

Maitland Bridge Club Inc. Club Tournament Regulations

This document is to be read in conjunction with
Maitland Bridge Club Information for Members and Visitors

The most recent version of both these documents can be found in the 'Information' section of the MBC website

All events in the Maitland Bridge Club (MBC) are conducted under:

- The [Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017](#) (as amended);
- [Australian Bridge Foundation \(ABF\) Tournament Regulations](#);
- [Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations December 2024](#);
- [Bridge NSW Substitution Regulations](#);
- Any Supplementary Regulations issued by Bridge NSW for external competitions (including, but not limited to, national and state events);
- Maitland Bridge Club Tournament Regulations (see below); and
- Any Supplementary Club Tournament Regulations that may be determined for specific club events (including, but not limited to, Invitation Days).

In the event of conflict between these Club Tournament Regulations and the Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations, the Club Tournament Regulations shall apply. (Refer Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 Clause 1.5.) Where MBC has Supplementary Regulations, they are deemed to be part of these Regulations. In the event of a conflict, the MBC Supplementary Regulations shall apply.

SECTION A

SECTION A LISTS THE SECTIONS OF BRIDGE NSW TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS 2024 AND CLARIFIES WHICH APPLY AS WRITTEN, AND THOSE MBC HAS AMENDED IN OUR CLUB TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS.

BRIDGE NSW TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS 2024 COVER:

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE REGULATIONS
2. COMMITTEE
3. DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BRIDGE NSW
4. SYSTEMS
5. BIDDING AND PLAY PROCEDURES
6. OFFENSES (PUNCTUALITY, SLOW PLAY AND MOBILE PHONES)
7. FOULED BOARDS
8. SPECTATORS, CAPTAINS AND CLOSED ROOMS
9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
10. DRESS, SMOKING AND BEHAVIOUR
11. TIE-BREAKS
12. SCORING PROCEDURES
13. PROCEDURES PENDING APPEALS

MBC acknowledges that sections 1, 2 and 3 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 cover the regulation and operation of Bridge NSW.

4. SYSTEMS

4.1 System cards

- 4.1.1 Except for new players who have not completed stage 2 lessons, each player shall have a system card, identical to their partner's, on the table during the periods of play.
- 4.1.2 During Supervised Bridge sessions players are allowed to refer to their own system card.
- 4.2 In all other respects MBC adheres to Section 4 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 regarding systems.

5. BIDDING AND PLAY PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Written bidding slips will be used at all sessions at MBC. If a partnership would like to use bidding boxes they should speak to the Director and sit North/South for the session.
- 5.2 For all sessions, other than Supervised Bridge, the bidding slip should not be marked to designate the dealer and/or vulnerability.
- 5.3 For all sessions, other than Supervised Bridge, the bidding slip will remain in view until the third player has played the first trick whereupon the dummy should remove the bidding slip from view.
- 5.4 In all other respects, including legal notations on bidding slips, MBC adheres to Section 5 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 regarding bidding and play procedures.

6. OFFENCES (PUNCTUALITY, SLOW PLAY AND MOBILE PHONES)

- 6.1 Players should arrive at the club at least 15 minutes before the designated start time for the session, unless the director has been advised of a late arrival which will not adversely affect the conduct of the session.
- 6.2 Mobile phones (and other similar electronic devices) must be turned off, or on silent, during session time. The Director may give permission, prior to the commencement of the session, for a player to take an urgent/important phone call. In all other instances, if a player answers their phone during a session that player's unit may be penalised.
- 6.3 If one card has been played when three (3) minutes or more remain on the clock for that round, the hand may be played. If less than three (3) minutes is remaining, play of the hand may be stopped and manually scored at the discretion of the director. For pairs events, the unplayed hand will be averaged 50%/50%, but in the instance of a pair who are continually slow at bidding or play, the director may apply a 40% score to the offending side and 60% to the non-offending side. For team events, when a partnership has played slowly, to avoid disruption of the movement the board is to be recorded as "Did not play" and the board played at the end of the session.
- 6.4 Only the authorised Compscore operator, or the Director, is authorised to manually score a board or alter an entered score.
- 6.5 The Director must be notified if a player leaves a session before the end of the session. All unplayed boards will be manually scored according to the sliding scale detailed by the ABF in 2017.

1 board 50.00%

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| 2 boards | 57.07% |
| 3 boards | 55.77% |
| 4 boards | 55.00% |
| 5 boards | 54.57% |
| 6 boards | 54.08% |
| 7 boards | 53.78% |
| 8 boards | 53.54% |
| 9 boards | 53.33% |
| 10 boards | 53.16% |

The departing pair are allocated zero.

