

District 20
2008-2009 Grand National Teams
Conditions of Contest

A. General

1. National Conditions: The Grand National Teams 2008-2009 ACBL Special Conditions of Contest (hereafter, GNT) as published by the ACBL and available on its website are incorporated into these Conditions.
2. Participation: Anyone from anywhere is permitted to play at the club level. To advance beyond the club level, a player must be a member in good standing of both District 20 and the ACBL. Exceptions may be allowed for students, military, and others; but pre-approval is required, which approval will not be unreasonably denied. Requests should be sent to District 20's NA Events Coordinator, currently Rich Carle, 2547 Northlake Avenue, Longview, WA 98632; e-mail: rhcarle@msn.com; telephone no. (360) 425-0981 (hereafter "NA Events Coordinator").
3. Flight Restrictions: Subject to §A2, above, the Championship Flight is open to all players; Flight A is open only to players who have fewer than 5000 ACBL masterpoints as of 8/6/2008; Flight B is open only to players who have fewer than 2000 ACBL masterpoints as of 8/6/2008; and Flight C is open only to non-Life Masters who have fewer than 500 ACBL masterpoints as of 8/6/2008. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no player who is under disciplinary suspension imposed either by the ACBL, the World Bridge Federation or any zone thereof, or by any National Bridge Organization that is a member of the World Bridge Federation, will be eligible to enter, or otherwise participate in, any Flight.
4. Unit Responsibilities: Each Unit will promote the club level play in their own Unit.
5. Team Formation: New teams may be formed at the Unit or District Finals from qualified players of previous levels.

B. Club Level

1. Qualifying Period: The qualifying stage at the club level will be held during the six months beginning September 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. All clubs may receive information from District 20's Secretary/Treasurer, currently Marie Ashton, 6512 SW Midmar Pl, Portland, OR 97223-7517 (hereafter "Secretary/Treasurer").
2. Table Fees: Clubs may charge additional fees to offset costs above the normal club entry fees, and must remit \$7.00 per table to the Secretary/Treasurer with a copy of the ACBLscore GNT report form. In addition, the club's regular monthly report to ACBL must include the \$1.25 per table fee with the results. These fees will be used to help defray the administrative costs associated with the event and the travel subsidies District 20 pays to the winners of each Flight.

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3. Club Qualification Format: Clubs may either run separate games for one or more Flights, or a combined stratified team event. Subject to the approval of the NA Events Coordinator (which approval will not be unreasonably denied), each Club may choose its own format for the Club qualification event.
4. Club Qualification for Advancement: Individuals that enter a club or Unit qualification event will qualify for the District Semifinals in the Championship Flight and the District Finals in all other Flights for which they are eligible in accordance with §A3 above, if:
 - a. They finish in the top 60% (including ties) of the teams that play in their Flight;
 - b. They win at least half of the available victory points; or
 - c. They win at least half of the matches they play.

In a Unit in which only one club qualification event is held, all Flight C players who participate in the event will qualify for the District Final. A District 20 player may qualify to advance from a club qualification even if he plays with a player from another district that is not eligible to advance in District 20.

5. Exemptions from Club Qualification: Provided they apply in writing to the NA Events Coordinator before the end of the club-qualifying period, D20 members will be exempt from qualifying for the District 20 Semifinals or Finals provided:
 - a. No club qualifying event was scheduled within 50 miles of their home; **and they submit a \$15 per person special dispensation fee to the Secretary/Treasurer at least one week prior to the Semifinals or Finals.**
 - b. A significant business or personal reason prevents them from participating in any of the Club qualifying events within 50 miles of their home; and **they submit a \$50 per person special dispensation fee to the Secretary/Treasurer at least one week prior to the Semifinals or Finals.**

C. Unit Level

Any Unit may choose to hold a Unit Final to either supplement or replace club-qualifying games in the Unit's area. To do so, a Unit must secure an ACBL sanction. At least the top 50% of the players plus ties in each Flight who play in a Unit Final will qualify for the Championship Flight Semifinals or the Finals of any of Flights A, B and C for which they are eligible.

D. Semifinals (Championship Flight Only)

1. Semifinal Tournaments: The mainland Championship Flight Semifinal will be held at a single site at the Ace of Clubs in Beaverton, Oregon on April 11 and 12, 2009. In addition, Hawaii (ACBL Units 469, 470 and 471, operating alone or together) may conduct a separate Semifinal for the Championship Flight, provided it so notifies the NA Events Coordinator on or before January 30, 2009.

