



## 2025 - 2026 District 17 North American Pairs (NAP) Conditions of Contest

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### Reference

ACBL Conditions of Contest are part of the District 17 Conditions of Contest put forth below. To view ACBL Conditions of Contest, go to:

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>

### Club Level

Club qualifying games may be held both online and face-to-face in clubs in June, July and August. The games will begin June 1, 2025, and end August 31, 2025.

Club level qualification is earned as an individual and not as a partnership. Players may form new partnerships and play in the District 17 Finals. Players may play in as many qualifying games as they wish. **There are no Unit Finals in District 17.**

The Open Convention Chart applies to stratified games. Flighted games limited to B and C players must use the Basic+ Convention Chart. In the Championship Flight games that are flighted, the Open+ Convention Chart applies.

There is no District 17 sanction fee for NAP qualifying games. The ACBL table fee for club qualifying games is \$5.15 and it is billed directly to clubs via ACBL Live for Clubs.

### Flight Eligibility

Clubs must run the games with the proper upper limits or the games will be illegally stratified. For NAP purposes, ACBL stratifies by player with the highest Masterpoints of the pair, and not by the average of the pair.

The stratifications are as follows:

Championship Flight: Open to any player

Flight A: less than 6000 masterpoints

Flight B: less than 3000 masterpoints

Flight C: Non-Life Masters with fewer than 750 masterpoints

All stratifications are determined by recorded masterpoints as of the June masterpoint cycle which runs on May 6, 2025. Points won after this cycle do not affect flight eligibility.

Any player who achieves qualification in any flight will also qualify in any lower flights for which they are eligible.

## **District Finals**

The District 17 Finals will be held at the Albuquerque Regional in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Flight A and Flight C two-session competition will be held Friday, January 16, 2026. The Championship Flight and Flight B two-session competition will be held Saturday, January 17, 2026. Each flight must have at least 5 pairs to be considered viable. If in Flights B and C between one and four pairs register to play, all such pairs will be considered qualified to play at the NABC upon payment of the district's entry fee.

All flights will follow a two-session playthrough format. Each flight will play at least 24 boards per session and not more than 30 boards per session. The Director in Charge will determine the exact number of boards based on each flight's table count.

The ACBL table fee at the district level is \$7.15. The entry fee will be the same as the entry fee for the Albuquerque tournament, which is \$15 per player per session.

The Basic+ Convention Chart applies for Flights B and C. The Open+ Convention Chart applies for the Championship Flight and Flight A.

Ties will be broken following the procedure outlined below:

- **Considering only boards played in common:** A pair receives one point for each board on which they outscore the other tied pair(s), and one-half point for each tied board. Additionally, on boards not played in common, a pair receives one point for a score above average and one-half point for a score of average.
- **If the above does not break the tie, or in cases where the pairs played no boards in common:** Compare matchpoints on all boards against the average. Award a pair one point for each score above average and one-half point for each score of average.

## **National Finals**

The top three pairs in the Championship Flight and Flight A of the District Finals, and the top four pairs in Flights B and C of the District Finals will be eligible to play in the National Finals held in conjunction with the 2026 Spring NABC, St. Louis, MO.

The National Finals for the Championship Flight and Flight A will be held Wednesday and Thursday, February 25 and 26, 2026. The National Finals for Flights B and C will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 7 and 8, 2026.

### **Subsidies**

The ACBL waives all entry fees for the NAP finals.

The ACBL pays a stipend of \$700 to the first-place pair and a \$300 stipend to the second-place pair in each flight to offset the cost of travel to the NABC. District 17 provides a stipend of \$200 to the third-place pairs. The district pays a stipend of \$100 to the fourth-place pairs in Flights B and C.

If a qualifying pair chooses not to participate in the National Finals, the invitation and any travel subsidy will be extended to the next ranked qualifiers.

Any player participating in NAP events must be dues-paying or service-fee paid ACBL member prior to playing in any level of this event except club qualifiers.