



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

February 2024

To The Tournament Secretary: all NON-METROPOLITAN affiliated clubs

Last year's major change of holding the State Final online was clearly a success – it was the first time that a non-Sydney team has won the State Open Teams Final. Congratulations to the Currie Team representing the Western Zone. The online final also reduced expenses for both the finalists and the organisers. But not by enough – the event still ran at a significant loss. There are three ways this can be addressed: increase participation; play more of the Regional Finals online; or raise entry fees. Clubs and organisers have 2024 to try the first two approaches. But if there's no improvement in the finances this year, expect BNSW to increase entry fees in 2025.

The date for each Zonal Final is set by the Zonal Coordinator and posted on the Country Teams website. Each zone will qualify 2 teams to the State Final, except the Southern and Western Zones which each qualify one team. The State Final is scheduled to start on Friday evening 29th November.

Helen Milward is the Tournament Organiser for 2024. As usual, each Zone will have its own coordinator.

| Zone | Coordinator | Email | Phone |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| Northern: | Ian Price | priceshdc@gmail.com | 0432 153 294 |
| Southern: | Kaye Hart | kaye.hart3@icloud.com | 0408 117 902 |
| Western: | Kaye Hart | kaye.hart3@icloud.com | 0408 117 902 |
| Hunter Central Coast: | Ronnie Ng | RNG.bridge@gmail.com | 0405 507 753 |

The supplementary tournament regulations for the NSW Country Teams can be found on the NSWBA website at www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct, along with a list of eligible affiliated clubs divided into Regions within Zones. Please note that this list is not cut and dried; if your club is not on the list or wants to switch and play in a different Region or Zone, please contact the Tournament Organiser.

All non-metropolitan affiliated clubs are invited to conduct one or two events in order to qualify teams to play in their Regional Final. Clubs not wishing to run 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 financial members of the nominating club. The entry fee for teams progressing to the Regional Finals is \$120 per team and is payable by clubs to the NSWBA upon receipt of invoice. Participating clubs complete an Excel form to report details of their representative teams and qualifying events. This form www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2024/docs/CT_Club_Entry_Form_2024.xlsx includes a set of instructions explaining how to fill it in correctly. Please follow them precisely.

Clubs hosting Regional and Zonal Finals will do so on the NSWBA's behalf and will be reimbursed for expenses incurred.

If you are the only club in your region to enter, discuss your possible options with your Zonal Coordinator.

A summary of the significant dates for the 2024 Country Teams Championship follows.

- Friday 15th Mar: Deadline for applications from clubs to host Regional Final
- Friday 15th Mar: Deadline for applications from clubs to host Zonal Final
- Fri 29th Nov - Sun 1st Dec: Finals of John Arkinstall State Teams (and Country Teams) online on RealBridge

Dates of the various Zonal Finals will be posted <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct>.
Deadline for completion of Regional Finals is about two weeks before the relevant Zonal Final.