State Pairs 2026
Supplementary Regulations

Important Note: This event awards red masterpoints with a weighting of W=5.00.

All references to the Bridge NSW website are to items found on this page
https://bridgensw.com.au/state-pairs-and-teams-championships/

The NSW State Pairs

The NSW State Pairs (State Pairs) 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. State Pairs

   The NSW State Pairs is a Masters event played in three divisions:[1]

   - Open
   - Under Grand Master
   - Under National Master

2. For the purposes of these Regulations:

   - a Club is defined as an entity with an ABF Club number (e.g 2-105),
   - Clubs are allocated to regions as shown in Appendix A.

3. The Championship is conducted in three stages:

   - Club Selection Events
   - Regional Finals
   - State Final

4. Yellow Systems are not permitted at any stage of the Championship.

Eligibility

5. Players:

   a. Players must have an active Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.

   b. Players in a Club Selection Event (CSE) do not have to be members of the club holding the event. However, the ABF Masterpoint Scheme requires all competitors in State Championships to be members of a Bridge NSW club or

[1] For ease of identifying player ranks, the file MPData.csv in the MPCData downloads includes the old single letter masterpoint rank at the start of the current year in the column headed 'Year Start Rank Seq' (column V when opened in Excel). This is conveniently the eligibility date for this event. The single letter masterpoint ranks are listed on this page https://www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/helpranklist.asp Under Grand Master is a single letter masterpoint rank between ***a*** and ***q***, while under National Master is a single letter masterpoint rank between ***a*** and ***j***.

actually visiting NSW at the time of the event. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that any Interstate or Overseas Players in online sessions are either also members of a NSW Club, or are physically visiting NSW at the time of the event.

c. Players may play in Club Selection Events at multiple clubs. Players playing at multiple clubs must be regular players, or partnering regular players, at any clubs where they enter a CSE.

d. Players may only play in one Regional Final.

e. To compete in a Division, both members of a pair must have a rank at 1 January 2026 that meets the requirements of that Division. For the avoidance of doubt, pairs may elect to contest in a higher Division.

Club Selection Events (CSEs)

6. Club Selection Event format

a. Clubs may hold up to three CSEs provided that each CSE is targeted at a different set of players. For example, two separate events held at the time of ordinary day and night sessions, or an event held at a second club venue, or online on RealBridge.

b. An individual CSE may be held over a maximum of four sessions

c. All the club's CSE's can be held over a maximum of nine (9) sessions. For the avoidance of doubt, the table shows the maximum number of sessions allowed for the number of CSEs held:

CSEs Held	Max Total Sessions
1	4
2	6
3	9

d. CSEs should be held during the ordinary published session times for the club. Any request to hold a CSE at a different time requires prior approval by the Bridge NSW Calendar Co-Ordinator to ensure it does not conflict with other events planned for that time.

e. Sessions may be held face-to-face or online using the RealBridge platform. Qualifying sessions held on BBO or Stepbridge are not allowed.

f. Clubs may elect to hold a one or two winner format for their event.

g. Matchpoint scoring is to be used.

h. No substitutions are allowed for CSEs. Where a player accompanies different partners in one or more CSE, each pair is regarded as a separate entry for the

purposes of regulation 12.d.

7. Directors

Directors must be qualified at Club level (D) or above.

8. Timetable.

Clubs and their representatives should carefully note the following dates and times:

a. Clubs should register with Bridge NSW their intention to conduct one or more CSE using the form provided on the Bridge NSW website by 31 March 2026. Registration is not mandatory, however, only clubs that have registered will be guaranteed the opportunity to enter at least one pair in each division of the Regional Final (see regulation 14).

b. Where a club is not holding a CSE they may advise the Regional Organiser (using that form) the details of pairs that have informed the club of their intention to make a Direct Entry.

c. CSEs must be completed and results and pair nominations submitted using the form provided by no later than Monday 31 August 2026.

