

2015–16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST



American Contract
Bridge League

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Schedule	Page 1
Flight Eligibility	Page 1
Mixed Flight Partnerships	Page 2
Club Level Participation	Page 2
Unit Level Participation	Page 2
District Level Participation	Page 2
National Level Participation	Page 3
Qualifying to the Next Level	Page 3
Multi-Flight Qualifications	Page 3
Conventions	Page 4
Substitutes	Page 4
Miscellaneous Regulations	Page 4
Subsidies to National Finals	Page 4
District Director Authority	Page 4

APPENDICES

Appendix I - District Membership	Page 5
Appendix II - Selection of Additional Pairs to National Finals	Page 7
Appendix III - Ribbon Qualifications Earned	Page 7
Appendix IV - Masterpoint Awards	Page 8
Appendix V - Stratifying your Club, Unit and District Level NAP Game	Page 9
Appendix VI - Organizers' Conditions of Contest	
District Coordinator	Page 10
Club Stage	Page 10
Unit Stage - Organization	Page 11
Unit Stage - Conducting and Reporting	Page 12
District Stage	Page 12
Appendix VII – Conditions of Contest for Online NAP Finals	Page 14



American Contract Bridge League

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

THESE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST MAY NOT BE CHANGED AT ANY LEVEL OF PLAY DURING THE COURSE OF THIS EVENT. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CAUSE FOR EXCEPTION TO THESE CONDITIONS OF CONTEST.

SCHEDULE

1. **Club Level** May be held only in June, July and August of 2015
2. **Unit Level** As scheduled by Units & approved by the District NAP Coordinator
3. **District Level** Must be completed by the 3rd Sunday of January, 2016.
4. **National Level** Reno, NV 2016 Spring NABC
Flight A Wednesday and Thursday, March 9 - 10, 2016
Flights B & C Sunday and Monday, March 13 - 14, 2016

FLIGHT ELIGIBILITY

Masterpoints won in any other bridge organizations must be taken into account for placement in the appropriate flights.

1. Flight A Open to any player
2. Flight B Players with less than 2500 MPs as of the 2015 June masterpoint cycle*
3. Flight C Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 MPs as of the 2015 June masterpoint cycle.*

* The June masterpoint cycle is run by ACBL data processing on May 6, 2015. Any points won but not included in this cycle do not affect masterpoint eligibility.

PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF PLAY

Flight C Eligible Players May play in Flights A, B & C until concurrence forces a choice
Flight B Eligible Players May play in Flight B and Flight A until concurrence forces a choice
Flight A Eligible Players May play in Flight A only

However, please note that in a stratified event at the Unit or District level, a player must have played in a club qualifying game and earned qualification in that flight to be eligible. If not eligible to qualify for higher flights, the pair will receive masterpoints, but not qualification to the next stage for the higher flight for which they did not qualify at the club level. When designating qualifiers from a stratified field, the director should select players who are eligible for qualification, disregarding the ineligible pair(s).

MIXED FLIGHT PARTNERSHIPS

1. Partnerships consisting of an A player and a B or C player must enter the event as a Flight A pair. If the pair qualifies in the Flight A strat or event, the A player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight A event only. A Flight B player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight A and Flight B events. A Flight C player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight A, Flight B and Flight C events.
2. Partnerships consisting of a B player and a C player must enter the event as a Flight A or B pair. If the pair qualifies in the Flight A strat or event, the Flight B player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight A and Flight B events only. The Flight C player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight A, Flight B and Flight C events. If the pair only qualifies in the Flight B strat or event, the Flight B player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight B event only. The Flight C player is eligible for the next stage in the Flight B and Flight C events.

CLUB LEVEL PARTICIPATION

1. Club level qualification may be earned at any club in any unit in any district.
2. Club level qualification is earned as an individual and not as a partnership. A player may play at any participating club as often as desired and with as many partners as desired.
3. At the club stage, a player may qualify and earn masterpoints with any member of the ACBL or with a non-member of the ACBL.

