

DISTRICT 25 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2021 CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

ACBL 2020-2021 GNT Special Conditions of Contest are part of these conditions. In case of conflict, the ACBL Special Conditions will take precedence. (web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT2020-21.pdf)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Because of the COVID pandemic, this event will be played online using BBO. BBO requirements and practices may require some adjustments to these conditions. As such, changes to these conditions to ensure smooth process of the events may be made by the GNT Coordinator and Director-in-Charge. Any such decisions will be final.

DESCRIPTION

This is a team event in which District 25 will name the district championship team(s) in each of four separate flights:

Championship	Unlimited
Flight A	Under 6,000 MPs
Flight B	Under 2,500 MPs (if more than 7 teams enter the event, 2 teams will be named to the National Finals)
Flight C	Non LM – Under 500 MPs (if more than 7 teams enter the event, 2 teams will be named to the National Finals)

Masterpoint requirements are based on what is reflected in the ACBL's September 2019 masterpoint cycle, which is established on or about August 6, 2019.

These district champions then may compete in the national final of their respective flight.

LOCATION AND DATES

The Grand National Teams for All Flights will be held on BBO on the following dates:

Championship Flight

May 1-2 and May 15-16 (if more than 16 teams, a final match to determine the winner will be played on a date to be agreed upon by the participants and the GNT coordinator, no later than June 7)

Flight A

May 22-23 (if more than 16 teams, a final match to determine the winner will be played on a date to be agreed upon by the participants and the GNT coordinator, no later than June 7)

Flight B

April 17-18 (if more than 16 teams, matches to determine distinct 1st-4th overall place finishers will be on a date to be agreed upon by the participants and the GNT coordinator, no later than May 2)

Flight C

May 2

MATCH FORMATS AND TIMES

Championship Flight, Flight A, Flight B will play a straight KO format based on the following schedule:

- All matches will be head-to-head or 4-way matches. BBO does not provide a facility for 3-way matches.
- A 4-way match is a set of head-to-head matches, each with 50% of the boards for a match in that event. The two winners automatically advance to the next round. The two losers play another head-to-head match, of the same length, and the winner of that also moves on to the next round. So, 3 of the 4 teams advance.
- If an odd number of teams enter an event, for the first match, the top seeded team will have a bye.
- Between a bye for the top seed if the total number is odd, and head-to-head and 4-way matches, there should be no other times when a team has to sit out.

- In a 4-way, even though the winners of the first head-to-head “half” matches will only play 50% of that round, for a 5 or 6-person team, the team members who play will be credited with participating in 100% of a 12 (Flight A and B) or 28 (Open) board match, not 50% of a 24 or 56 board match, but will have to pay a fee for the entire session.

Flight C will play a two session Swiss on Sunday, May 2.

Note: For the Championship Flight and Flights A & B, starting times are TBD for ALL sessions and are subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament Director-In-Charge, in consultation with the GNT Coordinator and District Director, provided that all participants are notified prior to the end of the previous session.

District 25 GNT Coordinator – Frank Merblum
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District 25 Director – Bob Bertoni
District25Director@acbl.org

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Event is open to teams of four, five or six players.
2. All players must be members in good standing of the ACBL.
3. All players must have residency in one of the 6 New England states as of September 1, 2019. Anyone who moved residency, into or out of a New England state, between September 1, 2019 and September 1, 2020, may declare their residency, for purposes of the GNTs, as either district in which they resided, but not both. A player who is a full-time student, a member of the armed services, has dual residency, or a person whose fulltime employment requires temporary relocation, who is residing temporarily in District 25 may participate in the event. This player must get approval prior to entering the competition from the GNT Coordinator or the District Director. It is expected that there will be no exceptions to the residency requirements for participation in this event. Any player who has a question as to whether or not he/she is eligible to play in District 25 should contact the GNT Coordinator or the District Director as far in advance as possible.

