

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST 2025-2026 DISTRICT 19 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The North American Pairs (NAP) is one of two flighted, grass roots qualifying events on the annual ACBL calendar; the other is the Grand National Teams. Players first play at the club level to qualify to compete in the District NAP Finals where they play for the opportunity to earn subsidies to compete in the NAP National Finals to be held at the 2026 Spring North American Bridge Championships in St. Louis, MO.

The flyer for the District 19 NAP Finals may be found here: d19.org/NAPs

Flights

During all stages of play – Club Qualifying, District Finals and National Finals – flight masterpoint limits are as follows:

- Championship Flight: Open to any player
- Flight A: Players with fewer than 6000 masterpoints
- Flight B: Players with fewer than 3000 masterpoints
- Flight C: Non-Life Master players with no more than 750 masterpoints

For purposes of NAP Flight Eligibility, ACBL uses the June masterpoint cycle, which runs on May 6, 2025. Points won after this cycle do not affect flight eligibility.

District 19 representation at the National Finals:

- Championship Flight: The top 3 players from the District Finals qualify
- Flight A: The top 3 pairs from the District Finals qualify
- Flight B: The top 4 pairs from the District Finals qualify
- Flight C: The top 4 pairs from the District Finals qualify

Subsidies for pairs qualifying for the National Finals:

- 1st place pair in each flight: US\$700 per player subsidy from ACBL *
- 2nd place pair in each flight: US\$300 per player subsidy from ACBL *
- 3rd place pair in each flight: US\$300 subsidy to the pair from District 19

*Winning and 2nd place pair subsidies, paid by ACBL, are subject to review and revision by the ACBL Board of Directors.

It is District 19 policy that 3rd place subsidies will be paid in the currency of players' country of residency, either in US\$ in the amount above or the equivalent in Cdn\$.

Questions may be directed to the DISTRICT 19 NAP COORDINATOR:

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Address: 13201 Linden Ave N, #405, Seattle, WA 98133

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

These 2025-2026 D19 NAP Conditions of Contest and the ACBL's 2025-2026

NAP Conditions of Contest will be found at the ACBL website under TOURNAMENTS /Conditions of Contest, or at this link:

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>

Stages of Play

There are three stages of play: (1) Club Qualifying, (2) District Finals, and (3) National Finals.

(1) CLUB QUALIFYING – qualification at local clubs for the District Finals

Players qualify for the District Finals by successfully competing in NAP qualification games at local clubs. The authorized period for club qualification games is June 1 through August 31. Club qualification games award extra masterpoints, allocated as 50% red / 50% black. Players who qualify at the club level, and meet residency requirements (below), are eligible to participate in the District Finals. ***Unlike District GNT Finals, for the District NAP Finals there is NO BUY-IN for players who did not successfully qualify at the club level.***

Club-level qualification games

During each month of June, July and August, a club may hold up to two NAP club qualification games per sanctioned session. No special sanction is required – use the club number as the sanction number. In lieu of normal club game sanction fees, NAP club qualification game sanction fees, in the amount specified by the ACBL in the version of the “ACBL Special Games at Clubs” chart in effect at the time of the game, are due to the ACBL. No District 19 surcharge is applied to NAP club-level qualification games. This list may be submitted electronically to the email address above.

NOTE: for additional information on planning, setting up and running NAP club qualification games, club managers/directors should refer to the ACBL’s 2025-2026 North American Pairs National Conditions of Contest.

Subject to established ACBL minimum guidelines, each club determines the conventions to be allowed in its NAP qualification games.

ACBL members may earn club-level qualification to the D19 NAP Finals at any club in any unit in any district. Club-level qualification is earned as an individual and not as a partnership. A player may play in NAP club-level qualification games at any participating club as often as desired and with as many partners as desired.

At club-level qualification games, a member may qualify and earn masterpoints while playing with any other member of the ACBL or with a non-member of the ACBL.

(2) DISTRICT FINALS – Qualification for the NAP National Finals

The 2025 District 19 NAP Finals will be conducted over two sessions on a single day for each flight. Entry fees D19 Finals events will be \$18.00 US per person per session, or \$72.00 US for each pair.