UNIT LEVEL PARTICIPATION

1. Both players must be members of the parent district. (See Appendix I in these Conditions).
2. Both players must have qualified in a club.
3. Any player that qualified in any club may play with any other qualified player in any unit in their district. Each player must be a member of a unit of their parent district.
4. Each player must be an ACBL member who is not currently on suspension OR who has not otherwise been placed in an ineligible status by an ACBL disciplinary body.
5. A player may enter only one unit stage competition per flight. (A stratified event covers all club flight eligibility options).
6. A player whose membership dues are paid prior to the unit competition is deemed to be a paid member at the time of entry. **ONLY PAID MEMBERS, INCLUDING LIFE MASTERS WITH LIFE MEMBER STATUS, WHOSE DUES OR FEES ARE CURRENT PRIOR TO THE UNIT STAGE, MAY PARTICIPATE BEYOND THE CLUB LEVEL.**

DISTRICT LEVEL PARTICIPATION

District Conditions of Contest will define qualification requirements. In general to be eligible for the District stage:

- A) If there is a unit stage – a player must have qualified at the club stage and at the unit stage; or
- B) If there is NO unit stage – a player must have qualified at the club stage.

NATIONAL LEVEL PARTICIPATION

A person or pair may represent a district in only one flight at the national level. 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 play-through 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 play-through to qualify approximately 50% of the entry into a two-session play-through final with carryover as per ACBL formula.

QUALIFYING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

From Club Stage

Eligible partnerships finishing in the top 50% of their field (rounded up and including ties) plus any pair with “average” not in the top half of their field. New partnerships between club stage qualifiers may be formed at the unit stage. Only paid-up ACBL members and Life Masters whose service fees are paid prior to the unit stage may participate beyond the club level.

From Unit Stage

Eligible partnerships finishing in the top 50% of their field (rounded up and including ties) plus any pair with “average” not in the top half of their field. Plus, at district option, a unit may qualify 60% of the field to the next level. New partnerships between unit stage qualifiers may be formed at the district stage.

Special Advancement to District Stage

An ACBL member who qualified at the club stage whose representation of his NCBO or ACBL in WBF competition prevents participation in the unit level competition is granted qualification to the district final and may play with a player who has qualified at the club level and has not played in a level beyond the club level. This also applies to ACBL members who are WBF officials and NPCs and coaches on official ACBL/NCBO business preventing participation at the unit qualifying.

From District Stage

The top three eligible pairs in Flight A, and the top four eligible pairs in Flights B & C qualify to the national finals. Plus, two additional pairs in Flight A will be invited by the method outlined in Appendix II. Districts may opt to qualify alternate players for qualified players who choose not to play in the district final (consult your District NAP Conditions of Contest). Pairs qualifying to the national finals qualify as a pair and no new partnerships may be formed at the national finals regardless of the circumstances.

MULTI-FLIGHT QUALIFICATIONS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Flight C players - | Retain qualification in each flight (A, B & C) in which they have achieved the finish stated for each level of play. |
| Flight B players - | Retain qualification in each flight (except Flight C) in which they have achieved the finish stated for each level of play. |

CONVENTIONS

1. At the club stage, subject to established ACBL minimum guidelines, each club determines the conventions to be allowed in its games.
2. At the unit stage, the ACBL General Convention Chart applies.
3. At the district stage, the ACBL General Convention Chart applies except that at district option Flight A may use the ACBL Mid-Chart.
4. At the national stage, the ACBL Mid-Chart applies for Flight A and the ACBL General Convention Chart applies to Flights B and C.

SUBSTITUTES

1. At any stage of the competition, the District Director (or his designee), the District NAP Coordinator or the tournament committee may approve a substitute in an emergency. A substitute must meet the eligibility requirements listed on page 1, under FLIGHT ELIGIBILITY, and may not appreciably strengthen the partnership and is subject to the following limitations:
 - A) At the club or unit stage, if a substitute plays more than 50 percent of the boards, he becomes the contestant of record if otherwise qualified.
 - B) At any stage beyond the unit stage, a substitute is not permitted for more than 50 percent of the boards played in a qualifying session or sessions; for more than 50 percent of the boards played in a final session or sessions; or more than one session in any case.
2. A replacement is not permitted beyond the district stage of the competition.

MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

When a district final is held at split sites, the qualifiers may be apportioned on any objective basis, provided the basis is published in the district's Conditions of Contest. Should a qualified pair decline to participate in the national final, an alternate pair (based on the order of finish in the district final from the same qualifying field) will replace them.

