

CHAPTER XI – SPECIAL EVENTS

A. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS - GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS AND NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

The Grand National Teams (GNT) and North American Pairs (NAP) were created initially with the expectation that players would play in and represent the Districts in which they lived.

- 1.1 For the GNTs a member's principal physical residence as of September 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.
 - 1.1.1 All residency requirements and requests for exceptions shall also apply to players augmented onto GNT teams.
- 1.2 For the NAPs 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.
- 1.3 In both events, changes in residence after such date shall not change the District in which the player is eligible to participate.
- 1.4 Guidelines for Exceptions
 - 1.4.1 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 District Directors must approve the request for the exception to be granted.
 - 1.4.2 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.
 - 1.4.3 Listed below are examples of situations where an exception might be considered. Others may arise and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
 - a. “Snowbird”. A member with seasonal residences who spends more than half of the GNT (September 1-February 28) or 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 only play in the District level final of one District. He must play in that District’s District finals to be eligible to play in the national finals. Such a player will not be eligible to be added to a team from his other District. All

necessary approvals must be obtained before play begins at the District level.

- b. A player with multiple domiciles should apply to the Credentials Committee for a one-time 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.
- c. A participant who is a full-time student, a member of the armed forces or whose employment requires temporary relocation may play in the District in which he temporarily resides.

1.4.4 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:

- a. Lives sufficiently close to the District borders
- b. 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.
- c. Must not have played in the GNT or NAP in another District for that period of time.
- d. 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.

Note: Simply playing bridge in the other District/Unit or having a regular partner who resides in the other District is not considered sufficient reason for an exception to the “play where you live” rule.

- 1.4.4.1 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 is a member must confirm the fact that the player has been an active volunteer in the District (or

Unit) where the player does not live before forwarding such requests to the Credentials Committee (Championship Flight only.)

1.4.4.2 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.

- 1.5 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 teammates.
- 1.6 When a member is disqualified by the CC, the matter will be referred to the ACBL President who may choose to make charges to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee in accordance with section 2.2.3 (d) of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.
- 1.7 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 September 1. Request shall be made at least 30 days before the appropriate District Level final.
- 1.8 There is no appeal from the Credentials Committee decision.

B. GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

Section 1 – Guidelines

- 1.1 Any player participating in GNT events must be a dues-paying or service-fee paid-up ACBL member prior to playing in any level of this event except club qualifying.
- 1.2 The GNT competition will have four flights as follows:
- a. Championship Flight: 0-unlimited
 - b. Flight A: 0-6000 MP
 - c. Flight B: 0-2500 MP
 - d. Flight C: non-Life Master up to 500 MP
- 1.3 The District has the option of conducting any fair bridge competition it chooses to select a winning team for each flight, which is then entitled to play in the National Finals at the Summer NABC. Sometimes a GNT club round qualifying is scheduled, but participation by an individual club is optional.

- 1.4 The ACBL Finals of Flights B and C of the GNT will be a seeded knockout.
 - 1.4.1 Seeding will be by average masterpoints. Ties will be broken by lot.
- 1.5 At the GNT National Finals screens shall be used starting in the round of 8 in the Championship Flight and Flight A and in the round of 4 in Flights B and C. If, due to space limitations, Management believes that they will be unable to comply with these regulations, Management may reduce the number of screens as appropriate.

Section 2 – Fees and Fund Raising

- 2.1 Sanction fees shall be \$1.00 per table per session at all stages of the event. At District option, a surcharge may be added.
- 2.2 Each Regional shall be allocated one (1) sanction-free midnight Swiss game held to subsidize District GNT competition.
- 2.3 A District may permit each club within its area to hold one sectional-rated event (for as many game sessions as the club has sanctioned) as a fundraiser for the Grand National Teams or the Canadian National Team Championship. Each District sets the amount its clubs remit to it, to a maximum of \$6.00 per table.

Section 3 – Miscellaneous GNT Regulations

- 3.1 The regulations that apply to sanctioning Sectionals shall apply to the sanctioning of a District's GNT Final.
- 3.2 ACBL members representing their NCBO or Zone II in WBF competitions shall be granted a waiver of the qualification requirements for Grand National Teams where a conflict of dates exists. This waiver will not apply to a District Final.
- 3.3 Districts may hold events in one or more stages.
- 3.4 Districts may hold Sectional-rated events in conjunction with the District finals of Grand National Team Events.
- 3.5 If a flight is held at a Sectional, silver points shall be awarded at that stage.
- 3.6 District champions of each flight will be eligible to participate in a National finals to be held immediately prior to the start of the summer NABC. A District need not be represented at the National finals.
 - 3.6.1 There will be no subsidy from the ACBL nor any required subsidy from the Districts.

