



Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Introduction

Each year a national gold points bridge competition is run by the ABF known as the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT). Each State organises preliminary events that lead to the national competition. Initially there are club qualifying events that lead to a national online knockout competition. Finalists then go to a location for the face-to-face finals. The Tasmania Bridge Association (TBA) coordinates the Tasmanian events and runs specific TBA events within the GNOT National Guidelines.

Purpose

These guidelines provide guidance on the organisation of the GNOT both at the Tasmanian level and for the TBA itself.

Scope

These Guidelines cover, as much as possible, the requirements for coordinating GNOT across Tasmania including running the Regional Finals and details of how the TBA will run its club GNOT events.

Procedure

Each year the Committee will appoint someone to coordinate GNOT for Tasmania. This person will be supported by a small working group. This working group should be made up of

1. Chief Tournament Director (Simon Edler)
2. Bridge Operations Manager (Hugh Grosvenor)
3. An additional Director. In the last few years this has been Sue Falkingham

The ABF have an appointed person to coordinate and set the guidelines for the overall event. In 2025 it was Fraser Rew. Each year they provide information to the TBA on the event including dates for the Online Knockout event (usually held in September) and the face-to-face finals (usually held in November).

The TBA sets dates for the GNOT – TBA events, The Tasmanian Online Event and the Regional Finals for the following year – at the end of each year, and these are put into the TBA Calendar. They are run in August and there should be at least three weeks between the Regional Finals and the next Stage of the competition – the 64 Team Knockout Event.

The dates that clubs other than the TBA run their qualifying events is at their discretion provided they are completed in time for the Regional Finals. It is preferred for the qualifying events to be completed at least 2 weeks before the Regional Finals.

Winners of the Tasmanian Online Event go directly to the 64-Team Knockout Event and in 2024 and 2025 these were run on Sunday evenings in August.

As the Tasmanian coordinating body, the TBA needs to update the previous year's Tasmanian GNOT Regulations based on any changes from the ABF and other modifications the TBA Committee wants to make. These are then distributed to all other Tasmanian bridge clubs by March so that the clubs can set the dates for their events.

Tasmania has two regional competitions Northern "Tasmanian North" and Southern "Tasmanian South" and a statewide online competition "Tasmania". The Tasmanian Regulations outline how these events need to be run. See Attachment 1 for the previous year's Regulations.

Promotion

Promotional material must be produced to encourage members to participate in the GNOT. Traditionally the TBA has produced a set of Posters highlighting each event. See attached for last year's posters. The Posters for the overall event and the online session are sent to each club by April.

The posters relating to the TBA events need to be put up in the club at a time that works best for the promotion of the event. Too early might lose momentum.

In addition to the posters Directors should be asked to announce the GNOT at the start of their sessions. This will be most beneficial during July. It is also advantageous if the GNOT Coordinator can announce the GNOT prior to various sessions in place of the Director to create a bit of differentiation. Attached is sample wording. Wednesday nights, when Real Bridge is played, is a good opportunity to promote the Tasmanian Online event and encourage participation

Finances

The following section outlines what payment is required for the various phases of the competition.

Phase 1

Club Qualifying Events

The total number of teams which play in Phase 1 is based on the number of pairs which played. The State co-ordinator informs the ABF of the total number of teams, and the TBA pays \$10 per team (of 4 players) to the ABF.

Individual clubs pay for the Gold Masterpoints earned in their qualifying events.

Regional Finals

Entry fees are \$30 per player for the Regional Final i.e. \$120 per team. This money is paid to the TBA and is used to pay the entry fees for the 64 Team Knockout Event.

The TBA invoices the two regions for this money.

The TBA pays for the Gold Masterpoints earned in the regional Finals.

Phase 2

the 64 Team Knockout Event

The TBA pays the \$300 (in 2025) per team to the ABF using the money paid in the Regional Finals. This money covers administrative costs and the cost of the gold master points earned. In 2025 three teams were entered: Tasmania North, Tasmania South, and Tasmania.

The cost of Gold Masterpoints earned is covered by the entry fees. There are no other costs to players for participating in Phase 2

Phase 3

Face-to-Face Finals

There is no entry fee for the face-to-face finals.

The ABF may subsidise some non-metropolitan teams to attend the event. This is at their discretion. The TBA does not offer any subsidy for players to attend.

The ABF covers the cost of Gold Masterpoints earned.

Attachments

1. Tasmanian GNOT Regulations 2025
2. Posters GNOT 2025
 - Overall event
 - Online Event
 - TBA Monday event
 - TBA Friday event
 - Southern Regional Final
3. TBA Rules for the club's GNOT events
4. GNOT Announcement

These Guidelines should be updated annually at the conclusion of the GNOT competition with updated attachments and information.

Document information

Date originally approved	October 2025
Next review date	December 2026
Responsible person	Secretary

Secretary's signature
On behalf of the Committee

Date