

ACBL DISTRICT 18

2025-2026 North American Pairs

Conditions of Contest

A. General

1. National Conditions:

The 2025-2026 North American Pairs (NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the ACBL (<http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/NAP/CoC.pdf>) govern this competition. These ACBL District 18 (D18) Conditions of Contest cover circumstances that are unique to D18 and clarify options available under the National Conditions of Contest.

2. Participation:

To advance beyond the club level to the D18 Finals, a player must be a member in good standing of both the ACBL and its geographical division of D18. Appendix II of the National Conditions of Contest establishes requirements for District Membership and the procedures for handling exceptions.

3. District Coordinator:

The District 18 NAP Coordinator is Ray Fink, Ray.Fink@gmail.com, 208-520-4437

B. Club Level

Club qualifying games will be conducted in June, July, and August of 2025 per the ACBL National Conditions of Contest. Both face-to-face clubs and virtual (VACB) clubs may conduct two NAP qualifying games per each sanctioned session in each of those months.

The use of bridge conventions is also per the National Conditions of Contest. In early September, ACBL will notify all club managers of all players qualifying in both face-to-face and online games.

Club level qualification is earned as an individual, not as a partnership. A player may play at any participating club as often as desired and with as many partners as desired.

Club managers *do not* need to notify the District NAP Coordinator of players that qualify; this information is now available from ACBL Headquarters via the normal Live for Clubs game report process.

C. Unit Level

The Unit stage of the NAP competition will NOT be conducted in D18. Players who qualify at the club level can advance directly to the D18 Finals.

D. District Finals

1. Tournament Eligibility:

- a) Masterpoint (MP) limits for each flight are as of the ACBL June 2025 Masterpoint cycle which is run on May 6, 2025:

This year the NAP will feature four flights instead of three.

Championship Flight – Open to any player

Flight A – Players with less than 6000 MPs

Flight B – Players with less than 3000 MPs

Flight C – Non-Life Masters with less than 750 MPs

- b) Players **MUST** have qualified at the club level to play in the District Final. Unlike the Grand National Teams event, there is no buy-in option for the NAP District Final.

2. Event Date and Location:

The District 18 Finals will be held online at <https://BridgeBase.com>. The Finals will be conducted as two-session play-through events, with separate events for each flight.

- a) Open Flight
Saturday, 8 November 2025, 10:30am and 3:30pm Mountain Standard Time
- b) Flight A
Saturday, 8 November 2025, 10:15am and 3:15pm Mountain Standard Time
- c) Flight B
Saturday, 15 November 2025, 10:00am and 3:00pm Mountain Standard Time
- d) Flight C
Saturday, 8 November 2025, 10:00am and 3:00pm Mountain Standard Time

If eligible, players may enter the District Finals on both Saturdays. For example, an eligible player may enter Flights A and B, or Flights B and C.

The entry fee for the District Final will be **BB\$40.00** per player (total for the two-session final). Players are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient funds in their BridgeBase account to cover the entry fee at game time.

If fewer than five pairs register in either (or both) of the Championship Flight or Flight A, those two flights will be combined. This combined flight is not stratified for masterpoint purposes; awards are as per the Championship Flight. The combined field is ranked, with the top three pairs qualifying for the NABC in the Championship Flight. The top three Flight A-eligible pairs qualify for the NABC in Flight A; any such pair which also qualifies in the Championship Flight must declare in which flight they choose to advance.

3. Pre-Registration Required

Pre-registration for the D18 Final is required. Pairs must send the following information to the District Coordinator, Ray Fink Ray.Fink@gmail.com

- both player names
- both player ACBL numbers

- both player BBO usernames
- which Flight the pair is entering

Open Flight, Flight A and Flight C registration deadline: 10:00am Saturday November 1st.

Flight B registration deadline: 10:00am Saturday November 8th.

Confirmations will be sent by email beginning October 27th. Late entrants may be accepted for the convenience of the movement and only at the discretion of the DIC

4. Bridge Conventions:

The Open Convention Chart applies in stratified games at any level. In flighted games, the Basic+ Chart applies in Flights B and C, the Open Chart applies in Flight A, and the Open+ Chart applies in the Championship flight. Convention charts are published on the ACBL website at

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

5. Masterpoint Awards:

Per the National Conditions of Contest, the Masterpoint awards for the online District 18 Final are:

Flight	First Overall	Overalls	Section Tops	Session Awards	Session Rating
Open	25.60 MPs	100% Gold	Gold	Red	100% of regional
A	21.60 MPs	100 % Gold	Gold	Red	85% of regional
B	19.20 MPs	100% Gold	Gold	Red	70% of regional
C	12.80 MPs	50% Gold 50% Red	50% Gold 50% Red	Red	62.5% of regional

E. Advancement to the North American Finals:

The top three eligible pairs in the Championship Flight and Flight A, and the top four eligible pairs in Flights B & C qualify to the national finals, which will be held at the 2026 Spring NABC in St Louis MO. Pairs qualifying to the national finals qualify as a pair and no new partnerships may be formed; a replacement is allowed under specific conditions identified in the National CoC.

Travel expense subsidies for those who qualify for participation in the National Finals are administered by the ACBL. D18 will not provide any additional subsidies. Individual Units may offer travel subsidies for District Finals and National Finals at their discretion.

If a qualifying pair is unable or chooses not to attend the NABC, the invitation (and any travel subsidy) will be passed to the next eligible pair based upon its finish in the district final. *Qualifying pairs are expected to notify the District NAP Coordinator on or before Monday, January 19, 2026, if they will not attend the National Final.*

F. Contingencies

The Director in Charge (DIC) will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions of the D18 finals that are not specifically addressed by these conditions.