- 3.7 The GNT Championship Flight masterpoints won at the NABC Final in the semifinals and finals will be included in the Player of the Year race.
- 3.8 The GNT Championship Flight masterpoints won at the NABC Final in the semifinals and finals will be included for the Fishbein Trophy awarded to the Player winning the most masterpoints at the Summer NABC in NABC+ events.

C. NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

Section 1 – Guidelines

- 1.1 Any player participating in NAP events must be a dues-paying or service-fee paid-up ACBL member prior to playing in any level of this event except club qualifying.
- 1.3 The NAP competition will have three flights as follows:
- a. Flight A: 0-unlimited
 - b. Flight B: 0-2500 MP
 - c. Flight C: Non-Life Master up to 500

Section 2 – Club Level Qualifying

- 2.1 The club qualifying round for all Flights of the NAP will be held in June, July and August.
- 2.2 A club may conduct two qualifying events in each Flight for each weekly game sanctioned in each month.
- 2.3 A game may be held as a stratified event. If there is a separate Non-LM qualifying game, it may be stratified as 0-20, 20-100, 100-500 (non-LM).
- 2.4 A club may move the site of its NAP qualifying game to accommodate increased attendance, but the club must hold the event at the same time as one of its regular sanctioned game sessions.
- 2.5 Clubs hosting NAP games must return the financial report and fees due by the 10th of the following month.
- 2.6 Each club must schedule its NAP game on one of its sanctioned sessions (exceptions can be approved by the unit) within the specified month for qualification.
- 2.7 The ACBL recommends that games of 18 or more tables be divided into two or more sections.

- 2.8 Duplicated boards across all sections are desirable but not mandatory. A minimum of 21 boards must be played, and all games should be seeded. ACBL issues all masterpoints earned at NAP events.
- 2.9 A club level-qualifying event must be a one-session open pair event.
- 2.10 A club-stage event must have a club or higher-rated director. ACBL recommends a non-playing director, but games of one section with 17 tables or fewer may have a playing director.
- 2.11 In emergencies, substitutes may play up to 50% of the boards. Substitutes who play more than 50% of the boards acquire the rights of the original contestants. Masterpoint awards are 100% sectional rated, ½ red, ½ black.
- 2.12 An invitational club may participate and qualify players for the unit level competition. Masterpoint awards for invitational flights are all black and are equivalent to 80% of sectional rating.
- 2.13 With prior unit approval, an invitational club may open its games to all ACBL members, with players earning the same masterpoint awards as they would at open clubs.
- 2.13.1 Before approval is granted, however, the unit must be satisfied that the club will adequately advertise the fact that the game will be open. If a unit refuses permission for an open game, a club may appeal the unit's decision to the district organization.
- 2.14 Players may participate in club level NAP competitions outside their home districts. These players will receive any masterpoints earned and any qualifications earned are for the next level of play in their home district.
- 2.15 At a club level qualifying game, all eligible individuals who earn masterpoints or finish in the top half of the field, and any individuals who score 50% or better, earn qualification to play at the unit level.
- 2.16 When there is a separate Non-LM qualifying game, it may be stratified as follows:
0 - 20, 20 - 100, and 100 - 500 (Non-LM).
- 2.16.1 Only those players placing in the top strat, 100-500 (Non-LM), will be eligible to qualify and go on to the unit round.

Section 3 - Fees and Awards

- 3.1 A District may charge an additional fee, not to exceed \$1.00 per table, at the club level of the North American Pairs Event.
- 3.2 A fixed amount prize will be awarded in all flights as follows:

- 3.2.1 In districts with three qualifiers, the 1st place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the 2nd place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person. The 3rd place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the national level finals, but will not receive any prize.
- 3.2.2 In districts with four qualifiers, the 1st and 2nd place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the 3rd place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person. The 4th place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the national level finals, but will not receive any prize.
- 3.2.3 Invited defenders will receive \$700 per person.
- 3.2.4 No individual may collect two concurrent prizes.
- 3.2.5 In the event of a tie, the qualifiers will receive the total of the awards for the tied places, divided by the number of players involved with the tie.
- 3.2.6 The monetary award will be available on site. Qualifiers must play in the national level event until eliminated to receive the award.
- 3.2.7 There will be no entry fee for the national level of the event.
- 3.2.8 Management may use its best judgment in making exceptions to any of the above.

