

## **2023 - 2024 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST**

(District 4 Supplement to the ACBL NAP Conditions of Contest)

The National Conditions of Contest for the North American Pairs are established by the ACBL. Copies of the ACBL Conditions have been posted on the ACBL website and mailed to those clubs and Unit coordinators requesting a copy. The ACBL Conditions cover such matters as Flight Eligibility, Club and Unit Level Participation, Conventions and Substitutes. Players entering the District Final of any flight must be members of District 4 and have qualified for that flight in a NAP club game.

- Flight C: District 4 players who are Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints as of the ACBL 2023 June masterpoint cycle (computer run on/about May 6, 2023).
- Flight B: D4 players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints as of the ACBL 2023 June masterpoint cycle.
- Flight A: Open to any D4 player.

Qualification at the Club level covers three months: June, July, and August. To participate in the District finals in any Flight, players must have qualified at the Club level for that Flight or a higher Flight.

Players can compete in the District Finals for all flights for which they are eligible.

### **COVID Considerations:**

All finals for all Flights are planned to be held face-to-face at participating District 4 Bridge Clubs, COVID considerations permitting. All face-to-face finals will be held in accordance with the ACBL's COVID protocols.

### **PREREGISTRATION & PREPAYMENT**

Preregistration and prepayment are required on Bridge Winners for all flights. The registration deadline for a flight will be about a week before the start of the final; please see <https://4acbl.org/> for the exact registration deadlines. If you are unable to register for any reason, you must email the D4 NAP coordinator before the deadline to request an extension. Full-time students will be reimbursed after the D4 Finals.

### **D4 NAP FLIGHT A FINAL**

The 2023-24 District 4 Flight A Final will be a two-day, four-session, qualifying event held on Sat-Sun, September 30—October 1, 2023, at Game Friendly. South Jersey Bridge Center, 7 Carnegie Plaza, Suite 400 Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 (<https://gamefriendly.com/>).

The first two sessions in Flight A will be play-through on Saturday, with the number of pairs qualifying to play on Sunday based upon the number of entrants with the carryover to be determined in accordance with standard ACBL guidelines. The goal is to have the best movement for a two-session event that will also allow the greatest number of pairs to qualify for Sunday's two-session event.

The standings in Flight A will be based on the rankings achieved in the two-session final. The top three pairs will represent District 4 in the National final. In the event any of the top three pairs cannot attend the National final, the next lower pair(s) down the line will be offered the opportunity to play in the National final.

Open+ convention chart applies.

### **D4 NAP FLIGHT B FINAL**

The 2023-24 District 4 Flight B Final will be a one-day, two-session event held at **three** split sites on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Players can play at any of the following locations:

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- Harrisburg Bridge Club, 349 N 21st St, Camp Hill, PA 17011 <https://www.bridgewebs.com/harrisburg/>.
- North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club, 298 Wissahickon Avenue, North Wales, PA 19454  
<https://www.bridgewebs.com/northpenn/>
- Canandaigua Bridge Club, located at the First Congregational Church of Canandaigua, 58 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

The Flight B final at each location will be a two-session event. All locations will use the same hands, with pre-duplicated boards. For a location to be considered a valid NAP event, there must be a minimum of five tables of Flight B qualified players playing at that location. Matchpointing will be across the field at all 3 sites. However, if across-the-field matchpointing cannot be accomplished, then subject to approval from the D4 Board President and NAP Coordinator, the field may be scored separately at each site with the scores determined by percentages.

The order of finish for purposes of advancing to the National Final is as follows:

- I. All 3 sites, A, B, & C, have 12 or more full tables OR all 3 sites have fewer than 12 full tables.
  1. First and second place will be awarded to the two pairs with the highest score regardless of site.
  2. If the first and second qualifiers are from the same site (Site A), then the third and fourth place qualifiers (ranked in order of their scores) will be the pairs with the highest score from each of the two other sites, Sites B & C (the top pair from each site).
  3. If the First and Second qualifiers are from different sites (Sites A and B), then the third and fourth place qualifiers (ranked in order of their scores) will be the pair with the highest score from the third site (Site C) and the remaining pair with the highest percentage score, regardless of site.
- II. Two sites (Sites A & B) have at least 12 full tables, and the other site (Site C) has fewer than 12 full tables.
  1. First and second place (ranked in order of their scores) will be awarded to the pairs with the highest percentage score at each of the larger sites (the top pairs from each of Site A & Site B).
  2. The third and fourth place qualifiers (ranked in order of their scores) will be the top pair from the third site (Site C) and the remaining pair with the highest score from the two larger sites (Sites A + B).
- III One site (Site A) has at least 12 full tables, and two sites (Sites B & C) have fewer than 12 full tables.
  1. First place will be awarded to the pair with the highest score from the larger site (top pair from Site A).
  2. The second, third, and fourth place qualifiers (ranked in order of their scores) will be the pairs with the highest score from each of the two smaller sites (the top pairs from each of Site B & Site C,) and the pair with the second highest score from the larger site (Site A).

