



2010 CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (CNTC)
FLIGHT A & B CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

I. SPONSORSHIP, SANCTION AND OPERATION

A. SPONSORSHIP

The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) is the sponsoring organization for this event. These conditions of contest have been determined by, and will be administered by, the sponsoring organization, with the approval of the sanctioning organization. In the event of any conflict between these conditions and specific sanctioning regulations of the sanctioning organization, the latter shall take precedence.

B. SANCTION

The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) is the sanctioning organization for this event. The sanctioning organization shall issue Master Point awards to participants.

C. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CNTC are:

1. To provide a method of determining annually a Canadian Open Team Champion to represent Canada internationally.
2. To provide a method of determining annually a National Winner in Flight B - under 2500 masterpoint group.
3. To conduct a grassroots national championship: that is, one which is accessible to eligible players at the club level.
4. To hold a National Final at a common site and so provide a forum for Canadian players from across the country to play and meet each other.
5. To help raise funds to subsidize the CNTC-A winners to International Competition.

D. OPERATION

The CNTC will be run under the overall control of a National Coordinator, appointed by and responsible to the Board of Directors of the CBF.

E. NAME

The name of this event shall be the **CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (CNTC)**. Where further designation of a year is included, such year shall be the year in which the event concludes, but not necessarily the year in which all competition takes place.

CNTC - Flight A (CNTC-A) - will refer to the open event.

CNTC - Flight B (CNTC-B) - will refer to the event open to all players with fewer than 2500 Masterpoints on September 1st of the year in which play begins.

II. GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF COMPETITION

A. INTRODUCTION

The CNTC will be a flighted event.

CNTC-Flight A is an open event with no masterpoint restrictions.

CNTC-Flight B is restricted to players with fewer than 2500 masterpoints as of September 1st of the year in which club play begins.

Competition will take place in two stages, under the supervision of the National Coordinator.

Level 1: The Qualifying Stage

Level 2: The National Final

Each of these levels of competition is described in detail in these Conditions.

B. THE QUALIFYING STAGE

1. A player plays at this stage in order to qualify to enter the CNTC as a member of a team which enters the event at the National Final.
2. This first level of competition will consist of qualifying rounds held at sanctioned clubs across Canada. Qualifying games may be one or two session games. **In the case of one session club qualifying games, teams may consist of ONLY four players.**

3. Club Qualifying games may be Stratified for CNTC-Flight A and CNTC-Flight B or clubs may hold separate club qualifying games for each Flight.
4. Each club will receive a sanction application form to be filled in completely and returned to the National Coordinator.
5. All Qualifying Rounds in the CNTC must take place between September 1, 2009 and January 15, 2010.
Under special circumstances the CBF National Coordinator may grant a club an extension of this deadline.
6. The nature of the Qualifying Round at any particular site will be determined by the number of teams which enter at that site. Each session must be **at least 24 boards**. Each session of a two-session Swiss must have at least three matches.
7. Regardless of the scoring system used (VP's or win/loss), a team achieves a qualifying position if it wins at least one half of its matches, computing one IMP as a win and a tie as one half; or if it is in the top 50% of the teams entered, based on the scoring system used, even if the team does not meet the first requirement above. In a stratified game, these rules apply to both the CNTC-Flight A field and the CNTC-Flight B field.
8. A player qualifies as an individual for the National Final Stage if he or she played at least the equivalent of one session for a team which achieved a qualifying position.
9. Prior to May 1, 2010 any player, whether residing in Canada or not, may upon payment of a \$100 fee receive club round qualification for any reason. This fee must be paid to the CBF Coordinator or his/her delegate and must be paid before a player is eligible to play in the event. The Qualifying Fee of \$100 does **NOT** include CBF membership, which is \$15 if paid separately or \$12.00 if submitted with ACBL fees. However, if there are no sanctioned club games within a reasonable distance - the National Coordinator may, at her sole discretion, reduce the buy-in fee to \$25 for such players applying for consideration for this reason. All applications for consideration under this clause must be submitted to the CNTC National Coordinator in writing. **This reduced buy-in fee will only be considered for resident Canadians.**
10. Upon completion of a club qualifying game, the club must within forty-eight (48) hours submit to the National Coordinator the completed report forms and **a fee of eight (\$8) dollars Canadian per team entered in a two-session qualifying game; or a fee of four (\$4) dollars Canadian per team entered in a one-session qualifying game.**
Note: fee for Master/NonMaster CNTC club game is four (\$4) dollars Canadian per team.
11. ACBL policy states: "A club that holds the CNTC and does not submit its game reports within 15 days after the completion of the event will be assessed a \$25 US late charge. The club will be suspended until the appropriate report, monies and late charges are received by the CBF Coordinator. The club will be added to the ACBL's Unresolved List and will not be granted a club sanction renewal for the coming year until the matter has been resolved."
12. Master/Non-Master CNTC Club Qualifying Game
 - a). Each game is a single session game held at the club level of play.
 - b). Sanction fee is four (\$4) dollars Canadian per team.
 - c). The Non-master is defined as any player having fewer than 200 mpts as of their September point confirmation card.
 - d). Each team must have at least two non-masters on it. Each master (player with more than 200 mpts) must play with a non-master partner.
 - e). Players on teams finishing in the top 50% plus ties and players on teams winning at least half their matches receive CNTC club round qualification as individuals. This qualification is for the regular CNTC and for the Flight in which their masterpoint total places them. The Master/Non-Master CNTC is **NOT** a separate event with further stages.

