

CHAPTER VIII - NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

F. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR NABC+ EVENTS

Section 1 – Red, Blue and Silver Ribbon Event Qualifications

1.1 Red Ribbon Qualification

- 1.1.1 First through eighth place finishers in all NABC knockout events with an upper masterpoint limit of at least 300 and not more than 1500.
- 1.1.2 First through 10th place finishers (and ties) in Non-Life Master NABCs of four or more sessions.
- 1.1.3 First and second place finishers (including ties) in all Regional-rated red or gold point events of two or more sessions that have an upper limit of at least 300 and no more than 1500 masterpoints.
- 1.1.4 Members of the Flight B and the Non-Life Master District champions in the Grand National Teams (GNT).
- 1.1.5 First and second place finishers (including ties) in North American Pairs (NAP) Flight B and Non-Life Master single-site District finals; first-place pairs at each site in split-site District finals.
- 1.1.6 First and second place finishers in the National final of Flight B and Non-Life Master Flight of the GNT and the NAP.
- 1.1.7 Players with a Blue Ribbon or Silver Ribbon Qualification, provided they do not have more than 2500 masterpoints as of the last point notification prior to the event.
- 1.1.8 First and second in any bracket of a bracketed knockout which does not award 100% gold points for overall placing when no member of the team has more than 1500 masterpoints.
- 1.1.9 Qualifications that were won prior to 1991 that expired and/or were credited to a player entered in a Blue Ribbon Event prior to 1991 no longer count as a Red Ribbon Qualification. No qualification earned prior to 1986 may count.

1.2 Blue Ribbon Qualification

- 1.2.1 First through eighth in the Vanderbilt, Spingold, Women's, or Senior Knockout Teams at NABC Championships.
- 1.2.2 First through 10th and all ties in the Red Ribbon Pairs and all other National-rated events that have no upper masterpoint limit.
- 1.2.3 First and second (including ties) in all gold point Regional-rated events with no upper masterpoint limit. For bracketed knockouts, the foregoing applies only to brackets issuing 100% gold points.
- 1.2.4 The 100 players having the greatest total of masterpoints as of the Sept. 1 ACBL computer cycle.
- 1.2.5 All members of the Championship and Flight A District champions in the GNT and the winners and zonal champions in the Canadian National Team Championship Open Flight.
- 1.2.6 Winners of the Canadian Women's Team Championship.
- 1.2.7 First and clear second in single-site District finals of North American Open Pairs - Flight A. First and ties for first in multiple-site District finals.
- 1.2.8 First and second (including ties) in the National final of the Open Flight of the GNT and the NAP.
- 1.2.9 All past world champions.
- 1.2.10 Canadian Open Pairs – Regional-rated (COPC), Mexican Grand National Teams (MGNTC), Bermuda National Pairs (BNPC), and Bermuda National Teams (BNTC). First and second place finishers in the pair events and winners of the team events.
- 1.2.11 Qualifications that were won prior to 1991 that expired and/or were credited to a player entered in a Blue Ribbon Event prior to 1991 no longer count as a Blue Ribbon Qualification. In no instance may a qualification won prior to 1986 be counted.

1.3 Silver Ribbon Qualification

- 1.3.1 Silver Ribbon eligibility will be earned for first and second place (and ties) in the following qualifying events: gold and/or red point Regional- and higher-rated Senior (60 years of age or older as of January 1, 2020, 61 years of age or older as of January 1, 2021, 62 years of age or older as of January 1, 2022, 63 years of age or older as of January 1, 2023, 64 years of age or older as of January 1, 2024, and 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2025) events of at least two sessions with an upper masterpoint limit at least 300. (Age limit transition effective January 1, 2020.)
- 1.3.2 Players with Blue Ribbon or Red Ribbon Qualification, provided that they are 60 years of age or older as of January 1, 2020, 61 years of age or older as of January 1, 2021, 62 years of age or older as of January 1, 2022, 63 years of age or older as of January 1, 2023, 64 years of age or older as of January 1, 2024, and 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2025. (Age limit transition effective January 1, 2020.)

(See also Ch. XIII – General Tournament Information, F. Events, Section 1 – Tournament Events and Restrictions.)

Section 2 – Event Regulations

- 2.1 All players entered in the Vanderbilt and Spingold team events must play at least 40% of the boards in every match.
- 2.2 If, because of an emergency, a player withdraws from a team, or is declared ineligible to play further on the team for failure to fulfill the participation requirements established by the sponsoring organization, in a Regional or NABC tournament, that player is ineligible to participate in a Regional- or higher-rated championship being played concurrently with the team event in which his former teammates are still participating. Any such player may only receive match awards or section awards for his participation in the team event.
- 2.3 ACBL management is authorized to use Barometer play and scoring in the finals of the Non-Life Master Pairs, the finals of the Blue Ribbon Pairs and Barometer style play in the semi-finals and finals of the Reisinger Team event.

- 2.4 A player may play and earn masterpoints in as many sessions of bridge as possible while not entered in a concurrent or overlapping event, except as listed below. A player who is on a team that has received a bye is considered entered in that event when that event begins. Morning and evening knockout events are not considered overlapping or conflicting events regardless of times scheduled.
- 2.4.1 Players on teams with more than four members or teams with byes may play in concurrent one-session events only. For this purpose, Continuous Pairs are considered a one-session event.
- 2.4.2 The players noted in subsection 2.4.1 above may be credited with masterpoints only from the event in which they earn the larger number of points. (This may include overall awards of the Continuous Pairs.)
- 2.5 At the discretion of the tournament director, slow play penalties will be deemed to be either disciplinary (and unappealable) or procedural. If the latter, appeals committees should tend strongly to reject all routine appeals against slow play penalties. Should a committee deny such an appeal, it should consider imposing an additional penalty for a frivolous appeal. The burden is on the appellant to demonstrate that some unusual circumstance makes the penalty inappropriate.
- 2.6 Non-ACBL members who have represented their country in World Championship events organized by the WBF, when playing in ACBL stratified or flighted events, are required to play in Flight A. Players may request exemption from this rule for valid cause.
- 2.7 The eligibility of all players participating in an NABC+ event shall, to the extent possible, be checked by ACBL management before the results of that event are declared official.
- 2.7.1 The same time period that is allowed for the protest of a director's error will be allowed for this purpose.
- 2.7.2 If a player, pair or team is found ineligible or a position is otherwise vacated within the above correction period, all pairs or teams will move up to fill the vacated position.
- 2.7.3 From the end of the above correction period until one year after the event, if a player, pair or team is found to be or is declared ineligible or a position is otherwise vacated after the protest period has expired, then the position will be vacated but pairs or teams will not be moved up.