

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

District Six Conditions of Contest 2025/2026

The conditions of contest for the 2025–2026 Grand National Teams (GNT) are based on the standard District 6 GNT Conditions of Contest, and include the Grand National Teams 2025-2026 ACBL Conditions of Contest (<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/coc/gnt/GNT.pdf>) by reference. This year, the club qualification requirement is waived in all flights in District 6. All flights of the district final will be played face-to-face.

In managing the event and resolving unforeseen issues, the Grass Roots Committee and the Director-in-Charge (DIC) will be guided by the policies and practices underlying the rules in the conditions of contest. Immediate rulings on interpretations of these conditions and treatment of unforeseen situations will be based on the intent of the rule and may be made by the Grass Roots Committee Chair; the Chair may also choose to refer a question to the full Committee. Players who have questions or encounter problems interpreting the Conditions of Contest should contact the Chair. Any Grass Roots Committee member who is on a team that has an interest in a ruling shall be recused from deliberations and decisions about the ruling. The on-site tournament committee consists of all available members of the Grass Roots Committee and the Region 4 representative to the ACBL Board. All Teams Must Pre-register.

Important Dates:

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Registration Deadline: January 22, 2026

First Weekend: January 31-February 1, 2026 (Newport Mill Middle School, Kensington MD)

Second Weekend: February 21-22, 2026 (Fairfax Elks Lodge, Fairfax, VA)

A FLIGHT (0-6000 MP)

Registration Deadline: March 19, 2026

First Weekend: March 28-29, 2026 (location TBD)

Second Weekend: May 2-3, 2026 (location TBD)

B FLIGHT (0-3000 MP)

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2026

One Weekend: January 31-February 1, 2026, two split sites

North: Newport Mill Middle School, Kensington MD

South: Bridge Club of Hampton Roads, Virginia Beach VA)

C FLIGHT (NLM/0-750 MP)

Registration Deadline: January 15, 2026

Event: One day, two sessions at each of two separate sites.

North (Newport Mill Middle School, Kensington MD) site: February 1, 2026 (Sunday only)

South (Richmond Bridge Center, Richmond VA) site: January 31, 2026 (Saturday only)

See the flight specific sections below for venue addresses.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT

Grass Roots Committee (GRC) Chair and District Coordinator: Mary Peters, mfpeters496@verizon.net, 410-707-6347

GRC Members:

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GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

The ACBL Grand National Teams 2025-2026 Conditions of Contest are incorporated by reference. Requirements in the ACBL Conditions of Contest override conflicting provisions in the-District Conditions. Winners of the Championship flight and Flight A District 6 Grand National Team (GNT) finals will earn the right to represent District 6 at the national finals at the 2026 Summer North American Bridge Championships (NABC). In Flight B and C, the winner at each site will be eligible to represent District 6 at the national finals, provided enough teams enter the District finals in these flights. All teams must consist of four, five, or six players.

ELIGIBILITY

Each player in the district event must be an ACBL member in good standing and, except as noted elsewhere in this section, a member of a District 6 Unit. By entry into a district level GNT competition, participants certify that they are eligible to represent District 6 in the national GNT competition. Players are responsible for knowing if they are qualified. If a team includes an ineligible player, the entire team will be disqualified.

Club and Unit Qualification --No qualification is required for any flights this year.

Flight Eligibility

The Championship Flight is an open event; Flight A is limited to players with 0-6000 masterpoints; Flight B is limited to players with 0-3000 masterpoints; and Flight C is limited to Non-Life Masters with fewer than 750 masterpoints. A player's masterpoint holding as of the ACBL September 2025 master point cycle (produced August 6, 2025) determines his or her flight eligibility. Masterpoint holdings are determined by ACBL headquarters.

District Residence Eligibility

The ACBL National Conditions of Contest determine a player's eligibility to play in a specific district. Players who wish an exception from the district residency requirement must notify the Chair of the District 6 Grass Roots Committee by January 1, 2026. Three special residency situations— "snowbirds," border dwellers, and players with multiple domiciles—will be handled as follows:

