



DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

Minutes of the District 17 Board Meeting, October 11, 2014 at the Phoenix Desert Empire Regional held in Mesa, Arizona

(Subject To Board Approval at Next District 17 Board Meeting at the Old Pueblo Regional in Tucson, AZ on February 28, 2015)

Present: Board members: Darwin Afdahl, Bonnie Bagley, Rod Bias, Robb Gordon, John Grossmann, Jim Horton, Karin Kelsey, Ralph Liguori, JoAnne Lowe, Art McHaffie, Flo Newlin, Jerry Ranney, John Scibelli, Rod Southworth and John Van Ness

Also attending: Gary Zeiger, Director In Charge (DIC)

President's Opening Remarks

Darwin Afdahl called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. He thanked Sherryl Buchler, tournament chair and the volunteers from Unit 354 for hosting the regional; Darwin also thanked the members of the Unit 355 from Sedona who helped in the hospitality suite. Darwin noted complaints have been received about strong fragrances being worn at tournaments. It was suggested the D17 regional daily bulletins contain a blurb that some people are allergic to fragrances, so please refrain from wearing fragrances. Darwin said he would mention the subject in his next *ScoreCard* article. Darwin has received a lot of feedback from his last *ScoreCard* article where he asked for comments from players. Some of the suggestions are: reduce the number of gold points needed to make Life Master gold points are too hard to get, increase the number of red and black points; rude directors; older people do not want to play at night; have a rank between silver and gold, too hard to get the 1500 points to make gold. Darwin suggested we have a survey in the *ScoreCard* and on the web site.

Approval January 2014 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the 2014 Denver minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Secretary's Report

Bonnie Bagley said the flyers advertising the 2015 D17 regionals are available. Please take a stack to your clubs and tournaments.

Treasurer's Report

Jerry Ranney presented the treasurer's reports and stated that the 2014 budget projected a loss of \$17,145 and through September the loss is over \$25,000 and most likely will increase due to lower than budget table count here at the Phoenix Regional. Jerry presented a budget for 2015 showing a surplus of \$27,158. Jerry noted the charity donation of \$500 should be raised to \$1,000. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the treasurer's reports and the 2015 budget as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed.

Current Regional

JoAnne Lowe reported table count is down and there is a contract with the Mesa Convention Center and the Marriott Hotel for 2015. JoAnne stated she would like the contracts broken because there is difficulty meeting the room guarantee and the players seem not to like this site. Rod Bias noted that Phoenix players would prefer the Phoenix regional to be held in Phoenix, more centrally located, perhaps going back to the Sheraton Crescent.

National Board

Bonnie Bagley reported the second ACBL board meeting of the year was at the Summer NABC in Las Vegas, the highlights of which were in the September *ScoreCard*. The biggest news was the announcement of the termination of ACBLScore+. The BOD has been advised not to speculate as to the reasons due to possible litigation. There should be more information at the meeting at the Fall National in Providence. ACBL headquarters was affected by the flooding in Mississippi and sustained severe damage - flood cleanup costs were over \$250,000 and carpet, dry wall and paint to the tune of over \$175,000, which was covered by insurance with a \$50,000 deductible. Estimates are still not finalized to replace damaged furniture, equipment and other miscellaneous items. Kudos go to Robert Hartman, Jeff Johnston and the ACBL staff for keeping operations up and running with little disruption of services to members. ACBL management is looking at the ACBL privacy policy of member's data. As of the end of September, overall regional table count is flat, sectional table count is down, membership has turned negative, down 213 members from January 2014. The Learn to Play Bridge program is up and running and has been well received.

Board of Governors

John Van Ness attended the BOG as did others. A motion from BOG for the ACBL BOD to consider is that master points won online be separated from points won face-to-face; there would be two categories of lifetime lists: online points and face-to-face points. A discussion followed about points won online and points won online playing with robots. Another motion passed by the BOG is that all boards have inserts indicating the vulnerability.

Western Conference

Bonnie Bagley reported for Carolyn Newcomb, the D17 Western Conference (WC) representative, who was unable to attend the meeting. Carolyn is not running for reelection because she feels the WC representative should be a member of the D17 board. Carolyn thanked the board for the opportunity to represent D17 on the WC Board.

