



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



First Floor, 162 Goulburn Street, East Sydney 2010.

Telephone: 9264 8111 E-mail: office@nswba.com.au Web: www.nswba.com.au

ABN 61 000 438 648

STATE OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 COUNTRY OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=sop

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts

October 2021 COVID Update

Changes to the original invitation and regulations are indicated in red.

The NSWBA invites all affiliated clubs to conduct qualifying events for the 2021 State Open Pairs and Country Open Pairs Championships. All affiliated clubs can play qualifying sessions and award red masterpoints at state championship level (W = 5.00) - **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.

Travel restrictions will probably be lifted by mid-November, but there's no guarantee and many players will still be apprehensive about wearing masks at a face-to-face event in Sydney. So the Finals of the State Pairs will be held online using the RealBridge platform. This presents an opportunity to make much easier for country pairs to participate. The recent lockdowns have meant that many clubs have not been able to conduct their qualifying events, so we will be increasing the limit of pairs that a club can nominate to the final to ten.

There will also be a reduction in entry fees. The cost for pairs entering the Final directly is \$120 per pair, but this won't apply to club pairs. Clubs will pay \$100, a flat \$20 discount for every representative pair sent to the State Final. An additional benefit to clubs holding club qualifying sessions is that **the NSWBA will 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 by the Masterpoint Centre, the NSWBA will invoice the club for the full masterpoint costs plus the late fee.

The Championship Finals will be held **on RealBridge** on the weekend of 20th & 21st November 2021. **Start time on the Saturday is 10.00 am.** The top 14 pairs on Saturday will qualify for the State Open Pairs Final on the Sunday. In addition, the top 14 pairs from non-metropolitan regions will qualify to a separate Country Open Pairs Final on the Sunday. Country pairs who qualify for the State Final may choose which Final they contend.

The Country Open Pairs Final began in 2013 with a 4-table final. Since then, the numbers have increased steadily each year and the State/Country Open Pairs is now one of the most popular state championships on the NSWBA calendar. **Many country pairs have been playing online using BBO, Stepbridge or RealBridge. RealBridge is probably the most intuitive and easiest to use - click the link the director provides and then "sit" in your assigned seat.**

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

The details are contained overleaf and in the Supplementary Tournament Regulations available from the NSWBA website: www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=sop

Please read both documents carefully!

(over)

State & Country Open Pairs Event Details

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 **10** pairs.
2. The upper limit to the number of pairs that may be sent is the entire qualifying field.
3. Clubs will be invoiced **\$100** for each representative pair sent. (The cost for a pair entering directly is **\$120**.)
4. **Clubs that held a qualifying event may nominate an additional 5 pairs who did not compete.**
5. Timetable. Clubs and their representatives 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 12th November 2021**.

Session times for the Championship Finals are:

Saturday 20th November 2021 10:00 am and 2.00 pm

Sunday 21st November 2021 10.00 am and 2.00 pm (supper provided at end of play)

Those players who do not qualify to either the State or Country Pairs Final on Sunday will be granted free entry to the NSWBA Spring Swiss Pairs Congress.

6. **State Open Pairs prize money is 1st \$400, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$100.
Country Open Pairs prize money is 1st \$300, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$100.
The Spring Swiss Pairs Congress prize money is 1st \$200, 2nd \$100 & 3rd \$60.
These amounts may be reduced if the initial overall entry is below 25 tables.**
 7. An Excel form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2021&E=sop. 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 clubs' representative 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 Finals.
 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
1st Floor, 162 Goulburn Street,
East Sydney 2010.
- Enquiries: email: office@nswba.com.au Phone (02) 9264 8111