



## NSW Country Teams Championship 2025 Supplementary Regulations

### **1. The Event**

- 1.1 This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 and the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations. In the case of conflict between these Supplementary Regulations and the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations, the Supplementary Regulations shall apply.
- 1.2 The competition is conducted in four stages:
  - Club qualifying event; 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 State Open Teams Final.
  - The John Arkinstall State Open Teams (Incorporating Country Teams) Final.
- 1.3 These supplementary regulations apply to only the first three stages.
- 1.4 No yellow systems will be permitted.

### **2. Eligibility and Entry**

- 2.1 Each player must be a *bona fide* member of a Bridge NSW affiliated bridge club located within the Region, though not necessarily a member of the club in whose event he/she is participating.
- 2.2 At least half the members of any team (of up to six players)
  - (a) must have a principal place of residence outside metropolitan Sydney, OR
  - (b) maintained their Regional club membership after moving to Sydney.
- 2.3 Players will be able to state that they are not contending if they have already qualified for the Regional Final.

### **3. Club Selection Events**

- 3.1 The event will be conducted over 2 to 6 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.
- 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 \$120 per team. This fee will be invoiced by Bridge NSW to the club who shall make their own arrangements with nominated teams.
  - 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. The entry fee for these teams is \$200 per team. 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 \$150 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 (except in the Southern and Western Zones where the limit is one team). 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 Bridge NSW and will be reimbursed by Bridge NSW 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 Bridge NSW (e.g. providing a light lunch).
- 4.3 Directors of Regional Finals must be non-playing and qualified at congress level (C) or above. The Zonal Coordinator may approve a non-playing grade D director if no grade C 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 Bridge NSW will pay for all masterpoints issued at a Regional Final.
- 4.6 In the Northern and Central Coast–Hunter 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 on the Bridge NSW event webpage and associated MyABF events.
- 5.2 The club hosting a Zonal Final does so on behalf of Bridge NSW and will be reimbursed by Bridge NSW 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 Bridge NSW (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 (club held CQE) or \$150 (no CQE) per team and will be invoiced by Bridge NSW.
  - (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.

## **6. The Country Teams Championship**

6.1 This will be decided at the Finals of the John Arkinstall State Teams. See the regulations for the Final for details.

## **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. Bridge NSW 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 from the club qualifying event 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 qualifying events is to be in accordance with the club's own rules and regulations. Should no such rules

exist, Section 4 of the Bridge NSW 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)

## 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 the form on the website 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 on the website at <https://bridgensw.com.au/state-open-teams-country-clubs/>
- 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.
- 8.5 Bridge NSW will charge clubs holding qualifying events \$2.54 for each red point issued. The rate we are charged by the ABF has increased to \$1.74 and we are applying the same 80c fee used for congresses.

## 9. Calculation of Masterpoints

- 9.1 Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level. The event is run under Bridge NSW'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 submitted with other documentation through the website 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.

## **10. Administration**

### 10.1 Club Selection Events:

- 10.1.1. An Excel file to be completed by hosting clubs is available for download from the Bridge NSW website <https://bridgensw.com.au/state-open-teams-country-clubs/>. This is to be completed and submitted to the Zonal Organiser:
- A complete copy of the results each session as pdf, text, html, Word or Excel files. This must include a list of all teams and their members and the number of matches they won, drew and lost.
  - Masterpoint information as a .red file, sent as an email attachment.
- 10.1.2. Bridge NSW (via the Tournament Organiser) will issue each participating club with an invoice to cover the entry fees of the representative teams (\$120 per team) and \$2.54 for each red masterpoint issued. This charge is the new \$1.74 charged to Bridge NSW by the ABF plus the 80c licence fee we apply for congresses. Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.
- 10.1.3. Bridge NSW will issue each club that sends teams to the Regional or Zonal final without holding a club qualifying event an invoice for each team entered (\$150 per team)
- 10.1.4. 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 for Regional Coordinators is available for download from the Bridge NSW website.
- 10.2.2. The Regional Coordinator needs to send the following documents to the Zonal Coordinator:
- The completed 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
- 10.2.3. Bridge NSW (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. Details will be posted on the Bridge NSW website via a l
- 10.3.2. There is no additional entry fee for teams qualifying from a Regional Final to a Zonal Final.
- 10.3.3. There is a cost of \$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 Bridge NSW (e.g. providing a light lunch).