

# NSW Country Teams Championship 2024 Supplementary Regulations

**Note: Clubs may write and publish their own supplementary regulations, but no such regulation may conflict with these supplementary regulations.**

## **1. The Event**

1.1 This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, 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 IMP-based 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 Open Teams Final.
- The John Arkinstall State Open 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 notify the Chairman of the NSWBA Events Committee [events@nswba.com.au](mailto:events@nswba.com.au) of their intent at least 1 week prior to the start of the State Final. This notification must be accompanied by a copy of the system and a suggested defence for the opponents.

## **2. Eligibility and Entry**

2.1 Each player must be a *bona fide* member of a NSWBA-affiliated bridge club located within the Region, though not necessarily a member of the club in whose event he/she is participating, and

- (a) must have a principal place of residence outside metropolitan Sydney, OR
- (b) maintained their Regional club membership after moving to Sydney.

2.2 Players will be able to state that they are not contending if they have already qualified for the Regional Final.

2.3 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. Sessions may be held face-to-face or online using the RealBridge platform. Online events using BBO or Stepbridge are not allowed.

3.2 A large club may conduct two qualifying events, for example, day and night time; or week and weekend; or F2F and online. 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, Cross-IMP Pairs 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 an IMP pairs event, qualifying teams must contain a minimum of 50% of pairs that finished in the top half of the field.

3.6 The entry fee to the Regional Final is \$100 per team. Teams who are eligible, but whose entry fees are not covered by the club, can pay the entry fee themselves. 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 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, composite teams (See #7.4) requests will be considered. 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 Pairs event) to the Regional Final to receive red masterpoints.

3.9 Clubs not running 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) allow that club's qualifying event to qualify teams directly to the Zonal Final at a cost of \$120 per team. A minimum of 20% of participating teams must progress to the Zonal Final, but any team finishing in the top half of the field is eligible to play in the Zonal Final.
- 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. There is an entry fee of \$150 per team entering a Zonal Final under this clause. Note that no red masterpoints will be issued if no qualifying event is held.

### **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 (non-catering) 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 No extra charge or entry fee is levied on teams that qualify and proceed to the Zonal Final.

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

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4.6 In the Northern and Outer Metropolitan Zones:

- (a) Teams finishing in the top half of the field are eligible to play in the Zonal Final.
- (b) A minimum of 20% of participating teams must progress to the Zonal Final for red masterpoints to be awarded.

4.7 In the Southern and Western Zones, two teams from each region qualify to the 4-table Zonal Final.

### **5. Zonal Final**

5.1 The dates for Zonal Finals are as shown in the NSWBA 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.

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 In the Northern and Outer Metropolitan Zones:

- (a) Clubs sending teams directly to a Zonal Final under clause 3.10 pay an entry fee of either \$120 or \$150 per team and will be invoiced by the NSWBA.
- (b) Directors of the Zonal Final must be non-playing and qualified at congress level (C1) or above.
- (c) The Zonal Final must be held over 2, 3 or 4 sessions, as decided by the Zonal Coordinator in consultation with Regional Organisers. A round robin movement will be used if practical (based on the number of teams and sessions), but the actual movement used is at the discretion of the Director.
- (d) Teams coming first and second in the Zonal Final are eligible to progress to the John Arkinstall State Teams Final to be held online on the RealBridge platform. If unavailable, they will be replaced by the highest placed available team(s).

5.5 In the Southern and Western Zones:

- (a) Two teams from each Regional Final will qualify to the Zonal Final. There are no carry-forward scores for the 4 teams involved.
- (b) Directors of the Zonal 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.
- (c) Each Final will consist of a round robin format (3 x 18 board matches for each team) using the WBF continuous IMP to VP conversion scale. Final rankings are based on total VPs won. Draws will be broken by nett IMPs. If still drawn, successive 2-board playoffs will be played.
- (d) The winning team from each Final progresses to the John Arkinstall State Teams Final to be online on the RealBridge platform.

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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 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 next two highest ranking country Zonal representative teams will contest a 56-board match on Sunday to determine second place in the Country Teams Championship.

6.4 If no country 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 to determine the Country Teams Champions.

### **7. Augmentations, Composite Teams and Substitutions**

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

7.2 An augmented team is one that maintains all its original players and adds 1 or 2 extras. The maximum number of players in an augmented team is 6. All augmented players must comply with #2.1 and be a member of the club or have played a CQE in the Region.

7.3 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. A composite team is one that consists of players from one or more teams that entered the CQE. 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 club members, players who played in the CQE or, with the club's permission, players who played in any CQE in the Region.

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 Coordinator 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.

7.7 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.

7.8 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)

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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 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 Section 9 for notes on calculating masterpoints.
- Completed spreadsheets for Club selection events and Regional Finals, which can be found at [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024E=sotct](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024E=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.

## 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 for club qualifying events are awarded with a weighting of  $W = 5.0$  on a sessional basis only. There are **NO** outright awards. The awards are to be calculated by the scoring program or club masterpoint secretary.

9.3 **The red masterpoints awarded must be e-mailed to the relevant Zonal Coordinator as an appropriately formatted .red file.** They **must not** be sent to the State Masterpoint Secretary nor uploaded to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.

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 2-session Zonal Finals are to be calculated with a weighting of 5.0. If the Zonal Final is run over 3 or 4-sessions and has a field of at least 10 teams the sessional awards are to be calculated with a weighting of 7.5. In addition, all Zonal Finals attract an outright award to the top third of the field (rounding up) at weighting 5.0 and  $S = 2, 3$  or 4 based on the sessions played.

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## **10. Administration**

### 10.1 Club Selection Events:

10.1.1. An Excel file to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct). This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list. If running two separate qualifying events please complete two separate Excel worksheets and 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 47-48 of the ABF Masterpoint Manual at [www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual/html/mpmanual.htm](http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual/html/mpmanual.htm));
- A complete list of team members (with their ABF numbers) who 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.

### 10.2. Regional Finals:

10.2.1 An Excel file to assist hosting clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&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 47-48 of the ABF Masterpoint Manual at [www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual/html/mpmanual.htm](http://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/mpmanual/html/mpmanual.htm));
- A complete list of team members (with their ABF numbers) who 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, dates and venues will be posted on the NSWBA website [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=sotct) as they become available in March.

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

10.3.3 There is a cost of either \$120 or \$150 (see 3.10) for teams bypassing a Regional Final and progressing straight to a Zonal Final.

10.3.4 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).