

# ACBL District 20 Conditions of Contest for the 2017/2018 North American Pairs

## General

- A. National Conditions of Contest: The 2017-2018 North American Pairs (hereafter, NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) govern this competition: <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>
- B. Participation: To advance beyond the club level in this event, a player must be a member in good standing of both the ACBL and its geographical division of District 20 (D20).
- C. District Coordinator: The D20's coordinator for the ACBL-wide North American events is currently Hal Montgomery (hereafter "Coordinator"), PO Box 12742, Portland, OR 97212; e-mail: dewitt@imaginata.com; telephone number (503) 583-3717.
- D. Unit Responsibilities: Each Unit in D20 is responsible for promoting the NAP qualifiers at clubs and must sanction a qualifying session if no clubs in their own Unit do so.

## Club Stage

Club qualifying games will be conducted in June, July and August of 2017 as detailed in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest. Club managers must submit ACBLScore game files via email to the Coordinator for verification. The files must be in the .ACx format. Please refer to the help section of ACBL Score if you need help using the .ACx extension. The following is from the help section: "Once you OK setting up a new game, the game file (which has an ACx extension—where x is M, A, E, or L) is automatically created (in the Directory shown on the 1st line of the window above) and opened.

## Unit Level

The Unit Stage of the NAP competition will not be conducted in D20. Players who qualify in club qualifying games advance directly to the D20 Finals. However, if no clubs in their jurisdiction schedule club qualifying games during the Club Stage, Units are required to sponsor such games. Players that qualify in a Unit sponsored qualifying game advance to the D20 Finals in the flight(s) for which they are eligible.

## **District Finals (for A, B, and C Flights)**

### Final Tournaments Eligibility:

(a) D20 players who qualified in a Club or Unit-sponsored NAP qualifying game or are otherwise qualified by the ACBL National Conditions of Contest may compete in the D20 NAP Finals in the flight(s) for which they are eligible.

(b) Masterpoint (MP) limits for each flight are as of the 2017 June MP cycle:

- Flight A - Open to any player.
- Flight B - Players with less than 2500 MPs.
- Flight C - Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 MPs

(c) There are no exemptions from qualification - players must earn eligibility in a NAP club or Unit-sponsored NAP qualifying game (but not necessarily in District 20).

### Event Dates, Times and Locations:

(a) The Flight A and C Finals will be held simultaneously on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2017.

The Flight B Finals will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10th, 2017.

(b) Planned starting times for the two sessions are 11:00 am and 4:00 pm Pacific Time (8:00 am and 1:00 pm in Hawaii, 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm in Boise) The DIC will announce the exact starting time for the second session at the end of the first session.

(c) Venues for on-line play will be confirmed in advance of play and listed on the D20 web site at [http://web2.acbld20.org/NA\\_Events/NAP.html](http://web2.acbld20.org/NA_Events/NAP.html)

(d) The dates, times, and locations for these Finals are subject to change by the Coordinator for good cause.

### Event Format:

(a) Flights A, B, and C: All three flights in the D20 NAP Finals will be conducted as one-day, two-session, play-through events supervised by an ACBL Tournament director, the Director-in-Charge (DIC), and a BBO director. BBO must be able to generate results so that the TD may publish scores and standings at the end of the first session.

(b) Format Changes: The Event format in all flights is subject to change for good reason by a committee consisting of the DIC, Coordinator and local venue representative(s).

## **District Finals Conditions of Play**

### 1. Entry Fees:

The entry fee of the District Finals for all Flights will be \$52 per pair.

2. Bidding Boxes/Screens: Since the competition is on-line, no boxes or screens are needed.

3. Seeding: It is intended that pairs play against the other pairs in as equitable a movement as possible. The DIC will try to balance the field if necessary by taking into account the players' Masterpoint holdings and recent accomplishments. The national conditions of contest call for each session to be at least 24 but not more than 30 boards long.

4. Slow Play: A maximum of 7.5 minutes per board is permitted in each segment of play, unless play is delayed for a technical difficulty. The DIC will monitor play and may assess penalties for excessive slow play as set out in ACBL regulations. Players may appeal such penalties to the D20's Appeals Chairman, who may convene a conduct committee to consider merits of the appeal. The DIC may use hospitality breaks to lessen effects of slow play on other pairs.

5. Kibitzing: On-line as well as in-person Kibitzers will be permitted and shall comport themselves appropriately. Each partnership has the right to bar one kibitzer without assigning cause, or an unlimited number for cause. The DIC may bar any kibitzer for cause.

6. Scoring: The contestants within each flight will be scored via match point scoring with every other competitor within their flight to determine the overall rankings

7. Ties: Ties for advancement positions in any flight Finals will be broken as follows. The boards played in common will be scored board-a-match versus average, with 1 point for above average, ½ point for average, and no points for below average. If the pairs are still tied then a coin flip will determine the placing.

