to these inquiries must be given in a private chat.

7. Violations of conditions, thereby making available to one's partner extraneous information by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert, failure to alert, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism (Security 4 & The Play 5 & 6), shall be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and are subject to procedural penalties. Contestants must report any such violations to the DIC.
8. Any deviation in tempo does convey extraneous information and is subject to rectification under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Any Contestant experiencing technical difficulties which may be construed as conveying extraneous information should immediately inform the Director.
9. Claims, concessions, agreement thereto and contention or cancellation thereof will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
10. Unintended calls or plays will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. If a Contestant makes an unintended call or play he should summon the Director immediately. As in live play, undos are permitted only upon instruction of the Director.
11. See Appendix O for additional information about online play.