

STATE OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. From this year the Championship Final, held in October each year, will qualify one pair to join two pairs qualified from the ANC Open Pairs Selection (NSWBA in February) to compete in the Open Pairs Championship at the subsequent year's Australian National Championships.

This pair will receive a Grade A subsidy. Should the winning pair not be available to represent NSW then invitations will be made progressively down the field. The subsidy, however, will not be offered to pairs other than the winners.

2. From this year it will become compulsory to send **1 pair from every 10 pairs competing in the qualifying round/s to represent the club at the Championship Final**. Up to one third of the field may be sent should the club see fit. The compulsory representation will be charged \$100 per pair while any voluntarily representing pairs will be entered at half that price. All pairs, compulsory or voluntary, must have finished in the top half of the qualifying field. Pairs must be offered a berth in the final based on their finishing order.
3. The Championship is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the Tournament Regulations of the New South Wales Bridge Association, as amended.
4. Yellow Systems are not permitted at any stage of the Championship before the final.
5. Players must have an **active** Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.
6. Players do not have to be members of the club at which the qualifying competition is held.
7. Club qualifying competitions must be held over a maximum of three sessions.
8. Directors must be qualified at Club level or above.
9. Any substitution of, or in, a pair that plays in the Championship Final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations and must be approved by the convenor prior to the commencement of the final.

Any players augmented or substituted must have competed in the qualifying event.
Eligible substitutes are those players of equivalent standard (in the Convenor's or the Director's opinions) to the substituted member of the pair, who would have been eligible to enter the competition and who are not playing in the stage for which a substitution is contemplated.

Only pairs that have entered the event **as a pair** can qualify to play in the final. This means that it is not allowable for players who have qualified in different partnerships, (or had never entered the qualifying event) to play together in the final. Notwithstanding the above, the convenor, in his/her absolute discretion, shall have the right to accept or reject nominations which may be outside these guidelines, in order to facilitate the running of this event. Players must not assume a favourable decision by the convenor.
10. Clubs located over 200 km. from Sydney **may apply** to the FABC for financial assistance for pairs representing their clubs in the Championship Final. Only one subsidy per club will be allowed.
11. Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level.

- Red masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying competition if a compulsory representative pair(s) from the top half of the field(s) plays in the Championship Final. This regulation has frequently been waived prior to 2004 but will be enforced this year and for subsequent years.
- Red masterpoints are to be calculated by the club masterpoint secretary on a weighting of 5.0 and will cost \$0.90 each.
- Red masterpoints are awarded on a sessional basis only; i.e. there is NO outright award. If a club runs a qualifying session(s), followed by a final and consolation, only the players in the final will receive red masterpoints. Red masterpoints cannot be awarded to players in the consolation as they are not eligible for the

next stage of the competition. (Green masterpoints may be awarded to these players as for a normal club session, through the standard quarterly return.)

- The red masterpoints awarded must not be entered on the club's quarterly return to the ABF Masterpoint Centre, but must be *sent to the convenor*. They may be entered on Congress Award forms (obtainable from the ABF Masterpoint Centre) showing the names and ABF numbers of all players in the section who have won masterpoints, or on an ABF formatted file on a 3.5 inch virus-checked diskette. *They should not be sent to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.*