

**District 16**  
**2024 Grand National Teams**  
**Conditions of Contest**

**General Information:**

The Grand National Teams is a grass-roots team competition, in which teams from each District compete to earn the right to represent their District in the Summer Nationals each year. The event is flighted, with four flights competing.

The September masterpoint cycle produced on August 6, 2023 marks the cutoff date for flight eligibility. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Open Championship Flight is unlimited, Flight A is 0 - 6000, Flight B is 0 - 2500, Flight C is non-life master with less than 500 masterpoints.

A player must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and reside in District 16 as of September 1, 2023.

Each Team may comprise 4, 5, or 6 players.

The ACBL conditions of contest are included as a part of the District 16 conditions of contest. They are viewable at:

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

**Qualifying for District Level Final:**

No club or unit qualifiers were held in 2020-2022, and we will continue that practice this year. Any team of eligible players may compete in the District Finals in 2024. Clubs may still request and run GNT qualifiers, as may Units, although it is not required for players to qualify.

**District 16 Finals:**

The district finals for all four flights; 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'Championship Flight' will be held in person. Flights Championship and B will be held in conjunction with the Houston Spring Sectional on April 6-7, 2024. The event will take place at the Shriners at 10510 Harwin Drive in Houston. Flights A and C will be held in conjunction with the Dallas Memorial Day Sectional on May 25-26, 2024. The event will be held at the

Holiday Inn Dallas-Richardson at 1655 North Central Expressway, Richardson. All sessions will begin at 10AM and 2:30PM.

Teams must pre-register by sending an email to Scott Nason at [sdnason@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdnason@sbcglobal.net) no later than five days prior to the start of their event, in order to confirm eligibility. The email should include players' names, email addresses and ACBL numbers, and the Flight in which they intend to compete. It is permitted to compete in any flight for which the team members are all eligible, and it is also permitted to compete in more than one flight. For the purpose of clarity, as an example, a team composed of all players with less than 6000 points may compete in Championship Flight and then in Flight A as well, although they can only compete in one Flight for the NABCs, even if they qualify in two different flights.

All flights will be scheduled to run on Saturday and Sunday. If the turnout is very light, any given flight may be completed in one day. (See the event format below.)

Entry fee for the district finals will be \$60 per session per team.

The winner in each flight will qualify to compete in the NABCs in Toronto in July 2024. For Flights 'B' and 'C' only: If 8 or more teams compete in one of these flights, the second place team in the flight will also qualify to compete at the Nationals for the flight.

## **District Level Competition**

The format for the District Level competition is the same for all flights, with the one possible exception in Flights B and C noted below.

If one team enters the event: That team will be declared the district champion.

If two teams enter the event: They will play a two-session final (24 boards per session, divided into two 12-board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

If three teams enter: They will play a round robin, with each team playing 24 boards - divided into two halves - against each of the other two. The winner will be determined by total VPs.

If four or five teams enter the event: They will play a two-session round robin on the first day (three 16 board matches or four 12 board matches) to come down to two teams. The two teams will play a two-session final on the second day (24 boards per session divided into two 12-board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

If six to seven teams enter the event: they will play a two-session Round Robin on the first day (five ten-board matches or six eight-board matches) to come down to

four teams. The four teams will be seeded on the second day based on their VPs, with the highest seed playing the opponent of their choosing from among third and fourth qualifiers (or the second qualifier, if they choose to join the pool.) The four teams will play a one session head-to-head semi-final to come down to two teams and a one-session final (each 24 boards per session, divided into two 12-board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

If eight or nine teams enter the event: they will play a two-session Round Robin on the first day (seven seven-board matches or eight six-board matches, respectively) to come down to four teams. In the Championship and A flights, the four teams will be seeded on the second day based on their VPs, with the highest seed playing the opponent of their choosing from among third and fourth qualifiers (or the second qualifier, if they choose to join the pool.) The four teams will play a one session head-to-head semi-final to come down to two teams and a one-session final (each 24 boards per session, divided into two 12-board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

In B and C, since two teams will qualify for the NABCs, the format on day two will be different. They will play a two-session round robin, with each team playing eight boards against each other in each of the two sessions. The sixteen board matches will be scored on VPs, with the top two teams qualifying for the Nationals.

With more than nine teams, the Day 1 format will be a Swiss format instead of Round Robin, with six eight-board matches. The Day 2 format will be the same as for seven or eight team events.

There will be a 20% carryover of victory points from the first day to the second day.

All round robins or Swiss qualifying will be scored on the WBF 20-point scale.

## **Tie Breakers**

Using a WBF scale, ties are extremely unlikely, but they could occur. All ties in seeding for the next round will be broken by a coin flip. Where a tie break will determine which team or teams will continue to the next round, the tie will be broken by the result of the three-board head-to-head playoff between the tied teams. If that still results in a tie, then total IMP differentials for the two-session event will determine the tie-break. If they are still tied, then they will play another three-board playoff, until a winner is determined. During KOs and at the end of a Flight B or C round robin, the tie-breaker will be a four board playoff. If any tie-breaker results in another tie, the procedure will be repeated, with the tie-breakers shortening by one board each time.

## **Conventions Allowed**

- In Flight B and C, the Basic+ Chart applies

- In Flight A, the Open Chart applies
- In the Championship Flight, the Open+ Chart applies

## **Number of Boards Played**

All players must play at least 50% of the boards played in each stage of the event (Swiss, Round Robin and Knockout matches) at the District Level competition in order to qualify for overall master point awards and to be eligible to play in the remainder of the Grand National competition.

## **Substitutes**

A team must be prepared to field at least three members or it forfeits the match scheduled for that time. If due to absence for cause, only three members are available, a substitute may be utilized for no more than one calendar day or two half days during any one level of competition. Substitutes must be approved by the Director in Charge and should not appreciably strengthen or weaken the team. A substitute must be a member of the District and may not be a member of a team still in competition. If four members are available, a substitute is not permitted for an absent fifth or sixth member. A substitute player is entitled to any match awards while playing.

## **Protests**

The protest period expires 30 minutes after each match, half match or segment, as applicable.

The DIC will use ROD for protests in all flights.

## **Time Limit Penalties:**

### **- Starting Time Penalty**

Any team which fails to seat a complete team at the start of a match shall be subject to the standard ACBL start time penalties. If this occurs during a round robin or swiss qualifying match and results in a forfeit, the team winning by default shall receive the largest of the following:

- 15 Victory Points

- The average of its Victory Points scored in other matches not involving defaults
- The average number of Victory Points scored against the team that defaults

The team that defaults shall receive zero Victory Points

### - **Playing Time Penalties**

Play of the matches must be completed within the allotted time plus the grace period. Failure to complete play of boards will result in penalties.

### **Subsidies:**

A team that wins (or places second in a Flight that qualifies two teams) will be eligible for an expense subsidy from the District, provided that they actually play, in person, in the NABCs in July 2024.