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2026– 2027 Grand National Teams

District 22 Conditions of Contest

Effective September 8, 2026

The District 22 GNT competition will determine a champion in each of four flights of team play. The four team champions have the right to represent District 22 in the National Finals to be played in July 2027 at the Los Vegas NABC. In addition, if Flight B or C has at least eight teams entered in the District 22 Finals, that flight will be eligible to send a second team to the National Finals. Each participant in the GNT must be an ACBL member in good standing.

Lack of knowledge does not constitute cause for exception to these Conditions of Contest. These conditions of contest may not be changed at any level of play during this event. Players qualify as individuals to play in the District 22 Finals.

District 22 will provide a stipend of $2,000 to each of the four (4) flights top qualifying teams from the District Finals to compete in the National GNT Finals. No subsidies are awarded by the ACBL to winning teams.

Level	Dates	District	ACBL
Club Qualification	September 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027	$1.75 per table	$2.40 per table
District 22 Finals SOCBC San Juan Capistrano	May 1-2, 2027 (most likely May 1 only)	$1.75 per table	$2.40 per table
National Finals NABC Las Vegas	July 14 – 18, 2027		

FLIGHTS	MASTER POINT LIMITS
Open Championship Flight	Unlimited
Flight A	Under 6,000 masterpoints per each player
Flight B	Under 3,000 masterpoints per each player
Flight C	Under 750 masterpoints per each player/ Non-Life Masters

Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's *September 2026* masterpoint cycle (which ran on August 6, 2026). Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

CLUB/UNIT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

The club level competition begins September 1, 2026, and will end February 28, 2027. Games will be face-to-face. Clubs may hold as many GNT team games as they wish as one- or two-session events. Events should be flighted, if possible. If the event is stratified, Clubs MUST use the following limits: Open/3,000/NLM <750. Strats are based on the player with the most Masterpoints, not the team average. For non-flighted events, the top half of the teams entered will qualify. For flighted events, the top half of each flight will qualify. In the event of an odd

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number of teams, the top half plus one will be qualified to the next round. A player achieving qualification in a flight also qualifies in any lower flight for which they are eligible. For example, a Flight-C level player who qualifies in Flight A, also qualifies for Flights B and C based on that result.

Club qualification games may not be held during the District 22 NAP Finals (October 11, 2026), Ventura Regional (October 26 – November 1, 2026), Fall NABC (November 26 – December 6, 2026), D22 Palm Springs Regional (December 8-13, 2026), or during a sectional within 25 miles of the club game.

No Unit-level qualification will be required.

For stratified games, the ACBL Open Convention Chart will apply. For flighted games, the Basic+ Chart (Flights B and C), Open Chart (Flight A) and Open+ Chart (Champion Flight) will apply.

Players may qualify as individuals and may play on a different team at the D22 Finals. The ACBL will track qualified players.

Clubs will remit $1.75 per table per session to the D22 treasurer below. Please include the game dates, times, numbers of tables and club.

Richard Picheny
District 22 Treasurer
31212 Paseo Amapola
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

The ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest may be found here

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District 22 GNT Finals

LOCATION

South Orange Country Bridge Center
31461 Rancho Viejo Rd, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

DATE & TIME

QUALIFYING: Saturday, May 1, 2027, 10:00 a.m. and 3 p.m.
FINAL: Sunday, May 2, 2027; 10:00 a.m. - play through
In the event of four or fewer teams in each flight, the final may be consolidated to a single day of play (Saturday, May 1, 2027).

Team Registration

Each team participating **MUST** pre-register with the D22 GNT Coordinator, Gary Waldron (lagunajhawk@icloud.com), no later than 11:59 pm on Wednesday, April 28, 2027. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE WILL BE GRANTED. All players participating in the D22 GNT Finals should intend to attend the Las Vegas NABC to represent District 22.

To pre-register, please email Gary (lagunajhawk@icloud.com) with the following information:

1. Contact information for the team captain, including e-mail and telephone number
2. Flight in which the team is entered
3. Full name & ACBL number of each team member

Entry Fees

Entry fees for all flights are $18 per player (regardless of number of players on the team), per day.

Eligibility

Each person participating in the GNT must have had a principal residence in or have moved into D22 as of September 1, 2026. To request an exception or clarify eligibility, please contact Regional Director, Cornelia Gould (cornelia.gould@gmail.com). The ACBL Special Events department shall decide the correct district for any player if there is any challenge to a player's eligibility. All players entering this event certify, subject to penalties as provided in the conditions of contest for this event and in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, that they are eligible to play in D22.