If any of the four pairs selected to represent the District by the above criteria are unable to represent the District at the National Finals, then the offer to represent the District will be made to highest-ranking or the remaining pairs, going down the line until a replacement pair accepts. The ranking will be determined by the highest percentage scores of those pairs not placing first through fourth (using the above criteria) for the combined sites.

Basic+ Convention chart applies.

### **D4 NAP FLIGHT C FINAL**

The 2023-24 District 4 Flight C Final will be held at several clubs across District 4 on Saturday, September 30, 2023 and will be conducted along the lines of a District STaC. Any entity, club or unit in District 4 may participate but must notify the District 4 NAP Coordinator at least one month in advance of their intention in order to receive appropriate sanctions.

The Flight C Final is a two-session event using pre-duplicated boards. Each site is scored separately and the score of each pair is converted to percentages for ranking purposes. There will not be across-the-field scoring.

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Each site may use a local Director. Players must pre-register with the club in which they wish to play. The starting times of each session will be fixed within reasonable limits by the District 4 NAP Coordinator in order to accommodate the use of pre-duplicated hands at each location.

Each participating Club will be assessed a \$12.00 per table per session sanction fee (with \$7 going to the ACBL and \$5 going to District 4 to cover the cost of a coordinating ACBL Tournament Director for the NAP Flight C Finals). To be considered a valid competition, there **must be a minimum of five full tables** in play in Flight C at that location. Fewer than five tables will not constitute a valid NAP event.

The District 4 winners will be the four pairs with the highest percentage scores regardless of the location at which they played. The coordinating Director will be an ACBL TD.

Basic+ Convention chart applies.

### **GENERAL**

Players may play in the District finals of more than one flight if they are qualified to play in each flight they participate in. If a qualifying pair in the District final is unable to compete in the National ACBL finals, they will be replaced by the next highest finisher in their Flight. This process will repeat itself until the District has selected three qualified pairs for Flight A and four qualified pairs for each of Flights B and C. Ties which occur in any Flight at any location will be broken based upon criteria established by the ACBL.

Starting times at each location will be determined by the District 4 NAP Coordinator in consultation with the local chairperson to ensure the conclusion of the event at an appropriate time. Starting times may not necessarily be the same as those set for the Sectional Tournament taking place at the location.

First-place District winners in each Flight will receive (from the ACBL) \$1,400/pair subsidy to attend the 2024 Spring NABC Nationals in Louisville, KY. Second-place pairs will receive \$600/pair subsidy. Third-place pairs are invited to participate in the national event and do not receive any subsidy from the ACBL. D4 will compensate the third-place pair \$400/pair subsidy and each fourth-place pair in Flights B and C \$200/pair subsidy. Each pair receiving the subsidy must attend and play in the NABC final event.

These subsidies are intended to reduce travel and lodging expenses in the Spring NABC and should the NAP finals be held online will not be distributed.

The ACBL will waive all entry fees for the NABC finals.

The ACBL NAP Finals will be held in conjunction with the Spring North American Bridge Championships (NABC) in Louisville, KY on March 14-24, 2024. The four-session two-day ACBL NAP finals for Flight A (Baldwin NAP Flight A) are scheduled to be held on Wed-Thu, March 13-14, 2024, and the four-session two-day ACBL NAP Finals for Flight B (Golder NAP Flight B) and Flight C (President's Cup NAP Flight C) are scheduled to be held on Sat-Sun, March 23-24, 2024. However, all District 4 qualifiers should check the NABC Tournament Schedule for the exact playing schedule for each Flight once the schedule is finalized.

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