

District 7 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest, 2023–2024

Revised: October 18, 2023

ACBL Conditions of Contest are incorporated into these Conditions

General ACBL Conditions of Contest/GNT Conditions of Contest

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT2023-24.pdf>

Point Count!

There will be a different format this year at the district level. The details (locations and dates) are still being worked out, but here it what is available. Prequalification is required at the club level for flights A, B and C.

Flights B (0-2500) and C (0-500 NLM) – Two site district finals: Charlotte and Atlanta. Atlanta will be Flight B Sat Feb 17 and Flight C Sun Feb 18 at 11am and 4pm. Charlotte will be Flight B Sat Mar 9 and Flight C Sun Mar 10 times 10am and 2:30pm. One team from each site will qualify to play in Toronto as long as 8 total teams register for the event. If a team wins both they have to decide which National to play in and the second place team will replace them.

Championship Flight and Flight A – Two-day event in West Columbia, April 6–7, 2024. This remains unchanged with Saturday play to advance to the Sunday finals. Pre-qualification at the club level will be required for Flight A but not for the Championship Flight.

Championship Flight and Flight A finals will be held in West Columbia, SC, April 6–7, 2024. **All teams must register by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 6. Starting times are 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. subject to change. Preregistration is now required. Pre-registration** is being offered for the district finals: You may pre-register your team by sending a full roster—with ACBL #s—to the district coordinator Brian Hingerty behingerty@bellsouth.net by **Thursday April 4 (by 11 p.m.) for**. This will be sent to the director in charge (DIC). **Fees must be paid by game time.**

The National finals will be held at the **Toronto, Canada NABC** starting Wednesday, July 17, 2024. The playing site is Toronto Intercontinental, Sheraton and Westin. A stipend will be awarded to the winners of the district final, as well as some additional amounts for others that are awarded trips.

Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's September 2023 masterpoint cycle. This information will be produced on August 6, 2023, in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Questions/information contact District 7 GNT Coordinator Brian Hingerty:
(865) 694-0609 (home) or (615) 525-7906 (cell), behingerty@bellsouth.net,
8612 Peppertree Lane, Knoxville TN 37923

Conventions

The following is a link to the ACBL document for the allowed convention charts:
<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/Convention-Charts.pdf> The district final will use these charts as part of the conditions of contest.

Flight C	Basic+ Chart
Flight B	Basic+ Chart
Flight An	Open Chart
Championship	Open+ Chart

Players are responsible for ensuring their methods are legal for the event they are playing in. Official answers about permissible systems and conventions are available at rulings@acbl.org Players are required to have two printed copies of ACBL-approved defense available for the opponents for any convention that requires it. Even if defenses are not required, it is recommended that they be available to establish that the convention is Open Chart or Open+ Chart. Each player should have a copy available for the opponents.

All players, including those from other districts or non-members, may play at the club level. To play at the District 7 Finals, players must meet the following requirements:

- Be members of the ACBL and in good standing
- Have qualified at the club level except for the Championship Flight
- Be members of District 7 or have received special permission (rarely granted)

Teams are formed for the District 7 final from eligible players who qualified at the club level. Our district has determined that the Championship flight does not have to qualify at the club level because of the difficulty finding qualifying games. This affected many players last year.

Club Level Qualification:

The ACBL board has voted to allow online virtual club games as GNT qualifying events. I have verified this with the ACBL and it is a change of policy from the previous year.

Championship level teams do not have to qualify at the club level due to limited games available in many locations. We are requiring the other Flights A, B and C to qualify at the club level.

Clubs may hold GNT qualifying events from September 1, 2023, through and including March 31, 2024. Our district has usually been allowed to extend the normal time frame from February through March, since March does not normally have special games. These events should be stratified in 3 groups: combining Open and Flight A, Flight B, and Flight C. There is no limit for the number of GNT qualifying games a club may host. Players qualify as individuals and may play in as many qualifying events and on as many teams as they wish.

Qualifying games must be advertised to the local players at least 1 week prior to the event. In addition, we would like to encourage separate games for Flight C, Flight B and Flight A up to 6000 . As such, these will be flighted events similar to the Gold Rush pairs and Flight B events. They should be stratified. This is a good way for Flight C and B players to qualify without having to play against the top players. In addition, this will raise money for the district to help pay for the stipends given to the winners at the district final for a trip to the summer nationals.

Each sanctioned club may hold one GNT fundraiser pair game a year. Only face-to-face clubs may hold this special event. This rating does not exist for virtual club games. If your sanction covers more than one game in different time slots, then each time slot may have one GNT pairs fundraiser.