Ineligible Players and Disqualifications

An ineligible player is disqualified. The ineligible player's team will be disqualified unless the Director-in-Charge (DIC) determines that teammates were unaware of the deficiency of the disqualified member. Any team reduced to fewer than three original members due to disqualification of ineligible players is disqualified.

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Flight Status

Masterpoints won by players from other Bridge organizations, such as the ABA and foreign organizations, must be taken into account in determining a player's placement in a flight. A player's bridge experience may also be taken into account to determine a suitable flight. The DIC of the D22 GNT Finals is authorized to make the decision on the player's classification.

Player Substitution Rules

Players on a team winning a flight of the D22 GNT may be substituted by other players if Deceased or Medically diagnosed as being unable to travel or play. Substitutions may be made only with the approval of the D22 GNT Coordinator. Immediately upon determining that it is necessary to make a player substitution, the team captain will contact the D22 GNT Coordinator and advise the coordinator of:

- the name of the individual to be replaced,
- the name and ACBL player number of the proposed replacement, and
- the reason for the replacement.

Replacement players must be eligible to play in D22 and at the National Flight stage.
No team may go forward unless it has at least three members of the team that competed in the D22 Finals.

Team Augmentation Rules

After winning a flight in the D22 Finals, a team may elect to augment its membership to a maximum of six players with approval of the D22 GNT Coordinator. Augmented players must be eligible to play in D22.

Team Substitution Rules

In the event circumstances occur which make it impossible for at least three members of a winning team to represent the district at the nationals, the team captain must immediately contact the D22 GNT Coordinator and advise the coordinator of the team's withdrawal from further GNT competition. The D22 GNT Coordinator will substitute the next highest ranking team in the D22 GNT Finals competition for the withdrawn team. The substituted team, if less than six players, is encouraged to augment its team with players from the winning team if any are available to play.

Issues regarding replacements and/or substitutions not addressed by these conditions of contest are resolved by using the ACBL GNT Special Conditions of Contest.

Zero Tolerance

The ACBL Policy on Zero Tolerance will be observed at all levels of the GNT.
https://www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/zero-tolerance-policy/

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Format of Play

Championship and A Flights will be run as four-session events (3+ teams) on Day One and. If required, Day Two. The Day Two KO final will be two 24 board matches (2 halves). Each flight plays separately.

If only one team enters a flight, that team will be declared the District champion upon payment of the District's entry fee. A team qualifying by default will receive no masterpoints at the District level.

TEAMS	DAY ONE MOVEMENT	DAY TWO KOs
2	Two 24 board matches (2 halves)	-
3	Two 24 board matches (4 quarters)	
4	Three 18 board matches (4 quarters)	
5	Four 12 board matches (4 quarters)	
6	Five 10 board matches (4 quarters)	
7	Six 8 board matches (4 quarters)	
8	Seven 7 board matches	Four survivors
9	Eight 6 board matches	Four survivors
10-15	Six 8 board matches (SWISS)	Four survivors
16+	Eight 6 board matches (SWISS)	Four survivors

^Third and fourth place teams will be eligible to receive more MPs if they play for the whole day.

Flights B and C will follow the Championship and A format unless there are eight or more teams. In that case, they will play a two-session Swiss or Round Robin on Day One, reducing to four teams for the Day Two final. The four teams will play a two-session Round Robin to determine the district champion and second place team, both of which will be eligible to represent the district at the NABC Finals.

General

1. The ACBL Open+ Chart shall be in effect for the Open Championship Flight.
2. The ACBL Open Chart shall be in effect for Flight A.
3. The ACBL Basic+ Chart shall be in effect for Flights B and Flight C.
4. NABC+ 20 VP scale.

Contingencies

The DIC will resolve all contingencies or ambiguities relating to the format or playing conditions that arise during the District finals that are not specifically addressed by these conditions.

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Correction Period
A team's captain must make scoring corrections within the earlier of 1) thirty (30) minutes after conclusion of play or 2) the start of play at either table for the next round or tie-breaker segment. Reference: Law 79 C. 1. Error in Score.

Appeals
The period for an appeal of a DIC's ruling must be in email and expires thirty (30) minutes after each session. There will be an Appeals Committee. Reference: Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 92 B and 93 B respectively.

Regional Director Authority
All ACBL tournament regulations, though not specifically included in these conditions, apply throughout this event. The Regional Director, Cornelia Gould, has final authority on any item not specified in the Conditions of Contest.

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