



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 ORGANISER & ZONAL COORDINATOR GUIDE

On behalf of the NSWBA, thank you for agreeing to help run the NSW Country Teams Championship.

The following is intended to provide some guidelines about what the job entails.

If you are in doubt, please contact the overall Organiser of the Country Teams, Helen Milward. She will liaise with the NSWBA as necessary.

Helen Milward: Mobile 0403 894 579 Email helenmilwardbridge@gmail.com

Basic event structure

For the purposes of the State Open Teams Championship, NSW has been divided into the following zones with the following organisers:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| • NSWBA/BNSW | Warren Lazer | wlazer@bigpond.com | 9744 1555 |
| • Sydney Metropolitan | Warren Lazer | wlazer@bigpond.com | 9744 1555 |
| • Country – Hunter Central Coast Zone | Ronnie Ng | rng.bridge@gmail.com | 0405 507 753 |
| • Country – Northern Zone | Ian Price | priceshdc@gmail.com | 0432 153 294 |
| • Country – Southern Zone | Kaye Hart | kaye.hart3@icloud.com | 0408117 902 |
| • Country – Western Zone | Kaye Hart | kaye.hart3@icloud.com | 0408117 902 |

You are coordinating one of the four Country Zones. The Northern and Hunter Central Coast Zones each qualify two teams to the State Final in Sydney, the Southern and Western Zones each qualify one team.

Within your Zone, the clubs have been divided into several regions.

The basic structure of the event is:

- Clubs within a Region hold qualifying events which qualify up to 50% of the field to the Regional final.
- One club within that Region hosts a Regional final which qualifies teams to the Zonal final.
- One club within the Zone hosts a Zonal final on behalf of the NSWBA, which qualifies one or two teams to the State finals.

Documents provided to clubs

A mail-out has been sent to all clubs. This includes a letter inviting them to participate, a short description of the event, and the URL where they can access all relevant information, *viz.*, the supplementary regulations, a list of which clubs have been allocated to which Region within each Zone and Excel files.

As coordinator, please make yourself familiar with all this documentation. It is all available for download via the NSWBA website, www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct.

Summary of primary duties of the Convener / Zonal Coordinator

- To promote the Country Teams event in the Zone and seek to maximise participation by clubs.
- To coordinate club participation in the region generally.
- To liaise with clubs to establish which clubs are running qualifying events, which are running Regional finals, and provide advice and assistance in running those Regional finals.
- To be available to answer queries about the event from clubs within your Zone.
- To keep a record of the entries for all stages within the Zone. Relevant entries need to be passed on to the clubs hosting the Regional finals and also to Helen Milward at helenmilwardbridge@gmail.com so that an invoice can be prepared for each participating club.
- To organise the Zonal final in conjunction with the hosting club.
- To maintain financial records, to ensure the right amounts are calculated for entry fees and masterpoints, invoices are prepared and sent to clubs and, to the extent it is practical, receipts are obtained for reimbursable expenses in holding the Regional and Zonal finals.
- To complete the Convener's summary form and provide this to the NSWBA after the Zonal final has been held.
- To keep the NSWBA informed of any issues or problems with the event, or recommendations for future changes.

FURTHER DETAILS

Keep track of club participation by region

The allocation of clubs to Regions and Zones that has been provided is not set in stone. If particular clubs wish to move regions (within reason geographically, of course) there is no problem in doing this.

Clubs have been asked to contact the Convener if they wish to do this. Accordingly the Convener should keep track of which club is playing in which region, so the list can be amended next year. Obviously an eye needs to be kept on whether the regions are balanced or not.

Club qualifying events

The only payments clubs make are entry fees (\$100 per team to the Regional Final or \$120 per team direct entry to Zonal Final if no Regional Final is available) and for the masterpoints issued at club qualifying sessions. The Excel form that clubs complete to provide details of their event and their representative teams is available for download at www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/2024/docs/CT_Club_Entry_Form_2024.xlsx. After checking, you are to forward each form and the associated masterpoint file to Helen Milward at helenmilwardbridge@gmail.com so that an invoice can be issued to the club.

In the event that clubs hold a qualifying event but are unable to forward the requisite number of teams to the Regional Final they can now get their red points provided they pay for at least 20% of the field to proceed to the final.

