Grand National Open Teams - 2026
Sydney Metropolitan Clubs Qualifying Event
Supplementary Tournament Regulations

1. The Event

1.1 This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, supplemented by the Tournament Regulations of Bridge NSW as they stand at the time an issue arises. Clubs are to write their own set of regulations relating to conduct of the event, substitutions and qualification, but no such regulation may conflict with any subsequent regulations marked below with an asterisk (*). In the case of conflict, these Supplementary Regulations will apply. A default set of regulations is available from the Bridge NSW website for clubs that wish to use them.

1.2* Each Metropolitan club is invited to hold one or two events to qualify teams to a Metropolitan Final.

1.3* For each event, the minimum number of sessions allowed is 2 and the maximum number of sessions is 5.

1.4* If a club holds two qualifying events, they must essentially cater for different clientele (*e.g.* one could be held in the evening and the other during the day or online).
In addition, a special weekend Congress type event may be held, subject to the approval of the date by the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser. The event should be advertised only within the participating club.

1.5* Sessions held face-to-face or online on RealBridge or Stepbridge award gold MPs with W=5.0. In online events, the use of microphone and camera is mandatory for every player. Sessions held on BBO are not allowed.

1.6* 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.

1.7* Directors need only be qualified at the club level.

1.8* System regulations are to be set by the clubs. Note, however, that all systems will be permitted in the Metropolitan Final (unless it is played on RealBridge).

1.9* The number of teams to qualify to the Metropolitan Final for each club qualifying event is calculated as follows from the number of tables in the qualifying event.
For Teams events: A maximum of one seventh (fractions rounded up) may qualify and a minimum of one seventh (fractions rounded down) must qualify.
For 7 tables or fewer, 1 team must qualify.
For Pairs events: A maximum of one fourteenth (fractions rounded up) may qualify and a minimum of one fourteenth (fractions rounded down) must qualify.
For 14 pairs or fewer, 1 team must qualify.

2. Eligibility to Club Qualifying Events

2.1* No entry restrictions based on age, sex, masterpoint ranking, *etc.* are permitted.

2.2* Players in online sessions must be residents of Sydney or a neighbouring NSW country GNOT region (Central Coast, Mountains or Tablelands-Illawarra).

2.3 There are no eligibility restrictions on competitors in the club's qualifying competitions, but clubs and local organisers should be aware of the restrictions on players participating in the Metropolitan Final. (See Section 3 below.)

2.4 Clubs may require all competitors to be club members.

2.5* Players may enter in as many different club qualifying competitions as they like, provided they pay the specified table monies and/or tournament entry fees of the club and satisfy any other requirement the club imposes.

3. Composition of Teams Proceeding to and Participating in the Metropolitan Final

Eligibility for the Metropolitan final is governed by section 2 of the GNOT Metropolitan Final supplementary regulations, which can be found on the Bridge NSW GNOT Metropolitan webpage https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot-metropolitan-2/. Rules for eligibility are summarized below, but note that in case of conflict the Metropolitan Final regulations will prevail.

3.1* Teams submitted by clubs must consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

3.2* All team members must be active player members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, be a member of a Sydney metropolitan bridge club affiliated with Bridge NSW and be a bona fide resident of the Sydney metropolitan region or a neighbouring NSW country GNOT region (Central Coast, Mountains or Tablelands-Illawara).

3.3* Players who have already qualified for the National Qualifying stage via one of the two Direct Qualifying Events held by SBC and NSBC may not compete in the Metropolitan Final. This rule applies even if the player withdraws from the team that has qualified to the National Qualifying stage.

3.4* Players who have failed to qualify may form teams and enter the Metropolitan Final directly. Such entries must specify all team members and the club(s) at which they participated in a club qualifying event.

4. Fees

4.1* Each club will pay an entry fee of $20 per team (or $10 per pair[1]) competing in the qualifying event, plus $220 per team entered into the Metropolitan Final. Note that if fewer than the minimum required number of teams (see section 1.10) is entered into the Metropolitan Final, payment for this minimum number is still required. In addition, $1.79 per masterpoint awarded, will be charged to the club. All quoted charges include GST. Clubs should be aware of these fees when setting tournament entry fees and table monies for their qualifying events.

[1] In case a pairs format is used for a CQE, the number of pairs is determined by the session with the **maximum** number of pairs participating. Payment of entry fees for that number of pairs will be required.

4.2* Teams entering the Metropolitan Final directly (rather than qualifying via a club) will pay an entry fee of $280.

4.3* Bridge NSW will pay all fees and expenses (including catering, directing and masterpoint costs) associated with the Metropolitan Final. Bridge NSW will pay all entry fees to the ABF for the National Qualifying stage to be held on RealBridge from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September. These are:

$400 per team for each Metropolitan Sydney team competing in the National Qualifying stage, plus

$14 per team for every team ($7 per pair) entered in all Sydney Metropolitan qualifying tournaments.

5. Masterpointing

5.1* Gold masterpoints will be available to the winners[2] of every teams match at the rate of 0.04 MPs per player per board per match. In the case of 5 or 6 person teams, the masterpoint awards per member will be 4/5 and 2/3 respectively unless the exact team composition is supplied for every match played. No outright masterpoints will be awarded.

5.2* Gold masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying tournament if:

(a) the club pays for the specified number of teams (#1.10) to proceed to the Metropolitan Final;

(b) Bridge NSW receives all entry fees at least two weeks before the National Qualifying stage.

6. Administration

6.1 The Organiser of this event (on behalf of Bridge NSW) is André Korenhof.

6.2 An Excel file to assist hosting clubs is available for download from the Bridge NSW website https://bridgensw.com.au/gnot-metropolitan-2/. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list.

6.3 At the end of the qualifying event (and at least a week before the start of the Metropolitan Final) each club must provide the Organiser with the following information **by e-mail** to **metrognot@bridgensw.com.au.**

a. The completed GNOT Metro Club Heat (CQE) Form spreadsheet available from the Metropolitan GNOT webpage. Instructions on how to complete this are available in the spreadsheet. Required information includes the format of the event (including the number of boards played in each match, the number of rounds played, and the number of teams/pairs in the event) and a complete list of team members (names and ABF numbers) of teams that will proceed to the Metropolitan GNOT Final.

b. A complete copy of the results for each session as pdf, text, html, Word or Excel file. For a teams event, this must include a list of all teams and their

[2] To qualify as winners for the purpose of masterpoint awards, the leading team must win by a margin greater than 0.2 IMP per board over the match. Note especially that for 10 board matches a final IMP difference of 2 IMPs counts as a draw.

members and the number of matches won, drawn and lost. For a pairs event, the final score and placing of each pair.

c. Masterpoint information as a .gld file.

6.4 Bridge NSW will send an invoice to cover the entry fees for the CQE and Metropolitan final after the conclusion of the Metropolitan GNOT Final. The ABF will send an invoice for the masterpoint costs. Do not send any money until you receive these invoices.

6.5 All inquiries and correspondence should be directed to:

André Korenhof
Metropolitan GNOT Organiser

via e-mail at metrognot@bridgensw.com.au