

B4 CONGRESSES

The responsibility for the choice of an unpopular or technically unsound format remains with the host club and director.

Formats other than standard must be fully detailed on the entry form.

STANDARD FORMAT ONE DAY SWISS PAIRS

8 Seven Board Rounds

9 Six Board Rounds

11 Five Board Rounds

10 Five Board Rounds for Novice and non-metropolitan congresses at host club's discretion.

STANDARD FORMAT ONE DAY SWISS TEAMS

7 eight board matches or

8 seven board matches or

Fewer matches may be played in Novice and non-metropolitan congresses at host club's discretion.

Live draw

At least 24 boards per session.

GRADED CONGRESSES

1. Entry form per event.
2. Full details as to how field is to be graded must be on the entry form.
3. Example 1: Open; Below Life; Less than 100 MP. At the director's discretion a small field may be divided into two sections, Open and Below National.
Example 2: The field shall be seeded by the director and graded into two approximately equal sections. At the director's discretion a large field may be divided into three approximately equal sections.
4. When eligibility for a grade is restricted by masterpoints, the upper limit quoted shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team. Players must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their ranking may indicate.
5. The entry form should specify the date on which entrants must qualify on master status. If the most recent quarterly results have been published by the time the entry forms are circulated, then the last day of that quarter will be the cut off date. Otherwise the last date of the previous quarter will apply.

NOVICE EVENTS

1. The novice event will be open to players who, at the end of the previous quarter were below the rank for the event stipulated on the current QBA Calendar. "Previous Quarter" means the latest one for which standings have been published prior to the circulation of entry forms.
2. The event must be directed by a qualified Congress Director and the QBA regulations for red masterpoint congresses will apply.
3. The masterpoint limit shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team.

JAMES O'SULLIVAN – QUEENSLAND MASTERPOINT TROPHY

Residential Restrictions apply.

RESTRICTED EVENTS RUN CONCURRENTLY WITH OPEN CONGRESSES

1. One Entry Form per event. Full details must be on the entry form.
Example: Open Swiss Pairs plus Restricted Swiss Pairs <100 MP.
2. When entry to an event is restricted by masterpoints the upper limit quoted shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team.

STANDARD BUTLER SCORING METHOD

1. Mathematical mean (average).
2. Mention must be made on the entry form if the median scoring method is to be used.

STANDARD FORMAT FOR A TRIANGLE IN A TEAMS EVENT

The standard and recommended format for a triangle is a Whist or Mitchell movement with an additional set of boards in play.

Mention must be made on the entry form if a non-standard format is to be used should a triangle be necessary.

QUEENSLAND GNOT TRIALS

Queensland will qualify thirteen teams to the GNOT. For this purpose, the state will be divided into twelve areas.

Area 1: Brisbane zone

Area 2: Gold Coast zone

Area 3: Sunshine Coast zone

Area 4: Capricorn Zone

Area 5: Northern zone - North Qld and North Qld

Area 6: Darling Downs zone

Area 7: Wide Bay zone

Area 8: Whitsunday zone

Residential Qualifications Applicable to All Areas

A bona fide Queensland resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the GNOT National Final, of a club affiliated with the QBA.

A non Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and whose bridge has been or will be played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least six months immediately prior to the National Final.

A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies an area's organiser(s) that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that his bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least 6 months after the National Final.

Conditions Applicable to All Areas:

1. Each area is responsible for organising its qualifying event(s). Areas are required to conduct finals among participating clubs. Areas may require clubs to conduct elimination rounds.
2. The format should be a reasonably lengthy one, as befits a gold masterpoint event. Each area's format must be approved by the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee prior to its first use. Any changes made in later years must also be approved before use.

3. Continuation from club elimination rounds to area finals is not compulsory.
4. All entrants in area finals MUST be prepared to travel to and play in the National Final.
5. Areas holding a single event should cater for teams not wishing to travel to the National Final while making sure that only teams prepared to continue in the event are involved in area finals.
6. Areas are required to have, as part of their approved format, an orderly process for determining qualification to area finals should teams withdraw after elimination or qualifying rounds.
7. Each area must use pre-dealt boards with hand records.
8. Each area must publish playing conditions prior to commencement of event.
9. A team may comprise 4 to 6 players.
10. A player who has played zero boards for a team in which he entered may be dropped from the team at any time. It will be as though the player had never entered and the player may therefore play for another team in accordance with the conditions of augmentation and substitution.
11. A team may augment without restriction up to the commencement of play in an area's final. Once play in an area's final has commenced, augmentation shall only be permitted with the director's approval for cause, and only by player(s) of equal or lesser ranking than the player(s) being replaced.
12. Further to the application of clauses 10 and 11 above, a team that does not retain at least half of the players entered on day one of club elimination heats or area qualifying rounds as the case may be, shall be disqualified. Players so disqualified remain eligible to augment other teams and to play as substitutes.
13. A player may play in more than one area and/or in more than one team within an area but not at the same time.
 - (a) A team that wins the right to represent a club at area finals must announce whether it is accepting or declining that right prior to any player from that team taking part in further heats.
 - (b) All players from a team that has accepted the right to represent one club may play in further heats, either as individuals, pairs or as a complete team, providing they announce prior to the start of subsequent heats that they are not in contention to qualify for area finals.
 - (c) There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can qualify for area finals in two or more teams, or in two or more areas, and then pick and choose the one in which he, she or they will play.
 - (d) Should (c) be breached, then the individual, pair or team is deemed to remain the, or part of the, first qualified team and all subsequent teams are to be disqualified. There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can back date, defer or change a decision not to represent a club.
 - (e) There may be situations where a team that initially failed to qualify is belatedly offered a place in area finals because of a withdrawal, and they wish to accept. The provisions of (d) shall not apply providing all team members playing in other heats at the time of the offer immediately announce their changed status.
 - (f) There may be situations following an application of (e) that individuals or pairs from the belatedly qualifying team are part of a different team or teams in another currently running heat. These individuals or pairs may be replaced with comparable players in the current heat without affecting augmentation allowances under Clause 11. This allows the remaining members, who are not in the newly qualified team, to remain in the competition and they are not disqualified.
14. Subject to the approval of the director, teams are permitted one substitute during club elimination rounds and one substitute during an area's finals. Similarly, where an area conducts a single event consisting of qualifying rounds and finals, one substitute per team is permitted during the qualifying rounds and one during the finals.
15. A player may substitute in more than one area and/or in more than one team within an area. A substitute may not be a member of a team still in contention in any area.
16. Breaking of Ties:

