

TASMANIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION Inc.

2010 GNOT

GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

1. THE GNOT EVENT STRUCTURE:

The 2010 GNOT will consist of four stages:

(1) TASMANIAN CLUBS' QUALIFYING ROUNDS

A multi-session, Clubs-based teams event in most Tasmanian Bridge Clubs. Clubs must complete the required number of matches no later than Monday 21st June 2010. When entering teams, it would be beneficial if players can organise teams so that they have at least four players available to proceed to the Semifinals and Finals, if that is their aim. The dates of these events will be in club calendars.

(2) TASMANIAN REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

At least one team, or several teams as appropriate, from each Club's qualifying event will be entitled to play, if they choose, in the Regional Semifinal. The two, three or four sessions required for the Semifinals will be held in the North West, North and South and should be completed by Monday August 16th 2010.

The Tasmanian GNOT Convenor is Margaret Gibbs.

The GNOT Convenor in each Region - i.e. Bruce Williams (North West), Ian Callahan (North) and Margaret Gibbs (South) - will be responsible for making the necessary arrangements for the two, three or four Semifinal sessions in their Region following consultation with Club GNOT Convenors. The date/s and time/s for the Semifinals shall be finalised (and all Clubs advised) by mutual consent of all concerned in any region as soon as possible after Friday 25th June 2010. Note that teams which qualify within their Clubs are under no obligation to play in their Regional Semifinal or to progress on to the Tasmanian Final.

(3) TASMANIAN QUALIFYING ROUNDS FINAL

Normally a minimum of three teams from each Regional Semifinal will be eligible to play in the Tasmanian Final, to be held in Launceston, Tamar Bridge Club rooms, on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th August, provided entries warrant that. The number of teams in the Final may be adjusted by the State Convenor, in consultation with the Regional Convenors and the TBA Tournament Committee.

(4) 2010 GNOT NATIONAL FINAL

The GNOT National Final will be held in Tweed Heads on Friday 26th November and Saturday 27th November with the top finishing teams playing off on Sunday 30th November 2010. For other players wishing to stay on and play bridge, there is a Pairs event on the Sunday. The Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) pays airfares to Brisbane, and bus fares to Tweed Heads, (at a rate set by the organisers), for eight players from Tasmania, four from each of the two leading (and available) teams at the end of the Tasmanian Qualifying Rounds Final. The Entry Fees payable to the ABF for the National Final will be paid by the TBA from the income received from Tasmanian entrants in the course of the three Tasmanian Qualifying Round stages.

2. BASIC CONDITIONS FOR CLUBS HOLDING A GNOT QUALIFYING EVENT:

A. Number of Teams & Sessions required:

To hold a GNOT heat, Clubs will need to attract a minimum entry of three teams.

The number of sessions to be held will depend on the number of teams which enter, as set out below:

3-5 TEAMS	2 <u>OR MORE</u> SESSIONS
6+ TEAMS	3 <u>OR MORE</u> SESSIONS

B. Organisation and Format of Club Qualifying Rounds:

Each Club is responsible for organising its own Club-based GNOT Qualifying Rounds on dates of its own choosing, once the Club decides to hold such an event. Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players. Substitutes are permitted with due cause and with appropriate notice. Clubs may include their GNOT event as part of their Club Teams Championship, if they choose, but outright Master Points cannot be awarded because Club GNOT Qualifying events are just one stage of the Tasmanian GNOT Qualifying event which is not completed until the Tasmanian Final. The format will be dependent on the number of teams entering a particular Club's event but the minimum match length will preferably be 10 boards.

C. Each Club to appoint a GNOT Convenor:

The Club GNOT Convenor will be primarily responsible for liaison with their Regional Convenor. The Convenor may well be the Club's Tournament Director for the event, but this is not essential.

The Convenor's responsibilities will include confirming the proposed format for the event with the Regional Convenor prior to the start of play in the first session, to ensure that the format to be used is appropriate; and arranging for prompt delivery of the results, including **Christian and surnames of all team members and all players' ABF numbers, the number of boards played in each match and event dates plus session fees payable to the TBA** after their qualifying event.

