

# GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA

## General Regulations - 2023

### 1. SCOPE

The Grand National Open Teams Championship of Australia (GNOT) is a national, Australia-wide bridge event administered by the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF). The twofold mandate of the GNOT is (i) to make a national bridge event and its associated benefits, e.g. the award of gold masterpoints, readily accessible to every bridge club in Australia irrespective of location and to every bridge player in Australia irrespective of domicile, and (ii) in so doing, to promote the game of bridge throughout the nation.

- 1.1. The GNOT is not intended to be a self-funded event. The ABF shall, where necessary, provide reasonable funding to support the mandate of the event.
- 1.2. With respect to participation in the GNOT, the ABF shall not discriminate (i) against any club on the grounds of the remoteness of its location, the ethnicity or aboriginality of its membership, or its perceived financial position; or (ii) against any player on the grounds of the remoteness of his (her) domicile, his (her) ethnicity or aboriginality, or his (her) non-membership of an affiliated bridge club or of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme (except as specified in paragraph 6.5).

### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The GNOT administration is hierarchal, *viz.* the National Coordinator, Regional Coordinators, Regional Organisers, Club Coordinators, Club Organisers. There shall be a Tournament Organiser for the GNOT National Final.

The GNOT is an ABF tournament and the ABF is responsible for all aspects of GNOT administration. The ABF, at its discretion, may delegate any aspect of GNOT administration, except the responsibilities of the National Coordinator, to an agent. That agent may be a State body, an affiliated bridge club or an individual.

#### 2.1. National Coordinator

The GNOT National Coordinator is appointed by the ABF. The National Coordinator has overall responsibility for the smooth running of the tournament from its basic qualifying stages to the National Final. The duties of the National Coordinator include but are not limited to:

- 2.1.1. Promoting the game of bridge throughout Australia.

- 2.1.2. Making the GNOT readily accessible to every bridge club and every bridge player in Australia.
- 2.1.3. Updating the GNOT General Regulations on a regular basis.
- 2.1.4. Recommending, subject ABF approval, the appointment of Regional Coordinators.
- 2.1.5. Recommending, subject ABF approval, the appointment of the GNOT National Final Tournament Organiser.
- 2.1.6. Compiling, in collaboration with the National Final Tournament Organiser where necessary, an annual report about all aspects of the GNOT and submitting it to the ABF Management Committee.
- 2.1.7. On his own initiative, or on the recommendation of a Regional Organiser or a Regional Coordinator, and where it is in the interests of promoting the game of bridge, inviting teams not otherwise qualified to compete in a Regional Final.

## **2.2. Regional Coordinators**

GNOT Regional Coordinators are appointed by the ABF. The Regional Coordinator may be a body or an individual. The Regional Coordinator is responsible for the conduct of the GNOT within a region (or regions) up to and including the nomination of teams to represent the region(s) in the GNOT National Final. As a rule, a Regional Coordinator will be a State or Regional administrative body, but may be a Bridge Club or an individual. The duties of Regional Coordinators include, but are not limited to:

- 2.2.1. Promoting the game of bridge throughout the region.
- 2.2.2. Making the GNOT readily accessible to every bridge club and every bridge player in the region.
- 2.2.3. Appointment of Regional Organisers.
- 2.2.4. Making recommendations to Regional Organisers regarding fees levied from players and clubs for participation in Regional Finals.
- 2.2.5. Preparing Supplementary Regulations that augment these General Regulations and which are specific to the GNOT Region in question.
- 2.2.6. Verifying masterpoint returns from Club Masterpoint Secretaries (e.g. Club Selection events) or from Regional Organisers (Regional Finals) and submitting them to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.
- 2.2.7. Paying masterpoint charges generated from Regional Finals.
- 2.2.8. Notifying the National Coordinator and/or the GNOT National Final Tournament Organiser of the names and ABF numbers of players that will represent the region in the National Final.
- 2.2.9. Making payment of entry fees for the GNOT National Final.