C. NATIONAL FINAL

All teams wishing to take part in the CNTC-A or CNTC-B National Final must submit their team entry to the National Coordinator no later than March 24, 2010. This official team entry must include the following:

- Team Captain's name, ACBL number
- Team Captain's mailing address, phone number and email address
- Name and ACBL numbers for all other team members
- non-refundable Round Robin entry fee of \$924 (includes IF surtax) for CNTC-Flight A and \$540 for CNTC-Flight B.
- Late entries will be accepted **ONLY** to improve the movement. (ie: if an odd number of teams have entered by the deadline)
- Changes to a team's roster may be made for any reason up until May 1, 2010.

C-1: Flight A - unlimited

1. The National Final will be held in Markham, ON from May 29 – June 5, 2010. It will consist of two stages:

(a) Stage I - Round Robin

As much as possible Stage I will be a complete Round Robin played over four days. If the number of entrants exceeds 24 teams, the field will be divided into two pools and each pool will play a round robin over four days. All matches will be scored using the WBF 25 point Victory Point Scale

(b) Stage II - Knock-Out

The top eight teams (or top four teams in each pool if the field is divided into two pools) from Stage I of the event will advance to the knockout portion of the final.

- i) Quarter-Final - 64 board match
- ii) Semi-Final - 72 board match
- iii) Final - 128 board match

The team finishing first in the Round Robin will have first pick from the teams finishing 5th thru 8th for their Quarter-Final match. The team finishing second in the Round Robin will have second pick and the team finishing third will have third pick. If the field was originally divided into two pools - the top team in each pool will pick their opponent from the teams finishing 3rd and 4th in their own pool; the remaining two teams in the same pool will play each other.

For the Semi-Final matches, the team advancing to the Semi-Final Round with the highest standing in the Round Robin will be allowed to choose its opponent from the other three teams. If the field was originally divided into two pool - the two teams remaining from each pool will play each other.

- 2. An entry fee shall be charged for all phases of the National Final. (Stages I and II)
- 3. An International Fund Surtax will be added to the National Final entry fees. A surtax of \$200 per team will be included in the entry fee for Stage I of the CNTC-A National Final. A surtax of \$100 per team will be included in the entry fee for the Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals. The money raised from these surtaxes will go into the CBF International Fund and will be used to subsidize the CNTC winner to International Competition.
- 4. Screens and bidding boxes will be used for the entire National Final.

C-2: Flight B - < 2500 mpts

1. The National Final will be held in Markham, ON from May 30 – June 3, 2010. It will consist of two stages:

(a) Stage I - Round Robin

- A complete round robin held over 3 days to qualify four teams to Stage II of the CNTC-B National Final

(b) Stage II - KO Round

The top four teams from Stage I of the event will advance to the knockout portion of the final. The team finishing first in the Round Robin may choose their opponent from the teams finishing 3rd & 4th

- i) Semi-Final - 64 board match
- ii) Final - 72 board match

- 2. An entry fee shall be charged for all phases of the National Final. (Stages I and II)
- 3. Screens and bidding boxes will be used for the entire National Final.

III. PLAYER CONDITIONS - Flight A and Flight B**A. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

1. A player, to be eligible to play in the National Final of the CNTC, **must be a paid up member, in good standing, of the Canadian Bridge Federation** and must fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

- i) be a Canadian Citizen on August 15, 2009 OR
- ii) be a landed immigrant resident in Canada on August 15, 2009

These restrictions do not apply to players used as temporary substitutes.

