



GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS 2025

The GNOT is a National GOLD Point Teams' event, conducted by the Australian Bridge Federation, with heats held in all States. The following is advice received from the ABF last month

If you missed it, the ABF has decided to continue with the same format as in 2024. From the feedback that we received, face-to-face was more popular than online. However, there were three reasons for retaining the current format:

- 1) a reasonable number of people were happy with it;*
- 2) it's good to give it a second year before changing back; and*
- 3) a reluctance by several regions to pay the higher entry fees that are necessary to make it financially viable.*

Both events will be at the same time of year as they were this year: the online final will be 19-21 September and the Face-to-Face Final will be 22-23 November.

Each State organisation is responsible for the Final and BAWA shall hold the Metro Final on the 9th August (PM session only) and 10th August (all day) at Melville Bridge Club and qualifying teams to the GNOT Qualifying Final – RealBridge 19th – 21st September 2025.

REGULATIONS

The West Australian heats are held under the sponsorship of BAWA and are therefore subject to BAWA regulations for congresses and other red point events (see the BAWA web page). Of note are the BAWA regulations concerning systems, alerting, timing and pre-dealt boards. All systems including highly artificial systems (e.g. forcing pass) are permissible, provided that the matches played consist of eight boards or more. In addition to these regulations, the following regulations also apply:

METROPOLITAN PRELIMINARY HEATS

1. Club Heats:

The event must be called the Grand National Open Teams and **MUST NOT** be run in conjunction with a club event. The Club Selection is an event of not less than 3 sessions played in the club. It may be a special event for the purpose or it may be combined with regular sessions. To run a heat, a club must field a minimum of two teams. If a club has only one team, a waiver will be granted for that team to play at another club. Alternatively, BAWA would consider favourably a proposal by smaller clubs to run a combined event. The event shall be run as a Swiss or Round Robin. If a Round Robin is played, a minimum of 80% of the field must play each other. BAWA strongly recommends, for equity reasons, that a minimum of eight board matches are played in all club sessions of the GNOT. Special dispensation may be granted for matches of fewer boards, or sessions - application should be made to the Regional Organiser. Clubs must contact the State Master Points Secretary, Mr David

Burn prior to running the event to confirm that the format chosen meets the requirements of a gold point event.

2. Pre-Dealt Boards:

Clubs must use pre-dealt boards and provide hand records for all heats of the GNOT. Pre dealt boards and hand records can be purchased from BAWA by contacting the Regional Organiser or any other recognised supplier, or can be prepared by the club, provided always that security is maintained and the person preparing the boards does not play in the event.

3. Gold Points:

Clubs are responsible for purchasing the Gold Points in line with normal procedures. Club Organisers should send the completed Master Point breakdown to Mr David Burn, State Masterpoint Secretary, for checking. Gold Master Points are awarded at the rate of 0.04 per board per match.

4. Directors:

Although this is a Gold Point event, it may be directed by a director qualified to direct a Club Red Point Event. However, clubs must ensure that the event is directed by a non-playing director.

5. Eligibility and Entries:

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 Regulations) be domiciled within the relevant GNOT Region.**

The Club Selection is an event of not less than 3 sessions.

Teams may be made up of 4, 5 or 6 players. Substitutes may be arranged in accordance with the current BAWA Supplementary Regulation on substitutes. Players may play in as many club heats as they wish, as either a player or a substitute. However, once qualifying they may only enter subsequent qualifying events as a non-contending player.

6. Costs:

An entry fee of **\$20.00** per team payable to BAWA must be collected during the first playing session. These fees should be sent to BAWA at the conclusion of the first playing session. This entry fee does not cover club costs. Clubs should also budget for Gold Master Point fees.

7. Timeframe:

All Club heats must be completed and the **Qualifying Teams advised of entry through MyAbf** to the State Final. The RO can assist with this.

8. Qualification:

The number of teams that each club can qualify for the Metro Regional Final will depend upon the number of teams that enter the club event as follows: up to five tables may enter two teams in the Regional Final, 6-8 tables will qualify three teams; 9 – 14 tables will qualify five teams. Teams qualifying into the State Final must field their nominated members; if they are unable to field the nominated team, their place in the final will be forfeited. They may however augment their team up

to a six person team if they have not already done so. It is optional for qualifying teams whether or not to proceed to the Metro Regional Final.

9. State Finals:

The GNOT Metro Regional Final will be held on the 9th (PM session) and 10th August (All day) @ Melville Bridge Club. The cost of entering the event shall be \$240 per team. The format will depend upon the number of qualifying teams and will be advised later.

10. Administration:

As the Regional Organiser of the Metropolitan Heats, Robina McConnell is the first point of contact on all matters pertaining to the GNOT. Each club will be provided with the requisite paperwork for completion at various times before and during their club heats. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THIS PAPERWORK IS RETURNED TO THE CONVENOR IN A TIMELY MANNER. Club Organisers will be required to complete the attached forms. Timing for return of these forms is as detailed on the form.

11. Contact:

Robina McConnell 0400943367, bina360@hotmail.com or execobawa@gmail.com.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

PERTH METRO: All members of the following Metropolitan Clubs are eligible to represent the Perth region: Armadale, Bayswater, Bullcreek, Canning Districts, City of Melville, Community, Dianella, Fremantle, Glen Forrest, Gosnells, Kalamunda Districts, Joondalup, Langford, Maccabi, Maylands, Nedlands, Northern Districts, Rockingham, South Perth, Swan Districts, Undercroft, Village, WABC, West Coast, Willetton.

WA COUNTRY: All members of the following 12 Country Clubs **who declare they permanent residents of the said region** are eligible to represent the WA Country Region: Albany, Avon Valley, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton, Denmark, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Kendenup, Kojoonup, Mandurah.

ELIGIBILITY

By entering the event entrants are affirming their eligibility to play for the Metro Region. Metropolitan Area is defined as: the area bounded by Rockingham to the south, Mundaring to the East, and Yanchep to the North, or as determined from time to time by BAWA.

3. AUGMENTATION

Players augmenting these teams at national level must fulfil the eligibility criteria contained within these regulations. The Regional Organiser has the right to adjudicate on any issue not covered by these regulations in consultation with the BAWA Tournament Committee.