Clubs do not have to hold a qualifying event; they may choose to nominate team(s) to a Regional Final instead. The cost is still \$100 per team and clubs must fill in a CT Club Entry form so that they may be invoiced directly by the NSWBA.

Regional Finals

Clubs wishing to host a Regional Final are asked to contact the Zonal Coordinator for approval to do so. When giving this approval, the Coordinator should make sure the club is aware that Regional Finals are run by the clubs on behalf of the NSWBA. No entry fees are collected by the host club. The NSWBA will reimburse them for bridge related expenses - they should keep receipts if possible. Clubs are also allowed to charge players a small amount of table money to cover catering costs.

Most clubs hosting Regional Finals will be quite capable of running the event themselves. The regulations specify a C grade director is required, but you have authority to let them use a D grade director if you are sure they are competent enough to do it. If assistance is required, the NSWBA is able and willing to

organise a director and to deal boards for the event (given reasonable notice of course). If a club is unable or unwilling to use local people/boards, the Coordinator should make the relevant club aware of this facility.

It is obviously ideal if all Regional Finals are well organised and efficiently run. If, in the opinion of the Coordinator, the preliminary organisation of a final appears poor, you are advised to discuss this in advance with the local club and/or the NSWBA so that remedial steps can be taken if need be.

Direct nomination/qualification of teams to Zonal Final (Northern and Hunter Central Coast Zones only)

If a club in a Region holds a qualifying event, but then no other club in the Region is interested in playing in a Regional Final, that club may, after consultation with the Zonal Coordinator, qualify teams straight to the Zonal Final. Provided at least 20% of participating teams go forward, any team finishing in the top half of the field is eligible to play in the Zonal Final at a cost of \$120 per team. This increased entry fee factors in the much greater representation that club enjoys in the Zonal Final, relative to clubs whose teams can get eliminated in a Regional Final. (See clause 3.10 a) of the Supplementary Regulations.)

If no qualifying event is held and no other clubs in the Region are interested, then clubs may nominate up to three teams directly to the Zonal Final at a cost of \$150 per team. (See clause 3.10 b) of the Supplementary Regulations.)

The Coordinator is responsible for establishing what events are being held by what clubs, to ensure fairness to all clubs that may wish to participate within the Zone.

Zonal Final (Northern and Hunter Central Coast Zones only)

Zonal Finals are run by the NSWBA. Clubs hosting Zonal Finals do so on behalf of the NSWBA. The NSWBA will reimburse them for their costs.

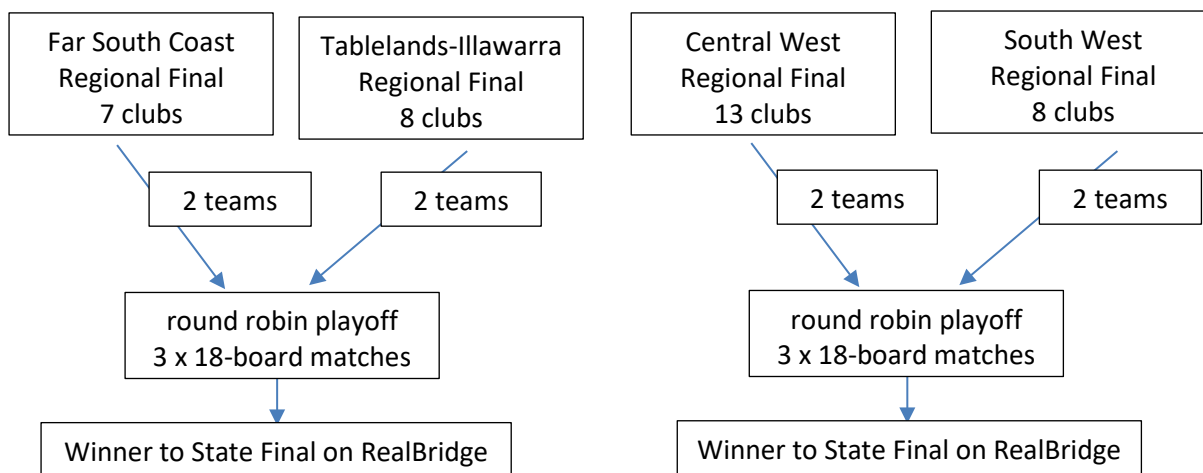
Each Zonal Final is held over 2 or 3 sessions over a weekend, as specified in the NSWBA on-line calendar. This date is chosen by the Zonal Coordinator after consultation with the regional coordinators and the State Congress Coordinator calendar@nswba.com.au. Historically, the Northern and Hunter Central Coast Zones prefer 3 session Zonal Finals.