A player may not play in the CNTC if they have already played in another NCBO in an event that was for qualification to the same WBF event (same event and year) as the CNTC is qualifying a team for.

An eligible player may enter qualifying round games as often as he/she wishes, with the same or different teammates.

- 2. Any player playing in the the National Final of the CNTC **MUST** be a paid up member of the CBF. If a player does not pay their CBF membership fee with their ACBL membership, they can pay their CBF fee by submitting their name, address and \$15 to the CBF Coordinator. **ANY PLAYER, THAT IS NOT A PAID UP MEMBER OF THE CBF, ARRIVING AT THE CNTC NATIONAL FINAL WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THE NATIONAL FINAL AFTER PAYMENT OF A \$200 PENALTY FEE IS RECEIVED. THIS FEE INCLUDES CBF MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE YEAR.**

3. A team, which may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players, is eligible to play in the CNTC provided each and every member of that team has earned a qualifying position. A player is deemed to have become a member of a team if they are listed on the team's entry on May 1, 2010.
4. Every team that enters the CNTC must name a Team.Captain, who shall represent the team in all official capacities.
5. Teams may be made up of members from any area.
6. In the National Final, each member must play at least 50% of the boards, including 50% of the Round Robin and also 50% of each of the quarter finals, semi-finals and finals. A player who does not play the required number of boards at the National Final will be deemed to have withdrawn from the team at the point where it becomes impossible for him or her to meet the playing requirements, and may not play beyond that point.
In the exceptional case of a medical problem occurring during play at the National Final, the DIC may give permission for a player to continue in the event even if he/she has been unable to play 50% of the boards in a given stage.
Failure to play the appropriate number of boards in the National Final may result in disciplinary action.

B. POISONING

1. The CNTC-Flight A will be used, from year-to-year, to choose a Canadian representative to various international team competitions, including the North American Second Team Trials and the WBF Olympiad Teams. When a player is eligible to play in the CNTC but ineligible to play in the event for which the CNTC is to qualify a team, that player is said to be poisoned. For example:
A player who has represented a country other than Canada in a WBF event is ineligible to represent Canada in a WBF event for a period of time specified in the WBF Rules and Regulations. Such a player is poisoned in years in which the CNTC will qualify a team to a WBF event.
2. Players on ACBL probation will not be eligible to represent Canada in International competition and are thus poisoned except where an appeal to the ACBL Board of Directors is successful.
3. An otherwise eligible team which **knowingly** begins play in the CNTC with one or more poisoned members may play in the CNTC but will be ineligible to represent Canada in the events for which any member is poisoned.
4. When an instance of poisoning occurs during play in the CNTC involving a player on a previously untainted team, the affected team may elect:
 - i) to continue in competition with one or more poisoned members, in which case they as a team are eligible to win the CNTC but ineligible to represent Canada in the events for which any member is poisoned,
 - ii) to continue in competition minus the poisoned member(s), with replacements for some or all of these as desired (but this option may be elected only if at least two original team members remain), or
 - iii) to withdraw from competition (but this option may not be elected if, in the opinion of the National Coordinator, orderly play in the CNTC will be jeopardized - as might be the case, for example, if the National Final were imminent).
5. When a team is ineligible to represent Canada in the event normally assigned to the place it occupies in the overall standing in the CNTC, it will usually (for the purpose of representation only) change places with the next lower ranking team. In all cases, should any question arise, the Board of Directors of the CBF shall be the final judge as to which team(s) represent Canada.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

A. DIRECTORS

1. It is expected that the director in charge of any qualifying round game will hold at least the ACBL rank of "certified club director".
2. The director in charge of the National Final will be appointed by the National Coordinator.
3. A director in charge of some stage of competition may enter the CNTC as a player. He/she may not direct any stage of competition beyond the qualifying stage.

B. CONVENTIONS

1. Conventions in the ACBL General Convention Chart will be allowed at all stages of competition.
2. In the National Final Stage I and II for both Flights A & B, ACBL Superchart will be permitted if a typewritten description and suggested defences along with the ACBL approved defences are available for posting online.
In Flight A & B these must be submitted Electronically to the National Coordinator by May 1, 2010
3. In the Knockout portion of the CNTC - Flight B National Final **HUM systems are not allowed.**