Section 4 – Miscellaneous NAP Regulations

- 4.1 ACBL members representing their NCBO or Zone II in WBF competitions shall be granted a waiver of the qualification requirements for North American Pairs where a conflict of dates exists. This waiver will not apply to a District Final.
- 4.2 Club or Unit Grand National Pair events may not be held within 25 miles of a Sectional tournament.
- 4.3. At District option, clubs may not hold Grand National Pair Qualifying events in conflict with a Regional in that District.
- 4.4 For the unit level competition, both members of the pair must play in their home district. No player may enter more than one unit level competition per flight.
- 4.5 All participants at the unit level must be ACBL members in good standing and be current in payment of dues or Life Master service fees. Non-members may join ACBL at the time they register to play. To accommodate non-members and others who do not wish to play in the NAP event, a club may conduct a regular game at the same time as the qualifying event.
- 4.6 Districts may hold Sectional-rated events in conjunction with the District finals of North American Pair Events.

- 4.7 The regulations that apply to sanctioning Sectionals shall apply to the sanctioning of a District's Final.
- 4.8 Each District may choose to host their North American Pairs (NAP) District Finals through an ACBL approved online host according to the provisions of Appendix VII of the NAP CoC.
- 4.9 The number of members used in the formula to determine extra pairs for the National final is equivalent to the number of members in that District eligible to participate in that level of the event. The extra pairs will be based on the percentage of participation, at the club level, within each Flight.
- 4.10 The North American Pairs final will be a four-session event, with between 52 and 78 pairs competing in a two-session Qualifying for a two-session Final with carryover as per ACBL formula. In Flight A, 28 pairs will qualify for the Final. In Flights B and C, approximately 50% of the original entry will qualify for the Final.
- 4.11 The National Finals of Flight A of the North American Pairs will be held on the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the Spring NABC. Flights B and C will be held on the second Saturday and Sunday of the Spring NABC

D. ACBL-WIDE AND OTHER SPECIAL GAMES

Section 1 - General

- 1.1 ACBL-wide special games may not be conducted during any month that is designated as a special fund month. The months of January (Grass Roots) February (Junior), April (Charity), and September (International) are designated as special fund game months.
- 1.2 Management will select appropriate dates for the ACBL-wide events.
- 1.3 ACBL-wide games held at sites where the minimum number of tables requirement is not met shall award master points on the same basis as those held at sites where these requirements are met but shall be excluded from District and National ranking..
- 1.4 Management shall publish the statistics and a financial review of all special event games in the Journal for each Spring meeting of the Board. The report is to include the administrative man-hour and advertising costs required to support these events.
- 1.5 For ACBL-Wide Charity Games, ACBL-Wide International Fund Games, the annual ACBL-Wide Senior pairs, the annual ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint game and District-Wide Charity games, overall and District awards will be determined as follows (official hand records must be used):
- a. Overall: First Place: 20 points Depth of awards: 10 places
 - b. District: First Place: 10 points Depth of awards: 5 places
- 1.5.1 Winners will receive the greater of the nationwide and the District awards, in addition to masterpoints won at the game itself.

Section 2. – ACBL-Wide Senior Event

- 2.1 The event must be conducted on a specific weekday afternoon designated by the ACBL.
- 2.2 Each club applying for a sanction must either (a) already be sanctioned to conduct a game at that time; or (b) submit its Unit's written approval to conduct the game.
- 2.3 Sanction fee is \$4.00 for each table in play and must be remitted with the report of the game.
- 2.4 Participants must be 60 years of age or older.
- 2.5 For each site, overall and section Masterpoint awards, based on 80% Sectional rating, will be issued by the ACBL.
- 2.6 Hand records and analyses shall be provided.

