



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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Dear Tournament Secretary,

2017 Grand National Open Teams - Country NSW Regions

Firstly, apologies that this letter is reaching you later in the year than usual. The ABF had been considering reducing the number of teams from NSW in the national final and we only received confirmation of our allocation (the same as last year) shortly before I headed up to Broadbeach for the Gold Coast Congress.

It should be noted that the ABF is still considering reducing the number of teams at the national final and reductions will likely be made to regions which are not supporting the event at the club level and/or making a loss. So if you want your region to keep its allocation then it is important to support your local club heats.

There have been no substantive changes to the way the GNOT will be run this year (including costs) but there will be a slight administrative change. I am pleased to welcome Bill Powell to the role of Regional GNOT Masterpoint Adviser.

Once you have run your club's heat you need to send the club heat form (fully completed) to your regional co-ordinator (same as last year). However the procedure to get your masterpoints processed has changed.

You must send detailed results and a gold masterpoint file to Bill: gnotmp@nswba.com.au

These must include;

- (i) The format of your event
- (ii) The number of boards played in each round
- (iii) The scores for each match played
- (iv) A .gld gold masterpoint file

Once Bill is happy that your file is correct he will submit them to the ABF masterpoint centre.

Further details about the event can be found on the NSWBA website and I include an overview with this letter.

Happy bridging,

Michael Wilkinson
State GNOT Convener

PS. If anyone wants the job of convening the mountains region please contact me.

Overview of the GNOT

The Grand National Open Teams is an Australia-wide event conducted by the Australian Bridge Federation Inc (ABF). It is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold Masterpoints in their local club. It works like this:

- Australia is divided into regions on a geographical basis.
- Each region provides a set number of teams to the National Final (64 in all).
- Clubs hold heats to qualify teams to a final within their region.
- Each Regional Final qualifies 1 or more teams to the National Final.
- The National Final is played in late November/early December (currently in Tweed Heads).
- The ABF provides travel grants to teams that qualify for the National Final.

GNOT in NSW

The ABF has appointed the NSWBA as the Organising Body for all regions in NSW. The ABF has stipulated that NSWBA is to send 22 teams to the National Final - 7 of these will come from the Sydney Metropolitan region, the remaining 15 from elsewhere in NSW.

The NSWBA appoints a State GNOT Convener who, with the help of a team of Regional Organisers, is responsible for conducting the tournament in NSW. The State GNOT Convener for 2017 is Michael Wilkinson.

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are slightly different to those used for the Country Teams or administrative purposes. They are not set in stone, so if your club wants to move to a different region, please contact Michael Wilkinson as soon as possible.

Each GNOT region in NSW, the affiliated clubs therein and the number of teams it will qualify to the National Final can be found in Appendix A. Conduct of the GNOT in each region will primarily be the responsibility of a Regional Convener. The convener for each region can also be found in Appendix A.

FURTHER DETAIL

Separate more detailed sections now follow describing:

- Club qualifying events
- Regional Finals
- Masterpoints
- Financial information

Please review these as they contain important information about running the GNOT in your club.

CLUB QUALIFYING EVENTS

All clubs within a region are invited to hold qualifying events ("CQE"s) to determine representative teams that will compete in a Regional Final.

Clubs may hold one or two separate qualifying heats. Each must be 2 – 5 sessions in length. It is recommended that clubs create a separate event in their calendars for their GNOT CQE.

Players may enter in as many different CQEs as they wish, at different clubs within a region or even in different regions (if they happen to belong to clubs in different regions).

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are not set in stone. If your club wants to move to a different region, please let Michael Wilkinson know as soon as possible.

Event formats

CQEs may be in the following formats:

- Teams.
- Butler IMP pairs events (players' results are compared to an average "datum" score and the difference converted to IMPs) from which teams are then formed.

Regular club matchpoint duplicate sessions are not acceptable for two reasons:

- The GNOT is ultimately a team event (scored by IMPs) so the qualifying events should follow the same scoring approach.
- Clubs should be charging a premium to players in GNOT heats to show they are special (*i.e.* they carry Gold masterpoints) and to allow the club to collect sufficient monies to fund the entry fees to later stages – see Financial information section for details.

Qualifying teams to the Regional Final

In order to earn Gold masterpoints each club that holds a GNOT CQE must send at least 20% of its field to the Regional Final. This means:

- For heats up to 9 tables, the club must send at least 1 team to the Regional Final;
- For heats between 10-14 tables, the club must send at least 2 teams to the Regional Final;
- For heats between 15-19 tables the club must send at least 3 teams to the Regional Final; *etc.*

Clubs may also send any team that finished in the top half of the field.

Nominating teams to the Regional Final

Clubs that do not hold a CQE may nominate 1 team per 50 home club members (or part thereof) up to a maximum of 3 teams to the Regional Final.

Direct entry of teams to the Regional Final

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions, both within a region and across all regions in the state. It can be much easier to qualify to a Regional Final from some clubs than from others. The NSWBA will therefore accept entries directly into all Regional Finals. The cost for direct entry will be \$240 per team and all team members must have previously played in a CQE within that region.

REGIONAL FINALS

Each Regional Final will qualify one or more teams (see Appendix A) to the GNOT National Final. The National Final will be held at Tweed Heads from Friday 24th November to Monday 27th November 2017.

