

District 7 Grand National Teams (GNT) Conditions of Contest, 2024-2025

ACBL Conditions of Contest/GNT Conditions of Contest may be found at:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT2024-25.pdf>

The following are the additional Conditions of Contest specific to District 7.

Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception to these Conditions of Contest. These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of this event. The General Conditions of Contest for Swiss Team and Knockout Team events will apply to this event subject to the following special conditions of contest.

Prequalification is required at the Club level for Flights A, B and C. Players may compete in any flight where they have prequalified. All District Final events will be in conjunction with the Columbia, SC Sectional in April, 2025 at Tri-City Leisure Center, 485 Brooks Ave., West Columbia, SC 29169.

Flight C (0-750 Masterpoints AND a Non-Life Master) One-day event Friday, April 4, 2025 at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. Format TBA subject to participation. If there are at least 8 teams competing at the finals in this Flight, then 2 teams will go on to compete at the July 2025 Summer NABC in Philadelphia and receive a \$3,600 travel stipend per team when they compete at the NABC.

Flight B (0-3000 Masterpoints) Two-day event on April 5-6, 2025, at 10 am and 2:30 pm. Format: all teams will compete on day 1, with 4 teams advancing the following day to the Semi-finals, and then two teams to the Finals. Two teams will qualify to play in Philadelphia as long as at least 8 teams compete in this flight. If a team wins more than one flight, then it must decide which National flight to play in at the NABC. The second-place team will replace them if they change flights. The winning team receives a \$3,600 stipend and second place team (if 8+ teams) receives \$3,600 per team.

Championship Flight(unlimited) and Flight A (0-6000 Masterpoints)

Two-day event April 5–6, 2025 at 10 am and 2:30 pm. Format is the same as above Flight B. Pre-qualification at the club level is required for Flight A, but not for the Championship Flight. The team stipend for both Flight A and Championship will be \$3,600.

All teams must register by 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Starting times for games are 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. subject to change. Preregistration is required. To preregister, email the completed roster—with names and ACBL #s—to the District 7 GNT coordinator Martha Meyer mdpmeiermm@gmail.com. This will be sent to the director in charge (DIC). **Fees must be paid before game time** in Columbia.

The GNT National finals will be held at the **Philadelphia NABC** starting on July 23, 2025. The playing site is the Pennsylvania Convention Center. A stipend will be awarded to the winners of the District Finals who attend the NABC and play in their GNT flight.

Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's September 2024 Masterpoint (MP) cycle. This information will be produced on August 6, 2024, in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Questions/information contact District 7 GNT Coordinator Martha Meyer:
(336) 416-3049 or mdpmeyermm@gmail.com
836 Oak Street, # 404, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Conventions

The following is a link to the ACBL document for the allowed convention charts:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/Convention-Charts.pdf>

The district final will use these charts as part of the conditions of contest.

Flight C	Basic+ Chart
Flight B	Basic+ Chart
Flight An	Open Chart
Championship	Open+ Chart

Players are responsible for ensuring their methods are legal for the event in which they are playing. Official answers about permissible systems and conventions are available at rulings@acbl.org. Players are required to have two printed copies of ACBL-approved defense available for the opponents for any convention that requires it. Even if defenses are not required, it is recommended that they be available to establish that the convention is Open Chart or Open+ Chart. Each player should have a copy available for the opponents.

All players, including those from other districts or non-members, may play at the club level. To play in the District 7 Finals, players must meet the following requirements:

- Be members of the ACBL and in good standing
- Have qualified at the club level (except for the Championship Flight)
- Be members of District 7 or have received special permission (rarely granted)

Teams are formed for the District 7 final from eligible players who qualified at the club level.

Club Level Qualification:

The ACBL board has voted to allow online virtual club games as GNT qualifying events. District 7 prefers that our District's games are held face-to-face in our Clubs so players' experience competition similar to what they will play at Nationals.

Championship level teams do not have to qualify at the club level due to limited game availability. All other Flights A, B and C are required to qualify at the club level.

Clubs may hold GNT qualifying events from September 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025. These events should be stratified into 3 groups: combining Open and Flight A, Flight B, and Flight C. There is no limit to the number of GNT qualifying games a club may host. Players qualify as individuals and may play in as many qualifying events and on as many teams as they wish.

