

COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

TRISH CARTER CONVENER

SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007 and the Tournament Regulations of the NSWBA as amended.
2. Officials
 - 2.1 The Convener of the competition is Trish Carter:
Caubane, Woolbrook, NSW, 2354
Phone/Fax: (02) 6777-5857
Email: northern@nswba.com.au
 - 2.2 The Southern Division Coordinator is Doreen Kjeldsen
217 Bentinck St, Bathurst 2795
Phone/Fax : (02) 6331-4694
Email: southern@nswba.com.au
3. The Championship is conducted in four phases:
 - Club selection events: qualifying teams to the Regional Final
 - Regional Finals: qualifying teams to either the Northern or Southern Division Final
 - Northern and Southern Division Finals: each qualifying one team to the finals of the John Arkinstall State Teams
 - State Finals
4. Yellow Systems are not permitted at any stage of the competition before the State Final. Pairs wishing to play a Yellow system in the State Final must submit a copy of the system and a suggested defence for the opponents to the Chairman of the NSWBA Tournament Committee before Friday 4th December, 2009.
5. Players must have an *active* Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.
6. Players do not have to be members of the club where the qualifying competition is held.
7. Club selection events
 - 7.1 Qualifying events must take the form of a teams, a Butler pairs or a matchpoints pairs event over a maximum of six sessions.
 - 7.2 Clubs may run a maximum of two separate qualifying events - one daytime and/or one evening event.
 - 7.3 Directors must be qualified at Club level (Grade D) or above.
8. Qualification to Regional Finals
 - 8.1 Teams placed in the top half of the field(s) are eligible to play in the Regional Final.
 - 8.2 Pairs placed in the top half of the field(s) are eligible to play in the Regional Final. They may form teams of 4 or 6 players according to the supplementary regulations set by each participating club. In the absence of any such regulations, teams of 4 (*i.e.* 2 eligible pairs) may augment to teams of 5 or 6 by appending players who played in the event but failed to qualify.
 - 8.3 Clubs not running a qualifying competition may nominate teams to the Regional Final. The number of teams that may be nominated by a club is one team per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of three teams. All players in a nominated team must be financial members of the nominating club.
 - 8.4 If only one club in a region is interested in participating, it may either
 - nominate one team directly to the Divisional Final, or
 - seek permission from the Convener to have its Club Qualifying event reclassified as the Regional Final.

9. Regional and Divisional Finals.
 - 9.1 The Regional Finals will be held either as a Swiss or Round Robin teams competition over two sessions.
 - 9.2 Matches will be of at least eight boards using the appropriate WBF IMP to VP conversion scale.
 - 9.3 Teams placed in the top half of a Regional Final are eligible to advance to the Divisional Final.
 - 9.4 The winner of each Divisional Final is eligible to advance to the Finals of the John Arkinstall State Teams at the NSWBA. If unavailable, they will be replaced by the highest placed available team.
10. The John Arkinstall State Teams Finals
 - 10.1 The Round Robin qualifying stage will consist of seven 14 board matches:
 - Matches 1 - 2: 7:00 pm on Friday 11th December 2009
 - Matches 3 - 7: 10:00 am Saturday 12th December 2009
 - 10.2 The two highest placed teams from the Round Robin will contest the 56 board Final (4 x 14 board stanzas) beginning at 10:00 am on Sunday 13th December 2009.
 - 10.3 No entry fee or table money is payable by teams participating in the State Final.
 - 10.4 Players not playing in the final may play for free in the NSWBA Christmas Party Pairs on the Sunday.
11. The Country Teams Championship
 - 11.1 This will be decided at the Finals of John Arkinstall State Teams.
 - 11.2 If the Northern and Southern Division representative teams both qualify for the Final of the State Teams, then the winner of the State Teams will also be declared the Country Teams Champions.
 - 11.3 If only one of the Northern and Southern Division representative teams qualifies for the Final of the State Teams, then that qualifying team will be declared the Country Teams Champions.
 - 11.4 If neither the Northern nor Southern Division representative teams qualifies for the Final of the State Teams, then both teams will contest a 56 board match on Sunday 13th December at the NSWBA to determine the Country Teams Champions.
12. Substitutions
 - 12.1 Any substitution in, or augmentation to, a team that plays in the Regional, Divisional or State Final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations (see section 4) and must be approved by the Convener **prior to the commencement of the relevant final.**
 - 12.2 Eligible substitutes (and augmented players) are those players of equivalent standard (in the Convener'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.
 - 12.3 A team can only be augmented by a single player or by a pair. Notwithstanding the above, the Convener, in 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 Convener.
13. Entry Fees
 - 13.1 The entry fee for every team that plays in the Regional Final is \$80 per team, regardless of whether it qualifies (#8.1 or #8.2) or is nominated (#8.3).
 - 13.2 It is up to the clubs to set their own entry fees and table monies, but note that Red Masterpoints will only be awarded if 15% of the field proceeds to the Regional Final. It is therefore recommended that clubs charge a premium (of \$1 -\$2 per player per session) above normal table money to generate an income of at least \$80 per team for 15% of the field (#14.4). Lower ranked teams that are eligible and wish to play in the Regional Final can be (partially) subsidised by the club or pay the full \$80 themselves.
 - 13.3 The entry fee for every team that plays in the Divisional Final is \$130 per team.
 - 13.4 There is no entry fee or table money payable by teams participating in the State Final.

14. Masterpoints

14.1 Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level.

14.2 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, *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).

14.3 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 Convener. 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 as an appropriately formatted file emailed to the Convener. They should not be sent to the ABF Masterpoint Centre by e-mail.

14.4 Red Masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying competition if 15% of competing teams (rounded down) play in the Regional Final.

15. The Convener will require the following no later than **20th September 2009**

- A complete copy of the results of each session.
- The completed Congress Award form or relevant file(s).
- A cheque for the masterpoints calculated at \$1.10 per masterpoint
- A completed entry form for those teams that will be playing in the Regional Final including names and ABF numbers.
- A cheque for team entry fees calculated at a cost of \$80 per team that plays in the Regional Final.

All cheques must be made payable to the NSWBA.

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