Executive Committee

Darwin reported to the Executive Committee that he will not run for D17 President after this term. Darwin thanked the board for working with him. Darwin noted the Executive Committee recommends the D17 meetings for 2015 be held at the February Tucson Regional, the June Las Vegas Regional and the October Phoenix Regional. A motion was so made, seconded and passed. Darwin noted the Executive Committee recommends the 2015 ACBL Charity Grant of \$30,000 be given to the seven cities which have not received a Charity Grant previously in 2005 or 2010. The seven are: Sedona, Arizona, Farmington, New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, Yuma, Arizona, Fort Collins, Colorado and Boulder, Colorado. Darwin thanked Karin Kelsey, Albuquerque D17 representative and Ralph Liguori, El Paso D17 representative, for their service on the D17 Board. Karin and Ralph are not running for reelection.

Committee Reports

Elections Karin Kelsey stated that Jim Horton, Mesa, JoAnne Lowe, Phoenix, Flo Newlin, Denver, and Rod Southworth, Wyoming have no opposition for reelection to the D17 Board. There are two candidates for the Colorado at Large position, John Van Ness from the Colorado West Unit 364 and Joe Jenkins from the Colorado Springs Unit 360. There also are two candidates for the Albuquerque Unit 374 Felicity Moore and Frank Fine. Karin announced the ballots have been sent and the ballots are to be received no later than November 30. Karin does not know yet who the candidates are for the El Paso Unit 159 D17 representative.

Grand National Teams (GNT) Rod Southworth noted he wants to get more participation for the D17 GNT Finals. One way to accomplish this is more GNT fund raising games. Rod stressed that board members need to encourage clubs to hold the fund raisers and stated he is convinced the success of D17 GNTs is dependent upon promotion by the D17 Board Members. Rod presented the 2014-2015 D17 GNT Conditions of Contest. A motion was made that the entry fees for Flight C at the D17 GNT Finals be paid from the Grass Roots Funds. The motion was seconded. An amendment was made that Flight C entry fees be paid for 2014-2015 only. The amendment was seconded and passed. The amended motion passed. A motion was made to pass the 2014-2015 D17 Conditions of Contest as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

North American Pairs (NAP) Ralph Liguori announced that the D17 Flight B NAP Finals were held yesterday with twenty pairs competing in the two session event. Paul Spear, Sun City West, Arizona and Audrius Mizekis, Scottsdale were first and will receive \$700 each from ACBL to compete at the Nationals finals in March at the 2015 Springs NABC in New Orleans. Second place and \$300 each from ACBL went to Mark Robertson and Richard Jacobson of Phoenix, Arizona. Third place and \$200 each from D17 was won by Murali Nair, Phoenix and David Goodman, Anthem, Arizona. New for 2015, fourth place in Flights B and C may go to the National Finals. D17 will provide \$100 each to the fourth place if they compete at the nationals - they are Robert McKenzie, Denver, Colorado and Andrea Johnson, Longmont, Colorado. Congratulations to these winners! The Flight A and Flight C D17 Finals will be a two session event Saturday afternoon and evening.

I/N Rod Bias noted he has been talked with James Calhoun, the Denver I/N coordinator, who is running a school program and intends talk with other unit I/N coordinators. Rod said he has been coordinating the Ams for the Phoenix Regional Pro-Am game, while JoAnne Lowe recruited the Pros. Rod and JoAnne are happy to report that, yet again, a table count record of 66.5 was set. A discussion of Pro-Am games followed, the consensus being these games are greatly enjoyed by the players.

By-Laws See New Business

Charity See Old Business

Goodwill Karin reported John Scibelli nominated Jeff Neal, Las Vegas Unit 373 as a recipient of the 2014 D17 Goodwill Award. A motion was made to ratify the selection; the motion was seconded and passed.

Regional Tournaments Jerry Ranney said the Regional Tournament Committee (RTC) approved the submitted schedule for the 2015 Denver Regional with the following changes: start time Tuesday, May 19, 1:00 pm instead of 2:00 pm, the Tuesday 1:00 pm Open Pairs to Charity Pairs, eliminating the Tuesday 1:00 pm 199er pairs, the addition of a single session Swiss Teams 9:00 am Sunday. Jerry reported ACBL is offering a new event structure for one tournament per district in 2015. This is aimed at players with too many points to play in the Gold Rush Pairs. The Gold Rush Pairs remain at 0-300 /750, there is an addition of a Mid-Flight at 1500 and 3000 and Flight A/B Pairs become Open with 0-5000 and unlimited. It is recommended the Denver Regional replace the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday Flight A/B Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs with the Open Flight, the Mid-Flight and the Gold Rush Pairs. A motion was made to approve the Denver 2015 schedule as changed. The motion was seconded and passed. Jerry presented the submitted Las Vegas schedule. The 1:15 afternoon start times should be

