

TO: LOCAL COORDINATOR FOR NAP'S

FROM: MARIE JOLLEY DISTRICT 18 COORDINATOR

Please find enclosed our 2009-2010 Conditions of Contest

Once again we have the three flights. These points are as of the June master point cycle.

A - OPEN

B - 0-2000

C - 0-500 NONLIFE MASTER

NEW AND IMPROVED NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS!!

Club sanction fees now are only \$4 per table

More games!! Clubs may hold two qualifying games per month per sanctioned sessions

In June, July and August

There is no requirement to hold Unit Finals

However Unit Finals can be held.

A single session awards red points only

For two or more session Unit Finals Masterpoints are 20% gold, 80% red for Flight A; 10% gold, 90% red for flight B and 5% gold, 95% red for non life master flight.

A SANCTION IS NECESSARY FOR UNIT FINALS

A sanction application must be submitted to ACBL Headquarters for each Unit Final.

- A. Go to www.acbl.org - on the left hand side under Resources for:, click on Units and Districts, then Tournaments Managements. This page lists Online Sanctions Applications, click on North American Pairs. Complete the applications and submit.
- B. Your application will come to the Special Events Department via email.
- C. Your submission will be acknowledged and copied to your District coordinator who Can approve it or inform you of any objections.

In general to be eligible for the District stage

A) If there is a unit stage -- a player must have qualified at the club stage and at the unit stage

B) If there is NO unit stage -- at the club stage.

IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE AT THE DISTRICT FINAL YOU MUST HAVE QUALIFIED AT A CLUB GAME OR A UNIT FINAL. ABSOLUTELY NO NON QUALIFIERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THE FINALS!

THE DISTRICT FINAL WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD AT 1:00 P.M. DURING THE SASKATOON BRIDGE CITY REGIONAL SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4, 2009 AT THE SASKATOON INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER 2202 AIRPORT DRIVE SASKATOON SASKATCHEWAN. 1-866-447-7702.

ALERT: For all double session events in all three flights every pair will play every other pair at least once.

2009-2010 Conditions of Contest

DISTRICT 18 NORTH AMERICAN OPEN PAIRS. FLIGHT B PAIRS 0-2000 AND NON-LIFE MASTER PAIRS 0-500

(Conditions of contest for the North American Open, Flight B and Non-LM Pairs competition as published in the ACBL Bulletin are a part of these conditions.)

1. INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (Unit Competition)

A. All participant must be members in good standing of the ACBL, of a unit within District 18. A full-time student, member of the armed forces or one who employment requires temporary relocation may qualify for the Unit contest in the District in which his school, post or place of temporary employment is located, with permission of the District Director, or he may play in the District having jurisdiction over the Unit in which he holds membership.

B. District 18 will allow two or more Units to consolidate for one Intermediate Final Event. In addition, those Units which so desire (subject to District approval) will be allowed to hold a Unit semifinal (the same rating as the club level) if necessary for qualifying a reasonable number of pairs to the Unit Final.

C. The Unit contest must be held by September 20, 2008 and on a weekend which will not conflict with a sectional in your area. It is up to the Unit as to which event (either the NAOP-A, NAOP-B or NANLM Pairs) will be held on Saturday and which event will be held on Sunday. A Unit which expects and attendance of fewer than 7 tables in a Unit stage game in any flight may hold a stratified Unit final. Such a game is run as detailed. Pairs from each flight should be evenly distributed in the North-South or East-West fields. Pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of their field of their field North-South or East-West qualify for the NAOP-A District stage. Flight B and Non-LM pairs finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of their field excluding Flight-A Pairs qualify for the NAOP-B District stage. NON-LM finishing in the top half (rounded up and including ties) of their field excluding all Non-LM Pairs qualify for the NANLMP District stage. A Unit may stratify Flights A and B (running C separately). Flights B and C (running Flight A separately) or may stratify all three flights. A Unit running a stratified final may not also run a separate final of any one of the stratified flights. The Unit may charge any entry fee it deems appropriate, but must submit \$4.00 (U.S. Funds) per table per session to the ACBL. Results must be promptly transmitted to both the ACBL and the District Coordinator.

