



# NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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## 2024 Grand National Open Teams - Country NSW Regions

The ABF has made major changes to the GNOT to curb the ~\$50K loss it has been making on the event every year. See the ABF's website <https://abfevents.com.au/events/gnot/2024/index.asp> for full details. In summary, the National Finals will now be held in two stages. The first will be held **online** from **Friday 20 – Sunday 22 September** using the **RealBridge** platform. That stage will qualify 4 open teams and 8 non-metropolitan teams to **face-to-face finals in Sydney on 23-24 November**. The ABF is also passing on some of their savings – most significantly the entry for teams to the Finals has been reduced to \$300.

At the local level, there will be some less dramatic changes. NSW has 22 places in the National Finals, 15 of which are assigned to country regions. Based on last year's participation rate, the NSWBA has made no changes in how these are allocated. Ronnie Ng will continue in the role of Country GNOT Organiser for 2024. To accommodate the new National Final structure, **all Regional Finals should be held no later than 8 September**. Club GNOT events and Regional Finals may be played F2F or online on RealBridge. Only players eligible to enter a face-to-face GNOT event are eligible to enter the online equivalent. Events run on BBO or StepBridge are not allowed.

The NSWBA has absorbed increasing costs for the last few years, to the point where it was running the GNOT at a substantial loss. Not only has the reduction in ABF entry fees for 2024 largely addressed this problem, it has allowed us to slightly reduce the cost to participating clubs. **The GNOT is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold masterpoints in a club session**, so we encourage all clubs to support this event. If entries increase, it may be possible to reduce the Regional Final entry fees further in 2025.

Once you have run your club's heat you need to send the club heat form (fully completed) to your Regional Organiser (see Appendix A).

Bill Powell [gnotmp@nswba.com.au](mailto:gnotmp@nswba.com.au) will again take on the role of Regional GNOT Masterpoint Adviser. To get your masterpoints processed you must send **all** the following to Bill:

- (i) The format of your event
- (ii) The number of boards played in each round
- (iii) The scores for each match played
- (iv) A .gld masterpoint file

Once Bill is satisfied that your file is correct, he will submit it to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

Further details about the event can be found on the NSWBA website;  
[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp)

Should you require further details please contact Ronnie – preferably by e-mail:

**Ronnie Ng** email: [countrygnot@nswba.com.au](mailto:countrygnot@nswba.com.au) Mobile: 0405 507 753

An overview of the GNOT, how it is conducted in NSW, and guidance on what premium should be charged to your players follows on the subsequent pages.

Warren Lazer  
Chairman, NSWBA Events Committee

## **Overview of the GNOT**

The Grand National Open Teams is an Australia-wide event conducted by the Australian Bridge Federation Inc (ABF). It is the only opportunity for players to earn Gold Masterpoints in their local club. It works like this:

- Australia is divided into regions on a geographical basis.
- Each region provides a set number of teams to the National Final (a total of 64 teams in 2024).
- Clubs hold heats to qualify teams to a final within their region.
- Each Regional Final qualifies 1 or more teams to the National Final.
- From 2024 onwards, the National Final will be played in two stages:
  1. a knock-out with Swiss repechage in mid-September played online on RealBridge platform,
  2. face-to-face Finals involving 4 open teams and 8 non-metropolitan teams in late November or early December in Sydney.
- The ABF provides travel grants to teams that qualify for the face-to-face Finals in Sydney.

## **GNOT in NSW**

The ABF has appointed the NSWBA as the Organising Body for all regions in NSW. The ABF has stipulated that NSWBA is to send 22 teams to the National Final - 7 of these will come from the Sydney Metropolitan region, the remaining 15 from elsewhere in NSW.

The NSWBA appoints a Sydney Metropolitan Organiser, a Country GNOT Organiser and a team of Regional Organisers who are responsible for conducting the GNOT in NSW.

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are slightly different to those used for the Country Teams or administrative purposes.

Each Country GNOT region in NSW, the affiliated clubs therein, and the number of teams it will qualify to the National Final can be found in Appendix A. Conduct of the GNOT in each region will primarily be the responsibility of a Regional Organiser who can also be found in Appendix A.

## **FURTHER DETAIL**

Separate more detailed sections now follow describing:

- Club qualifying events
- Regional Finals
- Masterpoints
- Financial information

**Please review these as they contain important information about running the GNOT in your club.**

## **CLUB QUALIFYING EVENTS**

All clubs within a region are invited to hold qualifying events (CQEs) to determine representative teams that will compete in a Regional Final.

Clubs may hold one or two separate qualifying heats. Each must be 2 - 5 sessions in length. It is recommended that clubs create a separate event in their calendars for their GNOT CQE.

Players may enter in as many different CQEs as they wish, at different clubs within a region or even in different regions (if they happen to belong to clubs in different regions).

