

## **North American Pairs**

### **District Six Conditions of Contest 2025-2026**

#### **General Information**

The ACBL Conditions of Contest as published in The Bulletin and/or on the ACBL website, and the general ACBL Conditions of Contest for Players and Organizers are part of the District 6 Conditions of Contest set forth below. In case of any conflict, the ACBL Conditions will take precedence.

#### **Administrative Procedures**

The conditions of contest are supplemented by the District 6 North American Pairs (NAP) Administrative Procedures, designed to provide guidelines for Unit and District officials.

#### **Club Level Qualification is required in District 6 for the 2025-2026 North American Pairs.**

Players who are members of District 6 may qualify at any club in the ACBL or online NAP qualifier and play in the District 6 Final. There is no Unit Final qualification; players qualify from the clubs directly to the District Finals.

#### **Flight Eligibility**

Masterpoints won in other bridge organizations, such as the ABA and foreign organizations, must be taken into account for placement in the appropriate flights.

- Championship Flight: Open to any Player
- Flight A: Players with fewer than 6000 MPs as of the 2025 June masterpoint cycle.\*
- Flight B: Players with fewer than 3000 MPs as of the 2025 June masterpoint cycle.\*
- Flight C: Non-Life Masters with fewer than 750 MPs as of the 2025 June masterpoint cycle.\*

\*The June masterpoint cycle is run by ACBL data processing on May 6th. Any points won but not included in this cycle do not affect masterpoint eligibility.

#### **Conventions**

Clubs may decide what conventions are allowed at the club qualifiers. At the District level, ACBL Conditions of Contest Conventions apply. The Basic+ Chart applies in Flights B and C, the Open Chart applies in Flight A, and the Open+ Chart applies in the Championship flight. By ACBL rules, no Multi is allowed.

#### **Special Qualification**

At the club stage, when an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than 5) enter a scheduled flight (or strat), all pairs who pay an entry fee are deemed to have qualified for the next stage.

## **Enforcement of Rules**

Directors are reminded to enforce ACBL regulations courteously and firmly, including slow play, wandering, talking, and proper preparation of convention cards.

## **Appeals Committees**

Appeals of director's rulings and protests of scoring errors are to be dealt with in accordance with ACBL rules by the normal tournament authority. The Director-in-Charge and the District head of appeals is authorized to form telephone committees if an appropriate committee cannot be formed on-site. In the Championship Flight, at the discretion of the Director-in-Charge, the Chairman of the District 6 GNT/NAP Planning Committee, and/or the District 6 NAP Coordinator, such telephone committees may include players from outside District 6 in order to obtain the best and most objective ruling possible.

If the appeals committee should judge the appeal to be substantially without merit, it may assess penalties in accordance with ACBL and District 6 policies. Such penalties may be expressed in match points or seeding points, as appropriate. Seeding point penalties may be applied to future Grand National Team Final seeding.

## **Club Level**

Clubs may hold up to two (2) club qualifying games in each of the three months (June, July, August) for each weekly sanctioned session held that month. This applies to each flight. If no club in a Unit holds a game, the Unit must sponsor a club qualifying game for its membership. Any club will be permitted to run a stratified game. (See the ACBL Conditions of Contest (Organizers) for more information.) No club events may be held during a Sectional in the Unit in which the club is located without permission from the Unit. If separate Flights are held, Flight C may be stratified. Any stratification may be allowed with only the top stratification qualifying for the next level.

## **Qualification**

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 different partners as desired.

Qualification extends downward at the club level. As examples, if you are eligible for Flight C and you qualify for the Championship Flight, you are qualified for all flights, and if you are eligible for the Flight B and qualify for Flight A, you qualify for both flights.

## **Flight-Mixed Qualifying**

When a partnership consists of players individually eligible for different flights, they must play in the event for which the higher-ranked player is eligible. If they qualify, each player is considered

qualified for any lower flight for which they are eligible. For more information, see the National Conditions of Contest which are posted on the ACBL website.

