

**CONDITIONS OF CONTEST  
2019-2020 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. Players first play at the club level to qualify to compete in the District NAP Finals where they play for the opportunity to earn subsidies to compete in the NAP National Finals to be held at the 2020 Spring North American Bridge Championships in Columbus, OH.

The flyer for the District 19 NAP Finals may be found here:  
<http://web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/10/1910719.pdf>

**Flights**

During all stages of play – Club Qualifying, District Finals and National Finals – flight masterpoint limits 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:**

1<sup>st</sup> place pair in each flight: US\$700 per player subsidy from ACBL \*

2<sup>nd</sup> place pair in each flight: US\$300 per player subsidy from ACBL \*

3<sup>rd</sup> place pair in each flight: US\$300 subsidy to the pair from District 19

\*Winning and 2<sup>nd</sup> place pair subsidies, paid by ACBL, are subject to review and revision by the ACBL Board of Directors.

It is District 19 policy that 3<sup>rd</sup> place subsidies will be paid in the currency of players' country of residency, either in US\$ in the amount above or the equivalent in Cdn\$.

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

Tim White, 8121 SE79th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040

e-mail: [trkwhite@gmail.com](mailto:trkwhite@gmail.com)

cell phone: (206) 979-9041

**CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

These 2019-20 D19 NAP Conditions of Contest and the ACBL's 2019-20 NAP Conditions of Contest will be found at the ACBL website under TOURNAMENTS / Conditions of Contest.

## **Stages of Play**

There are three stages of play: (1) Club Qualifying, (2) District Finals, and (3) National Finals.

### **(1) CLUB QUALIFYING – qualification at local clubs for the District Finals**

Players qualify for the District Finals by successfully competing in NAP 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. Players who qualify at the club level, and meet residency requirements (below), are eligible to participate in the District Finals. ***Unlike District GNT Finals, for the 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 per sanctioned session. 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 sanction fees, in the amount specified by the ACBL in the version of the “ACBL Special Games at Clubs” chart in effect at the time of the game, are due ACBL. No District 19 surcharge is applied to NAP club-level qualification games. Upon the game’s conclusion, the director shall 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. **CLUBS MUST SUBMIT TO THE D19 NAP COORDINATOR, NO LATER THAN September 15, 2019, A LIST OF ALL PLAYERS WHO QUALIFIED AT THEIR NAP CLUB QUALIFYING GAMES.** This list may be submitted electronically to the email address above (preferred submittal method) or alternatively by hard copy to the postal address above. NOTE: for additional information on planning, setting up and running NAP club qualification games, club managers/directors should refer to the ACBL’s 2019-20 North American Pairs National Conditions of Contest.

Subject to established ACBL minimum guidelines, each club determines the conventions to be allowed in its NAP qualification games.

ACBL members may earn club-level qualification to the D19 NAP Finals 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 in NAP club-level qualification games at any participating club as often as desired and with as many partners as desired.

At club-level qualification games, 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 2019 District 19 NAP Finals will be conducted over two sessions on a single day for each flight. Entry fees for BC- and WA-based D19 Finals events will be the same as those in effect for District 19 regionals in the respective countries.

**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. Players are requested to bring their qualifying slips issued at the club level qualification game. Since 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/or the District NAP Coordinator may, as necessary, refer to ACBL- and/or club-generated player qualification reports.

**District 19 Residency.** A member's principal residence as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Finals shall establish the district in which said member is eligible to participate beyond the club qualifying stage. 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; applications are subject to the review and approval criteria and process set forth in the NAP National Conditions of Contest.

**Play in more than one flight.** 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 qualification threshold for each level of play.

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

Flight A category players – Compete in Flight A only.

**Permissible Convention Charts:**

Flight A: Open+

Flight B: Basic+

Flight C: Basic

Convention charts may be found here:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/181AttachmentD.pdf>

**Event Dates and Session Start Times:**

The 2019 District 19 NAP Finals will be a one-day two-session event for all flights as follows:

**Flight A** (open) will be played at the East Delta Hall on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 12:00pm and 5:30pm.

**Flight B** (less than 2500 MP) will be played at the East Delta Hall on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 10:30am and 4:00pm.

**Flight C** (Non-Life Master less than 500 MP) will be played at the East Delta Hall on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 12:00pm and 5:30pm.

## **Venue Address and Directions:**

East Delta Hall  
10379 Ladner trunk Rd.  
Delta, BC V4G 1K2

### From Washington

- Take I-5 north to the border crossing
- I-5 north becomes BC-99 north
- After 12.4 miles take Exit 20 Ladner Trunk Rd toward South Delta
- Turn right onto Ladner Trunk Rd
- Venue is approximately 1 mile on the left
- Enter the parking lot from 104 St

### From BC

- From BC-99 southbound take Exit 20 Ladner Trunk Rd toward South Delta
- Turn left onto Ladner Trunk Rd
- Venue is approximately 2 km on the left
- Enter the parking lot from 104 St

**Electronic Device Policy.** Except for health-related equipment, or by permission of the Director, 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 players and kibitzers and are in force throughout any playing session or segment of play.

A first violation of the above restrictions will result in immediate automatic discipline as follows:

- Ringing or vibrating only (so long as the device is not answered and is immediately turned off and put away): a warning
- Any other first violation: 1/2 board.

All subsequent violations: one full board per violation.

Kibitzers violating this policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place in Flight A and pairs in 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place in Flights B and C), are to report on-site to the District 19 NAP Coordinator or the Director in Charge to (a) discuss coordination of the pairs' commitments to represent District 19 at the National Finals (and thus their eligibility for associated subsidies) and (b) verify the pairs' contact information.

If a pair finishing in qualifying position determines it is unable to commit to competing in the National Finals, their qualification position (and any subsidy commensurate with

their qualification position) will be offered to the next lower finishing pair.

A person or pair may represent a district in only one flight at the National Finals. In the situation where a pair (or player) has elected to “play up” and qualifies in more than one flight, the pair (or player) will be required to declare – immediately upon completion of the second session of the second day of the D19 NAP Finals – 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 Columbus, OH in March 2020. The Flight A Final will be held Wednesday & Thursday, March 18-19, 2020. Flight B & C Finals will be held Saturday & Sunday, March 28-29, 2020. 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.