D. Gold Points for Matches Won:

Gold Master Points at the rate of 0.04 gold points per board will be awarded for each match won by a margin of 16-14 Victory Points or better during the GNOT Tasmanian Qualifying, Semifinal and Final Rounds. However, if there are 10 or more teams in the Tasmanian Final, then 0.06 gold points per board will be awarded, provided that the final is of at least 3 sessions' duration. Half the basic award will be awarded to teams which draw 15-15 VPs each.

No outright gold points are awarded for overall results in club heats of regional Semifinals, but outright Gold Points will be awarded in the Tasmanian Final.

E. GNOT Fees for 2010:

Fees of \$4.00 per player per session shall be paid to the TBA, to help cover the cost of GNOT National Final entry fees payable to the ABF for the two Tasmanian Teams. Clubs may charge whatever extra they choose over and above this fee of \$4.00 per player per session, to cover their own costs. For the Regional Semifinals, sessional fees will be \$7.50 per player per session, payable in full to the TBA. Host Clubs (including the TBA) will be entitled to claim reimbursement of expenses from the GNOT table fees paid for the Semifinal Rounds. Fees for teams that play in the 2010 Tasmanian GNOT Qualifying Rounds Final in Launceston will be \$120.00 per team.

F. Club Places in the relevant Regional Semifinal:

Each Club which stages a GNOT Qualifying event will automatically be entitled to at least one place in their 'local' Regional Semifinal. Clubs will then be entitled to extra places in the Semifinal in proportion to the number of teams entering in their qualifying event:

Entry of 3 Teams	1 Place
Entry of 4 Teams	2 Places
Entry of 5-6 Teams	3 Places
Entry of 7-8 Teams	4 Places
Entry of 9+ Teams	5 Places

G. Regional Semifinals:

Regional Semifinals will normally comprise at least four and up to as many as eight or nine teams. The number of sessions in the Semifinal will depend on the number of teams keeping in mind that long matches are preferred. It is hoped that the size of the field will warrant Semifinals being held over three or four sessions. Because the Semifinal Rounds are designed (a) to provide more opportunities for teams match play, and (b) to provide additional revenue to assist in covering the cost of entry fees for the two teams which will compete in the National Final, however, a Region with fewer than four teams interested in nominating for the Semifinal Rounds will still be expected to hold at least one 'Semifinal' session, with two sessions to be strongly preferred. In a Region where only one Club holds a GNOT Qualifying event, it will still be required to hold a Regional Semifinal to choose the teams to go forward to the Tasmanian GNOT Final. Amalgamation of Semifinals is a possibility, if necessary.

H. Determining Final Placings in each Club's Qualifying Event, in Regional Semifinals and in the Tasmanian GNOT Final:

The winning team/s in each Club's event, in Regional Semifinals and in the Tasmanian Final will be decided in the first instance on the basis of the highest number of winning matches, where a win is 16-14 VPs difference or better, according to the appropriate WBF Victory Point Scale. Where two or more teams in direct contention have won an equal number of matches, the winning team/s will then be decided in sequence on the basis of:

1. Total Victory Points;
2. IMPs difference in the head-to-head match/es involved;
3. Total IMPs over all matches;
4. Play of extra boards in 4-board sets between any teams still tied, provided time permits;
5. If ultimately necessary, ties shall be broken by toss of coin.

I. Players' Right to enter in more than one Club's event:

Any player is free to enter as a member of a GNOT team at more than one Club and individuals, pairs or teams who play at more than one Club are not required to nominate in advance which Club and/or Region they wish to represent if they qualify. When an individual, pair or team qualifies to progress to a Regional Semifinal through more than one Club's qualifying event, each player and/or pair involved must decide the team in which they plan to progress to the Semifinal Rounds; any other team in which they have qualified must then have at least four other team members who are available and willing to progress to the Semifinal. Note that a team winning the right to play in two GNOT Regional Semifinals shall be entitled to play in both, if they wish.

