

2024 FINALS OF THE STATE OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS & COUNTRY OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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.

1. Entry, Eligibility and Fees.

1.1 Every player must be an active member of the Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint system.

1.2 Entries from affiliated clubs must be sent to the Bridge NSW Executive Officer, David Havyatt at sop@bridgensw.com.au and accompanied by the appropriate .red masterpoint and Excel files. (See www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2024/docs/StateOpenPairs_Regs_2024.pdf.) Fees for such pairs (\$160 per pair) will be paid by the affiliated clubs.

1.3 Other pairs may enter directly via the NSWBA's on-line entry system. The entry fee for each such pair is \$200 per pair, payable by the players before commencement of play. Lunch on both days is included in the entry fee.

1.4 Country Pairs. To be eligible to qualify for the Country Pairs Final a pair must either
(a) have qualified via a non-metropolitan affiliated club, or
(b) each member of the pair must have a main residence in a non-metropolitan region of NSW and/or be a *bona fide* member of and regular player at a non-metropolitan club.
No pair that qualified via a metropolitan club is eligible for the Country Pairs Final.

2. The Event

2.1 The entry will be seeded into separate NS and EW fields of equal strength and containing equal numbers of country pairs. The number of boards and rounds is at the discretion of the Director. If an incomplete movement is used, initial seating will be made so that all pairs play against fields of similar strength.

2.2 Each board will be scored using standard duplicate matchpoint scoring. Session scores will be tabulated as percentages.

2.3 The top 7 pairs in each field will be offered places in the State Open Pairs Final. Any position not filled will be offered to the highest scoring available pair from the same field.

2.4 The top 7 country pairs in each field will be offered places in the Country Open Pairs Final. Any position not filled will be offered to the highest scoring available country pair from the same field. Should fewer than 7 pairs from either field accept offers to play in the Country Pairs Final, offers will be made to the highest available pairs in the other field. The size of the Country Final will be reduced if fewer than 14 eligible pairs are available and prizes may also be reduced. If there are fewer than 8 pairs available for the Country Final, it will not be held. The title of Country Pairs Champions will be awarded to the highest placed eligible pair in the State Final.

2.5 Country pairs may decline a spot in the Open Final in favour of one in the Country Final. Only pairs in the Country Open Pairs Final (if held) are eligible to win the Country Open Pairs Championship.

2.6 Ties for the last qualifying position in each final will be broken by the standard NSWBA tie-breaking procedures.

2.7 Players who fail to qualify for either the State or Country Pairs Finals are entitled to free entry to the NSWBA Swiss Pairs Congress on the Sunday.

2.8 Each final will be a 7 table Howell with standard duplicate matchpoint scoring, playing 4 boards against every other pair. If the Country Final comprises fewer than 14 pairs (see #2.4), the number of boards to be played is at the Director's discretion.

2.9 All tables in a Final will play the same set of boards each round. Progressive scores will be displayed as soon as possible after the completion of each round.

3. Substitutions

3.1 Pairs are allowed one substitution for one session of the Saturday Qualifying. A substitute for a Country Pair must be a *bona fide* member of a non-metropolitan club for the pair to remain eligible to qualify for the Country Pairs Final.

3.2 All substitutions must be made in accordance with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, submitted via the on-line substitution form at <http://www.nswba.com.au/forms/substitute.asp> and must be approved in advance by the NSWBA Events Committee. In cases of emergency, where this procedure is not possible, the Director is empowered to rule on any proposed substitution.

3.3 No substitutions are permitted in the Finals on the Sunday.

4. Systems

4.1 No Yellow systems will be permitted.

4.2 Pairs may not claim protected pair status.

5. Prizes

5.1 Ties will not be broken - titles and prize moneys will be shared.

5.2 State Open Pairs Final

First: \$500 plus medals

Second: \$250

Third: \$150

5.3 Country Open Pairs Final

7 tables

First: \$400 plus medals

Second: \$200

Third: \$100

6 tables

\$320 plus medals

\$160

\$80

5 tables

\$240 plus medals

\$120

\$60

No prize money is awarded if the Country Pairs Final is not held.

6. Masterpoints

6.1 Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level with a weighting of 5.00.