

# **District 19 Grand National Teams 2023-2024**

## **Conditions of Contest**

### **Introduction**

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a grass-roots event that begins at the club level, continues with the District Finals competition in the spring, and concludes at the Summer North American Championships. There are four flights: Open Championship Flight, Flight A, Flight B, and Flight C. The winning team in each flight at the District Finals is invited to participate in the national finals of the GNT at the Summer NABC. If there are at least 8 teams in Flight B and/or Flight C, then two teams in that flight will qualify for the national finals. Qualifying teams are expected to represent the District in the national finals or, if they cannot, to immediately inform the District GNT Coordinator. Captains of teams that qualify for the national finals must verify that their team members will be available to play for the entire national event.

### **Subsidies**

District 19 will provide subsidies from monies raised through the Grass Roots Fund. Due to the current D19 financial situation, there will be no subsidies from the District this year.

### **Key Dates**

Club qualification ends February 28, 2024.

The Championship and Flight B GNT finals will take place April 13-14 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Croatian Cultural Centre, at 3250 Commercial Dr, Vancouver, BC V5N 4E4, Canada (PH: 1 604-879-0154). Start time is 10:00; second session TBD.

The Flight A GNT finals will take March 2-3 (Saturday and Sunday), at Beautiful Savior Church, 12810 35th Ave SE, Everett, WA 98208 PH: (425)337-6006. Start time is 10:00; second session TBD.

Flight C GNT finals will take place on Saturday March 2 at Beautiful Savior Church, 12810 35th Ave SE, Everett, WA 98208 PH: (425)337-6006. Start time is 10:00; second session TBD.

The 2023-2024 National GNT Finals will be held during the Toronto NABC starting July 17.

### **Eligibility**

Flight C: NLM with fewer than 500 Masterpoints

Flight B: 0-2500 Masterpoints

Flight A: 0-6000 Masterpoints

Championship Flight: Unlimited Masterpoints

Flight eligibility will be established by a player's masterpoint total as of the ACBL's September masterpoint cycle (August 6, 2023 publication). Players with bridge experience from non-ACBL events who wish to play in Flight A, B, or C must contact the GNT Coordinator by February 1<sup>st</sup> to verify their eligibility for any limited-masterpoint flight.

District Eligibility is based on residence as of September 1, 2023. A player who moved to a new District between September 1, 2022 and September 1, 2023 may elect to compete beyond the club stage in either District (but not both). Anyone may play at the club level.

To play at the District 19 Finals a player must:

- Be a member of the ACBL in good standing.
- Be a member of a Unit within District 19 or have received special permission.
- Qualify at the club level or pay an extra \$30.

Teams may be composed of 4, 5, or 6 eligible players and a team captain must be selected.

### **Exceptions to Residency Requirements**

A member's principal physical residence on record with ACBL HQ as of September 1, 2023, shall establish the District in which the member is eligible to participate beyond the club-level qualification stage. The ACBL's Credentials Committee may request documentary evidence from a member whose eligibility is in question.

Players wishing an exception from these residency requirements must have the approval of the District Directors of both the District of the player's residency of record and the District in which the player wishes to play. Both District Directors must agree for the exception to be granted. For the Open Championship Flight, this written permission (email acceptable) from both District Directors will be forwarded to the ACBL's Credentials Committee for final review and approval/disapproval. If the District Directors do not provide their approval, the exception is not granted. There is no appeal of this decision.

### **Entry in More than One Flight**

Players, partnerships, and teams are encouraged to play in more than one flight in the District Finals.

However, if any player successfully qualifies for the national finals in more than flight, they must immediately upon completion of the later District Finals choose which flight they will play in the national finals and inform the District GNT Coordinator.

### **Entry Fees**

For events held in Canada the entry fee is CAD \$72 per team per session. For events held in the USA the entry fee is USD \$64 per team per session.

### **Permissible Conventions**

The following convention charts will be used for the district finals:

- Open Championship Flight: Open+
- Flight A: Open
- Flight B: Basic+
- Flight C: Basic+

### **Game Set-Up**

The expected number of boards per session is set at 28 in the Open Championship and Flight A and 24 in Flight B and Flight C. It is the District's objective to run all four flights of GNT Finals using pre-duplicated boards.

For the most common numbers of teams the format is a round robin or Swiss Teams the first day followed by knockout matches on the second day. When the cut is to four teams on the second day for knockout matches the highest seeded team will get to select their semi-final opponent from the teams that finished third and fourth. At their option the second place team may make themselves available for selection. There is no carryover from the first day to the second day.