SUBSIDIES TO THE NATIONAL FINALS

Those who qualify for participation in the national finals will be notified by the ACBL Special Events Coordinator of any subsidy their finish in the district finals may have earned.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR AUTHORITY

All ACBL tournament regulations, though not specifically included in these conditions, apply to this event throughout. Only in the case of an unforeseen situation, the District Director (or his designee), in consultation with the ACBL NAP Coordinator, may make exceptions to these conditions. In emergency situations only, the District Director, on his own, may make decisions consistent with the spirit of these conditions of contest. In cases of dual residence, active military duty, school attendance or similar cases of extended temporary or permanent relocation, the ACBL NAP Coordinator has final authority of the residency and/or the qualification requirements (see Appendix I to these conditions). The District Director has final authority on any item not specified in the conditions of contest.

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APPENDIX I

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP – (BOARD ITEM 121-40)

The North American Pairs and Grand National Teams were created initially with the expectation that players would play in and represent the districts in which they lived.

For the GNTs: A member's principal physical residence as of September 1 of the year prior to the National Final shall establish the district in which said member is eligible to participate beyond the club qualifying stage. For the NAPs: A member's principal residence as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Final. In both events, changes in residence after such date shall not change the district in which the player is eligible to participate.

The expectation is that exceptions to this rule will be rare, especially in the top flight of each event. Exceptions must fall into the categories listed below in the "Guidelines for Exceptions". A player seeking an exception must obtain permission in writing from the ACBL District Director representing the district in which the member has a principal residence and from the ACBL District Director representing the district in which the member wishes to play. Both District Directors must approve the request for the exception to be granted. Further, any exceptions in the highest flight of the event must also be approved by a BOD Credentials Committee. The expectation is that District Directors will approve and forward requests to the Credentials Committee only in very special cases. There is no appeal from the Credentials Committee decision.

The Credentials Committee (CC) is also responsible for clarifying which district a player is allowed to play in when said player's eligibility is in question. When a challenge to one's eligibility from a unit final stage or later stage has been made, the CC may request documentary evidence from the member whose eligibility is in question. If a member is unable to verify to the CC's satisfaction that he or she is playing in the district of the member's principal residence, the CC shall automatically disqualify the member and his or her partner and teammates (if the event is the GNT). When a member is disqualified by the CC, the matter will be referred to the ACBL President who may choose to make charges to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee in accordance with section 2.2.3 (d) of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

The BOD and the Credentials Committee both recognize that implementation of these measures may inconvenience some members who were granted exceptions in previous years. Nevertheless, the general consensus is that implementation and strict interpretation of these measures is necessary to restore the integrity of these events. The alternative, which was carefully considered by the BOD, was to eliminate these two great events from our schedule.

Guidelines for Exceptions:

As noted above, the expectation is that exceptions will be rare. Following are some situations where an exception may be considered:

- “Snowbird”. A member with seasonal residences who spends more than half of the GNT (September 1 – February 28) or NAP (June 1 – August 31) qualifying period in a district other than the district of his principal physical residence may play beyond the club

qualifying stage in the district of seasonal residence. If he chooses to do so, he may only play in the district level final of one district. He must play in that district's district finals to be eligible to play in the national finals. Such a player will not be eligible to be added to a team from his other district. All necessary approvals must be obtained before play begins at the district level.

- A player with multiple domiciles should apply to the Credentials Committee for a one-time choice of district in which he wishes to play. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. This player may be asked to document his time in each of his residences. The player must spend at least three months each year in a district in order to have it considered as a domicile possibility. Once a player chooses a district in which to play, he must play only in that district until he no longer has a domicile in that district.
- A participant who is a full-time student, a member of the armed forces or whose employment requires temporary relocation may play in the District in which he temporarily resides.
- In rare cases, a player who is a member of a unit in a district in which he does not reside may seek permission to play in the district in which he has a unit membership. Such an exception will be considered only if all of the conditions below are met:
 - Lives sufficiently close to the district borders.
 - Has been a member of the unit in which he wishes to play for at least 5 years continuously prior to the start of the competition in the year for which the exception is being requested.
 - Must not have played in the GNT or NAP in another district for that period of time.
 - Must have been actively involved as a volunteer in the Unit or District in which he wishes to play for at least two years. Possibilities include, but are not limited to: Unit or District Board Member, Chair of NABC or major NABC Committee, District or Unit Recorder, Tournament Chair, or Club Manager.