Qualifying games must be advertised to the local players at least 1 week prior to the event. In addition, we would like to encourage separate games for Flight C, Flight B and Flight A up to 6000 masterpoints. These will be flighted events similar to the Gold Rush pairs and Flight B events. They should be stratified. However, please note that all players must finish in the top half of their Flight to qualify to play in District Finals. This is a good way for Flight C and B players to

qualify without having to play against the top players. In addition, this will raise money for the district to fund stipends given to the winners of the District Final for a trip to the summer nationals.

Each sanctioned club may hold one GNT Fund Raiser Club game per sanction each year. Only face-to-face clubs may hold this special event. This rating does not exist for virtual club games. If your sanction covers more than one game in different time slots, then each time slot may have one GNT pairs fundraiser.

Fee Schedule – GNT games

District fees are **\$4.75/team** for one-session events, or **\$8/team** for two-session events. These fees should be paid to the District 7 GNT coordinator. Make checks payable to District 7 and forward with the appropriate **financial report** to the District 7 GNT coordinator:

Martha Meyer: 836 Oak Street, #404, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

A list of qualifiers is no longer necessary with the advent of Live for Clubs. Individual player qualification is now available online. Players can check their qualification status on the ACBL website. It is possible that there may be delays while ACBL IT department inputs the data.

Payment for the District 7 GNT fees must be paid within 30 days of the payment of the monthly fee to ACBL. There will be a late fee penalty of \$25 for fees paid after this date. For example, a game held Oct 15 must have its district fees paid by Nov 30 or else the \$25 penalty will apply. There will be no penalty until Dec. 1 for September and October games.

ACBL Score will print out a form to be sent to the district coordinator with payment for GNT team games and GNT pair fundraiser games. This can be done with a simple DBADD at the end of the game before it is submitted online. A special form for GNT and GN Fund Raiser games for clubs that host multiple events is included at the end of this notice.

Fee Schedule – GN Fund Raiser Games

Fees for **GNT Fundraiser** pair games are **\$4 per table**—to be sent to the D7 GNT coordinator. The ACBL monthly report will note that a GNT Fund Raiser Game was played but will note that the fees for this should be sent to the GNT coordinator and not to the ACBL in the financial report. **The same \$25 penalty will apply if payment is not received within one month of the payment of the monthly ACBL fees.**

ACBL Score will also print out a form to be sent to the district coordinator with payment for GNT fundraiser games. Again, a simple DBADD will do it.

A special remit form for the games held during the month for a club is included with this document. This form should be included with the printed form from the ACBL Score program and a check made out to “District 7”. The form will also allow reporting of multiple games.

To Club Managers:

Please try to run club qualifiers and talk up how well our District players have performed in this event at the national level winning Flight C in 2023 in Chicago and both Championship and Flight C in Providence in 2022. In Chicago, 2023 Flight B tied for 5th place. In Toronto this past summer, the Championship Flight tied for 3rd place. There is a stipend available to the players advancing to the national level to help defray some of the costs. The district stipend for GNT and NAP national participants comes from clubs holding and participating in **GRASS ROOTS FUND GAMES. As a club manager, please run as many of these games as possible, as the funds come back to the district. Grass Roots month is in May, but you may also opt to choose Grass Roots as your ACBL Charity games. See Special Games chart for more information.**

District Finals

Entry fees for the Championship Flight will be \$21 per person per session or \$164 for four-players, two sessions on the first day GNT District Final. Teams with 5 or 6 players will pay \$21 more for each player. Since the Championship Flight does not have to qualify at the club level the district is charging \$6 extra per person per session. This includes lunch on Sunday.

Entry fees for the District Finals for Flight A, Flight B and Flight C will be the District 7 regional entry fee of \$15 per person per session.

If any of the teams that qualify for the District 7 semi-final fails to participate, the next qualifying team will be given the chance to substitute for that team. The team that fails to participate will receive only match awards. Masterpoints are Regionally rated = Red and Gold to the winners.

If either of the teams that qualify for the final fails to participate, the other finalist will be declared the winner (they must pay an entry fee for the final session). The team that fails to participate will receive an award based on third/fourth.

District 7 will award a stipend of **\$900 per player** (capped at **\$3600 for the team**) for the winning teams in each flight. (Teams with 5 or 6 members or any player augmented to the team after the District Finals will not receive funds above the \$3600 per team. However, if the team is willing, they may prorate the team's award funds to the augmented players). If a player does not participate in the national event, then the stipend is to be refunded to the district.

The district treasurer is required to send a Form 1099 miscellaneous taxable income to each player who receives a stipend above \$600.

