

BRISBANE ZONE * QBA - GNOT

QBA Regulations

All QBA regulations (below) apply to the conduct of club heats and zone final. Please note the relevant sections regarding Queensland residential requirements, format of club heats (reasonably lengthy, pre-dealt boards with hand records, playing director), substitutes, multiple entries (clubs and zones), progress to the zone (optional) and national (compulsory) finals.

Brisbane Zone

Stage 1: Club heats must be in a format conforming with these regulations, on dates set by the club. From these heats, 1 out of every 4 teams (or part thereof) qualify for the zone finals.

Stage 2: Club qualifiers receive free entry to the zone finals. Any qualifying team may decline a position in the zone final. Any such team(s) may be replaced by the next qualifying team(s) from the club concerned.

Stage 3: The top 3 teams from the zone final receive subsidised travel (for 4 people) and free entry to the national finals at Banora Point, Tweed Heads, in Nov–Dec.

Conditions

Teams enter club level heats on the basis that contesting the zone final is optional if they qualify. However, the entry fee is per qualifying team irrespective of the number who actually proceed to the zone final.

A team may comprise 4 to 6 players, but only 4 will receive any available travel subsidy to the national final.

A team may bypass club heats and proceed directly to the zone final on payment of the \$200 qualifying entry fee as a private entry.

QBA tournament regulations apply. Red, blue and green systems are permitted in the zone final.

The zone final will be an 8 match x 14 board Swiss movement with WBF VP scoring.

Club heats are awarded gold master points for each win and/ or draw. Club standings are determined by VPs. Placing master points are not awarded at club level. Gold points are awarded at the zone final for wins, draws and top-third placings.

The Director of club heats must provide a report on those heats, stating:

- (a) the **full names** and **ABF numbers** of all members in every team,
- (b) their win-draw-loss records,
- (c) the movement used, the number of boards and matches played,
- (d) the teams qualifying for the zone finals and,
- (e) any players and/ or teams declining a position in the zone final.

The club shall forward a copy of the Director's report, along with payment of \$200 per qualifying team, to the Brisbane Zone Secretary no later than one week prior to the start of the zone final.

A copy of the report should also be sent to the State Masterpoint Secretary. Gold masterpoints may not be processed until the appropriate fees are received by the Zone Secretary.

The Director of the zone final must provide the Zone Secretary and the State Masterpoint Secretary with a report on the finals. This report should state the movement used, the win-draw-loss records of all participants, and the names and ABF numbers of all members of the teams qualifying for the national finals.

The Zone Secretary will inform the QBA of the zone qualifiers.

QBA Regulations - Queensland GNOT Trials

Teams Qualifying for National Final

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

- Area 1: Brisbane zone - 3 teams
- Area 2: Gold Coast zone - 2 teams
- Area 3: Sunshine Coast zone - 2 teams
- Area 4: Capricorn zone -1 team.
- Area 5: Northern zone - 2 teams (Far North Qld and North Qld)
- Area 6: Darling Downs zone -1 team
- Area 7: Wide Bay zone -1 team
- Area 8: Whitsunday Zone -1 team

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 that club 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 organizer(s) that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that their bridge will be predominantly played in that club 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

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- 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 are to continue;
 - (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

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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.