Note: Simply playing bridge in the other District/Unit or having a regular partner who resides in the other District is not considered sufficient reason for an exception to the "play where you live" rule.

Any player seeking an exception for this reason must document the reasons why an exception should be considered and send it to both District Directors involved, as described above. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. The District Director of the District in which the player is a member must confirm the fact that the player has been an active volunteer in the District (or Unit) where the player does not live before forwarding such requests to the Credentials Committee (highest flight only). Should an exception be granted for this reason, the player is eligible to play only in that district and may not change unit affiliation unless the player's principal physical residence changes.

- The Credentials Committee may consider exceptions under unusual circumstances for otherwise eligible players who change their District through a change in their physical domicile after September 1 (GNT) and June 1 (NAP). Request shall be made at least 30 days before the appropriate District Level final.

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APPENDIX II

SELECTION OF ADDED PAIRS TO NATIONAL FINALS – FLIGHT A

In addition to the three top pairs in Flight A determined at the 25 district finals, two more pairs for the flight will be invited to participate in the national finals determined as follows:

One of the two extra pairs will be the previous year's winners at the national final. This pair may, if they wish, play in the current event at any stage for which they are eligible and qualified. Should either or both players move to a different District, the pair is still deemed to represent their original District. The second pair will represent the highest ranked District as determined by the method described below.

DETERMINATION OF EXTRA PAIR

For Flight A, Districts will be ranked from 1 to 25 on two scales:

1. The total tables in play at the club level (in each flight) based on reports received at ACBL headquarters by October 1. (The lowest table count will be assigned a value of 1 and the highest a value of 25)
2. The ratio of total tables in play at the club level in each flight to the total membership of that flight in the District as of May 1 Data Processing computer cycle.
3. The values determined in numbers 1 and 2 above will be added and the districts with the highest total will earn the extra berth.
4. Ties will be broken in favor of the highest participation percentage and then by total club level participation.
5. The home district of the previous year's Flight A winner is not eligible to earn the other Flight A extra pair regardless of their ranking as determined by steps 1 - 4 above.

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APPENDIX III

RIBBON QUALIFICATIONS EARNED

Flight	Single-Site District Final	Split-Site - Separate Ranks	National Final
A & B	1st and 2nd (plus ties) = Blue Ribbon Q	1st at each site (plus ties) = Blue Ribbon Q	Top Ten (plus ties) = Blue Ribbon Q
C	1st and 2nd (plus ties) = Red Ribbon Q	1st at each site (plus ties) = Red Ribbon Q	Top Ten (plus ties) = Red Ribbon Q

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APPENDIX IV

MASTERPOINT AWARDS

CLUB STAGE

1. Flight A awards at an Open Club are as listed on the Championship Rated Masterpoint Award Chart (<http://www.acbl.org/acbl-content/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Pairs-Awards.pdf>), divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.
2. Flight B awards at an Open Club are 70% of the awards on the Championship Rated Masterpoint Award Chart, divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.
3. Flight C awards at an Open Club are 50% of the awards on the Championship Rated Masterpoint Award Chart, divided evenly between red and black masterpoints.
4. At an Invitational Club, the masterpoint awards are 80% of the awards at an Open Club, all black masterpoints.

UNIT STAGE

Flight	Color One Session	Color - Two Sessions or More Overall Section		Rating
A	Red	20% G, 80% R	Red	100% of Sectional Rating
B	Red	10% G, 90% R	Red	70% of Sectional Rating
C	Red	5% G, 95% R	Red	50% of Sectional Rating

DISTRICT STAGE

Flight	First Overall			Color - Overalls Awards	Color - Section Top	Color - Session Awards	Rating of Session Awards
	2 Sessions	3 Sessions	4 Sessions				
A	24.00	30.00	36.00	100% Gold	Gold	Red	100% of Regional
B	16.00	20.00	24.00	100% Gold	Gold	Red	70% of Regional
C	10.00	12.50	15.00	25% G 75% R	Red	Red	50% of Regional

NOTE: In districts holding a separately scored and ranked split-site final, the applicable first place award will be divided in proportion to each site's share of the total tables.

