

District 13 Grand National Teams

Conditions of Contest – 2017-2018

Time and Place

Play in the Championship Flight, Flight A and Flight B will take place Saturday, February 24, 2018 & Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the Hilton Northbrook, 2855 North Milwaukee Avenue, Northbrook, IL. Play in Flight C will commence and conclude all on Sunday, February 25, 2018.

Telephone: (847) 480-7500

Championship, Flight A and Flight B will take place over 4 sessions and will be concluded in a single weekend.

Basic Format

The same basic format will be used in each flight except Flight C. There will be no competition among flights. There will be two stages of play in the top three flights – a complete round-robin (or, at the discretion of the District Coordinator, a Swiss Team if more than 12 teams are entered in a flight) leading to a KO bracket. Flight C will be contested in a one-day Swiss Team format on Sunday.

Stage 1

Stage 1 will consist of the first two sessions of play on Saturday. Teams will play a complete round robin (or Swiss Team) within each flight. If the field is small enough within a particular flight, teams will play a complete round robin in each of the two sessions on Saturday. Sessions will be 24-33 boards in length, depending upon the requirements of the movement. Individual match scores will be based upon IMP's converted to a USBF style 20 VP scale. The number of qualifying teams will be announced when the final number of entries is known.

It is expected that the Championship Flight will be reduced to four teams at the end of the first day. Flights A & B are generally larger and a cut to between five and eight teams is anticipated for those flights. The concept is to allow teams the maximum number of boards to qualify and to generate the maximum number of boards played between eventual semi-finalists and finalists. No teams will be eliminated prior to the end of the first day.

KO Stage

The KO stage will consist of two sessions of play on Sunday. The number of boards will be 32 in each match.

If five or more teams qualify for the Sunday event, a second round robin of approximately 32 total boards (with full carryover) will be held on Sunday afternoon to reduce the field to two finalists, who will play on Sunday night.

KO brackets will be determined solely by the results of the Saturday (and Sunday morning) qualifying rounds. In the case of a tie in the qualifying round standings, the tie will be broken by the results of the head-to-head matches among the tying teams. If this method does not break the tie, a coin flip will be used to break the tie.

Carry Over in KO Matches

If there has been a complete round-robin in the preliminary stage, there will be full carry-over in the KO stage (otherwise not).

If the flight did not include a complete round-robin, there will be no carry over into the finals.

Ties

Should a semi-final or final KO match end in a tie, continuing 4 board segments will commence immediately until the tie is broken. There will be no seeding rights in a playoff. A team may field any four of its players for a playoff. Both teams shall submit written lineups in advance to the director.

Qualification

| Flight | Master Point Limit | Club Qualification |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Points as of 8/6/17 MP Cycle | |
| Championship | Unlimited | None |
| A | Fewer than 6000 points | None |
| B | Fewer than 2500 points | Determined by Unit |
| C | Non-Life master and fewer than 500 points | Determined by Unit |

Players in the District Finals must meet the residency requirements of the ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest. Each member of the team must be a paid member in good standing with the ACBL. Club or Unit level qualifying is not required for participation in the District final, but clubs may hold Club level GNT Qualifying sessions, if authorized by a club's Unit organization.

In addition, players who are currently, or have ever been in the past, members of another bridge organization (whether domestic or foreign), must submit information on their past and/or current ranking in that organization. Submissions must be in writing and be received by the District GNT Coordinator or District Director at the time of registration for the event. The information submitted may be used to assign a conversion to ACBL masterpoints for purposes of verifying flight eligibility. Failure to submit this information as required will result in automatic disqualification of the team (Entry fees will not be refunded).

Registration

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT. All teams wishing to enter must provide notification by noon on February 19, 2018 by contacting:

Suzi Subeck, District 13 Director

847-509-0311 (Home)

708-927-6819 (cell)

stansubeck@prodigy.net (email)

Entering teams must have a written confirmation either by email or letter. No team without such a written confirmation should assume that entry has been verified. It is important to know in advance the teams entered. Captains should bring the confirmation with them to the site and be prepared to present it when buying an entry.

Conventions

The ACBL Mid-Chart of conventions shall be in effect for the Championship Flight and Flight A.