1:00 pm. Gary Zeiger spoke with Jane Rubin, the tournament chair, who agreed, but perhaps forgot to change the schedule. It is also recommended that the Flight A/B Pairs and Gold Rush be changed to add the Mid-Flight – this is just a recommendation. Jerry reported Gary also said the tournament will not support both a Daylight Pairs events and a 2 session Daylight Swiss Teams, just one of these events. If Las Vegas wants two Daylight Swiss Teams, they should not be on consecutive days – either Tuesday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday, again eliminating the Daylight Pairs on those days. Las Vegas shall decide which events they want to keep. Another question is whether Las Vegas wants to hold 0-300 Swiss Teams on Sunday in addition to the 0-2000 Bracketed Teams. A motion was made to accept the Las Vegas schedule with the changes. The motion was seconded and passed.

ScoreCard Bonnie Bagley said favorable comments have been received about the variety of articles in the *ScoreCard*.

Tournament Coordination JoAnne Lowe distributed updated 2015 and 2016 D17 tournament listings. Discussion followed about tournaments not yet sanctioned and whether D17 should have the seventh regional in 2016 and 2017.

Tournament Supplies John Grossmann stated \$1,000 was spent on replacing bidding boxes inserts. John noted that although cards and trays are not D17 supplies, he has received many comments about dirty cards and trays. John says we need to have a high standard for supplies. John will talk to Dan Williams about the cards for the playing games and will talk with Gary about directors having access to new decks for team games. Jim Horton called attention to a zero tolerance card which can be inserted in a bidding box. One of the clubs in Unit 351 is using them. Jim said if there was interest, the subject could be on the agenda for the Tucson meeting. Robb Gordon noted that something like this is like waving a red flag in front of a bull. Jerry pointed out when this subject was mentioned at the RTC meeting Gary Zeiger said he had no objection, but the first time he saw someone waving the card in another player's face, he would throw them all out. Robb said a zero tolerance sticker on the side of the bidding box would be acceptable, but not a card which can be waved in someone's face.

Finance Art McHaffie stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the budget for the 2015 Denver Regional and recommends approval. A motion was made to approve the budget and offer Denver the RTP. The motion was seconded and passed. The Finance Committee reviewed the 2015 Las Vegas budget. D17 board members not on the Finance Committee did not receive an updated budget. A motion was made to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the 2015 Las Vegas budget. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to offer Las Vegas the RTP. The motion was seconded and passed. Art pointed out that IRS regulations require organizations issue 1099s which will be taxable. Robb Gordon contacted a tax attorney who informed him, that if we submit expenses which are equal to the amount we receive, a 1099 does not have to be issued. Jerry will prepare a form for us to complete to avoid receiving the 1099.

Gary Zeiger, DIC, joined the meeting and, as always, he was diplomatic and polite, as he informed the board attendance is not what was predicted; as of Friday night the table count was 1,260, which is down 380 tables from 2012 (no Phoenix Regional in 2013). Gary predicts 1,600 tables, which is 20+% down from the 2,125 tables in 2012. Gary thinks the World Championships being held at this time accounts for some of the loss and also, the Sun City players are not coming and the local Mesa players are not making up for that loss. Also, the Scottsdale players are not coming. Gary mentioned that hotels are generally

easier to deal with than convention centers. Hotels tend to bend over backwards to help, while public properties are difficult to deal with. John Grossmann asked Gary if new decks of cards are available for team games. Gary said yes and he would make sure all the directors know this. Flo Newlin asked if any Junior coupons have been redeemed. Gary said he believes there has been one.

Education Flo Newlin stated James Calhoun, of Denver, is teaching bridge in one of the Denver schools and he has four tables of students playing bridge. Flo has some pictures to put on the web site.

Web Site John Grossmann said the web site is undergoing a face lift – a better structure for photos and more photos, a section for Youth, a section for the ‘Rising Players’ with new life master photos and gallery. A section called “Where’s the Gold” which lists the events where players can get their gold points, and “The Hand Doctor” which Robb Gordon and Dennis Goldston ghost write answers to questions about puzzling hands. There will be a section about jargon – like what is a BAM, etc. There are plans to make the web site more people related. John is going to create a manual for the web site that upon the web site being handed over to a new administrator, there is a reference on how to do things.

Grants John Grossmann stated that 2015 will be the fourth year for grants. There are still a few units which have not received a grant and John will contact them. A couple of grant requests for 2015 have been received. John will put an article in the *ScoreCard* about grant submission, focusing on membership building.