1. Snowbirds. Any member with a seasonal residence who spends more than half of the GNT qualifying period (considered to be September 1, 2025- February 28, 2026) in a district other than the district of his or her principal physical residence may choose to play in the district of seasonal residence. The player must play in that district's finals to be eligible for the national finals. The player is not eligible to be added to a team from another district (e.g., the district of his or her principal residence).
2. Border Dwellers. Players who live outside District 6 but near the district border and who are members of a District 6 unit may seek permission from the District 6 Grass Roots Committee to play in the District 6 GNT. A player seeking this exception must have been an active member of his or her District 6 unit for at least 5 years continuously prior to the start of the year's District 6 competition. He or she must not have played in the GNT in another district during those 5 years. (The 2020/2021 GNT is not considered for this requirement). Once this permission is granted, the player is eligible to play only in District 6 and may not change unit affiliation unless the player's principal physical residence changes.
3. Multiple Domiciles. Players with multiple domiciles may apply to the District 6 Grass Roots Committee for a one-time choice of district in which they wish to play. Players may be asked to document their time in each of their residences. A player must live at least 3 months each year in District 6 to have it considered as a possible residence for GNT purposes. Once a player with multiple domiciles chooses to compete in the District 6 GNT, the player must play only in District 6 until he or she no longer has a domicile in District 6.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Teams must pre-register to participate in the District 6 events. Registration materials must be received by the Thursday nine days before the weekend of the district event, except in Flights B and C where pre-registration must be received 16 days before. The link to the registration form will be posted to the District 6 website. In addition to submitting the on-line form, teams will be required to mail a check to or use Zelle to the District 6 Treasurer to pay for the first day entry fee; details will be on the registration form. To pre-register, team captains must submit a check or money order for \$144.00 payable to "ACBL District Six" sent to the District Treasurer at the address provided on the registration form. They must also provide the following information via the registration form:

1. A list of the names and player numbers of all players on the team
2. The e-mail address and telephone number for the team captain
3. The flight for which the team is registering to play

If a team has southern members (defined as not in units 135, 218, or 147) and reaches the second weekend, each southern member of said team will receive \$50 to help defray the cost of travel to the district final.

The Grass Roots Committee may, at its discretion, permit a team that failed to pre-register in a timely manner to play in the district event. The Committee will do so only when it concludes that adding a team will produce a better, fairer event (e.g., produce qualifying leagues of more uniform size).

Changes of Plans

Pre-registered teams that change their plans and decide not to play must notify the District Coordinator or the Chairman of the Grass Roots Committee at least 7 days before the event starts. Teams that fail to provide timely notification will forfeit their entry fee and may be subject to further penalties, including exclusion from play in the 2026-2027 event.

MINIMUM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

All members of a four-person team must be prepared to play all sessions of the district event. If there are known problems with meeting this requirement, team captains must notify the District Coordinator and make arrangements to solve these problems as far in advance as possible. Team members are required to play a minimum number of boards or sessions of the event. A team member who fails to play the required number of boards or sessions at one stage in the event is ineligible to play at later stages.

Open Championship Bracket.

All members of a team whose names appear on the pre-registration form are required to play 50% of the boards. The 50% qualifying rule may be measured in boards or in sessions. In addition, all team members are required to play either (1) 50% of the semifinals and 50% of the finals or (2) 100% of the finals. At the conclusion of the district event, if it is determined that one or more team members has failed to meet the participation requirement and did not obtain a waiver, the Grass Roots Committee may disqualify or otherwise penalize that player, the team captain, and/or the whole team (e.g., a winning team might lose part of its reimbursement for playing in the national finals).

Flights A (0-6000), B (0-3000), and C (0-750 NLM).

All members of a team whose names appear on the pre-registration entry form are required to play at least 50% of the sessions in district competition. A player who plays 100% of either the first or second weekend is deemed to have met the 50% rule (e.g., a player who plays only three sessions on the first weekend because his or her team has a bye for the other session). At the conclusion of the district event, if it is determined that one or more team members has failed to meet the participation requirement and did not obtain a waiver, the Grass Roots Committee may disqualify or otherwise penalize that player, the team captain, and/or the whole team (e.g., a winning team might lose part of its reimbursement for playing in the national finals).

