

## BRISBANE ZONE \* QBA – GNP - 2012

The **Grand National Pairs** is open to players who have **not** achieved Life Master status as at 1 January 2012.

### QBA Regulations

All QBA regulations apply to the conduct of club heats and zone final. Please note the relevant section regarding Queensland residential requirements.

### Brisbane Zone

Stage 1: Club heats must be in a format conforming to the Conditions of Contest set out by the ABF. Each Club has an entitlement to a certain number of pairs to compete in the Regional Finals and in order to qualify a Club must run a match-pointed pairs Club Selection event. This event must be a minimum of three sessions and a maximum of seven sessions **and to qualify for the Zone finals each pair must have played in all of the sessions a club has set down in the single event.** Clubs may run two or more events, all of which must be **a minimum of three** and a maximum of seven sessions. **There is no limit to the number of sessions that any one club can run. However, no player may participate in more than 12 sessions.** It is recommended that, unless scheduling makes it unavoidable, multiple Club Selections (e.g. for Monday, Tuesday etc. etc.) should never be run in the same week.

Each Club has an entitlement for the Regional Finals and for those that run multiple events, this entitlement is based on the combined number of tables of GNP eligible players that participate:

Less than 5 tables of eligible players	5 pairs
5 to 7 tables of eligible players	8 pairs
7.5 to 10 tables of eligible players	10 pairs
10.5 to 15 tables of eligible players	12 pairs
15.5 to 25 tables of eligible players	15 pairs
More than 25 tables of eligible players	20 pairs

This entitlement is firm irrespective of withdrawals and the entry fee to the Zone Final is based on the above. However, when a Club runs a Club Selection, it undertakes to send a specified minimum number of pairs to the Regional Final as follows:

Less than 5 tables of eligible players	2 pairs
5 to 8 tables of eligible players	3 pairs
8.5 to 12 tables of eligible players	4 pairs
12.5 to 18 tables of eligible players	6 pairs
18.5 to 25 tables of eligible players	8 pairs
More than 25 tables of eligible players	10 pairs

Should any **player** who has qualified through Club Selections for the Regional final, subsequently withdraw for whatever reason, the **partnership** is deemed to have withdrawn. Any pair withdrawing from the Zone finals may be replaced by any other pair that has played in a Club Selection event.

All events should be completed by 31 August and results sent to the Zone Secretary, Marion Cooke, 3 Leatherwood Drive, Arana Hills 4054 together with a cheque to cover the appropriate fees.

Gold points will be awarded at all stages of this competition and masterpointing and the cost of Gold Points at the Club level are the responsibility of each Club. Club masterpoints must be sent to State Masterpoint Secretary for endorsement.

**The entry fee to the Regional Finals will be \$50 per pair payable by the Club and there will be no table fees. (Agreed at the AGM in 2011)**

Club Selection Events are open to all eligible Club members and, at its discretion, each Club may also accept entries from eligible players who are not members of the Club.

The conduct of the Club Selection event(s) is a matter for the Club itself and it is recommended that the costs associated with sending pairs forward should be borne by the players competing in the event in the form of entry or table fees that befit a gold masterpoint event. **A Club that runs a Club Selection but fails to send the specified minimum number of pairs to the Regional Final may be denied the right to award gold masterpoints for its Club Selection.**

Clubs should have supplementary regulations of their events which should deal with matters such as the format, scoring procedures, tie-breaking, substitution, slow play etc. It is particularly important for clubs staging multiple events to specify 1. The precise process of selecting pairs to represent the Club in the Regional Final and 2. What happens in the event of withdrawals or ties.

Players are permitted to participate in more than one Club Selection event in their Club and may participate in Club Selection events in more than one club even if they overlap **to a maximum of 12 sessions per player.** A pair that has qualified for the Regional Final at one club may play in other club selection events and may earn gold points but only as a pair not contending for selection for the Regional Final. Their “non-contending status” must be announced when entering subsequent events or immediately it becomes known in the case of overlapping events.

**A pair that enters a Club Selection event gives an implicit undertaking, subject to unforeseen circumstances, to play in all sessions of the event. If pairs drop out of the event after one or two sessions, they will NOT be entitled to any gold points for the event.**

One eligible substitute will be permitted per pair, at the discretion of the Director, for adequate cause, for not more than one session out of a three-session Club Selection event (or for a maximum of one third of the total number of boards scheduled for the event). A player may not be a substitute for more than one player during an event. A substitute must be able to qualify for the event and not have reached Life Master as at 1 January 2012. All substitutes will receive whatever gold points earned during their playing session.

**Stage 2: The Regional Finals will consist of a two-session Swiss match-pointed pairs event to be held on Sunday 9 September 2012 at Toowong Bridge Club commencing at 9.30 am.**

Stage 3: The top 6 pairs from the zone final receive subsidised travel and free entry to the National finals in Canberra in January 2013. Should a pair that has qualified for the National Finals, subsequently withdraw, that pair shall be replaced by the next highest placed pair.

## **Conditions**

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

However, as agreed at the AGM **“Only in exceptional circumstances will a pair qualifying for the National Final be permitted to withdraw. The prior consent of the Manager QBA (in consultation with the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee) is required. In principle, the pairs that qualify shall be the pairs that travel to the Final.”**

Green and Blue Systems with Red/Brown stickers are permitted in the Regional Final.

Club heats are awarded gold master points on an extended scale, at all stages of the GNP as follows:

Club Selections	50% of the field
Regional Finals	50% of the field
National Finals	100% of the field

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

- (a) the full names and ABF numbers of each member of the pair
- (b) the movement used, the number of boards for each session
- (c) the pairs qualifying for the zone finals and,
- (e) any pairs declining a position in the zone final.

**The Club shall forward a copy of the Director's report, along with payment of \$50 per qualifying pair, to the Brisbane Zone Secretary no later than 31 August 2012.**

**A copy of the report should also be sent to the State Masterpoint 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 and the names and ABF numbers of all members of the pairs qualifying for the national finals.

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