

2025 Grand National Teams District 16 Conditions of Contest

General Information:

The Grand National Teams (GNT) is a grass roots teams competition in which teams in each ACBL district compete to earn the right to represent their district in the annual Summer Nationals GNT Finals. The event is flighted, with four flights competing. The September masterpoint cycle, produced on August 6, 2024, marked the cutoff date for flight eligibility. Masterpoints won after that cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

GNT Flights & Makeup

Open Championship Flight is unlimited

Flight A is 0-6000 MPs

Flight B is 0-3000 MPs

Flight C is Non-Life Master with less than 750 masterpoints.

Each team may comprise 4, 5, or 6 players. A player must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and reside in District 16 as of September 1, 2024.

The ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest are included as a part of the District 16 conditions of contest. They are viewable at:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT2024-25.pdf>

Qualifying for District Level Final

No club or unit qualifying is required. Clubs may still request and run GNT qualifiers – as may units – although it is not required for players to qualify. Any team of eligible players may compete in the 2025 District 16 Finals.

District 16 GNT Finals

The district finals for all four flights: A, B, C and Championship Flight will be held in person. Flight Championship and Flight B will be held in conjunction with the Dallas Spring Sectional on May 2-3, 2025 held at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road, Dallas.

Flight A and Flight C will be held in conjunction with the Houston Spring Sectional on April 5-6, 2025 at the Arabia Shriners, 10510 Harwin Drive, Houston. All sessions, all flights, will be played at 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Teams *must* pre-register by sending an email to Scott Nason at

sdnason@sbcglobal.net no later than five days prior to the start of their event to confirm eligibility. The email should include all players' names, email addresses and ACBL numbers, plus the flight in which they intend to compete. It is

permitted to compete in any flight for which the team members are all eligible, and it is also permitted to compete in more than one flight. For the purpose of clarity and as an example, a team composed of all players with less than 6000 points may compete in Flight A and then in the Championship Flight as well, although they can only compete in one flight at the NABC finals, even if they qualified in two different flights.

All flights will be scheduled to run on Saturday and Sunday in Houston and on Friday and Saturday in Dallas. If the turnout is very light, any given flight may be completed in one day. (See the event format below.)

Entry fee for the district finals will be \$60 per session, per team.

The winner in each flight will qualify to compete in the Summer NABC finals in Philadelphia in July 2025. For Flight B and Flight C only, if eight or more teams compete in one of these flights, the 2nd place team in the flight will also qualify to compete at the national finals for the flight.

District Level Competition

The format for the district level competition is the same for all flights, with the one possible exception in Flights B and C noted below.

If only one team enters the event, that team will be declared the district champion.

If only two teams enter the event, they will play a two-session final (24 boards per session, divided into two 12-board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

If only three teams enter they will play a round robin, with each team playing 24 boards – divided into two halves – against each of the other two. The winner will be determined by total victory points (VPs).

If only four or five teams enter the event they will play a two session round robin on the first day (three, 16 board matches or four, 12 board matches) to come down to two teams. Those two teams will play a two session final on the second day (24 boards per session divided into two 12 board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

If six to seven teams enter the event they will play a two session round robin on the first day (five, 10 board matches or six, eight board matches) to come down to four teams. The four teams will be seeded on the second day based on their VPs, with the highest seed playing the opponent of their choosing from among 3rd and 4th qualifiers. The four teams will play a one session head-to-head semi-final to come down to two teams and a one-session final (each 24 boards per

session, divided into two, 12 board halves) with the winner being the district champion.

If eight or nine teams enter the event they will play a two session round robin on the first day (seven, seven board matches or eight, six board matches, respectively) to come down to four teams. In the Championship and A flights, the four teams will be seeded on the second day based on their VPs, with the highest seed playing the opponent of their choosing from among 3rd and 4th qualifiers. The four teams will play a one session head-to-head semi final to come down to two teams and a one session final (each 24 boards per session, divided into two, 12 board halves) with the winner being the district champion. In Flight B and Flight C, since two teams will qualify for the NABC finals, the format on day two will be different. They will play a two session round robin, with each team playing eight boards against each other in each of the two sessions. The 16 board matches will be scored on VPs with the top two teams qualifying for the national finals.

With more than nine teams the Day 1 format will be a Swiss format instead of round robin with six, eight board matches. The Day 2 format will be the same as for seven or eight team events.

There will be a 20% carryover of VPs from the first day to the second day.

All round robins or Swiss qualifying will be scored on the WBF 20 victory point scale.

Tie Breakers

Using a WBF scale, ties are extremely unlikely, but could occur. All ties in seeding for the next round will be broken by a coin flip. Where a tie break will determine which team or teams will continue to the next round, the tie will be broken by the result of the three board head-to-head playoff between the tied teams. If that still results in a tie, then total IMP differentials for the two-session event will determine the tie break. If they are *still* tied, then they will play another three board playoff, until a winner is determined. During KOs and at the end of a Flight B or Flight C round robin, the tie breaker will be a four board playoff. If any tie breaker results in another tie, the procedure will be repeated, with the tie breakers shortening by one board each time.

Conventions Allowed

In Flight B and C, the Basic+ Chart applies

In Flight A, the Open Chart applies

In the Championship Flight, the Open+ Chart applies

Required Number of Boards Played

All players must play at least 50% of the boards played in each stage of the event (Swiss, round robin and knockout matches) at the district level competition in order to qualify for overall masterpoint awards, and to be eligible to play in the remainder of the GNT competition.

Substitutes

At the District Finals, a team must be prepared to field at least three members or it forfeits the match scheduled for that time. If due to absence for cause, only three members are available, a substitute may be utilized for no more than one calendar day or two half days during any one level of competition. Substitutes must be approved by the director in charge and should not appreciably strengthen or weaken the team. A substitute must be a member of District 16 and may not be a member of a team still in competition. If four members are available, a substitute is not permitted for an absent fifth or sixth member. A substitute player is entitled to any match awards while playing.

The winning team will be invited to represent the district at the NABC finals. That team must consist of at least three members from the original team, but there may be one substitute and/or the team may be supplemented to add a fifth and/or sixth team member. Any adds/substitutes must be approved by the District's GNT Coordinator and the Region Director. If the team is only able to send two members from the original team, they may request an exception, although such a request will normally be denied if the 2nd place team is prepared to go to the NABC with at least three of its members.

Protests

The protest period expires 30 minutes after each match, half match or segment, as applicable. The director in charge will use reviewer on duty for protests in all flights.

Time Limit Penalties

Starting Time Penalty

Any team failing to seat a complete team at the start of a match shall be subject to the standard ACBL start time penalties. If this occurs during a round robin or Swiss qualifying match and results in a forfeit, the team winning by default shall receive the largest of the following:

1. Fifteen victory points.
2. The average of its victory points scored in other matches not involving defaults.
3. The average number of victory points scored against the team that defaults.
4. The team that defaults shall receive zero victory points.

Playing Time Penalties

Play of the matches must be completed within the allotted time plus the grace period. Failure to complete play of boards will result in penalties.

Subsidies

A team that wins (or places 2nd in a flight that qualifies two teams) will be eligible for an expense subsidy from the district, provided that they actually play, in person, in the Summer NABC finals in July 2025.