
Save the Date — 2026 GNT District Final

For the first time in several years, the District 18 Grand National Teams final will be held face to face. The District Final is scheduled for the weekend of April 11 and 12, 2026 in Lethbridge Alberta (immediately prior to the Lethbridge spring Regional).

WHAT IS THE GNT?

Grand National Teams is a grassroots event that qualifies the District Final winner to compete at the Summer NABC in Minneapolis Minnesota in July 2026. The GNT is broken down into four flights:

Open – No Masterpoint restrictions

Flight A – Players with less than 6000 Masterpoints

Flight B - Players with less than 3000 Masterpoints

Flight C – Non-Life Master players with less than 750 MPs

The Masterpoint totals used for this are the totals reported on August 6, 2025, so if you met the qualification level as of August 7, you are eligible to play in the respective flight regardless of how many Masterpoints you have accumulated since then.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

You already have!

If you are a District 18 member and have paid your ACBL membership fees, you are automatically eligible to play in the District final. Due to the difficulty some clubs have in arranging team games and in order to

encourage participation in the District final, the District board has decided to waive the requirement to qualify at the club level to play in the final.

HOW DO I PLAY (WIN)?

The District final will be held in Lethbridge AB on the weekend of April 11 and 12, immediately prior to the District 18 Spring regional in Lethbridge. In each flight, the teams will play at two sessions on Saturday. If enough teams compete in a flight to require a qualifying round, the semi-finals and finals will be held on Sunday April 12.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Entry fees for the District Final are \$120 (Canadian) for the two session Saturday event. If any sessions are needed on Sunday, these will cost \$60 (Canadian) for each session that you qualify for.

DO I NEED TO PREPAY OR PRE-REGISTER?

No, you don't need to pay or register in advance. However, it would be helpful if you did pre-register with Doug Mann, the Director in Charge, by March 31 so that we have an idea of attendance in each of the flights. You can email him at dmann@ACBL.org or manncd@shaw.ca.

WHAT HAPPENS IF (WHEN) I WIN?

The first-place team in each flight is eligible to play in the North American Championship in Minneapolis Minnesota starting on

Wednesday July 7. The national conditions of contest state that the NABC final starts with a two session Swiss on the Wednesday to qualify 16 teams to play knockout events starting on Thursday July 8. As a bonus, the entry fees for the first two days of competition in the GNT National final for Flights A, B and C are waived by the ACBL.

A second bonus for Flights B and C is that, if eight or more teams play in the District final, the top two teams are eligible to play at the NABC.