

Site:

Bridge Center of North St. Paul

2603 6th Ave E, North St Paul, MN 55109

651-490-5430

Mn-36 exit: McKnight or Century Ave

<http://maps.yahoo.com/#mvt=m&lat=45.012222&lon=-92.989828&zoom=16&q1=2603%206th%20Ave%20E.%2C%20North%20St%20Paul%2C%20MN%2C%A055109>

Win Your Entry Fee for the District Final

*As long as there are at least three teams competing in your flight, the profits from the Unit Final event will be used to pay your entry fees at the District Final for as long as you remain qualified.

You need not play with your winning teammates from the Unit Finals at the District Finals.

If you are in Flight A or the Championship flights and there are fewer than three teams competing in your flight, you will have to win the Unit Final outright to receive the entry fee reimbursement.

Club Qualification Required to play in the Unit Finals

If you are in Flights B or C

Qualify as an individual with any average+ finish in your stratum in a GNT club qualifier.

Form a team with 4- 6 players for Unit Final competition.

Overall masterpoints for unit finals:

20% Gold, 80% Red for Open/ Flt. A

10% Gold, 90% Red in flight B

5% Gold, 95% Red in flight C.

Match awards: Red @ sectional rating

For Further Info/questions contact:

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& District 14 GNT Coordinator

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Tony Ames Ynotsema@aol.com can help with team formation.

Learn More About the GNTs:

ACBL Conditions of Contest

http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Conditions-of-Contest/Other-GNT_CoC.pdf

Dist. 14 GNT Conditions of Contest

<http://bridgedistrict14.com>

**Save the Dates
May 15-16, 2010 for the
District14 GNT finals**



GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

Joint 103/178

Unit Finals

District 14

2009-2010

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Stratified GNT Swiss Teams:

2- Session 11:00am & 3:30pm

(\$64/team)

**'Go for the Gold
Go for the Green'**

***Win Your Entry Fees
for the District Finals***

***Win in any flight at the Unit Final
and you will not have to pay entry
fees at the District Final****

Kimberly Hayward, DIC;

Sanction: U103/178

We heard your complaints about the \$11 surcharge at the 2009 District Final:

Why SHOULD you have to pay for something with nothing in return?

Dist.14 policies state:

"It is the option of the unit to hold Unit Finals. Players who do not play in a Unit Final (either because their unit chose to not hold a Unit Final or because their unit did hold a Unit Final but they chose not to play in it) will be required to pay an \$11 surcharge at the District Final."

Why hold a Unit Final?

Playing in the Unit Finals will not restrict your eligibility to play in the District Final even if you don't do well..

Give players something to play for: gold points, masterpoints, plus entry fee reimbursement should you win your flight at the Unit Final, rather than 'surcharge' them with no alternative.

A Minnesota-wide GNT Unit final increases turnout, master-point awards. The income will allow Unit Final flight winners to receive free entries at the District finals.

Questions and Answers about Grand National Teams (GNT)

Q. What are the GNTs?

A. The Grand National Teams (GNTs) are the second of the ACBL's "grass roots" events that begin at the club level and continue through district qualifying events to a National Final during the summer NABC.

Winning teams from each flight in each District begin play on the Wednesday just before the start of the summer NABC in a format that culminates in daylong KOs with open/closed rooms, preduplicated hand records, screens, drama & excitement.

In particular, Flights B and C offer newer players the opportunity to compete against peers in conditions very similar to the most prestigious team events in the world.

Q. Why doesn't the ACBL pay for the winners' trip like the North American Pairs (NAP) tournament?

A. District winners in the 3 flights of the NAP receive \$700, 2nd place finishers \$300, from the ACBL. They can do this because the local clubs run a lot of qualifying games and the ACBL receives \$4/table from all of the club qualifying games and \$7/table/session from Unit finals and District finals which are 4 session playthroughs and not a knockout competition..

The ACBL does not support the Districts at all for the GNTs and lets each District have their own policy regarding subsidizing the winning teams.

The GNTs have 4 flights not 3, and there are 4 players in each flight (team of 4) vs. the 2 players in a pair competition. So our district is subsidizing a trip for 16 people, while the ACBL pays \$1000 for 2 pairs in 3 flights.

In the 2008-2009 GNT cycle we earned nearly \$6,000 to split among the 4 flights. The ACBL spent \$3,000. It should be stated, however, that NAP contestants do not have to pay entry fees at the Nationals while GNT players do.

Q. will a poor performance in a joint Unit final discourage teams from playing at the District final?

A. The team that won the District final in Flight B in 2008 did not even reach the knockout stage in 2009. The flight C winners in 2008 got to the semifinals in 2009 but did not reach the final. Nor did arguably the strongest Flight A team in the field.

The new conditions of contest will qualify more than four teams for the final day in Flights B and C if more than 8 teams are entered. If you play well enough to be in the top half of the field on the qualifying day, and you play well on Sunday, then any team can win the trip.

Just because you had a bad day at the Unit Final should not keep you from trying again at the District Final. Two good days of bridge could win you a trip to New Orleans NABC in the summer of 2010.