6.6 In all other respects, MBC adheres to Section 6 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 regarding offences, punctuality, slow play and mobile devices.

7. FOULED BOARDS

7.1 MBC utilises reputable computer scoring programs. As a result, fouled boards should rarely arise, as the program will usually identify a fouled board when results are entered.

7.2 When a fouled board is identified the director may apply a score of 50%/50% for the table where the fouled board was played and correct the hands for subsequent tables.

7.3 In all other respects, MBC adheres to Section 7 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 regarding fouled boards.

8. SPECTATORS, CAPTAINS AND CLOSED ROOMS

MBC adheres to section 8 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MBC adheres to section 9 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024.

10. DRESS, SMOKING AND BEHAVIOUR

MBC adheres to section 10 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024, which is based on Law 74 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017.

(Please see attached *Conduct and Etiquette at Bridge* endorsed by MBC Management Committee on 14 April 2025.)

11. TIE-BREAKS

MBC manages tie-breaks in accordance with Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024.

12. SCORING PROCEDURES

12.1 The Director is responsible for ensuring that Compscore is properly set up for the session/tournament, with the correct number of tables and the movement, and that the appropriate code is entered into the scoring program to ensure the correct masterpoints are allocated.

- 12.2 MBC uses electronic scoring units (Bridgemates) and adheres to clause 12.11 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024 regarding the entering and checking of scores. If an incorrect score has been entered the Director or the Bridgemate operator should be called, and they will adjust the score.
- 12.3 An appeal on the grounds of an error in scoring must be made within six-hours of the results for the session being made available to players on the MBC website. This is to allow time for players who travel to view the results. These appeals must be sent via the Contact Us form on the MBC website, so they are timestamped to ensure the 6-hour timeframe is applied. All other appeals must be made through the director.

13. PROCEDURES PENDING APPEALS

MBC adheres to section 13 of Bridge NSW Tournament Regulations 2024.

SECTION B

SECTION B COVERS TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY APPLICABLE TO MAITLAND BRIDGE CLUB.

1. MINIMUM NUMBER OF TABLES FOR ALLOCATION OF MASTERPOINTS

All events, at any masterpoint level, will be conducted according to the ABF masterpoint regulations (Refer: [ABF Masterpoint Scheme Manual](#)). To be workable at Maitland Bridge Club, the minimum number of tables for all events are:

- Teams 5 teams = 5 tables
- GNOTS - if insufficient teams enter, a pairs event can be run to allow a composite team to form – 6 pairs = 3 tables
- Pairs (Howell) 6 pairs = 3 tables
- Pairs (Mitchell/other) 6 pairs = 3 tables
- Championship Pairs 10 pairs = 5 tables

2. CLUB RECORDER FOR TOURNAMENTS

The role of Recorder will be filled by the Co-ordinator/Management Committee.

3. SUBSTITUTION AND AUGMENTATION

- 3.1 Augmentation is the addition of one or two players to a team. The resultant team may have up to six players. The augmented players become permanent members of the team. MBC does not allow augmentation for Club Qualifying Events (CQE) but does encourage it for Regional and Zonal Finals when the rules for the event allow.

- 3.2 MBC does allow substitutes as follows:

- One session – no substitute for Pairs or Teams. If a registered player is unable to play, an unregistered player can take their place, but that person cannot receive Club prizes or represent the Club at the next level.
- Two sessions – one substitute allowed for Pairs or Teams
- Three sessions – two substitutes allowed for Pairs or Teams.

- 3.3 An approved substitution is one that is approved by the Management Committee before the session, based on the advice provided by the Tournament Sub-committee.

- 3.4 To be approved substitutes must comply with the following:

- If the player being replaced has a Masterpoint rank of Regional or lower, the substitute must be the same rank or lower.
- If the player being replaced is above the Masterpoint rank of Regional, the substitute player can have no more than 50 masterpoints more than the replaced player.

3.5 Whenever a substitution is required, the Management Committee must be messaged using the Contact Us form on the club website as soon as possible. If you require a substitute, please endeavour to find a suitable substitute and advise the Management Committee to obtain approval. If you are unable to find one, the Management Committee will endeavour to assist. The Management Committee delegate/s responsible for finding substitutes will ensure that any/every substitute meets the requirements of the MBC Tournament Regulations.

3.6 The team/pair originally registered to play is considered to be the team/pair for the competition. Any change after registration for the event has closed is a substitute. If a player does not meet criteria in clause 3.4 the team/pair may play but may not be eligible to progress to the next round of the competition as a club-subsidised participant., (Refer MBC Management Committee Meeting Minutes 16 October 2023.)