- a. Pre-alerts are required;
- b. A written description of, and defenses to, any Mid-Chart conventions must be provided to the opponents in writing; and
- c. Opponents may consult written defenses during any action in which such conventional methods are employed, whether such defenses are the ones provided by their opponents or their own defenses.

For Flights B and C the ACBL General Convention Chart will be in effect.

Participation

Each player is expected to play at least 50% of the boards scheduled for the event (not including tie-breaking playoffs). Each player must play at least 50% of the boards in the final and semi-final stages of the event. Team Captains are expected to come as close as possible to these requirements for each player. If a player is unable to play 50% of the boards in any stage of the event, the deviation must be approved by the District Director or Grand National Team Coordinator.

It is possible that the movements may require an anchor pair sitting NS. Captains should not assume that a five-person team will be able to substitute freely at both tables. It is also possible that the movement will prevent a player from playing 50% of the boards.

It is a Conduct and Ethics violation to list players on the entry who will not actually participate or to use players in early rounds when they will not play in later rounds. Any exceptions will be permitted only in the event of an emergency and at the sole discretion of the District Director or Grand National Team Coordinator.

Players in the Championship Flight should not enter this event unless planning to play until eliminated. These players should expect to represent the District at the 2018 Summer North American Championship in Atlanta, Georgia. Captains should verify that all team members expect to play the entire event. Entering the event with the knowledge that one cannot compete throughout is a violation of ACBL guidelines.

Winners in other flights are free to enter the District Final and declare their intentions at the end of the event. We encourage participation by those looking for great competition, great fun, and great hospitality. If you win, you will receive a stipend to help finance a trip to the NABC.

Substitutes

Substitutes are subject to the discretion of the District Director or Grand National Team Coordinator and may not appreciably strengthen a team. Substitutes for more than one session shall be deemed a permanent addition to the team.

Appeals

The period for an appeal of a director's ruling expires thirty minutes after each session.

Corrections

The period for score corrections expires at the announced starting time of the next session in an ongoing match, one hour before the announced starting time of the next session for the last session of a completed match, and fifteen minutes after the session for the last session of the final match.

Penalties

The penalties for failure to seat a complete team at announced game time (tardiness) in Stage 3 will be as follows:

- (i) first five minutes - no penalty
- (ii) more than 5 minutes, up to 15 minutes - 1 IMP
- (iii) more than 15 minutes, up to 20 minutes - 3 IMPs
- (iv) more than 20 minutes, up to 25 minutes - 6 IMPs
- (v) more than 25 minutes, up to 30 minutes - 9 IMPs
- (vi) more than 30 minutes, up to 35 minutes - 12 IMPs
- (vii) more than 35 minutes, up to 40 minutes - 15 IMPs

In Stage 1, the offending team may be required to use a substitute to facilitate the movement, in addition to the prescribed penalties.

The final match will be curtailed one board, up to a maximum of four boards, for each 7 1/2 minutes or fraction thereof of tardiness after the first ten minutes. Three IMPs per board curtailed will be awarded to the non-offending team in addition to the penalty in subsection (a) above.

If play has not commenced (with or without a substitute) forty minutes after the announced game time, the match will be declared a forfeit.

Augmentation

The winner of the event, if consisting of fewer than six members, may augment its team for advancement to the National Finals with any player or players approved by the District Director and the District Grand National Coordinator. Augmented players are expected to be at least equal in strength to the other players on the team

Entire Team Replacement

Should circumstances arise where the winning team is unable to field at least three members of the original team, the team finishing second in the District Final will become the District representative. If the second place team is not available, the GNT coordinator and the District Director may assemble a substitute team to represent the District. Whichever team actually represents the District will receive the District stipend. The goal of this provision is to make sure the District is represented, while respecting the results of the tournament insofar as that is possible.

ACBL Conditions

The official ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest are incorporated as part of the District 13 Conditions. Any item that is not specifically addressed by the ACBL or District 13 GNT Conditions of Contest shall be subject to the ACBL General Conditions Contest.

Stipend

The District-winning team in each flight will receive a stipend of \$1,000 from the District. Payment of the stipend is contingent upon the team's participation in the National competition.

GNT Coordinator:

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