State Teams Championship 2026

Supplementary Regulations

Important Note: This event awardsredmasterpoints witha 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 Teams

This NSW State Teams(State Teams) 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 Teams

The NSW State Teams 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

[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***.

State Championships to be members of a Bridge NSW club or 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.

6. Teams in a Regional Final other than the Metropolitan Regional Final

a. Each player of a team in a Regional Final other than the Metropolitan Regional Final must be a *bona fide* member of a Bridge NSW affiliated bridge club allocated to the Region

b. At least half the members of any team (of up to six players) must have

i. a principal place of residence outside metropolitan Sydney, OR
ii. maintained their Regional club membership after moving to Sydney.

Club Selection Events (CSEs)

7. 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 2 to 4 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 2 3	4
	6
	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. Online events using BBO or Stepbridge are not allowed.

f. 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.

g. Where a teams format is used, teams can have a maximum of six members. Any person who plays as part of a team in a Club Selection Event has to be included as part of that team if the team is submitted as a Club Representative Team for the Regional Final.

h. Where a pairs format is used, no substitutions are allowed. Where a player accompanies different partners in one or more CSE, each pair is regarded as a separate entry for the purposes of regulation c.

8. Directors

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

9. 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 team in each division of the Regional Final.

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

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

10. 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.

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 11. 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.

11. 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 CSE 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. $1.74 per red masterpoint awarded at Club Selection Events,
iii. $100 .00 for each Club Representative Team playing in the Regional Final.

Regional Finals

12. Date

a. Regional Finals will be played on Sunday 27 September 2026 in conjunction with Regional Finals for the State Pairs. 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.

13. Club Representative Teams

a. Teams nominated to play in the Regional Final by clubs that have held a CSE will be charged a discount entry fee of $100 per team 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. Teams must be nominated to compete in a specific division. All members of the team must be qualified to play in the division.

c. The upper limit to the number of teams that can be sent is half that club's entire CSE field. Teams nominated must have played as a team in one CSE held by the club (except as provided in (d) below). If running an IMP pairs CSE, representative teams must contain a minimum of 50% of pairs that finished in the top half of the field in their category.

d. Where the only way a club can field a team in a division for the Regional Final is by forming a composite team of players that competed in separate teams at the CSE then one composite team may be entered at the discounted entry fee for that division.

e. Clubs not playing a CSE may not nominate teams for the Regional Final at the discounted rate, though such teams will be able to enter as Direct Entries.

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

14. Direct Entry Teams

a. Teams may directly enter a Regional Final. The entry fee will be $200 for Teams nominating in the Open Category, and $150 for all others.

b. All members of the team must be:

i. Qualified to play in the division for which they nominate, and
ii. Eligible to play in the Regional Final under regulation 6.

15. Precedence for Accepting Entries

Bridge NSW is not in a position to accurately forecast the number of Teams 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 teams from each club holding a CSE and the number of teams that clubs not holding a CSE have indicated intend to make

direct entries.

b. If the total number of teams nominated by clubs to play in the regional final and 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 teams nominated by clubs that held CSEs. If the number of teams 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 teams participating in the club's CSEs (where clubs held a pairs event their priority order is the number of pairs divided by 2).

d. If the number of teams nominated by clubs holding CSEs is less than the capacity of the venue, priority for direct entries will be given to teams whose club did not play a CSE where that club nominated the team as wishing to play in the Regional Final under regulation 9.a.

e. If after allocating direct entries under reg (d) above there is still capacity for further teams 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).

16. 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 four teams.

c. Round robin or Swiss Teams formats may be used. Each Division may be played using a different format. (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.

17. 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=3.72 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 10.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.

18. 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 [link to be provided] at the conclusion of the final to enable the Tournament Organiser to enter teams 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

19. 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 teams 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.

20. Directors

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

State Final

21. Event

a. The event will be held online using the RealBridge platform. All players on

RealBridge should have working video and audio connections. Players may only turn off their camera with the permission of the Director.

b. The Final will consist of round robin Qualifying Stage to be held on Friday 4 December (7:00pm – 10:15pm) and Saturday 5 December (10:00am – 5:15pm).and a Final Stage on Sunday 6 December (10:00am – 5:00pm).

22. Selection of finalists

a. 14 teams contest the Qualifying Stage in each Division.

b. 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 team is unwilling or unable to take their place in the final, the next placed team from that region will be entered.

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

d. If any region is unable to provide a finalist in a section, the next placed metropolitan team 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.

23. Qualifying Stage

a. A round-robin of 13 x 6 board matches will be held, scored using the WBF continuous VP scale for 9 board matches. (4 rounds Friday night, 9 rounds Saturday).

b. At the end of the Qualifying Stage, the two highest placed teams in each Division will qualify to the State Teams Final. If a Country team has qualified to the State Teams Final that team will have the option to play the Country Teams Final and be replaced by the next best placed finalist. For the avoidance of doubt If the Country team plays in the State Final they will not be credited as Country Champions.

c. The two highest placed Country Teams in each Division not playing in the State Teams Final will qualify to the Country Teams Final.

d. Ties between teams at the Qualifying Stage that affect eligibility for the State or Country Final will be broken as per regulation 26.

24. Final Stage

a. The State Teams Final and Country Teams Final will be played over 4 x 12 board

stanzas. Screen mode will be used.

b. The team with the higher Qualifying score will have a 0.1 IMP carry-forward in each Final.

c. The play in both Finals will be broadcast on the RealBridge kibitzing site with a 30 minute delay.

25. Seating rights

a. In the Qualifying Stage seating is determined by the RealBridge software.

b. In the Final(s), the higher ranked team from the Qualifying Stage has first choice to sit first in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.

26. Tie Breaks

Critical ties which occur at the end of the Qualifying Stage will be broken (in order) as follows:

a. in the case of two-way ties, the winner of the match between the two equally scoring teams shall be ranked higher;

b. the team with the greatest number of wins in VPs (a draw is equal to ½ win) shall be ranked highest (only a 0 IMPs difference counts as a draw);

c. the team with the greatest net IMP difference shall be ranked highest;

d. the total VP scores shall be recalculated by successively deleting the worst result, then second worst result, etc. of each of the tying teams;

e. lot.

27. Score Correction Period

a. The correction period for the Qualifying Stage ends at 9.00 pm on Saturday 5 December 2026.

b. The correction period for the finals ends at midday on Tuesday 8 December 2026.

28. Substitutions

A maximum of 7 substitutions per team may be approved for the Qualifying Stage. The team must be without substitutes for at least 6 of the 9 matches. Substitutes must be approved in advance via the Bridge NSW on-line substitution form, https://bridgensw.com.au/substitution/

A maximum of 2 substitutes per team in one session may be approved for the Sunday Final(s). The team must be without substitutes for 3 of the 4 stanzas. Substitutes must be approved in advance via the Bridge NSW on-line substitution form, https://bridgensw.com.au/substitution/

29. Masterpoints

Masterpoints for the Qualifying Stage of the State Final will be awarded at the same rate as specified for the Regional Finals at 17(a). Both sessional and outright points will be awarded.

30. State Teams prize money

a. Prize money is 1st $600, 2nd $300 & 3rd $100 per team in the Open division. Prize money is 1st $400, 2nd $200 & 3rd $100 per team in the other two divisions.

b. The winners of the State Teams and Country Teams will receive medals.

c. Prizemoney 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

CentralCoast

- Bate au_ 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