

State Championships Pairs Selection Events

Background

In 2026, BridgeNSW changed the format for the State Championship events (for both Pairs and Teams); such that all events will now be played in three divisions:

- **Open** division – where one or both players are ranked Grand Master or above;
- **Below Grand** – where both players are ranked below grand master, and one or both has a rank of National Master and above); and
- **Below National** – where both players are ranked below National Master.

Generally speaking, if you have **less than 150 MPs** you will be in the Below National division, and if you have **less than 1,000 MPs** you will be in the Below Grand division.

The State Championships is comprised of three events:

- 1) Firstly, each club in NSW may run a **club selection event** (CSE). MBC usually runs the pair's CSE in June. Qualifying pairs are offered the opportunity to be sponsored to represent the club at the regional finals;
- 2) **Regional finals** are usually held in September and may be either face-to-face or online. Our region was comprised of Milton, Batemans Bay, Moruya, Sapphire Coast and Bega clubs until 2026 when Batemans Bay decided to join ACT;
- 3) Qualifying pairs from the regional event progress to the **State finals** which are usually run in December

MBC Selection Process

Selection events will be run as pairs events, scored in matchpoints. Pair rankings will be determined by the aggregate of the best three results for each pair. A pair may have up to two subs across the four selection events.

MBC will cover the entry fee for one pair in each division of the state championships to progress to the finals. Pairs will be offered sponsored representation in order based on results in the selection events.

Pairs are eligible to compete in the division of the higher ranked player as at January of that year, or a higher division.

For each division, starting with the top ranked pair and working down, each pair will be offered the opportunity to represent MBC in the regional finals, until a pair has accepted. NOTE that if one player in a pair wishes to progress to regionals but her partner does not, she may choose to play with another player – if and only if they have played as a pair in at least one of the CSE games

NOTES

- There are three types of entry for Mollymook players to compete at the regional level:
 1. Compete in the CSE and finishing top in your division will allow you to be sponsored to enter as a representative pair;

2. Compete in the CSE but finish below the sponsored pair – you may still enter as a representative pair, which will provide discounted entry, but your entry fee will not be covered by MBC; or
 3. If your pair did not compete in the CSE, you may still make a direct entry to the regional finals. Fees will be slightly greater than those for representative pairs.
- Note that a pair in a lower division could elect to represent the club in a higher division, if their aggregate score allowed this. So Open will be offered to all pairs ranked in descending order, Under Grand will be offered to all pairs ranked Under Grand and Under National, and Under National offered only to pairs in that division.
 - **State/Country Mixed Pairs** are not currently treated in the same manner as the State Pairs and State Teams events. MBC run qualifying event for mixed pairs in May. At present, any interested pair can go to the state final F2F in Sydney – though generally this event has proven to be poorly organised in recent years and BridgeNSW really should review the entire process;
 - If you would like more info, you can either check out the BridgeNSW website <https://bridgensw.com.au/state-championships/>; or speak with Kevin Tant or the MBC event coordinator (currently John Reid)