Contract Review, Unit Affiliations, Appeals and RTP No report

Old Business

2015 Charity Grants to D17 Karin Kelsey said we can take the Executive Committee’s recommendation to give grants to the seven cities who did not receive a grant in 2005 or 2010. Karin stated that some might be wondering why we asked for submissions if we were going to give only to places who had not received a grant. The answer is that there was no way of knowing how many requests for grants would be received. A motion was made to accept the Executive Committee’s recommendation to give the ACBL Charity Foundation grants to the seven cities (Boulder, who submitted four charities, will be asked to select one charity) who have not received a grant. The motion was seconded. An amendment was made that each charity receive \$4,300, with D17 paying the \$100 difference (The Charity Foundation is providing \$30,000. $\$4,300 \times 7 = \$30,100$). The amendment was seconded and passed. The motion passed. The charities selected are Assistance League of El Paso, Texas, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Verde Valley Sanctuary, Sedona, Arizona, Hospice of Yuma, Yuma, Arizona, La Familia, Farmington, New Mexico and the Food Bank, Fort Collins, Colorado. As noted above the Boulder Unit will select one charity from the four the submitted.

2014 Goodwill Nominee See Goodwill Committee above.

New Business

Election for D17 Western Conference Board Representative Nominations were opened for the D17 Western Conference Representative. Bonnie Bagley gave a brief synopsis of the responsibilities of the WC representative. Darwin Afdahl, John Grossmann and John Van Ness were nominated and their nominations seconded. Darwin Afdahl was elected to the three year term (2015-2017).

Bridge Results for 2015 A motion was made to extend the contract with Philippe Lamoise for Bridge Results at 2015 D17 Regionals at \$90 per regional. The motion was seconded and passed.

Caddie Guidelines for D17 Regionals Darwin Afdahl thinks there is a need for guidelines for caddies at our regionals. Flo Newlin volunteered to be the chair. John Grossmann, John Scibelli, Art McHaffie and Jim Horton will be on the committee, which will check the each state's regulations and will present suggested guidelines for caddies at D17 regionals at the Tucson meeting.

2018-2019 Las Vegas Regionals John Scibelli reported the Las Vegas tournament chairs and the Unit Board are working diligently negotiating with Bally's to move the 2018 Las Vegas Regional from February back to June. There are contracts with Bally's through 2018. John Scibelli stated the Las Vegas Unit Board voted not to hold a regional in 2019 due to the Summer NABC being in Las Vegas in 2019.

By Laws Amendment John Van Ness did a rewrite of the election portion of the By Laws, Article VI, Sections 2 through 6. The intent is to make the election process easier to understand and less susceptible to misinterpretation. A discussion followed. A motion was made to table the By Laws Amendment. The motion was seconded and passed.

Darwin, again, thanked Karin and Ralph for their service to their units and to the District 17 Board, and stated they will be missed. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next meeting will be Saturday, February 28, 2015 in Tucson, AZ at the Old Pueblo Regional.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Bagley

Bonnie L. Bagley
Attachment: D17 2014-2015 GNT Conditions of Contest



DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

Conditions of Contest for Grand National Teams

DISTRICT 17 CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2014-2015

REFERENCE

ACBL 2014-2015 Grand National Teams Special Conditions of Contest are part of these conditions. The ACBL Special Conditions of Contest are posted at <http://www.acbl.org>
Written copies may be requested by contacting your District 17 GNT Chairman.

DISTRICT 17 GNT CHAIRMAN

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INTRODUCTION

The District 17 Grand National Team Event will be conducted in two stages, a Club Level Qualifying Stage and a District Finals Stage.

STAGE 1 – CLUB LEVEL QUALIFYING

A. Clubs or Units may conduct Club Level Qualifying Games. There is no limit on the number of Club Level Qualifying Games that a Club or Unit may hold. Players qualifying at the club level stage are eligible to participate in the District Finals. Anyone from anywhere is permitted to play at a Club Level Game. New teams may be formed at the unit or district finals from qualified players of the previous level. Players may play in as many games as desired, except that in no case can players compete in more than one District Final. Clubs and units are not required to hold GNT qualifying games, but are strongly encouraged to do so. Non-members may play at the club level, but must be paid-up ACBL members to continue to the next stage. See "Membership Requirements" below.

B. GNT Teams will be composed of four, five or six members. Each team must select a captain. At the beginning of each game, the captain is responsible to assure that entry blanks are clearly filled out, listing all players' names, player numbers, and the captain's e-mail address.