D. Unit level finals may be one session. One session unit finals will award red points only. Full red points, sectionally rated for the Open competition, for Flight B overall awards at 81% of sectional rating. For the Non-LM Pairs point awards are red at 60% of sectional rating. Masterpoints awarded at two or more session unit finals are 20% gold, 80% red for Flight A; 10% gold, 90% red for Flight B; and 5% gold, 95% red for Non-Life Master Flight. A playing director is allowed and the Unit final may be run with traveling score slips.

At District 18 option, when an insufficient number of pairs (fewer than five pairs) enter a scheduled qualifying event (unit or earlier stage), all players who pay their entry fee are qualified to the next stage of competition. NOTE: This also applies when an insufficient number of pairs enter the lowest strata of a scheduled stratified game. When more than one flight is held, the masterpoints are awarded in the same manner as other flighted events, Flight A receives credit for tables in Flight B and C, etc.

E. The director-in-charge may secure an additional pair in order to fill out a half-table. Any such pair shall not be eligible for qualification for the next stage of the event. However, they shall receive any points earned. The highest non-qualifier in any of the club games must be the pair contacted. If that pair cannot play, then the next highest non-qualifier in any of the club games must be the pair contacted. If that pair cannot play, then the next highest non-qualifier shall be contacted, etc. It is therefore important that the local coordinator have this information immediately after the club games are held.

F. At the Unit Final, or consolidated Unit Final, 50% of the Open field and ties (overall and 50% of the Non-LM field shall qualify for their respective District Final. A certificate of qualification will be issued to pairs qualifying for either. This certificate must be presented to the director at the time of entry to the District Final.

G. Any player arriving to play at a Unit Level contest without a Qualification Ticket should be allowed to participate upon advising the director-in-charge of the name of the club at which qualification was earned. This information must be included with the report of the game to ACBL.

H. In order to qualify for the Unit level, a player must qualify at any club in any Unit or district. At District 18 option participation

at Unit level competition is restricted to the Unit in which either member of the partnership qualified. No player may enter more than one Unit Final. If it is discovered a player has participated in more than one Unit Final that player will be barred from the District Finals and will lose all of the points he or she has won in this event.

I. District 18 has adopted the policy to qualify alternate pairs from unit Finals when original qualifiers choose not to participate. The alternate pairs must be selected in accordance with ACBL regulation. Therefore, it is imperative that a copy of the Unit results be sent to the District Coordinator immediately after their game, along with notations as to which pairs, what event (Open, Flight B, or Non-LM), they wish to compete in.

J. The following applies: A player qualifies as an individual through the unit stage. **ALERT:** A player may play in a district final with any other qualified eligible player from their district. **NOTE:** It is NOT necessary for players playing together in a district final to have qualified from the same unit.

K. 1. A NAOP player who has qualified in a NAOP A Unit final is eligible to play in the: a) NAOP A district final, b) NAOP B district final if he/she has fewer than 2000 master points as of the last point confirmation card mailed prior to the Unit club qualifying games, c) NANLMP district final if he/she has **LESS THAN 500** masterpoints and has not obtained the rank of Life Master as the last point confirmation card mailed prior to the June club qualifying games.

2. A NAOP B player who has qualified in a NAOP B Unit final is eligible to play in the a) NAOP B district final, b) NANLMP district final if he/she has **LESS THAN 500** masterpoints and has not obtained the rank of Life Master as of the last point confirmation card mailed prior to the June club qualifying games.

3. A NANLMP player who has qualified in a NANLMP Unit final is eligible to play in the NANLMP district final only.

2. DISTRICT FINALS

A. District 18 will hold one site for the District Finals. It will be in Saskatoon SK at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Center on October 3, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. From this playing site two pairs from NAOP flight A and two pairs from NAOP Flight B, and two pairs from the Non-LM Flight C will qualify to play in the Finals in Houston, TX, during the Spring Nationals. First place District Winners in all flights receive \$700 per person and free entry. *Second place winners in receive \$300 per person and free entry. *Third place winners in flight A, B, and C are invited to participate.

