

District 19 Grand National Teams 2024-2025

Conditions of Contest

Introduction

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a grass-roots event that 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 finals of the GNT at the Summer NABC. If there are at least 8 teams in Flight B and/or Flight C, then two teams in that flight will qualify for the national finals. Qualifying teams are expected to represent District 19 in the national finals or, if they cannot, to immediately inform the District GNT Coordinator. Captains of teams that qualify for the national finals must verify that their team members will be available to play for the entire national event.

Subsidies

Due to the current D19 financial situation, there will be no subsidies from the District this year.

Key Dates

Club qualification ends February 28, 2025.

The Championship and Flight B GNT finals will take place on March 1-2 at Beautiful Savior Church, 12810 35th Ave SE, Everett, WA 98208 PH: (425)337-6006. Start time on Saturday is 1:00; second session TBD. Start time on Sunday is 10:00 and second session TBD.

The Flight A GNT finals will take April 12-13 (Saturday and Sunday), at the Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC V8W 3M7, PH: (250)361-1000. Start time on Saturday is 10:00; second session is TBD. Start time on Sunday is 9:30 and second session TBD.

Flight C GNT finals will take place on Sunday April 13 at the Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC V8W 3M7, PH: (250)361-1000. Start time is 9:00; second session TBD.

The GNT National finals will be held at the Philadelphia NABC starting on July 23, 2025. The playing site is the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Eligibility

Championship Flight is open to all players (Unlimited Masterpoints)

Flight A is open to players with less than 6,000 Masterpoints

Flight B is open to players with less than 3,000 Masterpoints

Flight C is open to players with less than 750 Masterpoints who are Non-Life Masters

Flight eligibility will be established by a player's masterpoint total as of the ACBL's September masterpoint cycle. This information will be produced on August 6, 2024, in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events. Players with bridge experience from non-ACBL events who wish to play in Flight A, B, or C must contact the GNT Coordinator by February 1st 2025 to verify their eligibility for any limited-masterpoint flight.

District Eligibility is based on residence as of September 1, 2024. A player who moved to a new District between September 1, 2023, and September 1, 2024 may elect to compete beyond the club stage in either District (but not both). Anyone may play at the club level.

Qualification at the club level is by player, not by team. In other words, a player need not have the same teammates in the District 19 final as in club final.

To play in the District 19 Finals a player must:

- Be a member of the ACBL in good standing.
- Be a member of a Unit within District 19 or have received special permission.
- Qualify at the club level or pay an extra \$30 to participate in the District Finals.

Teams may be composed of 4, 5, or 6 eligible players and a team captain must be selected.

Qualification games at the Club level.

To qualify for the District 19 level, you may qualify at the Club Level. This may be attained in any district. Qualification at the club level is by player, not by team. (Note that you may play in a GNT club level event in any district but you are only qualified to advance in your specific district). Club qualifying games may be run between September 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025.

While District 19 does not require Club-level qualification for participation in the District 19 final, we encourage prequalification. Any eligible team member who has not prequalified at a club can buy into the District finals for \$30.00 (local currency).

Clubs are permitted to hold GNT “qualifier” games as a fundraiser. Such games must be team games. The ACBL Conditions of Contest allow all clubs to hold as many club-level GNT qualifiers as they wish.

For more details regarding the GNTs, including how to set up the game, see https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/clubs/GNT_2024-25_F2F_Clubs.pdf.

Fees at Club level. The per-table sanction fee for in-person games will be \$2.40, payable to the ACBL. District fees are \$5.00/team for one-session events, or \$8/team for two-session events. These fees should be paid to the District 19 GNT coordinator. Make checks payable to “District 19 of the ACBL” and forward with the appropriate financial report to the District 19 GNT coordinator: Ann Romeo 13201 Linden Ave N, #405, Seattle, WA 98133. Club owners, please see the form at the end of this document.

Exceptions to Residency Requirements

A member’s principal physical residence on record with ACBL HQ as of September 1, 2024, 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 of this decision.