C. Club/unit level events must be held between September 1, 2014 and April 30 2015, but may not be held during the Fall NABC in Providence (11/27-12/7) or during the Spring NABC in New Orleans (3/12-22). Club/unit Level Qualifying events may not be scheduled during the United States Women's Bridge Championship, the Senior Trials United States Senior Bridge Championships, Canadian Bridge Week or the Junior Bridge Championships which would preclude continued participation in these events.

D. The GNT competition is divided into four categories:

Championship Flight (unlimited masterpoints).

Flight A will be open to players with fewer than 6,000 masterpoints.

Flight B will be open to players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints.

Flight C will be open to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints.

For eligibility in Flights A, B and C, stated limitations must be met as of the September masterpoint cycle produced in August, 2014. Exceeding any particular flight limitations after the September masterpoint cycle does not affect eligibility for that flight.

E. Clubs and Units have the following options for club level games:

1. Stratified Games

2. Flighted Games – all four flights compete simultaneously, but separately.

3. Flighted Games – each flight is conducted as a separate event; either on separate days, or one, two or three flights are held on one day and the other flight(s) are held on other days.

4. Strati-flighted Games – one flight plays by itself, and the other flights play a stratified game.

5. Games may be conducted as Swiss Team or Round Robin events.

6. Games may be held as one or two session events.

F. If the event is stratified, the Open Flight and Flight A are combined as one group for the purposes of scoring and awarding masterpoints.

G. If the event is flighted, and only one team is entered in any one flight, that team will be automatically qualified for the District Final. That team must pay the club qualifying fee, even though they will not have to play in that event to qualify.

H. Matches will be scored by Victory Points – 20 point scale. Ties will not be broken.

I. Fifty percent (50%) of the teams entered (rounded up), including those teams tied for the last qualifying position, will qualify for the next stage of competition.

J. ACBLscore will automatically assign the appropriate scoring and determine qualifiers. If a club or unit does not use ACBLscore, please contact your GNT Chairman to obtain proper forms. Points awarded at the club level stage are half red and half black, at sectional rating.

SANCTION FEES AND REPORTING FOR STAGE 1

Sanction fees of \$4.00 per team per session are due District 17. Club owners/managers and Unit officials will establish their own entry fees. Send to the **District 17 GNT Chairman** promptly at the conclusion of each game:

–A check made out to District 17 GNT for the District 17 sanction fees of \$4 per team per session for each event.

–One copy of the report form and result forms. ACBLscore press sheets may be substituted for the result forms. Please state whether or not results are being included in monthly reports to ACBL.

ACBL SANCTION FEES

ACBL Sanction Fees are \$1.25 per team per session for each event. If you are using ACBLScore Version 7.0 or higher, this fee will be included in your monthly report and your check for your monthly report to ACBL will include this fee with all ACBL fees incurred for that month. If you do not use Version 7.0 or higher, please mail the ACBL GNT sanction fees directly to ACBL with a copy of the results for each game.

PLAY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLUB AND DISTRICT STAGES

For any overall award, a player must play at least 50% of the boards played by the team at the time he/she (and the team) earned that award.

–For the first place award, when the team wins the final, a player must play at least 50% of the combined boards in the semifinal and final matches.

–For any given overall award, the players must have played at least 50% of the boards in the match in which they earned the award. EXAMPLE: A player plays 100% of round one and 100% of round four, the final. If the team loses the final match, that player will receive masterpoints (match awards) only for the first round victory.

–In stages consisting of two or more sessions of unequal numbers of boards played, half of the sessions is deemed to be half the boards played.

ZERO TOLERANCE

ACBL policy on Zero Tolerance will be observed at all levels of the GNT competition. For the purpose of any Zero Tolerance penalties accrued, Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be considered as one total event.

CONVENTIONS

Conventions on the ACBL General Convention Chart must be allowed at all stages. Use of ACBL Mid-Chart conventions will be allowed only in the Championship Flight and in Flight A, and only during the District Final competition.

DIRECTORS

The Director In Charge at the Club qualifying level must hold the rank of "Qualified Club Director" or higher. ACBL regulations state that non-playing Directors are encouraged, but are not required for games of 17 tables or less in Stage 1. For Stage 2, the District Finals, the Director must hold Regional rating or higher. Where ACBL-rated directors are to be used, ACBL headquarters will be the final authority on assignment, and requests for ACBL-rated directors should be received in Memphis at least 90 days prior to the game.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAM FUND RAISER

Clubs and Units are limited to one GNT fund raiser per sanctioned game per calendar year. Fund Raiser Games are sectionally rated and may be played as Pair, Individual or Team Games. Fund Raiser Games do not qualify players for the next stage. The games may be run as Open, Invitational, Novice or Stratified. District Sanction Fees for Fund Raiser Games are \$3.00 per table per session, and should be sent directly to the District GNT Chairman along with results of the game. Make out checks to District 17 GNT. ACBL fees are \$1.00 per table and should be sent to ACBL in accordance with the directions set forth in Sanction Fees paragraph above. Entry forms are not required for the Fund Raisers

STAGE 2 – DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

The District Finals for the championship, flights A, B and C will be held in Denver, Colorado in connection with the Denver Regional May 20–26, 2015.