All knockout matches are scored in IMPs. All round robin and Swiss Teams matches are scored in IMPs and each match is converted to Victory Points using the ACBL Continuous 20 VP Scale to decide the order of finish.

If there is a tie for victory points, the following shall be used to break the tie for seeding. In the event that multiple teams are tied, the steps are followed until a tied team is eliminated, then restarted from the top with the remaining teams. For example, in a three way tie where all three teams had 1 win and 1 loss against each other, but one team had a worse overall win-loss record, then that team would be eliminated, and the tie between the other two would revert to head-to-head result.

1. Head-to-head result between the teams
2. Overall win-loss record
3. Total net IMPs in matches in common
4. Coin toss

In any knockout match if there is a tie then a four-board match will be played between the teams. If a tie remains, two-board matches will be played until a winner is determined.

### Seating rights

There are no seating rights during the round robin or Swiss portion of the event.

In the knockout portion of the event the team with the higher seed has the choice of first-half or second-half seating rights. If that team does not explicitly exercise their rights, they are deemed to have exercised them in the first half.

### Format of play

The format and schedule of play for each flight in the District Finals is determined by the number of teams in that flight as follows:

Teams	10+	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
<b>Open/Flight A Day 1</b>	Swiss 6R 9B	RR 7B	RR 8B	RR 9B	RR 11B	RR 14B	RR 18B	RR 28B	KO 56B
<b>Open/Flight A Day 2</b>	4 Teams Semifinals KO 28B Final KO 28B						2 Teams KO 56B		N/A
<b>Flight B/C Day 1</b>	Swiss 6R 8B	RR 6B	RR 7B	RR 8B	RR 9B	RR 12B	RR 16B	RR 24B	KO 48B
<b>Flight B Day 2</b>	4 Teams RR 16B			4 Teams Semifinals KO 24B Final KO 24B			2 Teams KO 48B		N/A

### **Substitutes**

For the District Finals, substitutes must be approved by the District GNT Coordinator or the Regional Director. No substitute may be allowed to play more than 50% of the total boards played in a session of the event except that a substitute may play one full session of a two-session round robin or Swiss even if this results in them playing more than 50% of the boards for that day. Substitutes at all levels may not appreciably strengthen the team. No substitute may be used if four members of the team are available to participate.

### **Replacements**

The permanent replacement of a player who cannot continue in the event is permitted with the permission of the Director. A team whose player is removed for cause shall NOT be eligible to continue to the next stage and shall be removed from the field by the Director at the first reasonable opportunity. To be eligible to become a replacement, a player:

- Must be a member of District 19.
- Must not have played in the District Final in that flight.
- Must not appreciably strengthen the team.

A replaced player permanently leaves the event with all masterpoints earned and the replacement earns masterpoints thereafter. A team cannot start the District Final competition with a non-qualified replacement. Replacement players are not allowed if a team has four members available.

### **Minimum Participation Requirements**

Members of teams are required to play at least 50% of boards in each session, except that a member may choose to play one full session of a two-session round robin or Swiss. A team becomes ineligible to continue in the event when fewer than three members of the original team can continue and meet the play percentage requirements.

### **Augmentation for National Finals**

Teams advancing to represent the District in the national finals may apply to augment their teams. At least three of the members who participated in the District Finals must remain on the team. Augmented players can only be selected from those players who played in the District Finals, and must not lower the strength of the team.

Augmentation requests must be submitted to the District GNT Coordinator for coordination and approval. Submission shall be via email and shall take place no later than 10 days prior to the starting date of the NABC at which the national finals will be held. If the District GNT Coordinator determines that the augmentation request is merited, he or she will approve and/or forward the request to ACBL Headquarters as applicable with a recommendation for approval. Final augmentation approval authority is with the ACBL.

### **Precedence**

“ACBL SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2023-2024” and these 2023-2024 District 19 GNT Conditions of Contest may be found at the link below. In the event of conflicts between the ACBL Conditions of Contest and the District Conditions of Contest, the ACBL Conditions of Contest takes precedence.

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

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The District GNT Coordinator shall have discretion on all issues of player and team qualifications and interpretation of these Conditions of Contest. In any questions where the District GNT Coordinator is charged with discretionary responsibilities involving players in a flight in which the Coordinator is currently playing, the District Director (if available), in consultation with the event Director in Charge, will have discretion in lieu of the District GNT Coordinator. Otherwise the Director in Charge will have discretion.