## **2.3. Regional Organisers**

A GNOT Regional Organiser is appointed by the Regional Coordinator. A Regional Organiser is responsible, under the direction of the Regional Coordinator, for the organisation of the Regional Final. (The Regional Organiser has the status of

Tournament Organiser for the Regional Final.) The duties of a Regional Organiser include, but are not limited to:

- 2.3.1. Selecting a venue for the Regional Final.
- 2.3.2. Selecting a date for the Regional Final and, in so doing, avoiding clashes with congresses or with other important bridge activities scheduled for the region or adjoining regions.
- 2.3.3. Appointing a tournament director.
- 2.3.4. Advising all Clubs within the Region of the schedule for the Regional Final and urging them to participate.
- 2.3.5. Arranging pre-dealing of hands, preparation of hand records and printing of personal score books.
- 2.3.6. In consultation with the Regional Coordinator, setting fees levied from players and clubs for participation in Regional Final.
- 2.3.7. Providing refreshments for players.
- 2.3.8. Advising the Regional Coordinator of the results of the Regional Final.
- 2.3.9. Preparing masterpoint awards for the Regional Final and conveying them to the Regional Coordinator.
- 2.3.10 Making all payments (except masterpoint charges) relating to the cost of staging the Regional Final.

#### **2.4. Club Coordinators**

A Club Coordinator is responsible for the conduct of the GNOT preliminary selection events (Club Selections) staged in their clubs. As a rule a Club Coordinator will be the Club Committee, but may be the Club President or an individual nominated by the Club Committee or by the President. The duties of a Club Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- 2.4.1. Promoting the GNOT within the Club.
- 2.4.2. Appointing Club Organisers.
- 2.4.3. Setting fees, if any, payable by participants in Club Selections. (Such fees belong to the Club, not to the Region or the ABF.)
- 2.4.4. Advising the Regional Organiser of the Club's intention to stage a Club Selection and of its intention to nominate a team or teams for the Regional Final (in order to facilitate advance arrangements).
- 2.4.5. Forwarding Club Selection masterpoint awards to the Regional Coordinator for verification.
- 2.4.6. Paying masterpoint charges generated from Club Selections.
- 2.4.7. Notifying the Regional Organiser of the names and ABF numbers of players that have qualified from the Club to play in the Regional Final.
- 2.4.8. Making payment of Club entry fees for the Regional Final.

## **2.5. Club Organisers**

A Club Organiser is responsible, under the direction of the Club Coordinator, for the organisation of Club Selection events. As a rule the Club Organiser is the club Tournament Committee, the club Tournament Secretary or the club Tournament Director but may be any individual appointed by the Club Organiser. (The Club Organiser has the status of Tournament Organiser for Club Selections.) The duties of a Club Organiser include, but are not limited to:

- 2.5.1.** Organising and running the Club Selection events.
- 2.5.2.** Advising the Club Organiser of the results of the Club Selections.
- 2.5.3.** Compiling masterpoint awards from Club Selections and conveying them to the Club Coordinator.

## **2.6. GNOT National Final Tournament Organiser**

The Tournament Organiser, otherwise known as GNOT National Final Convenor, shall be appointed by the National Coordinator. (In the event that multiple convenors be appointed, they shall be known as Co-Convenors.) The duties of GNOT National Final Convenor include but are not limited to:

- 2.6.1.** All aspects of organising and running the GNOT National Final.
- 2.6.2.** Keeping records of all monetary transactions and reporting them to the ABF Treasurer.
- 2.6.3.** Compiling masterpoint awards from the National Final (and the GNOT Pairs) and conveying them to the ABF Masterpoint Centre.
- 2.6.4.** Compiling a comprehensive report of the tournament for the ABF Management Committee.

## **3. GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE GNOT**

- 3.1.** All stages of the GNOT should be played on knockout principles; however, Regional Coordinators have jurisdiction to vary this requirement at their discretion and without reference to the National Coordinator.
- 3.2.** The maximum number of teams contesting the National Final shall be 64.
- 3.3.** The National Final shall be played in knockout format. It shall include a repechage component to accommodate teams eliminated in early knockout rounds. Teams finishing in high places in the repechage component shall re-enter the later knockout rounds of the event.

