

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST 2017-2018 DISTRICT 19 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The North American Pairs (NAP) is one of two flighted, grass roots qualifying events on the annual ACBL calendar; the other is the Grand National Teams. Pairs compete in the District NAP Finals for the opportunity to earn subsidies and compete in the NAP National Finals to be held at the 2018 Spring North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia, PA.

The event flyer for the District 19 NAP Finals may be found at the ACBL website under TOURNAMENTS / Calendar and Results here: <http://tournaments.acbl.org>

Flights

During club qualification, District Finals and National Finals, flights are as follows:

Flight A: Open to any player

Flight B: Open to players with no more than 2500 masterpoints as of the ACBL June master point cycle, which is usually run on or about May 6

Flight C: Open to Non-Life Master players with no more than 500 masterpoints as of the ACBL June master point cycle, which is usually run on or about May 6

District 19 representation at the National Finals:

Flight A: The top 3 pairs from the District Finals qualify

Flight B: The top 4 pairs from the District Finals qualify

Flight C: The top 4 pairs from the District Finals qualify

Subsidies for pairs qualifying for the National Finals:

1st place pair in each flight: \$700 per player subsidy from ACBL

2nd place pair in each flight: \$300 per player subsidy from ACBL

3rd place pair in each flight: \$300 subsidy to the pair from District 19

Note: per District 19 policy, District-paid subsidies will be paid in the currency of players' country of residency, i.e. in \$US per above or the equivalent in \$Canadian.

Questions may be directed to the **DISTRICT 19 NAP COORDINATOR:**

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CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

These D19 Conditions of Contest and the National Conditions of Contest may be found at the ACBL website under TOURNAMENTS / Conditions of Contest here:

http://www.acbl.org/tournaments_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/tournament-specific-regulations/conditions-of-contest/conditions-of-contest-north-american-pairs/

Stages of Play

There are three stages of play: (1) STAGE ONE qualifying at local clubs, (2) District

Finals, and (3) National Finals.

(1) STAGE ONE – qualification at local clubs for District Finals

Players qualify for the District Finals by successfully competing in qualification games at local clubs. The authorized period for club qualification games is June 1 through August 31. Club qualification games award extra masterpoints, allocated as 50% red / 50% black. All players who qualify at the club level during the STAGE ONE qualification period are eligible to participate in the District Final. ***Unlike District GNT Finals, for District NAP Finals there is NO BUY-IN for players who did not successfully qualify at the club level.***

Club-level qualification games

During each month of June, July and August, a club may hold up to two NAP club qualification games for each weekly sanctioned session held that month. No special sanction is required – use the club number as the sanction number. In lieu of normal club game sanction fees, NAP club qualification game fees of \$5.00 (US) per table per session are due ACBL. No District 19 surcharge is applied to NAP club-level qualification games. The game director must issue qualifying slips to qualifying players (ACBLscore will print qualifying slips) and advise players to bring their slips for entry to the D19 NAP Finals. A LIST OF ALL QUALIFYING PLAYERS FROM EACH GAME MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT NAP COORDINATOR. This may be done electronically to the email address above or by hard copy to the postal address above. NOTE: for detailed information on planning, setting up and running qualification games, club stage organizers should see Appendices IV, V and VI of the 2017-18 National NAP CoC at: <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/NAP2017-18.pdf>

At the club stage, subject to established ACBL minimum guidelines, each club determines the conventions to be allowed in its games.

A member may earn club-level qualification at any club in any unit in any district. 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.

At the club stage, a member may qualify and earn masterpoints while playing with any other member of the ACBL or with a non-member of the ACBL.

(2) DISTRICT FINALS – Qualification for the NAP National Finals

The 2017 District 19 NAP Finals, Sanction #1710188, will be conducted over two sessions on a single day for each flight. Entry fees will be same as those in effect at District 19 regionals.

