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**GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS (GNT)
DISTRICT 15**

2017-2018 CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The following, in conjunction with the ACBL Conditions of Contest, shall constitute the District 15 Conditions of Contest. The ACBL National Conditions of Contest may be referenced at the following link:<http://web2.acbl.org/coc/GNT2017-18.pdf>

GENERAL

Each unit in District 15 shall appoint a Unit Coordinator. This person will be responsible for arranging Unit GNT competition, reporting unit results, and aiding clubs within their unit with questions about the Conditions of Contest (COC). **The name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the Unit Coordinator shall be submitted to the District 15 Coordinator no later than October 31, 2017. If the Unit Coordinator does not have e-mail, an e-mail address of a contact person within the unit shall be provided.**

The Unit Coordinator shall furnish a list of all players participating at the Club and Unit Level to the District coordinator no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of the District 15 Finals.

The Unit Coordinator of the Host Unit for the District 15 Finals shall work with the District Coordinator in facilitating the District Finals.

FLIGHT ELIGIBILITY

Open Championship Flight	Unlimited
Flight A	Under , 6000 MP
Flight B	Under 2,500 MP
Flight C	Non-Life Masters with under 500 MP

Master point totals for flight eligibility is determined by the ACBL's September master point cycle.

The Championship Flight and Flight A may be combined at the club and unit levels for play and masterpoint awards. In a stratified event, all teams are eligible for qualification in the Flight they participate in and any higher Flight.

CLUB LEVEL COMPETITION

Club level competition begins on September 1, 2017 and will conclude on March 31, 2018. Clubs can hold as many games as they wish. These games may be one or two sessions.

Club level games should be flighted, if possible. If the event is stratified, the following master point limits must be used: Open/2,500/NLM<500.

Points awarded at club level games are half red and half black at Sectional rating.

QUALIFICATION: There is no qualification needed to play in the club Level game. All bridge players are welcome

REPORTING: Results of ALL club level games must be submitted to both the Unit Coordinator and the District Coordinator. This can be done in any method that is suitable to the club and Unit Coordinator. The results need to list all players at any game along with ACBL number of a member. If you are using ACBL Score, please submit a copy of the game file to the District Coordinator in .TXT format. Send the result as an attachment to the email address at the top of page 1. If your club does not use ACBL Score, send a hard copy of the results that includes the player's ACBL numbers. **In addition to your game results, each club must remit \$1.25/table to the ACBL and \$6.75 per table, per session surcharge to the District Coordinator. Send a check, made out to District 15, along with your game results to:**

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Please send in your reports/remittances by the 15th of each month.

RESTRICTIONS: No club level qualifying game may be held during any District 15 regional tournament or during a sectional tournament within 25 miles of the club game. Scheduling conflicts designated in the National COC must be observed.

UNIT LEVEL COMPETITION

Unit Finals should be scheduled between April 7, 2018 & May 13, 2018. The event should be two sessions, if possible. The game should be flighted, if possible. If sufficient numbers of teams are unavailable, the event may be stratified.

QUALIFICATION: A player must be a member of the ACBL in good standing and a member of District 15 to participate in a unit final. Players may play in a unit final other than their own with permission of the other unit. No player may participate in more than one District 15 Unit final. A team's flight eligibility is determined by the member with the most MPs. New teams may be formed for play at the Unit level, subject to the Buy-In provisions.

REPORTING: The Unit Coordinator must submit the results of the Unit Final to the District Coordinator by **May 21, 2018**, report in the same manner as for club qualifying games (above).

In addition to your Unit Final results, the Unit Coordinator must remit \$1.25/table to the ACBL and \$6.75 per table per session surcharge, along with any Buy-In fees collected, to the District Coordinator. Send a check, made out to DISTRICT 15, to: Warren Smith, 2243 N. Bramblewood, #1204, Wichita, KS 67226

RESTRICTIONS: No Unit Final may be held during a District 15 Regional. Scheduling conflicts designated in the National COC must be observed.

CONVENTIONS: At the Unit Stage, the ACBL General Convention Chart Applies.

BUY-IN PROVISION: Any player who has not participated in a club level qualifying game will be assessed a surcharge of \$9.00 in addition to the established entry fee for the Unit Final. The unit will be expected to pay any uncollected buy-in fees.

PLAYER SUBSTITUTION RULES: In the event of an emergency, a team may substitute a player at the Unit Final subject to the following conditions:

1. Only one (1) substitute is permitted on a team. No substitute is allowed if a fifth or sixth team member is present. The only exception allowed is in the case of a family emergency where two (2) members of the family are playing on the same team. In such circumstances, two (2) substitutes are allowed unless a fifth and sixth team member are present.
2. Any substitute who plays more than 50% of the boards during the event becomes the player of record for the event. Match awards and overall awards will be apportioned between the player and the substitute according to the ACBL Participation Requirement rules, as stated in the Knockout Team Events - General Conditions of Contest or the Swiss Teams - General Conditions of Contest, whichever is applicable.
3. A substitute must meet the eligibility requirements of the Flight played in.
4. A substitute must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a member of District 15.

DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITION

The District 15 GNT Finals will be held at the Oklahoma City Sectional, June 8-9, 2018.

New teams may be formed for play at the District level, subject to the Buy-In provisions.

QUALIFICATIONS: Participants must be members in good standing of the ACBL and members of District 15 to enter the District 15 GNT Final.

REPORTING: The District Coordinator should be certain to obtain a copy of the District Final results for all flights. In addition, the District Coordinator should ensure that the \$8.00 per table per session surcharge, plus any buy-In fees, are collected and submitted to District 15.

