

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS - 2024
NSW COUNTRY CLUB QUALIFYING EVENT
SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. The Event

- 1.1* This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, supplemented by the Tournament Regulations of the NSWBA as they stand at the time an issue arises. Clubs are to write their own set of regulations relating to conduct of the event, substitutions and qualification, but no such regulation may conflict with any regulations marked below with an asterisk (*). In the case of conflict, these Supplementary Regulations will apply. A default set of regulations is available from the NSWBA website for clubs that wish to use them.
- 1.2* Each club is invited to hold one or two events to qualify teams to a Regional Final.
- 1.3 If a club holds two CQEs, they must essentially cater for different clientele (*e.g.* one could be held in the evening and the other during the day or on a weekend or online on RealBridge).
- 1.4* Clubs may run any type of IMP based teams or IMP based pairs competition, including but not limited to Swiss, Round Robin, Knock-out with Swiss repechage and Butler Pairs.
- 1.5* If running a pairs event, all pairs that play (even if only one session) are considered part of the field and must be included in the final ranking of all pairs. Clubs must have a predetermined set of criteria to rank the field before the event starts.
- 1.6* The minimum number of sessions allowed is 2 and the maximum number of sessions is 5.
- 1.7* Directors need only be qualified at the club level.
- 1.8* No yellow systems are permitted. Clubs may set further system restrictions.
- 1.9* The number of teams to qualify to the Regional Final for each club qualifying event is calculated as follows from the number of tables in play in the qualifying event. A maximum of half (fractions rounded up) may qualify and a minimum of one fifth (fractions rounded down) must qualify. For 5 tables or fewer, 1 team must qualify.

2. Eligibility to Club Qualifying Events

- 2.1* No entry restrictions based on age, sex, masterpoint ranking, *etc.* are permitted.
- 2.2 Players must be *bona fide* residents of the region or a neighbouring GNOT region. Clubs may impose further restrictions, such as being residents of the region or requiring all competitors to be club members.
- 2.3 Clubs and local organisers should be aware of the restrictions on players participating in the Regional Final. (See Section 3 below.)
- 2.4* Players may enter in as many different club qualifying competitions as they like, provided they pay the specified table monies and/or tournament entry fees of the club and satisfy any other requirement the club imposes.
- 2.5 There is no minimum board requirement for competitors in a CQE.

3. Composition of Teams Proceeding to and Participating in the Regional Final

- 3.1* Teams submitted by clubs must consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.
- 3.2* All team members must be active player members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme.
- 3.3* Each player must be a member of an affiliated bridge club within the region.
- 3.4* Players must be *bona fide* residents of the region or a neighbouring GNOT region excluding metropolitan Sydney.
- 3.5 If running a teams based CQE, any team finishing in the top half of the field is eligible to proceed to the Regional Final.
- 3.6 If running an IMP Pairs based CQE, pairs finishing in the top half of the field should form teams with each other. If this results in fewer teams than required, the pairs finishing in the bottom half of the field may be asked to form teams, but all teams proceeding to the Regional Final must contain a minimum of 50% of pairs that finished in the top half of the field.
- 3.7 As some players may qualify to the Regional Final in more than one team, teams that qualify to the Regional Final may not be able to progress as a complete unit. In such cases, any team that still contains at least 50% of its original membership may augment to become a viable team of 4, 5 or 6.
- 3.8 All augmented players must have played in any of the Club's GNOT qualifying events, or be financial members of the Club.
- 3.9 Players who have already qualified for the National Final may not be augmented. This rule applies even if the player withdraws from the team that has qualified to the National Final.

- 3.10 If a club's designated representative team becomes unavailable, the club's Executive Committee may take any action necessary to find a replacement team. The NSWBA does not require players proceeding to the Regional Final to have played in the qualifying competition, but clubs may impose such restrictions.
- 3.11* There is no minimum board requirement for competitors in the Regional Final.
- 3.12 Clubs not running a qualifying competition may nominate one team per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of three teams. All players in a nominated team must be members of the nominating club. The cost is \$220 per nominated team.
- 3.13 Players who have entered a CQE and failed to qualify may form teams and enter the Regional Final directly. Such entries must specify all team members and the club(s) at which they participated in a CQE and are to be lodged with the Regional Organiser. The cost for a direct entry is \$220 per team.