4. All players must meet the masterpoint limits set for each event, i.e., a team may not participate in an event, other than the Open, if their team masterpoints average falls below the limit but even one member has masterpoints greater than the limit.
5. If a player has masterpoints won from other bridge organizations, such as the ABA or the WBF, he/she must make this known to the GNT Coordinator and/or the Director-In-Charge prior to the beginning of competing in the GNT. This information may be taken into account for placement in the flights. The Director-in-Charge is authorized to make the decision on the player's classification.
6. Each team must select a captain, playing or non-playing, who is the team's official representative. The captain is responsible for timely entry of the team.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. ACBL requirements shall govern.
2. Each player must play at least half of the semi-final and final matches, and at least 50% of all boards, excluding playoffs and disconnections from BBO, to receive overall master point awards. Team captains may apply to the tournament committee for exemption from the 50% in semi-final and final match provision in the case of a medical emergency. An exempted player must still play 50% of the semi-final and finals combined.
3. Each team member must have played at least 50% of the boards, excluding playoff boards and disconnections from BBO, for as long as the team survived, to qualify for overall masterpoint awards. No contestant may play any match after it has become mathematically impossible for him/her to play at least 50% of the boards (excluding playoff boards) played by his/her team.
4. A player who fails to maintain participation eligibility in an event receives match awards only and is not entitled to any honors or recognition.
5. Any team which attempts to withdraw from any round of the event once it has started (unless for a medical emergency) will be subject to disciplinary action.
6. Any team which is unable to complete the KO portion of the event (unless for a medical emergency) will forfeit any succeeding matches.

CONVENTIONS

Championship Flight	Open+ Convention Chart
Flight A	Open Convention Chart
Flight B	Basic+ Convention Chart
Flight C	Basic Convention Chart

Each pair is required to have a filled-out convention card posted in their BBO match from the beginning of the match. All alertable/announceable bids, per BBO standards, are self-alerted and explained. Explanations about bids, and requests for such explanations, should be made in private messages, not open messages to the table.

For any convention requiring it, contestants are required to provide a digital copy of the ACBL-approved defense by email to the Director-in-Charge, Peter Marcus, (marcusp@att.net), at least 24 hours before the start of their first match (or next match if they decide to change their agreements in the middle of the event). A pointer to the defense on some website is not sufficient. He will ensure that all members of any opponent team are sent a copy as soon as the opponent is known. Failure to follow this procedure will mean the team is prohibited from playing the convention until this procedure has been followed.

SCORING AND PLAYING

General

1. IMP penalties assessed are subtracted from the offending team's score.
2. Each team captain must report the IMP score of all matches to the director responsible for the scoring.
3. Breaks shall be scheduled by the DIC.
4. Time allowed will be 7 minutes per board, though may be modified as necessary by the director.
5. If the allowed time for any segment or match expires before a table has completed all the boards, any uncompleted or unplayed boards will not be counted towards the teams' scores for that match or segment.
6. See Addendum 1 for details on match scheduling.

Knockout Head-to-Head Matches:

1. Each head-to-head match is a single elimination KO with any difference constituting a win.
2. In case of a tie, an 8-board playoff will be held in matches lasting more than 48 boards, a 4-board playoff for matches of 24-48 boards and a 2-board playoff for matches of less than 24 boards. Tie-breaking boards will be played immediately following the session.
3. If a tie should remain after the initial playoff boards are completed, additional 2-board playoffs will be held until one team achieves a win.

AUGMENTATION

After a team has won their flight, it may augment its team per the following conditions:

1. The augmentee must have participated in any flight of the District Level Finals. If a team wishes to augment a player who could not attend the District Level Qualifiers due to family or other such emergencies, the District Director or GNT Coordinator may be willing to waive this provision.
2. Any player added to an existing team must meet the masterpoint eligibility requirements listed above. An eligible player may augment a team in a different flight from the one in which the player qualified as long as the player's original team remains with at least four players.
3. The District Director and GNT Coordinator must approve the augmentation.
4. Final team roster must be submitted to the ACBL by 6/30/21 by the GNT Coordinator.
5. If a waiver or special request for augmentation involves a team which includes either the District Director or GNT Coordinator, the District President, Jack Mahoney, will appoint a neutral party to make a final decision.

