# Grand National Open Teams – 2026

## Sydney Metropolitan Direct to National Finals Qualifying Event

## Supplementary Tournament Regulations

These regulations relate to the two Sydney Metropolitan Region Grand National Open Teams events that qualify teams directly to Stage 1 of the National Finals on 18-20 September, 2026 (National Qualifying stage).

### 1. Acronyms, Definitions and Personnel

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| BNSW | Bridge New South Wales |
| NSBC | North Shore Bridge Club |
| SBC | Sydney Bridge Club |
| SO | Sponsoring Organisation (*i.e.* NSBC or SBC) |
| GNOT | Grand National Open Teams |
| DQE | Direct Qualifying Event |
| CQE | Club Qualifying Event |

Metropolitan Final: to be held at SBC clubrooms on 22-23 August 2026
National Qualifying stage: to be held online on RealBridge 18-20 September 2026

The Sydney Metropolitan Region GNOT Organiser (MO) is André Korenhof, email: metrognot@bridgensw.com.au

### 2. The Direct Qualifying Events

2.1 The dates of the two DQEs are:
- SBC on Saturday 14 March face-to-face at 162 Goulburn St
- NSBC on Thursdays 19 & 26 February and 5, 12 & 19 March on RealBridge.

2.2 The SBC and NSBC events will qualify one team each to the National Qualifying stage. In addition, each event will qualify teams to the Metropolitan Final. The number of teams to so qualify will be a maximum of one seventh of the field (fractions rounded up) and a minimum of one seventh (fractions rounded down).

2.3 These competitions are 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 and these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of conflict, these Supplementary Regulations will apply.

2.4 SOs must run one of the following types of teams competition, with the proviso that all matches must be of a minimum of five (5) boards. Allowed movements are: Round Robin, Swiss, Single Knock-out with Swiss repechage, Double Knock-out with Swiss repechage, or Swiss qualifying with final. Each SO will be responsible for its own set of Supplementary Tournament Regulations.

2.5 The Director must be grade C2 or higher and may not play in the event.
2.6 System regulations are to be set by the SOs. Note, however, that all systems will be permitted in the Metropolitan Final.
2.7 Like other clubs, NSBC and SBC may also hold one or two CQEs.
2.8 Each SO is encouraged to advertise its DQE as widely as possible.
2.9 DQEs may be run F2F or online on RealBridge or StepBridge. In online events, the use of microphone and camera is mandatory for every player. Sessions held on BBO are not allowed.

## 3. Eligibility

3.1 No entry restrictions based on age, sex, masterpoint ranking, *etc.* are permitted.
3.2 Teams are to consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.
3.3 All team members must be active player members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme.
3.4 Each player must be a member of a Sydney metropolitan bridge club affiliated with Bridge NSW, though not necessarily a member of SBC or NSBC.
3.5 Players must be *bona fide* residents of the Sydney metropolitan region or a neighbouring NSW country GNOT region (Central Coast, Mountains or Tablelands-Illawarra).

## 4. Non-Contending Teams

4.1 An entire team may declare itself as non-contending, providing it does so before the start of the DQE. ALL members of such teams forfeit all qualifying rights other than those allowed under Regulation 7.6.
4.2 Players who have qualified to the National Qualifying stage may not contest any other DQE unless the team in which they are playing is declared "non-contending" before the start of play. Any team containing such a player is, by definition, "non-contending".
4.3 No member of a "non-contending" team is eligible to qualify to the National Qualifying stage from that DQE.
4.4 No member of a "non-contending" team is eligible to qualify to the Metropolitan Final from that DQE. They may however enter the Metropolitan Final directly, as allowed under Regulation 7.6.

## 5. Qualification to the National Qualifying stage

5.1 There is no minimum board requirement for members of teams in the DQEs or the Metropolitan Final.
5.2 Contending teams will qualify to the National Qualifying stage and Metropolitan Final in the order specified in the SO's Supplementary Tournament Regulations, the highest placed team(s) qualifying to the National Qualifying stage.
5.3 Teams of 4 or 5 players may augment extra players in accordance with Regulation 6.
5.4 Players who qualify directly to the National Qualifying stage are committed to playing in the team in which they so qualify.

5.5 Players who have qualified to the National Qualifying stage (or who have been augmented onto a team that has qualified) may not contest nor play as a substitute in the Metropolitan Final.

5.6 Players who have qualified to the Metropolitan Final may participate in DQEs without restriction. If they qualify to the National Qualifying stage they must withdraw from the Metropolitan Final.

## 6. Teams proceeding to and participating in the National Qualifying stage

6.1 Teams of 4 players that qualify to the National Qualifying stage may augment 1 or 2 players. Teams of 5 players that qualify to the National Qualifying stage may augment 1 player. Requests to augment will only be granted if the request to augment is made by email to the Metropolitan GNOT Organiser and is received **before commencement of the Metropolitan Final**.

Any player to be augmented must satisfy all the following criteria:

(a) Satisfies the eligibility conditions of Regulation 3;

(b) Did not play as member of a "non-contending" team in the same DQE from which the team qualified;

(c) Has not previously qualified to the National Qualifying stage;

(d) Has contested a DQE or a CQE in the Sydney Metropolitan Region.