## **4. REGIONAL STRUCTURE**

- 4.1.** Australia shall be divided into regions that may overlap state boundaries. The GNOT National Coordinator shall be personally responsible for the designation of GNOT regions. Designation of regions shall be based on geographical considerations and shall take particular account of the GNOT mandate that the tournament be accessible

to all Clubs however remote their location and to all players however remote their place of domicile.

- 4.2. Each GNOT region shall be entitled to field at least one team in the National Final. Certain regions shall be entitled to field more than one team in the National Final, such entitlement to be determined by the National Coordinator and ratified by the ABF MC. However, in exercising this discretion, the National Coordinator shall be guided by “entitlement” guidelines (see clause 4.6 below).
- 4.3. Each GNOT region, through its Regional Coordinator, shall conduct qualifying events that qualify its team(s) to contest the National Final. Such qualifying events should be conducted at two levels: (i) the Club level to qualify teams or pairs to contest a Regional Final, (ii) a Regional Final to qualify a team or teams to contest the National Final. It is highly desirable that the Regional Final be a three-session event. The mechanics of qualifying events within a Region are matters for the discretion of the Regional Coordinator except that: (i) the Regional Coordinator shall not merely nominate a team or teams to represent the Region in the National Final — there **must** be a Regional Final, (ii) the Regional Final shall comprise not less than 50 boards.
- 4.4. At the conclusion of a Regional Final, the Regional Coordinator shall advise the GNOT National Final Tournament Organiser of the composition of the team(s) to represent his Region in the National Final. In turn, the National Final Tournament Organiser shall acknowledge receipt of the said advice. Up until the said acknowledgement has been made, the members of the team(s) are subject to the Supplementary Regulations of the Regional Final; after the said acknowledgement has been made, the members of the team(s) are subject to the Supplementary Regulations of the National Final.
- 4.5. In exercising his responsibility to designate GNOT Regions, the National Coordinator shall take particular note of the following “designation” guidelines:
  - 4.5.1. The GNOT shall be accessible to all Clubs in Australia, however remote their location, and to all players in Australia, however remote their place of domicile.
  - 4.5.2. The designation shall be geographically feasible in the sense that all Clubs and all players within a designated Region are able, within reason, to access the location of the Regional Final.
  - 4.5.3. Before designating a new Region, the National Coordinator shall consult as widely as feasible with relevant authorities within the proposed Region including, where appropriate, existing Regional Coordinators.
  - 4.5.4. Clubs within a new Region shall be given, through notification by the Regional Coordinator, not less than six months’ notice (before the commencement of the relevant GNOT year) of the formation of the Region.
  - 4.5.5. The determination of which Clubs lie within a Region is a matter for the Regional Coordinator(s). In the case of dispute the National Coordinator shall arbitrate. At the discretion of the relevant Regional Coordinators, any particular Club may be deemed to lie within two or more Regions, and that Club may choose to qualify teams to contest more than one Regional Final.

- 4.6. In exercising his responsibility to grant multiple places in the GNOT National Final to particular Regions, the National Coordinator shall take particular note of the following “entitlement” guidelines:
- 4.6.1. A metropolitan Region (Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth — but not Hobart or Darwin) is entitled to one place in the National Final for each 32 teams within that Region that contest preliminary qualifying rounds. A non-metropolitan Region is entitled to one place in the National Final for each 16 teams within that Region that contest preliminary qualifying rounds. This is regarded as the “basic” guideline.
  - 4.6.2. The National Coordinator, at his sole discretion, may depart from the “basic” guideline using criteria that, in his view, are deemed to improve the quality and standing of the National Final in particular and the GNOT in general. Such criteria include, but are not limited to, the quality of the teams nominated by a Region to contest the National Final, past performance in the National Final, interest in and enthusiasm for the GNOT displayed by players and administrators within a Region, the ability of a Region to meet its commitments to the GNOT without incurring financial stress, and the claims of other Regions for increases in their entitlement for additional places in the National Final.
  - 4.6.3. Where a Region has an entitlement to multiple places in the National Final, the National Coordinator may from time to time vary that entitlement on the basis of the “entitlement” criteria (see clauses 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 above). Before making such variation the National Coordinator shall consult with the relevant Regional Coordinator(s). Advance notice of such variation is not required provided that the variation does not interfere with any schedule that the relevant Regional Coordinator has put in place.
- 4.7. The National Coordinator shall be aware that matters of governance may intrude on his responsibilities to designate new GNOT Regions and to grant or to vary the entitlement of an existing GNOT Region. Any such changes must be approved by the ABF Management Committee.