MASTERPOINTS

In club heats, Gold Masterpoints will be available to the winners of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of a 5 board match will receive 0.20 Gold masterpoints per player, while winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.32 Gold masterpoints per player. Masterpoint costs will be billed to the clubs by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

In Regional Finals, depending on the size and number of sessions, these awards may increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.48 Gold Masterpoints per player, while winners of a 10 board match will receive 0.60 Gold masterpoints per player. Masterpoint costs for Regional Finals will be billed to the NSWBA by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ABF charges

The ABF makes two charges for the GNOT:

- \$750 per team entered to the National Final
- \$10 per table that enters the event at a qualifying level

The NSWBA has calculated a fee structure that allows clubs to collect sufficient funds to cover further entry fees and masterpoint charges and is consistent across all country regions. (Players in the Sydney metropolitan region will be paying slightly more.)

Costs to clubs

The NSWBA will be responsible for paying the above fees to the ABF. It will also be responsible for all Regional Final running costs (including masterpoints awarded in the Final). The money will be raised by the following fees:

Fee	\$	Notes
Club qualifying heats or club nominations to the Regional Final.	\$10 per table	This is the \$10 per table levy from the ABF and the NSWBA will just collect it and pass it on.
Each team entering the Regional Final.	\$200	It is completely up to the clubs how this money is raised. Past practice in many areas was for the club to pay \$80 entry fee and the players to pay \$120 table money.

Clubs should note that they will need to charge a small premium on normal table money for GNOT heats in order to raise sufficient monies for these fees. Clubs will continue to be invoiced by the ABF masterpoint centre for the Gold masterpoints awarded in their qualifying heats.

Costs to players

The premium charged to players to raise sufficient funds will depend on the number of tables and sessions in your heat, but typically should not be more than a few dollars a session. The table on the following page gives some examples of how to calculate a reasonable amount for clubs who run small, medium and large CQEs.

Table: Calculating entry fee per player

		Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Tables in CQE	T	7	10	15
Sessions	S	2	2	3
Teams qualifying to Regional Final	R	1	2	3
Funds required				
Regional Final entry fee (assume club pays \$80 per team)	R x \$80	\$80	\$160	\$240
\$10 per table charge	T x \$10	\$70	\$100	\$150
Total required funds	F	\$150	\$260	\$390
Total player sessions	P = 4 x T x S	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 10 x 2 = 80	4 x 15 x 3 = 180
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds (<i>Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.</i>)	F / P	\$2.68 (Say \$3)	\$3.25 (Say \$3.50)	\$2.16 (Say \$2.50)
Funds raised		56 x \$3 = \$168	80 x \$3.50 = \$280	180 x \$2.50 = \$450

Position across NSW

The NSWBA recognises that under this structure, some regions will make a loss and others will make a profit. Our aim is twofold - to break even across the state and to make the costs of entering the event equitable for all players. If there is an overall surplus it will be passed back to the regions – most likely in the form of additional subsidies to teams attending the National Final. Over time, we will be reviewing the structure of the regions and the participation levels with the aim of having every region in a financially viable position.

Further details

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations, that are to be read in association with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, will be posted separately on the NSWBA web site <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2017/gnot/regions.asp>. Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded. If you are unable to access the NSWBA site, contact the NSWBA Office and we will send you a hard copy upon application.

Appendix A

Northern Zone

Northern Rivers (2 teams)

Organiser: Judy Forsyth

Ballina
Ballina Seniors
Brunswick Valley
Byron Bay
Good Sports (Banora Point)
Lennox Head
Lismore
Murwillumbah
Tweed
Twin Towns

Mid North Coast (2 teams)

Organiser: Ray Ingielewicz

Camden Haven (Laurieton)
Coffs Harbour
Grafton
Great Lakes
Nambucca Valley
Port Macquarie
Port Macquarie-Hastings
Port Macquarie Panthers
Taree
Urunga
Woolgoolga
Yamba

Central Northern (1 team)

Organiser: Bruce Tier

Armidale
Glen
Gunnedah
Inverell-Delvyn
Moree
New England (Glen Innes)
Oxley (Walcha)
Quirindi
Tamworth
Tenterfield
Warialda & District

Outer Metropolitan Zone

Hunter (3 teams)

Organiser: Ken Wilks

Cessnock
Charlestown
Dora Creek
Hawks Nest
Hunter (Singleton)
Lake Macquarie
Maitland
Merewether South
Muswellbrook
Nelson Bay
Newcastle
Port Stephens
Quick Tricks (Merewether)
Scone
Tilligerry (Lemon Tree Passage)
Toronto

Central Coast (1 team)

Organiser: Ronnie Ng

Brisbane Water
Central Coast
Central Coast Leagues
Community (Bateau Bay)

Mountains (2 teams)

Organiser: Michael Wilkinson

Bathurst
Blue Mountains
Glenbrook
Hawkesbury
Mudgee
Penrith
Springwood
St Marys
Windsor

Southern & Western Zone

Western NSW (1 team)

Organiser: David Reddel

Condobolin
Coonabarabran
Cowra
Dubbo
Forbes
Gulargambone
Narramine/Trangie
Nyngan
Orange
Parkes
Wellington

South Coast (1 team)

Organiser: Ray Turner

Batemans Bay
Bega Valley
Bridge @ the Bay (Malua Bay)
Milton
Mollymook
Moruya
Sapphire Coast

Tablelands-Illawarra (1 team)

Organiser: Chris Bayliss

Berry
Bowral
Bungendore
Goulburn
Illawarra Bridge Association
Kiama & District
Nowra
Southern Highlands (Bowral)
The Grange (Moss Vale)

South West NSW (1 team)

Organiser: Adrian Thompson

Commercial Club (Albury)
Griffith
Leeton
Riverview (Wagga Wagga)
Tumbarumba
Tumut
Wagga Wagga