4. In the Knockout portion of the CNTC - Flight A National Final any system or convention **including HUM systems**, will be permitted if a typewritten description and suggested defences are made available to all team captains at the Captain's meeting held at the end of the Round Robin.
5. Definition of Highly Unusual Methods (HUM Systems):
A system which exhibits one or more of the following features as a matter of partnership agreement is deemed to be a HUM system.
- a) A pass in the opening position does not imply absence of the qualifications generally understood for an opening bid of one, and the player who passed will or may hold 12 high card points (or any greater number the partnership may settle on), in a hand that would be judged worthy of initial action at the one level in a natural system.
 - b) The partnership employs an opening bid at the one level which in principle is or may be weaker than "pass"; or which is a suit bid that is or may be made on a hand not meeting normal expectations for a natural opening bid of one - viz: may contain fewer than 8 HCP; or which is a bid of One No Trump which shows neither a balanced hand of at least 9 HCP, nor an unbalanced hand guaranteeing at least 17 HCP.
 - c) The partnership employs an opening bid at the level of one which has more than one potential meaning (eg. Shows either length or shortness in the suit; or is two-suited, suit not specified). This rule does not apply to club systems where one club shows either a strong club opener or other naturally included or balanced one club openers.
 - d) Except for bids of one club or one diamond in a strong club or strong diamond system, or as allowed in c) above, a one level opening suit bid is employed which does not relate to a single specified suit.
- IF A TEAM INCLUDES ANY PAIR USING A HUM SYSTEM, IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:**
- a) The pair using a HUM system should be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of matches, to supply any information and clarification that may be requested by the opponents.
 - b) When a team which includes a pair using a HUM system (whether or not such pair will play) is opposing a team that has no such pair, the HUM team will always be the Unseeded team. No special seating rights or line-up restrictions shall apply when two teams containing pairs using HUM systems (regardless of line-ups) oppose one another.
 - c) The team opposing a team which includes one or more pairs using a HUM system will submit three copies of their defences (if any) to the HUM system in writing at least thirty minutes before the scheduled line up time for the match; in preparing their defences, pairs not using HUM systems are allowed to change their opening bids. Pairs using HUM systems are not allowed to change their opening bids.
 - d) The pair using a HUM system must inform the opponents in writing (handwritten, 2 copies) about their defence against the defence, at the table, prior to the start of the session. In preparing their defence to the defence, the pair using the HUM system is not permitted to change any of the highly unusual aspects of its system.
 - e) Notes on the defence against HUM systems (up to three pages), and on defence against the defence (not exceeding one page) are deemed to be part of the opponents' system, and may be used by both pairs at the table, during the period when the aperture of the screen is closed, and also, for responding to a question, when the screen is open.
6. Systems and conventions will not be permitted if the above conditions are not met.

C. TIE-BREAKING FORMULA

The following Tie-Breaking formula will only apply to ties at the end of the Round Robin phase.

1. A two-way tie is broken by:
 - a) All matches played will be scored on the basis of:
WIN - 1 point; TIE - 2 point; LOSS - 0 points.
 - b) The result of the match between the tied teams.
 - c) A playoff between the tied teams. The playoff must be five boards. If still tied after five boards, continuing sets of five boards will be played until the tie is broken.
2. A multi-tie is broken by:
 - a) All matches played will be scored on the basis of:
WIN - 1 point; TIE - 2 point; LOSS - 0 points.
 - b) Matches played between all tied teams will be scored on the basis of 2 a).
 - c) Victory Points of matches between all tied teams.

In the event a multi-tie is reduced in number by one of the foregoing steps, only the remaining teams should be considered in tie-breaking procedures for succeeding steps. In the event a multi-tie is reduced to two teams, the procedures for two team ties are applied.

The Tie-Breaking Formula will be used at the National Final Rounds solely for the purpose of deciding the last qualifying spot(s).

Ties at the end of any KO matches will be decided by playoffs. If the KO match was 48 boards or less in length, the playoff will be 4 boards. If the KO match was 49 boards or more, the playoff will be 8 boards. If still tied at the end of the extra boards, continuing sets of extra boards will be played until the tie is broken.

D. SEEDING

1. The field in any Swiss event will be unseeded. First matches will be by random draw.
2. During the Knockout portion of the National Final, the team with the higher finishing position in the Round Robin shall be the seeded team in each match. The seeded team will elect to exercise their rights in either the first and fourth quarters or second and third quarters of the match. The unseeded team has rights in the quarters not elected by the seeded team.

E. MASTERPOINT AWARDS

1. Masterpoint awards for the qualifying and all higher rounds of competition will be red point awards, on a scale at least commensurate with sectionally-rated events of the same size. The ACBL will determine the exact awards for all events up to the National Final as sanctions are granted.
2. Awards for the National Final will be: CNTC - Flight A: 140 gold points.
CNTC - Flight B: 37.5 gold points.