## 5. **QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR GNOT REGIONAL FINALS**

There are five means of qualification for a GNOT Regional Final, *viz.* Club Selection, Zonal Knockout, Regional Knockout, GNOT Feeder Event, and Direct Qualification.

### 5.1. **Qualification through Club Selection**

Every Club is entitled to stage a Club Selection to choose teams for the Regional Final. The Club Selection is open to all financial members of the Club, irrespective of whether or not they are Home Club members. The Club may, at its sole discretion, also elect to allow Non-Club members to contest the Club Selection. Each player who contests a Club Selection must (unless the Regional Coordinator

elects to waive this requirement via Supplementary Regulation) be domiciled within the relevant GNOT Region. The Club Selection is an event of not less than 2 sessions played in the Club. It may be a special event for the purpose or it may be combined with regular sessions. (For instance, the Club Championship could double as a Club Selection event.)

If the Club Selection has 5 tables or less, the Club may enter two teams in the Regional Final. If the Club Selection has between 6 and 8 tables, the Club is entitled to three teams in the Regional Final. If the Club Selection has 9-14 tables, the entitlement in the Regional Final is five teams. If the club selection has 15-20 tables, the entitlement is eight teams. If the club selection has 21-30 tables, the entitlement is ten teams. For more than 30 tables, the entitlement is twelve teams.

Clubs that normally have more than one session weekly may, if they wish, run 2 or more Club Selections; say, one for the Monday players and another for the Thursday players. If this is done, the entitlement of number of teams for the Regional Final is based on the **total** number of tables playing in the 2 (or more) Club Selections.

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. Club Selection events must comprise at least 2 sessions.

The Club Selection may be played as a teams event or as a match-pointed pairs or as a Butler-scored pairs event. In designing the format of the Club Selection, the Club's tournament organiser should consider 2 significant matters. Firstly, (s)he should ensure that each match (team against team or pair against pair) is at least 5 boards in length. This allows gold masterpoints to be awarded for each match. Secondly, regulations should be drafted to provide for replacements for teams or pairs that qualify for the Regional Final but find themselves unable to participate.

Entry fees for Club Selections and Regional Finals are set, respectively, by the Club Coordinator and the Regional Coordinator. However, should the Coordinator omit to do so, the standard charges are:

Club Selection — no charge.

Regional Final — \$80 per team payable by the Club, plus  
\$30 per player table money payable by the player.

## **5.2. Qualification through Zonal Knockout**

A Zonal Knockout is a within-region competition that qualifies one team (per zone) to play in the Regional Final. Zonal Knockouts are designed particularly for teams that, for any reason, find that they are unable to participate in Club Selection events. However, a team is permitted to participate in a Zonal Knockout as well as in a Club Selection under certain conditions; *viz.* (i) if, during the course of a Club Selection, a team qualifies for a Regional Final *via* Zonal Knockout, that team may continue to participate in the Club Selection but only as a non-contending team, (ii) if a team qualifies for a Regional Final *via* Zonal Knockout subsequent to its qualification *via* Club Selection, that team must forfeit its qualification *via* Club Selection.

For the purposes of Zonal Knockouts, each region is divided into several zones. The clubs comprising the Zones are given in Appendix 3. Entries are invited from teams comprising 4, 5 or 6 eligible players. (An eligible player is one whose main place of residence is located within the zone. In the event of uncertainty about eligibility, the GNOT National Coordinator will be the final arbiter.) A team may

enter a Zonal Knockout by addressing its entry to GNOT Zonal Knockouts, c/o GNOT National Coordinator, 22 Mareeba Court, Arana Hills Qld. There is no team entry fee to a Zonal Knockout; however, there will be table money of \$10.00 per player per match. Should only one team enter a Zonal Knockout, that team will qualify automatically for the Regional Final. In such a case, there will be an entry fee of \$80 for the team to play in the Regional Final unless the Regional Coordinator specifies otherwise.