ADJUSTMENTS, SUBSTITUTES, AND WITHDRAWALS

If a player on a pre-registered team becomes aware that he or she will be unable to play the required minimum number of boards or sessions in the district event, the player must immediately notify his or her team captain. The captain must notify the District Coordinator as soon as possible and no later than the close of pre-registration for the team's flight. If a player is going to play fewer than four sessions (less than one session in Flight C or less than two sessions in Flight B), in general that player will be treated as a substitute (see the rules on substitutes below). If the team captain provides sufficient evidence that a team member's absence is due to an unanticipated emergency, the District Coordinator, in consultation with the Grass Roots Committee, may decide that an exception to the minimum participation rules is warranted. In this case, the member who is absent due to an emergency may be granted a waiver that enables him or her to remain on the team and participate in later stages of the event. If the player is not granted a waiver, he or she will be treated as a substitute. Should one or more members of a team win the district competition in two flights, they must play in the higher flight at the national level. If a player wins the district competition in a given flight, he or she becomes ineligible to compete in the same year's district competition in a lower flight. If these rules render fewer than two of the original players on a winning team eligible to compete at the national level, the second-place team will represent District 6. Otherwise, the team may add eligible players to field a team for the national level of the event.

Substitutes

1. A team that is able to field only one registered member in a match must forfeit the match. If only two or three members are available, a substitute(s) may be used. The substitute may play for no more than two sessions.
 - a. If four team members are available, a substitute is not permitted to replace an absent fifth or sixth.
 - b. A team must field four team members and no substitutes for half the sessions and half the boards it plays in the district event.
 - c. If a team will need a substitute, the team captain must inform the District Coordinator as soon as this need becomes known.
 - d. A proposed substitute must be approved by the Chair of the Grass Roots Committee (see description of player evaluation and approval process below).

e. If the District Coordinator is notified in advance that a player will be late for a match and an approved substitute begins the match, the Coordinator shall permit the player to enter the match at the conclusion of the hand being played when the player arrives at the game site.

f. Substitutes do not affect a team's seeding.

Replacements and Augmentations

Team captains may ask to add new team members or replace existing members. They may not have played as a member of another team in that flight. (A player who has preregistered as a member of another team in the flight may not switch teams unless and until the other team's captain has notified the District Coordinator that the player is no longer on his or her team or that his or her team is canceling its pre-registration.) As described below, the Chair of the Grass Roots Committee will implement the player evaluation and approval process to assess proposed augmentations and replacements and determine whether to approve them. No combination of substitutes, replacements, or augmentations will be permitted where this would strengthen the team. Only the team captain can make a request for substitutes, replacements, or augmentations.

Player Evaluation and Approval Process

To request a substitute, replacement, or augmentation, the team captain will contact the Chair of the Grass Roots Committee with the name(s) of the player(s) to be approved. If unable to contact the Chair, the captain shall contact the District Coordinator or, if necessary, another member of the Grass Roots Committee. The Chair, after consultation with at least one appropriate committee member, may decide to accept or reject the request. The Chair shall promptly inform the captain of the decision. If the Chair rejects a proposed substitute, replacement, or augmentation, the captain may request that a named five-member panel (the Chair and four others) be convened to make that decision. The captain is entitled to remove one member of the panel (other than the Chair) without cause and to select a new member (acceptable to the Grass Roots Committee) to replace him or her. The captain may request the replacement of additional members (including the Chair) for stated cause. The Chair will ensure that the captain is promptly informed of the panel decision, including the panel's aggregate vote on the proposal. The captain will not be told who voted which way. There is no appeal from the panel ruling. If the Chair decides that a decision about a proposed substitute, replacement, or augmentation is "too close to call," the District Coordinator, in consultation with the Director-in-Charge, shall constitute a five-member panel to make the decision. The captain will have the same removal, replacement, and notification rights as described in the preceding paragraph for a panel convened at his or her request. The Chair may advise the captain of individuals who he thinks would be appropriate as substitutes, replacements, or augmentations in this case. Late in the event (quarterfinal or later), the Chair may request an opinion from the opposing team captain. Since it is virtually impossible to measure in advance the relative importance in a given match of partnership strengths or individual abilities, the approval process will use as their yardstick the principle that a player being considered as a substitute, augmentation, or replacement must be of equal or less ability than any member of the team who is to sit out.

CONVENTIONS

In the District-level Open flight, conventions permitted by the Open+ Chart are allowed. In the District-level Flight A, conventions permitted by the Open Chart are allowed. In the district level B and C flights, only conventions permitted by the Basic+ Chart are allowed. If it is unclear whether the relevant chart allows a certain modification or extension of a convention, a player must send a clear written summary of the modification or extension to the District Coordinator, explaining the question it poses. The Coordinator will respond to all such questions that he or she receives at least two weeks prior to the first KO session. The Coordinator will discuss with the DIC and, if necessary, seek confirmation by e-mail to the ACBL at rulings@acbl.org. Modifications and extensions that have not been approved by the DIC are assumed not to be permitted. If a pair uses an illegal convention, penalties will be assessed according to standard ACBL procedures.

