

ACBL District 25 Conditions of Contest for the 2023-2024 North American Pairs

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The district level events will be played online using BBO. BBO requirements and practices may require some adjustments to these conditions. As such, changes to these conditions to ensure a smooth process of the events may be made by the NAP Coordinator and Director-in-Charge. Any such decisions will be final. The National Finals will take place in person at the spring Louisville, Kentucky NABC, March 14-24, 2024.

1. National Conditions:

The 2023-2024 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 ACBL and a resident of District 25 (New England). For each flight, both players in a pair must also meet the following masterpoint limits:

Flight A – No masterpoint limit

Flight B – Both players have less than 2500 masterpoints

Flight C – Both players are non-Life Masters with less than 500 points.

The point limits refer to each player's point holding as of the June 2023 masterpoint cycle, which is calculated on May 6, 2023. Points won after that date do not affect a player's eligibility for an event.

3. District Coordinator & ACBL Regional Director:

District 25's NAP Coordinator is Bart Bussink, bartwbussink@gmail.com

ACBL Regional 2 Director is Mark Aquino, region2director@acbl.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 2023 as specified in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest. Players must qualify via these club games or through ACBL sanctioned online games. Players may qualify at a club-level NAP qualifying game anywhere within the ACBL, not just clubs in District 25, and qualify as individuals, not as a pair, so can play with any other qualified player in the District Finals.

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:

Each Flight A and B session is expected to consist of 24-30 boards. Each Flight C session will consist of 18-24 boards. The director is empowered to modify the number of boards to complete the movement or conform to other constraints. There will be an approximately 30-minute break between sessions. The director will announce the restart time for the second session at the start of the break between sessions. Late arrivals at any session may be subject to penalties or be unable to compete. Withdrawals require approval of the Tournament Director and will only be granted under compelling circumstances. Every effort will be made to avoid playbacks during the second sessions on Saturday.

(a) Flight A and B and C

The Flight A Final will consist of a 2-session qualifying event and a 2-session final. Flight A will be conducted on BBO on Saturday October 7 and Sunday

October 8, 2023. The morning sessions will start at 10:00 AM. A short break will occur each day between sessions; the starting time for the second session each day will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

The Flight B Final will consist of 2-session final on Sunday October 8, 2023. All sessions will be conducted on BBO. The morning session will start at 10:00 AM. A short break will occur between sessions; the starting time for the second session will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

The Flight C Final will consist of 2 sessions. Both will be conducted on BBO on Saturday October 7, 2023. The morning session will start at 10:00 AM. A short break will occur between sessions; the starting time for the second session will be announced by the director at the start of the break between sessions.

In flights A, the number of pairs qualifying for the Sunday finals will be determined by the Tournament Director in consultation with the NAP Coordinator. The intention is to qualify as close to 50% of the field for the finals on Sunday as possible with the best movement for the finals being the major factor in deciding the number of pairs qualifying for the Sunday sessions.

(b) Format Changes:

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

9. Event Location, Dates, and Starting Times:

ALL DISTRICT LEVEL EVENTS THIS YEAR WILL TAKE PLACE ON BBO. START TIMES FOR ALL MORNING SESSIONS WILL BE 10:00AM. SEE ABOVE FOR DATES.

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

10. Ties:

Ties for qualifying positions to district or national advancement will be broken in accordance with the ACBL Pairs Events Conditions of Contest. The 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 are \$30 per session per pair for all Flights and will be collected by BBO. The entire fee for the 2 planned sessions on Saturday and/or the 2 planned sessions on Sunday will be collected at the start of each day. Since the entry fee will be paid using BBO\$, be sure your BBO account has sufficient funds to cover your entry fee. If, when the game is started, your account does not have sufficient BBO\$ funds, you will not be entered into the game and the directors will not be able to allow you to enter.

(b) Bidding Boxes/Screens:

BBO's standard display format will be used. Players will be expected to alert all their own bids in the alert description box. Please **DO NOT USE** public or chat for bid alerts and descriptions.

(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 not be permitted during play on BBO.

(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 a filled-out convention card available to post on BBO for all to see and reference.

For any convention requiring it, contestants are expected to provide a digital/electronic/pdf copy of the ACBL-approved defense to their opponents.

(f) Substitutions

The Region 2 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 2024 Spring NABC in Louisville, Kentucky. The exact dates of the Finals remain to be determined/confirmed. Please consult the Louisville, Kentucky NABC schedule when posted to confirm the days of play for the NAP finals.

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. Subsidies

Travel expense subsidies for those who qualify for participation in the National Finals are administered by the ACBL.

SUBSIDIES WILL ONLY BE AWARDED IF THE FINALS ARE PLAYED IN PERSON. THERE WILL BE NO SUBSIDIES IF THE FINALS ARE PLAYED ON BBO OR ANOTHER ONLINE VENUE.

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 from the

ACBL. 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 \$200 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 from the ACBL. The 3rd and 4th place qualifiers will be invited to participate in the national level finals. They will not receive a subsidy from the ACBL, but the District 25 Executive Committee has approved a \$200 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/expense-relief payments. Monetary amounts paid by the ACBL will be available on-site at the National Finals. District 25 will make arrangements to get payments to those who do not receive money from ACBL. Qualifiers must play in the national level event until eliminated to receive any payment.

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) supplying a short-written tournament report of the District and National Finals for publication in the District's website; and/or, (ii) making public appearances in support of promoting the NAPs.

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, Gary Peterson.

Special acknowledgement is given to Sue Miguel, District I/N Coordinator, and the District 25 Webmaster 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 a matter should involve his/her partnership, then the NAP Coordinator shall defer to the Region 2 Director, Mark Aquino, to act in his/her stead.

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