

ACBL UNIT 161 STANDING RULES

General:

1. The governing authority of Unit 161 is the Board of Directors.
2. A Unit Parliamentarian may be appointed by the President, with the approval of the board. If a Parliamentarian is not appointed, or is not present, the board may select an acting Parliamentarian from its membership (without loss of rights) or from the gallery.
3. The Unit will consider each year recommending an outstanding Unit member as candidate for the Goodwill Member of the Year.
4. The President appoints a Unit special Event Coordinator, whose function is to coordinate and sanction Unit wide games and extended team games within the Unit and the reporting to ACBL, and to coordinate and sanction GNT Unit finals, including District and ACBL reporting.

Tournaments:

5. A club that holds GNT qualification is responsible to pay directors fees according to club practice, ACBL fees and other costs, if any.
6. Unit GNT finals will be scheduled between January 1st and April 1st rotated every year between Hot Springs Village 2019 - 21 - 23 - 25 etc., and Little Rock 2020 - 22 - 24 etc. plus a split with Jonesboro. District 10 does require players to qualify in the Unit GNT final in order to play in the District GNT final, except for the Championship flight which does not have to qualify at the Unit level.
Unit NAP finals will be scheduled in September rotated every year between Hot Springs Village 2020 - 22 - 24 etc. and Little Rock 2019 - 21- 23 -25 etc. plus a split with Jonesboro. District 10 does NOT require players to qualify at Unit level in order to play in the District NAP final.
7. The Unit board has the right to decline to advance funds for any tournament before the board approves its Budget.
8. The ACBL - designated Tournament Director may be challenged only with prior approval of the Board of Directors.
9. Unit 161 owned bidding boxes may be loaned to other Units with in District 10 for tournaments with the agreement that the borrower will replace any damaged or missing boxes.
10. A \$65 per session fee for "local tournament directors" (TA's) will be paid for all Unit sectionals, and \$ 75 for TA's that run a tournament, effective 4-1-2017.
11. Unit Team Game Competition: Will take place on one of the first two Saturdays in October, rotating between Hot Springs Village 2020 - 22 - 24 etc. and Little Rock 2019 - 21 - 23 etc. To encourage lower strata involvement and enthusiasm, we use the 3-2-1 point spread whereby each team can have no more than 8 points spread as follows: A: 2000+ MP = 3 points, B: 500 - <2000 MP = 2 points, and C: 0 - <500 MP = 1 point. Each team is limited to 1 A player. Individuals' total number of masterpoints is determined as of April 1. Club qualifications must be held between January 1 and August 31. If 1-4 teams participate in club qualification, 1 team representing that club may compete in the Unit Team Championship; if 5-8 teams participate in club qualification, 2 teams may compete; with more than 8 teams, 3 teams may compete. The Unit Team Championship will run as a Swiss Team format. A team may play in a qualifying game at more than one club. If they were to qualify **at more than one club**, they would have to pick which club

they would represent and must be a member of the club they represent. If a player qualifies to play in the unit final but chooses not to play for any reason, a sub is allowed along the same guidelines as ACBL GNT/NAP rules – it must be a person of similar masterpoint rank, but with no more masterpoints than the person they are substituting for.

12. All clubs in Unit 161 will share, proportionately by participation, in the profits of unit sponsored Sectional tournaments if: 1) the club has sanctioned games that are closed for the duration of the tournament; or 2) the club does not have sanctioned games during the tournament but who club members are in attendance at the tournament.

13. During the process by which a Sectional tournament is approved by the Unit, District and ACBL, the Unit will decide if they or the club will be the sponsor. The sponsor's responsibility includes providing seeding money, revenue sharing of profits if unit sponsored, or revenue loss absorption by the unit if unit sponsored. If a club is allowed to sponsor the Sectional, then the club receives all the profits or absorbs all of the loss.

14. The President will appoint a Unit Tournament Coordinator to process any Unit requests for Sectionals to the District Coordinator.

15. Equipment Sharing Policy for Unit 161 Profit Sharing Sectionals and Regionals Unit 161 does not own their own dealing machine, duplicate boards, or bridge pads because the cost is prohibitive for such a small amount of use; they rely on team-work from the clubs in the area to support Unit 161 sponsored Tournaments. In the interest of fairness and teamwork among all involved, compensation from the Tournament to the loaning club is required as follows. The amount must be at least double the amount calculated to be the actual cost to a club of loaning equipment, which for a Regional currently is \$89 for the dealing machine, \$ 81 for the duplicate boards, carrying case and cards, and \$ 118 for the bridge pads. Sectional costs can be calculated using the same formula used to determine Regional numbers. If the borrowed equipment was damaged or lost the Tournament Chair and Unit 161 would work as a team with the loaning club, guaranteeing to make things right. Clubs that loan a dealing machine, bridge pads, or duplicate boards to a Unit 161 sponsored tournament when asked, will receive additional profit sharing in the amount of the money actually saved by using their equipment, or a guarantee of double the amount of the calculated cost of the use of the equipment (compensating for the tournament's share of lifetime usage times the purchase price and the tournament's share of the annual repair cost), whichever is greater. The Unit 161 Board will review this policy from time to time to ensure that the compensation amount is fair to all parties. Effective January 1, 2013. Updated March 2019, In the event of a unit sponsored tournament incurring a loss, which has happened only one time in the past 10 years, that the President is empowered to authorize a stipend of within 25 % of what was given to club who loaned the tournament equipment previously. The reason for the variance is that each time the quantity and type loaned equipment may vary.

