

NSW Regional Grand National Open Teams - 2014 Supplementary Tournament Regulations

Note: Clubs may write and publish their own supplementary regulations, but they must include the shaded paragraphs of these supplementary regulations.

1. The Event

1.1 This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007, supplemented by the Tournament Regulations of the NSWBA as they stand at the time an issue arises, and these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of conflict between these Supplementary Regulations and the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, the Supplementary Regulations shall apply.

1.2 The competition is conducted in three stages:

1.2.1 Club qualifying events (CQE), qualifying teams to the Regional Final.

1.2.2 Regional Finals, qualifying teams to the National Final.

1.2.3 National Final.

1.3 No yellow systems will be permitted before the National Final.

2. Eligibility and Entry

2.1 Each player (either in a qualifying heat or a nominated team) must be a member of a Regional bridge club affiliated with the NSWBA, though not necessarily a member of the club in whose event he/she is participating.

2.2 Players need to be residents of the Region. However, clubs may allow bona fide members that reside outside the region to participate.

2.3 Players will be able to state that they are not contending if they have already qualified.

2.4 The advertised entry fee is payable in full at the first session. It will cover all masterpointing costs and entry fees for teams that qualify for later stages of the GNOT.

3. Club Qualifying Event (CQE)

3.1 Each club is invited to hold one or two events to qualify teams to a Regional Final. If a club holds two CQEs, they must essentially cater for different clientele (e.g. one could be held in the evening and the other during the day or on a weekend).

3.2 Clubs may run any type of IMP based teams or pairs competition, including but not limited to Swiss, Round Robin, Knock-out with Swiss repechage and Butler Pairs.

3.3 The tournament will be conducted over 2 to 5 sessions as advertised.

3.4 Directors must be qualified at club level (D) or above.

3.5 No Yellow Systems are permitted in the Club Qualifying or Regional Final Events. Other system regulations (e.g. use of Brown Sticker conventions) are to be set by the clubs. Note that all systems will be permitted in the National Final.

3.6 Teams finishing in the top half of the field are eligible to play in the Regional Final. If running a Butler Pairs CQE, qualifying teams must have a minimum of 50% of pairs that finished in the top half of the field.

3.7 The number of teams to qualify to the Regional Final from each club qualifying event is calculated as follows from the number of tables (T) in play in the CQE. A maximum of one half (*i.e.* $T/2$), fractions rounded up, may qualify and a minimum of one fifth (*i.e.* $T/5$), fractions rounded down, must qualify. For 5 tables or fewer, 1 team must qualify.

3.8 A club must send a minimum of $T/5$ teams to the Regional Final to receive gold masterpoints.

3.9 Teams who are eligible, but whose entry fees are not covered by the club, can elect to pay their own entry fee to the Regional Final.

3.10 Players who have failed to qualify may form teams and enter the Regional Final directly. Such entries must specify all team members and the club(s) at which they participated in a CQE and are to be lodged with the Regional Organiser. The cost for a direct entry is \$220 per team.

3.11 Teams that qualify for the Regional Final, who opt not to proceed or request augmentation, will be replaced by lower ranked teams in the top half of the field, invited in finishing order. Once the top half of the field has been exhausted, then augmentation requests will be considered.

3.12 Clubs should note the \$200 entry fee for each team that they send to the Regional Final, and clubs should set their own entry fees accordingly.

3.13 Clubs not wishing to run a qualifying competition may nominate one team per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of three teams. All players in a nominated team must be members of the nominating club.

4. Regional and National Finals

4.1 The NSWBA will charge an entry fee per team that enters the Regional Final. This will cover the cost of running the event and the entry fees for the teams that qualify to the National Final.

4.2 Directors at the Regional Final must be non-playing and qualified at championship level (C2) or above.

4.3 The number of teams that will qualify to the National final is set for each Region and is indicated on the list of Clubs and Regions available from the website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/regions.htm>. Depending on the level of support for the event and ABF policy, this number may change from year to year.

4.4 Teams that qualify for the National Final, who opt not to proceed or request augmentation, will be replaced by lower ranked teams in the top half of the field, invited in finishing order. Once the top half of the field has been exhausted, then augmentation requests will be considered.

4.5 In the event that only one club in the region is willing to conduct a qualifying heat and no other clubs have nominated a team to proceed to a Regional Final then, subject to agreement by the Regional Organiser, that club's CQE may be redesignated as the Regional Final (note that National Final entry fees will still be due and arrangements will need to be made to ensure these can be paid).

