

**ACBL District 20
Conditions of Contest
for the
2008/2009 North American Pairs**

A. General

1. National Conditions:

The 2008-2009 North American Pairs (hereafter, NAP) Conditions of Contest as published by the ACBL govern this competition. Refer to the ACBL web site at <http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/nap/20082009NAPConditionsofContest.pdf>.

These District 20 Conditions of Contest cover circumstances unique to the District and clarify options available to it in the National Conditions of Contest.

2. Participation:

To advance beyond the club level, a player must be a member in good standing of both District 20 and the ACBL.

3. District Coordinator:

District 20's NAP Coordinator is currently Rich Carle, 2547 Northlake Avenue, Longview, WA 98632; e-mail: rhcoble@msn.com; telephone no. (360) 425-0981 (hereafter "NA Events Coordinator").

4. Unit Responsibilities:

Each Unit is responsible to promote the NAP including club level play in their own Unit and the District 20 Finals.

B. Club Stage

Club qualifying games will be conducted in June, July and August of 2008 as proscribed in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest.

C. Unit Level

The Unit Stage of the NAP competition will not be conducted in District 20. Players who qualify in club qualifying games advance directly to the District Finals.

However, Units are required to sponsor qualifying games if no clubs in their area hold a club qualifying game during the three-month Club Stage. Players who qualify in a Unit-sponsored qualifying game may advance to the District Finals in the flight(s) for which they are eligible.

D. District Finals (for A, B, and C Flights)

1. Final Tournaments Eligibility:

- (a) Players who qualified in a Club or Unit-sponsored NAP qualifying game or are otherwise qualified by the ACBL National Conditions of Contest are eligible to compete in the District 20 NAP Flight A, B and C Finals.
- (b) **Exemptions from Club qualification may be granted, provided a written request stating a valid reason is received at least two weeks prior to the District Finals. All such applications shall be submitted to the NA Events Coordinator for processing. The District Director or his designee must approve exemption requests. Valid reasons for approval are:**
 - i. **No club qualifying event was scheduled within 50 miles of the player's home.**
 - ii. **A significant business or personal reason prevents the player from participating in any Club qualifying game within 50 miles of their home. Acceptable reasons include those in the ACBL National Conditions of Contest, unavoidable travel, medical problems, or other extenuating circumstances that prevented play during the qualifying period.**

2. Event Dates and Locations:

- (a) The Flight A Final will be held on November 8th and 9th 2008 at the Eastside Bridge Club, Suite 300, 8383 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR.
- (b) The B and C Finals will both be held at split sites on October 11th, 2008 to accommodate players from different areas of District 20. The split sites are:

Yreka, CA – Best Western Miner's Inn Conference Center, 122 E. Miner St
Honolulu, HI – Ala Wai Golf Course Club House, 404 Kapahulu Ave
Vancouver, WA – Vancouver Bridge Club, 6503H E. Mill Plain Blvd.
- (c) The dates and locations for these Finals are subject to change by the NA Events Coordinator for good cause.

3. Event Format:

- (a) **Flight A:**
The Flight A Finals will be conducted as a two-day, 4-session play through event.

(b) **Flight B and C:**

The Flight B and C Finals will each be conducted as a one-day, two-session play through event.

(c) **Format Changes:**

The NA Events Coordinator may, after consultation with the Tournament Director, modify the format for any of the Finals as needed to accommodate unanticipated circumstances.

(d) **Starting Times:**

The planned starting times for each session of the Finals will be as shown in the following table:

Flight	Session	Day	Time Hawaii	Time Yreka	Time Vancouver	Time Portland
A, B, C	1	Saturday	9 AM	10 AM	10 AM	1:00 PM
A, B, C	2	Saturday	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	7:00 PM
A	3	Sunday	n/a	n/a	n/a	10 AM
A	4	Sunday	n/a	n/a	n/a	3:00 PM

These times are subject to change for good reason by a committee consisting of the Tournament Director, the NA Events Coordinator and the local venue representative.