The Finals will be conducted in separate, but simultaneous events including the Championship Flight, Flight A, Flight B and Flight C. District Finals will be played over a period of three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 23–25, 2015 for the Championship flight and Flight A. Flights B and C will be two days, on Saturday and Sunday, May 24–25. Starting times will coincide with starting times for prime time Regional Events.

Entry fees will be the same as those charged by the subject regional/sectional.

Flight C entry fees for the District Finals will be waived.

QUALIFICATION

All players must be members of a District 17 unit, and must be paid-up members in good standing of the ACBL. Exception: Certain exceptions are allowed as described in the Grand National Teams 2014–2015 ACBL Special Conditions of Contest. See elsewhere in these Conditions for membership requirements.

FLIGHT MASTERPOINT REQUIREMENTS

Flight masterpoint requirements for Stage 2 are the same as for Stage 1.

DISTRICT WINNERS

Winning teams of each flight category of the District Finals are eligible to compete in the National Finals.

RULES OF PLAY FOR DISTRICT FINALS

1. More than 8 teams in a flight: On Saturday, all teams in all flights with more than 8 teams will play a two-session Swiss qualifier with victory point (20 point scale) scoring. In the Championship Flight and Flight A, 8 teams will qualify for one-session quarter-final knockouts followed by one-session semi-finals on Sunday, with a two-session Final on Monday. If Flight B and/or C start with more than 12 teams, 8 teams will qualify for a two-session complete round robin Final, with VP scoring, on Sunday. If Flight B and/or C start with 9 to 12 teams, inclusive, 4 teams will qualify for a one-session semi-final knockout and a one-session Final on Sunday.

2. Between 5 and 8 teams in a flight: On Saturday all flights with 5 to 8 teams, inclusive, will play a two-session double round robin to qualify four teams. On Sunday Flights B and C will play a one-session semi and a one session final. On Sunday the Championship Flight and Flight A will play a two-session semi-final with a two-session Final on Monday.

3. Less than 5 teams in a flight: Flights of 3 or 4 teams will play a double-session round robin on Saturday with 2 teams qualifying. On Sunday the Championship Flight and Flight A will play a two-session Final, and Flights B and C will play a one-session Final. In the event only two teams are entered in any one flight, they will play a double session knockout on Saturday for the Championship. In the event only one team is entered in any one flight on Saturday, that team will be declared the District Representative to the National Finals in that flight, provided they pay card fees for the first session of the District finals.

4. Knockout matches will be 28 boards per session. If a KO match ends in a tie, a four board playoff will be used to determine the winner. Should subsequent playoffs be required to break the tie, each playoff will be four boards.

5. Points awarded in which the District Champion is declared are gold for overalls and red for match awards at Regional rating. Swiss Team events that qualify to a knockout are considered to be a part of the District Finals, and do NOT award overall masterpoints.

The point awards for the District Finals are as follows:

Championship Flight: 36.00 gold point

Flight A: 30.00 gold points

Flight B: 26.00 gold points

Flight C: 15.00 masterpoints, of which 25% are gold and 75% are red

6. The first and second place finishers in the Championship flight and Flight A, earn Blue Ribbon Qualification. The first place finisher in Flight B, earns Blue Ribbon qualifications. The first place finisher in Flight C earns Red Ribbon Qualification.

RESOLVING TIES

Definitions:

Net IMPs: the difference between the total number of IMPs won and the total number of IMPs lost.

IMP Quotient: The total number of IMPs won divided by the total number of IMPs lost.