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The Championship Semifinal dates and location are subject to change by the NA Events Coordinator for good cause.

2. Advance Entries: To facilitate the duplication of boards, the NA Events Coordinator may (by publishing adequate notice on the District website) require teams to pre-register as much as one week in advance. Teams that fail to pre-register may compete only if the Tournament Director believes that their participating will not adversely impact the use of duplicate boards.
3. Semifinal Qualification to the Finals: The Championship Semifinals may be conducted on the mainland and/or in Hawaii. Each venue that participates will advance a total of one or four teams to the Finals according to the following participation levels:

2 to 8 teams	one team advances *
9 or more teams	four teams advance

If Hawaii conducts a Semifinal, it must notify the NA Events Coordinator of the names of the members on each Hawaiian finalist team not later than two weeks prior to the beginning of the District Final on the mainland.

4. Semifinals Format (2 – 15 Teams):
 - a. (2-4 Teams): With two to four teams, the Championship Semifinals will be conducted as a two-day knockout playing as follows:
 - i. Two Teams – four sessions of 28 boards each.
 - ii. Three Teams - a two-session round robin to advance two teams (by win-loss record if possible and by IMP quotient if necessary) to a knockout match with full carryover on the second day.
 - iii. Four Teams – a seeded knockout.
 - b. (5-8 Teams): With five to eight teams, the Championship Semifinals will be conducted as a two-session round robin scored on a 20 VP scale followed by a knockout round on the second day among the four highest ranking teams. The winner of the round robin shall chose its opponent from the other three advancers, and the teams will start with full IMP carry-over from the round robin match with their opponent.
 - c. (9-15 Teams): With nine to fifteen teams, the Championship Semifinals will be conducted as a two-day round robin scored on a 20 VP scale to advance four teams to the District Championship Finals.
 - d. In all cases, the Tournament Director may modify the number of boards and sessions to be played to accommodate unanticipated circumstances. The minimum and maximum number of boards scheduled for each Semifinal will be 100 to 120, with format as follows:

Championship Flight Semifinals (9 – 15 Teams)

Teams	Total Boards	Format for Round Robin Sessions
15	112	14 – 8-board matches
14	104	13 – 8-board matches
13	120	12 – 10-board matches
12	110	11 – 10-board matches
11	100	10 – 10-board matches
10	108	9 – 12-board matches
9	112	8 – 14-board matches

Championship Flight Semifinals (2 – 8 Teams) *

Teams	Total Boards	First Day Format (Round Robin)	Second Day Format (Knockout)
8	116	7 – 8-board matches	30-board knockout among the four surviving teams
7	114	6 – 9-board matches	
6	120	5 – 12-board matches	
5	116	4 – 14-board matches	
4	120	60-board knockout	60-board knockout
3	120	2 – 30-board matches	60-board knockout (two survivors)
2	112	112 board knockout	

* If just one venue participates with eight or fewer teams in the Championship Semifinals, then the Semifinals will become the District Championship Finals.

- Semifinals Format (16+ Teams): If sixteen or more teams enter the Championship Semifinal Flight, they will be divided into four brackets based on seeding points. Each bracket will conduct an internal round robin. The Tournament Director will determine round-robin match length and order. The winning team from each bracket will compete in the District Finals.
- Order of Round-Robin Matches: The Tournament Director will order the round robin matches to achieve maximum fairness and to minimize the possibility of unsportsmanlike conduct.

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7. Starting Times: Four sessions are reserved for the Semifinals. The estimated times for the sessions are set forth below:

Championship Flight Semifinals

Session	Day	Time
1	Saturday	12:00 PM
2	Saturday	6:00 PM
3	Sunday	10:00 AM
4	Sunday	3:30 PM

Provided reasonable notice is given to the participants, the Tournament Director may change the starting time of any session with the consent of the NA Events Coordinator.

9. Breaking Ties: In the event of a tie in the Semifinals for a qualifying place, the two tying teams will play an eight-board playoff match. Succeeding ties will be broken by six board playoffs. Tiebreakers will continue until one team scores a 1 IMP or greater lead at the conclusion of a playoff match. Tie-breaking sessions will be scheduled by the director to best suit the players' convenience and may be deferred to another day.