NATIONAL FINALS

Flight	1st Overall Points	Session Awards
A	65.00 Platinum	Platinum at 100% of National Rating
B	45.00 Gold	Gold/Red at 70% of National Rating
C	10.00 Gold, 20.00 Red	Red at 50% of National Rating (Except Section Top 1/3 Gold, 2/3 Red)

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APPENDIX V

STRATIFYING YOUR CLUB, UNIT AND DISTRICT NAP GAME

NOTE: SET YOUR STRATS USING THE NAP LIMITS - NONE/2500/NLM (<500)

1. At the club level, the choice to stratify or not is the independent choice of the club for all or any qualifying games (in any flight) held at that club.
2. At the unit level, units are encouraged to stratify rather than not conduct a particular flight.
3. At the district level, stratification is **NOT** recommended but a two-session play-through stratified event is allowed when attendance is insufficient to support separate flights.
4. Pairs from each flight should be evenly distributed in the North-South and East-West fields.
5. Flight A, B or C pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of the Flight A field (N-S or E-W) qualify for the next level of play in Flight A.
6. Flight B or Flight C pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of the Flight B field (N-S or E-W) qualify for the next level of play in Flight B.
7. Flight C pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of the Flight C field (N-S or E-W) qualify for the next level of play in Flight C.
8. A pair playing “average” (even though the finishing position is not in the top half of the field) is deemed to also be in the top half of the field.
9. Flight C may be a “stand-alone” stratified event with the only permissible strats being 0-20, 20-100, 100-NLM<500.
10. Flights A and B may be run as a stratified event (with Flight C run separately).
11. Flights B and C may be run as a stratified event (with Flight A run separately).
12. At the unit level, to be eligible to compete in any particular flight, a pair must have played at the club level and qualified in that particular flight. For example, any Flight C player who qualified at the club level in both B and C may compete at the unit level in B and C but not in A.
13. At the district level, to be eligible to compete in any particular flight, a pair must have played at the unit level and qualified in that particular flight. For example, any Flight C player who qualified at the unit level in both B and C may compete at the unit Level in B and C but not in A.
14. Qualifiers are determined for each strat across the field at large.
15. Ineligible players are disregarded when selecting qualifiers from a stratified field.
16. At District option 60% of the field may be qualified.
17. At District option, when an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than five pairs) enter a scheduled qualifying event (unit or earlier stage), all players who pay their entry fee are qualified to the next stage of competition. This also applies when an insufficient number of pairs enter the lowest strat of a scheduled stratified game. Sanction fees, player numbers and names must be submitted to ACBL.
18. A district running a stratified District Final must continue the same format for all sessions.

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APPENDIX VI

ORGANIZERS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Organizers and directors should be familiar with all Conditions of Contest in order to conduct the event.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Each District will appoint a District NAP Coordinator whose duties are to:

1. Submit to ACBL Headquarters, prior to commencement of the event, a set of District NAP Conditions of Contest supplementing the National Conditions with the District's options and specifics.
2. Provide necessary information to players, clubs and units.
3. Perform all other functions necessary for the smooth and efficient operation of the contest at all stages within the District.

CLUB STAGE

1. Clubs may hold up to two (2) club qualifying games in each of the three months (June, July, August) for each weekly sanctioned session held that month. This applies to each flight.
2. No special sanction is required; clubs should use the club number as the sanction number.
3. A club may hold a qualifying game at a time for which it is not sanctioned only by obtaining permission from the club's home Unit.
4. A club may hold a qualifying game at a different location (to accommodate expected attendance) provided the game is at the same time as its regularly sanctioned game and the move is adequately publicized.
5. A club may hold a regular club game simultaneously with any flight of a NAP qualifying game.
6. An *invitational club* (a club open to members only) may conduct a NAP qualifying game:
 - A. Under its usual rules and award masterpoints at 80% of an open club or,
 - B. May, with unit permission and appropriate publicity, hold an open qualifying game for any NAP flight provided the game is open to any ACBL member fitting any applicable flight participation requirements.
7. A club-stage game may not be held within 25 miles of a sectional tournament within the district without permission of the District Director or his designee.
8. All club-stage games conflicting with a regional tournament in that district may be prohibited by the district. (Consult your NAP District Conditions of Contest)
9. A club-stage event must have a club or higher-rated director. ACBL recommends a non-playing director, but games of one section with 17 tables or fewer (at the club or unit stage only) may have a playing director.
10. Sections should not be larger than 17 tables. Boards should be duplicated when there are two or more sections. The game should be seeded regardless of size.
11. The game director must issue qualifying slips to the qualifiers. ACBLscore will print qualifying slips.
12. At a club-stage game, each pair must be scheduled to play at least 21 boards.
13. A list of all the qualifiers from each game must be submitted to the district NAP Coordinator or his designee.

