

ACBL District 25 2011/2012 Conditions of Contest for the North American Pairs

1. National Conditions:

The 2011-2012 North American Pairs (hereafter, NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the ACBL govern this competition. Refer to the ACBL web site at

<http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/nap/20112012NAPConditionsofContest.pdf>.

These District 25 Conditions of Contest cover circumstances unique to the District Finals and clarify options available to it in the National Conditions of Contest.

2. Participation:

To advance beyond the club level, a player must be a member in good standing of both District 25 and the ACBL.

3. Flight Eligibility:

The National Conditions of Contest spell out all the requirements and cut-off dates for eligibility to play in the various flights.

Flight A is open. Flight B is for players under 2000 masterpoints and Flight C is for Non-Life Masters with less than 500 masterpoints as of May 6th, 2011.

4. District Coordinator:

District 25's 2011/2012 NAP Coordinator is Mark Aquino (617) 522-8626, maquino621@comcast.net; (hereafter referred to as "NA Events Coordinator").

5. Club Stage

Each year, club qualifying games will be conducted throughout the months of June, July and August as specified in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest.

6. Unit Level

The Unit Stage of the NAP competition will not be conducted in District 25. Players who qualify in club qualifying games advance directly to the District Finals.

Each Unit is expected and needed to be proactive in promoting the NAP including club level play in their own Unit and the District 25 Finals.

7. District Finals (for A, B, and C Flights)

District Final Tournaments Eligibility:

Players who qualified in a Club qualifying game or who are otherwise qualified by the ACBL National Conditions of Contest are eligible to compete in the District 25 NAP Flight A, B and C Finals.

8. Seeding:

Flight A only will be seeded. 2011/2012 Seeding Chairman is Franklin Merblum. Email: sfmerb@att.net.

Note: Seeding is a subjective attempt to balance the field based upon a best guess expert prediction of this year's expected order of finish. Prior year's performance certainly is one of the key factors into this assessment, but it is not the only consideration, and last year's winners are not guaranteed a seed.

NEW: In order to allow for a faster start of the first qualifying session, pairs requesting seeding consideration will need to email the Seeding Chairman at least 3 full days prior to the start of the event. (Not later than October 12, 2011).

9. Event Formats:

(a) Flight A and B:

The Flight A and B Finals will each be conducted as a two-day event, consisting of a 2 session play through qualifying event, and a 2-session play through final.

The number of pairs qualifying for the finals of each flight will be determined by the Tournament Director after consultation with the NA Events Coordinator.

(b) Flight C:

The Flight C Finals will be conducted as a one-day, two-session play through event.

The Flight C event will be conducted in 1 day only- on Saturday, October 15th, 2011 starting at 1 PM!

(c) Format Changes:

The NA Events Coordinator may, after consultation with the Tournament Director, modify the format for any of the Finals as needed to accommodate unanticipated circumstances.

10. District Finals Conditions of Play

a) Entry Fees:

The entry fees for all Flights will be \$12 per person (\$24/pair) for each session. The entire fees (\$48/pair) for the 2 planned sessions on Saturday and/or the 2 planned sessions on Sunday will be collected at the start of each day.

b) Bidding Boxes/Screens:

Bidding boxes will be used during all sessions of each Flight. Screens will not be used in any of the District Finals.

c) Slow Play:

The Tournament Director will monitor any aggravated slow play to determine who is at fault and may assess slow play penalties as set out in ACBL regulations.

d) Kibitzing:

Kibitzers will be permitted at all stages of District events of the 2011/2012 NAP but must remain at one table during a particular session. Each partnership has the right to bar one kibitzer without assigning cause, or an unlimited number of kibitzers for cause. The Tournament Director may bar any kibitzer for cause. Kibitzers will comport themselves appropriately.

e) Conventions

Use of conventions is as per the National Conditions of Contest at the club stage. For the Flight A District Finals, the ACBL Mid-Chart may be used.

f) Substitutions

The District 25 Director, or the NA Event Coordinator will follow the guidelines for substitutions as outlined in the ACBL National NAP Conditions of Contest.

11. Ties:

Ties for qualifying positions to district on national advancement will be broken in accordance with National General Conditions for Pairs Events.

First tie-breaker is board-a-match on boards played in common and board-a-match against average for boards not played in common. For full details see:

<http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Conditions-of-Contest/General-PAIRS.pdf>

12. Advancement to the National Finals

The top three pairs in each Flights will be eligible to advance to the National Finals, held in conjunction with the 2012 Spring NABC at the Memphis Cook Convention Center, 255 North Main Street, Memphis, TN. In each flight, there will be a 2 session qualifier, and a 2 session final. The Flight A National finals will be held on March 14-15, 2012. The Flight B&C National Finals will be held on March 24-25, 2012.