B. The entry fees will be the same as the Regional card fees. The District must remit \$7.00 (American Funds) per table per session to the ACBL. **ALERT!!** For all double sessions in all three flights every pair will play every other pair at least once.

C. At North American Open Pairs District Finals, master point awards for Flight A and Flight B are gold for overall ranking pairs and section firsts and red for all other awards. (Session awards are based on Regional rating.) The Non-LM Flight District Finals awards shall be 25% gold and 75% red for overall awards and all red for session awards. First place awards are as follows:

OPEN FLIGHT A
2-Session event-24 Master Points
FLIGHT B
2-Session event-16 Master Points
NON-LM FLIGHT
2-Session event-10 Master Points

D. The North American Open Pairs Flight A final will be held the Wednesday-Thursday, March 10 - 11, 2010. Flights B and C: Saturday - Sunday, March 20 - 21, 2010.

3. NORTH AMERICAN FINAL

A. Each District shall qualify two pairs to the North American Final in the Open Flight and two pairs in the Flight B, and two pairs in the Non-LM pair final. Each District will qualify a third pair for the National Finals in all flights. The 3rd place pair will not be subsidized by the ACBL except in districts which have been awarded an at-large qualifier. **PLEASE NOTE:** In order to receive reimbursements to the National North American Final, if service fee has lapsed in the interim, it must be paid by the start of the National Stage.

B. The North American Finals will be a four-session event in each flight. The first two sessions are qualifying sessions, to qualify a 20-pair two-session play-through final (with carry-over as per ACBL formula). The North American Finals will take place in Reno, NV.

C. At the North American Final, the winners of Flight A will receive 65 gold points. Session awards are gold/red, national rating. The flight B winners at the North American final will receive 45 gold points. Session awards are gold/red, at 81% of national rating. At the North American final, the winners of the Non-Life Masters Pairs will receive 30 masterpoints. Overall and section top awards will be 25% gold and 75% red. Remaining session awards are red and all session awards are at 60% of national rating.

D. The North American Open Pairs Flight A final will be held the March 10 - 11, 2010. The North American Open Pairs Flight B and the Non-Life Master Pairs final will be held March 20 - 21, 2010.

4. CONVENTIONS

A. At the club level, a club may enforce the same regulations that it does at its rating point games, club championships, ACBL-wide events, Unit championships, Unit charity events, District charity events and membership games. At the Unit and District stages ACBL General Convention Charts applies. The ACBL MidChart applies to the North American Open Pairs-flight A final. The ACBL General Convention Chart applies at the North American final for Flight B and the Non-Life Master Pairs flight.

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

A. In a play-through event of two sessions, a pair having a substitute for more than one complete session is disqualified.

B. In an event with two qualifying sessions, a pair may not have a substitute for more than one full qualifying session.

C. In a two-session final, a pair is disqualified if it has a substitute for more than one full session.

D. A substitute for even one board, that is not approved by the director disqualifies the pair, the foregoing limitations notwithstanding.

E. The director may make any emergency substitution whenever it is essential to the continued orderly operation of the game. However, the pair may be advised that it will be ineligible to qualify for further play, although it will be eligible for any master points won. **NO REPLACEMENTS ARE ALLOWED AT ANY STAGE OF THE COMPETITION.**

6. TIE-BREAKING FOR QUALIFICATIONS

At the club and Unit semi-final levels all individuals earning master point awards qualify to the succeeding stages. At the Unit Final 50% of the field and ties qualify to the District Final. At the District Final, only specific numbers are qualified to play at the North American Final.

7. SUMMARY

All ACBL Pair Tournament regulations, though not included in these Conditions of Contest, apply to the North American Open Pair and Non-LM Pair contest. These conditions of contest have been developed through years of experience at Regional and National events. While an attempt is made to anticipate most problems, unforeseen situations may arise. District Directors, or their designees, have complete authority regarding the North American Open and Non-LM events held in their District consistent with the spirit of these Conditions of Contest.

**The District 18 Coordinator for the
2009-2010 North American Open
and Non-LM Pairs is Marie Jolley,
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