14. Fees of \$4.00 (U.S.) per table, per session are due ACBL and are paid in one of the following ways:
 - A. Clubs using the latest version of ACBLscore should DBADD the game file to the monthly report for masterpoint postings. ACBLscore will calculate the amount due for the NAP game and include it with the monthly report total along with all other games held at the club. No separate payment is necessary.
 - B. If you are using an older version of ACBLscore or scoring by hand, please remit \$4.00 (U.S.) per table. Send the game report and payment separately to ACBL Special Events Department.
15. Club NAP qualifying games may be stratified using these limits: Open/2500/Non-Life Master<500.
16. A stand-alone Flight C event may be stratified. The only permissible strats are 0-20, 20-100, 100-NLM<500. Only those players placing in the top-strat, 100-500 (Non-LM), will eligible to qualify and go on to the unit round.
17. See Page 5, Qualifying for the Next Level for determination of qualifiers.
18. 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 stage of competition.
19. When an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than five pairs) enter the lowest strat of a scheduled stratified game, all players who pay their entry fee are qualified to the next stage of competition.
20. A LIST OF ALL QUALIFIERS FROM EACH GAME MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT NAP COORDINATOR OR HIS DESIGNEE.
21. See Appendix V – Stratifying Club, Unit and District Stage NAP Games.
22. If no clubs in a particular unit hold club level qualifying games, then the unit must hold a club level qualifying game.

UNIT STAGE - ORGANIZATION

1. A district may opt not to require unit qualifying games.
2. If a district does not require unit qualifying games, units within that district may still hold non-qualifying unit finals at their local discretion; district may hold a multi-unit single-site unit final prior to the district final; or eliminate the unit stage, qualifying directly from the clubs to a district final.
3. If unit finals are held, the following options are available:
 - A. A one-unit unit final sponsored by the unit or by the district.
 - B. A multi-unit single-site unit final sponsored by one or more units or the district.
 - C. A unit with many club-stage qualifiers may request district permission to conduct a unit semi-final game (club-stage rating) to qualify a reasonable number of pairs to a unit final.
 - D. A unit may hold a multiple-site unit final (but not if a unit semi-final is held). Games in a multiple-site unit final should be concurrent.
4. A sanction application must be submitted to ACBL Headquarters for each unit final and should be submitted at least 90 days prior to the event. Your district NAP Coordinator must approve scheduling.
 - A. Go to www.acbl.org, click on Units and then select Unit NAP Sanction Application. Fill out the form and click on the submit button.
 - B. Your application will come to the Special Events Department via e-mail.
 - C. Your submission will be acknowledged and copied to your District Coordinator, who can then approve it or inform you of any objections.
 - D. Your sanction number is the letter “U” followed by the unit number unless the event is directed by an ACBL-assigned Director in which case you will be notified of the sanction number.
5. The sponsor is responsible for obtaining a director (club or higher-rated) for each game

- site and for obtaining supplies, etc.
6. SEE Page 2 UNIT LEVEL PARTICIPATION for eligibility rules.

UNIT STAGE - CONDUCTING AND REPORTING

1. The Unit final may be one or more sessions. (Overall awards in a two-session or more unit final are part gold. See Appendix IV – Masterpoint Awards).
2. The first session of a Unit final may be used to qualify at least 70% of the field for the second session. The percent of the field to qualify must be announced no later than the second round in session one. A consolation session for non-qualifiers may be held awarding black points at 65% of sectional rating for Flight A, black points at 53% of sectional rating for Flight B and black points at 39% of sectional rating for Flight C. See ACBLscore and Your Unit Level NAP Game.
3. Each session of a unit final must be at least 24 and no more than 30 boards.
4. Ineligible pairs playing to fill out the movement will receive **session** awards (no overall awards) won but may not qualify for the next stage of the event. If the ineligible pair includes one or two players with more masterpoints than permitted in the flight they are filling in, duplicate masterpoint awards will be issued by ACBL.
5. A player arriving without his qualification slip should be allowed to play if he advises the director of the name of the club at which he qualified. This information must be included with the game report.
6. The game director must issue qualifying slips to the qualifier. ACBLscore will print qualifying slips.
7. Game results must be reported to the District NAP Coordinator.
8. A fee of \$7.00 (U.S.) per table, per session must be remitted to ACBL.
9. See Appendix V – Stratifying Club, Unit and District Stage NAP Games.