## **On-Line Competition**

1. Provisions for On-line Competition: This event will be played on-line to provide broad accessibility for players in all parts of D20 and to select the representatives to the National Finals in the fairest way possible. The on-line host will be Bridge Base Online (BBO).

2. General Conditions:

The ACBL conditions for on-line play (2017-2018) North American Pairs Conditions of Contest shall govern this event except for the following clarifications or exceptions:

a. This event will be hosted on-line by Bridge Base Online (BBO), an ACBL approved host.

b. Pre-registration is required by November 25th, 2017 to assure participation in the finals. Registration(s) after this date may be accepted to improve the game movement or for other good reason subject to approval by the DiC.

c. The Electronic Device Policy is from the electronic device policy applicable to all events at NABCs. Refer to <http://cdn.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Conditions-of-Contest/Appendix-J.pdf>

## **Electronic Device Policy**

Except for health-related equipment, or by permission of the DiC, cell phones, audible pagers or similar equipment may not be operated or operable in any manner in the playing area during a session of play. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session and must remain off at all times.

The above restrictions apply to all pairs, kibitzers and play recorders, except those designated by the ACBL, and are in force throughout any actual playing session or segment of play.

A violation of any of the above restrictions will result in an automatic disciplinary penalty of one full board for the first offense. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event for the pair/team. Kibitzers violating this policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

## **Conventions**

1. All pairs must, not later than November 25, 2017, submit to the coordinator via email, the BBO convention card they will be using.
2. Conventions listed in the ACBL Mid-Chart may be used in Flight A only\*. Flight A pairs using mid-chart conventions must, not later than November 25, 2017, submit a written description of the method(s) plus suggested defenses to the Coordinator. Such submission must be sent via email. The Coordinator will post the descriptions and the convention cards on-line. Willful failure to comply with the mid-chart disclosure or convention card requirements may, in the Coordinator's discretion, result in disallowing the offending pairs from using some or all non-yellow card conventions.

\*D20 allows Mid-Chart defenses to the opponents' 1NT openings in all Flights of all events.

## **Advancement**

- 1: Ranking of Pairs: Pairs will be ranked by their overall score, within each flight, for overall masterpoint awards and for pair advancement eligibility.

2. Advancement: The top three pairs in A and the top four pairs in B and C will be eligible to advance to the National Finals, subject to the tie-breaking procedure.
3. Advancement Declined: If a pair declines the opportunity to advance, the vacant position will be offered to the next highest pair. Note: pairs must declare intention to advance within two weeks of notification or risk having their status deemed “declined.”
4. Additional Pairs If additional pairs (other than the previous year’s winner in Flight A) are eligible to advance per Appendix II of the National Conditions of Contest, they will be the pair or pairs with the highest score not otherwise qualified to advance.

## **Subsidies**

Subsidy awards for those who qualify for participation in the National Finals will be based on a pair’s position.

The ACBL offers travel expense subsidies. D20 may augment these subsidies with a portion of the funds generated by the Grass Roots Fund games (if any) at the discretion of the D20 Board as recommended by the NA Events Committee. Participants in any Flight may conduct fundraisers, all proceeds of which will be used to supplement the ACBL and D20 subsidies of that Flight.

The subsidies provided by the ACBL and D20 for the NAPs are posted on the D20 website at the following URL: [http://web2.acbl20.org/NA\\_Events/NAP/2017/Subsidy\\_Schedule.pdf](http://web2.acbl20.org/NA_Events/NAP/2017/Subsidy_Schedule.pdf)

There is no guarantee that the subsidies will remain the same. The D20 portion varies from year to year with the Grass Roots Fund Games participation.

## **Publicity**

D20’s champions of each Flight will cooperate reasonably in promoting the event including, if requested, (i) by supplying a short written report of the D20 and National Finals for publication in the D20’s newspaper; and (ii) by making public appearances.

The Coordinator will promote the event to the D20 Units, Clubs and individuals with general information for club qualification and dates, times and locations of the Finals by (i) providing fliers and/or advance e-mail notifications; and (ii) by publishing schedules and reports in the D20’s newspaper and on its web site.

## **Contingencies**

The Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to Club Qualifying Events, publicity, playing sites and dates that are not specifically addressed by these conditions. Also, in consultation with the NA Events Committee if feasible, the Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions and which arise on or before November 24, 2017. If such matter should involve his or her partnership, then the Coordinator shall defer to a member of the NA Events Committee to act in his or her stead.

The DiC will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these conditions and which arise after November 24, 2017.

Appendix I: Online Events Special Conditions of Contest

<http://web2.acbl.org/coc/AppendixI.pdf>