

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 team or Butler pair events, qualifying teams to the Regional Final.
- Regional Finals, qualifying teams to the Zonal Final.
- Zonal 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 for the Regional Final.

2.4 The advertised entry fee is payable in full at the first session. It will cover all 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 2 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 Clubs may run any type of IMP based teams or pairs competition, including but not limited to Swiss, Round Robin, Knock-out with Swiss repechage and Butler Pairs.

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

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3.5 Teams finishing in the top half of the field are eligible to play in the Regional Final. If running a Butler Pairs event, qualifying teams must contain a minimum of 50% of pairs that finished in the top half of the field.

3.6 Teams who are eligible, but whose entry fees are not covered by the club, can elect to pay their own entry fee of \$100 to the Regional Final. Note that this is to be paid to the club, as the NSWBA will be invoicing clubs not individual players.

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, followed by composite teams (See #7.4). The maximum number of teams that may be sent to the Regional Final is half the number of tables playing in the qualifying event.

3.8 A club must pay for a minimum of 20% of participating teams (or 20% of the number of tables if running a Butler Pairs event) to the Regional Final to receive red masterpoints.

3.9 Clubs not wishing to run a qualifying competition may nominate teams to the Regional Final - 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.

3.10 If only one club in a Region is interested in playing the event, the Zonal Coordinator may, in consultation with the club:

- a) redesignate that club's qualifying event as a Regional Final; OR
- b) permit the club to nominate teams directly to the Zonal Final - one team per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of three teams. Note that no red masterpoints will be issued if no qualifying event is held.

There is an entry fee of \$150 per team entering a Zonal Final under this clause.

4. Regional Final

4.1 The club hosting a Regional Final does so on behalf of the NSWBA and will be reimbursed by the NSWBA for expenses incurred.

4.2 The club hosting the Regional Final may charge a fee per person that will cover the cost of running the event not covered by the NSWBA (e.g. providing a light lunch).

4.3 Directors of Regional Finals must be non-playing and qualified at championship level (C2) or above. The Zonal Coordinator may approve a non-playing grade D director if no grade C2 director is readily available.

4.4 Teams finishing in the top half of the field are eligible to play in the Zonal Final.

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

4.6 No extra charge or entry fee is levied on teams that qualify and proceed to the Zonal Final.

4.7 The NSWBA will pay for all masterpoints issued at a Regional Final.

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5. Zonal Final

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

5.2 The club hosting a Zonal Final does so on behalf of the NSWBA and will be reimbursed by the NSWBA for expenses incurred. Teams progressing from a Regional Final pay no entry fees - they have been covered by the entry fees to the Regional Final. There is an entry fee of \$150 per team nominated into the Zonal Final under clause 3.10. The nominating club will be invoiced by the NSWBA.

5.3 The club hosting the Zonal Final may charge a fee per person that will cover the cost of running the event not covered by the NSWBA (e.g. providing a light lunch).

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

5.5 The winner of each Zonal 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.

6. The Country Teams Championship

6.1 This will be decided at the Finals of the John Arkinstall State Teams.

6.2 If two Zonal 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 Zonal representative team qualifies for the Final of the State Teams, then that qualifying team will be declared the Country Teams Champions. The other two Zonal representative team qualifiers will contest a 56 board match on Sunday at the NSWBA to determine second place in the Country Teams Championship.

6.4 If no Zonal 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's Summer Swiss Pairs Congress on the Sunday.

7. Substitutions, Withdrawals and Augmentations

7.1 The number of substitutions allowed in Club selection events is to be in accordance with the club's own rules and regulations. Should no such rules exist, Section 4 of the NSWBA Tournament Regulations will apply.

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. They may be eligible to continue as a composite team. (See #7.4.3)

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.

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7.4 The NSWBA acknowledges that many players will enter at the club level unaware of their teammates or their own availabilities for the Regional, Zonal or State Finals.