4. Regional Finals

- 4.1 The NSWBA will charge an entry fee per team that enters the Regional Final. This will cover the cost of running the event and the entry fees for the teams that qualify to the National Final.
- 4.2 Directors at the Regional Final must be non-playing and qualified at congress level (C1) or above.
- 4.3 The number of teams that will qualify to the National Final is set for each Region and is indicated on the list of Clubs and Regions available from the www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp website. Depending on the level of support for the event in each region and ABF policy, this number may change from year to year.
- 4.4 In the event that only one club in the region is willing to conduct a qualifying heat and no other clubs have nominated a team to proceed to a Regional Final then, subject to agreement by the Regional Organiser, that club's CQE may be redesignated as the Regional Final. Note that National Final entry fees will still be due and arrangements will need to be made to ensure these can be paid.

5. Fees

- 5.1* Each club will pay the NSWBA an entry fee of \$14 per table (or \$7.00 per pair) competing in the CQE, plus \$180 per team progressing to the Regional Final. In addition, the ABF masterpoint centre will invoice the club \$1.39 per gold masterpoint awarded. All quoted charges include GST. Clubs should be aware of these fees when setting tournament entry fees and table monies for their qualifying events.
- 5.2 Clubs are entitled to levy an additional charge for teams which qualify to the Regional Final, but any such charge should be clearly advertised before the commencement of the CQE.
- 5.3* Clubs not running a qualifying competition will pay the NSWBA \$220 per team nominated into the Regional Final under #3.12.
- 5.4* Individual teams (eligible under #3.13) will pay the NSWBA \$220 per team to enter the Regional Final.
- 5.5* Apart from catering costs, the NSWBA will pay all fees and expenses (including directing and masterpoint costs) associated with the Regional Final. The NSWBA will pay the entry fees to the ABF for the first stage of the National Final, scheduled for 20-22 September.

6. Masterpointing

- 6.1* Gold masterpoints will be available to the winners¹ of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints per player per board per match. In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively unless the exact team composition is supplied for every match played. No outright placing awards are made.
- ¹ To qualify as winners for the purpose of masterpoint awards, the leading team must win by a margin greater than 0.2 IMP per board over the match. Note especially that for 10 board matches a final IMP difference of 2 IMPs counts as a draw.
- 6.2* Gold masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying tournament if payment is received for the specified minimum number of teams (#1.9) proceeding to the Regional Final.
- 6.3* Sessions may be held face-to-face or online using the RealBridge platform. Sessions held on BBO or StepBridge are not permitted.
- 6.4 All masterpoints awards are to be checked by the GNOT Regional Masterpoint Adviser, Bill Powell. See #8.9.
- 6.5 Clubs will be billed directly by the ABF Masterpoint Centre for the masterpoints awarded.

7. Online Sessions

- 7.1 Clubs are permitted to hold online CQEs using the RealBridge platform.
- 7.2 Players must maintain audio and video contact at all times. A player may only turn off their camera with the permission of the Director and only if they have a valid technology-related reason.
- 7.3 CQE sessions run on BBO or StepBridge are not permitted.

8. Administration

- 8.1 The Country GNOT Organiser (on behalf of the NSWBA) is Ronnie Ng.
- 8.2 Each region has a local person, the Regional Organiser, responsible for the GNOT in that region.
- 8.3 In the first instance clubs should contact their Regional Organiser with any problems. If there are problems that remain unresolved they can contact the Country GNOT Organiser by email (countrygnot@nswba.com.au)
- 8.4 All documentation must be clearly identified with the club's name and number.
- 8.5 Club Qualifying Events: A form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list. If running two separate CQEs use the separate worksheets in this file. The club needs to send the following to the Regional Organiser by email:
 - The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file;
 - A complete list of members and their ABF numbers of teams proceeding to the Regional Final;**DO NOT send any documents, files or cheques to the NSWBA or ABF.**
- 8.6 The Country GNOT Organiser will liaise with the Regional Organisers and issue invoices on behalf of the NSWBA to participating clubs for all entry fees payable. These are:
 - \$14 per table in the CQE plus \$180 per team progressing to the Regional Final (#5.1), or
 - \$220 per team nominated to the Regional Final (#5.3).**Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.**
- 8.7 The NSWBA (via the Regional Organiser) will issue an invoice for \$220 to any team that enters the Regional Final directly under #3.13.
- 8.8 All payments should be made to the NSWBA.
- 8.9 Clubs should send the following information directly to Bill Powell, the GNOT Regional Masterpoint Adviser (gnotmp@nswba.com.au);
 - A **complete** copy of the outright results including details of the event format, the number of boards played in each match and the scores in each match as a pdf, html or txt file;
 - The masterpoint file as a .gld file.Bill will submit checked files to the ABF Masterpoint Centre which will then invoice the club.