

DRAFT UNDER FINAL REVIEW
DISTRICT 10
2023-2024 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS (NAP)
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The following, in conjunction with the ACBL Conditions of Contest, shall constitute the District 10 Conditions of Contest for 2023-2024 North American Pairs (NAP). The ACBL National Conditions of Contest may be found on the ACBL website (<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>).

The District 10 NAP Coordinator is: Jerry Burford. If there are any questions regarding the District 10 NAP contest, he may be contacted via e-mail at jerryburford6@gmail.com, or by phone at 601-925-0506.

FLIGHT ELIGIBILITY

Flight A — Open to any player

Flight B — Any player with less than 2500 MP

Flight C — Non-Life Masters with less than 500 MP

Individual masterpoint totals for flight eligibility are determined based on the June 2023 masterpoint cycle run by ACBL data processing on May 6, 2023. Any points won after that date and not included in this ACBL cycle do not affect flight eligibility.

DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITION

The 2023-2024 District Finals for all NAP Flights will be conducted ONLINE, as decided unanimously by the District 10 Board on June 15, 2023. The District board voting members are the delegates provided by each Unit in the District.

The reason for conducting the game online is that District 10 is geographically large, being approximately 500 miles east-to-west and north-to-south. Conducting the District Finals at a single location prevents many members desirous of competing from participating. Conducting the District NAP Finals online enables wider participation.

Each District final will be a two-session event with a break of approximately one hour between sessions, with the break duration being determined by the Director in Charge.

District Finals award generous Masterpoints in compliance with ACBL rules and regulations. For reference only, the five table Flight A finals, which were conducted face-to-face in Jackson MS, awarded 32, 24, 18, and 13.5 masterpoints to each player in top four pairs. The Flight B Finals were conducted in Memphis TN, had 3.5 tables, and awarded 16 masterpoints to the top finisher and 9.5 masterpoints to each player in the three pairs who tied for second place.

Entry Fees for the District 10 Finals will be \$13 per person per session. Once players have registered, they will be given instructions regarding how payment is to be made.

NATIONAL FINAL AND SUBSIDIES

The top three pairs in Flight A and the top four pairs in each of Flights B and C District 10 finals will be eligible to play representing the District in the National final. The ACBL provides financial subsidies to pairs qualifying for the National Final. Eligible pairs will be notified by the ACBL Special Events Coordinator regarding any subsidy earned based on their finish in the District final. Qualifiers must play in the national level event until eliminated to receive the subsidy. The National finals dates are provided later in this document.

No new partnerships may be formed between the District and National level competition. If a qualifying pair is unable to attend the NABC, the invitation will be passed to the next eligible pair based upon its finish in the District final.

DISTRICT FINALS DATES

The District Flights A, B, and C finals will be conducted on October 22.

The ACBL Basic+ Convention Chart applies in Flights B and C, and the Open+ Convention Chart applies in Flight A.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Pairs planning to play in the District Final events shall have qualified at their Club or Unit-level qualifying games. All pairs planning to play in the District Finals shall pre-register their intent with the District NAP Coordinator (Jerry Burford, jerryburford6@gmail.com, or by phone at 601-925-0506).

Pre-registration will permit verification of qualification, residency status, and playing site authorization prior to the event.

Pairs should submit an e-mail pair's names and ACBL player numbers, BBO ID's, contact information for both players, and the flight for which they are registering.. Emails should be sent **no later than midnight October 8, 2023.**

Once they have preregistered, they will receive official notification of their scheduled participation in the District finals.

PROCTORS

While the District Officers believe that our players are honest and ethical, there have been a few incidents of online cheating by District players. The ACBL has suspended all known online cheaters from all ACBL-sanctioned play for a specified period, usually two years.

In order to prevent concern about cheating, all District Final events shall have a proctor in the room with the competitors.

Participants shall notify their local Unit and Club Presidents of their intent to participate. The Unit or Club shall decide between themselves how to provide proctors to monitor participants to ensure that no cheating is involved. The proctors

can be any individual with a working knowledge of bridge. Proctors do not need to be directors because all director calls will be handled by the online tournament director. It is anticipated that Units or Clubs will provide volunteers to serve as proctors. A separate document providing guidelines for proctors will be distributed by September 1, 2023.

