

District 19 Grand National Teams 2022-2023

Conditions of Contest

Introduction

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a grass-roots event that normally begins at the club level, continues with the District Finals competition in the spring, and concludes at the Summer North American Championships. There are four flights: Open Championship Flight, Flight A, Flight B and Flight C. The winning team in each flight at the District Finals is invited to participate in the national flights of the GNT at the Summer NABC. (See below for a new provision for qualification of second Flight B and C teams to the national finals.) Qualifying teams are expected to represent the District in the national finals or, if they cannot, to immediately inform the District GNT Coordinator. Captains must verify that team members will play the entirety of the national finals: entering the national finals with the knowledge that one cannot compete throughout that event is a violation of the ACBL ethics guidelines.

Subsidies. The winning teams will receive the following subsidies. Winning teams earn a \$2,000 * subsidy to represent D19. If at least eight teams enter flights B&C, second place teams earn a \$1,200 subsidy.

*US\$ (CA\$ equivalent for BC residents)

Precedence. “ACBL SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2022-2023” and these 2022-2023 District 19 GNT Conditions of Contest may be found at the link below. In the event of conflicts between the ACBL CoC and the District CoC, the ACBL CoC takes precedence. [LINK](#) to be provided.

District 19 GNT Coordinator

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The District GNT Coordinator shall have discretion on all issues of player and team qualifications and interpretation of these Conditions of Contest. In any questions where the District GNT Coordinator is charged with discretionary responsibilities involving players in a flight in which the Coordinator is currently playing, the District Director (if available), in consultation with the event Director in Charge, will have discretion in lieu of the District GNT Coordinator; otherwise, the Director in Charge will have discretion.

KEY DATES

Club qualification ends February 28, 2023.

Registration deadline for **Open Championship** and **Flight B** (0-2500) is March 30, 2023 at 8pm PDT.

The finals will be held on BBO on April 1-2, 2023. The link for registration will be posted on the D19 website. Here are the links for registering Open and B teams.

Open: <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104>

Flight B : <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104B>

Registration deadline **Flight A** (0-6000) and **Flight C** (NLM 0-500) is May 11, 2023

The finals will be held on BBO on May 13-14 for Flight A and Flight C plays its event on one day, May 13, 2023. The link for registration will be posted on the D19 website. Here are the links for registering Aand C teams

Flight A : <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104A>

Flight C : <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104C>

The GNT Finals at the Summer NABCs will take place July 12-16, 2023 in Chicago, IL.

FLIGHT MASTERPOINT LIMITS:

Open Championship Flight: unlimited masterpoints

Flight A: all members of the team under 6000 masterpoints

Flight B: all members of the team under 2500 masterpoints

Flight C: all members of the team under 500 masterpoints and Non-Life Masters

Flight eligibility is established by players' masterpoint totals as of the September 2021 masterpoint cycle, as reflected in the ACBL's masterpoint run produced in Horn Lake, MS on **August 6, 2022**.

Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility. A player's masterpoints won and bridge experience in other organizations will be taken into account by the Director for placement in the flights. The Director is authorized to make decisions on a player's classification. To encourage increased participation, individuals, pairs or teams are allowed to compete in more than one District Finals flight, see "**STAGE TWO – District Finals, Entry in More than One Flight**" below. Should a player or players prove victorious in more than one flight, he, she, or they must immediately declare to the District GNT Coordinator the flight in which they choose to represent the District in the national finals. This could potentially require that a 2nd place team be the District's representative in the national finals in a flight. That said, the mere presence of a player with victories in more than one flight does not "poison" the eligibility for other team members – augmentation and replacement provisions discussed herein would apply.

DISTRICT 19 FINALS DATES, VENUES, AND SESSION TIMES

Open Championship Finals and Flight B Finals: April 1-2, 2023.

Venue: BBO

Session Times: 11:00 and 3:30 PM PDT on Saturday, 11 AM and TBA on Sunday

Flight A Finals: May 13-14, 2023.

Flight C will be completed in one day on May 13, 2023.

Venue: BBO

Session Times: 11:00 and 3:30 PM PDT on Saturday, 11 AM and TBA on Sunday

Note: (1) On day one, two full sessions of play are guaranteed for all entrants in all flights.

(2) If eight or fewer teams enter in a flight, the losing teams in the day two semifinals may, at their mutual election, play off during the second session on Sunday for additional masterpoints.

STAGES OF PLAY

The Grand National Teams are conducted in three stages: STAGE ONE is club-level qualification; STAGE TWO is the District Finals; STAGE THREE is the national finals.

STAGE ONE – Club-level Qualification. Games are run in clubs throughout the district, ending on February 28, 2023.

STAGE TWO – District Finals Teams that have qualified during club GNT through February 2023. Any player who has not qualified may buy-in to the event for \$30.

Advance Entries, online pre-registration will be required to play in the event.

