



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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ABN 61 000 438 648

STATE OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019 COUNTRY PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

Tournament Organiser: Wing Roberts

Dear Club Secretary

There are no momentous changes planned for 2019 - all the big changes happened in 2017. I'm pleased to announce that the extra masterpointing instructions in the supplementary regulations enabled most clubs to masterpoint the event correctly. Fears that allowing clubs to run qualifying sessions without sending a representative pair to the State Finals would result in a decreased entry were clearly unfounded; the numbers in the State Finals have increased steadily ever since the introduction of the Country Pairs Championship in 2014. Indeed, country pairs now make up over one third of the field.

The NSWBA invites all affiliated clubs to conduct qualifying events for the 2019 State Open Pairs and Country Open Pairs Championships. All affiliated clubs can play qualifying sessions and award red masterpoints at state championship level (W = 5.00) - **you do not need to send a club representative pair to the State Finals in order to award red masterpoints.** These sessions are part of an NSWBA State Championship, so they do not come out of your B4c allowance. They are also cheaper than B4c masterpoints and come with a higher weighting.

The Championship Finals will be held at the NSWBA on the weekend of 23rd & 24th November 2019. **Start time on the Saturday is 10.30 am.** The top 14 pairs on Saturday will qualify for the State Pairs Final on the Sunday. In addition, the top 14 pairs from non-metropolitan regions will qualify to a separate Country Pairs Final on the Sunday. Country pairs who qualify for the State Final may choose which Final they contend.

The idea of the Country Pairs Finals was introduced 5 years ago as a direct consequence of discussions at the annual Regional Representatives meeting. The NSWBA is well aware that pairs from country clubs invest a lot of time and money to come to Sydney for the Finals and we really want to see country pairs get the maximum value from that investment. That is only possible if your representative pairs stay for both days, so please encourage them to do so.

Please note the graduated scale of entry fees to the finals – the more pairs you send, the less your club is charged for each pair!

We welcome your club's participation in these events and look forward to receiving as many entries as possible to the State Open Pairs and Country Pairs Finals weekend.

The details are contained below and in the Supplementary Tournament Regulations available from the NSWBA website: <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2019&E=sop>

Please read both documents carefully!

1. Clubs not wishing to run a qualifying competition may nominate one pair per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of 5 pairs.
2. The upper limit to the number of pairs that may be sent is the entire qualifying field.

(see over)

3. Costs for pairs attending the Championship Final are due as follows:

Number of pairs sent to the final	Cost per pair	Total charge to the club
1	\$120	\$120
2	\$110	\$220
3	\$100	\$300
4	\$90	\$360
5	\$80	\$400
6	\$70	\$420
7 and more	\$60	\$420+

4. Affiliated clubs located outside the Sydney metropolitan region may apply to the NSWBA for financial assistance for pairs representing their clubs in the Championship Final. Only one subsidy per club will be allowed.

5. Timetable. Clubs and their representatives should carefully note the following dates and times:

Club qualifying competitions must be completed and results and pair nominations must be sent to the Tournament Organiser by no later than **Friday 15th November 2019**.

Session times for the Championship Finals are:

Saturday 23rd November 2019 10:30 am and 2.30 pm

Sunday 24th November 2019 10.00 am and 2.00 pm (supper provided at end of play)

Those players who do not qualify to either the Open Final or Country Pairs Final on Sunday will be granted free entry to the NSWBA Spring Swiss Pairs Congress.

6. State Open Pairs prize money is 1st \$440, 2nd \$220 & 3rd \$110.
Country Pairs prize money is 1st \$320, 2nd \$160 & 3rd \$80.
The Spring Swiss Pairs Congress prize money is 1st \$250, 2nd \$150 & 3rd \$100.
7. An Excel form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website <http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2018&E=sop>. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list and then emailed to the NSWBA. Participating clubs must send the following to the NSWBA by email:
- The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file. This will include the names and ABF numbers of the nominated pairs;
 - A complete copy of the results of each qualifying session as a pdf, html or txt file;
 - **The masterpoint file as a .red file. This is mandatory if you score using a computer.**
8. Clubs should note that **red masterpoints** for the qualifying sessions will be submitted to the Masterpoint Centre after the Championship Final.
9. The Tournament Organiser will issue each participating club with an invoice to cover the entry fees of representative pairs and the costs of any red masterpoints issued. **Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.**
10. All correspondence should be sent to:

Wing Roberts

C/- NSWBA

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