

Grand National Team News

For several weeks Unit 103 attempted to set up an online GNT qualifying game. This would have allowed District 14 players who had not qualified in face-to-face games to compete in the GNT semifinals, which will be held on May 4 or May 5 depending on what flight people play in. Because we were unable to get a sanction for this game our District GNT Coordinator Jade Barrett has halved the buy-in fee to \$10 for players who don't appear on the ACBL master list at:

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/GNT_Qualifiers/GNT_D14.htm .

Note that qualifiers are listed by Unit when you are searching for your name. Should you need a buy-in, send an extra \$10 with your team entry to:

Keith Thompson
1544 Minnehaha Ave East
Saint Paul, MN 55106

The full conditions of contest are listed below.

District 14 GNT Conditions of Contest 2023

Players in ANY Online or In-Person GNT club qualifying team games (wherever it is hosted) during the months of September-March will qualify to play in the District semi-finals in May regardless of their finish, (dates below).

District Finals will begin with a 1 day/2 session Swiss team event with the format based on attendance. If a flight has 4 or fewer teams, they will not play in a Swiss, but will play off on the 4th and 5th of May.

The Entry Fees are \$60 per team per session, \$120 total for a 2 session day.

These games will take place on BridgeBase Online.

Open Flight Swiss – Saturday, May 4th (start time 10:00)

Flight B (0-2500) Swiss – Saturday, May 4th (start time 10:00)

Flight A (0-6000) Swiss – Sunday, May 5th(start time 10:00)

Flight C (0-500 NLM) Swiss – Sunday, May 5th (Start time 10:00)

The Finals will be held Sat May 18th and Sun May 19th starting at 10am (if needed). Teams need to register at the latest, by noon Friday, May 3rd. Please register by emailing names, email addresses and BBO names for all players to Keith Thompson at keithclockt@icloud.com. Mail the entry fees plus any buy-ins to Keith at the address above. Note on the memo line GNT along with the number of players in your team, and the number of buy-ins your check is covering. This information is important and will save time as the semifinals approach. Any team who has prepaid the District buy-in fee of \$20 will get a refund for anything extra.

Each Swiss event will generate the four teams to play in the District 14 Finals. The 1st place finisher in the Swiss will select from the 3rd or 4th place finishers to be their opponents in the first stage of the Finals.

The winner of the finals of each event will represent District 14 in Toronto, Ontario CA the NABC July 16-20th, 2024. If Flight B or Flight C begins the event with 8 or more teams, 2 teams will be qualified to represent the District at the NABC.

Winning teams may augment only with the approval of the D14 GNT Coordinator to 6 players with the following conditions:

Three of the original members are continuing on to the NABC;

That the players being augmented have participated in the Semifinal or Finals at the District level.

That the participation of all members meets the minimum requirement of boards played as noted in the ACBL GNT Conditions of Contest.

The Swiss Qualifiers will play the following length matches based on attendance:

3 teams 2 20 board matches

4 teams 3 14 board matches

5 teams 4 10 board matches

6 teams 5 8 board matches

7 teams 6 7 board matches

8 teams 7 6 board matches

9 teams 8 5 board matches

10+ teams also 8 5 board matches

All matches will be scored on the 20 VP scale

With 3 teams there will be a one day event with 2 20 board matches each played in 3 sessions (since BBO does not allow 3 way matches each team will only play 2 sessions, sitting out while the other teams play).

With 2 entries there will be a 40 board match.

If there is a tie for the last qualifying spot in the Swiss, the tiebreakers in order:

Total wins

Net Total IMPs

Head to head match.

Coin Toss

In the event of a tie during the Knockout phase there will be 4 board playoffs until a winner is decided.

On a parting note, District 14 has permission to run face-to-face GNT qualifiers until the end of April. Club managers please note that these names will not be collected by the ACBL. Should you hold a GNT qualifier, all players involved will be able to play in the semifinals with no buy-in necessary. Notify Keith Thompson of any new qualifiers at: keithclockt@icloud.com.

The Director in Charge has not yet been selected, so start times for the various flights will be dependent on the number of teams and the ease of inviting all the involved players onto BBO.

Good luck to everyone in May. We will be following our District winners at the Nationals in Toronto.