

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Tasmanian Regulations 2025

(Direct wording or meaning from ABF GNOT Regulations appear in italics)

The GNOT Event Structure:

The tournament consists of four stages:

1. Club qualifying events
2. Regional finals: Sunday 31st August
3. Online knock out event: September 19-21
4. National finals: November 22-23, Sydney

Tasmania has two regions: Southern Tasmania and Northern Tasmania, plus a third scheduled team to be known as "Tasmania – Online Team".

One team from each of these regions and the on-line team shall be eligible to contend the On-Line Knockout event.

Coordinators are to be appointed to be responsible for the conduct of each regional final. The organisation of the "Tasmania Online Team" will be the responsibility of Hugh Grosvenor, Sue Falkingham, Fran Healy and Margaret Gibbs. See page 2 for details of the selection of the online team.

Southern Region Co-Ordinator: Margaret Gibbs

Northern Region Co-Ordinator: Rexine Stott

Tasmanian Online: Margaret Gibbs

Tasmanian Co-Ordinator: Margaret Gibbs

The regulations for both Club and regional GNOT qualifying rounds are the responsibility of the region and the Clubs. The clubs are free to have their own regulations, provided they are consistent with the Region's regulations.

Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

Clubs' Qualifying Events

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.

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 must conduct the qualifying round in any IMP format. A Swiss event is recommended when it is considered it would attract increased participation.

Clubs can run up to two events each, and they need to be at least two sessions.

A qualifying event may be held on different days. For example, 2+ Mondays or 2+ Fridays, being normal club times.

Club selections must be at least 2 sessions' duration. Club events shall be decided on VPs or totalimps.

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

<i>Entry of up to 5</i>	<i>Tables</i>	<i>2 Teams</i>
<i>Entry of</i>	<i>6-8</i>	<i>3 Teams</i>
<i>Entry of</i>	<i>9-14</i>	<i>5 Teams</i>
<i>Entry of</i>	<i>15-20</i>	<i>8 Teams</i>
<i>Entry of</i>	<i>21-30</i>	<i>12 Teams</i>

If 3 sessions of 7 tables are run, it means there are 7 tables.

If a series of Monday and Friday sessions are run, they are added together, and the club's entitlements are then from the number of tables from the Monday event, plus the number from the Friday event.

Players in the Club qualifying event are not obliged to continue to the regional stage, although this is strongly encouraged.

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 two weeks before the Regional Final.

Players who play in the Tasmanian Online Teams event can also participate in club qualifying events and regional finals. The winner of the online event will qualify for the 64 Team Knockout event as the Tasmanian Online Team. Players in that team can play in a regional final but the team that they play in will be ineligible to win.

The 2025 Tasmanian GNOT Online team

- Tasmania has been granted a third qualification spot for the 64 team online knockout stage and we have decided to select this team using an online competition.
- The event will be a Teams event.
- There will be teams of four, five, or six.
- All clubs will receive information regarding the sessions.
- The Event will consist of three online sessions.
- The Event will be equivalent to a Regional Final and the winners will move through to the 64 Team Knockout Event.
- Anyone who is a member of a Tasmanian bridge club is eligible to enter.
- The sessions will be run on the following dates:
 - Sunday 3 August 2025 at 7 pm
 - Sunday 10 August 2025 at 7 pm
 - Sunday 17 August 2025 at 7 pm

- Players can play in the Online Teams event and Club qualifying events. The winner of the online event will move to the 64 Team Knockout event and will not be eligible to represent a Northern or Southern region.
- The Online winners will be determined prior to the North and South Regional Finals. They may play in the regional finals and as the online winners they may contest the Regional Finals as a non-contending participant

Regional Finals.

Each Regional Final is to be a teams competition comprising matches of at least five boards scored by IMPS converted to VPs using the relevant VP scale for head-to-head matches. They are scheduled for 31 August 2025.

A Regional Final shall be played over not less than 50 boards. A Regional Final should be at least 3 sessions in duration but may be reduced to a minimum of 2 sessions by decision of the Regional Coordinator. The preferred movement is a full round robin but Swiss movements, American whist movements or New England relay movements may also be used.

Note: A full day is defined as two sessions

Host club: *Should a club act as host for a Regional Final, that club, by grace, shall be entitled to enter an additional team in the Regional Final; that is, an entry additional to its normal entitlement. Selection of this additional team is at the sole discretion of the club.*

Substitutions

Regulations relating to substitution and augmentation in Club Selections and Regional Finals are the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator.

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. To be eligible to advance to the 64 team Knockout event National Final, each team member must 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. 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.

** The National Regulations are slightly more lenient, in that if a player is unavailable for the qualifying, they can still be appended by the winning team.*

Systems

No yellow systems will be permitted before the 64 team Knockout event. 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. Opponents are entitled to have defensive bidding notes at the table for Brown Sticker Conventions.

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 60 boards.

