

District 7 Grand National Teams (GNT) Conditions of Contest, 2025-2026

ACBL Conditions of Contest/GNT Conditions of Contest may be found at:

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

The following are the additional Conditions of Contest specific to District 7. Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception to these Conditions of Contest. These Conditions of Contest may not be changed at any level of play during the course of this event. The General Conditions of Contest for Swiss Team and Knockout Team events will apply to this event subject to the following special conditions of contest.

Prequalification is required at the Club level for Flights A, B and C. Players may compete in any flight where they have prequalified. All District Final events will be in conjunction with the Columbia Sectional in March 2026 at Tri-City Leisure Center, 485 Brooks Ave., West Columbia, SC 29169. Some refreshments will be provided. Lunch will be available to purchase each day or you may bring whatever you wish to eat.

Flight C (under 750 Masterpoints AND a Non-Life Master) One-day event Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm. Format TBA subject to participation. If there are at least 8 teams competing at the finals in this Flight, then 2 teams will go on to compete at the summer NABC in Minneapolis and receive a \$3,200 travel stipend per team for first place and a \$3,200 travel stipend per team for second place when they compete at the NABC in July 2026.

Flight B (under 3000 Masterpoints) Two-day event Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm and Sunday, March 29, 2026. Format TBA subject to participation. If there are at least 8 teams competing at the finals in this Flight, then 2 teams will go on to compete at the summer NABC in Minneapolis and receive a \$3,200 travel stipend per team for first place and a \$3,200 per team stipend for second place when they compete at the NABC in July 2026. If a team wins more than one flight, then it must decide in which National flight it will play at the NABC. That flight's second-place team will replace it if a team changes flights. All other teams move up one place so the third place team moves to second place.

Flight A (under 6000 Masterpoints) Two-day event Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:00 am and 2:30 pm and Saturday, March 28, 2026. Format to TBA subject to participation. All teams will compete on day 1, with 4 teams advancing to the Semi-finals the next day, Saturday, March 28, then 2 teams play in the finals. The team stipend for Flight A is \$3,200 for first place when it competes at the NABC in July 2026 in Minneapolis. A team may choose to drop out of Flight A and begin either Flight B or the Championship Flight on Saturday and the fifth-place team will replace it. All other teams will move up one place in their rankings.

Championship Flight (unlimited) Two-day event Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 10 am and 2:30 pm. All teams will compete on day 1, with 4 teams advancing to the Semi-finals the next day, Sunday, March 29, then 2 teams play in the finals. Pre-qualification at the club level is not required for the Championship Flight. The team stipend for the first place Championship team will be \$3,200 when it competes in the July 2026 NABC.

All teams must register by 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Starting times for games are 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. subject to change. Preregistration is required. To preregister, email the completed roster—with player names and ACBL #s—to the District 7 GNT Coordinator

Martha Meyer mdpmeyermmm@gmail.com. This will be sent to the director in charge (DIC). **Fees must be paid before game time.** They may be paid at the game site.

The GNT National finals will be held in Minneapolis in July 2026. A stipend will be awarded to the winners of the District Finals who attend the NABC and play in their GNT flight. It is strongly suggested that stipend checks be cashed or deposited within 30 days of receipt. The bank voids a check 90 days after the date of issue. District 7 will no longer reissue a check voided by the bank.

Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's September 2025 Masterpoint (MP) cycle. This information will be produced on August 6, 2025, in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

Questions/information contact District 7 GNT Coordinator Martha Meyer:
(336) 416-3049 or mdpmeyermmm@gmail.com.

Conventions

The following is a link to the ACBL document for the allowed convention charts:

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/Convention-Charts.pdf>

The district final will use these charts as part of the conditions of contest:

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

Players are responsible for ensuring their methods are legal for the event in which they are playing. Official answers about permissible systems and conventions are available at rulings@acbl.org. Players are required to have two printed copies of ACBL-approved defense available for the opponents for any convention that requires it. Even if defenses are not required, it is recommended that they be available to establish that the convention is Open Chart or Open+ Chart. Each player should have a copy available for the opponents.

