

COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

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. Relevant forms and the latest up-to-date information can be obtained from the NSWBA website: <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2012/sot.htm#sotcf>
3. Officials
 - 3.1 The Convener of the competition is Louis Koolen
15 Wyong Rd, Tumbi Umbi, NSW, 2261
Email: lkoolen@bigpond.net.au
Phone: 4389 7203
 - 3.2 The Divisional Coordinators are:

Northern	Southern	Outer Metropolitan
Ian Price: 134 Douglas St, Armidale, NSW, 2350 iprice@une.edu.au Phone: 6773 2653	Jan Mitchell 2 Sanctuary Place Catalina, NSW, 2536 robandjan13@bigpond.com Phone: 4472 8278 Mobile: 0423 872 201	Louis Koolen 15 Wyong Rd, Tumbi Umbi, NSW, 2261 lkoolen@bigpond.net.au Phone: 4389 7203
4. The Championship is conducted in four phases:
 - Club selection events: qualifying teams to the Regional Final
 - Regional Finals: qualifying teams to either the Northern, Southern or Outer Metropolitan Divisional Final
 - Northern, Southern and Outer Metropolitan Divisional Finals: each qualifying one team to the finals of the John Arkinstall State Teams
 - State Finals
5. 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 7th December, 2012.
6. Players must have an *active* Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.
7. Players do not have to be members of the club where the qualifying competition is held.
8. Club selection events
 - 8.1 Qualifying events must take the form of a teams, a Butler pairs or a matchpoints pairs event over a maximum of six sessions.
 - 8.2 A session consists of at least 24 boards. Masterpoint awards are factored down accordingly for sessions where fewer than 24 boards are played.
 - 8.3 Clubs may run a maximum of two separate qualifying events - one daytime and/or one evening event.
 - 8.4 At least 20% of the initial entry must qualify to the Regional Final.
 - 8.5 Directors must be qualified at Club level (Grade D) or above.

9. Qualification to Regional Finals

- 9.1 Teams placed in the top half of the field(s) are eligible to play in the Regional Final.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.

10. Regional Finals.

- 10.1 All Regional Finals will be held either as a Swiss or Round Robin teams competition over two sessions.
- 10.2 Matches will be of at least eight boards using the appropriate WBF IMP to VP conversion scale.
- 10.3 Teams placed in the top half of a Regional Final are eligible to advance to the Divisional Final.
- 10.4 Directors must be qualified at Championship level (Grade C2) or above.

11. Divisional Finals.

- 11.1 All Divisional Finals will be held as a Round Robin teams competition (using more than one group if necessary) over two sessions followed by a knockout phase of one session on the weekend of 30th June and 1st July 2012.
- 11.2 Matches will be of at least eight boards using the appropriate WBF IMP to VP conversion scale.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 Directors must be qualified at Congress level (Grade C1) or above.

12. The John Arkinstall State Teams Finals

- 12.1 The Round Robin qualifying stage will consist of seven 12 board matches:
 - Matches 1 - 2: 7:00 pm on Friday 14th December 2012
 - Matches 3 - 7: 10:00 am Saturday 15th December 2012
- 12.2 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 16th December 2012.
- 12.3 Directors must be qualified at State level (Grade B) or above.
- 12.4 No entry fee or table money is payable by teams participating in the State Final.

13. The Country Teams Championship

- 13.1 This will be decided at the Finals of John Arkinstall State Teams.
- 13.2 If two Divisional representative teams qualify for the Final of the State Teams, then the winner of the State Teams will also be declared the Country Teams Champions.
- 13.3 If only one Divisional representative team qualifies for the Final of the State Teams, then that qualifying team will be declared the Country Teams Champions.
- 13.4 If no Divisional representative team qualifies for the Final of the State Teams, then the two highest ranked teams at the end of the round robin will contest a 56 board match on Sunday 16th December at the NSWBA to determine the Country Teams Champions.
- 13.5 Players not playing in the John Arkinstall State Teams Final or the Country Teams Championship Final may play for free in the NSWBA Christmas Party Pairs on the Sunday.

14. Substitutions

- 14.1 Substitutions at the Regional, Divisional or State Final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations (see section 4) and must be approved by the relevant Divisional Coordinator or Convener *prior to the commencement of the relevant final*.
- 14.2 Augmentations must take place prior to the commencement of the Divisional Final. In particular teams should note that augmentations will not be permitted to teams which qualify to the State Final (except in exceptional circumstances) – so teams should consider their availability for the State Final before the Divisional Finals.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 A team can only be augmented by a single player or by a pair. Notwithstanding the above, the Convener, in his 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.