9. Masterpoints

a. This event awards red masterpoints for Club Selection Events with a weighting of W=5.00. It is imperative that the director of the CSE sessions sets the weighting correctly when scoring the event. The procedure for doing this in Compscore2, Compscore3, Scorebridge and ASE9 can be found in Appendix B at the end of these regulations (Parts A, B, C and D, respectively).

b. Clubs may hold CSEs in the three master divisions where player numbers allow. If so a Master Factor of 0.74 must be applied to the Under Grand Master category and a Master Factor of 0.63 must be applied to the Under National Master category. If played in two sections only by combining an Open and Under Grand Master field, that combined section has a Master Factor of 1:00 and a Master Factor of 0.63 applied to the Under National Master Category. If played in two sections only by combining the two Masters categories, that combined section has a Master Factor of 0.74 and the Open category has a Master Factor of 1.00 applied.

c. Red masterpoints are awarded on a sessional basis only; i.e. there is NO outright award.

d. The red masterpoints calculated must NOT be submitted via the club's monthly upload to the ABF Masterpoint Centre. They must be sent as a .red file using the procedure described in regulation 10. Do not send anything to the ABF Masterpoint Centre or the State Masterpoint Secretary.

e. These sessions are run under Bridge NSW's grade B (State Championship)

allowance – they do not affect your club's B4c session allocation.

f. Red Masterpoints from Club Selection Events will be submitted by the Tournament Organiser to the Masterpoints Centre at the conclusion of the State Final.

10. CSE Results Submission and Bridge NSW Invoicing

a. An Excel form required to be submitted by clubs holding CSEs is available for download from the Bridge NSW website. This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list and uploaded through the Bridge NSW website at by no later than 31 August 2026. The following documents are to be submitted:

   i. The completed coversheet available from the Bridge NSW website (see above) as an Excel file. This will include the names and ABF numbers of the pairs representing the club at Regional Finals;
   ii. A complete copy of the results of each qualifying session as a pdf, html or txt file;
   iii. The masterpoint file as a .red file.

   If any difficulty is experienced submitting via the form provided, the documents above should be emailed to state.champs@bridgensw.com.au.

b. Failure to provide the above documents and for the details on the .red file and the results to match the cover sheet by the due date may result in no red masterpoints being issued by Bridge NSW for the CSE and no entry being accepted to the regional final at the concessional rate.

c. At the conclusion of the Regional Finals, Bridge NSW will invoice clubs holding CSEs:

   i. $2.50 per player per session for Club Selection Events,
   ii. $1.79 per red masterpoint awarded at Club Selection Events,
   iii. $50.00 for each club representative pair playing in the Regional Final.

Regional Finals

11. Date

a. Regional Finals will be played on Saturday 26 September 2026 in conjunction with Regional Finals for the State Teams. Finals will be played for the Metropolitan Region and ten (10) Country Regions (see club allocation to regions at Appendix A)

b. Regional Organisers may apply to the Tournament Organiser to hold their regional final on an alternative date if a venue or qualified director is not available. The Tournament Organiser will confer with the Bridge NSW Calendar Co-Ordinator before approving an alternative date.

12. Club Representative Pairs

a. Pairs nominated to play in the Regional Final by clubs that have held a CSE will be charged a discount entry fee of $50 per pair which will be invoiced to the club. Clubs can make their own arrangements on whether they recover any of this from

the representative pairs so long as all representative pairs are treated equally.

b. Pairs must be nominated to compete in a specific division. Both players in a pair must be qualified to play in the division.

c. The upper limit to the number of pairs that may be sent is that club's entire qualifying field.

d. To get the benefits of the discounted entry fee above, all pairs must be *bona fide* club representatives, i.e. each pair must have entered and played a club qualifying event as a pair - it is not allowable for players who have qualified in different partnerships to play together in the Final as club representatives. Such players may, of course, enter the regional Final directly as allowed under regulation 13

e. Clubs should specify their own criteria for determining how many pairs the club wishes to enter as representative pairs and how these pairs will be selected from the pairs competing in CSEs.[2] The club criteria must provide equal support for the selection of club representative pairs for each division and across CSEs where more than one was held.

f. Club representative pairs will be entered into the Regional Final by the Regional Organiser on the information provided in the Excel form submitted under regulation10.a.

13. Direct Entry Pairs

a. Pairs may directly enter a Regional Final. The entry fee will be $100 for Pairs nominating in the Open Category, and $75 for all others.

b. Both players in the pair must be members of clubs in the region of the final they are entering.

