



GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2025-2026 DISTRICT 17 CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The Grand National Teams is a grass-roots competition where each District selects representatives to compete at the Summer North American Bridge Championship (NABC). The event begins with games in Clubs between September and February. These games are followed by a District-level competition to select players for the NABC.

The ACBL Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest may be found at <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT.pdf>. The District 17 Conditions of Contest is a supplement to the official ACBL Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest. In the event of any discrepancy, the ACBL's official document shall take precedence.

District 17 GNT Coordinator

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The D17 2025-2026 **Championship Flight GNT** finals are scheduled to be held **Saturday April 4, 2026 and Sunday, April 5, 2026 (if needed) online on Bridge Base Online**. A team with any amount of masterpoints may enter and is encouraged to do so. However, if you win the Championship Flight, you and your team may not participate in any other Flight's final.

The D17 GNT Finals for **Flights A, B and C** are scheduled to be held at the Denver Rocky Mountain Regional **Saturday, May 23, 2026 and Sunday, May 24, 2026**.

The NABC Finals are scheduled to be held at the 2026 Summer Minnesota NABC on **Wednesday, July 8th through Sunday, July 12th**.

Eligibility:

Flight C: Non-Life Master with fewer than 750 masterpoints
Flight B: 0 – < 3000 masterpoints
Flight A: 0 – <6000 masterpoints
Championship Flight: unlimited masterpoints

- Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's September masterpoint cycle. This information was produced on August 6, 2025 in Horn Lake, MS
- Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events
- District Eligibility is based on residence as of September 1, 2025. Exceptions may be granted to those who are ineligible but meet the ACBL's guidelines for exceptions, including those for "snowbirds" and for players with multiple residences; anyone seeking such an exception must apply to the District 17 GNT Coordinator in advance, and may not participate beyond the club level unless such exception has already been granted.

Players including those from other districts or non-members may play at the club level. District 17 players may qualify at a club game not held within District 17. To play at the District 17 Finals, players must:

- Be members of the ACBL and in good standing
- Be members of District 17 or have received special permission

Teams may be composed of 4, 5 or 6 eligible players, and a team captain must be selected.

Club Level Qualifying

Clubs or Units may conduct Club Level Qualifying games. Each club/unit may hold up to two qualifying games for each of the club's scheduled weekly sessions. All players participating in the club level games (online or FTF) are eligible to participate in the District Finals. Clubs and units are not required to hold GNT qualifying games, but are strongly encouraged to do so. Club/unit level events must be held between September 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026.

Clubs and units have the following options for club level games:

- Stratified games
- Flighted games
- Games may be conducted as Swiss Team or Round Robin events
- Games may be held as one or two session events

The following apply to club level games:

- If the event is stratified, the Open Flight and Flight A are combined as one group for the purposes of scoring and awarding masterpoints
- 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
- Matches will be scored by Victory Points using a 20-point scale. Ties will not be broken. The district encourages clubs to use the Continuous Victory Point scale to lessen the likelihood of a tied match
- Online players with a robot partner will not qualify for the District 17 finals
- **All participants** will qualify for the District 17 finals
- ACBLscore will automatically assign the appropriate scoring and determine qualifiers. If a club or unit does not use ACBLscore, please contact your GNT Coordinator to obtain proper forms. Points awarded at the club level stage are half red and half black, at sectional rating

Sanction Fees for Club Qualifying Games

Sanction fees of \$5.00 per team per session are due to District 17. Club owners/managers/unit officials will establish their own entry fees.

- Club owners will receive an invoice from the GNT Coordinator after the qualifying period
- Checks will be sent to the D17 Treasurer, payable to District 17, or by Zelle (information will be provided on the invoice)
- ACBL Sanction Fees are \$2.40 per team, per session for each event

Play Requirements

For any overall award, a player must play at least 50% of the boards.

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

ACBL General Conditions of Contest shall apply to all play.

Conventions

The use of conventions is governed by the ACBL Convention Chart as follows:

- Championship Flight – Open+ Chart
- Flight A – Open Chart
- Flight B – Basic+ Chart
- Flight C - Basic+ Chart

Entry Fees

The entry fee for the Championship Flight is \$80.00 per team per session. The entry fee for Flights A, B and C is \$64.00 per team per session.

Pre-registration Required

Teams participating in the Championship Flight D17 GNT Final must pre-register no later than Monday, March 31, 2026. Late registrations may be sent to the GNT Coordinator and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Teams participating in the Flights A, B and C District 17 Finals must pre-register no later than Thursday, May 8th, 2026. Late registrations may be sent to the GNT Coordinator and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the GNT Coordinator and the DIC.

Teams may be composed of any player eligible for the flight who is an ACBL member in good standing, a D17 member and has qualified.

In cases of dual residence, active military duty, school attendance or similar cases of extended temporary or permanent relocation, qualification in another district will be accepted upon approval of the GNT Coordinator.

The team captain of all the flights shall email the roster of the team to **Julie Clark, jclark9811@comcast.net**.