All clubs have been assigned to one region only and can qualify teams only to that region's Final. These regions are not set in stone. If your club wants to move to a different region, please let Ronnie Ng know as soon as possible.

### **Event formats**

CQEs may be in the following formats:

- Teams.
- IMP pairs events (Butler or cross IMPs) with teams then formed from eligible pairs.

Regular club matchpoint duplicate sessions are not acceptable for two reasons:

- The GNOT is ultimately a team event (scored by IMPs) so the qualifying events should follow the same scoring approach.
- Clubs should be charging a premium to players in GNOT heats to show they are special (*i.e.* they carry Gold masterpoints) and to allow the club to collect sufficient monies to fund the entry fees to later stages – see Financial information section for details.

A template that can be used as a base to create appropriate CQE regs for your event(s) is available on the NSWBA's GNOT website <https://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp>.

### **Qualifying teams to the Regional Final**

In order to earn Gold masterpoints each club that holds a GNOT CQE must send at least 20% of its field to the Regional Final. This means:

- For heats up to 9 tables, the club must send at least 1 team to the Regional Final;
- For heats between 10-14 tables, the club must send at least 2 teams to the Regional Final;
- For heats between 15-19 tables the club must send at least 3 teams to the Regional Final; *etc.*

Clubs may also send any team that finished in the top half of the field. It's normal for the clubs to fund (either partially or fully) the top 20% of teams that qualify for the Regional Final, but others that finish in the top half of the field are eligible to play. Even if not being funded by the club, they should be asked if they want to progress and pay the full RF entry fee themselves.

### **Nominating teams to the Regional Final**

Clubs that do not hold a CQE may nominate 1 team per 50 home club members (or part thereof) up to a maximum of 3 teams to the Regional Final. The cost for nominating teams to the Regional Final is \$220 per team.

### **Direct entry of teams to the Regional Final**

The NSWBA recognises that there is a wide disparity in the standard of teams entering the club qualifying competitions, both within a region and across all regions in the state. It can be much easier to qualify to a Regional Final from some clubs than from others. The NSWBA will therefore accept entries directly into all Regional Finals. The cost for direct entry will be \$220 per team and all team members must have previously played in a CQE within that region.

## **REGIONAL FINALS**

The NSWBA does not pay for catering in Regional Finals. Clubs holding face-to-face RFs may charge the players a small premium to cover these costs.

Each Regional Final will qualify one or more teams (see Appendix A) to the first stage of the GNOT National Final to be held online on the RealBridge platform from Fri 20 to Sun 22 September.

## MASTERPOINTS

In club heats, Gold Masterpoints will be available to the winners of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of a 5 board match will receive 0.20 Gold masterpoints per player, while winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.32 Gold masterpoints per player. If you run a pairs movement with rounds of 4 boards (or fewer), the masterpoint awards will be reduced considerably. Masterpoint costs will be billed to the clubs by the ABF Masterpoint Centre. CQEs may be held as online events on RealBridge with gold MPs awarded as above. Sessions held on BBO or StepBridge are not permitted.

In Regional Finals, depending on the size and number of sessions, these awards may increase to 0.06 masterpoints per board, *i.e.* winners of an 8 board match will receive 0.48 Gold Masterpoints per player, while winners of a 10 board match will receive 0.60 Gold masterpoints per player. Masterpoint costs for Regional Finals will be billed to the NSWBA by the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

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.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### ABF charges

The ABF makes two charges for the GNOT:

- \$300 per team entered to the National Final
- \$10 per table that enters the event at a qualifying level

The NSWBA has calculated a fee structure that allows clubs to collect sufficient funds to cover further entry fees and masterpoint charges and is consistent across all country regions. (Players in the Sydney metropolitan region will be paying slightly more.)

### Costs to clubs

The NSWBA will be responsible for paying the above fees to the ABF. It will also be responsible for all Regional Final running costs (including masterpoints awarded in the Final). The money will be raised by the following fees:

Fee	\$	Notes
Club qualifying heats or club nominations to the Regional Final.	\$14 per table	This covers the \$10 per table levy from the ABF which the NSWBA collects and passes on. The \$4 extra premium helps defray the costs associated with RFs (Director, MPs, <i>etc.</i> ) across all players.
Each team entering the Regional Final.	\$180	It is completely up to the clubs how this money is raised. Past practice in many areas was for the club to pay 40% of the entry fee and the players to pay 60%. However the money is raised, the NSWBA will invoice the club for the full amount.

Clubs should note that they will need to charge a small premium on normal table money for GNOT heats in order to raise sufficient monies for these fees. Clubs will continue to be invoiced by the ABF masterpoint centre for the masterpoints awarded in their qualifying heats.