There is a separate competition for each Zone. Zonal winners qualify for the Regional Final. The Zonal Knockout competition will be double knockout with matches of 32 boards. This means that a team must lose 2 matches before it is knocked out. Matches are played at times and places that are mutually convenient. Early matches are played against teams in your immediate vicinity so that travel is reduced to a minimum. A team may play in the Zonal Knockout even if it is not available for the Regional Final. Should such a team win the Zonal Knockout, the second-placed team becomes eligible for the Regional Final.

### **5.3. Qualification through Regional Knockout**

Regional Knockouts are designed particularly for pairs that find that they are unable to participate in Club Selection events and, in addition, cannot find team mates from within their own Zone to compete in a Zonal Knockout. In such a circumstance **and with the approval of the GNOT National Coordinator**, the pair may form a team with players from outside its Zone but from within the Region. (In the event of uncertainty about the eligibility of a team to enter a Regional Knockout, the GNOT National Coordinator will be the final arbiter.) Inter-regional teams are not permitted.

A team enters a Regional Knockout directly by addressing its entry to GNOT Regional Knockouts, c/o GNOT National Coordinator, 22 Mareeba Court, Arana Hills Qld. There is no team entry fee to a Regional Knockout; however, there will be table money of \$10.00 per player per match. Should only one team enter a Regional Knockout, that team will qualify automatically for the Regional Final. In such a case, there will be an entry fee of \$80 for the team to play in the Regional Final unless the Regional Coordinator specifies otherwise.

Any team that enters the Regional Knockout gives an implicit undertaking that, should it win (or qualify automatically), it will participate in the Regional Final.

### **5.4. Direct qualification**

This form of qualification is designed especially for players in remote areas (e.g. south-western Western Australia) where more conventional means of qualification for the GNOT National Final (*via* Club Selection and Regional Final) are not practicable. Direct Qualification provides access directly to the GNOT National Final, and is the only means of GNOT qualification that does so — the other four means of qualification merely provide access to a Regional Final.

### **5.5. Qualification *via* GNOT Feeder Events**

GNOT Feeder Events are designed specifically for players in semi-remote areas (e.g. the South-West NSW and Western NSW regions) where Clubs may not conduct any other GNOT qualifying event. Typically, GNOT Feeder Events are non-profit, weekend competitions (mini-congresses) played as match-pointed pairs over three sessions. The most successful pair from each affiliated club is invited to form a team with another pair from within the region to participate in a Regional Final. GNOT Feeder Events are conducted in townships that do not have bridge clubs of



their own. Any person with recognised experience as a tournament organiser who wishes to run a GNOT Feeder Event must seek approval to do so from the GNOT National Coordinator.

## **6. REGIONAL FINALS.**

### **6.1. Timing and location**

Regional Finals will be played on dates and at venues determined by Regional Organisers. Upon making such determination, a Regional Organiser shall advise the GNOT National Coordinator in order that the information may be promulgated on the GNOT national website.

### **6.2. Format**

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.

### **6.3. 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.

### **6.4. Entry fees**

Entry fees for a Regional Final are set by the Regional Coordinator in consultation with the Regional Organiser. Standard charges (which may be varied by the Regional Coordinator in consultation with the Regional Organiser) are:

**6.4.1. Qualification *via* Club Selection.** \$80 per team payable by the Club, plus \$30 per player table money payable by the player.

**6.4.2. Qualification *via* Zonal Knockout.** No team entry fee, but \$30 per player table money payable by the player. However, where qualification by Zonal Knockout has been automatic (i.e. only one team has entered the Zonal Knockout), there is a team entry fee of \$80.

**6.4.3. Qualification *via* Regional Knockout.** No team entry fee, but \$30 per player table money payable by the player. However, where qualification by Regional Knockout has been automatic (i.e. only one team has entered the Regional Knockout), there is a team entry fee of \$80.