Fee Schedule – GNT games

District fees are **\$4.75/team** for one-session events, or **\$8/team** for two-session events. These fees should be paid to the District 7 GNT coordinator. Make checks payable to District 7 and forward with the appropriate **financial report** to the District 7 GNT coordinator:

Brian Hingerty: 8612 Peppertree Lane, Knoxville TN 37923

To facilitate payment of these fees the District Coordinator, Brian Hingerty, will accept Cash App payments to \$BEH0748 and Venmo payments to @behingerty since some of the club managers no longer use checks.

A list of qualifiers is no longer necessary with the advent of Live for Clubs. Individual player qualification is now available online. Players can check their qualification status online. The ACBL IT department has been slow to do this so there may be some delays.

Payment for the District 7 GNT fees must be paid within 30 days from the submission of the ACBL monthly club report. There will be a late fee penalty of \$25 for fees paid after this date. For example, a game held Oct 15 must have its district fees paid by Nov 30 or else the \$25 penalty will apply. There will be no penalty until Dec. 1 for September and October games.

ACBL Score will print out a form to be sent to the district coordinator with payment for GNT team games and GN pair fundraiser games. This can be done with a simple DBADD at the end of the game before it is submitted online. A special form for GNT and GN Fund Raiser games for clubs that host multiple events is included at the end of this notice.

Fee Schedule – GN Fund Raiser Games

Fees for **GNT Fundraiser** pair games are **\$4 per table**—to be sent to the D7 GNT coordinator. The ACBL monthly report will note that a GN fundraiser pair game was played but will note that the fees for this should be sent to the GNT coordinator and not to the ACBL in the financial report. This is similar to STAC games, for which the fees are sent to the STAC coordinator rather than to the ACBL. **The same \$25 penalty will apply if payment is not received within one month of the ACBL club monthly report.**

ACBL Score will also print out a form to be sent to the district coordinator with payment for GNT fundraiser games. Again, a simple DBADD will do it.

A special report form for the games held during the month for a club is included with this statement, very much like the STAC report form that has to be sent in to the STAC coordinator. This form should be included with the printed form from the ACBL Score program and a check made out to District 7. The form will also allow reporting of multiple games.

To Club Managers:

Please try to run club qualifiers and talk up how well the district players have performed in this event at the national level winning Flight C in 2023 in Chicago and both the Championship and Flight C in Providence in 2022. There is a stipend available to the players advancing to the national level to help defray some of the costs. The district stipend for GNT and NAP national participants comes from clubs holding and participating in **GRASS ROOTS FUND GAMES. As a club manager, please run as many of these games as possible, as the funds come back to the district. Grass Roots month is in May, but you may also opt to choose Grass Roots as your ACBL Charity games. See Special Games chart for more information.**

District Finals

Entry fees for the Championship Flight will be **\$20 per person per session or \$160 for a 2 session Swiss qualifier**. Since the Championship Flight does not have to qualify at the club level the district is charging \$6 extra per person per session. This is the same as the \$20 per session at regional events at an NABC.

Entry fees for the District Finals for Flight A, Flight B and Flight C will be our new regional entry fee of \$14 per person per session.:

\$56 per team/per session or \$112 for 2 sessions (\$14 per person per session)

If one of the teams that qualifies for the District 7 semi-final fails to participate, the next qualifying team will be given the chance to substitute for the team that fails to participate. The team that fails to participate will receive only match awards.

If one of the teams that qualifies for the final fails to participate, the other finalist will be declared the winner (they must pay an entry fee for the final). The team that fails to participate will receive an award based on third/fourth.

District 7 will award a stipend of **\$900 per player (or \$3600 for the team)** for the winning teams in each flight. (Any player augmented to the team after the district finals will not receive funds. However, if the team is willing, they may prorate their award funds to the augmented players). If a player does not participate in the national event, the stipend is to be refunded to the district.

The district treasurer is required to send a 1099 miscellaneous taxable income form for the stipend received if above \$600.

District champions who do not have at least 3 original members who played in the district finals will be replaced by the next eligible team willing to participate.

The captain of each winning flight is responsible for advising the district coordinator no later than June 15, 2024, of players to be replaced and/or of any augmentation. Players may be replaced only with confirmed consent of the replaced player. Any district champion team has the right to augment

up to a 6-person team that includes the players who participated at the district finals. Augmented players must have qualified at the club level. Substitution may be allowed at the discretion of the DIC so long as the substitute does not substantially improve the team for any individual session. The substitute must have qualified at the club level. Only one substitute is allowed per team per session. **Any emergency substitution will be determined by the DIC, whose decision is final.**

Tournament and Competition Committee

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The tournament and competition committee (or a subcommittee thereof) is responsible for any modifications and/or clarifications of the GNT Conditions of Contest.

If this is acceptable with the Sectional hosts, the Sunday Swiss will be run as a regional-rated game with an extra fee of \$1 per player per session to benefit the D7 Grass Roots Fund.

