

Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)

Tasmanian Regulations 2026

The GNOT Event Structure:

The tournament consists of:

Phase 1

- Club qualifying events
- Regional finals: 23 August

Phase 2

- Online Knockout event: 18 – 20 September

Phase 3

- National finals: 27-29 November, Brisbane
- GNOT Plate: 28- 29 November Brisbane

Tasmania has two regions: Southern Tasmania and Northern Tasmania, plus a third scheduled team to be known as “Tasmania – Online Team”.

One team from each of these regions and the Online team shall be eligible to contend the On-Line Knockout event.

Coordinators are to be appointed to be responsible for the conduct of each regional final. The organisation of the “Tasmania Online Team” will be the responsibility of Hugh Grosvenor, Sue Falkingham, Fran Healy and Margaret Gibbs. See page 2 for details of the selection of the online team.

Southern Region Co-Ordinator: Fran Healy

Northern Region Co-Ordinator: Roger Swain

Tasmanian Online: Fran Healy

Tasmanian Co-Ordinator: Fran Healy

Clubs' Qualifying Events

Teams may consist of 4, 5 or 6 players.

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.

Clubs will need to attract a minimum entry of three teams or six pairs.

Individual clubs are responsible for the format and conduct of their qualifying round including covering all running costs. Every Club is entitled to stage a Club selection to choose teams for their Regional Final. Clubs must conduct the qualifying round in any IMP format. A Swiss event is recommended when it is considered it would attract increased participation.

Clubs can run up to two events each, and they need to consist of at least two sessions.

A qualifying event may be held on different days. For example, 2+ Mondays or 2+ Fridays, being normal club times.

Club selections must be at least 2 sessions' duration. Club events shall be decided on VPs or totalimps.

Each Club which stages a qualifying event will automatically be entitled to at least two teams in their Regional Final.

Players in the Club qualifying event are not obliged to continue to the regional stage, although this is strongly encouraged.

Each Club is to nominate a coordinator. This may well be the Club's tournament director for the event, but that is not essential. The Club coordinator will be primarily responsible for liaison with their Regional Convener.

Clubs must complete the required qualifying matches at least two weeks before the Regional Final.

The 2026 Tasmanian GNOT Online team

- Tasmania has been granted a third qualification spot for the 64 team online knockout stage and we have decided to select this team using an online competition.
- The event will be a Teams event.
- There will be teams of four, five, or six.
- All clubs will receive information regarding the sessions.
- The Event will consist of three online sessions.
- The Event will be equivalent to a Regional Final and the winners will move through to the 64 Team Knockout Event.
- Anyone who is a member of a Tasmanian bridge club is eligible to enter.
- The sessions will be run on the following dates:
 - Sunday 26 July 2026 at 7 pm
 - Sunday 2 August 2026 at 7 pm
 - Sunday 9 August 2026 at 7 pm
- Players who play in the Tasmanian Online Teams event can also participate in club qualifying events and Regional Finals. The winner of the online event will qualify for the 64 Team Knockout event as the Tasmanian Online Team. Players in that team can play in a regional final but the team that they play in will be ineligible to win.

Regional Finals

Each Regional Final is to be a teams competition comprising matches of at least five boards scored by IMPS converted to VPs using the relevant VP scale for head-to-head matches. They are scheduled for 23 August 2026.

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.

Note: A full day is defined as two sessions

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.

Substitutions

Regulations relating to substitution and augmentation in Club Selections and Regional Finals are the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator.

Because of the extended nature of the event there needs to be some flexibility in the eligibility of players to advance to the next level. Substitutes are permitted with due cause. To be eligible to advance to the 64 team Knockout event National Final, each team member must have played in at least one session of a Club or Regional qualifying round. Substitutes should in the first instance be sourced from the Region seeking replacement or replacements. Teams advancing to a Regional Final may augment their team by a player who is unable to play in the Club qualifying for valid reason.

Systems

No yellow systems will be permitted before the 64 team Knockout event. National Final Brown Sticker Conventions will be permitted without restriction at all stages of the GNOT, although clubs may choose to allow Protected Pair status to apply during club based qualifying heats with both players below National Master in such heats. No Protection will be available in Regional Finals. Opponents are entitled to have defensive bidding notes at the table for Brown Sticker Conventions.

Masterpoints

Masterpoints are awarded at the rate of .04 per board of winning matches. Rising to .06 per board if a Regional Final has 10 teams and is conducted over at least 60 boards.

Tie Breaking

In case of a tie:

The total VP score of all the opponents of each tied team shall be determined. Teams are ranked so that the team whose opponents have the highest total shall be placed first. If still unresolved then by total imps and then head-to-head IMPs then by lot.

Finance

Club heats: Clubs will be responsible for their own costs for running the club qualifying heats. The fee being charged by the ABF (\$14 per team) will be covered by the State Bridge account.

Regional Finals: Entry fees will be \$120 per team. These fees are payable to the State Bridge account. Clubs must pay this fee in full. The State Bridge account will pay for operational costs of running the Regional Finals including providing a Director for both Regional Finals. Consumables such as catering must be covered by the Region.

Travel subsidy: Participants in the face-to-face finals will receive a travel subsidy, the amount of which will be determined by the ABF, based on where they are travelling from.

General Information

- A player can play in two teams to try and qualify in the same or a different club but if a player qualifies with two teams, it's up to them to pick one and smooth things over with their teammates.
- Anyone who's a paid-up member of the club has to be allowed to play, even if it's not their home club or they don't play there regularly. Clubs can allow non-members to play at their discretion.
- Potentially, players could qualify in two regions although each Region should have regulations in place that say who is allowed to play, and players would need to keep within each Region's relevant regulations.
- Clubs are responsible for how they select the pairs to move to the Regional Finals provided they have actually held a qualifying event (or get special dispensation), but apart from that, it's up to them. The qualifying must be at least two sessions and IMP/VP teams or Butler/Swiss Pairs.