**6.4.4. Direct qualification.** Team entry fee and player table money set by the Regional Coordinator in consultation with the Regional Organiser.

**6.4.5. Qualification *via* Feeder Event.** No team entry fee, but \$30 per player table money payable by the player.

**6.4.6. Invitation.** No team entry fee, but \$30 per player table money payable by the player.

**6.4.7. Host club entry.** Where a club has an additional entry as a result of its acting as host for the Regional Final, there is no charge to the club for its additional

team, but members of this team are required to pay table money of \$30 per player.

- 6.5.** Should a team that qualifies for the National Final contain players who are not members of an affiliated bridge club or of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, such players must become members of an affiliated bridge club before start of play in the GNOT National Final.

## **7. NATIONAL FINAL**

### **7.1. Date and location**

The GNOT National Final will be held at the Qld Contract Bridge Club, 67 Ipswich Rd, Woolloongabba from a Friday to the following Monday at the end of November/beginning of December of each year. The precise day of commencement of the tournament is the first Friday after the last Thursday in November.

### **7.2. Qualification**

Placings in Regional Finals will qualify team to compete in the National Final.

### **7.3. Entry fees**

The entry fee for the National Final is \$750 per team (\$840 if **not** paid before 15 November) plus \$10 for each team that enters the preliminary qualifying events (not including Regional Finals). Payment of entry fees to the National Final is the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator. No table money is payable.

### **7.4. GNOT Pairs Championships.**

**7.4.1. Entry.** Entry to the 2023 GNOT Pairs Championships is by invitation only to:

- a. Those participants in the GNOT National Final whose teams have not qualified for the semi-finals or for the repechage finals — no entry fee.
- b. At the discretion of the Tournament Organiser

(i) Players who participated in 2023 GNOT qualifying events played in the Brisbane region but who did not qualify for the GNOT National Final — entry fee \$30 per player.

(ii) Players who are life partners of participants in the GNOT National Final — entry fee \$30 per player.

**7.4.2. Format.** The 2023 GNOT Pairs Championships will be played on Sunday as a 7-round x 8-board modified Swiss movement stratified into three categories, *viz.* Metropolitan, Provincial, Country.

## **8. DIRECTORS**

Qualifications required of Tournament Directors GNOT events are:

### **8.1. Club Selection**

Appointment by the Club Organiser. Qualified as Club Director at least.

### **8.2. Zonal Knockout**

Usually, it is not possible to have a director for Zonal Knockout matches. Should a ruling be necessary, it should be made by one or other team captain or by both. Should this not be feasible, effort should be made to obtain advice from a qualified director. Otherwise, the circumstances, agreed by both captains, should be reported with all due haste to the National Coordinator who shall determine a ruling in consultation with a qualified director and, if appropriate, award an adjusted score, cancel the board, or impose a disciplinary penalty.

### **8.3. Regional Knockout**

Usually, it is not possible to have a director for Regional Knockout matches. Should a ruling be necessary, it should be made by one or other team captain or by both. Should this not be feasible, effort should be made to obtain advice from a qualified director. Otherwise, the circumstances, agreed by both captains, should be reported with all due haste to the National Coordinator who shall determine a ruling in consultation with a qualified director and, if appropriate, award an adjusted score, cancel the board, or impose a disciplinary penalty.

### **8.4. Direct Qualification**

Appointment by the Regional Organiser. Qualified as Congress Director at least.

### **8.5. Feeder Event**

Appointment by National Coordinator. Qualified as Club Director at least.

### **8.6. Regional Final**

Appointment by the Regional Organiser. Desirably qualified as Congress Director at least. However, (i) where there is no suitable Congress director available or (ii) where the cost of employing a Congress Director is prohibitive, the Regional Coordinator may appoint a Club Director.

### **8.7. National Final**

Appointments by the GNOT Convenor.

**8.7.1. Knockout/Swiss repechage rounds.** There will be three directors. The Chief Tournament Director shall be a National Director (level 1) Director. The other two directors shall be National Directors (levels 1, level 2 or level 3). In addition, the GNOT Convenor may, at his sole discretion and upon advice to the National Directors' Accreditation Committee, appoint a Trainee Director.

