

ACBL District 25 Conditions of Contest for the 2025/2026 North American Pairs

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The district level qualifying events will be played in-person at the Norwich, Ct. tournament to be held in November 2025. Any changes to these conditions to ensure smooth process of the events may be made by the NAP Coordinator and Director-in-Charge. Any such decisions will be final. It is expected that the Finals will take place at the spring NABC in St. Louis from February 26 - March 8th 2026.

1. National Conditions:

The 2025-2026 North American Pairs (hereafter, NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the ACBL govern this competition. Refer to the ACBL web site at

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

These District 25 Conditions of Contest cover circumstances unique to the District and clarify options available to it in the National Conditions of Contest.

2. Participation:

To advance beyond the club level, a player must be a member in good standing of both District 25 and the ACBL.

3. District Coordinator & District Director:

District 25's NAP Coordinator is Bart Bussink, bartwbussink@gmail.com

4. Unit Responsibilities:

Each unit is responsible to promote the NAP including club level play in its own Unit and the District 25 Finals.

5. Club Stage

Club qualifying games will be conducted in June, July and August of 2025 as specified in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest. Members of District 25 must qualify via these club games or through ACBL sanctioned online games.

6. Unit Level

The Unit Stage of the NAP competition will not be conducted in District 25. Players who qualify in club qualifying games advance directly to the District Finals.

7. District Finals for Open, A, B, and C Flights

District Final Tournaments Eligibility:

Members of District 25 who qualified in a Club qualifying game and who are otherwise qualified by the ACBL National Conditions of Contest are eligible to compete in the District 25 NAP Finals. The masterpoint cutoff date for eligibility for a certain flight is May 6, 2025.

Masterpoint Limits: Open: Unlimited; A Flight: under 6,000; B Flight: under 3,000; C Flight: under 750 AND non-Life Master.

8. Event Formats:

Each Open, A and B session is expected to consist of 24-30 boards. Each Flight C session will consist of 18-24 boards. The director is empowered to modify the number of boards to complete the movement or conform to other constraints. There will be an approximately 1 hour break between sessions. The director will announce the restart time for the second session at the start of the break between sessions. Late arrivals at any session may be subject to penalty or unable to compete. Withdrawals require approval of the Tournament Director and will only be granted under compelling circumstances. Every effort will be made to avoid playbacks during any secondary sessions.

(a) Flight A and B and C

The Open Flight event will consist of a 2-session qualifying event and a 2-session final. The Open flight will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday November 15th and 16th. The morning sessions will start at 10:00 AM. An approximately 1 hour break will occur each day between sessions; the starting time for the second session each day will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

The Flight A Final will consist of a 2-session qualifying event and a 2-session final. It will take place on Thursday and Friday the 13th and 14th of November. The morning session will start at 10:00 AM. An approximately one hour break will occur between sessions; the starting time for the second

session will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

The Flight B Final will consist of 2-sessions held on Wednesday, November 12th. The morning session will start at 10:00 AM. An approximately one hour break will occur between sessions; the starting time for the second session will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

The flight C Final will take place on Tuesday, November 11th. It will be a two session event starting at 10 AM. An approximately one hour break will occur between sessions; the starting time for the second session each day will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

(b) Format Changes:

The NAP Coordinator may, after consultation with the Tournament Director and the Region 2 Director, modify the format for any of the Finals as needed to accommodate unanticipated circumstances.

9. Event Location, Dates, and Starting Times:

All of the district finals in 2024 will take place IN PERSON at the Norwich Ct. tournament between November 11th and November 16th of 2025.

10. Ties:

Ties for qualifying positions to national advancement will be broken in accordance with the ACBL Pairs Events Conditions of Contest. The first tie-breaker is board-a-match on boards played in common and board-a-match against average for boards not played in common. For full details see:

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

11. District Finals Conditions of Play

(a) Entry Fees:

The entry fees (\$25 per person per session) will be due and payable via credit card or cash prior to the start of play of each session

(b) Bidding Boxes/Screens:

Bidding boxes will be in use for all events. Screens may be used for the Open flight if available.

(c) Slow Play:

The Tournament Director will monitor any aggravated slow play to determine who is at fault and may assess slow play penalties as set out in ACBL regulations.

(d) Kibitzing:

Kibitzers will be permitted, but must be agreed to by the player being kibitzed.

(e) Conventions

Use of conventions is as per the National Conditions of Contest at the club stage. For the District Finals:

Open Flight - Open+ Convention Chart

Flight A - Basic+ Convention Chart

Flight B - Basic+ Convention Chart

Flight C - Basic Convention Chart

All contestants are required to have a filled-out convention card available to see and reference.

For any convention requiring it, contestants are expected to provide a printed version of the ACBL-approved defense to their opponents.

(f) Substitutions

The Region 2 Representative, or the NAP Coordinator will follow the guidelines for substitutions as outlined in the ACBL National NAP Conditions of Contest.

12. Advancement to the National Finals

The top three pairs in the Open flight and Flight A and the top **four** pairs in Flights B and C will be eligible to advance to the National Finals, held in conjunction with the 2026 St. Louis, Missouri NABC. The exact dates of the Finals remain to be determined/confirmed.

13. Advancement Declined:

If a pair eligible for advancement declines to advance to the Nationals Finals, then another pair will be offered the chance to advance as follows:

- (a) The pair with the next highest score in the same Flight as the pair that withdrew will be offered the chance to advance.
- (b) The order of placement shall be revised according to the overall scores of the pairs now in the advancement queue, and in case of subsequent declinations, the offer will be extended to additional pairs in accordance with para 13(a) above.

14. Subsidies

Travel expense subsidies for those who qualify for participation in the National Finals are administered by the ACBL. The subsidy amounts, if any, remain to be determined.

15. Publicity

The District's champions of each Flight will be reasonably expected to cooperate in promoting the event including, if requested, (i) by supplying a short-written tournament report of the District and National Finals for publication in the District's website; and/or, (ii) by making public appearances.

The NAP Coordinator will promote the event by providing flyers and/or advance e-mail notifications to the Units and clubs with general information for Club Qualification, and of the dates, times and locations for the District Finals.

The NAP Coordinator will arrange to publish both this information and the tournament reports referenced in this paragraph on the District 25 website.

16. Contingencies

The NAP 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, before the start of play, the NAP Coordinator will attempt to resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions. If such matter should involve his/her partnership, then the NAP Coordinator shall defer to the Region 2 Director, Sue Miguel, to act in his/her stead.

Once play begins, the Tournament Director in Charge, with consultation with the NAP Coordinator and the Region 2 Director, will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities not specifically addressed by these Conditions that occur during the event itself.