TIMELINESS

The following topics are key in helping to ensure a fair playing environment for all players in all flights. Late Arrival: Players are responsible to plan travel to the playing site so that they will arrive on time. They are responsible to consult available information online about traffic and weather problems and to plan their travel so that they will be at the playing site and ready to play on time, even if they encounter unanticipated delays of 15 to 20 minutes. The DIC has discretion to reduce or waive late arrival penalties when he or she determines that players encountered extraordinary obstacles to timely arrival that could not reasonably have been anticipated or overcome (e.g., emergency road closures affecting players traveling long distances, such as those traveling from well beyond the Washington D.C. metro area). Delays involving local commuters are highly unlikely to warrant reductions or waivers of penalties. Penalties for late arrival will be based on scheduled starting times or (for post-dinner break lateness) agreed-upon starting times that are posted on the Flight sheets. Tardiness up to and including ten minutes incurs no score penalty. After that the tardiness and slow play penalties from the General Conditions of Contest – Knockout Teams apply. The opposing team may not waive a penalty for tardiness.

Breaks

Unless otherwise specified, in face-to-face play the break between sessions will be approximately 1.25 hours. The second half will ordinarily begin between 60 and 90 minutes after completion of actual play in the first half or the scheduled completion of the first half, whichever is earlier. By mutual agreement among the team captains and the Director-in-Charge, an earlier or later restart time may be selected, normally no later than 90 minutes after the scheduled completion of the first half. The agreed-upon restart time will be the basis for calculating lateness penalties for the session after the break. If both teams are ready to begin play 10 (or fewer) minutes before the agreed upon restart time, the captains may agree to do so. For slow play monitoring purposes, such an agreement does not alter the officially agreed upon restart time. Breaks between segments of knockout play are ten minutes.

SLOW PLAY

Players are expected to maintain a steady pace of play. Players should alert the DIC when their opponents are playing slowly. Knockout and round robin play are timed to allow eight minutes per board in each segment. The DIC will start the time clock when the boards have been handed out to all the tables. No boards will be removed from a segment. Failure to start one or more boards before time expires constitutes a slow play infraction. Failure to complete the final board of a segment within eight

minutes of the end of the time scheduled for the segment is also an infraction. These infractions may be assessed against one or both pairs at the table. In determining responsibility for slow play, the Director-in-Charge will consider:

- Acknowledgement of fault by one or more players
- Delays resulting from repeated post-mortems
- Unnecessary absences from the table during the segment
- Personal observation
- Complaints during the segment
- Other reliable kinds and sources of information

The DIC's judgment on who is at fault for slow play is final and cannot be appealed. Slow play infractions accumulate for each partnership throughout the district event. They do not accumulate across multiple flights. A pair may be guilty of a slow play infraction in more than one session of a match. The first slow play infraction is not penalized. The second infraction will result in both a board reduction penalty in a future match and in seeding point penalties. Board reduction penalties do not apply in Flights B and C. If a board-reduction penalty is assessed against the winning team during the round of 16, 8, or 4, the penalty shall be applied in the team's next match. If a board reduction penalty is assessed against the losing team during the round of 16, 8, or 4, or by either team in the final, the penalty shall be applied the next time the pair reaches the round of 8 (i.e., in a subsequent year). Board reduction penalties follow the partnership. If a partnership splits, each player carries the full four-board penalty the first time he or she reaches the round of 8. The board reduction penalty is a reduction of four boards. At half-time of the match at which the penalty applies, the captain of the opposing team may choose whether to shorten the match by enforcing the penalty. Regardless of the captain's decision, the penalty is considered paid. If two opposing teams have each earned a board-reduction penalty, the match is played to its full default length and the penalty is considered paid.

In round-robins in any flight, the first slow play infraction is not penalized. For a second infraction in the same round-robin, a one victory point penalty will be assessed. The third infraction is penalized two more victory points. Subsequent infractions are penalized at 3.5 victory points each. The assessment of victory point penalties constitutes full payment for the infractions that generated them. When a team with an unpenalized infraction survives the round robin, the infraction carries over to the knockout phase; thus, an additional slow play infraction in this phase would generate a penalty. Any player with two slow play infractions will lose 10% of his or her seeding points the following year. Third and subsequent infractions will result in the loss of an additional 10% each. These seeding point penalties apply to all flights for which a player is eligible.