F. WINNING TEAM

The winner of the 2010 CNTC-A National Final will represent Canada in the 2010 World Bridge Series which will be held in Philadelphia, PA October 1 – 16, 2010.

The winner of the 2010 CNTC-B National Final will receive a cash prize of \$2000.

The General Policy for allocation of the International Subsidy Pool per international team will be the sum of:

1. Amount Raised in National Final IF Surtaxes.
2. Entry fee for the World event.
3. 1/3 the remaining subsidy pool.

For the 2010 World Series of Bridge the International Subsidy Pool will be \$22,500 plus entry fees.

For the 2010 World Series of Bridge, subsidy will only be given to the first place team if it meets the requirements for representing Canada. If the team finishing first does not receive the subsidy, it will only be offered to the team finishing second and that team would also have to meet the requirements for representing Canada internationally.

G. PROCEDURAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS

These procedures do NOT apply to cases which would normally be heard by a Bridge Appeal Committee at a tournament.

1. Procedural and legal matters are in the hands of Local Coordinators and the National Coordinator. Their decisions while the event is in progress are binding. Questions of residency, health or other extraordinary circumstances may be submitted to the CBF National Coordinator.
2. An appeal at any level below the National Final shall be handled as all club appeals are handled under ACBL regulations.
At the National Final, the appeal will go to the CBF Board of Directors, which may designate an on-site committee to act on its behalf.
3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the CBF Board of Directors has final authority on any matters of appeal.

H. SMOKING POLICY

At all levels of play, no smoking will be allowed.

I. ELIGIBILITY TO REPRESENT CANADA

All players meeting the requirements of the conditions of contest in Canadian National Championships may enter the competition as a matter of **right**. However, selection to represent Canada internationally is not a right, but a **privilege**, which may be extended or denied.

The Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) reserves its option to declare any player, pair or team, regardless of its tournament record, ineligible to represent Canada or the ACBL in international competition, for reasons of personal hygiene, dress, deportment, or ethics.

The CBF establishes the following general guidelines:

Hygiene: A player must be clean and well groomed.

Conduct: A player may not appear in public at or near the event site while under the influence of alcohol or other mind altering substances. He/she may not use profanity, obscenities, or socially questionable four letter words at the table or in the vicinity of the event. He/she must maintain a high standard of propriety at all times.

Dress: Players must conform to dress standards prescribed for the event in which they are to participate.

Winners of the National Finals in the CNTC-A must retain a minimum of four original team members in order to represent Canada Internationally. If the winners do not retain four original team members, International representation will go to the 2nd place team and so on based on the order of finish in the National Final. The 3/4 tie will be broken by the order of finish in the Round Robin.

The entering of a qualifying event for international qualification shall be considered acceptance of the conditions of contest for the event.

J. UNIT 212

In Unit 212, we will allow Americans to play in the CNTC below the Zone Final level. They are allowed to play but poisoning rules still apply.

K. WBF IMP-VP CONVERSION SCALE

NUMBER OF BOARDS								
VPs	8	10	12	14	16	20	24	36
15-15	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-3	0-3
16-14	2-5	2-6	2-6	3-7	3-7	3-8	4-9	4-11
17-13	6-8	7-9	7-9	8-10	8-11	9-12	10-14	12-17
18-12	9-11	10-12	10-12	11-14	12-15	13-16	15-19	18-23
19-11	12-14	13-15	13-16	15-18	16-19	17-21	20-24	24-29
20-10	15-17	16-18	17-20	19-22	20-23	22-26	25-29	30-36
21-9	18-20	19-21	21-24	23-26	24-27	27-31	30-34	37-43
22-8	21-23	22-25	25-28	27-30	28-31	32-36	35-39	44-50
23-7	24-26	26-29	29-32	31-34	32-36	37-41	40-45	51-57
24-6	27-29	30-33	33-36	35-38	37-41	42-47	46-51	58-64
25-5	30-33	34-37	37-40	39-43	42-46	48-53	52-57	65-71
25-4	34-37	38-41	41-45	44-48	47-52	54-59	58-64	72-79
25-3	38-41	42-45	46-50	49-54	53-58	60-65	65-71	80-88
25-2	42-45	46-50	51-55	55-60	59-64	66-72	72-79	89-97
25-1	46-50	51-55	56-61	61-66	65-71	73-79	80-87	98-106
25-0	51+	56+	62+	67+	72+	80+	88+	107+

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