Follow the appropriate link below to register your team. This includes entry payment and other important details, such as BBO user names for each player.

Unusual agreements. Championship Flight and Flight A Only: Any partnerships that have agreements requiring a written defense must submit a document describing these agreements and providing a recommended defense to annromeo@gmail.com. Teams failing to do so will not be permitted to use methods requiring written defenses. These documents will be publicly posted so that all opposing players have access to them.

Registering in multiple flights. Please choose the correct link below for your flight. If you are registering teams in multiple flights, you will have to go to each link separately to register.

Open: <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104>

Flight A : <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104A>

Flight B : <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104B>

Flight C : <https://cloud.bridgefinesse.com/BigTeam/bigteamteams/addteam.php?tkey=BF999019-230104C>

The coordinator may accept late registrations provided they do not weaken the event format. Primary considerations in making this determination will include a) securing an even number of entrants for the Finals and b) assuring adequate disclosure of the late registrants' partnership methods to all other

participants. In addition, the Coordinator may, for good cause, extend the deadline for the receipt of a team's convention cards and treatments.

Eligibility Requirements. A player must be a member of the ACBL to be eligible to participate in the District Finals and national finals. A player must be a member of a Unit within the District to be eligible to participate in the District Finals and to represent the District in the national finals.

Residency Requirements. A member's principal physical residence on record with ACBL HQ as of September 1, 2022, shall establish the District in which the member is eligible to participate beyond the club-level qualification stage. The ACBL's Credentials Committee may request documentary evidence from a member whose eligibility is in question.

Players wishing an exception from these residency requirements must have the approval of the District Directors of both the District of the player's residency of record and the District in which the player wishes to play. Both District Directors must agree for the exception to be granted. For the Open Championship Flight, this written permission (email acceptable) from both District Directors will be forwarded to the ACBL's Credentials Committee for final review and approval/disapproval. If the District Directors do not provide their approval, the exception is not granted. There is no appeal from this decision.

Entry in More than One Flight. The District conducts the Finals for each flight in a Saturday/Sunday event each spring, with the exception that Flight C commences and completes in a single day. Open Championship & Flight B Finals and Flight A & Flight C Finals are conducted on separate weekends. Players, partnerships and teams thus may elect (and are encouraged) to play in more than one flight in the District Finals.

However, if they do so and successfully qualify for the national finals in more than flight, they must – immediately upon completion of the later of the two separate District Finals flight competitions – declare to the District GNT Coordinator in which Flight they will represent the District in the national finals. In this way the District GNT Coordinator can then coordinate as necessary with captains of first place and lower finishing teams of affected flights to establish District representation in the national finals.

Entry Fees. Entry fees will be paid via the registration links given above. The fee is \$120 USD per team (buy-ins for those who did not prequalify is \$30.00 person) for all flights, except Flight C. To encourage participation, Flight C is free.

Augmentation. Other than approved substitutions and approved replacements (see "**OTHER REGULATIONS**" below), no augmentation of a team is allowed during the District Finals once the event has begun.

Permissible Conventions. Contestants are permitted to use only the following convention charts:

- Open Championship Flight: Open+
- Flight A: Open
- Flight B: Basic+
- Flight C: Basic

Game Set-Up. The expected number of boards per session is set at 28 in the Open Championship and Flight A, and 24 in Flight B and 20 in Flight C. It is the District's objective to run all four flights of GNT Finals using pre-duplicated boards.

All knockout matches are scored in IMPs. All round robin and Swiss Teams matches are scored in IMPs and each match is converted to Victory Points according to the World Bridge Federation Continuous 20 VP Scales to decide the order of finish. Ties will be broken as described below. (Note: the day one 2nd place finishing team may elect to make itself available, in addition to the 3rd and 4th place teams, for selection by the 1st place finishing team as its semifinal opponent.)

Tie break formula involving teams surviving to the Knockout stage is as follows:

- 1) Head-to-head result between the teams
- 2) Overall win-loss record
- 3) Total net IMPs in matches in common
- 4) Coin toss

If two semi-finals teams are tied for one spot in the finals stage, a four-board match will be played between the teams. If a tie remains, two-board matches will be played until a winner is determined.

If the two finalist teams are tied at the conclusion of their match, a four-board match will be played between the teams to determine the winner. If a tie remains, two-board matches will be played until a winner is determined.

Seating rights. For day two matches, the higher finishing team on day one shall have its choice of first-half or second-half seating rights.

Format of play (approximately 28 boards per session in Open and Flight A, 24 per session in B, and 20 in Flight C):

Two Teams: A two-session match on Saturday decides the championship.

Three Teams: The teams will play a two-session round robin to eliminate one team on Saturday. The two finalists will play a two-session match on Sunday. Applicable to Flight B only: If only three teams participate in Flight B, it will be a one-day event.

Four Teams: Teams will play a two-session full round robin on Saturday, with two teams advancing to play a two-session finals match on Sunday. Nine-board segments in Open and Flight A, eight-board segments in Flight B, and seven-board segments in Flight C.

