



## North American Online Bridge Championships FAQ

### **Q. How do I register for Premier Knockout or Premier Pairs?**

For the knockout (team) event, you will need to register on the Bridge Winners website ([www.bridgewinners.com](http://www.bridgewinners.com)). Click the button at the top of the Bridge Winners home page that says, "Click here to buy entries for the 2020 Summer NAOBC." You will need to know your teammates' Bridge Base Online IDs. Phone numbers and/or email addresses of team members will also be helpful for disseminating assignments.

Registration for the pair event is on Bridge Base Online ([www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)) two hours before game time. Entry fees will be paid directly to BBO in BB\$. Pre-registration for the pair event is not needed.

### **Q. How many players may we have on our team?**

Each team can consist of four to six players. Except for the first match, each player must play at least half of each match, not counting tiebreaking boards. By the end of the second match, each player must have played at least half of the four sessions played to that point.

### **Q. Do five- and six-player teams have to pay extra?**

No, the entry fee is \$200/match. Each match consists of 56 boards played over four quarters.

### **Q. I am a Junior ACBL member. Is there any sort of discount available?**

Yes, NABC Junior discounts of \$15 per session apply. For the team event, the discounts will be processed at point of sale on the Bridge Winners website. For the pair event, send an email with name(s), player number(s), and BBO ID(s) to [online.tournament@acbl.org](mailto:online.tournament@acbl.org) after the event and we will process a partial refund.

### **Q. Do I have to play in the knockout team event in order to play in the pair event?**

If you meet one of three following criteria, you can play in the pair event without first playing the knockout team event.

1. You have won 50 or more Platinum points over the previous three calendar years.
2. You have won 200 or more Platinum points in a lifetime.
3. You have a Grand Life Master or Platinum Life Master Ranking.



**Q. How are you going to keep non-qualified pairs out?**

Your ACBL number will be required for registration. For the team event, ineligible players will be found during the seeding process. For the pair event, the ACBL will have a list of all members eligible for the event, and BBO will not allow ineligible players to register. Please ensure that your ACBL number is properly entered in your BBO profile at least two days before the event starts.

**Q. How do I add my ACBL number to my BBO profile?**

Sign in to BBO and click on “ACBL World.” A button which says “Update my ACBL number” will appear at the bottom of the window. Click the button and follow the instructions.

**Q. Is it necessary to purchase a video camera for the team event?**

No, but everybody will be required to hold a Zoom or similar session with their screenmate. North and East are screenmates, as are South and West. We are encouraging the use of over-the-shoulder cameras for later rounds by offering free entries for teams that have the cameras for each player. Free entries for camera use will begin with the Round of 32.

**Q. If I bought a camera, are all my sessions free?**

Free entries for teams with cameras begin with the Round of 32. All team members must use an over-the-shoulder set-up to qualify for the discount.

**Q. What kind of camera should I use?**

The ACBL is narrowing down the options to maximize security, value, ease of installation and use. An email to team captains with specifications, links and instructions will go out at or before the registration deadline. Consider how you will want to install your camera. You might mount it or use a tripod, for instance.

**Q. How much does Zoom cost?**

Since you only need to Zoom with one person (your screenmate) you can set up a free account, which will allow you to do this with no time limit.

**Q. May I chat with my screenmate during play?**

Yes! Feel free to be as social as you and your screenmate care to be, respecting that your preferences may be different. We hope you will find this an enjoyable experience. However, it is important that all alerts, questions and answers be typed into BBO's chat. That way they will become part of the official record of the event.



**Q. What do I do if I suspect someone is cheating?**

All hands from the team event will be reviewed by two ACBL employees who are experienced bridge players. Any hands flagged by them will be sent to a player committee that will investigate further. In addition, you can submit hands for further investigation. Hands submitted from the pair event will be sent to the ACBL Recorder, who may forward them to the player committee.

**Q. When do we have to play our matches?**

Over the first weekend, the pre-set match times are 10 a.m./3 p.m., 1 p.m./6 p.m. and 4 p.m./9 p.m., North American Eastern Daylight Time. However, the captains of a match can choose to start their first and third quarters at any of the listed start times as long as the sessions do not overlap. If the captains cannot agree on start times, the times for the match will default to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. For the second weekend, matches will be played at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., EDT.

**Q. May I refer to my system notes during the hand?**

Looking at system notes or note taking during a hand are not permitted. However, anything that can normally be done on BBO, like looking at your own convention card or reviewing the auction in the middle of the hand, is permitted.

**Q. What do I get if I win?**

For the team event, the first-place award is 200 masterpoints®, 100% gold. For the pair event, awards will be calculated at 80% of the NABC rating formula. For example, if 100 pairs enter, first place would award approximately 55 gold points; with 200 pairs, approximately 75 gold points.

**Q. Does winning one of these events fulfill the requirements for the rank of Grand Life master?**

No, these events are not considered NABC+ events, but they are grouped with events such as 10K and Super Senior events.

**Q. What if one of our players is not available for the second weekend?**

If this is known in advance, that player may not play on your team. If some type of emergency occurs, a substitute or replacement may be permitted at the discretion of the DIC. See the full Conditions of Contest here:

<https://nabc.acbl.org/naobc/#coc>



**Q. What if my opponents don't have a convention card posted?**

Each pair is required to post their convention card at the start of each segment of the team event or, as necessary, at the start of each round of the pair event. For the team event, all pairs must submit an ACBL convention card in PDF or similar format by Tuesday, July 21. If submitted later but before 9 a.m. EDT on Thursday, July 23, a team will lose one segment of seating rights in their first two matches. Teams that don't have all convention cards submitted by the Thursday deadline will not be permitted to play in the event.

**Q. Can I see my opponents' convention card before the match?**

Yes, ACBL Convention cards, along with any supplemental information such as convention cards from other organizations, will be posted on the ACBL website.

**Q. How are my opponents chosen?**

Teams will be seeded by the ACBL seeding committee using the ACBL seeding program and research as time permits. Decisions of the seeding committee will be final. The initial seeding will determine the first match and the event bracket, similar to the NCAA "March Madness" basketball tournament.

**Q. Will we be starting our own matches?**

No, matches will be set up by ACBL TDs. See the Conditions of Contest for specific information about when lineups must be submitted:

<https://nabc.acbl.org/naobc/#coc>

**Q. Is this a bracketed KO?**

No, this is a top-tier event like the Vanderbilt or Spingold event. Top-seeded teams will be matched against bottom-seeded teams. This could be your chance to play against some of the top players in the world!