If three or more teams are tied, they will play a seven-board round-robin match to reduce to two teams based on win-loss record if possible; otherwise based on IMP quotient. If necessary to break a further tie(s), additional four-board round robin matches will be played. Thereafter, another seven-board segment will be played between the survivors, with full carryover from the earlier playoffs. If necessary, the two teams will play additional seven-board matches until one team has obtained at least a one IMP margin.

10. Duplication of Boards: The Tournament Director will make best efforts to supply duplicated boards at least for late round robin matches involving contending teams.
11. Sportsmanship: Participants' bidding and play decisions must be motivated only by a desire to secure qualification for their team and not to affect which other teams may qualify for further play. Teams whose results make qualification effectively either impossible or certain must continue to play their best, without implementing any dramatic changes in their bidding or play strategy.
12. Team Withdrawals: Teams may not withdraw from the Semifinal without permission of the Tournament Director, who may allow the withdrawal if it will not damage the movement or unfairly prejudice some other team. If a team pulls out, its round robin results will be calculated based on the results achieved thus far, unless the team has not played the same number of boards against each other

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team, in which case the withdrawing team's results will be disregarded in their entirety. Entry fees are not refundable to teams that withdraw.

13. One-Stage Knockouts: If only four teams enter the Championship Flight Semifinals so that it proceeds as a seeded knockout (*see* §D4a., above), seeding points will be awarded as follows:
 - a. Previous Year's Winner – If the previous team winner returns with at least 60% of its members, that team will be seeded first. Thereafter, the teams will be seeded according to their seeding value.
 - b. Life Master – Each team receives one point for each Life Master.
 - c. Masterpoints – Each team member receives 1/10 point for every 100 masterpoints as of the February computer cycle. Masterpoints from other National Bridge Organizations will be considered in seeding on an equitable basis to be established by the NA Events Coordinator. Each player is limited to six seeding points based on total masterpoints from all sources.
 - d. Past GNT Performance – Each team member receives seeding points for past GNT performance according to the following schedule:
 - e. Each team receives four points for any member who has placed first in a District GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last ten years.
 - f. Each team receives two points for any member who has placed second in a District GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last 10 years.
 - g. Each team receives one point for any member who has placed third/fourth in a District GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last 10 years.
 - h. Each team receives 10 points for any member who has placed first in the National GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last 10 years.
 - i. Each team receives six points for any member who has placed second in the National GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last 10 years.
 - j. Each team receives four points for any member who has placed third/fourth in the National GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last 10 years.
 - k. Each team receives two points for any member who has placed fifth through eighth in the National GNT Finals in his or a higher Flight within the last 10 years.
 - l. Seeding points for past GNT's performances only apply in the Championship Flight and shall decay at 20% per year beginning in year six.
14. Calculation of Seeding Value: To calculate the value that will determine its seeding position, a team's total seeding points will be divided by the number of its team members. Any team shall have the right to appeal the number of seeding points credited to its members to the Tournament Director, whose decision concerning such appeals shall be final.

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

1. Final Tournaments: All eligible players (*see* §A3 above) who qualified in a Club may form teams to compete in the Flight A, B and C Finals. The B and C Finals will be held in Medford, OR at the Medford Sectional on Saturday, April 25, 2009; the Flight A Finals will be held at the Moose Lodge in Eugene, OR on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7, 2009. The dates and locations for the Finals are subject to change by the NA Events Coordinator for good cause.
2. Event Format – Flight A:
 - a. Flight A will be conducted as a one-day victory pointed Swiss followed by a one-day knockout of 28 board matches among the four teams that place highest in the Swiss. The team that places first in the Swiss may choose its round of four opponent from the teams that finish 3rd and 4th. Team pairings will be determined by placings in the Swiss with the higher-placing team entitled to choose seating in either the first or second half. If the team holding seating rights fails to declare otherwise, it will be deemed to have exercised its rights in the first half. The total boards to be played in the Swiss will be not less than 54 or more than 64.
 - b. Starting times are scheduled as follows:

Flight A Finals

Session	Day	Time
1	Saturday	12:00 PM
2	Saturday	6:30 PM
3	Sunday	9:30 AM
4	Sunday	TBA

3. Event Format – Flight B and C:
 - a. In Flights B and C, the Finals will be conducted as a one-day victory pointed Swiss. The total boards to be played will be not less than 48 or more than 60.
 - b. Starting times are scheduled as follows:

Flight B and C Finals

Session	Day	Time
1	Saturday	12:00 PM
2	Saturday	6:00 PM

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4. Format Changes: The NA Events Coordinator may, after consultation with the Tournament Director, modify the format or starting times for any of the Finals as needed to accommodate unanticipated circumstances.
5. Ties: Ties in any flight Finals will be broken by an eight-board playoff. Succeeding ties will be broken by six-board playoffs. Tie-breaking sessions continue until one team scores a 1 IMP or greater lead at the conclusion of a playoff session.