In the Championship and Flight A there will be a 28-board semi-final and final. There will be a carryover from the round robin Swiss of 49% of the IMPs with a maximum of one IMP per board.

In the Open and Flight, A, the NABC+ VP scale will be used.

In the Open and Flight A, pre-duplicated boards will be used.

If the Open is large enough to be divided into 2 groups, the two groups will be seeded for balance.

The following rules apply to single site District Finals.

In the Championship and Flight A events

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|-------------|---|
| 2 Teams | Head-to-head, 56 boards for the Open and 48 boards for flight A |
| 3 Teams | Three-way match on Saturday afternoon with one team eliminated, and head to head Saturday night with carryover of 49% of the IMPs from their match in the 3-way (with a maximum of one IMP per board to be played in final), 24–28 boards. |
| 4–11 Teams | Full round robin with carryover of 49% of the IMPs from the round-robin match, with a maximum of 0.99 IMP per board, 48–60 boards for full-day round robin qualifying.
If 4–5 teams, 2 teams advance to Sunday final, maximum of 48 boards; if 6–11 teams, 4 teams advance to (24 board) Sunday KO. There will be carryover of 49% of the IMPs from the round-robin match with a maximum of 0.99 IMP per board to be played in the semifinal or final.
The round robin winner shall have the right to choose its opponent for the semifinal. Carryover shall apply to both semifinal and final. |
| 12–20 Teams | Teams will be divided into two brackets with seeding by MP and each bracket will play a full round robin. 6 board matches are recommended.
The top seed shall be placed in one bracket and the next two seeds in the opposite bracket. Seeding will continue by twos unless only one team remains.
Two teams will qualify from each bracket with winners of each round robin playing the runner-up from the other bracket.
There will be no carryover, even if two teams from a bracket meet in the final. |

21+ Teams Teams will be seeded as set forth for 12–20 teams. Each bracket shall play a Swiss with two teams advancing. Winners will play runner-up from the other bracket in the semifinal. There will be no carryover. 6 board matches recommended.

In the Flight B or C events: Since we are holding split site district finals for B and C, the following rules may be modified by the Director in Charge (DIC) depending on how many teams are present. We envision a playthrough round robin Swiss for the single day events as was done for the online BBO in Flight C the last two years.

The rules presented here are for 2-day events at a single site if we go back to that format in the future. There will be no carryover for Flights B and C.

2 Teams Head-to-head, 48 boards

3 Teams Three-way match on Saturday afternoon with one team eliminated, and head to head Saturday night. 24 boards

4–10 Teams Full round robin. 6 board matches recommended.

If 4–5 teams, 2 teams advance to Sunday final, maximum of 48 boards; if 6–10 teams, 4 teams advance to (24 board) Sunday KO.

The round-robin winner will play the fourth-place team for the semifinal.

11–20 Teams Teams will be divided into two or more brackets with seeding by MP and each bracket will play a full round robin. Maximum 48 boards. 6 board matches recommended.

The top seed shall be placed in one bracket and the next two seeds in the opposite bracket. Seeding will continue by twos unless only one team remains.

Two teams will qualify from each bracket with winners of each round robin playing the runner-up from the other bracket.

21+ Teams Teams will be seeded as set forth for 11–20 teams. Each bracket shall play a Swiss with two teams advancing. Winners will play runner-up from the other bracket in the semifinal.

Tie Breakers (applies to all flights)

In the event of a tie for the last qualifying spot (the right to go on and play in the semifinals), there will be a 4-board playoff. If the playoff continues to result in a tie, the following will apply. The following chart will also apply if there is a tie and both teams qualify for the next round.

<p>Tie Breakers from Round Robins Qualifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Head to Head (2) Wins (3) BAM results from Head to Head (4) Total Points from Head to Head (5) Coin Flip 	<p>Tie Breakers from Swiss Qualifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Head to Head if the teams met (2) Wins (3) Wins by common opponents (4) BAM if played each other (5) Total Points if played each other (6) Coin Flip
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Special Games at Clubs (Effective 1/1/23)