### **Unit Level**

There will be no Unit Final stage; players qualify from the clubs directly to the District Finals.

### **District Level**

Except as provided in the ACBL Conditions, no participant may qualify for the District Finals who is not a bona fide member of a Unit within District 6 on June 1, 2025. If questions arise, it will be the responsibility of the player to satisfy the Regional Director (or designee) as to his/her eligibility. See Appendix II of the ACBL Conditions for making requests for exceptions.

### **Substitutions**

Replacements will not be allowed during the District Final. A one-session substitute who does not substantially strengthen or weaken the partnership may be permitted to keep the original partnership alive. Substitutes must be eligible to play in the flight in which they are substituting, must be a member of District 6, and must be club-qualified or already eliminated from the event. For the Championship, A and B Flights, substitutes must be approved by the Player Evaluation Committee. For Flight C, approval may be given by the Regional Director, District Coordinator, or Player Evaluation Committee.

### **Withdrawal**

Once a player has entered the District Final, he/she is expected to complete the event unless eliminated in a qualifying round. Withdrawal will be permitted in emergencies (serious situations that occur unexpectedly and mandate immediate attention) only.

### **District Finals**

For the Championship and A Flight, District 6 will schedule a two-day final with a two-session playthrough qualifier on the first day and a two-session playthrough final on the second day. Approximately 50% of the field will qualify from day one to day two. Carryovers will be assigned using the ACBL standard carryover formula.

The Flight B event will be a two-session playthrough event played at two sites. The Flight C event will be a two-session playthrough event played at two sites.

The ACBL director assigned to the event reserves the right to adjust the qualification, movement, and conditions as necessary to achieve as fair and equal conditions for all qualifiers as possible.

### **Pre-registration**

Pre-registration is required to play in the District Finals. Pairs in the Championship, B and C flights must pre-register by Thursday, September 25, 2025. Pairs in Flight A must pre-register by October 30, 2025. To pre-register, fill out and submit the appropriate flight NAP entry form which will be posted on the District 6 website <https://www.districtsixbridge.org/>

### **Dates and Locations**

All four D6 NAP finals will be held in person in 2025. Start times will be communicated to entrants in conditions of play that will be emailed the week before the event.

Championship Flight – the event will be a two (2) session qualifier on Saturday, October 4, 2025, with a two (2) session final played on Sunday, October 5, 2025. The site (to be determined) will be in or near Kensington MD.

Flight A – the event will be a two (2) session qualifier on Saturday, November 8, 2025, with a two (2) session final played on Sunday, November 9, 2025. The site (to be determined) will be in or near Kensington MD.

Flight B - the event will be two sessions played on Sunday, October 5, 2025. Players may register to play at one of two sites:

Southern Flight B site – 817 Kempsville Rd, Virginia Beach, VA

Northern Flight B site – TBD (Kensington MD)

Flight C - the event will be two sessions played on Saturday, October 4, 2025. Players may register to play at one of two sites:

Southern Flight C site – Richmond Bridge Center, 1911 Bishop Rd., Richmond VA

Northern Flight C site – TBD (Kensington MD)

### **Qualification to the National Level**

The top 3 pairs in the Championship Flight and Flight A qualify for the National Finals. See the section below for details on how the four qualifying pairs will be selected in Flight B and Flight C (contested at two sites). The top 2 pairs in each flight will be subsidized by the ACBL (amounts not yet announced). District 6 will subsidize the second, third, and (in Flights B and C) fourth-place qualifiers so that pairs will receive subsidies in proportion to qualification rank. Details will be appended when the ACBL contributions are known.

The National Finals will be held in conjunction with the 2026 Spring NABC [scheduled Feb 25-Mar 8, 2026] in St. Louis, MO.

