

American Contract Bridge League District 20

2020-2021 Grand National Teams (GNT)

Conditions of Contest

A. General

1. Overview: These conditions apply to the District 20 (D20) GNT competition to be conducted online via BBO starting in December 2020 and ending in May, 2021.
2. National Conditions: Refer to National Conditions of Contest provided by the ACBL.
3. Participation: Any player in good standing of both the ACBL and District 20 (D20). There is no club qualifying requirement.
4. Eligibility: Masterpoints are "frozen" from the ACBL published MP cycle August 2019:

Championship – open to all players

Flight A – 0 to 6000 MP's

Flight B – 0 to 2500 MP's

Flight C – 0 to 500 MP's, not a Life Master

5. Team Formation: Teams may consist of four, five, or six players.
6. Club/Unit Level: There is no club or unit level competition.
7. Contingencies: In addition to ruling on bridge competition matters, the Tournament Director (TD) will adjudicate any errors, omissions, or ambiguities in this document subject to the review and approval of the District Director who has ultimate responsibility for this event.

B. Registration

1. Pre-Registration: Required one week prior to competition (exceptions by District Director)
2. Table Fees: \$20 per team per match or 16 board match segments; playoffs – \$20 per team per 16 board segment.
3. Payment: by check to Business Manager Marie Ashton
4. Convention Cards: PDF copies of each partnership BBO C.C. are to be submitted to the coordinator at least one week prior to competition. A one VP penalty will be assessed for each pair not in compliance with this requirement. The penalty will increase by an additional 1VP for every week the requirement remains unmet.

C. Formats: See appendix A

D. Continuation Matches:

Continuation matches will be offered to teams not advancing from their brackets depending on the demand within each flight. Only match awards will be available in continuation matches.

E. Playing period:

1. Competition Period: Round-Robin qualifying – December 2020 through early April 2021

Playoffs – April-May 2021 (Quarters, Semis, Finals)

Continuation Matches (if held) – Mid April through May 2021

General expectation is two-three matches per month excluding holiday periods

2. Boards: Randomly created by BBO.

3. Platform: All players will play using BBO.

4. Scheduling: Team captains are required to coordinate their matches including BBO set-up.

5. BBO Set-Up: No kibitzing, no outside chatting with players, no barometer scoring no undos. Captains may divide their matches into whatever length segments they agree on. Absent agreement matches will be played 8 boards at a time.

F. Conditions of Play for All Flights

1. General: Players may play from home or another convenient venue without an official monitor. The following conditions apply only to the BBO competition. In person competition Conditions of Contest will be formulated if and when needed.

2. Scheduling: The coordinator will establish periods, usually weekly or bi-weekly, in which to conduct matches. Penalties or forfeits may be imposed for failure to complete a match within the assigned period unless prior approval from the Coordinator is obtained.

3. Seating Rights: In round-robin matches the captains may agree on line ups before the match. The line-ups may be changed for the 2nd segment so that no pairs repeat. If the captains do not come to an agreement before the match, the team that is behind at the half will have seating rights for the second segment. If the captains cannot come to an agreement regarding starting lineups, the default position is for the pair 1 of each team to be NS. If the captains cannot agree on line ups the coordinator will assign the line ups and penalize each team two Victory Points.

In the playoffs, the higher placed team will choose the 1st or 2nd segment; thereafter the captains will alternate segments in which to exercise their seating rights.

4. Lateness: If a team is not online at the scheduled time they are given 10 minutes. If the team is late more than 10 minutes they will be penalized 10 IMPs. If they are late more than 20 minutes the match is forfeited.

- If a player loses connection during a match, the other players will wait for 5 minutes. If the player cannot regain their connection then his/her partner can nominate a new player with whom to finish the game. The fill in partner may not materially improve the team.

- If the team does not find a replacement player the match is forfeited.

- If any player of a team withdraws during the match, that team forfeits the match.

5. Substitutes: The opposing captain may approve a proposed substitute for the current match. If such approval is not given, the TD may allow the substitute for any segment or segments, provided that so doing does not materially strengthen the team.

6. Per Person Play Requirements: Per ACBL Conditions of Contest for masterpoint awards.

7. Sportsmanship and Ethics: Participants are expected to bid and play ethically and in accordance with BBO and ACBL guidelines. Competitive decisions must be motivated only by a desire to do one's best, not as a strategy for placement in the qualifying queue.

8. Forfeits:

A team in the RR that forfeits is awarded no (0) Victory Points.

A team winning by forfeit gets 12 VPs. The award will be adjusted to the average margin of their other matches or the average margins of their opponent's opponents whichever is greater.

9: Ties:

See Appendix A for tie breaking formats. Tie-breaking matches will be scheduled by team captains. If the teams can't come to an agreement the GNT Coordinator will set the time.

10. Team Withdrawals: Teams may not withdraw from the competition without permission of the TD. If a team pulls out, all its round-robin results will be considered a forfeit. Entry fees are not refundable to teams that withdraw.

11. Kibitzing: Kibitzers will not be permitted at any stage of the competition. The coordinator will try to publish the finals for delayed kibitzing.

12. Correction and Appeal Period: The team captain must notify the Tournament Director of scoring errors and/or an appeal of a ruling within 24 hours of the segment conclusion.

13. Except in the case of three way matches, all Match comparisons will be made using the WBF Continuous Victory Point Scale.

G. Conventions:

1. The use of conventions is governed by the ACBL Convention Charts as follows:.

Championship Flight – Open+ Chart

Flight A - Open Chart.

Flight B - Basic + Chart.

Flight C - Basic Chart.

2. Pre-alerts and written defenses, when required, shall be submitted by one week prior to the start of the competition and disclosed to opponents at the start of each match segment.

H. National Finals

1. This event does not qualify a team for any National finals except the 2021 National finals if held.

2. Advancement: The winning teams in all flights are eligible to advance to the National Finals. In addition, the second place teams in Flights B and C are also eligible if there are at least eight teams in the RR competition.

3. Progression: If a team eligible to represent the district at the Nationals declines or becomes ineligible to play, the next highest placing team will be eligible to advance. When there is a tie between the teams that might advance, the teams will play an eight board match to determine a winner. In flights with more than one bracket, the highest placing teams from both brackets would be tied for qualifying purposes.

4. Substitutions: It is expected that the advancing teams will remain intact but may change or add members subject to the following. At least 3 of 4- or 5-person teams, or 4 of 6-person teams, must continue. All changes must be approved by the GNT Coordinator or District Director.

5. Travel Expenses: The District may subsidize the travel expenses incurred by the winners of each Flight to the National Finals. If and when the plans are confirmed, a subsidy schedule will be published on the D20 web site.