- (a) Ties will not be broken for awarding cash prizes.
 - (b) Ties will be broken in area finals of the GNOT either to establish the correct number of teams to proceed to the National Final or to facilitate seeding by the ABF for the National Final. A tie will be broken on the following basis:
 - (i) If matches are playing the same boards ties will be broken on
 - i. Total Imps difference
 - ii. Head to Head.
 - (ii) If matches are not playing the same boards, ties will be broken on
 - i. Head to Head
 - ii. Total Imps difference.
17. The QBA Manager shall provide to each area details concerning subsidies available for travel to the National Final.
18. In accordance with the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, a playing director may be used for area qualifying rounds and area finals. A congress director must be used for area finals.
19. Only in exceptional circumstances will a team qualifying for the National Final be permitted to change its membership. The prior consent of the Manager (in consultation with the Chairman, Tournament Committee) is required. In principle the teams that qualify shall be the teams that travel to the National Final.

Further Regulation by Areas

Areas may further regulate concerning matters such as residency, dual membership, home club membership. Further regulation must not be contrary to the QBA Regulations and is subject to the approval of the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee.

ZONAL EVENTS – other than GNOT

Each zone may establish conditions not contrary to these regulations for Zonal Qualifying events other than GNOT. Such conditions may for example address residency, dual membership and multiple entries.

GRAND NATIONAL PAIRS REGIONAL FINALS

The GNP Regional Co-ordinator for all Queensland clubs is the QBA.

The Regional Organiser for each club is its QBA Zone. Clubs with queries or problems should first contact their Zone who will contact the QBA if need be.

Each Regional Organiser should regulate the following:

- (a) Residential qualifications for the Regional Final and therefore for Club Selection Events.
- (b) The method for determining eligibility of players newly arrived in the Zone should they not meet any residential qualifications set as per (a) above.
- (c) Any matters listed in the QBA Regulations Section E Page5 under Grand National Pairs Regional Finals that warrant regulation.

Each Regional Organiser is required to:

- (a) Determine commitments eg entitlements arising from a Club's staging of a Club Selection Event.
- (b) Take steps to ensure that no player participates in more than 15 sessions of Club Selection Events.
- (c) Set entry fees to the Regional Final.

Grand National Pairs Club Selection Events

Clubs should have Supplementary Regulations for its GNP Club Selection Event(s). The Supplementary Regulations should deal with matters such as the format of the event, scoring procedures, tie breaking, substitution and slow play. It is particularly important, especially for a Club that stages multiple Club Selection Events, to specify (i) the precise process of selecting pairs to represent the Club in the Regional Final and (ii) what happens in the event of withdrawals.

Should a Club's regulations be silent on substitution the following shall apply.
One substitute at any one time per pair for not more than one session out of a three-session Club Selection event and/or for a maximum of one third of the total number of boards scheduled for the event.

Pairs that withdraw before the completion of a Club Selection Event are not eligible to receive gold points for the sessions they played.

Clubs should endeavour to make sure that no player participates in more than 15 sessions of Club Selection Events.

These regulations are additional to the Conditions of Contest set by the Australian Bridge Federation. It is possible that these QBA regulations may require modification while an event is in progress but any such modification will be for serious shortcomings and not mere whim.

Should any Club believe that its players are disadvantaged by any such modification, the Club should contact its Zone who may in turn contact the QBA to seek recourse.

1. Each QBA Zone is responsible for organising its Regional Finals in accordance with the ABF Conditions of Contest and the QBA Regulations as applicable.
2. The format for each zone's Regional Finals must be approved by the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee prior to its first use and whenever changes are made.
3. All pairs progressing to Regional Finals must be prepared to travel to Canberra during January of the following year to play in the GNP National Final.
4. Each zone is required to have, as part of its approved format, an orderly process for determining qualification to the National Final and how pairs withdrawing prior to the National Final are to be replaced.
5. A substitute may be used for cause for no more than 20% of the boards to be played in a Regional Finals and the same player may not be used to substitute for more than one contender.
6. Pre-dealt boards with hand records must be used for regional finals.
7. Tie breaking methods detailed on Page 2 Section C of the QBA Regulations shall apply.
8. Conditions of Contest must be published prior to the commencement Regional Finals.
9. The Director is to be QBA Congress Accredited or higher and may be a playing director.
10. Each zone must provide the QBA Webmaster with its approved format and Conditions of Contest for publishing on the QBA website prior to each year's event.
11. **Zones may choose to instruct their players that all entrants in Regional finals MUST be prepared to travel to and play in the National Final however this will be a zonal decision only.**