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BRISBANE ZONE * QBA - GNOT 2024

QBA REGULATIONS

All QBA regulations apply to the conduct of club qualifying heats and zone final. The QBA GNOT Regulations are attached [Appendix B]. 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 finals (optional) and national online qualifying finals (optional).

BRISBANE ZONE

Stage 1: Club heats must be in a format conforming with these regulations, on dates set by the club **after approval from the Zone Secretary**. 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 final.

Stage 3: The top 4 contending teams from the zone final receive free entry to the GNOT National Online Qualifying Finals (Real Bridge) and, if successful, subsidized travel to the GNOT face-to-face National Final or Regional Final

CONDITIONS

Continuation from club qualifying rounds to the zone finals is not compulsory, but teams MUST nominate either as a contending or non-contending team prior to the commencement of their club qualifying event. Additionally, teams reaching the zone final must nominate as either a contending team or non-contending team at the start of the zone final.

Substitute players during club qualifying heats MUST be clearly identified at the time of the heat. Identification after the fact will not be accepted. (Tick substitute when entering substitute player details in Compscore). QBA GNOT Substitute Regulations also apply.

The entry fee is based on the number of teams playing in the club qualifying heat irrespective of the number who proceed to the zone final.

A team may comprise 4 to 6 players, but only 4 will receive any available travel subsidy to the GNOT National finals.

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

The Zone final will be an 8-match x 14 board x 4 sessions Swiss movement with IMPs converted to VPs using the WBF continuous scale.

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

Gold masterpoints will be awarded at all stages of this competition and masterpointing and the cost of gold masterpoints at the club level are the responsibility of each club and must be endorsed by the State Masterpoint Secretary.

Each player in Brisbane Zone club qualifying heats must be a financial member of a Brisbane Zone club.

Furthermore, Brisbane Zone delegates to each club have the right to restrict entry to club qualifying heats according to club membership or some combination of members and non-members if it so wishes. Such restrictions MUST be published on the Zonal website and clearly detailed on entry forms. [Appendix A].

It is the club's responsibility to check that teams meet any additional club restrictions before accepting their entry. It is generally too late after the completion of an event to find out that a team did not meet the club's entry restrictions.

The Zone Secretary, in consultation with the Manager QBA, is the only person with the authority to disqualify a team for breach of rules or entry restrictions.

The Director of club qualifying heats MUST provide a report on those heats stating:

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

[NOTE: If you are using Compscore you can satisfy a) and b) above after calculating the masterpoints and then exporting **print by player** as a PDF]

The Director of club qualifying heats should send the gold masterpoint file and a copy of the report to the State Masterpoint Secretary.

The club should also forward a copy of the Director's report, along with payment of \$200.00 per qualifying team, to the Brisbane Zone Secretary no later than four weeks prior to the start of the Zone final. (For 2024 by 26 July.)

Direct deposit: QBA Brisbane Zone; Bank of Queensland; BSB:124060; Account Number: 90366179. Use club name + GNOT as reference. This account is separate from the QBA account.

Zone Secretary: Jacqui Dudurovic; email: jacquid.qcbz@gmail.com

The Zone finals for 2024 will be held at the Queensland Contract Bridge Club (QCBC) on Saturday and Sunday 24 & 25 August starting at 9.30 am each day.

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:

- a) the **full names** and **ABF numbers** of all members of the teams qualifying for the GNOT National Online Qualifying Finals (Real bridge)
- b) their win-draw-loss records of all participants,
- c) the movement used, the number of matches, and the number of boards played per match,

The Zone Secretary will inform QBA of the zone qualifiers.

APPENDIX A - ADDITIONAL GNOT QUALIFYING HEATS ENTRY RESTRICTIONS BY ZONE & CLUB

Zone Entry Restrictions: Each player in Brisbane Zone club GNOT Qualifying heats must be a financial member of a Brisbane Zone Club.

Additional Club Entry Restrictions:

ARANA: Restricted to financial and affiliated members of the Arana Bridge Club.

BBC: Contending teams are to have no more than one non-BBC financial member. Teams with more than one non-BBC financial member will be classified as non-contending.

KENMORE: Restricted to teams of 4 to 6 players comprising Kenmore Bridge Club home and/or away members only.

NORTHERN SUBURBS: Teams are allowed only one (1) non-Member player.

QCBC: NIL Restrictions.

REDCLIFFE: A minimum of 3 players for one team at the table at any time must be members of the Redcliffe Bridge Club and every player must be a current member of a club in the Brisbane Zone.

REDLAND: Restricted to members of Redland Bridge Club.

SUNNYBANK: Contending teams are to have no more than one non-Sunnybank member and all contending Sunnybank team members must have played in at least six green point SBC sessions in the 12 months up to 31 March 2024.

TOOWONG: A team may include a maximum of one (1) non-Toowong member financial for that year at first date of competition.

APPENDIX B - GNOT REGULATIONS pp 30 - 32 of QBA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS.