16. The Unit board recommends that Unit sectionals schedule a 1 session regionally rated charity event. The points earned go up 40% compared to a normal 1 session event. The cost is \$1 extra per person. Effective January 1, 2013.

17. If a player wants to play in multiple unit wide games in one day, they may play EITHER in one open game session OR in 2 different limited sessions during the event.

Fiduciary Control:

18. The Secretary -Treasurer shall forward the Treasurer's report to all board members 15 days prior to Unit Board meetings.

19. An auditor who is not a current member of the Unit 161 board, assisted by a board member to provide all requested information, shall be appointed by the President to review the financial records of the Secretary - Treasurer once a year and report to the board prior to the annual meeting.

20. The Secretary - Treasurer may spend up to \$750 annually for expenses.

21. The District delegate from the Unit may receive reimbursement up to a \$150 cap.

22. The Secretary - Treasurer shall update all bank information, including CD's and EIN information, immediately upon the election of a new President and/or Secretary - Treasurer.

23. So long as the Regional tournament needs significant seeding funds due to requirements from the convention center (or hosting hotel), the Unit 161 Treasury will withhold tournament profit distribution to the clubs in whatever amount is necessary to maintain a minimum of \$ 3000 greater than the regional seeding fund requirements.

Elections:

24. If there is no regularly scheduled autumn meeting of the board, the President shall call a special meeting to receive the report of the Nominating Committee 45 days prior to the annual meeting, as required by the By-Laws. That report shall be forwarded promptly to all cubs so that anyone wishing to file a petition to run for a board position will have the required 15 days to do so.

25. An Election Commission (Chairman & Tellers), appointed by the board, will conduct elections at the annual meeting and any other elections to be held at called meetings of the membership or by way of mail-in ballots.

26. In a contested election, there will be three voting times on one hour each: 1 hour prior to Friday's evening session, 1 hour prior to Saturday's afternoon session and 1 hour prior to the Sunday morning session.

Education:

27. The educational monies granted by District 10 will be sent to the Treasurer of Unit 161 and then the total will be paid by our Treasury to those approved for educational reimbursement.

28. The Unit Educational Reimbursement Policy is a combination of the ACBL Program, the District 10 program, and the Unit 161 program. The primary intent is to find new members who are not currently playing club games.

A. The Unit policy compliments the ACBL advertising program by paying ½ or 25% of the remaining 50% and submitting the remainder to District 10. The Unit will pay up to a maximum of \$250 per program. This is approved without prior notice if it meets ACBL requirements.

B. Unit 161 will assist clubs with financial support of the \$1000 per year for instructor fees, reasonable refreshment costs and any advertising expenses not reimbursed by ACBL and not already reimbursed provided that these costs are not covered by student fees.

29. The Unit will sponsor and reimburse TAP expenses @\$100 per time (not to exceed \$400) and tuition for one candidate per club per year. In exchange, a newly accredited teacher will make a three-year commitment to teach for his/her club and will make a report to the Unit board preferably in person. This report may also be made in writing

and should include the dates of instruction and the number of students.

30. The Unit will reimburse \$50 for training for one Associate Tournament Director candidate per club per year.

31. The Unit may sponsor a TAP on an as needed basis as determined by the Unit board. The Unit may specify a fee to all attendees and upon completion of the TAP a completion of a basic course of instruction within one year at their local club; the Unit will reimburse the TAP tuition to the teacher.

32. All requests for reimbursement for educational expenses must be submitted within three (3) months of completion of the course of instruction by a club official (Club Manager, President, Vice -President or similar). The request for reimbursement must indicate the total number of students attending the course, the dates of instruction and the number of new ACBL members (if any). The request may be submitted by e-mail from a club official's home e-mail account or may be mailed or emailed to the Unit 161 education coordinator. All mailed reimbursement requests shall have the receipts attached and be signed by a club official.

Event Subsidies by Unit 161:

Yearly Review

This policy is to be reviewed at the Spring Unit 161 board meeting each calendar year and adjusted as the Unit 161 board determines. If no action is taken at that meeting, then the most recent stipend policy is automatically approved for another year.