The Semifinal qualification rights from all Clubs will in general go to the top-placed available team/s. Any Club is, however, free to organise its Club Qualifying event as it chooses - with the agreement of the Club Committee - to select the teams eligible to progress to the Regional Semifinals, provided that any variations are discussed with the Regional and Tasmanian GNOT Convenors prior to implementation.

The composition of the Semifinal fields in each region will be made as a joint recommendation from the three GNOT Convenors and the State Convenor to the TBA Tournament Committee which will be responsible for determining the final composition of the fields, as well as the composition of the field for the 2010 Tasmanian GNOT Final in Launceston. Players and/or pairs who qualify in two Semifinal teams for the Tasmanian GNOT Final must decide the team in which they plan to progress to the Tasmanian Final. Any other team in which they have qualified must then have at least four other team members who are eligible, available and willing to progress to the Tasmanian Final.

J. Club Membership & Eligibility Requirements:

All players must be members of the TBA or an affiliated Club. To play in the Tasmanian Final or to be eligible to play in the Tasmanian team for the Australia-Wide Final - because of the extended nature of the GNOT Qualifying event in Tasmania - each team member must normally have played at least 35% of the boards played by their team in all three Tasmanian stages taken as a whole, together with a minimum of one session in either of the Club Qualifying or Regional Semifinal Rounds.

Substitutes will be permitted for six player teams which need an extra player/s, based on the relevant TBA Regulations regarding substitutes. In particular, team Captains are obliged to seek approval from the relevant Director, a Tournament Committee member, the GNOT Regional Convenor or the Tasmanian GNOT Convenor for any or all substitutes prior to the start of play in the session in which it is proposed that the substitute/s will play. A team that uses a substitute who has previously played as a member of another team will not be permitted to qualify for the next round of the event.

Clubs which organise GNOT Qualifying Rounds events have discretionary power to impose further reasonable eligibility requirements, if they choose.

K. Tournament Conditions:

All matches will be played in strict accordance with the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge (as revised in 2007) and the current TBA Regulations (as amended), including such variations to the Regulations as may be advised. As far as is possible, Clubs are expected to ensure that an appropriately qualified or experienced director is in attendance during all Qualifying Round sessions, either as a non-playing director (for preference) or, at worst, as a playing director.

If a potentially contentious decision has to be given by a playing director, the Team Captains involved shall normally prepare an appeal in writing against the decision (unless both Captains mutually agree that there is no need for a further opinion) to ensure that any critical decisions are seen to have been independently arbitrated. Such appeals shall be written up at the end of the match in question and will be finalised within a week by arrangement with the Club Convenor or, if necessary, the Tasmanian Convenor for GNOT. If a written appeal is not in the hands of the Club

Convenor within 24 hours after the end of the session, the result of the match in question will normally stand.

L. Systems:

To encourage greater participation in Clubs-based Qualifying heats of the GNOT, Yellow Systems will not be permitted even for matches of more than 8 boards in length. Brown Sticker Conventions will be permitted without restriction at all stages of the GNOT, although clubs may choose to allow Protected Pair status to apply during club based qualifying heats with both players below National Master in such heats. No Protection will be available in Regional Semifinals or the Tasmanian Final, although opponents will be fully entitled to have defensive bidding notes at the table for Brown Sticker Conventions in accordance with the TBA's Systems Regulations.

M. Powers of the Tasmanian GNOT Convenor and the TBA Tournament Committee:

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the Tasmanian GNOT Convenor shall at all times have the power to make decisions related to the efficient and effective organisation of this competition without prior reference to the TBA Tournament Committee if time does not permit, although such decisions shall normally be considered and ratified/rejected when possible and/or necessary by the Tournament Committee. Any decisions of this type given by the Tasmanian Convenor shall be binding, unless these are specifically overturned subsequently by the Tournament Committee.

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Margaret Gibbs
Tasmanian GNOT Convenor

1A Mercer St, New Town 7008
Ph (H): (03) 6228 0741
Ph (mob) 0400 069 140
Email: iggibbs@bigpond.com