3.7 Ineligible players are not entitled to any prizes or titles associated with the event, nor are they entitled to any outright masterpoints for the event. They are entitled to sessional masterpoints. (Refer Motion passed at MBC Management Committee Meeting Minutes 13 November 2023.)

3.8 If a Championship event is conducted that attracts outright awards and Masterpoints refer to ABF Masterpoint Scheme 4.3 Outright Awards Note 3.

4. EVENTS AT MAITLAND BRIDGE CLUB

4.1 Non-Special Events

4.1.1 Green masterpoint events, Nation Wide Pairs and Supervised Bridge events are non-special events.

4.1.2 Bookings for non-special pairs events, with the exception of Invitation Days, are made online via the MBC website calendar or members only area.

4.1.3 When specific club events with rules regarding participation (eg Invitation Days when one member of the pair must have less than xx masterpoints) are advertised on the website, there must be reference to the Club Supplementary Regulations for the event.

4.2 Special Events

4.2.1 Club Red Point events and Championship events (including, but not limited to, national and state events) are classified as special events.

4.2.2 Players who participate in special events must be financial members of MBC and have played at Maitland Bridge Club in non-special events at least six (6) times in the six (6) months prior to the start of the event, unless exempted by the President of MBC due to illness, extended travel or substantiated isolation. (Refer MBC Management Committee Meeting Minutes 08 October 2018.)

4.2.3 Registrations for pairs special events (excluding Red Point Sessions) close 72 hours prior to the commencement of the event. Registrations for team events close one week prior to the event, and entry is via writing on the relevant form

on the Maitland Bridge Club sign-on table. Registration for all pairs events is online via the Maitland Bridge Club website calendar or members only area.

- 4.2.4 When the Information Technology Officer opens bookings for Special Pairs events, a link to MBC Tournament Regulations is to be placed on the booking screen.
- 4.2.5 The Information Technology Officer is to close off website entries for Pairs events 72 hours before the event, with a wait list option.
- 4.2.6 Eligible players representing MBC at Regional, Zonal or State level will have their entry fee partly subsidised by MBC.
- 4.2.7 All players who register for a special event (excluding Red Point Sessions) receive an email once registrations close, confirming their participation and reminding them of the rules and guidelines which apply to the event. The Tournament Sub-committee, as event organiser, to provide a draft email to be sent to the Co-ordinator to email to all players entered in the special event.
- 4.2.8 For pairs events, balancing playing strength of participants to be done by the Tournament Sub-committee to ensure equivalent playing strength in both directions:
 - On percentage scores over last six (6) months of the pair.
 - If a competing pair has not played together regularly, then the percentage scores of each player of the pair to be added and divided by two (2).
 - In this process any supervised bridge scores are to be eliminated. If there is an entry from a player who usually only plays Supervised Bridge, the masterpoints or percentage of the player should be used.
 - Members should note that when they choose a direction for a special event that requires the field to be balanced, there is no guarantee that they will receive that direction. Only people with mobility issues and the Director will be guaranteed their choice of direction. (MBC Management Committee minutes 8 September 2025)
- 4.2.9 For special events that require a single winner, the following three (3) options may be used to determine the winner:
 - 4.2.9.1 **OPTION 1: SINGLE WINNER – ONE SESSION**
A full Howell for up to 7 tables
A Mitchell with one Arrowswitch for 8 to 12 tables
A Mitchell with two Arrowswitches for 13 or more tables
 - 4.2.9.2 **OPTION 2: SINGLE WINNER - MULTI SESSION**
If in the first week a Howell is run (ie less than 8 tables), but in the second week there are 8 or more tables, then the second week must be run as a Mitchell with an Arrowswitch.
If 8 or more tables are expected, an Arrowswitch Mitchell is to be run on both sessions.
 - 4.2.9.3 **OPTION 3**
A straight Mitchell can be run on both sessions, with the top-ranking players from both east/west and north/south then to play in a Howell as a final to determine the winner. The number of players invited to

participate in the final will be determined by the Management Committee after the initial rounds.

References for this Document:

- Dated 15 April 2023.
- Amended 21 April 2023.
- Motions passed MBC meeting 16 October 2023.
- Motion passed MBC meeting 13 November 2023.
- Amended December 2023.
- Motion passed MBC meeting 08 April 2024.
- Amended 14 May 2024.
- Amended 16 December 2024 using motions passed at meetings in October, November and December 2024.
- Amended 14 July 2025 using motions passed at meetings in March, April, May, June and July 2025.
- Amended 5 November 2025 using motions passed at meetings in August and September 2025.