14. Precedence for Accepting Entries

Bridge NSW is not in a position to accurately forecast the number of Pairs that will want to contest the Regional Final. Accordingly, it is necessary to establish an order of precedence for accepting entries to the Regional Final.

a. Regional Organisers will be required to choose a venue for the Regional Final capable of accommodating three pairs from each club holding a CSE and the number of pairs that clubs not holding a CSE have indicated intend to make direct entries.

b. If the total number of pairs nominated by clubs to play in the regional final and

[2] As an example, if a club runs a two-winner format CSE then it is reasonable to conclude that the club is prepared to nominate the same number of teams from each direction. Similarly, while no masterpoints are awarded for outright placing in CSEs, clubs can score an outright winners to determine finishing places or the club could treat the CSE as an eclectic and rank pairs based on the best two scores from the CSE (or three for a 4 session CSE). If one player has partnered with two other players in a CSE the club may choose to score

pairs making direct entries is greater than the capacity of the chosen venue, then the Regional Organiser may limit the number of direct entries accepted.

c. Priority will be given to pairs nominated by clubs that held CSEs. If the number of pairs nominated by clubs holding CSEs is greater than the capacity of the venue, the first nominated entry from each club in each division will be allocated a spot. Additional places will be allocated to clubs in the order of the number of pairs participating in the club's CSEs.

d. If the number of pairs nominated by clubs holding CSEs is less than the capacity of the venue, priority for direct entries will be given to pairs whose club did not play a CSE where that club nominated the pair as wishing to play in the Regional Final under regulation 8.a.

e. If after allocating direct entries under reg (d) above there is still capacity for further pairs at the venue, direct entries will be allocated in order of entry in MyABF, provided that the Regional Organiser may take entries out of order solely for the purposes of having an even number of entries in a division (or combined division).

15. Format

a. Where possible Regional Finals will be played as three sections, one for each division. Where necessary adjacent divisions may be combined. 'Adjacent divisions' means Open and Less than Grand, or Less than Grand and Less than National, or all three Divisions together.

b. For the avoidance of doubt, for two sections to be combined at least one must consist of less than ten pairs (five tables).

c. A one winner matchpoint format must be used. (Advice on suitable formats will be provided by the Directing Committee to Directors.)

d. Ties for the award of the Regional Championship will be resolved by application of the procedures in section 11 of the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations.

16. Masterpoints

a. Masterpoints for Regional Finals will be awarded with a weighting of 5.0. The Under Grand Category will have a Master Factor of 0.74 applied, and for the Under National a Master Factor of 0.63 will be applied. These result in total weights of W=3.7 and W=3.15 respectively.

b. If two or more divisions are combined the Master Factors to be applied will be as detailed in regulation 9.b.

c. Both sessional and outright points will be awarded. A Congress Acceleration Factor cannot be applied to the outright awards.

d. Masterpoints for Regional Finals will be submitted at the conclusion of the State

Final.

e. Bridge NSW will pay for all masterpoints issued at a Regional Final.

17. Regional Organisers

a. Regional Organisers will be responsible for selecting the venue for the final. For the avoidance of doubt, the venue need not be in the area of the club of which the RO is a member.

b. Preference of venue shall be given to the premises of the Host Club (if any) especially where that Host Club can provide the venue at limited cost to Bridge NSW.

c. Regional Organisers must complete the Excel form provided on the Bridge NSW website at the conclusion of the final to enable the Tournament Organiser to enter pairs into the State Final and ensure club invoices are issued correctly.

d. The Regional Coordinator needs to send the following documents to Tournament Organiser:

- 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

18. Host Clubs

a. The Club hosting the Regional Final does so on behalf of Bridge NSW and will be reimbursed for (non-catering) expenses incurred.

b. Host clubs may charge pairs a small fee to cover the cost of catering.

c. Bridge NSW (via the Tournament Organiser) will reimburse the hosting club for expenses incurred in running the Regional Final.

19. Directors

Directors of Regional Finals must be non-playing and qualified at congress level (C) or above.

State Final

20. Format

a. The State Final will be played in three divisions of 14 pairs in each division.

b. These pairs will play a four-board (barometer) round-robin over two online RealBridge sessions on Monday 7 and 14 December at 7:00pm.

21. Selection of finalists

a. The winner of each section in each country region, and the top four places in the metropolitan final will be entered into the final. Where a pair is unwilling or unable

to take their place in the final, the next placed pair from that region will be entered.

b. If there is a tie between pairs, the entry to the final will be determined by application of the procedures in section 11 of the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations.

c. If any region is unable to provide a finalist in a section, the next placed metropolitan pair will be selected. If there are still vacancies in the field country regions will earn another place in the order of the size of the field in the relevant section in the regional final. Where the field in the relevant finals are equal, precedence will be given to the club that had the most players in all categories in CSEs. Where the number of players in CSEs is the same, precedence will be determined by lot.