Section 3 - International Fund Games

- 3.1 If this game is run by a club (or clubs) in a unit, the unit may not schedule any bridge event at the same time, except a Sectional or Regional.
- 3.2 The color of masterpoints awarded for continent-wide International Fund games is 1/2 red and 1/2 black.
- 3.3 One "Midnight" event shall be conducted at each NABC for the benefit of the International Fund.
 - 3.3.1 Organizations sponsoring Regional and Sectional tournaments shall be encouraged to hold a similar event at each of their tournaments. Such events shall carry Sectional rating.

Section 4 – WBF World Wide Pairs (WWP)

- 4.1 The WWP may be held at clubs, Sectionals or Regionals.
- 4.2 The Friday and Saturday games are two separate events.
- 4.3 When this event is held at a tournament as part of a 2-session event, the sponsoring organization pays the sanction fee for the WWP for those players entered in both the tournament event and the WWP. One sanction fee only is paid. The event is scored twice - once as the WWP and once as the tournament event. Participants entered in both are eligible only for the higher masterpoint award. Note: Points remain half /red, half black for the WWP either red/gold or silver as is appropriate for the tournament event.
- 4.4 When the WWP is held at a sectional or regional, it should have its own separate section except that the organization may offer this event, in addition, to those playing in a two session event one session of which is concurrent with the WWP
- 4.5 A one (1) session event may not be played as a WWP and a Tournament Event....i.e. - the event awards only WWP masterpoints. In a one session event a player is only eligible for masterpoints from one event.
- 4.6 ACBL masterpoints will be awarded to overall winners in each District each day each direction.
- 4.7 The financial statistics of the WBF World Wide Pairs will be made available to the Board for review at the Summer meeting.

Section 5 - District and ACBL-Wide Games

- 5.1 Overall masterpoints will be awarded in Continent-wide Charity Games and in Continent-Wide International Fund games that use hand records and for which National and District winners are determined and published in the ACBL Bulletin.
- 5.2 Overall masterpoints will be awarded in District-Wide Charity Games that use hand records and for which District winners are determined.
- 5.3 In addition to District overall awards, Continent-wide overall winners will be determined and overall masterpoints awarded.
- 5.4 Overall point awards will be red points with amounts and depth of awards as recommended by the Masterpoint Committee and approved by the ACBL Board of Directors.
- 5.5 Instant Matchpoint Game
 - 5.5.1 Games meeting open standards will be considered in the open contest. (Note: ½ table games will be included.)
 - 5.5.2 Minimum of five (5) tables is required.
 - 5.5.3 Minimum boards to be played by any pair in the open contest is 20.
 - 5.5.4 Howell movements meeting open standards will award a gold point for first place.
 - 5.5.5 Games will award one (1) gold point to section tops in each direction in each club. The remaining points will be red/black at sectional rating.
Overall Awards: 1st, 20; depth of awards, 10 places
District Winners: 1st, 10; depth of awards, 5 places

Section 6 - State, Province, Country (SPC) Championships

- 6.1 This is an event in which each participating ACBL SPC may name a champion in each category by means of a fair competition that is not necessarily the same from SPC to SPC. The type of event and conditions of contest must be submitted to and approved by the ACBL Tournament Department.
- 6.2 There will not be a National final. The event may be flighted.
- 6.3 With ACBL Management approval, this event or any portion may be run through an on-line service. At SPC option, each flight may be played at three or fewer levels.
- 6.4 ACBL Rules and Regulations apply to all play in the event and supercede special SPC conditions in cases of conflict.

E. CANADIAN SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1.1 The Canadian Bridge Federation may hold as many Canada-wide Rookie/Master games each year as it chooses.

- 1.2 The masterpoint award for the COPC National Final is the same as the District Finals Championship Flight North American Pairs. Effective March 1, 1996.
- 1.3 The CBF is granted a sanction to hold sectional-rated black point games during Canadian Bridge week. One or more of these games may be designated as a qualifying event for the COPC by amendment of the COPC conditions of contest.
- 1.4 The annual one-session CBF Simultaneous Pairs game awards sectional-rated masterpoints. In addition to overall Canada-wide awards, there will be overall awards in each of the six CBF Zones.
- 1.5 The ACBL will sanction the following to be held during Canadian Bridge week:
 - A. Canadian National Flighted Championship (CNTC)
 - B. Canadian Women's Team Championship (CWTC)
 - C. Canadian Open Pairs Championship (COPC)
 - D. Canadian Senior Team Championship (CSTC)
 - E. Canadian IMP Pairs Championship (CIPC)