The Coordinator needs to liaise with clubs in the zone to determine the best location to hold the Zonal Final, determine its length, find a club willing to host it, organise director, boards, and all other aspects of holding the final. Once this is organised (the earlier the better), all details about the Zonal Final should be circulated by the Coordinator to the NSWBA webmaster webmaster@nswba.com.au for posting on the web, and, in good time, to all teams that have qualified.

Zonal Final (Southern and Western Zones only)

Zonal Finals are run by the NSWBA. Clubs hosting Zonal Finals do so on behalf of the NSWBA and the NSWBA will reimburse them for their costs.

The format is aimed to reduce travel times and accommodation costs of players in the vast Southern and Western Zones. First and second in each Regional Final proceeds to a 4-team round robin Zonal Final playing an 18-board match against each other finalist using WBF continuous IMP to VP conversion scale.



Online Sessions

Clubs are permitted to run qualifying sessions using the RealBridge platform. Events held on BBO or Stepbridge or not allowed. Regional and Zonal organisers may authorise the use of RealBridge for finals, but should be cognisant that some players may be unfamiliar with online bridge and it would be unfair to do this without consulting the clubs and players. **Note that the State Final is to be played on RealBridge.**

Masterpoints

All sessions of this event are run under the NSWBA's level B State Championship allowance. Clubs must not use their B4c entitlements.

Masterpoints are issued at each stage of the event.

Clubs are responsible for calculating masterpoints awards for club qualifying events. Masterpoints must be calculated with a weighting of $W = 5.0$. Clubs are to provide details of masterpoints awards electronically as .red files. Payment for masterpoints and teams progressing to a later stage is in response to the invoice produced by the NSWBA.

Hosting clubs are responsible for calculating awards for Regional Finals with a weighting of $W = 5.0$. The NSWBA will pay for the masterpoints issued.

Zonal Finals held over 3 or 4 sessions **and** with a field of 10 or more tables have a weighting of $W = 7.5$ for sessional awards, otherwise the standard weighting of $W = 5.0$ should be used. Zonal Finals also attract outright awards with a weighting of $W = 5.0$ to the top third of the field (rounding up).

Immediately a Zonal Final is complete, the Zonal Coordinator must:

- check that all the masterpoint awards submitted for their Zone are correct
- send the masterpoint files, together with a copy of the results sheets, to the Country Teams Organiser
- ensure all Regional and Zonal final results are available on the web and that the relevant URLs have been sent to webmaster@nswba.com.au
- complete the relevant RF and/or ZF Excel files and forward to the Country Teams Organiser.

When the Organiser has received all the masterpoint files from the Zones, the files will be forwarded to the NSW State Masterpoint Secretary for processing.

If unsure how to check the MP files, please contact the NSW State Masterpoint Secretary (David Weston) masterpoints@nswba.com.au for assistance.

General administration

There are four forms available that should be completed.

- Club entry form – for a club holding a qualifying event to a Regional Final. This is used to identify teams progressing to the next stage (Regional or Zonal) final, and to check and calculate all charges due. It is also used by a club nominating teams directly to either a Regional or Zonal Final.
- Regional Final form - for a club holding a Regional Final. This is used to identify teams progressing to the Zonal Final, and to summarise the costs incurred by the hosting club so that the NSWBA can reimburse them.
- Zonal Final form - for a club holding a Zonal Final. This is used to identify teams progressing to the State Final, and to summarise the costs incurred by the hosting club so that the NSWBA can reimburse them.
- Convener form – for use by the Zonal Coordinators to provide an overall summary of the running of the event in that Zone to the NSWBA, and to reconcile the financial position.

These forms are Excel spreadsheets and are available for download from the NSWBA website at www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct. They must be completed electronically.

The Zonal Coordinators are responsible for getting the clubs to complete these forms, collating them and filling in the master summary. Please make yourself familiar with them.

Further feedback about these forms or any recommended changes are welcome from you or from clubs.