The Director-in-Charge shall inform the District Coordinator of all slow play infractions and penalties.

SLOW PLAY MONITORING

1. Except when a slow play infraction has occurred and one match has fallen behind the other matches, there is one time clock for all the teams. This clock will reflect the time allotted for play and breaks, as described above.

2. If a team falls behind, the DIC will note the infraction and put that match on its own time clock.
3. Team captains may appeal to the Grass Roots Committee if they believe either that the timing process was not accurately followed or that timing rules were not properly interpreted.

CELL PHONE PENALTIES

Cell phone violations cost three IMPs in knockout matches and one Victory point in Swiss matches. Players should report all cell phone violations to the director.

PLAY FORMAT

Qualifying rounds will typically be played in a round robin format, with all teams in a flight playing one another. When a site has too many teams for a full round robin, the teams will be divided into seeded leagues that are approximately equal in size for the initial round(s). Leagues will play internally with league leaders advancing to either the semi-finals or finals on a second weekend. The flight specific sections below describe how league play works in more detail. Three-way, two-way, and round robin formats may be used throughout the first qualifying weekend of the district finals, as appropriate to accommodate the numbers of teams who participate.

Three-way matches

In three-way matches, there will be no score comparisons during the second half of the match. Comparison of scores will take place only at the end of the second half. If a team compares scores part way through the second half, it will be penalized up to 6 IMPs (3 IMPs go to each non-offending team). Seating rights are by coin flip, unless a team has earned their seed in that year's round robin. In that case, the seeded team has choice of seating.

All-day 48 board three-ways in which two teams qualify. The first and second sessions will each consist of two 12-board segments against each team (i.e., each team will play 24 boards against each of its opponents).

All-day 56 board three-ways in which one team qualifies. The first and second sessions will each consist of two 14-board segments against each team.

All-day three-ways in which one team may be eliminated at the dinner break. The first session will consist of two 16-board sets played against each team. Teams will compare scores after 8 boards have been played in each match. If one team is behind in both matches at the meal break and also has the largest negative IMP total in the match, it will be eliminated at the meal break. The second session will be 24 boards. If one team has been knocked out at the half, the second session will consist of a head-to-head knockout between the two survivors with 100% carryover of IMPs from the first session. If all three teams qualify to play the second session, each team will play an additional 12-board set against each other team. One team will survive. If all three teams have won a match, total IMPs determine which team survives.

Two-session three-way matches. A posted schedule shall provide each team with a balanced schedule of primary and secondary seating rights in quarters 2, 3, and 4. In three-way matches, ties will be broken in accordance with ACBL General Knockout Team Conditions (i.e., by net IMPs).

Two-way Matches

Two-session, four-quarter two-way matches. Seating rights are by coin flip, unless a team has earned their seed in that year's round robin. In that case, the seeded team has choice of seating. The winner of the coin toss may select seating rights for either the 1st & 4th or the 2nd & 3rd quarters. In knockout play, changes in partnership(s) may be made only at the point where the teams stop play to compare scores, except in emergency situations with the director's approval. Should any two-way match end in a tie, continuing four-board tiebreakers will be used. There will be no seeding privileges in such playoffs. Play will begin after a short intermission to recheck scores.

Round Robins Conditions under which teams may change partnerships will be announced at the start of the session. Tie-break conditions will be posted.

APPEALS

During the district event, appeals of director's rulings and protests of scoring errors are administered in accordance with ACBL rules by the normal tournament authority. The Director-in-Charge, in consultation with members of the Grass Roots Committee, is authorized to form telephone committees if an appropriate committee cannot be formed on site. In the Open Flight, District 6 players with the requisite expertise, objectivity, and availability to serve on committees may be scarce. Accordingly, the Director-in-Charge, in consultation with the Chair of the District 6 Grass Roots Committee and the District 6 GNT Coordinator, may decide to form e-mail committees including players inside and/or outside District 6. If an appeals committee finds that an appeal should not have been brought because there were no grounds for it (i.e., finds it to be without merit) a 20% reduction of seeding points will be assessed against the appealing pair and the team captain. This penalty applies to all flights for which a player is eligible. The penalty will apply for three years. If a player makes more than one appeal that a committee finds to be without merit, a District 6 Conduct and Ethics Committee may be convened and a further penalty assessed.

FORFEITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

If a forfeit or disqualification occurs between the first Saturday and first Sunday, either the team eliminated in a KO by the offending team will advance or the highest non-qualifier in the offending team's league will advance. If the forfeiture or disqualification occurs after the first Sunday and before the semi-finals, no eliminated team will advance. If a team is disqualified after the first weekend of district play, leaving only three teams in the event, the semi-final event will be played as a three-way contest, with full carryover from the first weekend round robin to a maximum of 12.5 IMPS to the final. If the first weekend was played in leagues there will be no carryover in the semi-final three way. If the District winning team is disqualified, the second-place team advances.

SEEDING

Team membership determines seeding in the District event. There will be no seeding point consideration given to foreign players who are new ACBL members unless the ACBL has made a masterpoint adjustment or the player has represented his or her country in open international play. Seeding rules are described in the section on flight-specific conditions of contest.

COMPENSATION FROM DISTRICT SIX FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

In each flight, except in the case of Flight B and Flight C played at two sites, regardless of the number of players on the team, the winning team will receive \$2000 compensation to help defray travel and hotel costs, as long as four or more members of the original team will be playing at the national level. However, if three or fewer members of the original team will be playing at the national level, the team's compensation will be \$500 times the number of original players participating. Thus, if the original team consisted of four players and one or more players is unable to play at the national level, compensation is reduced by one quarter for each player dropping off. For instance, if only 3 of the original players go to the 2026 Summer NABC, the team compensation will be \$1500. Except in cases of death or severe disability, there will be no exceptions to this rule. Teams receive compensation in the form of a single check made out to the team captain, available when the team captain picks up the entry for the first session of play at the NABC. Team members who need the money earlier should contact the District 6 Treasurer. In Flight B and Flight C, the winners at each site will be provided \$1400 (the average of \$2000 for the winner and \$800 for second place that the District provided last time there were sufficient teams to send two representative teams). If Flight B or C is played at two sites with different numbers of teams, the District Six Grass Roots Committee, prior to the competition, may decide to provide the winner at a site with more than 60% of the teams with a somewhat larger share of the total funds reserved for the Flight C winners. If Flight B or Flight C is played at only one site, the winning team will be provided \$2000.

AUGMENTATION FOR THE NABC

In all flights, teams that win the District competition may add a 5th and/or 6th player for the NABC. Augmentations must be made before June 1, 2026. The names of the augmented players must be provided to the District Coordinator. Augmented players will not receive compensation from District 6.

The Continuous 20-VP scale will be used in Swiss and Round Robin stages of the District Six finals.

FLIGHT-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

CHAMPIONSHIP (OPEN) FLIGHT

The following conditions pertain only to the Championship (Open) Flight.

Pre-registration deadline: January 22, 2026

Time and Place:

First Weekend: Play on Saturday and Sunday, February 1-2, 2025. Time 10:30; Second Session TBD.

Location: Newport Mill Middle School, 11311 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington MD 20895

Second Weekend: Semifinal/Final Matches: Play on Saturday (Semifinals) and Sunday (Finals), February 21-22, 2025. Time TBD. Dinner break is one hour. Location: NVBA Sectional, Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. Fairfax, VA 22031.

Play Format

9-12 Teams: A complete round robin over the course of the first weekend. The top 4 teams qualify for a knock out the second weekend.

13 or More Teams: All matches are two- or three-way seeded knockouts.

Flighting:

13 Teams: First Saturday: a combination of two-way and three-way matches will be held. Two-way matches will consist of 48 boards. Comparisons are made after 12 boards. In three-way matches, 48 boards are played. No comparisons between 3rd and 4th quarters.

1 2 3 7 versus 10

6 5 4

11 12 13 8 versus 9

14 Teams: A combination of two-way and three-way matches will be held. Two-way matches will consist of 48 boards. Comparisons are made after 12 boards. In three-way matches, 48 boards are played. No comparisons between 3rd and 4th quarters.

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 12 11 10 9

14 13

15 Teams: With 15 teams, teams seeded 7, 8, and 9 should be in a three-way match. The team that wins this match (7, 8, 9) becomes number 7 seed and the second-place team becomes number 8 seed. All other teams in head-to-head matches.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

15 14 13 12 11 10 8

9

16 Teams: Straight KOs

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9

17 Teams: Matches are either all-day head- to-head KOs or three-way matches. The match assignment of teams has been predetermined according to seed position as specified by the Grass Roots Committee. There will be head-to-head matches with the first 16 teams and the 17th team will be randomly shuffled in to make one three-way match.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9

***Team 17 will be shuffled into one of the matches

18 Teams: Round Robin matches. There will be two brackets with nine teams in each bracket. There will be eight six-board matches the first day. Four teams will qualify from each bracket. The winner of each bracket will choose between teams 3 and 4 for play the next day. The #1 and #2 seeds are as seeded. The 3-8 are shuffled in pairs to determine their placement in the brackets (e.g., the shuffle may assign the third highest seeded team the fourth seed and vice versa). Teams 9 to the end will be split into a higher seeded group and a lower seeded group. Bracketing in each group will be determined by random shuffle. If groups are uneven, the larger group will be the lower seeded group.