F. District Finals for Championship Flight

1. Championship Finals: The teams that emerge from the District Championship Flight Semifinals (*see* §D above) will compete in the District Championship Flight Finals (if required) to be held in Portland, Oregon on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10, 2009 at the Eastside Bridge Club. Permission may be granted to choose an alternative location and/or date for the Championship Finals should all competing teams so agree.
2. Event Format: The Championship finalists will play as follows depending on the number of teams competing:
 - a. Two Team Championship Finals – If only two teams advance to the Finals, a one-day, 64-board knockout match will determine the winner.
 - b. Four Team Championship Finals – A 60-board knockout will be held with the winner of the Semifinals choosing its first-round opponent, with the proviso that the 1st and 2nd Semifinalists may not meet until the round of two.
 - c. Five Team Championship Finals – The first day (two sessions) will be held to reduce the field to two teams by means of a round robin of 14-board matches. The second day will be a 60-board knockout.
 - d. Eight Team Championship Finals – The first day (two sessions) will be held to reduce the field to four teams by means of a 9-board round robin. The second day will be a 30-board knockout among the four surviving teams. Pairings after the field has been reduced to four teams will be determined by standings in the round robin with the proviso that the 1st and 2nd mainland Semifinalists (or in the event of a split site Semifinal, the winner at each site) may not meet until the round of two. Teams will start with full IMP carry-over from the round robin match with their opponent.

G. Conditions of Play

1. Entry Fees: The entry fees for each session of the Championship Semifinals and Finals for Flights A and B will be \$48 per team, \$40 per team for Flight C, regardless of the number of players. Except for knockout events, the entire entry fee for all planned sessions will be collected at the start of the event.

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2. Bidding Boxes/Screens: Bidding boxes will be used during all sessions of each Flight and screens will be used in the Championship Finals if they are available. If available, screens may also be used in the Flight A knockout stage.
3. Seating Rights: In three-way or round robin matches, whether they be in the Championship Flight Semifinals or the Finals of any flight, there will be no seating rights. Any disputes as to seating positions will be resolved by having each team's captain submit a lineup to the Tournament Director.
4. Seating Changes: No change in seating may be made after the auction has started at either table except on instructions from the Tournament Director. Playbacks are permitted.
5. Slow Play: The Tournament Director will take steps to monitor any aggravated slow play to determine who is at fault. The Tournament Director will report the pair or pairs responsible for any aggravated slow play to the District's Appeals Chairman, who may convene a conduct committee to consider play penalties in future events. The Tournament Director will use hospitality breaks to ameliorate the adverse effects of slow play on other teams.
6. Lateness: The penalty for failure to seat a complete team at announced game time will be:
 - a. First 10 minutes – no penalty
 - b. More than 10 minutes, up to 15 minutes – 2 IMP's
 - c. More than 15 minutes, up to 20 minutes – 6 IMP's
 - d. More than 20 minutes, up to 25 minutes – 12 IMP's
 - e. More than 25 minutes, up to 30 minutes – 18 IMP's
 - f. More than 30 minutes, up to 35 minutes – 24 IMP's
 - g. More than 35 minutes, up to 40 minutes – 30 IMP's

The match will be curtailed one board, up to a maximum of four boards, for each 7½ minutes or fraction thereof of tardiness after the first ten minutes. Three IMP's per board curtailed will be awarded to the non-offending team in addition to the penalty above. If play has not commenced (with or without a substitute) forty minutes after announced game time, the match will be declared forfeit.