Qualifying Play

1. Head-to-head match: a 4-board play-off will be played
2. 2-way ties in round-robin (not 3-way) play
 - a. Result of head to head matches
 - b. Net IMPs for the day.
3. 3-way ties in round-robin play: focus on matches between the three
 - a. When two teams progress and one team has not lost both matches
 1. If each team has won a match:
 - Net IMPs among the three matches
 - Net IMPs for the day
 2. If one team has won two matches and the other 2 teams tied:
 - Net IMPs among the 3 matches
 - Net IMPs for the day
 - b. When one team progresses and one team has not won both matches:
 1. If each team has won a match:
 - Result of the head-to-head match
 - Net IMPs for the day
 2. Of two teams beat the third team and tie their match:
 - Net IMPs for the day
 - IMP Quotient

REIMBURSEMENTS

Teams advancing to the District Finals will receive a nominal mileage reimbursement. The amount will be determined by: (a) the distance the teams have to travel, and (b) the total District sanction fees collected at the Club Qualifying events, after expenses; supplemented with money from the District 17 treasury. This reimbursement will be calculated on a per team basis, and will not be based on the number of team members. Mileage will be calculated from the site of each team's Club Qualifying to the site of the District Finals, Denver Colorado.

SUBSTITUTION DURING PLAY AT DISTRICT FINALS

New teams may be formed for the district finals from qualified players at the club level.

During the district finals, GNT Chairman or the Tournament Director may approve a substitute in an emergency. Only one substitute is permitted at any time, and no substitute is permitted if four or more team members of record are available. A substitute may not appreciably strengthen a team, and is subject to the following limitations:

- a) the substitute must be a member of a District 17 Unit;
- b) at the Club Qualifying stage, if a substitute plays more than 50% of the boards, he/she becomes the contestant of record;
- c) the substitute must be eligible to play in the flight in which the team requiring the substitute is competing;
- d) a substitute is not permitted for more than a 24 hour period or for more than 50% of the boards played, whichever is less. Also, no substitute is allowed when a team member is suspended or expelled per the section below, "Ineligible Players and Disqualifications".

REPLACEMENTS

The permanent replacement of a player who, for cause, cannot continue in the event is permitted only with the permission of the District 17 GNT Chairman. The replacement must be:

- a) a member of a District 17 Unit;
- b) must not be eligible for further competition in another flight. He/she may cancel such eligibility by stating to the District GNT Chairman in writing his/her intentions to withdraw from the other flight;
- c) must be eligible to compete in the flight in which the team needing the replacement is competing;
- d) must not appreciably strengthen the team.

Also, in the event a team has only two original members, at least one of the replacements must have competed in a 2014–2015 District 17 Qualifying event. A replaced player permanently leaves the event with all masterpoints already earned, and the replacement continues in the event earning points thereafter. Play percentage requirements apply to the replacement only for the portion yet to be played. A team becomes ineligible to continue in the event: a) when fewer than two original team members (as established at the Club Qualifying Level) can continue and meet the play percentage requirements, or b) when any team member is suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons for actions occurring during the 2014–2015 Club Qualifying games or during the District Finals, regardless of the number of members on the offending player's team

AUGMENTATION

Augmentation of a fifth and/or sixth player to a team after completion of the Club Qualifying or District Final will be allowed provided:

- a) the District GNT Chairman is notified and approves,
- b) the augmentation does not appreciably strengthen the team,
- c) the players to be added are eligible to compete in the flight in which the team wishing to add them is competing,
- d) the players to be added are members of a District 17 Unit and paid-up members of ACBL.

A player still qualified for further competition in another flight cannot be added unless that player indicates in writing to the District 17 GNT Chairman his/her intentions to drop out of the other flight.

INELIGIBLE PLAYERS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

An ineligible player is disqualified. The ineligible player's team will be disqualified unless the Director-in-Charge determines that the teammates were unaware of the deficiency of the disqualified member. Any team reduced to fewer than three original members due to disqualification of ineligible player(s) is disqualified. When a player's team is disqualified after the correction period, the disqualified team's position remains vacant. In ongoing events, teams move up one position as appropriate.

NATIONAL GNT FINALS

1. The District winners of each flight will be eligible to participate in the National GNT finals, at the Summer NABC in Chicago. Should the first place team in any flight elect not to advance to the National Finals, the second place team in that flight will be extended the invitation to participate. If neither the first nor second place team in a particular flight elect to advance to the National Finals, District 17 will not be represented in that flight.
2. ACBL provides no subsidy to teams participating in the National Finals, and does not require the Districts to do so. District 17 provides \$2,000 per team in each of the four flights to assist with expenses. NOTE: This subsidy will not be paid until the teams have actually participated in the National finals. A check will be issued to the team captain for distribution to team members.
3. Replacement and Augmentation rules detailed above apply to teams advancing to the National Finals. Teams advancing to the National Finals must consist of at least three of the team members who participated in the District 17 Finals.
4. The first place finishers in the Championship Flight, Flight A, Flight B, and the second place finishers in the Championship Flight and Flight A at the National Finals will earn Blue Ribbon qualification. These teams will earn qualifying points, if applicable, for international competition on the same scale as in the Blue Ribbon Pairs and the Life Master Pairs. The first place finishers in the Non-Life Master Flight C at the Nationals will earn Red Ribbon qualification.
5. The point awards for the first place teams at the National finals are as follows:
 - Championship Flight:** 100 gold points
 - Flight A:** 75 gold points
 - Flight B:** 60 gold points
 - Flight C:** 40 points of which one-third are gold points and two-thirds are red points

