

## District 8 Grand National Teams Finals

### Conditions of Contest for 2025-2026

The following conditions apply to the 2024-2025 District 8 Grand National Teams (GNT) Finals, to be held online via the BBO platform on April 18 and April 19, 2026. Additionally, the ACBL Conditions of Contest will also apply. The National Conditions of Contest for the Grand National Teams, KO events, Round Robin, and Swiss Team events shall apply in any circumstance not mentioned below and shall prevail if there is any conflict between the District and National Conditions of Contest.

#### THE EVENT

The District 8 Grand National Teams Final is a District-wide competition held annually to select teams to represent District 8 at the Summer Nationals GNT Finals. The ACBL Summer Nationals will be held **In-Person from July 8 – July 19, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN. The National GNT Finals will begin on Wednesday, July 8.** One team of 4, 5 or 6 players is selected to represent each Flight: Open/Championship, Flight A, Flight B, and Flight C. If there are at least 8 teams competing in the B or C Flights of the District 8 GNT Finals, a second team in the Flight will be considered eligible to compete in the National GNT Final of their respective Flight.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Each player wishing to enter must be a **paid-up District 8 member in good-standing (including paid-up Life Members)** with the ACBL. No club or unit pre-qualification is required to play in this event. However, all teams planning to play are required to **pre-register and pre-pay for 2 sessions on Saturday with the District 8 GNT Coordinator (Phyllis Siegel) no later than April 11, 2026** in order to assist in planning for the event. ( See pre-registration/pre-payment section shown below for details.) Each team may be comprised of 4, 5 or 6 players.

#### LOCATION

The specific location of the District 8 GNT finals is **ONLINE** through the BBO platform. **Start time will be 10:00 am on Saturday, April 18, 2026 for all Flights: Open/Championship, A, B, and C.** As needed, **start time on Sunday, April 19, 2026 will be 10:00 am** for the finals in all Flights. Start times may vary slightly depending on the number of teams in each Flight.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

The event will be run in four flights:

Open/Championship Flight with no masterpoint restrictions

Flight A, limited to players with fewer than 6000 recorded masterpoints

Flight B, limited to players with fewer than 3000 masterpoints

Flight C, limited to Non-Life Master (NLM) players who have fewer than 750 masterpoints

**Flight eligibility will be established by ACBL's September 2025 masterpoint cycle.** This information was produced on **August 6, 2025** in Horn Lake, MS. Masterpoints won after this cycle will not impact flight eligibility for these events.

## CONVENTION CHARTS ALLOWED FOR THIS EVENT:

Open/Championship: Open+

Flight A: Open

Flight B: Basic+

Flight C: Basic+

## GAME FORMAT for all FLIGHTS:

1 Team	Must buy a 2-Session Team Entry to be declared the Winner and to be eligible to play in the Summer NABC. Team advances but receives no masterpoint award. If the team would rather receive a refund and not be eligible to play in the Summer NABC, the team can receive a full refund of their Entry Fees if the team captain notifies the GNT Coordinator prior to the end of the District 8 Finals event on Sunday.
2 Teams	2-Session Knockout (KO) with 24 boards per session
3 Teams	Round Robin (where all teams play every other team) - three matches of 16 boards per match on Saturday. Each team will play 32 boards in total. No carry over. For Flight C, the top two teams advance and play a Single-Session KO Final of 24 boards on Sunday. For Flights Open/Championship, A, and B, the top two teams advance and play a 2-Session, 24 boards per session, KO Final on Sunday.
4 Teams	Round Robin – three rounds with 16 boards played against each team. 48 boards played in total by each team. No carry over. For Flight C, the top two teams advance and play a Single-Session KO Final of 24 boards on Sunday. For Flights Open/Championship, A, and B, the top two teams advance and play a 2-Session, 24 boards per session, KO Final on Sunday.
5-7 Teams	Round Robin qualifying on Saturday. Two Sessions, match length determined by the Director in Charge. No carry over. Top four teams play a KO phase on Sunday. Top qualifier selects their opponent for the Semi-Final match from the teams that finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> . Winners in the Semi-Finals advance to the Final. Losing teams in the Semi-Finals match do not play a second session on Sunday. They are awarded a tie.