District champions who do not have at least 3 original members who played in the District Finals will be replaced by the next eligible team willing to participate.

The captain of each winning flight is responsible for advising the district coordinator no later than June 15, 2025, of players to be replaced and/or of any augmentation. Players may be replaced only with confirmed consent of the replaced player. Any district champion team has the right to augment up to a 6-person team. Augmented players must have qualified at both the club level and played at the District Finals. Substitution may be allowed at the discretion of the DIC so long as the substitute does not substantially improve the team for any individual session. Only one substitute is allowed per team per session. **Any emergency substitution will be determined by the DIC, whose decision is final.**

Tournament and Competition Committee

The tournament and competition committee (or a subcommittee thereof) is responsible for any modifications and/or clarifications of the GNT Conditions of Contest.

If this is acceptable with the Sectional hosts, the Sunday Swiss will be run as a regional-rated game with an extra fee of \$1 per player per session to benefit the D7 Grass Roots Fund.

In the Championship and Flight A there will be a 24-board semi-final and final. There will be a carryover from the round robin Swiss of 49% of the IMPs with a maximum of one IMP per board.

In the Open, Flight A and Flight B, the NABC+ VP scale will be used.

In the Open and Flight A, pre-duplicated boards will be used.

If a Flight is large enough to be divided into 2 groups, the two groups will be seeded for balance.

The following rules apply to single site District Finals.

In the Championship and Flight A events

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| 2 Teams | Head-to-head, 48 boards for the Open and 48 boards for flight A |
| 3 Teams | Three-way matches on Saturday with one team eliminated, and head to head on Sunday with carryover of 49% of the IMPs from their match in the 3-way (with a maximum of one IMP per board to be played in final), 24 boards. |
| 4–11 Teams | Full round robin with carryover of 49% of the IMPs from the round-robin match, with a maximum of 0.99 IMP per board, 48 boards for full-day round robin qualifying.
If 4–5 teams, 2 teams advance to Sunday final, maximum of 48 boards; if 6–11 teams, 4 teams advance to (24 board) Sunday KO. There will be carryover of 49% of the IMPs from the round-robin match with a maximum of 0.99 IMP per board to be played in the semifinal or final.
The round robin winner shall have the right to choose its opponent for the semifinal. Carryover shall apply to both semifinal and final. |
| 12–20 Teams | Teams will be divided into two brackets with seeding by MP and each bracket will play a full round robin. Seeding will be based on the average MP's of the players on the team. 6 board matches are recommended.
The top seed shall be placed in one bracket and the next two seeds in the opposite bracket. Seeding will continue by twos unless only one team remains.
Two teams will qualify from each bracket with winners of each round robin playing the runner-up from the other bracket.
There will be no carryover, even if two teams from a bracket meet in the final. |
| 21+ Teams | Teams will be seeded as set forth for 12–20 teams. Each bracket shall play a Swiss with two teams advancing. Winners will play runner-up from the other bracket in the semifinal. There will be no carryover. 6 board matches recommended. |

In Flight B or C events: The Tournament Director in Charge (DIC) will determine the movement depending on how many teams are registered/present..

The rules presented here are for 2-day events at a single site. There will be no carryover for Flights B and C.

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| 2 Teams | Head-to-head, 48 boards |
| 3 Teams | Three-way match on Saturday with one team eliminated and head to head on Sunday. 24 boards |
| 4–10 Teams | Full round robin. 6 board matches recommended.
If 4–5 teams, 2 teams advance to Sunday final, maximum of 48 boards; if 6–10 teams, 4 teams advance to (24 board) Sunday KO.
The round-robin winner will play the fourth-place team for the semifinal. |
| 11–20 Teams | Teams will be divided into two or more brackets with seeding by MP and each bracket will play a full round robin. Seeding will be based on the average MP's of the players on the team. Maximum 48 boards. 6 board matches recommended.
The top seed shall be placed in one bracket and the next two seeds in the opposite bracket. Seeding will continue by twos unless only one team remains.
Two teams will qualify from each bracket with winners of each round robin playing the runner-up from the other bracket. |
| 21+ Teams | Teams will be seeded as set forth for 11–20 teams. Each bracket shall play a Swiss with two teams advancing. Winners will play runner-up from the other bracket in the semifinal. |

Tie Breakers (applies to all flights)

In the event of a tie for the last qualifying spot (the right to go on and play in the semifinals), these will be done per the General Conditions for Swiss Teams. These are specified by the ACBL.