CONVENTIONS: The ACBL Mid-Chart will apply for the Championship Flight and Flight A. The ACBL General Convention Chart will apply for Flight B and Flight C.

BUY-IN PROVISION: Any player who has skipped the club level and/or the unit level of qualifying will be assessed a surcharge of \$9.00 per session missed in addition to the established entry fee for the District Final. For the purpose of assessment, a unit final will be considered a two session event regardless of whether or not the player's home unit held a one session event or did not hold a unit final. Skipping a club level game will be assessed as a one session event.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT: All teams wishing to participate in the Championship Flight (over 6,000 MP for any team member) must pre-register with the District Coordinator at least one week prior to the District Finals. If fewer than three teams are participating in this flight, the District Coordinator may designate a site for these teams to play other than at the site of the District Finals. The winner of this match will represent District 15 in the Open Flight at the Nationals.

EVENT PLAYING CONDITIONS: A two session Swiss qualifying will be held on Saturday for flights consisting of five (5) or more teams. The 30 victory point scale will be used in all flights. For flight(s) of four (4) teams, the event will be conducted as a two session round robin, with play concluding on Saturday. For flight(s) of three (3) teams, the event will be conducted as a two session round robin with play concluding on Saturday. For flight(s) of two (2) teams, the event will be conducted as a two session head-to head match with play concluding on Saturday. Each flight will play separately. There will be no subdividing or pooling of teams allowed in any flight. Any flight that plays Swiss qualifying will advance the top four (4) teams for a knockout final on Sunday.

In the event of a tie for fourth place or higher in the Swiss qualifying rounds, the following tie-breakers will be used, in the order stated, to determine the place in question:

1. Results in a head-to-head match.
2. Best record against common opponents (based on Victory Points).
3. An eight (8) board match.

In the event of a three-way tie for fourth place or higher in the Swiss qualifying rounds, the following tie-breakers will be used, in the order stated, to determine the places in question:

1. Results in a head-to-head match.
2. Best record against common opponents (based on Victory Points)

3. A four (4) board match.

All entrants must check in with the Director in Charge no later than fifteen (15) minutes before game time on Saturday.

PLAYER SUBSTITUTION RULES: In the event of an emergency, a team may substitute a player at the District Final subject to the following conditions:

- Unit level "Player Substitution Rules" apply.
- A substitute may play in both days of the District Finals if the emergency warrants such actions. Such occurrences will be handled on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the District Coordinator.

FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT FINALS:

1. No player may be replaced on a team without their consent.
2. A winning team must field a minimum of three (3) original members; otherwise the next placing team shall receive the subsidy to compete in the National Event.

TEAM SUBSTITUTION RULES: If a winning team decides for any reason not to participate at the National Event, the team captain must immediately notify the District Coordinator about the team's withdrawal. The captain of the withdrawn team is responsible for ensuring that any subsidy received by the team is returned promptly to the District Coordinator. The second place team from the District 15 Finals will be substituted for the withdrawn team. This process will continue through the (up to) top four finishers in order in the affected Flight until a team wishing to participate in the National Event is found. The second place team (of three) will be the team which lost by the fewest IMPs in the round robin final. The third place team (of four) will be that team which lost by the fewest IMPs in the semifinal matches. If this procedure results in a tie, the third place team will be designated as the team which lost to the Flight champion in the semifinal match. If no team in the top four finishers of the Flight wants to participate in the National Event, no team will be sent by District 15 to the Nationals from that Flight.

If the substituted team wishes to augment their team, they will be encouraged but not required to augment using willing players from the withdrawn team(s) that placed ahead of them in the District final.

AUGMENTATION: After a team has won their Flight at the District level, they may augment their team to a maximum of six (6) members, subject to the following provisions.

1. The player(s) must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and a member of District 15.
2. The player(s) must meet the eligibility requirements of the Flight involved.
3. Subsidies provided the District is for a team of four (4). No additional subsidy will be provided for teams with more than four members

- 4) No player who skips the District 15 GNT Finals to participate in another bridge event may be augmented to a team.
- 5) Any augmented player who has skipped any level of qualifying will be subject to the District 15 buy-in provisions.

STIPEND: District 15 will provide stipends for each team representing our district at the National Finals. The total amount of any stipend will be determined annually by the District Board, based on available funds connected specifically for this event. These funds will be shared equally among the four flights participating at the National Finals. If any team from any flight(s) does not participate in the GNT National finals, their stipend will not be awarded. Any stipend(s) not awarded will be rolled over for use in following years allocations. In the event that a stipend has been paid and a team subsequently decides not to participate at the National GNT Finals, that team is responsible for returning the full amount of the stipend to District 15. The returned stipend will be rolled over as described above.

SUMMARY

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>		<u>BUY-INS</u>
<u>ACBL</u>		<u>FEES</u>		
Club	Sept 1, 2018 thru March 31, 2018	\$6.75/table*	N/A	\$1.25/table
Unit	April 7, 2018 thru May 13, 2018	\$6.75/table	\$9/person	\$1.25/table
District	June8-10, 2018 OKC Sectional	\$8.00/table	\$9/person/session	\$1.25/table

Table fees are payable to "**DISTRICT 15**" mailed to Warren Smith, 2243 N. Bramblewood, #1204, Wichita, KS 67226

All game results in **.TXT** format must be e-mailed to warglo@yahoo.com.

***NOTE: Reference "Club Level Reporting" for possible reimbursements.**