All entries must include the following information for all team members:

- Name
- ACBL Number

A check for the first two sessions of play for the Championship Flight, which is **\$160.00**, and Flights A, B and C, which is **\$128.00**, payable to **District 17** shall be sent to **Jennifer O’Neill, D17 Treasurer, 30 Somerset Circle,**

Greenwood Village, CO 80111 or remitted via **Zelle at ACBLd17@gmail.com**. Payment can be accepted at the time of the event for those teams that were unable to submit payment in advance.

District Winners

The winning team of each flight is eligible to compete in the NABC Finals, which is scheduled to be held at the 2026 Minneapolis NABC on Wednesday, July 8th through Sunday, July 12th. Should the first-place team in any flight not elect to advance to the NABC Finals, the second-place team will be extended the invitation to participate. If at least eight teams compete in the B or C Flights, the second-place teams may also compete in the NABC Finals. The third and fourth place teams in Flights B and C may move up if the first and/or second-place team is unable to compete at the national level.

All teams advancing to the national level must contain at least two of the players who participated in the District Final.

Substitutions

During the District Finals, the GNT Coordinator or the DIC may approve an emergency substitute. Only one substitute per team is allowed and is not permitted if four or more team members are available.

The substitute must be:

- A D17 member in good standing
- Eligible to play in the flight in which the team is competing
- A substitute is not permitted for more than a 24-hour period or for more than 50% of the boards played, whichever is less
- No substitute is allowed when a team member is suspended or expelled

Replacements

The permanent replacement of a player is permitted only with the permission of the D17 GNT Coordinator. The replacement must be:

- A D17 member in good standing
- Eligible to play in the flight in which the team is competing
- Must not be eligible for further competition in another flight

Augmentation

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

- The D17 GNT Coordinator is notified and approves
- The player(s) are D17 members in good standing
- The player(s) to be added are eligible to play in the flight in which the team is competing

Ineligible Players and Disqualifications

An ineligible player is disqualified. The disqualified player's team will be disqualified unless the DIC determines 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 players 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.

Subsidies

District 17 provides a stipend to each first-place team in Flights A, B and C when the NABC finals are conducted at the NABC (not online). The stipend will be based on the income District 17 receives from the grass roots and qualification games.

District 17 will provide a stipend to a second team in Flights B and C. The stipend will be one-fourth of the stipend provided to the first-place teams.

There are no subsidies given to the Championship winners.

All stipends will be paid to the players after calculation of the money received in the grass roots and qualification games is completed, which may be as late as September 2026.

Replacements, Substitutions, Ineligible Players and Disqualifications and Tie Breakers

Described in the ACBL Grand National Teams Conditions of Contest:

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT.pdf>

Zero Tolerance

The ACBL Policy on Zero Tolerance will be observed at all levels of the GNT competition:

<https://www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/zero-tolerance-policy/>

ACBL rules and regulations govern play at every level of the event and supersede District conditions in cases of conflict.

GNT District 17 Play for 2025-2026

All events will be Soloway-style with Swiss or Round Robin to determine a four-team knockout:

1. Round-Robin or Swiss Qualifying (2 sessions) depending on the number of teams registered. See below for details.
2. Knockout: Semi-Finals (1 session) then Finals (1 session)

The NABC Continuous 20 VP scale will be used.

Boards per KO session: Championship Flight – 26

Flight A – 26

Flight B – 24

Flight C – 24

If there is a tie after the Knockout match, a 4-board tie breaker will be held.

If there is a tie after a Swiss movement, head-to-head competition will be the first tie breaker. Netimps against common opponents will be the second tie breaker. A coin toss will be used as the third tie breaker.

There will be no carryover between stages.

Details depending on the number of teams registered:

One team: No entry fee will be paid, no masterpoints will be awarded. The team will be eligible to represent District 17 at the NABC Final.

Two teams: 48 – board match – 2 sessions; played in 4 segments.

Three teams: 3-way Round-Robin to eliminate one team (two 13 board matches); final: 26 boards, played in 2 segments. Flight B and C have the option to play two 12 board matches.

Four teams: 1 session Round-Robin to determine seeding positions (three 8 board matches). The #1 seed will choose their opponent for the semi-final, which consists of 15 boards. A 15 board final will be held.

Five teams: 2 session Round-Robin to determine 4 semi-finalists (four 12 board matches)

Six teams: 2 session Round-Robin to determine 4 semi-finalists (five 10 board matches scored as 11 board rounds to allow for segments in 2 halves)

Seven teams: 2 session Round-Robin to determine 4 semi-finalists (six 8 board matches)

Eight teams: 2 session Round-Robin to determine 4 semi-finalists (seven 7 board matches)

Nine teams: 2 session Round-Robin to determine 4 semi-finalists (eight 6 board matches)

Ten+ teams: 2 session qualifying Swiss to determine 4 semi-finalists (7 or 8 board matches)

The #1 team will choose their opponent for the semi-final from the third and fourth place teams. The 2nd place team has the option to be included in the pick.

The semi-final will be 26 board played in 2 segments. Finals will be 26 boards played in 2 segments. Flights B and C have the option to play 24 boards in 2 segments.