All players, including those from other districts or non-members, may play at the club level. To play in the District 7 Finals, players must meet the following requirements:

- Be members of the ACBL and in good standing
- Have qualified at the club level (except for the Championship Flight)
- Be members of District 7 or have received special permission (rarely granted)

Teams are formed for the District 7 final from eligible players who qualified at the club level. Team captains are responsible for verifying that each of their players qualified in their flight(s).

Club Level Qualification:

The ACBL board has voted to allow online virtual club games as GNT qualifying events. District 7 prefers that our District's games are held face-to-face in our Clubs so players' experience competition similar to what they will play at Nationals.

Championship teams do not have to qualify at the club level due to limited game availability. Flights A, B and C are all required to qualify at the club level to play in the District 7 Finals.

Clubs may hold GNT qualifying events from September 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026. A single game will have 3 Flights combining the Open and Flight A, Flight B, and Flight C. The Flights are A= Unlimited, B= 3000, and C= 750 **and not** a Life Master. If club games are flighted

(so separate games are run for Flight A, Flight B or Flight C) then those Flights are not stratified. Only a Flight C game may be stratified. Club Managers running a limited game must use the masterpoints of the player with the most masterpoints for that team's Flight. Again, the team is stratified by the player on the team with the highest masterpoints. There is no average for teammates/partners. The ACBL masterpoints engine determines masterpoints for each player. Clubs should update player's masterpoints in ACBL Score prior to their first GNT Club qualifying game. Clubs may run two GNT qualifying games per month per each of their sanctions. Players qualify as individuals. They may play in as many qualifying events and on as many teams as they wish.

Qualifying games must be advertised to the local players at least 1 week prior to the event.

In addition, we would like to encourage separate games for Flight C, Flight B and Flight A up to 6000 masterpoints. These will be flighted events similar to the Gold Rush pairs and Flight B events. They should be stratified. However, please note that all players must finish in the top half of their Flight to qualify to play in District Finals. This is a good way for Flight C and B players to qualify without having to play against the top players. In addition, this will raise money for the district to fund stipends given to the winners of the District Final for a trip to the summer nationals.

GNT Fundraiser Games Each sanctioned club may hold one GNT Fund Raiser Club game per sanction each year. Only face-to-face clubs may hold this special event. This rating does not exist for virtual club games. If your sanction covers more than one game in different time slots, then each time slot may have one GNT pairs fundraiser. These games award upgraded masterpoints.

Fee Schedule – GNT games

District fees are **\$4.75/team** for one-session events, or **\$8/team** for two-session events.. These fees should be sent to the District 7 GNT Coordinator. Make checks payable to District 7 and forward with the appropriate **financial report** to the District 7 GNT Coordinator:

Martha Meyer
836 Oak Street, Unit 404
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

A list of qualifiers is no longer necessary with the advent of Live for Clubs. Individual player qualifications are now available online. Players can check their qualification status on the ACBL website. (ACBL.org home page, then Menu, Results, GNT, District 7, by Unit #) It is possible that there may be delays while the ACBL IT department inputs the data.

Payment for the District 7 GNT fees must be paid within 30 days of the payment of the monthly fee to ACBL. There will be a late fee penalty of \$25 for fees paid after this date. For example, a game held Oct 15 must have its district fees paid by Nov 30 or else the \$25 penalty will apply. There will be no penalty until Dec. 1 for September and October games.

ACBL Score provides a form to print to send to the district coordinator with payment for a GNT team game or a GNT pair fundraiser game. This can be done with a simple DBADD at the end of the game before it is submitted online. You may use that DBADD form for a single game **or** the special form at the end of this document. You do not need to do both. The form on the last page may be completed for a single game or to list multiple events. It is fine to summarize multiple games that you have hosted for GNT qualifying and the GNT Fund Raiser games for each club sanction on this form.

Fee Schedule – GNT Fund Raiser Games

Fees for **GNT Fundraiser** pair games are **\$4 per table**—to be sent to the D7 GNT Coordinator. The table count for games should be rounded up (just as ACBL fees are rounded) = no half tables. The ACBL monthly report will note that a GNT Fundraiser Game was played but will note that the fees for this should be sent to the GNT Coordinator and not to the ACBL in the financial report. The same \$25 penalty will apply if payment is not received within one month of the payment of the monthly ACBL fees.

