

CHAPTER XI – SPECIAL EVENTS

C. NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)

Section 1 – Guidelines

- 1.1 Any player participating in NAP events must be a dues-paying or service-fee paid ACBL member prior to playing in any level of this event except club qualifying.
- 1.2 The NAP competition will have three flights as follows:
 - a. Flight A: 0-unlimited masterpoints
 - b. Flight B: 0-2500 masterpoints
 - c. Flight C: Non-Life Master up to 500 masterpoints

Section 2 – Club Level Qualifying

- 2.1 The club qualifying round for all flights of the NAP will be held in June, July and August.
- 2.2 A club may conduct two qualifying events in each flight for each weekly game sanctioned in each month.
- 2.3 A game may be held as a stratified event. When there is a separate Non-Life Master qualifying game, the club may choose its own stratification levels
 - 2.3.1 Only those players placing in the top strat will be eligible to qualify and go on to the Unit round.
- 2.4 A club may move the site of its NAP qualifying game to accommodate increased attendance, but the club must hold the event at the same time as one of its regular sanctioned game sessions.
- 2.5 Clubs hosting NAP games must return the financial report and the fees due by the 10th of the following month.
- 2.6 Each club must schedule its NAP game on one of its sanctioned sessions (exceptions can be approved by the Unit) within the specified month for qualification.

- 2.7 The ACBL recommends that games of 18 or more tables be divided into two or more sections.
- 2.8 Duplicated boards across all sections are desirable but not mandatory. A minimum of 21 boards must be played, and all games should be seeded. The ACBL issues all masterpoints earned at NAP events.
- 2.9 A club-level qualifying event must be a one-session open pair event.
- 2.10 A club-stage event must have a club or higher-rated director. The ACBL recommends a non-playing director, but games of one section with 17 tables or fewer may have a playing director.
- 2.11 In emergencies, substitutes may play up to 50% of the boards. Substitutes who play more than 50% of the boards acquire the rights of the original contestants. Masterpoint awards are 100% Sectional-rated, 50% red and 50% black.
- 2.12 An invitational club may participate and qualify players for Unit-level competition. Masterpoint awards for invitational flights are all black (50% red and 50% black as of June 1, 2020) and are equivalent to 80% of Sectional rating. **(Effective June 1, 2020.)**
- 2.13 With prior Unit approval, an invitational club may open its games to all ACBL members, with players earning the same masterpoint awards as they would at open clubs.
 - 2.13.1 Before approval is granted, however, the Unit must be satisfied that the club will adequately advertise the fact that the game will be open. If a Unit refuses permission for an open game, a club may appeal the Unit's decision to the District organization.
- 2.14 Players may participate in club-level NAP competitions outside their home Districts. These players will receive any masterpoints earned, and any qualifications earned are for the next level of play in their home District.
- 2.15 At a club -level qualifying game, all eligible individuals who earn masterpoints or finish in the top half of the field, and any individuals who score 50% or better, earn qualification to play at the Unit level.

Section 3 - Fees and Awards

- 3.1 A District may charge an additional fee, not to exceed \$1.00 per table, at the club level of the NAP event.

3.2 A fixed amount prize will be awarded in all flights as follows:

3.2.1 In Districts with three qualifiers, the first-place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the second-place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person.

The third-place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the National-level finals, but they will not receive any prize.

3.2.2 In Districts with four qualifiers, the first- and second-place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the third-place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person. The fourth-place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the National level finals, but they will not receive any prize.

3.2.3 Invited defenders will receive \$700 per person.

3.2.4 No individual may collect two concurrent prizes.

3.2.5 In the event of a tie, the qualifiers will receive the total of the awards for the tied places, divided by the number of players involved with the tie.

3.2.6 The monetary award will be available on site. Qualifiers must play in the National-level event until eliminated to receive the award.

3.2.7 There will be no entry fee for the National level of the event.

3.2.8 ACBL management may use its best judgment in making exceptions to any of the above.

Section 4 – Miscellaneous NAP Regulations

4.1 ACBL members representing their NBO or Zone 2 in WBF competitions shall be granted a waiver of the qualification requirements for the NAP where a conflict of dates exists. This waiver will not apply to a District final.

4.2 Club or Unit NAP events may not be held within 25 miles of a Sectional tournament.

4.3. At a District's option, clubs may not hold NAP qualifying events in conflict with a Regional in that District.

- 4.4 For the Unit-level competition, both members of the pair must play in their home District. No player may enter more than one Unit-level competition per flight.
- 4.5 All participants at the Unit level must be ACBL members in good standing and be current in payment of their dues or their Life Master service fees. Non-members may join ACBL at the time they register to play. To accommodate non-members and others who do not wish to play in the NAP event, a club may conduct a regular game at the same time as the qualifying event.
- 4.6 Districts may hold Sectional-rated events in conjunction with the District finals of NAP events.
- 4.7 The regulations that apply to sanctioning Sectionals shall apply to the sanctioning of a District's final.
- 4.8 Each District may choose to host their NAP District finals through an ACBL approved online host according to the provisions of the NAP Conditions of Contest Appendix VII (Conditions of Contest for Online NAP Finals).
- 4.9 The number of members used in the formula to determine extra pairs for the National final is equivalent to the number of members in that District eligible to participate in that level of the event. The extra pairs will be based on the percentage of participation, at the club level, within each flight.
- 4.10 The NAP final will be a four-session event, with between 52 and 78 pairs competing in a two-session qualifying for a two-session final with carryover as per ACBL formula. In Flight A, 28 pairs will qualify for the final. In Flight B and Flight C, approximately 50% of the original entrants will qualify for the final.
- 4.11 The National finals of Flight A of the NAP will be held on the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the Spring NABC. Flight B and Flight C will be held at the Spring NABC on dates to be determined by ACBL. Dates will be published in the NAP Conditions of Contest and/or the Spring NABC schedule of events.