4. Ties:

Ties in any flight Finals will be broken ~~by cut of the cards: a player from each tied pair shall pick a card at random from a single deck. The higher card wins (if same pip value in different suits, the higher ranking suit wins): as follows. The boards played in common will be scored board-a-match versus average, with 1 point for above average, ½ point for average, and no points for below average. In Flight A, the first tie break will be the boards in common on the last day. If still tied, then the first day's boards in common will be evaluated.~~

E. District Finals Conditions of Play

1. Entry Fees:

The entry fees for each session of the Finals for all Flights will be \$20 per pair. The entire fee for all planned sessions will be collected at the start of the event.

2. Bidding Boxes/Screens:

Bidding boxes will be used during all sessions of each Flight. Screens will not be used in any of the District Finals.

3. Slow Play:
The Tournament Director will monitor any aggravated slow play to determine who is at fault and may assess slow play penalties as set out in ACBL regulations. Players may appeal such penalties to the District's Appeals Chairman, who may convene a conduct committee to consider merits of the appeal. The Tournament Director may use hospitality breaks to ameliorate the adverse effects of slow play on other pairs.
4. Kibitzing:
Kibitzers will be permitted at all stages of District events of the 2008/2009 NAP but must remain at one table during a particular session. Each partnership has the right to bar one kibitzer without assigning cause, or an unlimited number of kibitzers for cause. The Tournament Director may bar any kibitzer for cause. Kibitzers will comport themselves appropriately.
5. Combined Scoring:
The split sites in Flights B and C will be combined for scoring purposes; in other words, the sections will be scored "across the field" to determine the overall rankings.

F. Conventions

Use of conventions is as per the National Conditions of Contest at the club stage. For the Flight A District Finals, the ACBL Mid-Chart may be used.

G. Advancement

1. Flight A:
The top three pairs in the Flight A Finals will be eligible to advance.
2. Flights B and C :
 - a) **Separation of Flights**
In Flights B and C, at least three tables (6 pairs) in each flight are required at a playing site to constitute separate sections. If there are not three tables in both flights at any site, then the flights shall be combined into a stratified event at all the sites.
 - b) **Ranking of Pairs**
The top pair in each Flight at each of the Finals locations will be eligible to advance to the National Finals.

3. Advancement Declined:

If a pair eligible for advancement declines to advance to the Nationals Finals, then another pair will be offered the chance to advance as follows:

- 1) The pair with the next highest score in the same Flight at the same location as the pair that withdrew will be offered the chance to advance.
- 2) The order of placement shall be revised according to the overall scores of the pairs now in the advancement queue.
- 3) In case of subsequent declinations, the offer will be extended to additional pairs in accordance with par. G. 3. 1) & 2) above.

4. Additional Pairs

If additional pairs (other than the previous year's winner in Flight A) are eligible to advance per Appendix II of the National Conditions of Contest, they will be the pair or pairs with the highest percentage score not otherwise qualified, independent of location.

H. Subsidies

Travel expense subsidies for those who qualify for participation in the National Finals are administered by the ACBL. The District will not provide any additional subsidies. Participants in any Flight may conduct fundraisers, all proceeds of which will be used to supplement the ACBL's subsidy of that Flight.

Subsidy awards to those who advance as determined in paragraph *G. Advancement* above will be based on a pair's score in percent of top available in the District Finals.

I. Publicity

The District's champions of each Flight will reasonably cooperate in promoting the event including, if requested, (i) by supplying a short written tournament report of the District and National Finals for publication in the District's newspaper; and, (ii) by making public appearances.

The NA Events Coordinator will promote the event by providing flyers and/or advance e-mail notifications to the Units and clubs with general information for Club Qualification, and of the dates, times and locations for the District Finals. The NA Events Coordinator will also arrange to publish both this information and the tournament reports referenced in this paragraph in the District's newspaper and on its web site.

J. Contingencies

The NA Events 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 NA Events 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 September 1, 2008. If such matter should involve his or her partnership, then the NA Events Coordinator shall defer to a member of the NA Events Committee to act in his or her stead.

The Tournament Director 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 September 1, 2008.

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