July 2026

For regional organisers

State Championships 2026
Information for Regional Organisers

https://bridgensw.com.au/state-pairs-and-teams-championship/

Tournament Organiser: Dave Havyatt state.champs@bridgensw.com.au

Thank you for agreeing to be a Regional Organiser for the State Championships for 2026. This is an exciting new development for Bridge NSW, and we are seeing significant interest. I expect we will see regional finals in all regions, unlike the old State Open (Country) Teams. Regional Organisers will be provided with access to a Dropbox folder of pertinent information.

As you know all the Regional Finals are due to be played on the weekend of 26 and 27 September. We asked clubs to indicate by the end of March their intention to hold Club Selection Events. Currently we mostly just have interest from the clubs that traditionally held qualifying events for State Open Pairs and State Open Teams. These details are included in a spreadsheet in the Dropbox folder.

Bridge NSW Administration

For each regional final a MyABF 'congress' has been created, each with six events. The barest details are included in these entries. Access has been requested for each Regional Organiser (RO) to have editing rights to these pages.

Club returns from their Club Selection Events are sent directly to the Tournament Organiser (TO) via the form on the website. Club representative entries are being added by the Tournament Organiser. These club returns and the intention to compete forms have been placed in a Bridge NSW Dropbox folder that will be shared with any RO who requests it. To use the access most conveniently you need your own Dropbox account. Contact the TO at state.champs@bridgensw.com.au to arrange access.

The RO is responsible for making necessary arrangements with the host club. Ideally, we will not be paying hiring rates for any venue, though we recognise that some hosts use hired halls.

A gratuity of $150 is payable to the Regional Organiser per day, who may decide to have the payment made to the host club.

Individual Excel workbooks have been created for RO return for the Pairs and Teams. This includes the details of teams and pairs qualifying for the State Final. (Note there

are currently two separate workbooks – these may be consolidated into one before the Regional Finals).

As there is the possibility of a region not having an entry in a division, provision has been made in the Supplementary Regulations for filling these positions from other regions. Accordingly, the form provides for additional teams and pairs to be listed who can be included in the final if a vacancy exists because an other regions (or regions) had insufficient entries. The TO will enter pairs and teams into the final.

This workbook needs to be accompanied with the RED file from the event, the results and any invoices for expenses to be paid by BNSW. Bridge NSW will make payments on the basis of this return.

Promotion

The new format of the event has not provided participation from many more clubs than the old State Open Pairs and State Open Teams. Clubs still have till 31 August to conduct CSEs. Additionally, we need to ensure that all players within regions are aware that they can directly enter the Regional Final, irrespective of what their club has done.

ROs are requested to make direct contact with each club and explain to them the options for conducting CSEs.

Note also that players are not restricted to playing CSEs at clubs of which they are members (unless they play in CSEs at two or more clubs). Additionally, CSEs can be played online. It would be desirable if at least one CSE was played in each region promoted to all players either as a face-to-face session or as a RealBridge session.

If a club in your region would like to organise a RealBridge CSE but don't have the capability to do so, the TO will be able to help them (or the RO might be able to).

Format

The Supplementary Regulations provided minimal specification of formats for the Regional Finals. Ideally the final is played in all three divisions. For two divisions to be combined in pairs, at least one division should have less than nine (9) pairs (a 4.5 table Howell). For teams, divisions should not be combined unless one division has less than four (4) teams. Only adjacent divisions can be merged, which can include all three being joined together.

The Bridge NSW Directing Committee has provided recommended movements for each number of entries, the list is included as an attachment. Compscore3 templates will be provided for all recommended movements as a ZIP file on the website. Pairs are scored using matchpoints and must be a one winner format.

The Supplementary Regulations for Pairs and Teams specify the process for determining the order of acceptance of entries if the host venue is unable to

accommodate the number of entries. Based on the intention to compete forms we do not anticipate this procedure will need to be invoked.

Directors

The TO is arranging Directors for each of the Regional Finals. Final allocation depends on whether Regional Finals are held in all regions. Directors will be expected to invoice Bridge NSW directly. Details need to be included in the Excel workbook.

