

# 2026 NEW ZEALAND BRIDGE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

### 1 General

- 1.1 The New Zealand Regional Championships (NZBRC) are conducted by New Zealand Bridge (NZB).
- 1.2 The NZBRC will comprise two stages:
  - i) Qualifying – held online on RealBridge from May 1-3.
  - ii) National Final – held in person at the Palmy Conference and Function Centre, 354 Main St, Palmerston North, on Friday, November 6.
- 1.3 These Regulations are supplementary to The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 and the NZB Tournament Regulations. In the case of any inconsistencies, these Supplementary Regulations will take precedence. During the course of the event, and within the limits contained in the Tournament Regulations, the Director in Charge and/or the Match Committee in consultation with the Director in Charge may make additions and/or alterations to these Supplementary Regulations if it considers it in the best interests of the event to do so.
- 1.4 The schedule of play for both stages is contained in the Appendices.
- 1.5 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the NZB Tournament Regulations, thereafter to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017, and finally to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the DIC shall be final and conclusive.

### 2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser (TO) is Bridget Hannaway.
- 2.2 The Director in Charge (DIC) is Matthew McManus.
- 2.3 The Chair of the Appeals Committee is TBA.
- 2.4 The Match Committee shall consist of the TO, the DIC and a player representative TBA.
- 2.5 The Recorder is TBA.

### 3 Eligibility and Substitutes

- 3.1 Each region is entitled to enter one team in each division: Open, Women's, Seniors' and Intermediate.
- 3.2 For the Qualifying Stage, teams shall comprise either four or six players who have qualified via their regional selection process.
- 3.3 For the National Final, teams shall comprise four players, all of whom must have played at least 72 boards in the Qualifying Stage.
- 3.4 Each region will appoint a Chef de Mission (CdM), whose role is to oversee the participation of its representative teams.
- 3.5 Substitutions can be made only for health or any other legitimate reasons accepted by the DIC, whose decision shall be final.

- 3.6 The CdM may play as a substitute if eligible.
- 3.7 If required for the smooth operation of the event, the DIC is authorised to make an emergency substitution that does not conform to the conditions of the event. The emergency substitute will play under conditions determined by the DIC, but in any case, only pending the arrival of a suitable substitute player. The decision of the DIC shall be final.

#### **4 Systems and Defences**

- 4.1 The NZB System Policy will be in force, except that Yellow systems will not be permitted in the Qualifying Stage.
- 4.2 All pairs, regardless of their system classification and the division in which they are playing, must prepare a fully completed NZB system card. E-copies are available at [www.nzbridge.co.nz](http://www.nzbridge.co.nz). Alternatively, a blank NZB system card may be filled in using neat, legible, handwriting and scanned as a pdf file.
- 4.3 The following naming convention should be used for the pdf files:  
province\_division\_surnames  
For example: Wellington\_Intermediate\_Smith-Jones.pdf
- 4.4 System cards for the Qualifying Stage should be collated by each CdM and a full set for each team should be sent as one e-mail to the Major Events Manager of NZ Bridge ([bridget@nzbridge.co.nz](mailto:bridget@nzbridge.co.nz)) no later than 4.00pm on Friday, April 17, 2026. They will then be made available on the NZB Website.
- 4.5 If any pairs in teams that qualify to the National Final wish to alter their previously submitted system card, the updated card must be emailed as per 4.4 no later than 4.00pm on Friday, October 23, 2026.
- 4.6 Failure to comply with the system disclosure requirements will result in a procedural penalty of 1 VP for each pair that has not complied. In addition, the pair will be permitted to play only Green systems for the first round robin in the Qualifying Stage.
- 4.7 Minor changes may be made to the disclosed systems only with the prior approval of the DIC (in their sole discretion) and then only if a corrected system card has been given to all the opponents via the respective CdM, at the CdM meeting or with at least one match prior notice.
- 4.8 A pair may prepare written defences against any Yellow systems and the Brown Sticker elements of any system. These should be given to the opposing CdM at the meeting prior to the start of the event. The written defences may be consulted by either pair at any time during the auction or play period.
- 4.9 All pairs are required to arrive at the table with two fully completed NZB system cards. If supplementary pages are necessary, they must be typewritten.

#### **5 Procedural and Disciplinary Penalties**

- 5.1 Penalties for late arrival and/or slow play are listed in the Appendices.
- 5.2 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking, mobile phones, etc. or consumption of alcohol is 3 VPs. The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulation 11.3 relating to mobile phones, etc. is applied after one warning per team.