## Costs to players

The premium charged to players to raise sufficient funds will depend on the number of tables and sessions in your heat, but typically should not be more than \$5 dollars a session. The table on the following page gives some examples of how to calculate a reasonable amount for clubs who run small, medium and large CQEs.

Table: Calculating entry fee per player

		Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Tables in CQE	<b>T</b>	7	10	15
Sessions	<b>S</b>	2	2	3
Teams qualifying to Regional Final	<b>R</b>	1	2	3
<b>Funds required</b>				
Regional Final entry fee (assume club pays \$100 per team and players pay \$80)	<b>R x \$100</b>	\$100	\$200	\$300
\$14 per table charge	<b>T x \$14</b>	\$98	\$140	\$210
<b>Total required funds</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>\$198</b>	<b>\$340</b>	<b>\$510</b>
Total player sessions	<b>P = 4 x T x S</b>	4 x 7 x 2 = 56	4 x 10 x 2 = 80	4 x 15 x 3 = 180
Premium per player per session needed to raise these funds <i>(Recommend round up to help fund Gold masterpoints.)</i>	<b>F / P</b>	198/56 \$3.56 (Say \$4)	340/80 \$4.25 (Say \$4.50)	510/180 \$2.83 (Say \$3.00)
<b>Funds raised</b>		<b>56 x \$4 = \$224</b>	<b>80 x \$4.50 = \$360</b>	<b>180 x \$3.00 = \$540</b>

## Position across NSW

The NSWBA recognises that under this structure, some regions will make a loss and others will make a profit. Our aim is twofold - to break even across the state and to make the costs of entering the event equitable for all players. If there is a significant surplus it will be passed back to the regions – most likely in the form of additional subsidies to teams attending the National Final. Over time, we will be reviewing the structure of the regions and the participation levels with the aim of having every region in a financially viable position.

## Further details

The Supplementary Tournament Regulations, that are to be read in association with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations, will be posted separately on the NSWBA web site

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/2024/gnot/regions.asp). Please read the regulations carefully, as they explain the conditions that need to be fulfilled for Gold masterpoints to be awarded.

## Appendix A

### Northern Zone

#### Northern Rivers (1 teams) Organiser: Marjorie Askew

Ballina  
Brunswick Valley  
Byron Bay  
Lennox Head  
Lismore  
Murwillumbah  
Tweed  
Twin Towns

#### Mid North Coast (2 teams) Organiser: Ray Ingielewicz

Camden Haven (Laurieton)  
Coffs Harbour  
Grafton  
Great Lakes  
Nambucca River  
Nambucca Valley  
Port Macquarie  
Port Macquarie-Hastings  
Port Macquarie Oxley  
PP  
Taree  
Urunga  
Yamba

#### Central Inland (1 team) Organiser: Bruce Tier

Armidale  
Glen  
Gunnedah  
Highlanders  
Inverell-Delvyn  
Oxley (Walcha)  
Quirindi  
Tamworth  
Tenterfield  
Warialda & District

### Hunter Central Coast Zone

#### Hunter (3 teams) Organiser: Ken Wilks

Belmont  
Cessnock  
Charlestown  
Hawks Nest  
Hunter (Singleton)  
Lake Macquarie  
Maitland  
Muswellbrook  
Newcastle  
Quick Tricks (Merewether)  
Scone  
Southlakes  
Tilligerry (Lemon Tree Passage)  
Tomaree  
Toronto  
West City (Newcastle)

#### Central Coast (1 team) Organiser: Ronnie Ng

Brisbane Water  
Central Coast  
Central Coast Leagues  
Community (Bateau Bay)

#### Mountains (2 teams) Organiser: Kerry Hatswell

Bathurst  
Blue Mountains  
Glenbrook  
Hawkesbury  
Mudgee  
Penrith  
Springwood  
Windsor

### Western Zone

#### Western NSW (1 team) Organiser: David Reddel

Condobolin  
Coonabarabran  
Cowra  
Dubbo  
Forbes  
Narromine/Trangie  
Orange  
Parkes  
Wellington

#### South West NSW (1 team) Organiser: Adrian Thompson

Commercial Club (Albury)  
Griffith  
Leeton  
Riverview (Wagga Wagga)  
Tumbarumba  
Tumut  
Wagga Wagga  
West Wyalong

### Southern Zone

#### South Coast (1 team) Organiser: Karen Creet

Batemans Bay  
Bega Valley  
Bridge @ the Bay (Malua Bay)  
Milton  
Mollymook  
Moruya  
Sapphire Coast

#### Tablelands-Illawarra (2 teams) Organiser: Steve Brabyn

Berry  
Bowral  
Bungendore  
Goulburn  
Illawarra Bridge Association  
Kiama & District  
Nowra  
Southern Highlands (Bowral)