7.4.1 Teams that qualify for the Regional Final must indicate their intention to accept the offer at least two weeks before the Regional Final, or earlier if required by the participating club. Any proposed augmentations must be notified at the time of acceptance.

7.4.2 Teams playing in the Regional Final are committing themselves to the Zonal and State Finals should they qualify.

7.4.3 Once the bona fide qualifying teams (#3.5, 3.6 & 3.7) have been determined and confirmed, the club may also send "composite" teams to the Regional Final. At least 50% of each composite team must be players who finished in the top half of the field. The other team members may be players who played in the selection event or, with the club's permission, club members.

7.5 Teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify from the Regional Final to the Zonal Final may apply to the Zonal organiser to augment an extra 1 or 2 players. Augmented players must have played in the Regional Final. Such application must be made at least two days before the Zonal Final.

7.6 Teams of 4 or 5 players that qualify from the Zonal Final to the State Final may apply to the Zonal organiser to augment an extra 1 or 2 players. Augmented players must have played in the Zonal Final. Such application must be made at least four weeks before the State Final.

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 Zonal coordinator for Club selection events and Regional Finals.

- Results, showing team members, wins, draws and number of boards played, as an Excel, Word, pdf or html file.
- Masterpoints as a red file, as defined in the ABF Masterpoint Manual and named accordingly. See the section below for notes on calculating masterpoints.
- Completed spread sheet for Club selection events and Regional Finals, which can be found at <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sotct>.

8.3 Red masterpoints will only be awarded if the club pays for 20% of the field to proceed to the Regional Final.

8.4 Submitting Masterpoints: Once a Zonal Final is complete, the Zonal Coordinator must check that all the masterpoint awards submitted for their Zone are correct before sending the masterpoint files to the Country Teams Tournament Organiser. When the Tournament Organiser has received all the masterpoint files from the Zones, then the files will be forwarded to the NSW State Masterpoint Secretary for processing.

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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 your club's 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 e-mailed to the relevant Zonal Coordinator**. They must be sent as an appropriately formatted .red file. They **must not** be sent to the ABF Masterpoint Centre nor 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 Zonal Finals are to be calculated with a weighting of 7.5. In addition, the Zonal Final will attract an outright award at weighting 5.0 (with S = 3) for the top third of the field.

10. Administration

10.1 Club Selection Events:

10.1.1. An Excel file to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sotct>. 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 to the Zonal 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 an Excel, Word, pdf, html or txt file;
- The masterpoint file as a .red file (See pp 45-46 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.

10.1.2. The NSWBA (via the Tournament Organiser) will issue each participating club with an invoice to cover the entry fees of the representative teams (\$100 per team) and the costs of red masterpoints issued. **Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.**

10.1.3. The Zonal Coordinator will collate and forward a list of all teams to the club hosting the Regional Final.

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10.2. Regional Finals:

10.2.1 An Excel file to assist hosting clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sotct>.

This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list.

The hosting club needs to send the following to the Zonal Coordinator:

- The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file;
- A complete copy of the outright results as an Excel, Word, pdf, html or txt file;
- The masterpoint file as a .red file (See pp 45-46 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 Zonal Final;
- A summary of expenses incurred in conducting the Regional Final.

10.2.2. The NSWBA (via the Tournament Organiser) will reimburse the hosting club for expenses incurred in running the Regional Final.

10.3 Zonal Finals:

10.3.1 Organisation of the Zonal Finals is the responsibility of the Zonal Coordinators and the Tournament Organiser. Session times and venues will be posted on the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2017&E=sotct> as they become available in February.

10.3.2 There is a cost of \$150 for teams being nominated by a club directly into a Zonal Final.

10.3.3 The club hosting the Zonal Final may charge a fee per person that will cover the cost of running the event not covered by the NSWBA (e.g. providing a light lunch).

10.3.4. There is no entry fee for teams qualifying from a Regional Final to a Zonal Final.