## **6 Correction Period, Time of Appeal and Appeals**

- 6.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for each session expires at the conclusion of the subsequent session. For the last session, the Correction Period expires 10 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection for Round 14 (Qualifying Stage) or Stanza 4 (National Final).
- 6.2 The time for lodging an appeal against a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the session in which the ruling was made, or 30 minutes after the parties are advised of the Director's Ruling when the ruling is made after the session. In the case of rulings made in Stanzas 3 or 4 of the National Final, the corresponding periods shall be reduced to 10 minutes.
- 6.3 Notice of the appeal must be made by the CdM to the DIC within the time limits specified in 6.2. Unless otherwise instructed by the DIC, a full statement in writing must be completed by both sides.
- 6.4 For the purposes of this section, sessions in the Qualifying Stage will be defined as follows:

Session	Rounds
1	1-2
2	3-4
3	5-8
4	9-10
5	11-14

- 6.5 For the purposes of this section, the National Final will be considered to consist of two sessions, each comprising two stanzas.
- 6.6 The Chair of the Appeals Committee will appoint at least two, but no more than four, independent members to sit on the Committee, depending on availability and the timing of the appeal.
- 6.7 Appeals will be heard in accordance with the NZB Appeals Regulations.
- 6.8 If an appeal is unsuccessful and the Appeals Committee deems it to be without significant merit, a penalty of 3 VPs (or 9 IMPs) shall be applied.

## **7 Fouled Boards**

- 7.1 The result of a fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the result of the match is known or any of the players has left the table at the conclusion of that round. In these cases where a single board is cancelled, a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.
- 7.2 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.
- 7.3 For boards on which a result is unable to be obtained and the Director awards an artificial adjusted score of average plus, the provisions of 7.1 to 7.2 will apply.
- 7.4 Where due to the fouling of multiple boards, direct comparisons are available on less than one-half the boards in the match, the match will be scored in accordance with NZB TR, treating both units as non-offenders.

## 8 Format - Qualifying Stage

8.1 Each event will comprise a double round robin of 12 board matches.

8.2 Team numbers:

No.	Team	No.	Team
1	Otago/Southland	5	Canterbury
2	Waikato Bays	6	Auckland/Northland
3	Wellington	7	Central Districts
4	Top of the South		

8.3 Teams will retain their team number throughout the event. The draw for round robin 2 will be based on the draw for round robin 1 adjusted to reflect the team's placing after Round 7. That is, the leading team will have the draw for number 1, second for number 2 etc. Once team numbers are set, they will not be altered by subsequent results of outstanding appeals, score corrections or adjustments.

8.3.1 The Draw is as follows:

Rounds	Bye			
1 & 8	5 v 2	6 v 3	7 v 4	1
2 & 9	1 v 7	3 v 5	4 v 6	2
3 & 10	6 v 1	7 v 2	5 v 4	3
4 & 11	1 v 5	2 v 6	3 v 7	4
5 & 12	4 v 1	3 v 2	7 v 6	5
6 & 13	1 v 3	2 v 4	5 v 7	6
7 & 14	2 v 1	4 v 3	6 v 5	7

8.3.2 Except as provided for in **Error! Reference source not found.**, in the first round robin the second numbered team in the draw will sit first and the first numbered team will have choice of opponents. In the second round robin the team that sat first against its opponent in the first round robin match sits last against that team.

8.4 If a team numbered 5, 6 or 7 finishes in first position after the first round robin, the draw for round robin 2 will be altered as follows:

- i) the round in which the highest-placed team from teams numbered 1 to 4 has a bye will be played as Round 8;
- ii) the order of all other rounds will remain unchanged.

8.5 Scoring for each match in the round robins is net IMPs converted to VPs using the WBF continuous 12 board VP scale.

8.6 10 VPs and 0 IMPs are awarded for a bye.

8.7 After a forfeit, the non-offenders receive 13 VPs, adjusted at the conclusion of each round robin to the highest of 13 VPs, the team's average VP score for completed other rounds, and the complement of the offender's average VP score for completed other rounds. The offenders score 0 VPs. IMPs scores are determined based as near as possible on the WBF VP scale.

