

Far North Queensland Zone. Overview

Membership. The Far North Queensland Zone of the QBA consists of the following four clubs:

- Cairns Bridge Club.
- Tablelands Bridge Club.
- Malanda Bridge Club.
- Tully Bridge Club. (Currently not participating in Zonal Activities)

Additional clubs may be added as advised by the QBA.

Zone Representative. Each club nominates a person(s) to act as their Zone Representative(s), one representative per 150 home club members or part thereof. These Representatives are appointed at each Club's AGM and the clubs must advise the Zone Secretary and QBA Manager of a change in its Zone Representative(s). Most Zone business will be conducted by email.

Zonal Secretary. The Zone Representatives elect one of their number as the Zone Secretary. The Zone Secretary, in conjunction with their local club will operate an appropriate bank account and will present an annual financial statement of the Zone affairs to clubs. Janice Cluff (Cairns) is currently the Zone Secretary.

Events. The Far North Queensland Zone conducts the following events each year.

1. Grand National Open Teams (GNOT). Cairns, Tablelands and Malanda Clubs conduct Qualifying rounds. Cairns currently hosts the Regional Final.
2. Zonal Teams and Zonal Pairs are qualifying events for the subsidies to play in the Queensland Festival of Bridge. This event held in Brisbane in October including the Queensland Open Teams and Queensland Open Pairs.

The venue for each qualifying event is negotiated annually between the clubs. The Teams selection is normally held in mid May, the Pairs selection in late June, and the GNOT Regional Final in mid August.

Zonal Teams and Pairs. The Zone has agreed to sponsor two teams (up to 8 players) to play in the Queensland Festival of Bridge. In the Zonal Teams four subsidies will be awarded to the highest placed team able to attend the Festival. In the Zonal Pairs the four subsidies will be awarded to the two highest place Pairs able to attend the Festival. A pair including a player awarded a subsidy in the Zonal Teams is not eligible to win a subsidy in the Zonal Pairs.

Teams/Pairs must nominate as a contending or non-contending team/pair before commencement of a Zone event.

Clubs are expected to provide other Clubs in the Zone, and the QBA Webmasters (Andrew Hooper, Peter Busch) with entry forms and results for events they host.

GNOT. The Conduct of Qualifying Heats and Regional Final within the Zone is subject to The QBA Regulations, Section E, pp25-27.

All entrants entering the GNOT Zone Final must be prepared to travel and play in the National Final.

Cairns, Tablelands and Malanda clubs conduct heats of the GNOT to decide the participants in the Regional Final. Players may play in more than one qualifying heat. Qualifying places at Tableland and Malanda Clubs are not open to visiting players.

The cost of participation in the GNOT is shared between Cairns (50%), Tablelands (25%) and Malanda (25%) plus \$10 per team paid by the club running a qualifying event.

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Substitutes. Substitutions after the Zonal Teams, Zonal Pairs or the GNOT Regional Final are permitted on an emergency basis only and need to be approved by the Zonal Secretary.

Eligibility. Entry to qualifying events is unrestricted. To receive a subsidy to play in the Queensland Teams or Pairs or to play in the GNOT Regional Final, players must be a Zone resident as specified by the QBA Residential requirements and approved by the Zone Representatives. This includes a new Zonal Resident who is a financial member of a Club affiliated with the Zone, and who satisfies the Zonal Secretary that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that their bridge will be played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the Zone for at least 6 months after the event.

Subsidies. The amount of subsidy given is dependent upon on the amount of money raised by entry fees from the trials and the rebate received from the QBA. All Entry Fees collected from the events are used to augment the zonal fund from which the subsidies are paid. The masterpoints awarded (Gold for the GNOT, Red for the Teams and Pairs) are paid for by the Zone.

QBA Regulations apply strictly to all Far North Queensland Zone events.

July 31, 2020