Base Conditions:

To be eligible for any type of Unit 161 funded subsidy, the individual must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and Unit 161 prior to the start of a club qualifier and remain so for the duration of the entire event.

Additionally, the individual must participate at a Club which is part of Unit 161, the applicable Unit 161 Championship, and the applicable District 10 championship, regardless of requirement by District 10 or the ACBL.

District 10 NAP

For the North American Pairs (NAP), individual masterpoint totals for flight eligibility are determined based on the masterpoint cycle run by ACBL data processing on May 6. There are three NAP flights: A, B, and C.

Currently, the ACBL awards \$700, per person, to the winners of the District 10 NAP qualifier in each flight. The ACBL awards \$300, per person, to the second-place pair of the District 10 NAP qualifier. District 10 NAP third place pairs in all flights and fourth place pairs in Flights B & C qualify for the NAP Nationals, but do not receive an award from the ACBL. These subsidies are given to each individual at the NAP National event registration. There are no event fees at the NAP Nationals.

Full Conditions of Contest (CoC) may be found at:

http://D10bridge.org/200_GNT-NAPInfo.htm.

To qualify for a Unit 161 NAP subsidy, the individual must meet all Base Conditions.

Unit 161 wishes to reward National NAP participation. Since an unknown quantity of pairs can meet the requirements, an Award Pool is allocated. Each stipend, regardless of flight, will be set at the lesser of "Pool / Individuals" or a "Max Amount". Paying per individual instead of per pair solves the problem when both members of a partnership do not meet the requirements. Paying everyone who meets the requirements encourages participation. Having a capped amount (Award Pool) limits the exposure to Unit 161.

For the 2019-2020 NAP cycle, the Award Pool is \$1250 and the Max Amount is \$150.

To illustrate the NAP stipend amount, assume four Unit 161 pairs meet all requirements and attend the National NAP. This equates to 8 stipends. $\$1250 / 8 = \156.25 . As this is larger than the Max Amount, each individual receives \$150.

District 10 GNT

For the Grand National Teams (GNT), individual masterpoint totals for flight eligibility are determined based on the masterpoint cycle run by ACBL data processing on August 6. There are four GNT flights: Championship, A, B, and C. Per the ACBL, a District may elect not to name a champion in Flight A.

One team per flight qualifies for the Nationals in their respective flight. For flights B & C, if there are at least eight teams participating in the respective District finals, then the 2nd place finisher of that flight also qualifies for the Nationals. District 10 awards up to \$2800 to the winning team of the District 10 finals in each flight. The specific amount is set after the District 10 finals, in large part determined by participation in fundraising games, such as Grassroots, throughout the year. These subsidies are given to the team captain at the GNT National event registration. There are no event fees for the first two rounds at the GNT Nationals. All subsequent rounds are subject to normal ACBL event fees.

Full Conditions of Contest (CoC) may be found at:
http://D10bridge.org/200_GNT-NAPInfo.htm.

To qualify for a Unit 161 GNT subsidy, the individual must meet all Base Conditions. The Championship Flight does not have a Unit final and does not qualify for a Unit 161 GNT subsidy.

Unit 161 wishes to reward National GNT participation. Since an unknown quantity of teams can meet the requirements, an Award Pool is allocated. Each qualifying individual, regardless of flight, will receive the lesser of "Pool / Individuals" or a "Max Amount". Paying per individual instead of per team solves the problem when all members of a team do not meet the requirements. Paying everyone who meets the requirements encourages participation. Having a capped amount (Award Pool) limits the exposure to Unit 161.

Additionally, the maximum payout per team is set at a four person equivalent. If there are five qualified team members attending the Nationals, then each team member receives 80% of the stipend. If there are six qualified team members

attending the Nationals, then each team member receives 66.667% of the stipend.

For the 2019-2020 GNT cycle, the Award Pool is \$1250 and the Max Amount is \$150.

To illustrate the GNT stipend amount, assume two Unit 161 teams meet all requirements plus one team comprised of a Unit 161 pair and a pair from a different District 10 Unit. This equates to 10 stipends. $\$1250 / 10 = \125.00 . As this is less than the Max Amount, each individual receives \$125.

To further illustrate the GNT stipend, assume two teams, one four member and one six member, have met all requirements. The six member team is capped at four stipends. This equates to 8 stipends. $\$1250 / 8 = \156.25 . As this is larger than the Max Amount, each stipend is \$150. Each individual of the four member team receives \$150 and each individual of the six member team receives \$100.

Other Special Events

For all other special events which result in individuals participating in National or World events, such as the World Wide Bridge Contest, the Unit 161 board will consider a stipend by email vote within 30 days of the applicable event qualifier if an individual has met the Base Requirements and advanced in the event.

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