**GAME FORMAT for all FLIGHTS (continued):**

8 Teams	Round Robin qualifying on Saturday. Two Sessions, match length determined by the Director in Charge. No carry over. Top four teams advance to a KO phase on Sunday. Top qualifier selects their opponent for the Sunday Semi-Final match from the teams that finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> . Winners in the Sunday Semi-Finals advance to the Final. The 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> place teams will advance to a 24-board KO playoff in the second session on Sunday to determine 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> place. All teams that advance must buy an entry for the second session. If one of the two losing teams in the Semi-Finals chooses not to buy an entry and play in the second session on Sunday, they will lose all overall masterpoint awards. In this case, the other team is declared the 3 <sup>rd</sup> place winner but must still buy a second-session entry. If neither of the losing teams wants to play in the second session, a tie is declared. However, both teams will lose all overall masterpoint awards.
9+ Teams	Swiss Teams (where every team does not play every other team) of 7 rounds with 7 boards per match. No carry over. Top four teams qualify to the KO phase. Both Semi-Final and Final will be 24-board KO matches on Sunday. Standard ACBL tie breaker shall apply. Top qualifier selects their opponent for the Semi-Final match from the teams that finish 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> . The 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> place teams must play each other in a KO match in the Second Session on Sunday. Four places awarded in the overalls.
<b>NOTES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ACBL Continuous 20 Victory Point (VP) scale will be used.</li><li>• For Round Robin and Swiss qualifying, the standard ACBL tie breaking procedures apply.</li><li>• Players on 5 or 6-person teams must play half of the KO, Round Robin, or Swiss matches on Saturday and half of each KO match on Sunday in order to continue participating in the event. An exception to this rule is for Round Robin formats with only 3 teams where a round cannot be halved between players Online.</li><li>• For KO matches, a 6 board play-off in case of a tie; subsequent ties with continuing 4 board Play-offs.</li><li>• No seating rights in any of the matches (blind lineups).</li><li>• One team may be added to each flight after the Pre-Registration deadline, at the discretion of the District 8 GNT Coordinator and the Director in Charge, in order to have an even number of teams per Flight and thus improve the movement.</li></ul>	

Virtual Screenmates or telephones must be used in the District Final and Semi-Final KO rounds only in all Flights. For players who do not have camera capability on their devices, audio monitoring of opponents via telephone calls will be considered sufficient.

The length of the event for all Flights will be determined by the number of teams entered and may be held on Saturday only or may be held Saturday with qualifying players continuing on through Sunday.

## **DISTRICT WINNERS**

The winning team from each Flight becomes the District 8 Grand National Team Champion for that Flight and is eligible to play in the National Championships held at the 2026 Summer NABC in Minneapolis, MN from July 8 – 19, 2026. If a team is not planning to compete in the NABC, they must inform the District 8 GNT Coordinator as soon as possible. Winning GNT teams keep any masterpoints won in the District 8 GNT Finals event even if they choose not to compete in the Summer NABC GNT Finals.

District 8 will provide a travel subsidy only to the 1st place team in each Flight, the amount to be determined later. If the 1<sup>st</sup> place team in a Flight elects not to go to the NABC, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in that Flight will become eligible to go the NABC and receive the travel subsidy if they attend, and so on down the line in order of team placement in the District Finals from top to bottom. To be eligible to receive the District travel subsidy, the winning teams in each Flight must participate in the NABC GNT Finals In-Person until they are eliminated. Furthermore, should the In-Person NABC be canceled and held ONLINE instead of In-Person, for whatever reason, then District 8 will provide no team travel subsidy since no travel would be required. Travel subsidies will be reimbursed after the event. The team captain and team will determine and be responsible for disbursement of the travel funds. The funds will be sent to the team captain from the District 8 Treasurer.

**ACBL waives the entry fees for the first two days of the GNT for Flights A, B, and C.**

A team can substitute up to one member of their team. Substitutions and/or augmentations on teams representing the District must not substantively weaken nor improve the team and must be approved by the District 8 President and ACBL Region 7 Director.

## **PRE-REGISTRATION, PRE-PAYMENT, and EVENT CANCELLATION**

Since this event is held Online, **pre-registration and payment are required for this event and must be received by the GNT coordinator, Phyllis Siegel, by April 11, 2026.** Payment cannot be made Online through BBO. Checks should be made payable to District 8. Initially, District 8 is only collecting for two sessions on Saturday.

**Entry Fees for Flight C: \$10 per person per session. Therefore, initial entry fees due for 2 sessions are as follows:**

**\$80 per team for a four-person team**

**\$100 per team for a five-person team**

**\$120 per team for a six-person team**

**Entry Fees for Flights Open/Championship, A, and B: \$15 per person per session. Therefore, initial entry fees due for 2 sessions are as follows:**

**\$120 per team for a four-person team**

**\$150 per team for a five-person team**

**\$180 per team for a six-person team**

If a team advances into the Sunday final, payment for the Sunday final session(s) must be made **on or before May 2, 2026.** Failure to pay by this date will result in non-eligibility to play in the GNT finals at the 2026 Summer NABC or any other District 8-wide event, such as the North American Pairs Finals or future GNT's, until payment is received.

**To Pre-Register and Make Pre-Payment (must be received no later than April 11, 2026):**

1. Make check/s payable to District 8 for initial 2-session entry fees for Saturday only. Place check/s in a single envelope.
2. Team Captain should send the team information along with the check/s, including the team's flight, the team captain name, and each player's name, ACBL number, BBO username, telephone number, and email address.
3. Mail check/s and team information to our GNT Coordinator at the following address:

Phyllis Siegel, 2415 Hidden Meadow Lane, Manchester, MO 63021

4. If questions, please contact the District 8 GNT Coordinator:

Phyllis Siegel, [psiegeltennis@yahoo.com](mailto:psiegeltennis@yahoo.com) (314) 313-6092.

In the event that District 8 does not receive at least 12 team entries, the event may be canceled. Should this occur, all checks will be returned to the team captain for distribution to team members, and no teams would represent District 8 at the 2026 Summer NABC.

**HELPFUL LINKS**

ACBL Conditions of Contest: <https://www.acbl.org/gnt-qualifiers/>

Online Play: Appendix O: <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AppendixO.pdf>