

## Overview

### QBA Northern Zone

The Northern Zone of the QBA consists of three clubs - Townsville, Ingham, and Cleveland Bay.

The Zone conducts qualifying events and provides subsidies to assist zonal players gain experience by representing the Zone in state and national fields. These events at present are the:

- Grand National Open Teams.
- TBIB Queensland Festival of Bridge which incorporates
  - The Queensland Open Teams and Queensland Open Pairs.
- The Barrier Reef Congress.

#### □ **Grand National Open Teams**

The Northern Zone sends one team to the GNOT final.

The Cleveland Bay, Ingham and Townsville clubs each host a qualifying event. 8 teams will progress to the Regional Final conducted by the Townsville Bridge Club. 3 teams will come from the Cleveland Bay Qualifying, 3 teams from the Townsville Qualifying and 2 teams\* from the Ingham Qualifying. *\*One of the teams from the Ingham Qualifying will be the highest finishing Ingham Team.*

The Zone pays (Amount to be advised) per team per qualifying event to the ABF via the QBA to participate and to cover entry fees to the national final. Townsville, Cleveland Bay and Ingham have pro-rata arrangements to pay the necessary fees to participate in the GNOT.

Masterpoints awarded (Gold) are paid for by the clubs hosting the qualifying events. The Zone pays for the masterpoints for Zone Final.

The Zone conducts the GNOT Trials as per the QBA Regulations (Dec 2023) but reserves the right to limit representation in the National Final to Zonal residents – *See Residential Qualifications* later in this document.

In principle, the team that qualifies for the National Final 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 Zonal level by the participating clubs via their Zonal delegates.

#### □ **Queensland Festival of Bridge**

The Northern Zone intends to send 2 Teams to the Queensland Festival of Bridge. It is expected that all 8 members of these 2 teams will play in both the Queensland Open Teams and the Queensland Open Pairs.

The highest-finishing, available Team from the selection trial (i.e., The Zonal Teams) will be offered the subsidy to participate in both the Teams and Pairs events at the Queensland Festival of Bridge.

The 2 highest-finishing, available Pairs from the selection trial (i.e., The Zonal Pairs) will be offered the subsidy to participate in both the Teams and Pairs events at the Queensland Festival of Bridge.

If the highest qualifying Pair / Team is unable to represent its section of the Zone, their place will be offered to the next highest placed Pair / Team in the final until a representative Pair / Team is found. Substitutions are only allowed in cases of emergency.

□ **Barrier Reef Congress**

The Zone will subsidize 4 Pairs to participate in the Restricted Pairs event (Nominally the BRC 300) at the Barrier Reef Congress when it is conducted within the Northern Zone.

The selection will be conducted as a standalone event - the **Zonal Restricted Pairs**. This event will be restricted to players with less than 300 masterpoints as of 31<sup>st</sup> December the previous year.

The 2 highest-finishing pairs overall in the selection trial will be offered the subsidy. As well, the 2 highest finishing pairs under 100 masterpoints will also be offered a subsidy.

If the highest qualifying pair is unable to represent the Zone at the Barrier Congress, their place will be offered to the next highest placed restricted pair (similarly for the pairs in the under 100 masterpoints category) until the 4 representative pairs are selected. Substitutions are only allowed in cases of emergency.

*In the years when the Barrier Reef Congress is not conducted in the Northern Zone, the Zonal Restricted Pairs will be used to select 4 pairs to whom a subsidy will be offered to play in a specified Congress conducted by a club within the Northern Zone. In 2024 it will be the Diggers Congress.*

The hosting of events to select members to represent the Northern Zone at the Queensland Festival of Bridge and the Barrier Reef Congress is shared between the 3 clubs in the Zone. The host of these events is reviewed each year.

The Zonal Teams Selection will be held as near as possible to the 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in February, the Zonal Pairs Selection will be held as near as possible to the 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in June, and the Zonal Restricted Pairs will be held as near as possible to the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in February.

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 Zonal selection event/s are used to augment the zonal fund from which the subsidies are paid.

Masterpoints awarded (Red) for Zonal Selection are paid for by the Zone.

**Residential Qualifications – Zonal Selection Events**

Entry into events to select players to represent the Northern Zone is unrestricted however subsidies are given only to the following:

1. A bona fide Zonal resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the event, of a club affiliated with the Zone.
2. 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 predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the Zone for at least 6 months after the event.