



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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STATE OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 COUNTRY OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sop

Tournament Organiser: TBA

January 2024

The NSWBA invites all affiliated clubs to conduct qualifying events for the 2024 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.

Clearly Covid-19 has changed the way we live and how many of us have played bridge over the last three years, and maybe into the future. The regulations now allow qualifying sessions to be played either online on the RealBridge platform or face-to-face. Sessions played on BBO or Stepbridge are not allowed. Participation in online sessions is restricted to players who are members of a NSWBA-affiliated club.

The State Finals are scheduled to be played F2F at the NSWBA. The cost for pairs entering the Final directly is \$200 per pair, but this won't apply to club representative pairs. Clubs will pay \$160, a flat \$40 discount for every representative pair sent to the State Final. An additional benefit to clubs is that **the NSWBA will pick up the first \$30 of the masterpoint costs if two conditions are met**.

Firstly, you must send at least one pair to the State Final. Secondly, you must submit the relevant files by the specified date - if 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 at the NSWBA on the weekend of 16th & 17th November 2024.* **Start time on the Saturday is 10.30 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. Lunch on both days is included in the entry fees.

The Country Open Pairs Final began in 2014 with a 4-table final. Since then, the numbers increased steadily each year. Before Covid, the Open Pairs was one of the most popular state championships on the NSWBA calendar with almost 40% of the entries coming from country clubs. Unfortunately, Covid saw the number of country pairs crash in 2022, but 2023 saw a bit of a recovery. 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 them 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 for 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=2024&E=sop

Please read both documents carefully!

* There is now an unfortunate clash with the playoff for the Australian Open Team caused by the WBF changing the dates of the World Bridge Games which in turn forced the ABF to move the Playoff date back a week. We will just have to live with the loss of some of NSW's top players.

State & Country Open Pairs Event Details

1. Only players who are members of a club affiliated with the NSWBA can play in online sessions.
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 \$160 for each representative pair sent. (The cost for a pair entering directly is \$200.)
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 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 8th November 2024**.

Session times for the Championship Finals are:
Saturday 16th November 2024 10:30 am and 2.30 pm
Sunday 17th November 2024 10.00 am and 2.00 pm

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 \$500, 2nd \$250 & 3rd \$150.
Country Open Pairs prize money is 1st \$400, 2nd \$200 & 3rd \$100.
The Spring Swiss Pairs Congress prize money is 1st \$250, 2nd \$150 & 3rd \$100.
These amounts may be reduced if the number of entries is considerably below the pre-pandemic levels. In particular, if there are fewer than 8 pairs available for the Country Final, it will not be held. The title will be awarded to the highest placed eligible pair in the State Final.
7. An Excel form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&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 sop@nswba.com.au 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.**
8. Clubs should note that **red masterpoints** for the qualifying sessions will be submitted to the Masterpoint Centre after the Championship Finals.
9. The NSWBA will invoice each participating club. **Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.** Provided you send at least one pair to the Finals and all relevant files are received before the start of the Finals, the NSWBA will pick up the first \$30 of the masterpoints costs. Clubs that do not send any representative pairs to the final will be invoiced the full cost of the masterpoint issued.
10. All correspondence should be sent to sop@nswba.com.au.