**8.7.2. Repechage final, semi-finals and final.** National Director (level 1).

**8.7.3. GNOT Pairs.** National Director (level 1 or level 2 or level 3).

## **9. SUBSTITUTION AND AUGMENTATION**

Regulations 9.1 and 9.5 relating to substitution and augmentation in Club Selections and Regional Finals apply only to those GNOT regions for which the ABF is the Regional Coordinator. For all other GNOT regions, regulations relating to substitution and augmentation in Club Selections and Regional Finals are the responsibility of the particular Regional Coordinator. Regulations 9.2 and 9.3 relating to substitution and augmentation in Zonal and Regional Knockouts are the responsibility of the National Coordinator or of the agent( s) nominated by the GNOT National Coordinator to conduct these knockout competitions. Regulation 9.4 relating to substitution in GNOT Feeder Events is the responsibility of the GNOT National Coordinator. Regulation 9.6 relating to substitution and augmentation in teams nominated by Regional Coordinators to represent their regions in the National Final is the responsibility of the GNOT National Coordinator.

### **9.1. For Club Selection events**

Substitution and augmentation regulations that apply to Club Selection events are according to:

- 9.1.1.** The supplementary regulations drawn up by the Club specifically for its GNOT Club Selection event(s);  
or, in the absence of such supplementary regulations, according to:
- 9.1.2.** Existing Club regulations relating to substitution and augmentation.

### **9.2. For Zonal Knockouts**

Except in extreme circumstances (see 9.2.2 below), substitution is not permitted in Zonal Knockouts.

- 9.2.1.** Augmentation of a team of four players to a team of five or six may be done by adding one or two players domiciled anywhere within the zone.  
Augmentation of a team of five players to a team of six may be done by adding one player domiciled anywhere within the zone. Such additional player(s) may not be members of any other team already entered in that zone's Zonal Knockout competition.
- 9.2.2.** Should a player need to withdraw during the play of a Zonal Knockout match due to illness or some other extreme circumstance, the organiser(s) of the match shall take whatever action is required, including allowing emergency substitution, in order to keep the match in motion.

### **9.3. For Regional Knockouts**

Except in extreme circumstances (see 9.3.2 below), substitution is not permitted in Regional Knockouts.

- 9.3.1.** Augmentation of a team of four players to a team of five or six may be done by adding one or two players domiciled anywhere within the region.  
Augmentation of a team of five players to a team of six may be done by adding one player domiciled anywhere within the region. Such additional player(s) may not be members of any other team already entered in that region's Regional Knockout competition.

**9.3.2.** Should a player need to withdraw during the play of a Regional Knockout match due to illness or some other extreme circumstance, the organiser(s) of the match shall take whatever action is required, including allowing emergency substitution, in order to keep the match in motion.

**9.4. For GNOT Feeder Events**

Augmentation is not relevant to GNOT Feeder Events. Should a player need to withdraw during the play of a GNOT Feeder Event due to illness or some other extreme circumstance, the tournament director shall take whatever action is required, including allowing emergency substitution, in order to keep the event in motion.

**9.5. For Regional Finals**

Except in extreme circumstances (see 9.5.2 below), substitution is not permitted in Regional Finals. Augmentation regulations relating to Regional Finals become applicable (i) from the time that a team is nominated by a Club as a regional finalist as a result its performance in that Club's Club Selection event(s), (ii) from the time that a team wins a place in a Regional Final as a result of its performance in a Zonal Knockout competition, (iii) from the time that a team wins a place in a Regional Final as a result of its performance in a Regional Knockout competition, or (iv) from the time that a team accepts an invitation from the tournament organiser of a GNOT Feeder Event to compete in a Regional Final as a result of its performance in that GNOT Feeder Event.

**9.5.1.** Augmentation of a team of four players to a team of five or six may be done by adding one or two players domiciled anywhere within the region. Augmentation of a team of five players to a team of six may be done by adding one player domiciled anywhere within the region. It is permissible to add player(s) who have already played in earlier (preliminary) rounds of the GNOT.