Venue Arrangements

The Regional Organiser needs to liaise with the Host Club and the Director about venue arrangements. The Host Club should be able to provide a venue with sufficient tables to meet the requirements of the event. If there is a need to hire an outside venue the approval of the TO is required.

The RO is responsible for organising boards, score books and Bridgemates for the event. This should be arranged in conjunction with the Director and host club. Bridge NSW will pay for dealing of boards and will facilitate the provision of additional equipment if required (for example, boards). If you need assistance on securing equipment speak to the TO. Costs of dealing etc need to be included in the event workbook.

Host clubs will be reimbursed for any costs other than catering. The Supplementary regulations establish that hosts may charge a small fee for catering. If desired ROs (once they have access) can add an extra event on each of Saturday and Sunday for paying for catering or clubs can collect cash at the event. The details of the catering should be included in the MyABF entry for the Regional Final.

Key dates for the events are:

- 31 August – Returns for CSE in Pairs and Teams, last day for direct entries
- Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September – Regional Finals in all regions (unless changed for individual regions).
- Friday 4, Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December – State Teams Final (online) This is for ALL three divisions.
- Monday 30 November and Monday 7 December – State Pairs Final (online) This is for ALL three divisions.

Appendix -Suggested Formats

Pairs. In some cases alternatives are offered that include one movement of three board rounds if the Director wants to simplify coordinating movements across three divisions with different sized fields.

Number of Tables

No. of Tables	Recommended Movements
4 ½ or 5	5 table Howell with 3 board rounds
5 ½ or 6	6 Table Howell (barometer) 5-board rounds 11 rounds 5am and 6pm OR 6 table ¾ Howell. (note randomly change seating for second session) with 3 boards rounds
6 ½ or 7	7 table Howell, with 13 2-board rounds, outright over both sessions. OR 7 table double hesitation Mitchell with 3-board rounds (the hesitation Mitchell is a one winner format)
7 ½ or 8	8 table Howell 15 2-board rounds, outright over both sessions OR 8 table hesitation Mitchell with 3-board rounds (the hesitation Mitchell is a one winner format)
8 ½ or 9	9 table straight Mitchell 3-board rounds with last round arrow switched.
9 ½ to 12	Web-Mitchell of nine 3-board rounds with last round arrow switched.
12 ½ +	Web-Mitchell of 12 2-board rounds with last two rounds arrow-switched.

For Mitchells and Web Mitchells ideally seed pairs so that the NS half and EW half are of similar strength.

For Mitchells and Hesitation Mitchells, to improve the direct comparison provided by the arrow switch, change the direction of about half the tables for the second match. Alternatively use separate random draws for the first and second sessions.

For Web-Mitchells start the second session with NS pairs in same seating and advance EW pairs by one table from where they finished the first session so they at least play all pairs once and some twice. Alternately rotate the second half of the NS pairs to the EW tables, take the second half of the original EW seating and seat them in the first half and move the original first half to the NS second half.

Teams

Do not use house teams to make even numbers in matches, use triangles. McManus triangles can be used. Contrary to the Supplementary Regulations, divisions can be played with two or three tables. Any Division with over four tables should be played as a separate section unless an Adjacent division has insufficient teams.

No. of Teams	Recommended Movements
2	Head-to-head. Four 12-board stanzas. Switch the NS/EW direction of one team for one stanza.
3	Triangle (proper). 12 board stanzas. Score outright but no masterpoints for outright.
4	Double round robin of 9-board matches.
5	Play American Whist twice, score outright for winner, but no outright masterpoints.
6	Round robin of five 5-board matches played twice
7	Round robin of five 5-board matches played twice
8	Round robin of seven 8-board matches – as 4-3 or 3-4
9	Round robin of eight 7-board matches
10	round robin of nine 6-board matches – as 5-4 or 4-5
12	round robin of eleven 4-board matches – as 6-5
14 or 16	4 round swiss teams; two 12-board matches each session
18	Either 5 round swiss teams of 10 or 12 board matches using a split session (hence 25 boards or 30 boards per session) OR 6 round swiss teams of 8 or 9 boards.