Events	Masterpoint Rating	Frequency	Sanction Fees <small>(U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated)</small>
Club Championship Game	63.6% sectional-rated black points	One per quarter per sanctioned session	\$1.10 per table
Club Appreciation Team Game	5% gold not to exceed .25 – remainder 81.8% sectional-rated black	A total of two Club Appreciation games per sanctioned session during October only	\$1.10 per table
Club Appreciation Pair Game	81.8% sectional-rated black points	(Any combination of Club Appreciation games is allowed, not to exceed two total games per sanctioned session)	
Club Membership Game	81.8% sectional-rated black points	One per year per sanctioned session	\$1.10 per table
Upgraded Club Championship	81.8% sectional-rated black points	As earned (one for each 10 new ACBL members recruited)	\$1.10 per table
Inter-Club Championship Game	Regular black points at club and club championship rating for overalls across the field	Up to four per year per sanctioned session	\$5.00 per table
Special Fund Games Junior Fund: Players earn extra masterpoints while helping the Junior program for youth up to age 26. Charity Games: Games support the ACBL Charity Foundation and Canadian Bridge Federation Charitable Fund or may support local charities. A club cannot have more games for a local charity than for the ACBL or CBF charities. Grass Roots FUNd: The monies from these games are returned to the Districts to fund their NAP and GNT participants. International Fund: These games help to support North American participation in international events. Educational Foundation: Games support the continuing education and promotion of bridge.	63.6% sectional-rated black points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January is Junior Fund month. • February is Education Foundation month. • April is Charity month. • May is Grass Roots FUNd month. • September is International Fund Month. <p>In these five months all of your ACBL sanctioned sessions may be special games for the named funds.</p> <p>In the remaining seven months of the year (March, June, July, Aug., Oct., Nov. and Dec.) one game per month per sanctioned session may be a special game for any one of the funds.</p>	\$5.00 per table
ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game - Digital Edition	1.00 gold to section tops, remainder 50/50 red/black 81.8% sectional-rated	Once per year in July	\$8.00 per table
ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game	1.00 gold to section tops, remainder 50/50 red/black 81.8% sectional-rated.	Once a year in October	\$12.00 per table
North American Pairs	50/50 red/black 81.8% sectional-rated	Two per sanctioned session per month during June, July and August	\$5.00 per table
Grand National Teams	50/50 red/black 81.8% sectional-rated	Starts in September District determines frequency	\$2.25 per table
ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game	81.8% sectional-rated black points	Twice a year	\$5.00 per table
*ACBL-Wide Senior Pairs	72% sectional-rated black points	Twice a year	\$5.00 per table

Events	Masterpoint Rating	Frequency	Sanction Fees (U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated)
*ACBL-Wide Charity Game	81.8% sectional-rated black points	Twice a year	\$7.35 per table
**World Wide Bridge Contest	50/50 red and black at 81.8% sectional-rated	Twice a year (Friday and Saturday in June)	\$13.00 per table
*ACBL-wide International Fund Game	50/50 red and black at 81.8% sectional-rated	Three times a year	\$7.35 per table
*ACBL-wide International Fund Game – Canada	50/50 red and black at 81.8% sectional-rated	Three times a year	\$6.35 Canadian per table, plus \$1.10 per table in U.S. funds
GNT Fund Raiser Games	81.8% sectional-rated black points	One per year per sanctioned session	\$1.10 per table per table. District sets additional fees.
NABC Promotional Games	81.8% sectional-rated black points	One week per year three years prior to an NABC held within the District.	\$1.10 per table. District set additional fees

* Additional awards: 10 places overall ACBL-wide and 5 places district-wide

** Additional awards: 2 places district-wide

Unit / District Games at Clubs

Events	Masterpoint Rating	Frequency	Sanction Fees (U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated)
Unit Championship Games	63.6% sectional-rated black points	Frequency determined by unit (maximum of 24 per year)	\$2.48 per table
Unit Extended Team Games	81.8% sectional-rated black	Frequency determined by unit (maximum of three per year). These are included in the 24 allocated sessions per year.	\$2.25 per table per session
Unit Fund/Foundation Games (Junior Fund, Charity Foundation, International Fund, Educational Foundation or Grass Roots FUNd)	81.8% sectional-rated black points	Frequency determined by unit (maximum of four per year)	\$5.00 per table
District Fund/Foundation Games (Junior Fund, Charity Foundation, International Fund, Educational Foundation or Grass Roots FUNd)	81.8% sectional-rated black points	Frequency determined by district (maximum of four per year)	\$5.00 per table

Canadian-only Events

Events	Masterpoint Rating	Frequency	Sanction Fees (U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated)
Canada Olympiad Game	81.8% sectional-rated black points	Twice a year	\$8.35 Canadian per table, plus \$1.10 per table in U.S. funds
Canadian National Team Championships (CNTC)	81.8% sectional-rated red points.	Canadian Bridge Federation determines frequency and additional fees	\$1.10 per table in U.S. funds Other fees set by CBF
Canadian Open Pair Championships (COPC)	81.8% sectional-rated red points	Canadian Bridge Federation determines frequency and additional fees	\$1.10 per table in U.S. funds Other fees set by CBF
Canadian Rookie/ Master Game	56% sectional-rated black points	Twice a year - Canadian Bridge Federation determines additional fees	\$1.10 per table in U.S. funds Other fees set by CBF
Canadian CNTC Master/ Non-Master Game	72% sectional-rated black points	Canadian Bridge Federation determines frequency and additional fees	\$1.10 per table in U.S. funds Other fees set by CBF