Entry in More than One Flight

Players, partnerships, and teams are encouraged to play in more than one flight in the District Finals.

However, if any player successfully qualifies for the national finals in more than flight, they must immediately upon completion of the later District Finals choose which flight they will play in the national finals and inform the District GNT Coordinator.

Fees for D19 GNT Finals.

The entry fee is \$144 US or \$168 Canada per day. There is an additional one-time charge of \$30 (local currency) per teammate who has not prequalified for the D19 finals.

A list of those who have pre-qualified will be posted at the ACBL website at <https://www.acbl.org/tag/gnt-qualifiers/>. This list will be available in March 2025. If you believe you have qualified and do not see your name on the list, contact the GNT coordinator at annromeo@gmail.com.

Permissible Conventions

The following is a link to the ACBL document for the allowed convention charts:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/Convention-Charts.pdf>. The district final will use these charts as part of the conditions of contest.

The following convention charts will be used for the district finals:

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

Players are responsible for ensuring their methods are legal for the event in which they are playing. Official answers about permissible systems and conventions are available at rulings@acbl.org. Players are required to have two printed copies of ACBL-approved defenses available for the opponents for any convention that requires it. Even if defenses are not required, it is recommended that they be available to establish that the convention is Open Chart or Open+ Chart. Each player should have a copy available for the opponents.

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 Flight C. It is the District's objective to run all four flights of GNT Finals using pre-duplicated boards.

For the most common numbers of teams the format is a round robin or Swiss Teams the first day followed by knockout matches on the second day. When the cut is to four teams on the second day for knockout matches, the highest seeded team will get to select their semi-final opponent from the teams

that finished third and fourth. At their option the second-place team may make themselves available for selection. There is no carryover from the first day to the second day.

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 using the ACBL Continuous 20 VP Scale to decide the order of finish.

If there is a tie for victory points, the following shall be used to break the tie for seeding. If multiple teams are tied, the steps are followed until a tied team is eliminated, then restarted from the top with the remaining teams. For example, in a three-way tie where all three teams had 1 win and 1 loss against each other, but one team had a worse overall win-loss record, then that team would be eliminated, and the tie between the other two would revert to head-to-head result.

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

In any knockout match if there is a tie then 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.

Seating rights

There are no seating rights during the round robin or Swiss portion of the event.

In the knockout portion of the event the team with the higher seed has the choice of first-half or second-half seating rights. If that team does not explicitly exercise their rights, they are deemed to have exercised them in the first half.

Format of play

The format and schedule of play for each flight in the District Finals is determined by the number of teams in that flight as follows:

Teams	10+	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Open/Flight A Day 1	Swiss 6R 9B	RR 7B	RR 8B	RR 9B	RR 5R 10B	RR 14B	RR 18B	RR 28B	KO 56B
Open/Flight A Day 2	4 Teams Semifinals KO 28B Final KO 28B						2 Teams KO 56B		N/A
Flight B/C Day 1	Swiss 6R 8B	RR 6B	RR 7B	RR 8B	RR 9B	RR 12B	RR 16B	RR 24B	KO 48B
Flight B Day 2	4 Teams RR 16B			4 Teams Semifinals KO 24B Final KO 24B			2 Teams KO 48B		N/A

Substitutes

For the District Finals, substitutes must be approved by the District GNT Coordinator or the Regional

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 cannot continue in the event is permitted 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.
- 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 District 19 in the national finals may apply to augment their teams. At least three of the members who participated in the District Finals must remain on the team. Augmented players can only be selected from those players who played in the District Finals and must not lower the strength of the team.

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 the ACBL.

Precedence

“ACBL SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2024-2025” and these 2024-2025 District 19 GNT Conditions of Contest may be found at the link below. In the event of conflicts between the ACBL Conditions of Contest and the District Conditions of Contest, the ACBL Conditions of Contest takes precedence.

LINK: <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT.pdf>.

District 19 GNT Coordinator

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Regional Director of Region 13

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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.