ACBL Score will also print out a form to be sent to the district coordinator with payment for GNT fundraiser games. Again, a simple DBADD will do it.

For your convenience, a remittance form for club GNT games held during the month is included on the last page of this document. This form should be included with the printed form from the ACBL Score program and a check made out to “District 7”. The form allows reporting of both GNT club qualifier and GNT Fundraiser games.

To Club Managers:

Please try to run club qualifiers and talk up how well our District players have performed in this event at the national level winning Flight C in 2023 in Chicago and both the Championship and Flight C in Providence in 2022. In Chicago, Flight B tied for 5th place. In Toronto, the Championship Flight tied for 3rd place. There is a stipend available to the players advancing and participating at the national level to help defray some of the costs. The district stipend for GNT and NAP national participants comes from clubs holding and participating in **GRASS ROOTS FUND GAMES**. **As a club manager, please run as many of these games as possible, as the funds come back to our district. Grass Roots month is in May, but you may also opt to choose Grass Roots as your ACBL Charity games. See the Special Games chart for more information.**

District Finals

For the Championship Flight, teams with 5 or 6 players must pay \$21 for each of the team members for each session. For a 4-person team this is \$168 per session, and each additional player is \$21 more for every session of the GNT District Final. The district is charging this extra \$6 per person per session since the Championship Flight does not have to qualify at the club level.

Entry fees for the District Finals for Flight A, Flight B and Flight C will be the District 7 regional entry fee of \$15 per person per session.

If any of the teams that qualify for the District 7 semi-final fails to participate, the next qualifying team will be given the chance to substitute for that team. The team that fails to participate will receive only match awards. Masterpoints are Regionally rated = **Red and Gold** to the winners.

If either of the teams that qualify for the final fails to participate, then the other finalist (after appearing and paying the entry fee for the final session) will be declared the winner. The team that fails to participate will receive an award based on third or fourth.

District 7 will award a stipend of **\$800 per player** (capped at **\$3,200 for the team**) for the winning teams in each flight. (Teams with 5 or 6 members or any player augmented to the team after the District Finals will not receive funds above the \$3,200 per team. However, if the team is willing, they may prorate the team's award funds to the augmented players). If a player does not participate in the national event, then the stipend is to be refunded to the district.

District 7 will send a Form 1099 miscellaneous taxable income report to the IRS (when required) for each player who receives a stipend. A W9 will be sent for each player to complete before the stipend check is issued. Documented travel and lodging expenses may be submitted to District 7's Assistant Treasurer following the tournament to show that the stipend was largely consumed by expenses related to participation in the tournament.

District champions who do not have at least 3 original members who played in the District Finals will be replaced by the next eligible team willing to participate.

The captain of each winning flight is responsible for advising the District Coordinator no later than June 15, 2026, of players to be replaced and/or of any augmentation. Players may be replaced only with confirmed consent of the replaced player. Any district champion team has the right to augment up to a 6-person team. Augmented players must have qualified at both the club level and played at the District Finals. Substitution may be allowed at the discretion of the District GNT Coordinator. Only one substitute is allowed per team. The District GNT Coordinator's decision is final.

Tournament and Competition Committee

The Tournament and Competition Committee (or a subcommittee thereof) is responsible for any modifications and/or clarifications of the GNT Conditions of Contest.

If GNT is run in conjunction with a Sectional, then the host is strongly encouraged to run a Sunday Swiss as a regional-rated game with an extra fee of \$1 per player per session to benefit the District 7 Grass Roots Fund.

In the Championship and Flight A there will be a 24-board semi-final and final. There will be a carryover from the round robin Swiss of 49% of the IMPs with a maximum of one IMP per board.

In the Open, Flight A and Flight B, the NABC+ VP scale will be used.

In the Open and Flight A, pre-duplicated boards will be used.

If a Flight is large enough to be divided into 2 groups, the two groups will be seeded for balance.

The following rules apply to single site District Finals.