22. Substitutions

Pairs playing in the State Final are allowed a substitution of one player for one session. All substitutions must otherwise be in accordance with the Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations and submitted via the on-line substitution form at https://bridgensw.com.au/substitution/ and must be approved in advance by the Bridge NSW Events Committee.

23. Masterpoints

Sessional and outright points will be awarded using the master factors used for the Regional Finals.

24. State Pairs prize money

a. Prize money is 1st $300, 2nd $200 & 3rd $100 per pair in each division.

b. Prize money will be paid as MyABF Bridge Credits

Miscellaneous

All correspondence should be sent to the Tournament Organiser at state.champs@bridgensw.com.au.

Appendix A – Regions

Central Coast
- Bateau_Bay
- Brisbane_Water
- Central_Coast
- Central_Coast_Leagues

Central Inland
- Armidale
- Glen
- Gunnedah
- Highlanders
- Inverell
- Oxley
- Quirindi
- Tamworth
- Tenterfield
- Warialda

Hunter
- Belmont
- Cessnock
- Charlestown
- Hawks_Nest
- Lake_Macquaie
- Maitland
- Muswellbrook
- Newcastle
- Quick_Tricks
- Scone
- Singleton
- Southlakes
- Tilligerry
- Tomaree
- Toronto
- Wests_City_Newcastle

Mid North Coast
- Great_Lakes
- Nambucca_River
- Nambucca_Valley
- Port_Macquarie
- Port_Macquarie_Hastings
- Port_Macquarie_Oxley
- PP
- Taree
- Urunga

Mid-North Coast
- Camden_Haven
- Coffs_Harbour
- Grafton
- Yamba

Mountains
- Bathurst
- Blue_Mountains
- Glenbrook
- Hawkesbury
- Mudgee
- Springwood
- Windsor

Northern Rivers
- Ballina
- Brunswick_Valley
- Byron_Bay
- Lennox_Head
- Lismore
- Tweed
- Twin_Towns

South Coast
- Batemans_Bay
- Bega
- Milton
- Mollymook
- Moruya
- Sapphire Coast

South-West NSW
- Albury
- Griffith
- Leeton
- Riverview
- Tumbarumba
- Tumut
- Wagga
- West_Wyalong

Tablelands-Illawarra
- Berry
- Bowral
- Bungendore
- Goulburn
- Illawarra
- Kiama
- Nowra
- Southern_Highlands

Western NSW
- Condobolin
- Coonabarabran
- Cowra
- Dubbo
- Forbes
- Narromine
- Orange
- Parkes
- Wellington

Metropolitan
- ARV_Castle_Hill
- Bayview
- Bridge_Away
- Bridgefolk
- Carlingford
- Castle_Hill
- Cheltenham
- Cromer
- Double_Bay
- Easts
- Elanora
- Finesse
- Forestville_RSL
- Funbridge
- Georges_River
- Harbord_Diggers
- Harbourview
- Helane
- Holiday_Bridge
- Hunters_Hill
- Hurstville
- Ingleburn
- Killara_Golf
- Long_Reef
- Macarthur
- Manly_Golf
- Manly_Warringah_Leagues
- MV
- North_Sydney_Leagues
- NSBC
- NSBC_at_Lindfield
- Parramatta
- Peninsula
- Pennant
- Randwick
- RMYC_Newport
- Royal_Sydney_Golf
- Seaforth
- Social
- St_George
- Strathfield
- Sydney_BC
- Thornleigh
- Trumps
- Turramurra
- Wollstonecraft

Appendix B: Masterpointing the State Open Pairs Club Qualifying Event Correctly

Part A - Using Compscore2

1. Set up individual sessions as normal, but choose “Red” for Masterpoints and “5.00” for Basic Weighting (see Figure 1).

