

## **CAPRICORN ZONE REGULATIONS**

Rockhampton Bridge Club Inc. Yeppoon Bridge Club Inc.

These Regulations apply to the conduct of Club selection heats and Zone finals. QBA regulations also apply in all matters where the Zone regulations are silent

### **Zone Representative.**

Each club nominates two persons to act as their Zone Representatives. These Representatives are appointed at each Club's AGM or shortly thereafter. and The Zone Representatives elect one of their number as the Zone Secretary. The Zone Secretary notifies the QBA Manager of their appointment.

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 both clubs.

### **Events.**

The Capricorn Zone conducts the following events each year:

1. Grand National Open Teams (GNOT). Rockhampton and Yeppoon conduct Qualifying rounds to select a team who represents the Zone at the National Final.

2. Zone Teams and Zone Pairs are qualifying events for the subsidies to play in the Queensland Festival of Bridge. This event held in Brisbane in October includes the Queensland Open Teams and Queensland Open Pairs.

The venue for each final event is rotated annually between the clubs. The Zone Teams and GNOT at one club and Zone Pairs the other.

All Zone events may have playing directors who must be accredited to at least Club Director level. A non-accredited director may be used at the discretion of the Zone Secretary.

The masterpoints awarded (Gold for the GNOT, Red for the Teams and Pairs) are paid for by the Zone.

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 zone fund from which the subsidies are paid. The Zone committee will set the amount of subsidy on an annual basis. Remaining costs are the responsibility of the players themselves

QBA tournament regulations apply. Red, blue and green systems and brown sticker conventions and treatments are permitted in the zone finals.

A team may comprise 4 to 6 players, but only 4 will receive any available travel subsidy to the GNOT National finals and sponsorship from the Zone.

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

## **Residential Qualifications – All Zone Selection Events**

Entry into events to select players to represent the Capricorn Zone is unrestricted however to receive a subsidy to play in the Queensland Teams or Pairs or to play in the GNOT National Final, players must be a Zone resident as specified by the QBA Residential requirements.

Subsidies are given only to the following:

1. A bona fide local Zone resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the event, of the Rockhampton or Yeppoon Club.
2. A new Zone resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and an associate member of the Rockhampton or Yeppoon club, and who satisfies the Zonal Secretary that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that their bridge will be predominantly played at Rockhampton or Yeppoon.

## **Zone Teams and Pairs.**

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

Winning teams/pairs from Club Qualifying Rounds are not obliged to take their place in the Area Final. In such a case, the next qualifier from that Club Qualifying Round will be invited to take their place. This process will continue until final quota is filled.

If the highest qualifying Team/Pair is unable to represent its section of the Zone, their place will be offered to the next highest placed Pair / Team

## **GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS - GNOT**

The Zone conducts the GNOT Trials as per the QBA Regulations (p.30-32)  
(Queensland GNOT Trials)

In accordance with the QBA GNOT regulations all competing teams in the Capricorn Zone Final MUST be prepared to travel to and play in the National Final.

In principle, the team that qualifies for the National Finals shall be the team that travels to the National Final. Substitutions and augmentations, if required due to **exceptional** circumstances, must first be endorsed at the Zone level by the Zonal delegates then by the QBA.

All players from a team that has accepted their qualification for the local zone final may play in further heats, either as individuals, pairs or as a complete team, providing they advise the Director prior to the start of subsequent heats that the team in which they are playing is not in contention to qualify for the zone finals. No individual, pair or team can qualify for zone finals in two or more teams and then pick and choose the one in which to play. Should the above be breached, then the individual, pair or team is deemed to remain part of the first qualified team and all subsequent teams are to be disqualified.

Club heats are awarded gold masterpoints for each win and/or draw. Placing masterpoints are not awarded at club qualifying heat level. Gold masterpoints are awarded at the local zone final for wins, draws and top one--third overall.

## **Team membership**

A team may comprise 4, 5 or 6 players.

A player who has played zero boards for a team in which he/she entered may be dropped from the team at any time. It will be as though the player had never entered and the player may therefore play for another team in accordance with the conditions of augmentation and substitution.

A team may augment without restriction up to the commencement of play in the local final up to the maximum team membership of 6.

Once play in the local final has commenced, augmentation shall only be permitted with the director's approval for cause, and only by player(s) of equal or lesser ranking than the player(s) being replaced.

Further to the clauses above, a team that does not retain at least half of the players entered on day one of the Club Qualifying Round shall be disqualified. Players so disqualified remain eligible to augment other teams and to play as substitutes.

Subject to the approval of the Director, teams are permitted one substitute during Club Qualifying Rounds.