

District 10 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest for 2016-17

The following, in conjunction with the ACBL Special Conditions of Contest, shall constitute the District 10 Conditions of Contest (CoC) for the 2016-17 Grand National Teams (GNT). The ACBL Special Conditions of Contest for 2016-17 may be found on the ACBL web site at http://www.acbl.org/tournaments_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/tournament-specific-regulations/conditions-of-contest/.

The District 10 GNT Coordinator is Jerry Burford. Questions or requests for clarification may be directed to the coordinator using the following contact information:

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The D10 GNT Final for Flights A, B and C will be held in Jackson, MS during the weekend of April 7-9, 2017. The D10 GNT Final for the Championship flight will be held in Hot Springs, AR on Sunday, May 21, 2017. The top-performing team from each flight in the District Final becomes the District 10 GNT Champion from that flight and advances to the national championship games to be held at the 2017 Summer North American Bridge Championship (NABC), to be held in Toronto, Ontario in July 2017.

General

Each Unit in District 10 shall appoint a Unit GNT Coordinator. This person will be responsible for arranging Unit GNT competition, reporting Unit results, and aiding Clubs within their Unit with questions about the Conditions of Contest.

Note – New for the 2016-17 contest, D10 will require Flights A, B and C teams that play in the D10 Final to have been qualified at the Unit level. There is no Unit qualification required for the Championship flight.

Flight Eligibility

Open Championship Flight — Unlimited
Flight A — Under 6000 MPs
Flight B — Under 2500 MPs
Flight C — Non-Life Masters with under 500 MPs

Masterpoint totals for flight eligibility are determined by the ACBL September 1, 2016 masterpoint cycle as produced by ACBL on August 6, 2016. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for the 2017 national final.

Participation Requirements

A player must be a member of the ACBL in good standing to participate at any level of the GNT. A player is considered to be in good standing if his/her dues are paid at the time of the District 10 finals. A player's physical residence as of September 1, 2016 must be in District 10 in order to participate in the District 10 and Unit GNT Finals, except as noted in the ACBL Special Conditions (e.g., full-time students, members of the armed forces, etc.) Changes in permanent residence after September 1, 2016 do not change the district in which the player is eligible to participate.

Team Constituency and Qualification Requirements

Team Formation

Teams may consist of four, five, or six members from anywhere within District 10. For teams of more than four players, every team member must play at least half of the boards of each match (exclusive of play-offs) in order to continue participating on that team for the remainder of the

event (unless exempted; see ACBL Special Conditions of Contest.) Teams may be comprised of members from more than one Unit in District 10; each District 10 Final team member should have qualified in one (or more) Unit finals in the district.

Club Level Competition

District 10 does not require qualification at the Club-level for any GNT flight. Clubs may hold as many GNT Fundraising events as they wish through May 31, 2017.

Unit Level Competition

District 10 does not require qualification at the Unit-level for the Championship flight. For the 2016-17 contest, District 10 requires that Flights A, B and C teams playing in the D10 GNT Finals qualify at the Unit-level for their flight. Units may hold their Unit Final anytime between October 1, 2016 and March 26, 2017, except during the District 10 Regional Tournament (Orange Beach, AL, from February 27 through March 5, 2017), the Fall NABC (Orlando, FL, from November 24 through December 4, 2016) or the Spring NABC (Kansas City, MO from March 9-19, 2017). The Unit GNT Coordinator should complete a sanction request online at www.acbl.org for the Unit Final.

Each Unit is expected to hold a Unit final to afford the opportunity for their members to qualify. It is also acceptable for two or more units to jointly host a Unit final.

Players who participate in Unit finals must meet the District 10 residency requirements and the masterpoint restrictions of their flight. It is not necessary that an individual be a member of a particular unit to participate in that unit's GNT Final.

New teams may be formed for participation in the District 10 Final. Individual team members may be from any Unit in the District, but Flight A, B and C team members must have qualified at the Unit-level.

Teams that win the District 10 final may augment their team to six players to participate in the National finals, however at least three members of the original team that competed at the District 10 final must attend the NABC. All substitutes and replacements must meet the masterpoint requirements of the flight in which they are participating.

If a team is unable to meet the above requirements or is otherwise unable to attend the NABC, the invitation will be passed along to the next team based upon its finish in the District 10 final. The Captain of each District 10 flight Champion Team is responsible for advising the District 10 GNT Coordinator:

- a) no later than June 9, 2017 of his/her team's intention to represent District 10 at the NABC and
- b) no later than June 23, 2017 of the names and ACBL numbers of all team members, including any substitutes or replacements. Players may be replaced only with confirmed consent of the replaced player and do not automatically qualify for District subsidy.

Unit and District Final Sessions

The D10 and the Unit finals should consist of a minimum of a two-session Swiss Team event with at least 24 boards played in each session. If less than 8 teams are entered in an event, a round robin format should be utilized. The game should be flighted, if possible. If sufficient numbers of teams are unavailable, the event may be stratified at the discretion of the Unit organizers. A Unit may hold one stratified event for all flights, if expected attendance does not warrant a separate event for each.

The expected number of boards per District Final session is between 28 and 32 in the Championship Flight, Flight A and Flight B, and 24 in Flight C. The Director determines the format of the event for each flight depending on the number of teams entered in each flight.

Based on recent experience, the Championship Flight and Flight A are expected to be small enough to be conducted in a two-session event. Flights B and C may utilize a qualifying two-session Swiss format played on Friday evening and Saturday morning to narrow the field. The teams that qualify will then play knock-out sessions until a winner is identified (Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning and afternoon, as required).

The District Final is expected to be a flighted event. In this case, ACBL Mid-chart conventions may be used in the Championship flight and in Flight A. The ACBL General Convention Chart is applicable to Flights B and C. Unit-level games, which would typically be stratified due to their smaller size, should use the ACBL General Convention Chart for all flights.

During the District 10 Final, substitution may be allowed at the discretion of the DIC so long as the substitute does not substantially improve the team for any individual session (Substitutes need not have qualified at the Unit level to participate in the District 10 Final.) Only one substitute is allowed per team per session and only on four-person teams. Any emergency substitution will be determined by the DIC whose decision is final.

Unit finals are required to have a non-playing club rated or higher director for any qualifying event with more than 17 teams. Smaller qualifying events may use a playing director. The D10 Finals will utilize an ACBL Tournament Director.

Sanction Fees and Reporting

The sanction fee for Unit finals is \$10 per table per session to District 10 and \$1.25 per table per session to ACBL. ACBL funds will be remitted to ACBL with the normal monthly report.

Each Unit GNT Coordinator shall submit a report of the results of the Unit Final and the appropriate district sanction fees to the District 10 GNT Coordinator by April 1, 2017. The check should be made out payable to District 10.

District Subsidy

All flights, except the Championship Flight, will receive a subsidy from the District. The amount of the subsidy will be determined by the District Board based on the amount of District sanction fees received from the various Unit finals and the District finals as well as any District GNT Fundraiser games. The subsidy will be divided among the flights based upon the participation level of each flight at all levels below the National final.

The monies will be made available to the captain of the team when the team registers for the first session of the National finals.

Delegation of Responsibility

If the District 10 GNT Coordinator is playing in a Unit or District Final, the Coordinator will delegate any discretionary decisions to the District Director in order to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof. The appointment of a designee is at the Coordinator's sole discretion and is not subject to review.