SEEDING

The GNT Coordinator will establish a seeding committee as needed for the Championship Flight. Seeding for Flights A & B will be done by masterpoints. In all flights and all matches, there will be no seating rights.

SLOW PLAY / TARDINESS PENALTIES

Slow play and tardiness will not be tolerated. The DIC's judgment is final, but he/she will exercise due diligence in ensuring that only teams responsible for delays are penalized.

At the discretion of the director, similar penalties may be assessed for slow play. Slow play penalties do not carry to the next match unless a team is unable to start on time and is judged at fault.

DISTRICT SUBSIDY

The ACBL does not provide a subsidy for the GNT winning teams, and because the National GNT Finals will be played online, there will be no district subsidy for any of the winning or 2nd place teams in 2021.

ADDENDUM 1 Play Format

Note: The Director-in-Charge, with approval of the GNT Coordinator and District Director may modify the formats described below to improve the event.

Event Formats and Schedules

Championship Flight

It will be held on BBO, May 1-2 and May 15-16. All rounds will be approximately 56 Boards. PRE-REGISTRATION is required. In the event that more than 16 teams enter, an additional day will have to be arranged to play a final match, by agreement of the two teams and the GNT coordinator, no later than June 7.

Flight A

It will be played over 1 weekend, May 22-23, on BBO. All rounds will be 24 boards. PRE-REGISTRATION will be required.

In the event that more than 16 teams enter, an additional day will have to be arranged to play a final match by agreement of the two teams and the GNT coordinator, no later than June 7.

Flight B

It will be played over 1 weekend, April 17-18 on BBO. All rounds will be 24 boards. PRE-REGISTRATION will be required.

If 8 or more teams enter the event, 2 teams will qualify to be sent to the GNT National Finals.

If 8 teams enter the event, the losers of the 2nd match (2nd session, April 17) will be required to play a 3rd/4th place playoff (1st session, April 18).

If 9-16 teams enter the event, the losers of the 3rd match (1st session, April 18) will be required to play a 3rd/4th place playoff (2nd session, April 18).

If more than 16 teams enter the event, the winners and losers of the 4th match (2nd session, April 18) will be required to play an additional match, to determine distinct 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. These matches are to be scheduled at mutual agreement of the involved teams, with the approval of the GNT coordinator, no later than May 2.

If there are more than 32 teams, a consistent set of conditions will be implemented by the DIC, with input from the D25 GNT Coordinator and the District Director.

Flight C

An all-day Swiss Team event will be held on BBO Sunday May 2 under the auspices of The Viking Bridge Club, club # 165449, to determine the Flight C GNT winner and runner-up. PRE-REGISTRATION is strongly recommended.

Approximately 40 boards will be played on Sunday, in 8 matches of 5 boards. This may be changed based on the number of teams that enter.

ADDENDUM 2 National GNT Finals

1. The first place finisher in each of the four flights and the 2nd place finisher in Flights B & C at the District Final will be eligible to participate in the 2021 National GNT Finals which will be held online in July.
2. Should the first place team in any flight, or the 2nd place team in Flights B & C, elect not to advance to the National Finals, the second place, or 3rd place for Flights B & C, team in that flight will be extended the invitation to participate. If neither the first nor second place team in a particular flight elects to advance to the National Finals, District 25 will not be represented in that flight. If the third-place team in either Flights B & C elects not to

participate, then only one team will represent the district for that particular flight.

3. Replacement and Augmentation rules detailed above apply to teams advancing to the National Finals. Teams advancing to the National Finals must consist of at least three of the team members who participated in the District 25 Finals.