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- A. For the GNT, a member's principal physical residence as of Sept. 1 of the year prior to the NABC finals shall establish the district in which the member is eligible to participate beyond the qualifying stage.
- B. Entry forms for the unit and district finals shall include the following statement: "By entering this event, I hereby certify, subject to penalties as provided in the conditions of contest for this event and in the ACBL Code of Regulations, that I am eligible to play in this district."
- C. A credentials committee shall be formed and comprised of six (6) members of the ACBL Board of Directors; two each from the Eastern, Central and Western zones. Panels hearing exceptions will be comprised of three of the six members. The president of the ACBL shall select the members of this committee annually. The members shall hear all matters pertaining to the events begun that year.

D. If a member is unsure which district is the appropriate district in which he may play, the member may seek clarification from the credentials committee prior to the start of the event.

E. If, at the unit final stage or later, an ACBL member believes that another player is playing in the wrong district; he or she may challenge that player's eligibility to the credentials committee.

F. The credentials committee may request documentary evidence from the member whose eligibility is in question. If a member requesting clarification as provided in paragraph 4 above fails to provide the requested evidence, no ruling shall be made and the member shall play at his own risk. If a member is unable to verify to the committee's satisfaction that he or she has played in the district of principal physical residence, the Credentials Committee shall automatically disqualify the member and his teammates (GNTs). If a member is found to be ineligible, the matter may be referred to the ACBL President to make charges to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee. If players wish an exception from the requirements of section A above, they must begin the process for the GNT by July 1. Players must seek permission in writing from the district directors of the district in which they live and the district in which they wish to play. Both district directors must agree for the exception to be granted. For the Open Championship Flight in the GNT, this written permission from both district directors will be forwarded to the credentials committee for final approval. If the directors do not agree, the exception is not granted. There is no appeal from this decision.

Exceptions will be considered in the following three situations:

1. "Snowbirds". Any member with a seasonal residence who spends more than half of the GNT qualifying period in a district other than the district of their principal physical residence may play in the district of seasonal residence. If they choose to do so, they must play in that district's District Final to be eligible to play in the national finals and are not eligible to be augmented to or otherwise added to a team from the district of the principal residence.

2. Players who live near district borders and who are members of a unit in a district in which they do not reside may seek permission to play in the district in which they have a unit membership. Players seeking this exception must have been an active member of the unit in the district in which they wish to play for at least 5 years continuously prior to the start of the competition in the year in which they wish to play and must not have played in the GNT in another district for that period of time. Once this permission is granted the player is eligible to play only in that district and may not change affiliation unless the player's principal physical residence changes.

3. Players with multiple domiciles should apply to the Credentials Committee for a one-time choice of district in which they wish to play. Players may be asked to document their time in each of their residences. A player must live at least three months each year in a district in order to have it considered a possibility. Once a player chooses a district in which to play, that player must play only in that district until he no longer has a domicile in that district.

For further information regarding eligibility for the NABC Final Grand National team event, please refer to ACBL 2014–2015 Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest, District Membership – APPENDIX I (Board Item 082–36).

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CLUB LEVEL GAMES

1. September 1, 2014 marks the start of the 2014–2015 GNT season. No club level games should be held prior to this date, or after April 30, 2015.

2. September 1, 2014 masterpoint cycle also marks the cutoff date for eligibility for any particular flight below the Championship Flight. A player eligible for any particular flight as of this date remains in that flight throughout the 2014–2015 GNT regardless of masterpoint or rank change accomplishments after that date.
3. In setting up your game in ACBLscore, be sure to correctly identify the game at the "event rating screen".
4. DBADD the game to the monthly report for masterpoint postings and payment of fees due ACBL.
5. If hand/manually scoring your game, please use the GNT Report Form, attach payment of fees due ACBL and send to the Special Events Department.
6. Surcharges due the District should be sent directly to your District GNT Chairman in accordance with the instructions above.