

District 10 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest for 2020-21

The following, in conjunction with the ACBL Special Conditions of Contest, shall constitute the District 10 Conditions of Contest (CoC) for the 2020-21 Grand National Teams (GNT). The ACBL Special Conditions of Contest for 2020-21 may be found on the ACBL web site at:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT2020-21.pdf> .

The District 10 GNT Coordinator is Jerry Burford. Questions or requests for clarification may be directed to the coordinator using the following contact information:

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Because the 2019-2020 GNT was cancelled due to Covid-19, these Conditions incorporate a number of details specific to this year only. ACBL now plans the 2021 Summer NABC will be held on-line (and be the Summer NAOBC). The GNT contests will be held Wednesday, July 14 through Sunday, July 18.

D10 has completed its' District Final for The Championship Flight and for Flight B at the Magic City Regional held in Birmingham, AL in March of 2020. The winners of those contests will represent the District in the 2021 Summer NABC in those flights. District Final contests for Flights A and C were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic; representatives to the 2021 Summer NABC for those flights will be determined in an on-line District contest as outlined below.

The winning team from each flight in the District Final will be invited to represent the district at the national championship games to be held at the 2021 Summer North American Bridge Championship (NABC) to be held in Providence, Rhode Island in July 2021 – or on-line. In addition, if eight or more teams participate in the District 10 finals for either Flight B or C, a second team will be invited from that flight.

Flight Eligibility

Open Championship Flight — Unlimited
Flight A — Under 6000 MPs
Flight B — Under 2500 MPs
Flight C — Non-Life Masters with under 500 MPs

Masterpoint totals for flight eligibility are determined by the ACBL September 1, 2019 masterpoint cycle as produced by ACBL on August 6, 2019. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for the 2021 national final.

Participation Requirements

A player must be a member of the ACBL in good standing to participate at any level of the GNT. A player is considered to be in good standing if his/her dues are paid at the time of the District 10 finals. A player's physical residence as of September 1, 2019 must be in District 10 in order to participate in the District 10 GNT Finals, except as noted in the ACBL Special Conditions (e.g., full-time students, members of the armed forces, etc.) For the 2021 competition, a player who moved into District 10 between September 1, 2019 and September 1, 2020 may compete in either his original District or District 10.

Team Constituency and Qualification Requirements

Team Formation

Teams may consist of four, five, or six members from anywhere within District 10 (i.e., may be comprised of members from more than one Unit in District 10.) For the qualifying event, the team will play with four members, which is more compatible with the two-session online format. For

teams of more than four players, every team member must play at least half of the boards of each match (exclusive of play-offs) in order to continue participating on that team for the remainder of the event (unless exempted; see ACBL Special Conditions of Contest.)

Club Level Competition

For 2021, District 10 does not require qualification at the Club-level for Flights A or C.

Unit Level Competition

For 2021, District 10 does not require qualification at the Unit-level for Flights A or C.

District Level Qualifying Competition

For 2021, new teams may be formed for participation in the District 10 Finals for Flights A and C. Individual team members may be from any Unit in the District. Note that if there are eight or more teams participating in the Flight C qualifying event, the top two teams in the final event will be invited to represent the district in the NAOBC.

The 2021 District 10 Flights A and C contests will be conducted on-line. Any team wishing to participate must pre-register and pre-pay for the event. Captains of teams wanting to participate shall submit their team member's names, ACBL numbers and BBO IDs to the D10 GNT Coordinator at least two weeks prior to the qualifying games. In the event a team pre-registers, but is unable to participate in the qualifying event, its' entry fee will be refunded.

The D10 GNT contest will consist of a two-session Swiss Team qualifying event intended to narrow the field in each flight to four teams that will then move forward to a two-session Swiss Final event to identify place of the finishers in each flight. The qualifying events will be conducted on BridgeBase Online in the Virtual Clubs area. The event will utilize a 30-point victory scale. The format of the qualifying events will be determined once the size of the field in each flight has been established (by pre-registration.) The qualifying rounds will be run by one of the District's Virtual Cub Directors.

District Final Sessions

An ACBL Tournament Director will run the final two-session rounds. The District Final event is planned for May 1, 2021. Times to be confirmed once ACBL confirms their director availability. In addition, participants in the Final event will be required to have access to an additional digital device during the Final rounds to support security screening during the round

The District 10 Final is a flighted event. Flight C will use the ACBL Basic Convention Chart and Flight A will use the Open Chart.

During the District 10 Final, a substitute 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 and only on four-person teams. Any emergency substitution will be determined by the DIC whose decision is final.

Teams that win the District 10 final may augment their team up to six players to participate in the National finals, however at least three members of the original team that competed at the District 10 final must attend/participate in the NABC. All substitutes and replacements must meet the masterpoint requirements of the flight in which they are participating. Players selected to augment the team may not materially improve the team players that participated in the District Final.

If a team is unable to meet the above requirements or is otherwise unable to attend the NABC, the invitation will be passed along to the next team based upon its finish in the District 10 qualifying events. The Captain of each team selected to represent District 10 in the NABC is responsible for advising the District 10 GNT Coordinator:

- a) no later than June 13, 2021 of his/her team's intention to represent District 10 at the NAOBC and
- b) no later than June 20, 2021 of the names and ACBL numbers of all team members, including any substitutes or replacements. Players may be replaced only with confirmed consent of the replaced player.

Sanction Fees and Reporting

The fee for District GNT contests is \$50 per team. Note this does not include a \$3 per player per session game fee to be paid when signing onto BBO to play in the qualifying events. Fee should be remitted to the D10 GNT Coordinator with the team's pre-registration information.

Team captains must submit a listing of team members, their phone numbers, their ACBL player numbers and their BBO IDs along with a check (made out to District 10) for the entry fee to the GNT Coordinator. If there are any questions, please contact the Coordinator (contact info above). Registration should be completed by April 9, 2021.

The District will take care of the ACBL sanction fee and ACBL Tournament Director fee.

District Subsidy

As the 2021 NAOBC is planned as an on-line event, there will be no district subsidies to teams representing the district.

Delegation of Responsibility

If the District 10 GNT Coordinator is playing in a District Final, the Coordinator will delegate any discretionary decisions to the Director-in-Charge in order to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof. The appointment of a designee is at the Coordinator's sole discretion and is not subject to review.