

**GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS – 2024**  
**SYDNEY METROPOLITAN DIRECT TO NATIONAL FINALS QUALIFYING EVENT**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

These regulations relate to the three Sydney Metropolitan Region Grand National Open Teams events that qualify teams directly to Stage 1 of the National Finals on 20-22 September, 2024.

1. Acronyms, Definitions and Personnel

BNSW	New South Wales Bridge Association or Bridge New South Wales as appropriate
NSBC	North Shore Bridge Club
SBC	Sydney Bridge Club
SO	Sponsoring Organisation ( <i>i.e.</i> BNSW, NSBC or SBC)
GNOT	Grand National Open Teams
DQE	Direct Qualifying Event
CQE	Club Qualifying Event

Metropolitan Final: to be held at NSWBA/SBC clubrooms on 7-8 September 2024

National Final Stage 1: to be held online on RealBridge 20-22 September

The Sydney Metropolitan Region GNOT Organiser is David Wiltshire, email: [metrognot@nswba.com.au](mailto:metrognot@nswba.com.au)

The Chairman of the BNSW Events Committee is Maurits van der Vlugt, email: [events@nswba.com.au](mailto:events@nswba.com.au)

2. The Direct Qualifying Events

- 2.1 The dates of the three DQEs are:
  - SBC on Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 April face-to-face at 162 Goulburn St
  - NSBC on Thursdays 9, 16, 23 & 30 May on RealBridge.
  - BNSW on Mondays 22, 29 July, 5, 12 & 19 August on RealBridge
- 2.2 The BNSW event will qualify two teams and the SBC and NSBC events one team each to the National Final. In addition, each event will qualify teams to the Metropolitan Final. The number of teams to so qualify will be a maximum of one seventh of the field (fractions rounded up) and a minimum of one seventh (fractions rounded down).
- 2.3 These competitions are conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, supplemented by the Tournament Regulations of BNSW as they stand at the time an issue arises and these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of conflict, these Supplementary Regulations will apply.
- 2.4 SOs must run one of the following types of teams competition, with the proviso that all matches must be of a minimum of five (5) boards. Allowed movements are: Round Robin, Swiss, Single Knock-out with Swiss repechage, Double Knock-out with Swiss repechage, or Swiss qualifying with final. Each SO will be responsible for its own set of Supplementary Tournament Regulations.
- 2.5 The Director must be grade C2 or higher and may not play in the event.
- 2.6 System regulations are to be set by the SOs. Note, however, that all systems will be permitted in the Metropolitan Final.
- 2.7 NSBC and SBC may also hold one or two CQEs as per notification from the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, David Wiltshire.
- 2.8 Each SO is encouraged to advertise its DQE as widely as possible.
- 2.9 DQEs may be run F2F or on RealBridge.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1 Teams are to consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.
- 3.2 All team members must be active player members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme.
- 3.3 Each player must be a member of a Sydney metropolitan bridge club affiliated with BNSW, though not necessarily a member of SBC or NSBC.
- 3.4 Players must be *bona fide* residents of the Sydney metropolitan region or a neighbouring NSW country GNOT region, *viz*, Central Coast, Mountains or Tablelands-Illawarra.

4. Non-Contending Teams

- 4.1 An entire team may declare itself as non-contending, providing it does so before the start of the DQE. ALL members of such teams forfeit all qualifying rights other than those allowed under Regulation 7.6.

- 4.2 Players who have qualified to the National Final may not contest any other DQE unless the team in which they are playing is declared “non-contending” before the start of play. Any team containing such a player is, by definition, “non-contending”.
- 4.3 At the conclusion of each DQE, the relevant SO will immediately forward to the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser the names, ABF numbers and contact details (email or postal address) of **ALL** members of teams that have won the direct qualification. He will thereupon notify all such players of the restrictions that will apply to any team in which they subsequently play.
- 4.4 No member of a “non-contending” team is eligible to qualify to the National Final from that DQE.
- 4.5 No member of a “non-contending” team is eligible to qualify to the Metropolitan Final from that DQE. They may however enter the Metropolitan Final directly, as allowed under Regulation 7.6.