Tie Breaking

In case of a tie:

The total VP score of all the opponents of each tied team shall be determined. Teams are ranked so that the team whose opponents have the highest total shall be placed first. If still unresolved then by total imps and then head-to-head IMPs then by lot.

Finance

Club heats: clubs will be responsible for their own costs for club heats.

Regional Finals: Entry fees will be \$30 per player per day for the face-to-face. i.e \$120 per team. These fees are payable to the TBA.

Travel subsidy: Non-Sydney based participants in the face-to-face finals will receive a travel subsidy, the amount of which will be determined by the ABF, based on where they are travelling from.

General Information

- A player can play in two teams to try and qualify in the same or a different club but if a player qualifies with two teams, it's up to them to pick one and smooth things over with their teammates.
- Anyone who's a paid-up member of the club has to be allowed to play, even if it's not their home club or they don't play there regularly. Clubs can allow non-members to play at their discretion.
- Potentially, players could qualify in two regions although each Region should have regulations in place that say who is allowed to play, and players would need to keep within each Region's relevant regulations.
- Clubs are responsible for how they select the pairs to move to the regional Finals provided they have to actually run a qualifying event (or get special dispensation), but apart from that, it's up to them. As long as the qualifying is at least two sessions and it's IMP/VP teams or Butler/Swiss Pairs.

National Guidelines

GNOT 2025

Details of the Australia-wide 2025 Grand National Open Teams (GNOT) event.

There will now be 3 phases to the event rather than 2 as has been the case in recent years.

PHASE ONE – CLUB & REGIONAL QUALIFICATION EVENTS

The first phase is not changing. During this first phase there will be club and regional qualification events as has been the case in the past. As was the case last year, there is a \$10 charge per team payable to the ABF for these qualification events. This charge is for each new team that enters a club qualifying event - even if the team is made up of players who have already played in another qualifying event. Also, if you have new teams that enter at the Regional Final phase (assuming this is allowed), they'd need to pay \$10 as well. The \$10 covers the team for the whole event - there's not a new \$10 fee per session.

Some regions **may** be entitled to qualify an additional team to the next phase. Those regions will have already received separate correspondence from me so if you have not received anything there is no change to the teams that your region can send to the next phase.

PHASE TWO – 64 TEAM KNOCKOUT EVENT

Phase two **will be run online** (on RealBridge) over a 3-day weekend (Friday September 19th through Sunday September 21nd).

Players who are not familiar with RealBridge will be offered some training.

The format of this event will be similar to last year's face-to-face finals. However, we will be targeting 64 teams rather than 60.

As was the case previously, the event will run as a knockout with the losing teams moving into a Swiss repechage.

There will be FOUR stanzas per day with each stanza comprising 12 boards. Each knockout match will be over two stanzas. Each match in the Swiss will be 12 boards.

The TWO teams that have **not** been knocked out at the conclusion of the FIFTH round will not be required to play the last two stanzas, as they will progress to the phase 3 knockout event (see below).

The TWO teams that were knocked out in the FIFTH round will join the Swiss.

At the conclusion of the Swiss, the top TWO placed teams will progress to the phase 3 knockout event (see below).

The next eight highest placed non-metropolitan team will have a round robin-style event of seven matches, and it is envisaged that a one -set final will then be held. This is still under discussion.

To accommodate all time zones the first match will commence at 11AM AEST and the fourth stanza should finish by 5:35PM AEST.

Teams may comprise 4, 5 or 6 players.

The entry fee per team will be \$300.

PHASE THREE – FACE TO FACE FINALS

Phase three will take place in Sydney (venue to be confirmed) on Sunday November 23rd and Monday November 24th.

Phase three will comprise two separate events. There will be a 4 team knockout event and an 8 team non-metropolitan final.

The 4-team knockout event will be contested by the two teams that remained undefeated in phase two after five rounds **and** the top two teams from the phase two Swiss repechage.

The 8 team non-metropolitan final will be contested by the 8 highest placed non-metropolitan teams from phase two that did not qualify for the 4-team knockout final.

The knockout final will comprise FOUR by 14 board stanzas on the Saturday. The two winners will continue to play FOUR by 14 board stanzas on the Sunday.

The two losers will playoff for third place via THREE by 14 board stanzas on the Sunday.

The non-metropolitan final will be a round robin event of SEVEN by 14 board matches.

Play in all aspects of phase 3 will conclude at the same time (i.e. the winners of the knockout on Saturday will start earlier on the Sunday than the other teams). **All** participants will be expected to remain at the venue for the closing ceremony and presentation of medals.

Non-Sydney based participants in the face-to-face finals will receive a travel subsidy the amount of which will be determined by the ABF based on where they are travelling from.

The venue in Sydney and the timing of all matches will be communicated prior to phase two.

There will be no additional entry fee for the face-to-face finals.

This revised format enables the ABF to reduce the entry fees for phase two from the previous \$750 per team to \$300 per team whilst still providing the opportunity for many more players across Australia to earn Gold points without having to travel.

Further information will be provided in due course by the Tournament Organizer.