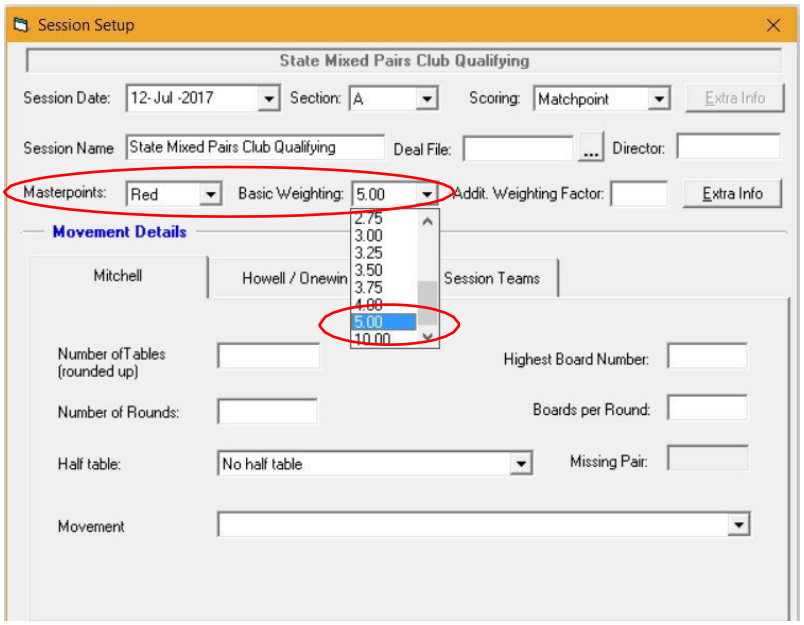

Figure 1: Session set-up in Compscore 2

2. Type in the Movement Details and score normally. The masterpoints will be calculated correctly. Generate the required red point file using normal procedures.

Part B - Using Compscore3

1. Set up individual sessions as normal, but choose “Red” for Masterpoints and “5.00” for Basic Weighting (see Figure 2).

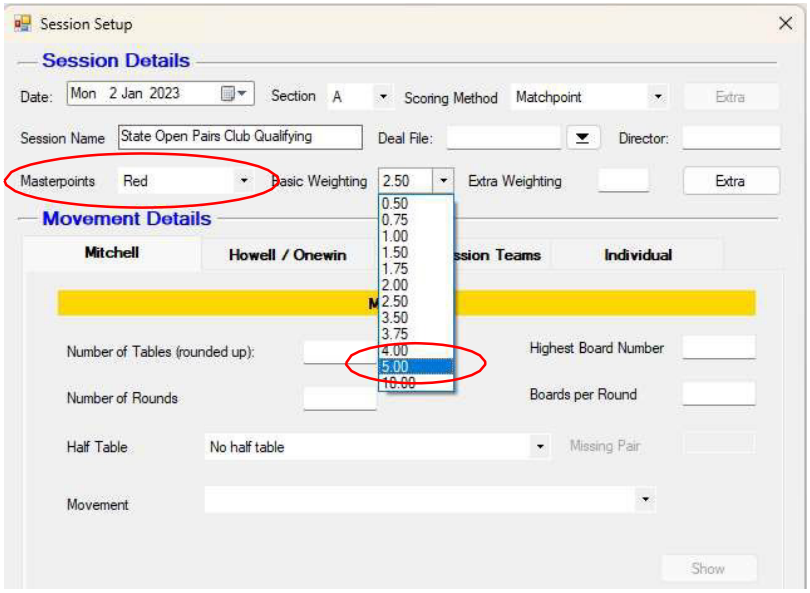

Figure 2: Session Setup using Compscore 3

2. Type in the Movement Details and score normally. The masterpoints will be calculated correctly. Generate the required red point file using normal procedures.

Part C - Using Scorebridge

1. Enter the results and score up normally until the Results and Outputs window is reached (see Figure 3). Choose "Options" and "Master Point Options FOR THIS EVENT".

