



# NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



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## STATE MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 COUNTRY MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

[www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=smp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=smp)

Tournament Organiser: TBA [smp@nswba.com.au](mailto:smp@nswba.com.au)

January 2024

The NSWBA invites all affiliated clubs to conduct qualifying events for the 2024 State Mixed Pairs and Country Mixed Pairs Championships. Affiliated clubs can play qualifying sessions and award red masterpoints at state championship level (W = 3.75) - **you do not need to send a club representative pair to the State Finals in order to award red masterpoints**. These sessions are part of an NSWBA State Championship, so they come with a higher weighting and are additional to your B4c allowance.

**This is a MIXED pairs event and must be programmed and advertised as such.** Non-mixed pairs may play in club qualifying sessions and are entitled to any red masterpoints won, but do not abuse this concession-to-practicality by rebranding normal sessions as a Mixed Pairs Qualifier and making no attempt to run a mixed pairs event. This would be unfair to all the mixed pairs that enter in good faith and have ineligible pairs “steal” their masterpoints. If you have a large number of non-mixed pairs wanting to play, run independent sections.

Clearly Covid-19 has changed the way we live and how many of us have played bridge over the last three years, and maybe into the future. The regulations allow qualifying sessions to be played either online on the RealBridge platform or face-to-face. Sessions played on the BBO or Stepbridge platforms are not allowed. Participation in online sessions is restricted to players who are members of a NSWBA-affiliated club.

The State Finals are scheduled to be played F2F at the NSWBA. The cost for pairs entering the Final directly is \$200 per pair, but this won't apply to club representative pairs. Clubs will pay \$160, a flat \$40 discount for every representative pair sent to the State Final. An additional benefit to clubs is that **the NSWBA will pick up the first \$30 of the masterpoint costs if three conditions are met**. Firstly, you must send at least one pair to the State Final. Secondly, you must submit the relevant files by the specified date - if the NSWBA is charged a late fee by the Masterpoint Centre, the NSWBA will invoice the club for the full masterpoint costs plus the late fee. Lastly, you have run a mixed pairs qualifying event in good faith – see paragraph 2 above.

The Championship Finals will be held at the NSWBA on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**Start time on the Saturday is 10.30 am.** The top 14 pairs on Saturday will qualify for the State Mixed Pairs Final on the Sunday. In addition, the top 14 pairs from non-metropolitan regions will qualify to a separate Country Mixed Pairs Final on the Sunday. Country pairs who qualify for the State Final may choose which Final they contend. Lunch on both days is included in the entry fees.

(over)

The Country Mixed Pairs Final began in 2014 with barely enough pairs for a 7-table final. Since then, the numbers increased steadily each year. Before Covid, the Mixed Pairs was one of the most popular state championships on the NSWBA calendar with almost 40% of the entries coming from country clubs. Unfortunately, Covid saw the number of country pairs crash in 2022, but 2023 saw a bit of a recovery. The NSWBA is well aware that pairs from country clubs invest a lot of time and money to come to Sydney for the Finals and we really want to see them get the maximum value from that investment. That is only possible if your representative pairs stay for both days, so please encourage them to do so.

We welcome your club's participation in these events and look forward to receiving as many entries as possible for the State and Country Mixed Pairs Finals weekend.

The details are contained overleaf and in the Supplementary Tournament Regulations available from the NSWBA website: [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=smp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=smp)

***Please read both documents carefully!***

## State & Country Mixed Pairs Event Details

1. Only players who are members of a club affiliated with the NSWBA can play in online sessions.
2. There is no upper limit to the number of pairs that may be sent - any pair in the qualifying field is eligible to proceed.
3. Clubs will be invoiced \$160 for each representative pair sent. (The cost for a pair entering directly is \$200.) Lunch on both days is included in the entry fee.
4. Affiliated clubs located outside the Sydney metropolitan region may apply to the NSWBA for financial assistance for pairs representing their clubs.
5. Timetable. Clubs should carefully note the following dates and times:  
  
Club qualifying competitions must be completed and results and pair nominations must be sent to the Tournament Organiser by no later than **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024**.  
  
Session times for the Championship Final are:  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024      10:30 am and 2.30 pm  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024      10.00 am and 2.00 pm  
  
Those players who do not qualify to either the State or Country Pairs Final on Sunday will be granted free entry to the NSWBA Autumn Swiss Pairs Congress.
6. State Mixed Pairs prize money is 1<sup>st</sup> \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$250 & 3<sup>rd</sup> \$150.  
Country Mixed Pairs prize money is 1<sup>st</sup> \$400, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200 & 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100.  
The Autumn Swiss Pairs Congress prize money is 1<sup>st</sup> \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150 & 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100.  
These amounts may be reduced if the number of entries is considerably below the pre-pandemic levels. In particular, if there are fewer than 8 pairs available for the Country Final, it will not be held. The title will be awarded to the highest placed eligible pair in the State Final.
7. An Excel form to assist clubs is available for download from the NSWBA website [www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=smp](http://www.nswba.com.au/tourn/state/se.asp?Y=2024&E=smp). This is to be completed and used as a cover sheet and check list and then emailed to the NSWBA. Participating clubs must send the following to [smp@nswba.com.au](mailto:smp@nswba.com.au).
  - The completed coversheet available from the NSWBA website (see above) as an Excel file. This will include the names and ABF numbers of the clubs' representative pairs;
  - A complete copy of the results **of each qualifying session** as a pdf, html or txt file;
  - **The masterpoint file as a .red file. This is mandatory.**
8. Clubs should note that **red masterpoints** for the qualifying sessions will be submitted to the Masterpoint Centre after the Championship Final.
9. The NSWBA will invoice each participating club. **Do not send any money until you receive the invoice.** Provided you send at least one pair to the Finals and all relevant files are received before the start of the Finals, the NSWBA will pick up the first \$30 of the masterpoints costs. Clubs that do not send any representative pairs to the final will be invoiced for the masterpoint costs.
10. All correspondence should be sent to [smp@nswba.com.au](mailto:smp@nswba.com.au).