**9.5.2.** Should a player need to withdraw during the play of a Regional Final due to illness or some other extreme circumstance, the tournament director shall take whatever action is required, including allowing emergency substitution, in order to keep the event in motion.

**9.6. For the GNOT National Final**

Except in extreme circumstances (see 9.6.2 below), substitution is not permitted in the GNOT National Final. Augmentation regulations relating to the National Final become applicable (i) from the time that a team is nominated by a Regional Coordinator as national finalist.

**9.6.1.** Augmentation of a national finalist team of four players to a team of five or six may be done by adding one or two players domiciled anywhere within that team's region. Augmentation of a team of five players to a team of six may be done by adding one player domiciled anywhere within that team's region. It is permissible to add player(s) who have already played in earlier (preliminary) rounds of the GNOT. All augmentations are subject to approval by the National Coordinator in consultation with the relevant Regional Coordinator.

**9.6.2.** Should a player need to withdraw during the play of the National Final due to illness or some other extreme circumstance, the tournament director shall take whatever action is required, including allowing emergency substitution, in order to keep the event in motion.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1.

**GNOT regional structure for 2023, and the (classification) stratification (Metropolitan, Provincial, Country) of regions.**

<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Stratification</b>	<b>Teams for the GNOT National Final (2023)</b>
Brisbane	Queensland	Metropolitan	4
Far North Queensland		Country	1
North Queensland		Country	1
Whitsunday		Country	1
Capricornia		Country	1
Wide Bay		Country	1
Sunshine Coast		Provincial	3
Gold Coast		Provincial	2
Darling Downs		Country	1
Sydney	New South Wales	Metropolitan	7
Northern Rivers		Country	2
Mid North Coast		Country	2
Hunter		Provincial	3
Central Coast		Country	1
Tablelands-Illawarra		Country	1
South Coast		Country	1
Mountains		Country	2
Central Northern		Country	1
Western NSW		Country	1
South West NSW		Country	1
Canberra	ACT	Metropolitan	2
ACT Provincial		Provincial	1
Melbourne	Victoria	Metropolitan	3
Gippsland		Country	2
Northern Victoria		Country	1
Geelong		Provincial	1
Western Victoria		Country	1
Southern Tasmania	Tasmania	Provincial	1
Northern Tasmania		Country	1
Adelaide	South Australia	Metropolitan	3
SA Provincial		Provincial	1
Northern Territory	Northern Territory	Provincial	1
Perth	Western Australia	Metropolitan	3
WA Country		Country	1
WA Provincial		Provincial	1

**Appendix 2.**  
**Regional Coordinators for 2023.**

<b>Region (Teams)</b>	<b>Regional Coordinator</b>	<b>Region (Teams)</b>	<b>Regional Coordinator</b>
Brisbane (4)	QBA	South-West NSW (1)	NSWBA
Far North Queensland (1)	QBA	Canberra (2)	BFACT
North Queensland (1)	QBA	ACT Provincial (1)	BFACT
Whitsunday (1)	QBA	Melbourne (3)	VBA
Capricornia (1)	QBA	Gippsland (2)	ERBA
Wide Bay (1)	QBA	Northern Victoria (1)	NRBA
Sunshine Coast (3)	QBA	Geelong (1)	ABF
Gold Coast (2)	QBA	Western Victoria (1)	ABF
Darling Downs (1)	QBA	Southern Tasmania (1)	TBA
Sydney (7)	NSWBA	Northern Tasmania (1)	TBA
Northern Rivers (2)	NSWBA	Adelaide 1 (1)	SABF
Mid North Coast (2)	NSWBA	Adelaide 2 (1)	SABF
Hunter (3)	NSWBA	Adelaide 3 (1)	SABF
Central Coast (1)	NSWBA	SA Provincial (1)	SABF
Tablelands-Illawarra (1)	NSWBA	Northern Territory (1)	NTBA
South Coast (1)	NSWBA	Perth (3)	BAWA
Mountains (2)	NSWBA	WA Country (1)	BAWA
Central Northern (1)	NSWBA	WA Provincial (1)	BAWA
Western NSW (1)	NSWBA		