



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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ABN 61 000 438 648

STATE MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020 COUNTRY MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts

Dear Club Secretary

The NSWBA invites all affiliated clubs to conduct qualifying events for the 2020 State Mixed Pairs and Country Mixed Pairs Championships. All affiliated clubs can play qualifying sessions and award red masterpoints at state championship level (W = 3.75) - **you do not need to send a club representative pair to the State Finals in order to award red masterpoints.** These sessions are part of an NSWBA State Championship, so they come with a higher weighting and are additional to your B4c allowance.

There are no event format changes in 2020, but there are some significant financial ones. The basic cost for entering the Finals of the State Pairs has remained unchanged for the last 3 years and in 2019 it was cheaper than a typical congress, clearly undervaluing this prestigious championship. The cost for pairs entering directly is therefore increasing by \$20 to \$140 per pair, but this won't apply to club pairs. Clubs will instead pay \$120, a flat \$20 discount for every representative pair sent to the State Final. An additional benefit to clubs that hold club qualifying sessions is that **the NSWBA will now pick up the masterpoint costs.** But there is a caveat to this - if you submit the relevant files late and the NSWBA is charged a late fee, the NSWBA will invoice the club for the full MP costs plus the fine.

The Championship Finals will be held at the NSWBA on the weekend of 23rd & 24th May 2020. **Start time on the Saturday is 10.30 am.** The top 14 pairs on Saturday will qualify for the Mixed Pairs Final on the Sunday. In addition, the top 14 pairs from non-metropolitan regions will qualify to a separate Country Mixed Pairs Final on the Sunday. Country pairs who qualify for the State Final may choose which Final they contend.

The idea of the Country Pairs Finals was introduced 6 years ago and has proved very popular. In 2014 there were barely enough country pairs for a 7-table final. Since then, the numbers have steadily increased each year, with 25 country pairs entering in 2019. The NSWBA is well aware that pairs from country clubs invest a lot of time and money to come to Sydney for the Finals and we really want to see country pairs get the maximum value from that investment. That is only possible if your representative pairs stay for both days, so please encourage them to do so.

We welcome your club's participation in these events and look forward to receiving as many entries as possible to the State Mixed Pairs and Country Mixed Pairs Finals weekend.

The details are contained below and in the Supplementary Tournament Regulations available from the NSWBA website: <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2020&E=smp>

Please read both documents carefully!

1. Clubs not wishing to run a qualifying competition may nominate one pair per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of 5 pairs.
2. There is no upper limit to the number of pairs that may be sent - any pair in the qualifying field is eligible to proceed.
3. Clubs will be invoiced \$120 for each representative pair sent. (The cost for a pair entering directly is \$140.)

(see over)

4. Affiliated clubs located outside the Sydney metropolitan region may apply to the NSWBA for financial assistance for pairs representing their clubs.

5. Timetable. Clubs should carefully note the following dates and times:

Club qualifying competitions must be completed and results and pair nominations must be sent to the Tournament Organiser by no later than **Friday 15th May 2020**.

Session times for the Championship Final are:

Saturday 23rd May 2020 10:30 am and 2.30 pm

Sunday 24th May 2020 10.00 am and 2.00 pm (supper provided at end of play)

Those players who do not qualify to a Final on Sunday will be granted free entry to the NSWBA Autumn Swiss Pairs Congress.

6. State Mixed Pairs prize money is 1st \$500, 2nd \$250 & 3rd \$150.

Country Mixed Pairs prize money is 1st \$400, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$100.

The Autumn Swiss Pairs Congress prize money is 1st \$250, 2nd \$150 & 3rd \$100.

7. An Excel form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2020&E=smp>. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list and then emailed to the NSWBA. Participating clubs must send the following to the NSWBA by email:

- The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file. This will include the names and ABF numbers of the nominated pairs;
- A complete copy of the results of **each qualifying session** as a pdf, html or txt file;
- **The masterpoint file as a .red file. This is mandatory if you score using a computer.**

8. Clubs should note that **red masterpoints** for the qualifying sessions will be submitted to the Masterpoint Centre after the Championship Final.

9. The Tournament Organiser will issue each participating club with an invoice to cover the entry fees of representative pairs. **Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.** Provided all relevant files are received before the start of the Finals, the NSWBA will pay the costs of any red masterpoints issued.

10. All correspondence should be sent to:

Wing Roberts

C/- NSWBA

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East Sydney 2010.

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