

***ACBL District 20
Conditions of Contest
for the
2011/2012 North American Pairs***

A. General

1. National Conditions:

The 2011-2012 North American Pairs (hereafter, NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the ACBL govern this competition. Refer to the ACBL web site at <http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/NAP/20112012ConditionsofContest.pdf>

These ACBL District 20 (hereafter D20) Conditions of Contest cover circumstances unique to D20 and clarify options available to it in the National Conditions of Contest.

2. Participation:

To advance beyond the club level to the D20 Finals, a player must be a member in good standing of both the ACBL and its geographical division of D20.

3. District Coordinator:

D20's coordinator for the ACBL-wide North American events is currently Rich Carle, 2547 Northlake Avenue, Longview, WA 98632; e-mail: rrcarle@msn.com; telephone number (360) 425-0981 (hereafter "NA Events Coordinator").

4. Unit Responsibilities:

Each Unit in D20 is responsible for promoting the NAP including club level play in their own Unit and the D20 Finals.

B. Club Stage

Club qualifying games will be conducted in June, July and August of 2011 as detailed in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest. However, no club qualifying games may be held during the Eugene Regional from August 8 to 14, 2011. Club managers must submit ACBLScore game files via email to the NA Events Coordinator for verification.

C. Unit Level

The Unit Stage of the NAP competition will not be conducted in D20. Players who qualify in club qualifying games advance directly to the D20 Finals.

However, Units are required to sponsor qualifying games if no clubs in their area hold a club qualifying game during the three-month Club Stage. Players who qualify in a Unit-sponsored qualifying game may advance to the D20 Finals in the flight(s) for which they are eligible.

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

1. Final Tournaments Eligibility:

(a) D20 players who qualified in a Club or Unit-sponsored NAP qualifying game or are otherwise qualified by the ACBL National Conditions of Contest may compete in the D20 NAP Finals in the flight(s) for which they are eligible.

(b) Masterpoint (MP) limits for each flight are as of the ACBL 2011 June MP cycle:

- Flight A - Open to any player.
- Flight B - Players with less than 2000 MPs.
- Flight C - Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 MPs.

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- (c) Exemptions from Club qualification may be granted by the D20 District Director or his designee provided a written request stating a valid reason is received at least two weeks prior to the D20 Finals. All such applications shall be submitted to the NA Events Coordinator for processing. Valid reasons for approval include:
- No club qualifying event was scheduled within 50 miles of the player's home.
 - A significant business or personal reason prevents the player from participating in any Club qualifying game within 50 miles of their home. Acceptable reasons include those in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest, unavoidable travel, medical problems, or other extenuating circumstances that prevented play during the qualifying period.

2. Event Dates and Locations:

- (a) The Flight B and C Finals will both be held simultaneously on Saturday, October 29th, 2011 at split sites to accommodate players from different areas of D20:

Chico, CA – Native Daughters Hall (Bidwell Bridge Club), 965 Salem St

Honolulu, HI – Ala Wai Golf Course Club House, 404 Kapahulu Ave

Vancouver, WA – Vancouver Bridge Club, 6503H E. Mill Plain Blvd.

- (b) The Flight A Final will be held on Sunday, October 30st 2011 at split sites to accommodate players from different areas of D20:

Chico, CA – Native Daughters Hall (Bidwell Bridge Club), 965 Salem St.

Honolulu, HI – Ala Wai Golf Course Club House, 404 Kapahulu Ave.

Portland, OR – Eastside Bridge Club, Suite 300, 8383 NE Sandy Blvd.

- (c) The dates and locations for these Finals are subject to change by the NA Events Coordinator for good cause.

3. Event Format:

- (a) **Flights A, B, and C:**

All three flights in the D20 NAP Finals will be conducted as a one-day, two-session, play-through event.

- (b) **Format Changes:**

The NA Events Coordinator may, after consultation with the Tournament Director, modify the format for any of the Finals as needed to accommodate unanticipated circumstances. Online competition is being considered for one or more flights that would change the method of determining the advancement queue.

- (c) **Starting Times:**

Planned starting times for the two sessions are 12:00 pm and 4:30 pm Pacific Time (9:00 am and 1:30 pm in Hawaii). They are subject to change for good reason by a committee consisting of the Tournament Director, the NA Events Coordinator and the local venue representative.

4. Ties:

Ties for advancement positions in any flight Finals will be broken as follows. The boards played in common will be scored board-a-match versus average, with 1 point for above average, ½ point for average, and no points for below average.

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E. District Finals Conditions of Play

1. Entry Fees:

The entry fees for each session of the Finals for all Flights will be \$22 per pair. The entire fee for all planned sessions will be collected at the start of the event.

2. Bidding Boxes/Screens:

Bidding boxes will be used during all sessions of each Flight. Screens will not be used in any of the D20 Finals.

