

November 15, 2009

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS 2009-2010

Dear Club Managers of District 14,

This is the first districtwide communication regarding this year's GNT competition. The Grand National Teams (GNTs) are one of two ACBL_ "grass roots" events that begin at the club level and continue through district qualifying events to a National Final. The GNT competition is an event in which your players can win **red** and **gold** points without leaving their unit area.

GNT competition is divided into four flights: **Championship** Flight (unlimited masterpoints), **Flight A** for players with fewer than 5,000 masterpoints, **Flight B** for players with fewer than 2,000 master-points, and **Flight C** for Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Flight eligibility was established by ACBL's September masterpoint cycle produced on August 6, 2009. Masterpoints won after this cycle do not impact flight eligibility for these events.

The District 14 competition for the 2009-2010 Grand National Teams (GNT) began on September 1, 2009. GNT competition is at three levels: (1) club qualifying games, (2) unit qualifying games and (3) the District 14 Finals which will be held in New Brighton, MN on May 15 and 16, 2010. The Four flights play separately at the district finals and the winning teams in each flight will receive a subsidy to compete in the Summer Nationals in New Orleans. Winning teams received nearly \$1600 this year.

Flight B & C players qualify for unit or district finals in club-qualifying games if their team:

1. Wins one-half or more of their matches in a Swiss Teams (a tie is one-half of a win)
2. Finishes average or higher in scoring system used to rank teams (VP or win-loss)
3. Finishes in the top 50% within a stratum or flight in the scoring system used

Note to club Directors: ACBLScore does not always qualify every team eligible by the above rules. It might be necessary to add manual qualifications before making the results official.

In a Unit in which only one club qualification event is held, all Flight C players who participate in the event will qualify for the District Final.

Flight A and Championship flight players need only play in a club or unit-qualifying game to qualify for play in the District final.

Encourage your players to participate in these events. Schedule several club qualifying games so that a maximum number of your players can win colored masterpoints and play in the district finals. If you do not plan to schedule any club qualifying games, please notify your unit president immediately of your decision in order that the unit may schedule club qualifying games in your stead.

Here are links to the current District 14 and ACBL conditions of contest for the GNTs:

District 14 GNT Conditions of Contest:

<http://www.bridgedistrict14.com/d14ie.html> GNT tab

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

New & Improved

A number of new procedures have been implemented for this year's competition. Club managers do not have to forward table fees to the district for their qualifying games until they have completed their all of the club qualifiers instead of after every qualifier held. I will let club managers know how much they owe District 14 after I receive a printout from the ACBL at the conclusion of the qualifying period.

Resources are available (soon) to assist you in setting up teams games should you need any help. Look on the GNT tab at bridgedistrict14.com. Tony Ames has a lot of experience running club qualifiers and will be happy to help also. <mailto:ynotsema@aol.com>.

Please consider sponsoring a GNT Fund Raiser Game by your club. This game may be either a individual, pair or team event. The game awards black points at a full sectional rating. The revenues received by District 14 from your GNT Fund Raiser Game can be used to defer travel expenses for your players who have to travel out of your unit to the District finals.

Feel free to contact me regarding any questions you might have about the GNTs. My long range goal is to raise enough funds during the competition so that each winning team in each of the four flights has \$2,000 to offset the cost to travel to the summer nationals. As nearly half of GNT revenue (this year anyway) comes from the table fees from club qualifiers we need your support of the event to reach this goal.

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