Eligibility. It is the responsibility of every player, prior to entry in the District 19 Finals, to ensure s/he has successfully qualified at the club level. Since club level qualification is earned as an individual and not as a partnership, players may form a new partnership for the District

Finals. As stated above, unlike the district GNT Finals, ***there is NO BUY-IN for players who did not successfully qualify at the club level.*** To avoid irregularities associated with qualification status, the Director in Charge and/or the District NAP Coordinator may, as necessary, refer to ACBL- and/or club-generated player qualification reports.

District 19 Residency. A member's principal residence as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Finals shall establish the district in which said member is eligible to participate beyond the club qualifying stage. Changes in residence after this date shall not change the district in which the player is eligible to participate. Successful applications for exception to residency requirements are rare; applications are subject to the review and approval criteria and process set forth in the NAP National Conditions of Contest.

Play in more than one flight. It is permissible for a player to compete in more than one flight (to "play up") where the finals of flights are conducted on separate days.

Multi-Flight qualifications:

Flight C category players – Retain qualification in each flight (Championship, A, B, C) in which they have achieved the qualification threshold for each level of play.

Flight B category players – Retain qualification in each flight (Championship, A & B) in which they have achieved the qualification threshold for each level of play.

Flight A category players – Retain qualification in each flight (Championship, A) in which they have achieved the qualification threshold for each level of play.

Championship: Can play only at this level.

Permissible Convention Charts:

Championship: Open+

Flight A: Open

Flight B: Basic+

Flight C: Basic+

Convention charts may be found here:

www.acbl.org/convention-charts

Event Dates and Session Start Times:

The 2025 District 19 NAP Finals will be a one-day two-session event for all flights as follows:

Championship Flight (open) will be played on Sunday, November 23 at 10:30 and 3:30 at 13 Top Tricks in Bellevue, WA.

Flight A (to 6000) will be played on Saturday, November 22, at 10:30 am and 3:30pm at 13 Top Tricks in Bellevue, WA.

Flight B (less than 3000 MP) will be played on Sunday, November 23 at 10:30 and 3:30 at 13 Top Tricks in Bellevue, WA.

Flight C (Non-Life Master less than 750 MP) will be played on Saturday, November 22 at 10:30 and 3:30 at 13 Top Tricks in Bellevue, WA.

13 Top Tricks is located at 14450 NE 29th Place, Suite 101 Bellevue, WA 98007.

Electronic Device Policy

The ACBL electronic device policy applies to this event. The URL is copied below.
http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/2022/ElectronicPolicy_AttachmentC.pdf.

Contingencies.

The Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to Club Qualifying Events, publicity, playing sites and dates that are not specifically addressed by these conditions. Also, in consultation with the NA Events Committee if feasible, the Coordinator will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these Conditions and which arise on or before November 22, 2025. If such a matter should involve his or her partnership, then the Coordinator shall defer to a member of the NA Events Committee to act in his or her stead. The DiC will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the Finals that are not specifically addressed by these conditions and which arise after November 22, 2025.

Commitment to Represent District 19 at the National Finals

Immediately upon the conclusion of the District 19 NAP Finals second of two sessions for each flight, pairs finishing in qualifying position for the National Finals, plus the pair finishing one position lower in the final standings (i.e. pairs in 1st through 4th place in Championship and Flight A and pairs in 1st through 5th place in Flights B and C), are to report to the District 19 NAP Coordinator (a) discuss coordination of the pairs' commitments to represent District 19 at the National Finals (and thus their eligibility for associated subsidies) and (b) verify the pairs' contact information.

If a pair finishing in qualifying position determines it is unable to commit to competing in the National Finals, their qualification position (and any subsidy commensurate with their qualification position) will be offered to the next lower finishing pair.

A person or pair may represent a district in only one flight at the National Finals. In the situation where a pair (or player) has elected to "play up" and qualifies in more than one flight, the pair (or player) will be required to declare – immediately upon completion of the second session of the second day of the D19 NAP Finals (November 23, 2025)– in which flight they commit to compete in the National Finals.

(3) NATIONAL FINALS

The North American Pairs National Finals will be held during the North American Bridge Championships at St. Louis, MO in the spring, 2026. Champion and Flight A Finals will be held Wednesday & Thursday, February 25-26, 2026. Flight B & C Finals will be held Saturday & Sunday, March 7-8, 2026. The North American Pairs National Finals are planned as four-session events, consisting of a two-session play-through to qualify for a two-session play-through final with carryover as per ACBL formula.