Semifinal and Final The semi-final matches and the final match will each be 52 boards, unless site constraints dictate otherwise.

Picking opponents in the semi-final

- If the first weekend is a round robin with 4 teams advancing: the 2nd place team declares whether they are prepared to play the 1st place team; then, the 1st place team picks an opponent. There is no carry-over to the second weekend.
- If there were two leagues, we stay in the leagues so 1st plays 2nd, then the winners meet in the final. There is a carry-over in the semi-finals of a maximum of 12.5 MPs.

Seeding for the Open Flight

The Director-in-Charge will use seeding patterns drawn up in advance by the District 6 GNT Planning Committee. Seeding will be accomplished in one of two manners:

1. Seeding is based on the masterpoint holding and bonus seeding points of each team member who will be competing in the District final, as described below, OR
2. Seeding will be made by a panel of expert players who are not playing in the events

A decision regarding the seeding procedure will be made prior to the start of the events. Below, we provide the seeding formula for the Open Flight.

Seeding points based on masterpoint holdings are allocated as follows:

- Players with fewer than 500 masterpoints are awarded 16 seeding points
- 501-1000 masterpoints = 17 seeding points
- 1001-1500 masterpoints = 18 seeding points
- 1501-2000 masterpoints = 19 seeding points
- 2001-2500 masterpoints= 20 seeding points
- 2501-3000 masterpoints = 21 seeding points
- 3001-3500 masterpoints = 22 seeding points

- 3500-4000 masterpoints = 23 seeding points

One seeding point is added for each full

- 1000 points from 4001 to 10,000 points
- 4001- 5000 masterpoints = 24 seeding points
- 5001- 6000 masterpoints = 25 seeding points, etc.

One seeding point is added for each full

- 2500 masterpoints between 10,000 and 20,000. 20,000=33.
- 5,000 masterpoints through 30,000.

30,000=35.

● Players with 40,000 or more masterpoints will receive an additional seeding point. Seeding points will be computed from the November 1, 2025 masterpoint cycle for each person on the team. Bonus seeding points are earned by performance in GNT and NAP events for the previous five years as follows:

	1st	2nd	3 rd /4th	5th/6 th ; 7th/8 th (NAP only)
GNT	6.5	4.5	2.5	** .5/1
NAP	3	2	1	.5

**If you win both halves of a three-way, you will receive 1.0 seeding points. If you win one match of a three-way, you receive .5 seeding points. If you are in the bottom of a bracket and you win a match, you win 1.0 seeding points. If you are in the top of the bracket, and you win a match, you will receive .5 seeding points. A Grand Life Master who becomes a new member of District 6 will be credited with 3 bonus seeding points for each of the 5 years prior to becoming a member of the District. The total number of bonus seeding points plus the master point seeding points per team is divided by the number of players on that team. That result will be used to seed the teams in order.

FLIGHT A (0-6000)

The following conditions pertain only to Flight A.

Pre-registration deadline: March 19, 2026

First Weekend: Play on Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18. Time TBD. Location: TBD

Second Weekend: Semifinal/Final Matches: Play on Saturday (Semifinals) and Sunday (Finals), May 2-3, 2026. Location: TBD

Play Format

For at most 12 teams: A complete round robin over the course of the first weekend. The top 4 teams qualify for the second weekend. If there are 5 or 6 teams, the round robin will be played on the first Saturday with a one day 3-way knockout on Sunday and the second weekend will be cancelled. With 4

teams the round robin will be played on the first Saturday with a one-day final on Sunday between the top two teams and the second weekend will be cancelled.

