

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Tasmanian Regulations

The GNOT Event Structure:

The tournament consists of three stages; a Club qualifying round, Regional finals, and a National final.

Tasmania is to host two regions: Southern Tasmania and Northern Tasmania.

One team from each of these regions shall be eligible to contend the National Final.

Coordinators are to be appointed to be responsible for the conduct of each regional final.

The ABF Tournament Committee has minuted that regulations for the GNOT qualifying rounds should be the responsibility of each region and do not have to be consistent Australia wide.

Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

Clubs' Qualifying Rounds

Individual clubs are responsible for the format and conduct of their qualifying round. Every Club is entitled to stage a Club selection to choose teams for their Regional Final. Clubs may conduct the qualifying round in any IMP format; teams, butler, or swiss. A swiss event is recommended when it is considered it would attract increased participation. Suggested formats, particularly for smaller clubs, are at the end of this document.

A Club is not permitted merely to nominate a team to play in the Regional Final, except by special dispensation given at the sole discretion of the National Coordinator.

Clubs will need to attract a minimum entry of three teams or six pairs. The number of sessions to be held will depend on the number of entries.

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

Entry of up to 5 Teams	(or equivalent)	2 Places
Entry of 6-8 Teams	(or equivalent)	3 Places
Entry of 9-14 Teams	(or equivalent)	5 Places
Entry of 15-20 Teams	(or equivalent)	8 Places

A club that hosts a regional final is entitled to enter one additional team over their allocation in the above table. Players in the Club qualifying event are not obliged to continue to the Regional stage.

Each Club is to nominate a coordinator. This may well be the Club's tournament director for the event, but that is not essential. The Club coordinator will be primarily responsible for liaison with their Regional convener.

Clubs must complete the required qualifying matches at least 2 weeks before the Regional Final.

Regional Finals.

The Regional finals is to be a teams competition.

Because of the extended nature of the event there needs to be some flexibility in the eligibility of players to advance to the next level. Substitutes are permitted with due cause. Regional coordinators are the authorizing entity. To be eligible to advance to the National Final, each team member should have played in at least one session of a Club or Regional qualifying round. Substitutes should in the first instance be sourced from the Region seeking replacement or replacements. Notwithstanding any of the above, other emergency substitutes may be approved by the Tournament Committee. Teams advancing to a Regional final may augment their team by a player who is unable to play in the Club qualifying for valid reason.

Systems

No yellow systems will be permitted before the National Final.

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 Finals.

Masterpoints

Masterpoints are awarded at the rate of .04 per board of winning matches. Rising to .06 per board if a Regional final has 10 teams and is conducted over at least three sessions. If a club qualifying is conducted with rounds of less than 5 boards, masterpoints are awarded to the top half of the field in each session. No outright masterpoints are to be awarded.

VP Scale

The WBF 20 point VP scale introduced in 2013 is to be used throughout.

Margins for wins :	No. of Boards	Imp margin for a win
	5-9	2
	10-14	3
	15-19	4

Winning and Tie Breaking

VP Event

The total VP score of all the opponents of each tied unit shall be determined. Units are ranked so that the unit whose opponents have the highest total shall be placed first. If still unresolved then by totalimps and then by lot.

Match Wins Event

Most Wins

Highest VPs

Head to head IMPs

By Lot

Finance.

Club heats: to encourage clubs to conduct a heat, there will be no invoice from the TBA.

Regional final:

(Northern) There will be a charge of \$40 per team, payable to the TBA. Clubs are free to set additional fees to cover their own costs (directing etc).

The Southern regional Final will charge participants \$80 per team.

Travel subsidy. The ABF will provide a subsidy for National Finalists (team of 4) to defray the cost of travel to and from the venue. Details will appear in due course on the ABF website.

Suggested Formats for Club Qualifying Events

The National Regulations state that if a club holds a single qualifying event, it must be **at least 3 sessions**. It is recognized that for smaller clubs, this may impact on their attendance if players have to commit to three weeks in a row and no allowance is made for players to play in only one or two weeks of the event.

Normal formats such as head to head teams or swiss pairs don't allow for walkin players to join in. It is suggested that clubs may like to consider running a standard duplicate movement for each session of the qualifying rounds, but scoring each session using **crossimps** instead of matchpointing. This retains the imp scored nature of the event but has the flexibility of allowing players to drop in or out of the event.

Crossimp events should very rarely see ties occur. If necessary, ties may be broken firstly by the head to head result, secondly by lot.

Naturally, those eligible to form teams to contest the regional final will be drawn from the pool of players who play in all 3 sessions of the qualifying event. It is the responsibility of each club to determine the method of selecting teams for the regional final when a pairs movement is used for the club qualifying event.

Normally, with swiss pairs or teams event, masterpoints can be awarded for each round (if at least 5 boards in length). With a duplicate style movement, this is not possible so masterpoints can be awarded to the top half of the field in each session. There are no masterpoints awarded for the overall results.