



23 August 2024

To all member and associated clubs,

2025 CONGRESS/HOLIDAY/CRUISE APPLICATIONS

Apologies for the delay in sending this letter to you. A version has been available on the NSWBA website for some time. The Bridge NSW Calendar Coordinator will allocate congress, holiday and cruise dates for 2025 according to the guidelines below.

- To qualify for the allocation of congress masterpoints, congresses (from here on, including holidays and cruises) must be approved by the Bridge NSW Calendar Coordinator. This letter does not affect congresses (other than Super Congresses) that have already been approved. However, **organisers** should note the revision to the congress conditions.
- Holidays and cruises will generally receive automatic approval subject to the resolution of clashes. Bridge NSW is required by the ABF to gain approval for masterpointed events held outside NSW by the State Body for which the holiday or cruise is to be held. Bridge NSW will reject the application if the relevant State Body does not approve the event. Please include the approval with the application. *Note: Holidays and Cruises are treated the same as Congresses regarding Congress Licence Fees.*
- Super Congresses must obtain approval each year from the State Masterpoint Secretary, David Weston. Email masterpoints@bridgensw.com.au. Approval for a Super Congress remains dependent on the congress maintaining the requirements established by the ABF Masterpoints Scheme. Please email the approval to calendar@bridgensw.com.au.
- Due to the number of congresses, regional clashes, particularly in and near Sydney, are likely on some weekends. Clubs concerned will be consulted; in some cases, clashes may occur with each club's consent. If agreement cannot be reached, the following priorities will be applied to resolve the issue.
 - 1) An application received on time will have first right to a date;
 - 2) A 'primary'* (see below) congress will have first right over a non-primary one;
 - 3) Established congresses on a date will have first right;
 - 4) The first application received will have the first right.

**Each club may list only one Congress as its Primary Congress.*

- In extreme cases, the Calendar Coordinator or Bridge NSW Events Committee may override the above order.

Applications are made using the [online application form](#). The draft calendar will be posted on the NSWBA website. Clubs should check the website regularly to ensure their details are correct and unacceptable clashes are not missed.

We want to remind all clubs that the Masterpoints Scheme separately recognises Inter-club Events, which can be run as Red Masterpoints (Grade B5i) subject to the approval of the State Masterpoint Secretary. Bridge NSW encourages clubs to include Inter-Club events in their calendar. One successful event we are aware of is a team event where each club sends two teams, and the trophy is awarded to the club with the highest aggregate score.

The Bridge NSW planner is available on the NSWBA website.

A copy of this letter and the online application form can be found on the NSWBA website at nswba.com.au/handbook/index.asp?congressforms.

Maurits van der Vlugt
Chair, Events Committee

Note: All references to the NSWBA website will be changed to the Bridge NSW website when it becomes available.