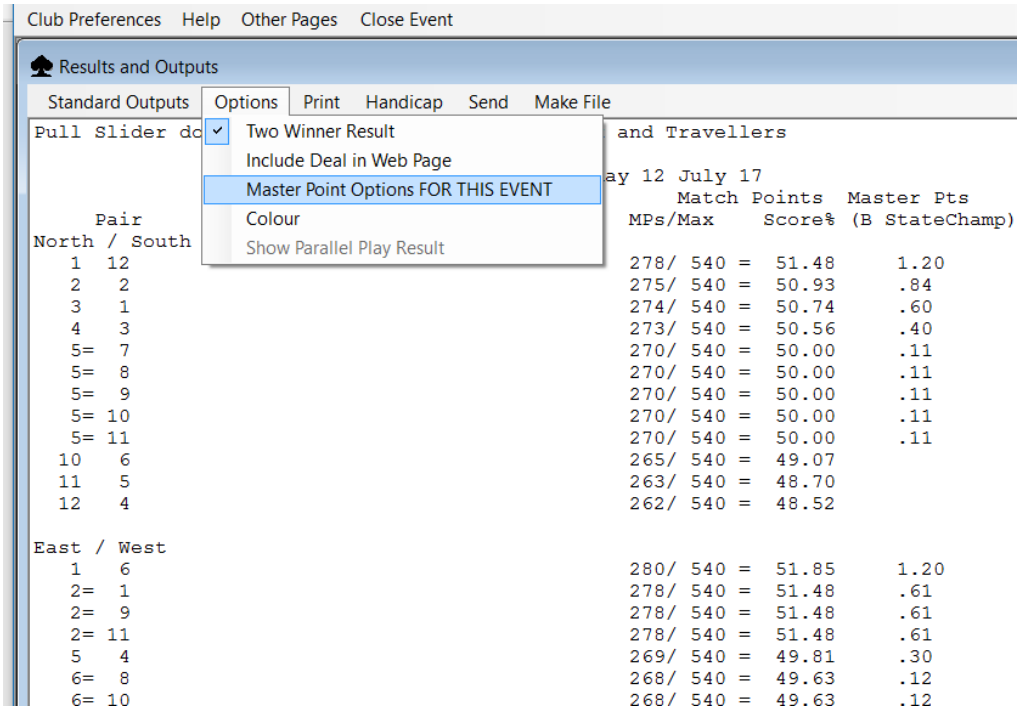

Figure 3: Session Setup for Scorebridge

2. Choose "B StateChamp" from the drop down menu (see Figure 4). Click "OK".

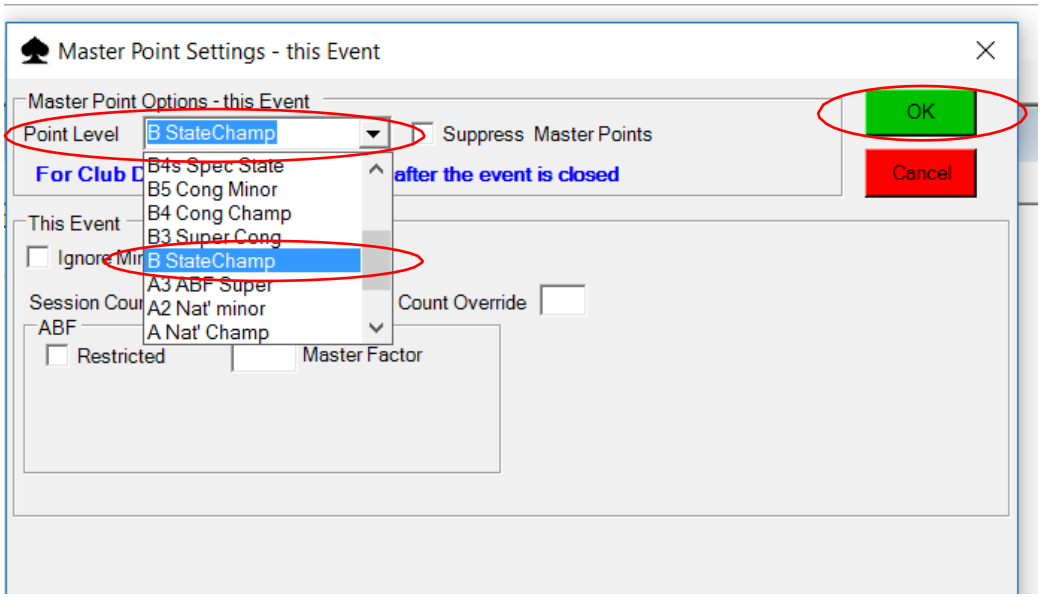

Figure 4: Scorebridge Masterpoint Settings

3. The masterpoints will be calculated correctly. Generate the required red point file using normal procedures.

Part D - Using ASE9

1. Set up individual sessions as normal, but choose “B State championship” for Masterpoint grade (see Figure 5).

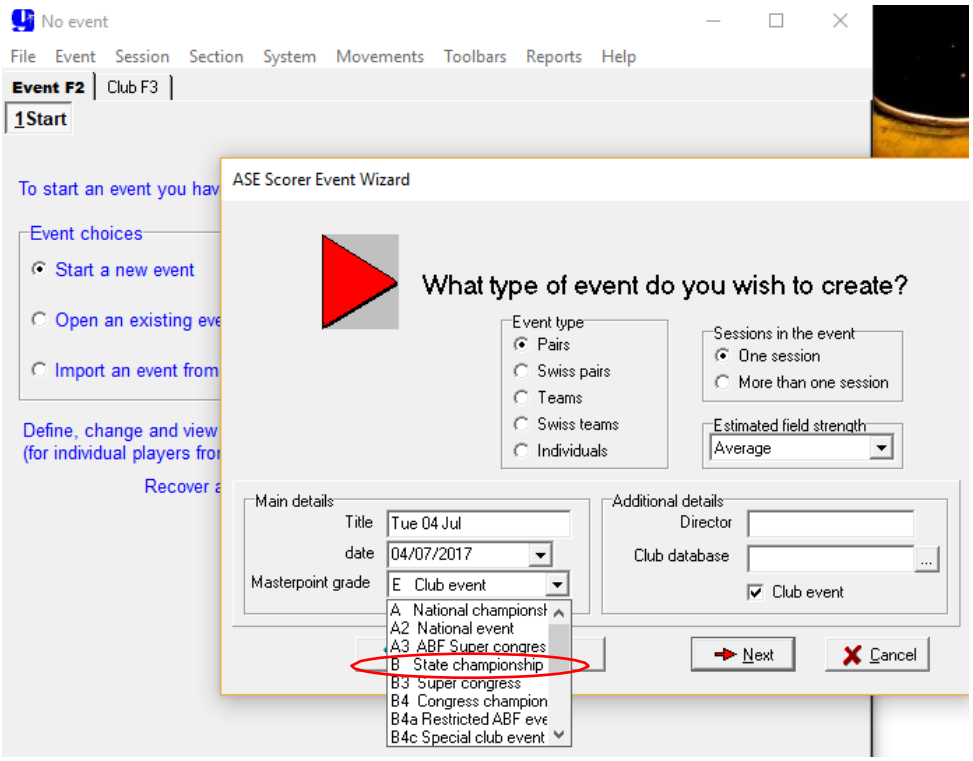