In the Championship and Flight A events

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|------------|--|
| 2 Teams | Head-to-head, 48 boards for the Open and 48 boards for flight A |
| 3 Teams | Three-way matches on Saturday with one team eliminated, and head to head on Sunday with carryover of 49% of the IMPs from their match in the 3-way (with a maximum of one IMP per board to be played in final), 24 boards. |
| 4–11 Teams | Full round robin with carryover of 49% of the IMPs from the round-robin match, with a maximum of 0.99 IMP per board, 48 boards for full-day round robin qualifying. |

If 4–5 teams, 2 teams advance to Sunday final, maximum of 48 boards; if 6–11 teams, 4 teams advance to (24 board) Sunday KO. There will be carryover of 49% of the IMPs from the round-robin match with a maximum of 0.99 IMP per board to be played in the semifinal or final.

The round robin winner shall have the right to choose its opponent for the semifinal. Carryover shall apply to both semifinal and final.

12–20 Teams Teams will be divided into two brackets with seeding by MP and each bracket will play a full round robin. Seeding will be based on the average MP's of the players on the team. 6 board matches are recommended.

The top seed shall be placed in one bracket and the next two seeds in the opposite bracket. Seeding will continue by twos unless only one team remains.

Two teams will qualify from each bracket with winners of each round robin playing the runner-up from the other bracket.

There will be no carryover, even if two teams from a bracket meet in the final.

21+ Teams Teams will be seeded as set forth for 12–20 teams. Each bracket shall play a Swiss with two teams advancing. Winners will play the runner-up from the other bracket in the semifinal. There will be no carryover. 6 board matches recommended.

In Flight B or C events: The Tournament Director in Charge (DIC) will determine the movement depending on how many teams are registered/present. In 2026, Flight C will be a one-day event.

The rules presented here are for 2-day events at a single site for Flight B. There will be no carryover for Flight B.

2 Teams Head-to-head, 48 boards

3 Teams Three-way match on Saturday with one team eliminated and head to head on Sunday. 24 boards

4–10 Teams Full round robin. 6 board matches recommended.

If 4–5 teams, 2 teams advance to Sunday final, maximum of 48 boards; if 6–10 teams, 4 teams advance to (24 board) Sunday KO.

The round-robin winner will play the fourth-place team for the semifinal.

11–20 Teams Teams will be divided into two or more brackets with seeding by MP and each bracket will play a full round robin. Seeding will be based on the average MP's of the players on the team. Maximum 48 boards. 6 board matches recommended.

The top seed shall be placed in one bracket and the next two seeds in the opposite bracket. Seeding will continue by twos unless only one team remains.

Two teams will qualify from each bracket with winners of each round robin playing the runner-up from the other bracket.

21+ Teams Teams will be seeded as set forth for 11–20 teams. Each bracket shall play a Swiss with two teams advancing. Winners will play runner-up from the other bracket in the semifinal.

Tie Breakers (applies to all flights)

In the event of a tie for the last qualifying spot (the right to go on and play in the semifinals), these will be done per the General Conditions for Swiss Teams. These are specified by the ACBL.

Please send your check for all GNT games (GNT Fundraiser and/or GNT Team/Qualifying Games) **when you file your monthly report with the ACBL**. The ACBL *does not collect District 7 extra fees* for these games. They must be mailed to: **Martha Meyer, 836 Oak Street Unit 404, Winston-Salem, NC 27101**.

All half tables should be rounded up to **full tables**. For example, an 8.5 table game will pay GNT fees for a 9-table game. Again, please round up all half tables to the next full table just as the ACBL requires for its fees.

Send the check—referencing your **Club number**. If using direct check issuance from your bank, please ask them to include the **club number** (may use the account/memo field, if needed), but then also scan/email this form to mdpmeyermm@gmail.com. *Note:* If you are paying for multiple club numbers, please include each club number with the table count in the lines below next to the game day or session. If you run more games in a month than will fit in the table below, please print and fill out additional copies of this form.

Club #: _____ Club Name: _____

	GNT Fundraiser Games (\$4 / table)				GNT Team/Qualifying Games (\$4.75 / table)			
Game Day	Morning games	Afternoon Games	Evening Games	Daily Total	Morning games	Afternoon Games	Evening Games	Daily Total
	# Tables	# Tables	# Tables	# Tables	# Tables	# Tables	# Tables	# Tables
Monthly Totals								
Fee Totals	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Total Payment

Manager's Signature: _____

Email address: _____ Phone #: _____