15. Entry Fees

- 15.1 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 20% 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 to pay the entry fees for 20% of the field (#16.4) to the Regional Final. 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 entry fee themselves.
- 15.2 The entry fee for every team that plays in the Regional Final will be set by the hosting club. (An entry fee between \$80 and \$100 is recommended.) It needs to generate sufficient income to hold the event and to pay the entry fees of teams proceeding to the Divisional Final, *i.e.* at least 20% of the field (#16.5).
- 15.3 The entry fee for every team that plays in the Divisional Final is \$140 per team.
- 15.4 There is no entry fee or table money payable by teams participating in the State Final, however any net profit (or loss) generated from the Divisional Finals is the NSWBA's.

16. Masterpoints

- 16.1 Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level. The event is run under the NSWBA's grade B (State Championship) allowance – do not use your club's B4c sessions.
- 16.2 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).
- 16.3 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 must be sent as an appropriately formatted file e-mailed to the Convener. They should not be sent to the ABF Masterpoint Centre or the NSWBA Masterpoint Secretary. Red Masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying competition if 20% of competing teams (rounded to the nearest integer) play in the Regional Final.
- 16.4 Sessional Red Masterpoints for Regional Finals are to be calculated with a weighting of 5.0. Red Masterpoints will only be awarded for a Regional Final if 20% of competing teams proceed to the Divisional Final. There are no outright awards for Regional Finals.
- 16.5 Sessional Red Masterpoints for Divisional Finals are to be calculated with a weighting of 7.5. In addition, the Divisional Final will attract an outright award at weighting 5.0 (with S = 3) for the top third of the field.

16.6 Submitting Masterpoints: Once a Divisional Final is complete, the Divisional Coordinator must check that all the masterpoint awards submitted for their division are correct before sending the masterpoint files to the Country Teams Convener. When the Convener has received all the masterpoint files from the Divisions, then the files should be forwarded to the NSW State Masterpoint Secretary for processing.

17. Administration

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

17.2 Club Selection Events: A form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2012/sot.htm#sotcf>. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list. If running two separate qualifying events please send two separate sets of files. The club needs to send the following:

(a) to the Divisional Coordinator 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 .red file (See pp 46-47 of the ABF Masterpoint Manual <http://www.masterpoints.org.au/files/MPSCHEME/2004/html/mpmanual.HTM>);
- A complete list of members and their ABF numbers of teams that proceed to the Regional Final.

(b) to the Divisional Coordinator by post

- A cheque for the masterpoints calculated at \$1.16 per masterpoint, made payable to the NSWBA;

(c) to the Convener of the Regional Final

- A complete list of members and their ABF numbers of teams that proceed to the Regional Final;
- A cheque for team entry fees made payable to the club hosting the Regional Final.

17.3 Regional Finals: A form to assist hosting clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2012/sot.htm#sotcf>. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list. The hosting club needs to send the following to the Divisional Coordinator:

- 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 .red file (See pp 46-47 of the ABF Masterpoint Manual <http://www.masterpoints.org.au/files/MPSCHEME/2004/html/mpmanual.HTM>);
- A complete list of members and their ABF numbers of teams that proceed to the Divisional Final;
- A cheque for \$140 per team plus the masterpoints calculated at \$1.16 per masterpoint, made payable to the NSWBA.

17.4 Divisional Finals: Organisation of the Divisional Finals is the responsibility of the Divisional Coordinators and the Convener. Venues and session times will be advertised on the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2012/sot.htm#sotcf> as they become available.

18. Summary of dates and deadlines

- 18.1 Any club wishing to run a Regional Final must apply to the Divisional Coordinator by 3rd February.
- 18.2 Any club wishing to run a Divisional Final must apply to the Divisional Coordinator by 3rd February.
- 18.3 Club qualifying competitions must be completed by 2nd June and relevant documents sent to the Divisional Coordinator as soon as possible.
- 18.4 Regional Finals must be completed by 17th June 2012.
- 18.5 Entries to the Divisional Finals must be received by the Divisional Coordinator by 23rd June 2012.
- 18.6 All Division Finals will be held on 30th June and 1st July 2012.
- 18.7 John Arkinstall State Teams Finals will be held on Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December 2012.