DISTRICT STAGE

1. The District Coordinator must submit the sanction application to ACBL Headquarters 90 days prior to date of the event.
2. A tournament director will be assigned by the Tournament Department to officiate at each district final. ACBL will attempt to assign requested directors. A district final may be:
 - A) A two-session playthrough event.
 - B) A three-session event, the first two sessions playthrough to qualify 25 to 45 % of the field for the final session (with carryover as per ACBL formula).
 - C) A four-session event, the first two sessions playthrough to qualify 30 to 50% of the field for the final two playthrough sessions (with carryover as per ACBL formula).
 - D) A four-session playthrough event.
3. A district may hold a split-site district final; each site governed by the same conditions of contest as detailed in the district's submitted conditions. The DICs at both sites should coordinate the reporting of results to be certain the determination of rankings is reported accurately.
4. Each session must be at least 24 boards and no more than 30 boards.
5. Only ACBL members in good standing may participate. Ineligible pairs playing to fill out the movement will receive any **session** awards (no overall awards) won but may not qualify to the next stage of the event. If the ineligible pair includes one or two players with more masterpoints than permitted in the flight they are filling in, duplicate masterpoint awards will be issued by ACBL.
6. When a qualifying format is used, the district may run a one or two-session consolation for the non-qualifiers.

7. Stratification at the district final is NOT recommended, but a two session playthrough stratified event is allowed when attendance is insufficient to support separate flights.
8. See Appendix V – Stratifying Club, Unit and District Stage NAP Games.
9. A fee of \$7.00 (U.S.) per table, per session must be submitted to ACBL. (NAP games held in conjunction with other tournaments will not be charged more or less than their prescribed sanction fees).
10. District stage competitions may not be held during an NABC.

2015 - 16 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Appendix VII

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR ONLINE DISTRICT NAP FINALS

General Conditions

1. This event will be conducted at a variety of playing sites, and hosted online by an ACBL approved host. (See Section IV.)
2. Regarding any of the below, the decision of the Director in Charge (DIC) will be final. The DIC is empowered to remedy any omissions in these CoC.
3. Unless specifically noted below, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the ACBL Convention Charts, the ACBL Alert Chart, the CoC for the 2014/2015 NAP, General CoC for pairs events and ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy shall govern this event.
4. The DIC must be an ACBL Director, hold the rank of Tournament Director or higher, and shall have the authority to assign his own staff.
5. The Tournament Organizer will provide a format for the event which includes contingencies for any number of pairs in each flight.
6. If feasible and except in #10, below: Contestants in each flight will play the same deals as others within their flight.
7. Each Contestant shall have access to these CoC and the event's format (#5 above). Failure to have reviewed these conditions, or lack of proficiency with computers or the software used by the online host does not excuse any irregularity, or violation of these conditions.
8. Each pair must pre-register by one week prior to the announced date of the contest. Late entrants may be accepted for the convenience of the movement and only at the discretion of the DIC. At the time of pre-registration, pairs are required to submit funds for participation and the following information for each pair member:
 - Name
 - ACBL Number
 - User ID for online host
 - Site of participation
 - Any special needs addressed by these CoC.
9. In the event a Contestant is handicapped, where he is unable to use a computer, and in all cases where a Contestant does not have the requisite computer skills, said Contestant may bring an Operator to relay calls, plays and explanations thereof. Communication between the Contestant and his Operator is to be conducted in writing. Any notes from a Contestant/Operator interaction may be used to settle disputes. The Operator must be named in preregistration, and is subject to the approval of the DIC.
10. Should a technical difficulty arise which delays play for one or more tables, play in all unaffected tables shall continue and 15 minutes will be allotted to resolve the issue

before play is suspended. If play is suspended for longer than 15 minutes, the decision of the DIC about the continuation of the event shall be final.