7. Substitutes: In his discretion, the Tournament Director may allow a team to add an emergency substitute for any segment or segments, provided that so doing does not appreciably strengthen the team.
8. Per Person Play Requirements: Exclusive of playoffs played to break a tie, each player on a team must play at least 50% of all boards played by his team in the Semifinals and 50% of all matches played by his team in the Finals. Players are not required to play 50% of any particular Semifinal match. No player may continue to play in the Semifinals or Finals where it is impossible for him to satisfy this requirement. Per person play requirements shall not affect a team's rights under §I to add members prior to advancing to the National Finals.

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9. Kibitzing: Kibitzers will be permitted at all stages of District events of the 2008 Grand National Teams but must remain at one table during a particular segment of a match. A fifth or sixth member of a team may kibitz at a table no closer than 2 tables away from tables at which his own team is playing. 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.
10. Correction and Appeal Period: The team captain must notify the Director of scoring errors and/or submit in writing an appeal of a ruling prior to the start of the next playing session, or within 24 hours of the last session.

H. Conventions

Conventions listed in the ACBL midchart may be used in the Championship Flight and Flight A only. Players who wish to use midchart conventions must keep detailed written descriptions of the conventions and their common continuations separately from the convention card together with suggested defenses, if the latter are required by the mid-chart. Upon request, these materials must be made available to opponents at the start of each match for both the Semifinals and Finals.

In addition, upon request, each pair participating in the Championship Finals must provide the midchart materials identified in this paragraph plus a reasonably complete summary description of the bidding and play methods the pair uses to other participants in the Finals within two days of the request. Willful failure to comply with this requirement may, in the Tournament Director's discretion, result in disallowance of the offending pairs' use of some or all non-yellow card conventions.

I. Changes to Team Makeup

1. Adding or Dropping Team Members: A team may add or drop members prior to advancing from the District Finals to the Nationals subject to the following:
 - a. A team may drop members, but no team may continue unless at least 50% of the original team members remain.
 - b. A team may add members subject to the following restrictions:
 - 1) An advancing team may add any player from the second, third, and fourth place teams in their flight for that year; or
 - 2) An advancing team may add any player from the District if approved by the District Director; and
 - c. All such changes must be submitted in writing and approved by the NA Events Coordinator at least two weeks prior to the Nationals Finals. Such approval will not be unreasonably denied.
2. Replacing Teams: If a team is not qualified to advance by the above rules, or if a team withdraws for good reason, the following rules apply:

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- a. After the Finals, if the winner of a Flight declines to play at the Nationals, the second place team will be eligible to advance. If the second place team declines to advance, then the third place team will be eligible to advance and so forth. If two teams are tied for a place eligible to advance and both teams desire to advance, then the replacement team will be chosen by lot.
- b. After the Championship Semifinal, if a team declines to play in the District Finals, then the next placing team from the Semifinals will be eligible to advance. Should that team decline to play in the District Finals, then the next placing team will be eligible, and so forth. If a replacement team cannot be arranged, then the Finals will be run with the remaining eligible teams as in §F2 above.

J. Subsidies

1. The District will subsidize the travel expenses to the National Finals incurred by the winners of each Flight, with \$1800 going to each winning team. Participants in any Flight may conduct fundraisers, all proceeds of which will be used to supplement the District's subsidy of that Flight.
2. The team captain may submit a subsidy request form once it has made travel and hotel arrangements to attend the National Finals. The form is available from the Secretary/Treasurer and must be completed and returned not sooner than one month prior to the event.

K. Publicity

1. The District's champions of each Flight will reasonably 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 newspaper; and, (ii) by making public appearances.
2. The NA Events Coordinator will promote the event by providing separate, advance e-mail notifications to the captain of each team that entered the 2008 Grand National Teams of the months for Club Qualification, and of the dates, times and locations for the District Semifinals and Finals. The NA Events Coordinator will arrange to publish both this information and the tournament reports referenced in this paragraph in the District's newspaper.

L. Contingencies

1. The NA Events Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to Club Qualifying Events, Unit Level Qualifying Events, seeding point calculations, publicity, augmentation, playing sites and dates, and subsidies that are not specifically addressed by these conditions.
2. Subject to §E2(f), the Tournament Director will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Semifinals or Finals that are not specifically addressed by these conditions and which arise after March 1, 2009.

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3. Unless they directly involve his or her team (in which event the NA Events Coordinator will defer to a NA Events Committee member to act in his or her stead), the NA Events Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Semifinals or Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions and which arise on or before March 1, 2009. Where feasible, the Coordinator should consult with the NA Events Committee before exercising this authority.

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