4.6 In the event that no club in the region is willing to conduct a CQE and the total number of teams nominated to proceed to a Regional Final does not exceed the number of National Final places available for that Region then, subject to agreement by the Regional organiser, that/those team(s) may progress to the National Final. (Note that National Final entry fees will still be due and arrangements will need to be made to ensure these can be paid).

5. Substitutions, Withdrawals and Augmentations

5.1 Substitutions are to be in accordance with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations.

5.2 Teams that are in breach of the substitution regulations will not be offered a place in the Regional or National Final should they finish in a qualifying position.

5.3 All augmented players must comply with Regulations 2.1 and 2.2 and must have played in one of the Region's CQEs.

5.4 Teams that qualify for the Regional Final must indicate their intention to accept the offer at least two weeks before the Regional Final. Any augmentations must be notified at the time of acceptance.

5.4.1 Teams of 5 or 4 players that qualify from a CQE to the Regional Final may apply to the Regional Organiser to augment an extra 1 or 2 players respectively. Such application must be made at least two weeks before the Regional Final.

5.4.2 Once a team has accepted to play in the Regional Final, players may not withdraw without good reason. If insufficient reason is given, players will not be permitted to enter the Regional Final next year.

5.4.3 If a team withdraws after acceptance into the Regional Final, the Club's Executive Committee may, at its discretion, use any method to find a replacement team.

5.5 Once players have reached the Regional Final, they are committing to play in the National Final if they qualify. Players that decline to proceed to the National Final this year will not be permitted to enter the Regional Final next year.

5.5.1 Teams of 5 or 4 players that qualify from the Regional Final to the National Final may apply to the Regional Organiser to augment an extra 1 or 2 players respectively. Such application must be made at least two weeks before the National Final.

5.6 Players who qualify to the National Final from one Region are not allowed to contest any other Regional Final. If such players qualify to another Region's Final, they must immediately withdraw. Provided the affected team contains no more than 2 such players, it may augment replacement player(s) without penalty under Regulation 5.3.

6. Masterpointing

6.1 Gold masterpoints will only be awarded for a CQE if 20% of participating teams proceed to the Regional Final.

6.2 To obtain gold masterpoints for CQEs, the following must be submitted via email to the Regional Organiser:

- Results, showing team members, wins, draws and number of boards played, as a word, pdf or html file.
- Masterpoints as a gld file, as defined in the ABF Masterpoint Manual and named accordingly.
- Completed spread sheet for CQEs, which can be down loaded from <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/regions.htm>.

6.3 Masterpoint files for CQEs and the Regional Final will be checked by the Regional Organiser and forwarded to the State Regional Convener, who in turn will forward them to the ABF Masterpoint Centre. The Masterpoint Centre will bill clubs directly for CQEs, and the NSWBA for Regional Finals.

6.4 Gold masterpoints will be available to the winners of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints per player per board. In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively.

6.5 For the Regional Final, gold masterpoints will be available to the winners of every match at the rate of 0.06 masterpoints per player per board, provided that the Regional Final is of at least three sessions duration, with not less than ten teams. There are also outright placement awards.

7. Administration

7.1 All documentation, including cheques, must be clearly identified with the club's name and number.

7.2 Club Qualifying Events: A form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/regions.htm>. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list. If running two separate CQEs please send two separate sets of files.

7.2.1 The club needs to send the following to the Regional Organiser by email:

- The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file;
- A complete copy of the outright results as a pdf, html or txt file;
- The masterpoint file as a .gld file;
- A complete list of members and their ABF numbers of teams proceeding to the Regional Final;
- A cheque (made payable to the NSWBA) for the amount calculated in the coversheet above which covers entry fees to the Regional Final and original club GNOT entry fees. The latter will be passed onto the ABF.

DO NOT send any documents, files or cheques to the NSWBA or ABF (clubs will be billed directly by the ABF masterpoint centre for CQEs).

7.3 Regional Finals: A form to assist hosting clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/regions.htm>. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list. :

7.3.1 The hosting club needs to send the following to the Regional Organiser:

- The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file;
- A complete copy of the outright results as a pdf, html or txt file;
- The masterpoint file as a .gld file;
- All monies (cheques made payable to the NSWBA) from clubs conducting CQEs and from teams entering the Regional Final directly under #3.8 for the amount calculated in the coversheet above.

7.3.2 The Regional Organiser needs to send the following to the GNOT Regional Convener:

- All monies (cheques made payable to the NSWBA) from clubs conducting CQEs and from teams entering the Regional Final directly under #3.8 for the amount calculated in the coversheet above.
- The completed Excel file available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2014/gnot/regions.htm>.
- All relevant tax invoices and receipts so that the NSWBA can reclaim the GST.