13. Advancement Declined:

If a pair eligible for advancement declines to advance to the Nationals Finals, then another pair will be offered the chance to advance as follows:

- a) The pair with the next highest score in the same Flight as the pair that withdrew will be offered the chance to advance.
- b) The order of placement shall be revised according to the overall scores of the pairs now in the advancement queue, and in case of subsequent declinations, the offer will be extended to additional pairs in accordance with paragraph 13(a) above.

14. Event Location, Dates, and Starting Times:

(a) Location: All events will be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566, (508) 347-7393.

(b) Dates:

(i) The two Flight A&B Qualifying sessions will both be conducted on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

(ii) The two Flight C Final sessions will be conducted on Saturday, October 15. There will be no qualifying sessions for Flight C.

(iii) The two Flight A&B Final sessions will both be conducted on Sunday, October 16, 2011.

(c) Starting Times:

The planned starting times for each session of the District 25 Finals will be as shown in the following table:

Saturday, October 15, 2011		
1:00 PM	Flight A NAOP (Open)	1 st Qualifying session
	Flight B NAOP (0-2000 Masterpoints)	
	Flight C NAOP (0-500MP, NonLife Master) -1st of 2 session playthru	
7:00 PM	Flight A NAOP (Open)	2 nd Qualifying Session
	Flight B NAOP (0-2000 Masterpoints)	
	Flight C NAOP (0-500MP, NonLife Master) -2nd of 2 session playthru	
Sunday, October 16, 2011		
10:00 AM	Flight A NAOP (Open)	1 st Final session
	Flight B NAOP (0-2000 Masterpoints)	
TBA	Flight A NAOP (Open)	2 nd Final session
	Flight B NAOP (0-2000 Masterpoints)	

The times are subject to change for good reason by the Tournament Director, in conjunction with the NA Events Coordinator, the District 25 Director and/or the District 25 Tournament Manager.

15. Additional Pairs

Per Appendix II of the National Conditions of Contest, it is possible that a 4th pair in each flight from District 25 may be granted eligibility to compete in the NABC Final. If additional pairs (other than the previous year's winner in Flight A) are eligible to advance, they will be the pair or pairs with the highest score not otherwise qualified.

16. Subsidies

Travel expense subsidies for the top 2 pairs in each flight who qualify for participation in the National Finals are administered by the ACBL.

A fixed amount prize is awarded in each flight as follows:

- a) In districts with 3 qualifiers, the 1st place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the 2nd place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person. The 3rd place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the national level finals, and will not receive a subsidy directly from the ACBL. **To provide a greater incentive and to help offset costs to travel to the national finals, District 25 will augment the ACBL's subsidies with a generous \$100 subsidy to each 3rd place player who competes in the national finals.**
- b) In districts with 4 qualifiers, the 1st and 2nd place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the 3rd place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person. The 4th place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the national level finals, but will not receive a prize from the ACBL, **but will still be eligible for the district additional \$100 per player subsidy.**
- c) Invited defenders will receive \$700 per person.
- d) No individual may collect two concurrent prizes.

The monetary award will be available on site. Qualifiers must play in the national level event until eliminated to receive the award. There will be no entry fee for the national level of the North American Pairs event – for any flights.

17. Publicity

The District's champions of each Flight will be reasonably expected to cooperate in promoting the event including, if requested, (i) by supplying a short written tournament report of the District and National Finals for publication in the District's website; and/or, (ii) by making public appearances.

The NA Events Coordinator will promote the event by providing flyers and/or advance e-mail notifications to the Units and clubs with general information for Club Qualification, and of the dates, times and locations for the District Finals. He/she will also enlist the help of the I/N Chair, District Webmaster and the various Unite Webmasters to publish both this information and the tournament reports referenced in this paragraph on the District's website, as well as on Unit websites to the fullest extent possible.

18. Contingencies

The NA Events Committee (The DIC, the District Director, the NAP Coordinator, and on occasion as appropriate, the District Tournament Manager and/or the District I/N Coordinator) will work together as appropriate for areas within their individual and/or general areas of responsibility to resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to Club Qualifying Events, publicity, playing sites and dates that are not specifically addressed by these conditions.

Also, the NA Events Committee, in part, or in whole, may be called upon to help address and resolve all contingencies or ambiguities that the Director in Charge may have relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions.

19. Acknowledgements

District Director, Rich DeMartino, Director in Charge Peter Marcus, D 25 President Bob Erwin, D25 Tournament Chair Ausra Geaski, Secretary Carolyn Weiser, and D25 Tourn.Mgr, Helen Pawlowski, are the key contributors to the annual success of the D25 NAP Finals competition.

The entire D25 Executive Committee, Sue Miguel, District I/N Coordinator, David Metcalf, District Daily Bulletin Editor, Bill Braucher, D25 Webmaster, Bob Bertoni,

NEBC Web Designer, and all the Unit Webmasters deserve recognition for their help in publicizing and promoting this grass-roots event.

Special thanks to Joe Brouillard for his broad-based publicity and emailings.

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