For greater than 12 teams: The form of play will be round-robin leagues on the first Saturday, with KOs beginning on the first Sunday. Matches will be played in a single sitting (i.e., not interrupted by a dinner break or a score comparison.) The highest seeded teams will be assigned as the #1 and #2 seed of each league in the round robin. The #3 and lower seeds for each league will be assigned by the seeding formula, shuffled in groups of the same number as there are leagues, and randomly placed in each league. All teams will play the entire first Saturday of the District event. Comparisons will be made at the end of each match except the penultimate match. On the first Sunday, qualifying teams will continue to play within their original leagues with 100% carryover up to a maximum of 4.5 IMPs from Saturday's play.

Tie-breaking Conditions

In a round robin, if two teams are tied in Victory Points, the tie is broken in the following sequence:

1. Conversion of all matches to Win/Loss/Tie
2. IMP result of the Head-to-Head Match(es)
3. Total Point Result of the Head-to-Head Match(es)

If the above procedures do not break the tie, ties that determine a bye or a qualifier will be broken by a two-board playoff. Other ties will be broken by a coin flip. A tie in any two-board playoff will be broken by a coin flip.

Seeding in Flight A

The Director-in-Charge will use seeding patterns drawn up in advance by the District 6 GNT Planning Committee. Seeding will be accomplished in one of two manners:

1. Seeding is based on the masterpoint holding and bonus seeding points of each team member who will be competing in the District final, as described below, OR
2. Seeding will be made by a panel of expert players who are not playing in the events

Below, we provide the seeding formula for Flight A

The seeding point figure for each team member is computed based on the IMP scale through 4000 points. One additional seeding point is added for a player with 4001-6000 points. Seeding points will be computed from the November 1, 2025 masterpoint cycle for each person on the team. Bonus seeding points are earned by performance in GNT, GNT A (0-6000) and North American Pairs events for the previous five years. The following chart indicates the number of bonus IMPs awarded for high finishes in these events:

	1st	2nd	3rd/4th or 3rd	5th/8th	4th/6th	2nd Day
GNT Open	8	6	4	2		
GNT A	6	4.5	3	2		

NAP 6 5 3 2 1

Note: When two matches are won (in three-way on second day decided by net IMPs), 2nd place finisher receives bonus. The total number of seeding points per team is divided by the number of players on that team. That result will be used to seed the teams in order.

The semi-final and final matches will each be 48 boards.

Picking opponents in the semi-final.

- If the first weekend is a round robin with 4 teams advancing, the 2nd place team declares whether they are prepared to play the 1st place team. Then, the 1st place team picks an opponent. There is no carry-over to the second weekend.
- If there were two leagues, we stay in the leagues for the semi-final. There is a carry-over in the semi-finals of a maximum of 4.5 MPs.

FLIGHT B (0-3000)

The following conditions pertain only to Flight B.

Flight B will be a two-day, four session events. It will be held at two sites, provided that at least 5 teams register to play at each site. The winning team at each site will be invited to play at the national event held at the 2026 summer NABC. If enough teams do not register to play at a site, the event will be restructured to be played at one site. Teams registered at the dropped site will be notified and permitted to withdraw without penalty, or to play at the remaining site.

Time and Place:

Pre-registration deadline: January 15, 2026

Play on Saturday and Sunday, January 31-February 1, 2026. Time 10:30; Second Session TBD.

Northern Site: Newport Mill Middle School, 11311 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington MD 20895

Southern Site: Bridge Center, 817 Kempsville Rd, Virginia Beach, VA

Play Format

The form of play will be a round robin over two days if twelve or fewer teams enter at a site, otherwise play will be an unseeded Swiss team event on Saturday, qualifying 4 teams to knockout on Sunday with 24 board matches. If it is necessary to run at one site with fewer than five teams, then the event will be played as a round robin on Saturday only.

FLIGHT C (Non-LM, 0-750)

The following conditions pertain only to Flight C.

Flight C will be a one day, two session events. It will be held at two sites, provided that at least 5 teams register to play at each site. If a sufficient number of teams do not register to play at a site, the event will be restructured to be played at one site. Teams registered at the dropped site will be notified and permitted to withdraw without penalty, or to play at the remaining site.

Play Format

If there are 9 or fewer teams at a site, the format of play will be round robin otherwise play will be an unseeded Swiss team event. The winning team at each site will be invited to play at the national event held at the 2026 summer NABC.

Time and Place

Pre-registration deadline: January 16, 2025

Northern Site: Newport Mill Middle School, 11311 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington MD 20895. First Session starts at 10:30 AM, second session TBD.

Southern Site: Richmond Bridge Center, 1911 Bishop Rd., Richmond VA 23230. Sessions at 10:30 and TBD.