QUEENSLAND GNOT HEATS

Queensland is divided into nine (9) areas called zones for the purpose of qualifying teams to the Grand National Open Teams Online Qualification (Real Bridge)

- 1: Brisbane Zone
- 2: Gold Coast Zone
- 3: Sunshine Coast Zone
- 4: Capricorn Zone
- 5: North Queensland Zone
- 6: Darling Downs Zone
- 7: Wide Bay Zone
- 8: Whitsunday Zone
- 9: Far North Queensland Zone

ZONE AND CLUB ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS

- Zones and clubs may have their own membership and residential eligibility qualifications except that a player who is a bona fide member of a club, regardless of their zonal place of residence, may play in the club's zonal events. Other individual club qualifications - must be published on each zone's website together with any supplementary regulations specific to that zone.
- Clubs which have more restrictive eligibility qualifications for their zonal heats must publish these on their club website and event entry form. Acceptance of a team's GNOT heat entry by a club implies that all club qualifications have been met. Thereafter, the responsibility for eligibility rests with the Zone Secretary.

RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONTENDING TEAMS

- 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 a zone'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 ZONES

- The Zone Secretary is responsible for the administration of these regulations within the zone.
- Each zone is responsible for organising its qualifying event(s). Zones are required to conduct finals among participating clubs. Zones may require clubs to conduct elimination rounds.
- The format should be a reasonably lengthy one, as befits a gold masterpoint event. Formats must be published on zone websites.
- Should a zone's format for 2024 be substantially different from 2023 then the new format is to be approved by the QBA Tournament Committee Chairman prior to its publication. Any changes made in later years must also be approved before use.
- Continuation from club elimination rounds to zone semi-finals and/or finals is not compulsory, but teams must nominate either as contending or non-contending for a place in the zone semi-final and/or final prior to the commencement of their club or zone qualifying event.
- All teams qualifying from club events to zone semi-finals and/or finals must nominate either as contending or non-contending for a place in the Online Qualifying (RealBridge) event and further, be prepared to travel interstate to play in the face-to-face GNOT National Final (both Open and Regional) should they qualify.
To be clear, where teams qualify at club level to play in a zone final, e.g., as in Brisbane Zone, teams do not have to commit to playing in Online Qualifying (RealBridge) but must announce whether they are contending or non-contending for a place at the time of entry.
- Zones holding a single event, i.e., no qualification events at club level, should cater for teams not wishing to play in Online Qualifying (RealBridge) for as long as possible, if not for the whole process.
- Zones are required to have, as part of their approved format, an orderly process for determining qualification to zone finals.
- Each zone must use pre-dealt boards with hand records.
- Each zone must publish playing conditions prior to commencement of event.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- A team may comprise 4 to 6 players excluding substitutes.
- 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.

AUGMENTATION - ADDING A NEW PLAYER TO A TEAM

- At any time prior to the zone finals, a team of 4 or 5 may add team members to a maximum of 6 without seeking approval.
- Once play in a zone's final (includes semi-finals) has commenced, teams of 4 or 5 will be entitled to add to their numbers up to a maximum of 6 at the discretion of the Zone Secretary.
- Further to the application above, a team that does not retain at least half of the players entered on day one of club elimination heats or zone qualifying rounds, as the case may be, shall be disqualified. Players so disqualified remain eligible to augment to other teams and to play as substitutes.

QUALIFICATION - CONTENDING/NON-CONTENDING

- A player may play in more than one zone and/or in more than one team within a zone so long as they are not playing in overlapping events in two teams that are both contending for a place in the zone finals or have already qualified in a team.
- 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 the team in which they are playing is not in contention to qualify for the zone finals.
- There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can qualify for zone finals in two or more teams, or in two or more zones, and then pick and choose the one in which to play.
- Should the above 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 to represent a club.

BELATED QUALIFICATION

- There may be situations where a team that initially failed to qualify is belatedly offered a place in zone finals because of a withdrawal, and they wish to accept. The provisions given above shall not apply providing all team members playing in other heats at the time of the offer immediately announce their changed status.
- There may be situations following an application of the above 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. This allows the remaining members, who are not in the newly qualified team, to remain in the competition and they are not disqualified.

SUBSTITUTION (NOTE: SUBSTITUTION IS NOT AUGMENTATION)

- A team may use a substitute for no more than 50% of the boards scheduled for play in an event.
- A player may substitute in more than one zone and more than one team but not in 2 contending teams at the same time in overlapping events.
- A player may not be a substitute for more than one other player during a single event.
- Once a player has qualified into a GNOT Team, that player cannot substitute in another contending team, however that player may substitute in a non-contending team.
- Subject to the approval of the Director, teams are permitted one substitute during club elimination rounds and one substitute during a zone's finals. Similarly, where a zone 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.

BREAKING OF TIES

- Ties will be broken according to QBA Regulations [[Section D - TEAMS](#)] to establish the correct number of teams that qualify from Club to Zone or from Zone to GNOT Online Qualifying (RealBridge).

SUBSIDIES

- The QBA Manager shall provide to each zone details concerning subsidies available for travel to the GNOT face-to-face National Final or Regional Final.

DIRECTOR

- In accordance with the ABF Masterpoint scheme, a playing director may be used for club and zone qualifying rounds. A congress director who may also be a playing director is preferred, but not essential, for zone finals.

TEAM CHANGES

- The expectation is that the teams that qualify shall be the teams that play in Online Qualifying (RealBridge) and beyond. In addition, teams of 4 or 5 are entitled to add to their numbers up to a maximum of 6. For team augmentation, substitution or changes contact the QBA Manager via the Zone Secretary.

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. All regulations for all events conducted by each zone must appear on the zonal website.