Five to Ten Teams: Teams will play a two-session full round robin on Saturday to reduce the field to four teams. With an odd number of teams, each team will receive a bye. With five or six teams, one segment, or half of each match is played each session. With five teams, segment length each session is seven boards in Open and Flight A, six boards in Flight B, and five boards in Flight C. With six teams, segment length each session is five boards in Open, Flight A, and Flight B, and four boards in Flight C. With seven or more teams, matches are played in one segment, with nine boards per match in Open and Flight A, eight in Flight B, and seven in Flight C. With eight teams, eight boards per match in Open and Flight A, seven in Flight B, and six in Flight C. With nine teams, seven boards per match in Open and Flight A, six in

Flight B, and five in Flight C. With ten teams, six boards per match in Open and Flight A, five boards in flight B, and four in Flight C.

Eleven or More Teams: Teams will play a two-session Swiss Teams on Saturday to reduce the field to four teams. The format will be eight matches of seven boards in Open and Flight A, six boards in Flight B, and five boards in Flight C. In case of an odd number of teams, one team receives a bye. The team receives a temporary assignment of 12 Victory Points for the bye, and this is increased to the team's average VP in their other matches if that is greater than 12.

Kibitzing. No Kibitzing is allowed during this event, except by the tournament directors.

ONLINE COMPETITION

Provisions for On-line Competition. All matches will be played online.

Special Conditions for On-line Play

The ACBL GNT 2022-2023 ACBL Special Conditions of Contest, Appendix II, Conditions of Contest For District GNT Finals Hosted Online, will govern each flight of the D19 GNT Finals, with the two following clarifications:

- This event will be conducted at a variety of playing sites, and hosted on-line by Bridge Base Online (BBO), an ACBL approved host.
- The use of electronic communication devices will be governed by the ACBL Conditions of Contest, Appendix J, Electronic Device Policy: <http://web2.acbl.org/coc/AppendixJ.pdf>

Zoom. Some form of real-time communication is required between screenmates (N/E and S/W) during Sunday KO matches. Zoom breakout rooms will be created and the links shared with each set of screenmates at the start of each match. If a player is unable to participate in the Zoom session, that player must arrange to call their screenmate on the telephone. Video is not required but is encouraged.

Undos. As described in the ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest, undos will only be allowed at the discretion of the director in accordance with the laws of duplicate bridge. Until further clarification is made by the ACBL, it is the D19 GNT policy that clear misclicks made during the bidding may be approved by the director (similar to a mechanical error) while cards played will almost never be allowed to be reversed, especially if the next hand has already followed. It is recommended that those who are concerned about misclicks activate the setting to confirm a bid or play during online play.

System Notes/Defense. In the Championship Flight and Flight A, contestants opposing a pair playing methods requiring written defense are permitted to access the ACBL's defense database and keep said defenses open in their internet browser.

OTHER REGULATIONS

Substitutes. For the District Finals, substitutes must be approved in advance by the District GNT Coordinator or the District Director. No substitute may be allowed to play more than 50% of the total boards played in a session of the event except that a substitute may play one full session of a two-session round robin or Swiss even if this results in them playing more than 50% of the boards for that

day. Substitutes at all levels may not appreciably strengthen the team. No substitute may be used if four members of the team are available to participate.

Replacements. The permanent replacement of a player who, for cause, cannot continue in the event is permitted only with the permission of the Director. (A team whose player is removed for cause shall NOT be eligible to continue to the next stage and shall be removed from the field by the Director at the first reasonable opportunity.) To be eligible to become a replacement, a player:

- must be a member of District 19
- must not have played in the District Final in that flight, and
- must not appreciably strengthen the team

A replaced player permanently leaves the event with all masterpoints earned and the replacement earns masterpoints thereafter. A team cannot start the District Final competition with a non-qualified replacement. Replacement players are not allowed if a team has four members available.

Minimum Participation Requirements. Members of teams are required to play at least 50% of boards in each session, except that a member may choose to play one full session of a two-session round robin or Swiss. A team becomes ineligible to continue in the event when fewer than three members of the original team can continue and meet the play percentage requirements.

Augmentation for National Finals. Teams advancing to represent the District in the national finals may apply to augment their teams. Augmentation does not relieve a team of the requirement that at least three of its members who participated in the District Finals must play in the national finals. Augmenting players are expected to be equal or better in strength to the other players on the team. It is District policy to exclude from the augmentation pool any player who has not played the District Finals. Augmentation requests must be submitted to the District GNT Coordinator for coordination and approval. Submission shall be via email and shall take place no later than 10 days prior to the starting date of the NABC at which the national finals will be held. If the District GNT Coordinator determines that the augmentation request is merited, he or she will approve and/or forward the request to ACBL Headquarters as applicable with a recommendation for approval. Final augmentation approval authority is with ACBL.