

COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2004
MATT BLACKHAM FABC CONVENOR

SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 and the Tournament Regulations of the NSWBA as amended.
2. The Championship is conducted in four phases:
 - 2.1 Club selection: the State is divided in a Metropolitan and a Country section
 - 2.2 Regional final: qualifying teams to the next stage
 - 2.3 Country final: qualifying one team to the next stage
 - 2.4 State final
3. Yellow Systems are not permitted at any stage of the competition before the Country Final. Yellow systems will be permitted in the Country final in accordance with the NSWBA regulations in force at the time and subject to receipt by the Convenor of system and other material required under the NSWBA regulations on or before September 15th, 2004.
4. Players must have an **active** Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.
5. Qualifying may take the form of a teams event or a butler pair competition over a maximum of six sessions.
6. Directors must be qualified at Club level or above.
7. Qualification
 - 7.1 Teams placed in the top half of the field (s) are eligible to play in the Regional final.
 - 7.2 Any substitution in, or augmentation to, a team that plays in the Regional final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations (see section 4) and must be approved by the Convenor **prior to the commencement of the final**.

Eligible substitutes (and augmented players) are those players of equivalent standard (in the Convenor's or the Director's opinion) to the other members of the team, who would have been eligible to enter the competition and who are not playing in the stage for which a substitution or an augmentation is contemplated.

A team can only be augmented by a single player or by a pair. 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.
8. Masterpoints
 - Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level.
 - Red masterpoints are to be calculated by the club masterpoints Secretary on a weighting of 5.0. Red masterpoints are awarded on a sessional basis only, ie 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 Masterpoints Centre, but must be sent to the Convenor. They may be entered on Congress Award Forms (obtainable from the ABF MPs 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 by e-mail.
- Red Masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying competition if 15% of competing teams (rounded down) play in the Regional Final.

9. The Convenor will require the following no later than **19th September 2004**

- A complete copy of the results of each session.
- The completed Congress Award form or diskette.
- A cheque for the masterpoints calculated at \$0.90 per masterpoint
- A cheque for player entry fees calculated at a cost of \$1 per player per session or \$75 per nominated team.

Cheques must be made payable to the FABC

- A completed entry form for those teams that will be playing in the Regional final including names and ABF numbers.

NOTE: No nominations or entries will be accepted unless payment is received together with all the requirements listed above.

10. Regional Finals.

- The Regional finals will be held either as a Swiss or Round Robin teams competition over two sessions.
- Matches will be of at least eight boards using the appropriate WBF IMP to VP conversion scale.
- Teams placed in the top half of a Regional Final are eligible to advance to the Country Final of the State Open Teams
- The winner of the Country final is eligible to advance to the Quarter final of the State Open Teams. Table money for this team into all of the finals will be paid for by the FABC.

CONSIDERING THE LENGTH OF THE COMPETITION, CLUBS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO URGE THEIR PLAYERS TO ENTER AS TEAMS OF FIVE OR SIX TO ALLOW SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR LATER STAGES OF THE EVENT.

NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS RUNNING A REGIONAL FINAL

1. All clubs in your region should be notified of the date of the Regional Final, which must be held by 03 October 2004. The notification should include that any team placed in the top half of the field is eligible to play in the Country Teams Championship Final on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st October at Port Macquarie Bridge Club
2. As the organising club, you may enter as many teams as you wish in the Regional Final (this is useful in helping you to have a convenient number of teams for whichever movement that you choose). Other clubs in your region may either nominate one team to play in the Regional Final or, if they have run a qualifying competition, they may enter any or all of the teams that have come in the top half of their qualifying competition. The entry fee should be sufficient to cover the cost of masterpoints, the entry fee for the Country Final for 15% of the competing teams (rounded down), (obviously) the cost of running the event and ensure that your club does not make a loss on the event.
3. A Swiss or Round Robin "sensible" movement must be used, dependent upon the number of teams playing. Matches must be of at least eight boards, using the WBF IMP/VP conversion scale.
4. Teams placed in the top half of the Regional Final are eligible to play in the Country Final at Port Macquarie Bridge Club on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st October. This must be announced at the start of the Regional Final. The entry fee for the Final is \$130 per team.
5. One of the enclosed 'information sheets' must be given to each of the teams that is placed in the top half of the Regional Final.
6. The Convenor will require the following from you by Friday 15th October:
 - a complete copy of the results
 - the completed Congress Award forms
 - a cheque for the masterpoints, calculated at a cost of \$0.90 per masterpoint
Cheques must be made payable to the FABC
 - a completed entry form for those teams that will be playing in the Country Final, together with the entry fee of \$130.00 per team.

All correspondence regarding this Championship must be addressed to the convenor:

Matt BLACKHAM: 112 Dangerfield Drive Elmore Vale NSW 2287
Phone (02) 4950-2086 Fax: (02) 4955-8121
Email: blacm@ozemail.com.au

Matt BLACKHAM

cc: The Chairman, Tournament Committee of the NSWBA.
FABC Regional Councillors.
Noella Smith, NSWBA

COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

NOTICE TO QUALIFIERS TO THE FINAL

Congratulations - your team is eligible to play in the Country Teams Championship Final, to be held at Port Macquarie Bridge Club on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st October 2004.

If you wish to play in the final please send the attached entry form, with a cheque for \$130 made payable to the FABC, to the Convenor by Friday 15th October 2004.

1. On the day of the final, there will be a captains' meeting at 12:15pm. Please ensure that your team captain (or a team representative) is present.
2. The sessions will start at 12:30pm on Saturday.
3. The format of the final will depend upon the number of teams playing. Head to head matches of at least eight pre-duplicated boards will be played. Hand records will be available at the conclusion of each session (dependent upon the movement used).
4. Any substitution in or augmentation to a team that plays in the Country Final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations (see Section 4) and be approved by the Convenor ***prior to the commencement of play.***
5. The Country Teams Champions will be eligible to play in the finals of the State Teams Championship on the weekend of 26-28 November at the NSWBA.
6. Accommodation: a schedule of hotels/motels within easy reach of the venue will be forwarded to you.
7. Meals: There will be a dinner break between the afternoon and evening sessions on Saturday. The arrangements for Sunday will be decided at the captain's meeting.

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