WIFI REQUIREMENTS

Participants shall play from their local club or another local facility with WIFI. If the local club is unavailable or does not have sufficient WIFI to support participation in the event, the club is required to find another facility that they may use for the event. Alternate facility examples include, but are not limited to, public libraries, church recreation halls, local colleges or universities, local WIFI hot spots, or other. The Club President shall notify the District NAP Coordinator what facility will be used for the event.

District intent is that no player will be permitted to play from home. The reason is that proctors will be used to ensure fairness and proctors may not be able to be provided to every home. If health conditions make it mandatory for an individual to play from home, that individual shall notify their Unit President and District NAP Coordinator to inform them of their home-play requirement. The NAP coordinator will decide whether the play-at-home will be permitted on a case-by-case basis. If a player is permitted to play from home, the Club shall provide a Proctor to monitor that player or players.

NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

The National Finals of the NAP will be held during the Spring 2024 NABC planned for Louisville, KY in March, 2024. Per the ACBL NAP Conditions of Contest, Flight A Final will be played March 13-14, 2024 at 10am and 3pm each day and the Flights B and C Finals will be played on March 23-24, 2023, also at 10 and 3. Please refer to the ACBL website for exact dates and times in case the ACBL changes the schedule.

The North American Pairs Flight A finals will be a four-session event consisting of a two-session play-through to qualify twenty-eight pairs into a two-session playthrough final, with carryover as per ACBL formula. The North American Pairs Flights B & C finals will be four-session events, consisting of a two-session playthrough to qualify approximately 50% of the entry field into a two-session playthrough final with carryover as per ACBL formula.

There is no entry fee for the national level of the face-to-face NAP. In the event the contest is held online, there may be some nominal table fees.

CLUB-LEVEL COMPETITION

The NAP club-level competitions are conducted in June, July, and August of 2023 and accordance with ACBL sanctions and governing rules.

There is no qualification needed to play in a Club level qualifying game. All bridge players are welcome. At the Club level game, subject to established ACBL minimum guidelines, each club determines the conventions to be allowed in its games.

There is no District surcharge for games at the Club level. All reporting is done via the Club's monthly report to ACBL. D10 will also recognize qualification of players in the virtual clubs qualifying sessions played on Bridgebase Online.

To qualify for the District finals, a player need only qualify at their local games by finishing in the top half of their flight in the event.

UNIT LEVEL COMPETITION

Unit level qualification is OPTIONAL for all flights in District 10. If your unit does not conduct a Unit-Level competition, then qualification at the club level is sufficient to proceed to the District Finals.

Unit level finals can be scheduled between September 1 and September 30, 2023. The Unit NAP Coordinator is responsible for sanctioning any unit finals through the ACBL website, with the date approved by the District NAP Coordinator. Note that ACBL has no plans for Units to conduct their competition online; District 10 does not require unit-level qualification to participate in the District NAP Finals.

New partnerships from Club level qualifiers may be formed at the Unit level.

The Unit qualifying game should be two or more sessions, if possible. The game should be flighted, if possible, but may be stratified if there are an insufficient number of pairs to support a game for a particular flight. All players at the Unit level competition must be 'paid up' members of the ACBL and have qualified at the Club level.

Advancement beyond Unit level, if applicable: For Units holding Unit level finals, eligible players finishing in the top 60% of their flight (rounded up and including ties) plus any pairs with "average" not in the top half of their flight at the Club level qualify to the Unit level of play. When an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than five pairs) enter a scheduled qualifying event, all players who pay their entry fee are qualified to the next level of competition. This also applies when an insufficient number of pairs enter the lowest strata of a scheduled stratified game.

Per the ACBL NAP Conditions of Contest, if a Unit-level competition is conducted, players from that unit must have qualified at the Unit competition in order to advance to the District-level competition

ALL PLAYERS who: 1) qualify at the Club level AND the Unit level (if a Unit final was held) AND 2) are 'paid up' members of ACBL may participate at the District finals. New partnerships from Club and/or Unit qualifiers may be formed to participate at the District level.