Security

1. Each Contestant must preregister to participate at a particular site, and no Contestant may participate from a physical location other than a site designated by the Tournament Organizer, and approved by the DIC. The DIC shall be informed, no later than 2 days after the close of registration, of each designated site.
2. The Tournament Organizer will designate at least one Monitor for each playing site. The DIC shall be informed, no later than 2 days after the close of registration, of the proposed Monitor for each site and their contact information. The proposed Monitor is subject to approval by the DIC.
3. Monitors shall ensure the enforcement of these CoC and will be primarily responsible for the enforcement of any security-related issues at their designated location.
4. Monitors need not be Directors and may not rule on any irregularity occurring during play nor penalize a Contestant for any violation of these conditions. Monitors must immediately inform the DIC of any irregularity or violation of which they become aware in any manner.
5. Contestants are not permitted to be in possession of any electronic communication devices while they are competing. VIOLATION OF THIS CONDITION WILL RESULT IN A MANDATORY PENALTY OF ONE FULL BOARD, AND A SECOND VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN THE PAIR'S DISQUALIFICATION.
6. Chatter at each physical location shall be kept to a minimum. No discussion of hands is permitted at any given location until all bridge play at that location has concluded.
7. Contestants must connect to the internet through a designated on-site router.
8. Contestants may only run the following applications during the play period:
 - A. Online Host Software; or
 - B. An internet browser for the purpose of accessing the Online Host and/or (in the A Flights only) for the purpose of accessing the ACBL's defense database.
9. Monitors shall ensure that Contestants cannot view the "computer screens" of other Contestants within their own flight.
10. Monitors shall ensure that Contestants, competing at the same site as their partner, are seated in positions which obscure their view of one another.
11. Contestants must not relay, through chat visible to partner or at the monitoring site, any extraneous information.

The Play

1. Contestants are required to post a complete convention card, in ACBL format, inclusive of any supplemental notes.

2. The ACBL Mid-Chart may apply to Flight 'A' at District option. Pairs playing methods requiring a written defense must pre-alert their opponents, and post a written description of the method(s) along with their convention card. Contestants opposing a pair playing such methods are permitted to access the ACBL's defense database and keep said defenses open in their internet browser.

<http://www.acbl.org/play/defenseDataBase.html>

3. The ACBL General Convention Chart applies to Flights B & C.
4. The Director must be summoned electronically for any irregularity which occurs during play. Once the Director has been summoned, all play and bidding shall cease until the Director authorizes its continuation.
5. Contestants are required to alert and explain their own calls (not their partner's). When one makes an Alertable call, the bidder must give a full explanation of the agreement to his opponents (and only his opponents.) Stating the common or popular name of the convention is not sufficient.
6. Any Contestant may request, but only at his turn to call or play, information concerning an opponents' methods. Such inquiries may be asked of either or both opponents, but must be asked in a private chat. Replies to these inquiries must be given in a private chat.
7. Violations of conditions, which make available to one's partner extraneous information by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert, failure to alert, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism (Security 9-11 & The Play 5 & 6), shall be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and are subject to procedural penalties. The Monitors and Contestants must report any such violations to the DIC.
8. Any deviation in tempo does convey extraneous information and is subject to rectification under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Any Contestant experiencing technical difficulties which may be construed as conveying extraneous information should immediately inform the Monitor or Director.
9. Claims, concessions, agreement thereto and contention or cancellation thereof will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.
10. Unintended calls or plays will be rectified under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. If a Contestant makes an unintended call or play he should summon the Director immediately. As in live play, undoes are permitted only upon instruction of the Director.

Requirements for ACBL approved Online Host

1. Online Hosts must be accessible to all of the events participants.
2. The Host must have the ability to run three separate flights.
3. The Host must have the capability to run distinct random deals for each session.

4. The Host must ensure the conditions of each deal are consistent with the Laws of Duplicate Bridge (Laws 1, 2, 4-6)
5. The Host shall ensure that each participant may chat with either or both of his opponents, and with all of the Contestants at his table, but not privately with partner.
6. All deals, auctions, play and chat shall be recorded and available for review, in real time, by the Director.
7. If feasible, the auction should appear for each Contestant three bids at a time.
8. The Host must have the capability of running a pairs movement, where each board is played simultaneously at each table.