

NSW Country Teams Championship Supplementary 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 four stages:

- Club selection events, qualifying teams to the Regional Final.
- Regional Finals, qualifying teams to the Divisional Final.
- Divisional Finals, qualifying teams to the John Arkinstall State Teams Final.
- The John Arkinstall State Teams Final.

1.3 No yellow systems will be permitted at any stage prior to 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 at least 1 week prior to the start of the State Final.

2. Eligibility and Entry

2.1 Each player 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 bona fide residents of the Region. However, clubs may allow home club 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 Country Teams.

3. Club Selection Events

3.1 The event will be conducted over 3 to 5 sessions as advertised.

3.2 A large club may conduct two qualifying events, for example: day and night time; or week and weekend day. No club may run more than two qualifying events.

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

3.4 Teams in the top half of the field are eligible to play in the Regional Final.

3.5 A club must send a minimum of 20% of participating teams to the Regional Final to receive red masterpoints.

3.6 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.

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3.7 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, the augmentation requests will be considered.

3.8 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 financial members of the nominating club.

4. Regional Final

4.1 The club hosting a Regional Final will set an entry fee per team that will cover the cost of running the event and the entry fees for the Divisional Final. (Remember at least 20% of teams must progress in order for Red masterpoints to be awarded.)

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

4.3 Teams in the top half of the field are eligible to play in the Divisional Final.

4.3 A minimum of 20% of participating teams must progress to the Divisional Final for red masterpoints to be awarded.

5. Divisional Final

5.1 The Divisional Finals will all be held at the same time over a weekend specified in the calendar.

5.2 The Divisional Finals are held at host clubs on behalf of the NSWBA. Entry fees are set by the NSWBA.

5.3 The club hosting the Divisional Final may charge a fee (excluding entry fee) per person that will cover the cost of running the event not covered by the NSWBA.

5.4 Directors of the Divisional Final must be non-playing and qualified at congress level (C1) or above.

5.5 The winner of each Divisional Final is eligible to progress to the John Arkinstall State Teams Final to be held at the NSWBA over a weekend specified in the NSWBA calendar. If unavailable, they will be replaced by the highest placed available team.

5.6 Travel subsidies will be available for the qualifying teams to attend the State Teams Final.

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6. The Country Teams Championship

- 6.1 This will be decided at the Finals of the John Arkinstall State Teams.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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 at the NSWBA to determine the Country Teams Champions.
- 6.5 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.

7. Substitutions, Withdrawals and Augmentations

- 7.1 Substitutions are to be in accordance with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations.
- 7.2 Teams that are in breach of the substitution regulations will not be offered a place in the Regional Final should they finish in a qualifying position.
- 7.3 All augmented players must comply with Regulations 2.1 and 2.2 and must have played in one of the Region's selection events.
- 7.4 Teams that qualify for the Regional Final must indicate their intention to accept the offer two weeks before the Regional Final. Any augmentations must be notified at the time of acceptance.
- 7.4.1 Teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify from a Club selection event to the Regional Final may apply to the club hosting the selection event to augment an extra 1 or 2 players. Such application must be made two weeks before the Regional Final.
- 7.4.2 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.
- 7.4.3 If a team withdraws after that date, the Club's Executive Committee may, at its discretion, use any method to find a replacement team.
- 7.5 Once players have reached the Regional Final, they are committing themselves to the State Final. Players that decline to proceed to the Divisional or State Final this year will not be permitted to enter the Regional Final next year.
- 7.5.1 Teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify from the Regional Final to the Divisional Final may apply to the Divisional organiser to augment an extra 1 or 2 players. Such application must be made two weeks before the Divisional Final.
- 7.5.2 Teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify from the Divisional Final to the State Final may apply to the Divisional organiser to augment an extra 1 or 2 players. Such application must be made four weeks before the State Final.

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8. Masterpointing

8.1 Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level.

8.2 To obtain red masterpoints, the following must be submitted via email to the Divisional coordinator for Club selection events and Regional Finals. Cheques are to be sent by mail.

8.2.1 Results, showing team members, wins, draws and number of boards played, as a word, pdf or html file.

8.2.2 Masterpoints as a red file, as defined in the ABF Masterpoint Manual and named accordingly. See the section below for notes on calculating masterpoints.

8.2.3 Completed spread sheet for Club selection events and Regional Finals, which can be down loaded from <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state.asp>.

8.3 Red masterpoints will only be awarded if 20% of participating teams proceed to the Regional Final.

8.4 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.

9. Calculation of Masterpoints

9.1 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 club B4c sessions.

9.2 Red masterpoints are to be calculated by the Club Masterpoint Secretary with 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).

9.3 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 NSW State Masterpoint Secretary.

9.4 Sessional Red Masterpoints for Regional Finals are to be calculated with a weighting of 5.0. There are no outright awards for Regional Finals.

9.5 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.

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10. Administration

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

10.2 Club Selection Events: A form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state.asp>. 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 at <http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual/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, 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.

10.3 Regional Finals: A form to assist hosting clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state.asp>. 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 at <http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual/html/mpmanual.htm>);
- A complete list of members and their ABF numbers of teams that proceed to the Divisional Final;
- A cheque for entry fees to the Divisional Final plus the masterpoints, made payable to the NSWBA.

10.4 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.asp> as they become available.