3. Seeding

Pairs with advance registration in Flight A will be seeded using the following rules:

a. Previous Year's Winner – If the winning pair from the previous D20 NAP Finals returns, that pair will be seeded first. Thereafter, the remaining registered pairs will be seeded according to their "seeding value."

b. Seeding Value - a number calculated from the following elements:

- 1) Life Master – Each pair receives one seeding point for each Life Master.
- 2) Masterpoints – Players receive 1/10 seeding point for every 100 masterpoints as of the ACBL November computer cycle issued on October 6, 2011. Masterpoints from other National Bridge Organizations will be considered in seeding on an equitable basis to be established by the Coordinator. Each player is limited to six seeding points based on total masterpoints from all sources.
- 3) Past NAP Performance – Players receive seeding points for accomplishments in the NAP during the prior 5-year period as follows:
 - Four (4) points for 1st place in a D20 NAP Flight A Final
 - Two (2) points for 2nd place in a D20 NAP Flight A Final or 1st in Flight B
 - One (1) point for 3rd/4th place in a D20 NAP Flight A Final or 2nd in B
 - Ten (10) points for 1st place in a National NAP Flight A Finals
 - Six (6) points for 2nd-5th place in a National NAP Flight A Finals
 - Five (5) points for 1st place in a National NAP Flight B Finals
 - Four (4) points for lesser overall place in a National NAP Flight A Finals
 - Two (2) points for 2nd-5th place in a National NAP Flight B Finals

c. Seeding Position: To calculate the number that will determine a pair's seeding position, the total seeding points of both players will be divided by two. Any pair shall have the right to appeal its seeding position to the Tournament Director, whose decision concerning such appeals shall be final.

4. 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. Players may appeal such penalties to the D20's Appeals Chairman, who may convene a conduct committee to consider merits of the appeal. The Tournament Director may use hospitality breaks to ameliorate the adverse effects of slow play on other pairs.

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5. Kibitzing:

Kibitzers will be permitted at all stages of D20 events of the 2011/2012 NAP but must remain at one table during a particular session and shall comport themselves appropriately. 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.

6. Combined Scoring:

The split sites in all flights will be combined for scoring purposes; in other words, the sections will be scored “across the field” to determine the overall rankings.

F. Conventions

Use of conventions is as per the National Conditions of Contest at the club stage. For the Flight A D20 Finals, the ACBL Mid-Chart may be used.

G. Advancement [this section may be modified if online competition is adopted]

1. Section Requirements:

(a) Flight A

In Flight A, at least five tables (10 pairs) are required at a playing site to constitute an effectual section. Players are asked to pre-register at least one week in advance and will not be seeded if they fail to do so. Without five tables, the site may play for section and overall masterpoint awards but not for pair advancement eligibility.

(b) Flights B and C:

In Flights B and C, at least three tables (6 pairs) in each flight are required at a playing site to constitute separate sections. If there are not three tables in both flights at any site, then the flights shall be combined into a stratified event at all the sites.

2. Ranking of Pairs:

Pairs will be ranked by their overall score. The top pair in each Flight at each of the D20 Finals locations will be eligible to advance to the National Finals. If fewer than three venues participate, then the pair(s) with the next highest score regardless of location shall be eligible to advance.

3. Advancement Declined:

It is intended that the top pair from each valid participating site will advance to the National Finals. If a top pair at any location declines the opportunity to advance, then the pair with the next highest score at that location will be come eligible.

In case of subsequent declinations, the offer to advance will be extended to the next pair in line according to overall score regardless of location.

4. Additional Pairs

If additional pairs (other than the previous year’s winner in Flight A) are eligible to advance per Appendix II of the National Conditions of Contest, they will be the pair or pairs with the highest percentage score not otherwise qualified, independent of location.

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H. Subsidies

Travel expense subsidies for those who qualify for participation in the National Finals are administered by the ACBL. D20 will not provide any additional subsidies. Participants in any Flight may conduct fundraisers, all proceeds of which will be used to supplement the ACBL's subsidy of that Flight.

Subsidy awards to those who advance as determined in paragraph *G. Advancement* above will be based on a pair's score in percent of top available in the D20 Finals.

I. Publicity

D20's champions of each Flight will cooperate reasonably in promoting the event including, if requested, (i) by supplying a short written tournament report of the D20 and National Finals for publication in the D20's newspaper; and, (ii) by making public appearances.

The NA Events 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 D20 Finals. The NA Events Coordinator will also arrange to publish both this information and the tournament reports referenced in this paragraph in the D20's newspaper and on its web site.

J. Contingencies

The NA Events 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, in consultation with the NA Events Committee if feasible, the NA Events Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions and which arise on or before September 1, 2011. If such matter should involve his or her partnership, then the NA Events Coordinator shall defer to a member of the NA Events Committee to act in his or her stead.

The Tournament Director will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these conditions and which arise after September 1, 2011.

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