

**GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS – 2024**  
**NSWBA DIRECT TO NATIONAL FINALS QUALIFYING EVENT**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, supplemented by the Tournament Regulations of the NSWBA as amended and these Supplementary Regulations. In case of conflict between these Supplementary Regulations and the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, the Supplementary Regulations shall apply.

General Supplementary Regulations that apply to both Sydney Metropolitan Direct Qualifying Events can be found at <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/metro.asp>.

### **1 Entry, Eligibility and Systems**

- 1.1 Every player must be an active member of the Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint system.
- 1.2 Players must be residents of the Metropolitan GNOT Region or a neighbouring GNOT region. Residency requirements are irrelevant for any House team included in the field.
- 1.3 Yellow systems will not be permitted.

### **2 The Event**

- 2.1 The event will be held online using the RealBridge platform over five nights, as scheduled in the official NSWBA Program. It is a requirement that all players on RealBridge have working video and audio connections. Players may only turn off their camera with the permission of the Director. Players in breach of this regulation will not be eligible to progress to subsequent stages.
- 2.2 The field will be seeded into two pools of equal strength, Pool A and Pool B, each of 6 teams. Non-contending teams will be distributed equally between the two pools.
- 2.3 Weeks 1, 2 & 3. Each team will play 14-board matches against all the teams in the other pool. All matches will be converted to victory points using the WBF 14 board match IMP to VP conversion scale.
- 2.4 The two highest ranking teams in each pool will proceed to the knock-out section. The remaining 8 teams will proceed to the Swiss repechage.

### **3 The Knockout Section**

Week 4

- 3.1 The top two ranked teams in Pool A will play each other. Similarly, the top two ranked teams in Pool B will play each other. Matches will be over 28 boards in 14-board halves. Opponents will be automatically switched for the second half of the match. The top ranked team in each match will have a carry-forward of one tenth the VP difference between the two teams.

Week 5

- 3.2 The 2 winning teams will play each other. Both teams qualify to the National Final. The 2 losing teams from week 4 will proceed to the Swiss repechage.

### **4 Swiss Repechage (weeks 4 & 5)**

- 4.1 All teams start the Swiss repechage on their cumulative VP score obtained from matches played in weeks 1, 2 & 3, with the proviso that the minimum starting score will be 48 VPs.
- 4.2 All matches in the Swiss repechage will be over 14-boards. Results will be converted to victory points using the WBF 14 board match IMP to VP conversion scale.
- 4.3 The draw for round 1 of the Swiss repechage will be A3 v A4, A5 v A6, B3 v B4, B5 v B6.
- 4.4 The draw for subsequent rounds of the Swiss repechage will be made on normal Swiss principles according to the RealBridge software.

4.5 Drop-in score in week 5 for losing teams from the KO section will be the Swiss leader's score after Swiss Match 2.

4.6 The 2 teams entering the Swiss will be ranked on the basis of the loss suffered.

Rankings will be determined by:

(a) smallest IMP difference (winning score – losing score)

(b) smallest IMP quotient (winning score / losing score)

(c) higher VP score obtained in weeks 1-3.

4.7 The top ranked team in the Swiss will play the second ranked team dropping into the Swiss, the second ranked team in the Swiss will play the top ranked team dropping into the Swiss.

4.8 Teams that have played in the knockout sections may meet again in the Swiss.

## 5 Tie Breaks

5.1 A tie in a week 4 KO Match will be broken (in order) by:

a) removal of any carry-forward;

b) rescoring the match at board a match scoring;

c) rescoring the match at total points;

d) decided in favour of a contending team over a non-contending team;

e) lot.

5.2 Ties at end of week 3 and in the Swiss will be broken by net IMPs.

## 6 Qualification to subsequent stages

6.1 The two teams playing Round 5 in the KO section will qualify to the National Final.

6.2 The top two teams in the Swiss Repechage will qualify to the Metropolitan Regional Final.

6.3 Any team that qualifies for the National or Metropolitan Regional Final, but is non-contending or opts not to proceed, will be replaced by the next highest ranked team available. The House team is ineligible to play in the Metropolitan Final.

6.4 The final ranking of teams is:

First: Winner in round 5 of KO;

Second: Loser in round 5 of KO;

Third to fifth: Teams from the Swiss Repechage in finishing order (with ties broken as per #5.2).

## 7. Fees

7.1 The entry fee as specified must be paid in full before play begins.

7.2 Thereafter, all subsequent entry fees for teams that qualify to the Metropolitan and/or the National Final will be paid by Bridge NSW.

## 8. Score Correction Period

The correction period ends at midday on the Wednesday immediately following each session.

## 9. Masterpoints

9.1 Gold MPs are awarded at Level A2, W=5.0.

9.2 Each 14-board segment is treated as a separate match.

9.3 The MPs are shared if the winning margin is less than 3 IMPs.

9.4 Outright awards are made to the top third of the field, *i.e.* down to second place in the Swiss repechage.