

ACBL District 25 Conditions of Contest for the 2019/2020 North American Pairs

1. National Conditions:

The 2019-2020 North American Pairs (hereafter, NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the ACBL govern this competition. Refer to the ACBL web site at

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>.

These District 25 Conditions of Contest cover circumstances unique to the District 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, as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Final, and the ACBL.

3. District Coordinator & District Director:

District 25's NAP Coordinator is Frank Merblum, gntcoord@nebridge.org

Our District Director is Bob Bertoni, ddirector@nebridge.org

4. Unit Responsibilities:

Each Unit is responsible to promote the NAP including club level play in its own Unit and the District 25 Finals.

5. Club Stage

Club qualifying games will be conducted in June, July and August of 2019 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.

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

District Final Tournaments Eligibility:

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

8. Event Formats:

Normally each session is expected to consist of 26-27 boards, although the director is empowered to modify the number to complete the movement or conform to other constraints. Restart times may be modified by the Tournament Director. Late arrivals at any session may be subject to penalty or be unable to compete. Withdrawals require approval of the Tournament Director and will only be granted under compelling circumstances.

(a) Flights A & B:

The Flight A & B Finals will be conducted as a two-day event at the Harvest Regional in Mansfield, MA on November 9 & 10, 2019, consisting of a 2-session qualifying event and a 2-session final. A short lunch break will occur each day between each session; starting time for the second session each day will be announced by the directors. There will be every effort to make sure that there will be NO playbacks during the second qualifying session on Saturday.

The number of pairs qualifying for the finals of each flight will be determined by the NAP Coordinator after consultation with the Tournament Director. The intention is to qualify around 50% of the field for the finals on Sunday, though the best movement for the finals will be a major contributing factor.

(b) Flight C:

The Flight C Finals will be conducted as a one day, 2-session event on Saturday, November 9, 2019 of the Harvest Regional in Mansfield, MA. A short lunch break will occur between the sessions; starting time for the second session will be announced by the directors.

(c) Format Changes:

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

9. Event Location, Dates, and Starting Times:

(a) Locations: The District Finals for Flights A, B & C will be held at the Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA.

(b) Dates:

- (i) The two Flight A & B Qualifying sessions will both be conducted on Saturday, November 9, 2019.
- (ii) The two Flight A & B Final sessions will both be conducted on Sunday, November 10, 2019.
- (iii) The two Flight C Final sessions will both be conducted on Saturday, November 9, 2019.

(c) Starting Times:

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

FLIGHT A Saturday, November 9, 2019, Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA		
10:00 AM	Flight A NAP (Open to all)	1 st Qualifying Session
TBD	Flight A NAP	2 nd Qualifying Session
Sunday, November 10, 2019, Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA		
TBD	Flight A NAP	1 st Final session
TBD	Flight A NAP	2 nd Final session
FLIGHT B Saturday, November 9, 2019, Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA		
10:00 AM	Flight B NAP (under 2500 masterpoints)	1 st Qualifying Session
TBD	Flight B NAP	2 nd Qualifying Session
Sunday, November 10, 2019 Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA		
TBD	Flight B NAP	1 st Final session
TBD	Flight B NAP	2 nd Final session

FLIGHT C		
Saturday, November 9, 2019 Holiday Inn Mansfield, MA		
10:00 AM	Flight C NAP (non-LM, under 500 masterpoints)	1 st Final Session
TBD	Flight C NAP	2 nd Final Session

The times are subject to change for good reason by the Tournament Director, in conjunction with the NAP Coordinator and the District 25 Director.

10. Ties:

Ties for qualifying positions to district on national advancement will be broken in accordance with the ACBL Pairs Events Conditions of Contest. 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://web2.acbl.org/coc/PairsGeneral.pdf>

11. District Finals Conditions of Play

(a) Entry Fees:

The entry fees for each session for all Flights will be \$30 per pair. The entire fees 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 2019/2020 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 District Finals:

Flight A - Open+ Convention Chart

Flight B - Basic+ Convention Chart

Flight C - Basic Convention Chart

All contestants are required to have two identically filled-out convention cards available for their opponents' inspection.

For any convention requiring it, contestants are expected to provide two copies of the ACBL-approved defense to their opponents.

(f) Substitutions

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

12. Advancement to the National Finals

The top three pairs in Flight A and the top **four** pairs in Flights B and C will be eligible to advance to the National Finals, held in conjunction with the 2020 Spring NABC at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH.

The Flight A National finals will be held on March 18-19, 2020. The Flights B & C National Finals will be held on March 28-29, 2020.

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 para 13(a) above.

14. Subsidies

Travel expense subsidies for those 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 Flight A (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. They do not receive a subsidy from the ACBL, but the District 25 Executive Committee has approved a \$100 per person subsidy from District funds for the 3rd place pair.
- (b) In Flights B and C (4 qualifiers), the 1st place qualifiers will receive \$700 per person and the 2nd place qualifiers will receive \$300 per person. The 3rd and 4th place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the national level finals. They will not receive a prize from the ACBL, but the District 25 Executive Committee has approved a \$100 per person subsidy from District funds for the 3rd place and 4th place pairs in Flights B and C.
- (c) Invited defenders of Flight A NAP will receive \$700 per person and earn automatic qualification to the next year's NABC finals.
- (d) No individual may collect two concurrent prizes. The monetary award will be available on-site at the national finals. 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 event.

15. 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 NAP 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.

The NAP Coordinator will arrange to publish both this information and the tournament reports referenced in this paragraph on the District's website, in conjunction with the District Webmaster, Mike Wavada.

Special acknowledgement is given to Sue Miguel, District I/N Coordinator, Mike Wavada, District Communications Chairman, and all the Unit Webmasters for their efforts in helping to publicize this event.

16. Contingencies

The NAP Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to Club Qualifying Events, publicity, playing sites and dates that are not specifically addressed by these conditions.

Also, before the start of play, the NAP Coordinator will attempt to resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions. If such matter should involve his partnership, then the NAP Coordinator shall defer to the District 25 Director, Bob Bertoni, to act in his stead.

Once play begins, the Tournament Director in Charge, with consultation with the NAP Coordinator and the District Director, will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities not specifically addressed by these Conditions that occur during the event itself.