

Grand National Pairs Cairns Club Qualifying Round Regulations

Draft as at 3rd April 2008

Eligibility

The Cairns Qualifying Round of the Grand National Pairs is open to all Cairns Bridge Club members who are below Life Master as at January 1 of the year of competition.

In addition, where an external club holds no qualifying event of their own, or where such a qualifying event is open to Cairns Bridge Club members, members of the external club are welcome to participate in, and are eligible to win, the Cairns Bridge Club qualifying event.

Can I play just one session?

Yes, eligible pairs (see section above for what that means) may play just one or two sessions in the Qualifying Round. Such pairs would be able to earn gold points for the session (if they finish in the top 75% of the field), but would not be eligible to qualify for the Regional Final.

Fees

Table fees for the Qualifying Round will be \$10 per person per session. This covers the (considerable) cost to the club of gold points.

The table fees for the Regional Final will be \$10 per person per session however there is a levy per pair to offset entry fees for the Grand National Pairs in Canberra. There is a \$400.00 per pair entry fee payable to the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) for the Grand National Pairs Championship to be held in Canberra in 2009. The Zone will be sending two pairs to these championships (ie \$800).

Any Cairns Bridge Club members who qualify for the Regional Final will be entitled to have their levy for the Regional Final paid by the Cairns Bridge Club. Pairs will, however, be responsible for their own table fees for the Regional Final (\$10 per person per session). Any pairs for whom this is likely to cause extreme financial hardship are welcome to apply to the President or Treasurer to have their table fees covered by the Cairns Bridge Club.

Substitutes

In accordance with QBA regulations, substitutes will be permitted at the discretion of the Director. A substitute may play at most one session. If the substitute plays 2 sessions or more, then the substitute becomes a principal player in the partnership. Substitutes must be under Life Master to retain eligibility of the partnership.

For example, Rebecca and Lesley enter the event, but in session 1, Rebecca is ill and Camilla plays with Lesley instead. Assuming Rebecca recovers and plays sessions 2 and 3, Rebecca and Lesley are eligible to participate in the Regional final. If Camilla plays with Lesley for sessions 1 and 2, with Rebecca playing with Lesley in session 3, then Lesley and Camilla are eligible for the Regional Final.

No substitutes will be allowed for the national finals. This means that if one member of a pair qualifying for the national finals is unable to attend, **that pair's** place will be offered to the next highest qualifying pair in the Regional Final.

Except in emergencies, a player may not substitute for more than one player in the same event. This means that, in the above scenario, Camilla would not be allowed to substitute for Neil in session 3 (or, such a substitution would render Neil's partnership ineligible for the Regional Final).

Who goes to the Regional final?

The scores from different qualifying sessions will be combined to come up with overall rankings **for those partnerships who participated in all three qualifying sessions**. Pairs will be invited to the Regional Final on a “top down” basis until the pair allocation for the Regional Final is reached.

Invited **pairs** who are unable to attend the Regional Final will be replaced by other eligible pairs continuing down the list (e.g. if 10 pairs are invited, and number 9 can't make it, number 11 will be invited, then 12 then 13 as far as practicable).

“Each Club has an entitlement for the Regional Finals. This entitlement is based on the number of tables of GNP eligible players that participate:

Less than 5 tables of eligible players 4 pairs

5 to 7 tables of eligible players 6 pairs

7.5 to 10 tables of eligible players 8 pairs

10.5 to 15 tables of eligible players 10 pairs

15.5 to 25 tables of eligible players 12 pairs

More than 25 tables of eligible players 14 pairs” GNP Regulations as specified by ABF

Format and Scoring

The qualifying round will be a 3 session matchpointed pairs event (i.e. normal pairs scoring for each session). Prior nomination will be used to “seed” the field if necessary (this would become necessary if the events are not full Howell movements).

It will be assumed that pairs entering the qualifying round are nominating for the Regional Final. They may later withdraw (this maximises our entitlement to pairs in the regional final).

Gold masterpoints will be awarded to the top 75% of the field in each session of the qualifying round.

The Regional Final is anticipated to be a two session matchpointed pairs event in September. Gold masterpoints will be awarded to 100% of the field in the Regional Final.

Systems

Only green and blue systems will be allowed in Club sessions with the addition of Red/Brown for the Regional Final.

All pairs participating in these events either qualifying or the finals must have two identical systems cards on the table for each session.

Late Arrival Penalties

An adjusted score of 60% / 40% will be awarded in the case of boards unable to be played due to late arrival of players without adequate cause. Such an award will be at the absolute discretion of the director.

Tie breaking

QBA regulations on the breaking of ties will apply.

Discrepancies in Scoring

Where manual scoring (travelling scorecards) are used, and there is a discrepancy on the official score sheet between the score entered and the contract, declarer or number of tricks made, the director shall make every effort to contact the players involved to ascertain the correct details. Where this is not possible, the director may only change the score recorded when:

- an impossible score is recorded or
- there is a definite error in scoring according to the vulnerability.

In cases where a score is apparently recorded on the wrong side, the director may not change the score, but will treat the board as fouled for one round and award average to both sides. (*As per QBA regs*)

Where Bridgemates are used, **it is the responsibility of both sides to ensure that the correct contract, declarer and number of tricks are recorded.** As both sides have agreed to the result as entered on Bridgemate, it will only be changed when the director is satisfied that both sides agree that the entered result is false. Where the two sides agree on the correct details, the director may change the details as entered. Should the two sides disagree on the correct details, the director has the option to cancel the board, or to award average minus to both sides for their failure to properly check the details at the time.