Eligibility. It is the responsibility of every player, prior to entry in the District 19 Finals, to ensure s/he has successfully qualified at the club level. Club qualification game directors issue qualifying slips to qualifying players (see above); players are requested to bring their slips for entry to the D19 NAP Finals. Club level qualification is earned as an individual and not as a partnership. Players may form a new partnership for the

District Finals. As stated above, unlike the district GNT Finals, ***there is NO BUY-IN for players who did not successfully qualify at the club level.*** To avoid irregularities associated with qualification status, the Director in Charge and District NAP Coordinator will, as necessary, adhere to ACBL HQ generated reports of players who have qualified at the club level.

Players must meet residency requirements. For the NAPs, a member's principal residence is that which is on record with the ACBL as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Final. Changes in residence after this date shall not change the district in which the player is eligible to participate. Successful applications for exception to residency requirements are rare; such applications are subject to the review and approval criteria and process set forth in the National Conditions of Contest.

It is permissible for a player to compete in more than one flight (to "play up") where the finals of flights are conducted on separate days.

Multi-Flight qualifications:

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

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

Flight A category players – Compete in Flight A only.

Permissible Conventions:

Flight A: Mid-Chart Conventions

Flights B and C: General Convention Chart

Event Dates and Session Start Times:

The 2017 District 19 NAP Finals will be a one-day two-session event for all flights. They will be co-located and concurrent with the final two days of the District 19 Capital City Regional in Olympia, WA.

Flight A (Open Championship) will be played on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm.

Flight B (less than 2500 masterpoints) will be played on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 10:00am and TBD.

Flight C (Non-Life Master less than 500 masterpoints) will be played on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm.

To enable the DIC to verify players' qualification status and set up game movements, players are requested to report for their events at least 30 minutes before start time.

Venue Address and Directions:

Hotel RL (formerly the Red Lion)
2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW

Olympia, WA 98502

Directions:

From I-5, take Exit 104 and merge onto Hwy 101 northward toward Aberdeen/Port Angeles. Take the Cooper Point Rd/Automall Dr SW/Crosby Blvd exit. Keep right to take the Cooper Point Rd/Automall Dr SW ramp. Merge onto Cooper Point Rd SW. Take the 1st right onto Evergreen Park Dr SW. Take the first right onto South Evergreen Park Drive SW. In ½ mile the hotel will be on the right.

From Hwy 101, exit at Crosby Blvd/Cooper Point Road. Proceed northward onto Cooper Point Rd SW. Take the 1st right onto Evergreen Park Dr SW. Take the first right onto South Evergreen Park Drive SW. In ½ mile the hotel will be on the right.

Commitment to Represent District 19 at the National Finals

Immediately upon the conclusion of the District 19 NAP Finals second of two sessions for each flight, pairs finishing in qualifying position for the National Finals, plus the pair finishing one position lower in the final standings (i.e. pairs in 1st through 4th place in Flight A and pairs in 1st through 5th places in Flights B and C), are to report to the District 19 NAP Coordinator or Director in Charge to (a) verify the pairs' commitments to represent District 19 at the National Finals (and thus their eligibility for associated subsidies) and (b) provide the pairs' contact information (email address and phone number). If a pair finishing in qualifying position is unable to commit to competing in the National Finals, their qualification position (and the subsidy commensurate with their qualification position) will be offered to the next lower finishing pair. A special situation may exist where a pair elects to "play up" and qualifies in more than one flight; in such a case the pair will be required to declare – immediately upon completion of the second session of the second Finals flight in which they competed – in which flight they commit to compete in the National Finals.

(3) NATIONAL FINALS

The North American Pairs National Finals will be held during the North American Bridge Championships at Philadelphia, March 2018. Flight A Final will be held Wednesday & Thursday, March 7-8, 2018. Flight B & C Finals will be held Sunday & Monday, March 11-12, 2018. A person or pair may represent a district in only one flight at the National Finals. The North American Pairs National Finals are planned as four-session events, consisting of a two-session play-through to qualify for a two-session play-through final with carryover as per ACBL formula.