Figure 5: Setting up ASE9

2. Run the sessions normally. When it’s time to score up, proceed normally until the Masterpoint Awards windows is reached (Figure 6). Check the masterpoint tournament grade is “B State championship” and the Master factor grade is set to “None”. Make sure to click “Recalculate” before “OK”.

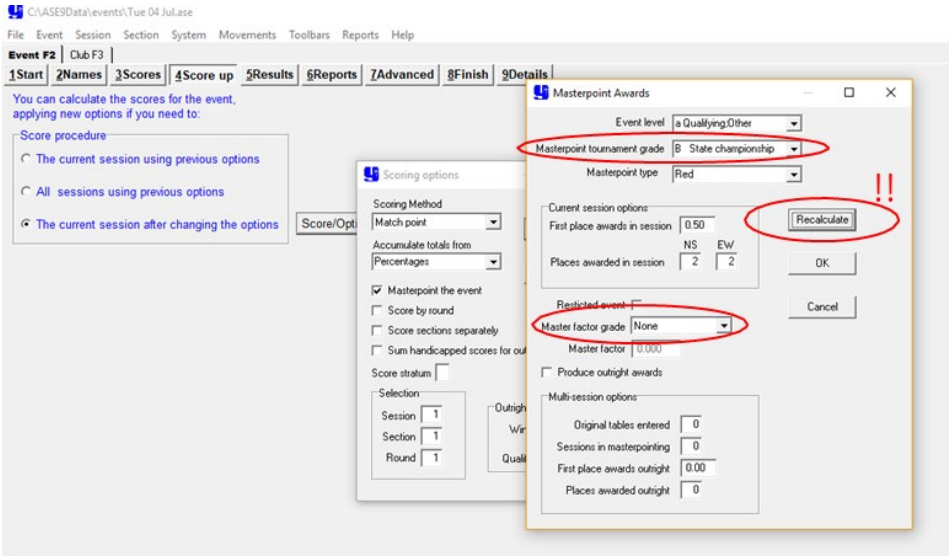

Figure 6: Masterpoint Awards in ASE

3. The masterpoints will be calculated correctly. Generate the required red point file using normal procedures.