## **Determination of Qualification spots for Flights B and C Contested at Two sites**

Flight B District finals and Flight C District finals will each be a one-day, two session, play-through event held at two split sites in the district.

The Flight B final at each location will be a two session play-through event with pre-duplicated boards. For a location to be considered a valid NAP event, there must be a minimum of five tables of Flight B qualified players at that location.

The Flight C final at each location will be a two session play-through event with pre-duplicated boards. For a location to be considered a valid NAP event, there must be a minimum of five tables of Flight C qualified players at that location.

In each flight, if one site does not meet the five table minimum and is cancelled, then players will be offered the option to play at the larger site or cancel their registration, and all the qualifying pairs will come from the remaining site. If both sites fail to meet the minimum, all players will be offered the option to play at the Northern site.

Flight B and Flight C will be scored across the field yielding one set of overalls covering both sites, for each flight. At the Director's discretion if this is not feasible, the director may score separately yielding unique sets of overalls for each site. This will be determined in advance and communicated in the conditions of play. The following table will detail how the four qualifier pairs are determined in either scenario. Important Note: To ensure representation from both sites, it is possible that a qualification spot may be given to a pair with a lower rank or a lower percentage than an unawarded pair at the other site.

### **Definitions:**

**Evenly divided fields:** The situation that exists if one site has no more than 60% of the total eligible pairs. In other words, the larger site cannot be more than 50% larger than the smaller site. (This includes exactly 60%.)

**Unevenly divided fields:** The situation that exists if one site has more than 60% of the total eligible pairs. In other words, the larger site is more than 50% larger than the smaller site.

**Rank number:** The position of the pair in whatever scoring configuration is used. The masterpoints are generated by ACBLScore and do not change in the process of the award (qualification) determination process.

**Award number:** The position for pairs representing the District at the NABC and for receiving subsidies.

**Qualification Determination Table**

Scoring Method	Evenly divided fields	Unevenly Divided Fields
<b>Matchpointed across both sites; one set of masterpoint overalls and ranks</b>	Two awards will go to each site.	Awards may be allocated either 2-2 or 3-1 in favor of the larger site.
	If the 1st and 2nd ranks are at one site, these ranks receive awards #1 and #2. Awards #3 and #4 go to the two highest scores at the other site.	If the 1st and 2nd ranks are at the larger site, they receive awards #1 and #2. Award #3 goes to the highest rank at the smaller site. Award #4 goes to the highest unawarded rank at either site.
	If one of the 1st and 2nd ranks are at each site, these ranks receive awards #1 and #2, Award #3 goes to the next highest rank at either site and award #4 goes to the next highest rank at the site that did not receive award #3.	If the 1st and 2nd ranks are at the smaller site, they receive awards #1 and #2. Awards #3 and #4 go to the highest ranks at the larger site.
		If one of the 1st and 2nd ranks are at each site, these ranks receive awards #1 and #2. Award #3 goes to the next unawarded rank at the larger site. Award #4 goes to the next unawarded rank at either site.
<b>Matchpointed separately at each site. A separate list of overall ranks is generated at each site. Comparisons between sites are by percentage.</b>	Two awards will go to each site.	Awards may be allocated either 2-2 or 3-1 in favor of the larger site.
	Award #1 goes to the highest percentage at either site. Award #2 goes to the highest percentage at the other site. Award #3 goes to the highest unawarded percentage at either site. Award #4 goes to the highest unawarded rank at the site that did not receive award #3.	Award #1 goes to the highest rank at the larger site. Award #2 goes to the highest rank at the smaller site. Award #3 goes to the 2nd highest rank at the larger site. Award #4 goes to the highest unawarded rank at either site.

For questions or comments, call: Mary Peters, D6 NAP Coordinator, 410-707-6347, or send an email to: mfpeters496@verizon.net.

The District Coordinator and Chief Director are responsible for this event through the District Finals, under the direction of the District Director and the District 6 GNT/NAP Planning Committee.