## 5. Qualification to the National Finals

- 5.1 There is no minimum board requirement for members of teams in the DQEs or the Metropolitan Final.
- 5.2 Contending teams will qualify to the National Final and Metropolitan Final in the order specified in the SO’s Supplementary Tournament Regulations, the highest placed team(s) qualifying to the National Final.
- 5.3 Teams of 4 or 5 players may augment extra players in accordance with Regulation 6.
- 5.4 Players who qualify directly to the National Final are committed to playing in the team in which they so qualify.
- 5.5 Players who have qualified to the National Final (or who have been augmented onto a team that has qualified) may not contest nor play as a substitute in the Metropolitan Final.
- 5.6 Players who have qualified to the Metropolitan Final may participate in DQEs without restriction. If they qualify to the National Final they must withdraw from the Metropolitan Final.
- 5.7 At the conclusion of the Metropolitan Final, all seven (7) qualifying teams from the Sydney Metropolitan Region will be seeded to the National Final by a committee comprising the Chairman of the BNSW Events Committee, the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser and the Chief Director of BNSW.

## 6. Teams Proceeding to and Participating in the National Final

- 6.1 Teams of 4 players that qualify to the National Final may augment 1 or 2 players. Teams of 5 players that qualify to the National Final may augment 1 player. Requests to augment will only be granted if:
  - The request to augment is made by email to the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser and is received **before commencement of the Metropolitan Final**.
  - The player(s) to be augmented satisfy the eligibility conditions of Regulation 3.
  - The player(s) being augmented did not play as members of a “non-contending” team in the same DQE as that from which the team qualified.
  - The player(s) being augmented contested a CQE or DQE in the Sydney Metropolitan Region.
  - The players being augmented have not previously qualified to the National Final.
- 6.2 Should a player withdraw from a team that has qualified to the National Final from a DQE, then:
  - (a) The Chairman of the BNSW Events Committee and the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser must be notified immediately.
  - (b) If the player has played zero (0) boards in the DQE, he/she will be treated as never having been a team member.
  - (c) The team affected may augment player(s) in accordance with #6.1, but with the withdrawn player being deemed a team member (*i.e.* a team of 4 that is reduced to 3 may augment 1 or 2 players, but not 3). This rule will be relaxed only in extreme or unforeseen circumstances (*e.g.* death or incapacity of team member) at the discretion of the BNSW Events Committee.
  - (d) The player who withdraws will not be permitted to play in the Metropolitan Final nor contest any DQE in a contending team.
  - (e) The player who withdraws is permitted to play as a substitute in the Metropolitan Final or another DQE.

- 6.3 Notwithstanding #6.1, the ABF and BNSW are cognisant that some teams in Stage 1 of the National Finals may be playing the HCL Tournament in India on the same dates. Requests by such teams to exceed the normally allowed substitution rules will generally be accepted. In the most extreme case, it is possible that a team qualifies for the National Finals and plays Stage 2 after only substitutes (i.e. no team members) played Stage 1. The composition of all teams from Metropolitan Sydney in both Stages 1 and 2 is the responsibility of BNSW, not the ABF.

#### 7. Teams Proceeding to and Participating in the Metropolitan Final

- 7.1 Teams submitted by SOs must consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.
- 7.2 Players who have already qualified for the National Final may not compete in the Metropolitan Final.
- 7.3 Teams that proceed from the DQE to the Metropolitan Final must contain at least 3 members of the team that entered the DQE.
- 7.4 Players who are augmented onto teams must satisfy all the following criteria.
- (a) Satisfy the eligibility conditions of Regulation 3.
  - (b) Did not play as members of a “non-contending” team in the same DQE.
  - (c) Must not have previously qualified to the National Final.
  - (d) Must have contested a DQE or a CQE in the Sydney Metropolitan Region.
- 7.5 There is no minimum board requirement for competitors in the Metropolitan Final.
- 7.6 Players who have failed to qualify may form teams and enter the Metropolitan Final directly via BNSW. All members of such teams must have participated in a DQE or CQE and the entry must specify the club(s) at which the members played. Direct entry costs \$260 per team. Augmentation of such teams at the completion of the Metropolitan Final is not permitted – the team that enters is the team that qualifies to the National Final.