6.2 Should a player withdraw from a team that has qualified to the National Qualifying stage from a DQE, then:

(a) The Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser must be notified immediately.

(b) If the player has played zero boards in the DQE, he/she will be treated as never having been a team member.

(c) The team affected may augment player(s) in accordance with #6.1, but with the withdrawn player being deemed a team member (*i.e.* a team of 4 that is reduced to 3 may augment 1 or 2 players, but not 3). This rule will be relaxed only in extreme or unforeseen circumstances at the discretion of the Bridge NSW Events Committee.

(d) The player who withdraws will not be permitted to play in the Metropolitan Final nor in a DQE in a contending team.

(e) The player who withdraws is permitted to play as a substitute in the Metropolitan Final or another DQE.

## 7. 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/. The eligibility rules below are in part summary of those eligibility rules, and in part additional criteria for progression imposed by the DQEs. In case of conflict (i.e., the rules below contradict the Metropolitan final rules) the Metropolitan Final regulations will prevail.

7.1 Teams submitted by SOs must consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

7.2 Players who have already qualified for the National Qualifying stage may not compete in the Metropolitan Final.

7.3 Teams that proceed from the DQE to the Metropolitan Final must contain at least 3 members of the team that entered the DQE.

7.4 Players who are augmented onto teams must satisfy all the following criteria:
(a) Satisfies the eligibility conditions of Regulation 3;
(b) Did not play as members of a "non-contending" team in the same DQE;
(c) Has not previously qualified to the National Qualifying stage;
(d) Has contested a DQE or a CQE in the Sydney Metropolitan Region.

7.5 There is no minimum board requirement for competitors in the Metropolitan Final.

7.6 Players who have failed to qualify may form teams and enter the Metropolitan Final directly via Bridge NSW. All members of such teams must have participated in a DQE or CQE and the entry must specify the club(s) at which the members played.

## 8. Substitutions

8.1 Substitution regulations are to be set by the SOs. In the absence of any such regulations, the relevant clauses of Section 4 of the Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations will apply.

## 9. Fees

9.1 SBC and NSBC may levy extra payments on the teams that qualify directly to the National Qualifying stage from their DQEs. Any such extra payment must be clearly advertised before the commencement of the DQE.

9.2 Each SO will pay an entry fee of $20 per team competing in the DQE, plus $220 per team entered into the Metropolitan Final. This fee is to be paid even if all the teams do not actually play. In addition, $1.79 per gold masterpoint awarded, will be charged to the SO. All quoted charges include GST. SOs should be aware of these fees when setting tournament entry fees and table monies for their qualifying events.

9.3 SBC and NSBC will each pay Bridge NSW $400 for their team entered into the National Qualifying stage.

9.4 Bridge NSW will pay all fees and expenses (including catering, directing and masterpoint costs) associated with the Metropolitan Final.

9.5 Bridge NSW will pay all entry fees to the ABF for the National Qualifying stage. These are:

- $400 per team for each Metropolitan Sydney team competing in the National Qualifying stage, plus
- $14 per team for every team entered in all Sydney Metropolitan qualifying tournaments.

9.6 The fee for teams entering the Metropolitan Final directly is $280 (GST incl.).

## 10. Masterpointing

10.1 The State Masterpoint Secretary or their representative will calculate all DQE masterpoint awards.

10.2 Gold masterpoints will be available to the winners[1] of every match at the rate of 0.04 masterpoints 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.

10.3 Placing awards will be made to the top 1/3 of the field (rounded up).

10.4 SOs will be billed directly by the ABF Masterpoint Centre for all masterpoints awarded in DQEs.

## 11. Administration

11.1 The DQEs are run under the auspices of Bridge NSW.

11.2 Aspects of the DQEs relating to teams winning direct qualification to the National Qualifying stage and teams qualifying to the Metropolitan Final are the responsibility of the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser.

11.3 Immediately after the conclusion of each DQE the relevant SO must provide the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser (by e-mail to the address below) with the following information:

(a) The names, ABF numbers and email addresses of all members of the team that has qualified to the National Qualifying stage. The MO will inform these team members of the restrictions that will apply to any team in which they subsequently play.

(b) The names, ABF numbers and email addresses of all members of all teams that have participated in the DQE as "non-contending teams".

11.4 After the conclusion of all DQEs and at least a week before the start of the Metropolitan Final, each SO must provide the Sydney Metropolitan GNOT Organiser (by e-mail at the address below) with the following information:

a. The completed GNOT Metro Club Heat (DQE) 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 in the event) and a complete list of team members (names and ABF numbers) of teams that will proceed to the Metropolitan GNOT Final and the National Qualifying stage;

b. A complete copy of the results of each session. This must include a list of all teams and their members and the number of matches won, drawn and lost, along with the final ranking;

c. The .gld masterpoint file for the DQE.

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[1] 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.

11.5 Bridge NSW will send SBC and NSBC an invoice to cover entry fees for teams in the Metropolitan and National Qualifying stage, as well as for the fee for each team playing in the DQE. The ABF will invoice separately for masterpoints. Do not send any payment until an invoice has been received.

11.6 All inquiries and correspondence should be directed to:

André Korenhof
Metropolitan GNOT Organiser

e-mail: metrognot@bridgensw.com.au
(or if desperate, Mobile: 0404 126 077)