

# COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

MATT BLACKHAM CONVENER

## SUPPLEMENTARY TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. This competition is conducted under the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (1997 or 2000 as appropriate) and the Tournament Regulations of the NSWBA as amended.
2. The Championship is conducted in four phases:
  - 2.1 Club selection: qualifying teams to the Regional Final
  - 2.2 Regional Final: qualifying teams to the Country Final
  - 2.3 Country Final: qualifying one team to the finals of the State Open Teams
  - 2.4 State Finals
3. Yellow Systems are not permitted at any stage of the competition before the Country Final. Yellow systems will be permitted in the Country final in accordance with the NSWBA regulations in force at the time and subject to receipt by the Convener of system and other material required under the NSWBA regulations on or before September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
4. Players must have an *active* Australian Bridge Federation masterpoint number.
5. Players do not have to be members of the club where the qualifying competition is held.
6. Qualifying must take the form of a teams event or a butler pairs competition over a maximum of six sessions.
7. Directors must be qualified at Club level (Grade D) or above.
8. Qualification
  - 8.1 Teams placed in the top half of the field (s) are eligible to play in the Regional Final.
  - 8.2 Clubs not running a qualifying competition may nominate teams to the Regional Final. The number of teams that may be nominated by a club is one team per 50 home club members or part thereof with a limit of three teams. All players in a nominated team must be financial members of the nominating club.
  - 8.3 Any substitution in, or augmentation to, a team that plays in the Regional Final must comply with the NSWBA Tournament Regulations (see section 4) and must be approved by the Convener *prior to the commencement of the final*.

Eligible substitutes (and augmented players) are those players of equivalent standard (in the Convener's or the Director's opinion) to the other members of the team, who would have been eligible to enter the competition and who are not playing in the stage for which a substitution or an augmentation is contemplated.

A team can only be augmented by a single player or by a pair. Notwithstanding the above, the Convener, in his absolute discretion, shall have the right to accept or reject nominations which may be outside these guidelines in order to facilitate the running of this event. Players *must not* assume a favourable decision by the Convener.

9. Masterpoints

- Red masterpoints will be awarded at State Championship level.
- Red masterpoints are to be calculated by the club masterpoints Secretary on a weighting of 5.0. Red masterpoints are awarded on a sessional basis only, *i.e.* there is **NO** outright award. If a club runs a qualifying session (s), followed by a final and consolation, only the players in the final will receive red masterpoints. Red masterpoints cannot be awarded to players in the consolation as they are not eligible for the next stage of the competition. (Green masterpoints may be awarded to these players as for a normal club session, through the standard quarterly return).
- The red masterpoints awarded must **NOT** be entered on the club's quarterly return to the ABF Masterpoints Centre, but must be sent to the Convener. They may be entered on Congress Award Forms (obtainable from the ABF MPs Centre) showing the names and ABF numbers of all players in the section who have won masterpoints, or on an ABF formatted file on a 3.5 inch virus-checked diskette. They should not be sent to the ABF Masterpoints Centre by e-mail.
- Red Masterpoints will only be awarded for a club qualifying competition if 15% of competing teams (rounded down) play in the Regional Final.

10. The Convener will require the following no later than **19<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

- A complete copy of the results of each session.
- The completed Congress Award form or diskette.
- A cheque for the masterpoints calculated at \$1.00 per masterpoint
- A completed entry form for those teams that will be playing in the Regional final including names and ABF numbers.
- A cheque for player entry fees calculated at a cost of \$1 per player per session or \$75 per nominated team.

***Cheques must be made payable to the NSWBA.***

***NOTE: No nominations or entries will be accepted unless payment is received together with all the requirements listed above.***

11. Regional Finals.

- The Regional finals will be held either as a Swiss or Round Robin teams competition over two sessions.
- Matches will be of at least eight boards using the appropriate WBF IMP to VP conversion scale.
- Teams placed in the top half of a Regional Final are eligible to advance to the Country Final.
- The winner of the Country Final is eligible to advance to the Finals of the State Open Teams at the NSWBA. No entry fee or table money is payable by the team that qualifies to State Finals.

**CONSIDERING THE LENGTH OF THE COMPETITION, CLUBS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO URGE THEIR PLAYERS TO ENTER AS TEAMS OF FIVE OR SIX TO ALLOW SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR LATER STAGES OF THE EVENT.**