#### 8. Substitutions

- 8.1 Substitution regulations are to be set by the SOs. In the absence of any such regulations, the relevant clauses of Section 4 of the BNSW Tournament Regulations will apply.

#### 9. Fees

- 9.1 SBC and NSBC may levy extra payments on the teams that qualify directly to the National Final from their DQEs. Any such extra payment must be clearly advertised before the commencement of the DQE.
- 9.2 Each SO will pay an entry fee of \$15 per team competing in the DQE, plus \$200 per team entered into the Metropolitan Final. This fee is to be paid even if all the teams do not actually play. In addition, \$1.39 per gold masterpoint awarded, will be charged to the SO. All quoted charges include GST. SOs should be aware of these fees when setting tournament entry fees and table monies for their qualifying events.
- 9.3 SBC and NSBC will each pay BNSW \$300 for their team entered into the National Final.
- 9.4 BNSW will pay all fees and expenses (including catering, directing and masterpoint costs) associated with the Metropolitan Final.
- 9.5 BNSW will pay all entry fees to the ABF for the National Final. These are:  
\$300 per team for each Metropolitan Sydney team competing in the National Final, plus  
\$10 per team for every team entered in all Sydney Metropolitan qualifying tournaments.
- 9.6 The fee for teams entering the Metropolitan Final directly is \$260 (GST incl.).

## 10. Masterpointing

- 10.1 The State Masterpoint Secretary or his representative will calculate all DQE masterpoint awards.
- 10.2 Gold masterpoints will be available to the winners<sup>1</sup> of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints per player per board per match. In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively unless the exact team composition is supplied for every match played.
- 10.3 Placing awards will be made to the top 1/3 of the field (rounded up).
- 10.4 SOs will be billed directly by the ABF Masterpoint Centre for all masterpoints awarded in DQEs.

<sup>1</sup> To qualify as winners for the purpose of masterpoint awards, the leading team must win by a margin greater than 0.2 IMP per board over the match. Note especially that for 10 board matches a final IMP difference of 2 IMPs counts as a draw.

## 11. Administration

- 11.1 The DQEs are run under the auspices of BNSW.
- 11.2 Aspects of the DQEs relating to teams winning direct qualification to the National Final and teams qualifying to the Metropolitan Final are the responsibility of David Wiltshire, the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser.
- 11.3 Immediately after the conclusion of each DQE the relevant SO must provide David Wiltshire, the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, with the following information:
  - (a) The names, ABF numbers and email addresses of all members of the team(s) that has qualified to the National Final.
  - (b) The names, ABF numbers and email addresses of all members of all teams that have participated in the DQE as “non-contending teams”.
- 11.4 After the conclusion of all DQEs and before Saturday 24 August, each SO must provide David Wiltshire, the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser, with the following information:
  - (a) The format of the event, including the number of boards played in each match, the number of rounds played, and the number of teams in the event.
  - (b) The results of the event.
  - (c) The .gld masterpoint file for the DQE.
  - (d) A list of teams progressing to the Metropolitan Final.
  - (e) A list of all teams, their win/draw/loss record, their finishing position and their members.
- 11.5 BNSW will send SBC and NSBC an invoice to cover entry fees for teams in the Metropolitan and National Finals. Do not send any payment until an invoice has been received.
- 11.6 All inquiries and correspondence should be directed to:

David Wiltshire  
Metropolitan GNOT Organiser

e-mail: [metrognot@nswba.com.au](mailto:metrognot@nswba.com.au) (or if desperate, Mobile: 0412 341 504)