

Announcing Grand National Teams 2018

Dear Capital Area Bridge players of ACBL Unit 207,

Every year, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) conducts a team competition called Grand National Teams, or GNT for short. Competition starts at the club level and ends at the Summer North American Bridge Championships (NABC).

Now is the time for you to form a team (4-6 people) and to begin your GNT journey. You and your teammates could become the Grand National Teams Champions!!

Not a top flight bridge player?

NO PROBLEM! The GNT has four flights based on your accumulated masterpoints. You compete against teams at your masterpoint level.

- The lowest level, Flight C, is open to players who have less than 500 masterpoints and are not Life Masters.
- The next level up, Flight B, is open to players who have less than 2,500 masterpoints.
- Flight A is clipped at 6,000 masterpoints.
- The Open Championship Flight is open to anyone.

NOTE: Masterpoints are based on points you had earned as of the August 6, 2017 report from ACBL.

To find out your masterpoint holdings as of August 6,

[Click or tap here.](#)

How do I start competing?

If you are competing in Flight B or Flight C, your team must qualify either at the club level or the unit level to compete at the next level, the District 16 (Texas and Mexico) level. (Open Flight and Flight A teams start competing at the District level. The District 16 GNT event will be held at the Houston Sectional May 4-6.)

Clubs can hold GNT qualification games, in fact, two are already scheduled.

- Sunday, January 28, 1:30pm, at the Bridge Center of Austin
- Friday, March 9, 10:00am, at the San Marcos Activity Center

Clubs can conduct qualification games through the end of March. Check with club managers where you play to see if other games are planned.

The **Unit 207 qualification game** for Flights B and C will be held on Saturday, April 14, at the Bridge Center of Austin.

If you are in either Flight B or C, you only need to qualify once at a club or unit-level contest to compete at the District level (though you may play in any or all qualification events).

NOTE: Qualification is achieved at the player level. Once you qualify, you do not have to play with the same teammates that you qualified with.

What happens if my Flight B or Flight C team qualifies?

You compete at the District level! Good job! The **District 16 GNT event** will be held at the Houston Sectional May 4-6. Only one team from

each flight emerges victorious from this competition. The winning team from each flight represents District 16 at the Summer NABC (sometimes referred to as the Summer Nationals) held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 25-29.

More Information

ACBL Conditions of Contest:

<http://web2.acbl.org/coc/GNT2017-18.pdf>.

District 16 Conditions of Contest:

http://www.d16acbl.org/COC/2018_GNT_D16.pdf.

Both documents contain important information, rules, and guidelines about the GNT. If you have any questions about the GNT, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to having a LOT of teams participating in this year's GNT! Start forming your team – it will be both challenging and fun!!

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