8.8 The time allotted for each match of 12 boards is 84 minutes, or any other such time as determined by the DIC.



## **9 Format – National Final**

- 9.1 The two highest placed teams in each division will qualify to the National Final.
- 9.2 The National Final will comprise a head-to-head match of 56 boards played in four 14-board stanzas.
- 9.3 The team placed first in each division will choose whether to sit first in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas in the Final. However, if one team contains a pair playing a Yellow system, then that team will sit first in all stanzas.
- 9.4 There will be a carry-over in IMPs equivalent to one-half of the difference in the teams' Victory Point scores at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage, to a maximum of 14.
- 9.5 The time allotted for each stanza of 14 boards is 98 minutes, or any other such time as determined by the DIC.

## **10 Playing conditions – Qualifying Stage**

- 10.1 The Qualifying Stage will be played online using the RealBridge platform, using “normal” (non-screens) mode.
- 10.2 Players alert their partner's calls and provide explanations on request.
- 10.3 NZB Alerting Regulations will apply.
- 10.4 NZB Regulations for Online Tournaments will apply.
- 10.5 A player may not consult their own convention card while a hand is in play.
- 10.6 A player may not make written notes during the bidding or play.
- 10.7 It is a requirement that all players on RealBridge have working video and audio connections. Players may only turn off their camera with the permission of the Director. Artificially-generated backgrounds may not be used.
- 10.8 Other than the device on which the player is using RealBridge, no other communication or electronic device may be used or referred to during play.

## **11 Playing conditions – National Final**

- 11.1 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Director in Charge (DIC) or Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.
- 11.2 Smoking is not permitted in any area so designated by the venue. Players are not permitted to leave the table for the purposes of smoking at any stage during a match. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (5.2).
- 11.3 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic equipment must be switched off during session time unless a specific exception is permitted by the DIC. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (5.2).

- 11.4 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic communication equipment must be placed on side tables during the match and must remain there if the player leaves the table for any reason during the session. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (5.2) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the DIC will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.
- 11.5 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room prior to the conclusion of the final match. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (5.2).

## 12 Ties

- 12.1 Ties are broken after the first round robin by: number of wins in VPs (10 VPs = ½ win), then net IMPs, then result of the head-to-head match, then lot.
- 12.2 Ties are broken after the second round robin by: number of wins in VPs (10 VPs = ½ win), then net IMPs, then combined result of the head-to-head match in IMPs, then lot.
- 12.3 Ties in the National Final are broken by: removal of carry-over, then placing in the Qualifying Stage after the application of 12.2.

## 13 Spectators

- 13.1 Spectators in the National Final are allowed in the playing room but must adhere to the following requirements:
- (a) They shall watch only one hand at a time;
  - (b) They shall not converse with players or amongst themselves during the bidding or play of any hand;
  - (c) They may not disturb the players in any manner;
  - (d) They must abide by Law 76 of The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017;
  - (e) They may watch one table only and, having left the playing room, may not re-enter except with the approval of the Director;
  - (f) They may not bring alcohol into the playing area;
  - (g) They may not utilise a mobile phone or any other communication device except with the express permission of the Director;
  - (h) Team members may not watch their own team.

## 14 Dougal McLean Trophy

- 14.1 The trophy is awarded to the Region with the highest aggregate for Open, Women's, Seniors' and Intermediate teams based on the following table:

Placing	Points	Placing	Points
1	13	5	4
2	10	6	2
3	8	7	0
4	6		

- 14.2 First and second placing awards will be determined at the conclusion of the National Final.
- 14.3 For tied places, the average of the points will be awarded.

## APPENDICES

### Penalties for Late Arrival, Slow Play, Failure to enter or check scores

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 mins	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 mins	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 mins	5 VPs (15 IMPs)

When boards are cancelled by the Director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied at the Director's discretion:

One board	1 VPs (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	2 VPs (6 IMPs)

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the DIC may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

Should the players leave the table, when they have failed to enter one or more scores into the scoring unit or when an incorrect score has been entered and agreed, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

First offence	warning
Subsequent offences	1 VP (3 IMPs) per occasion

### Calculation of Multiple average plus awards during a session or match

Where the Laws require the Director to award an artificial adjusted score of average plus on more than one board in a session or match (as in the case of fouled or otherwise unplayable boards), the score awarded per board shall be an IMP score of  $3\sqrt{N}/N$ , where N is the number of unplayable boards. The net IMPs in a match assigned due to the formula will be rounded to the nearest IMP (0.5 IMPs rounded up).

Where comparisons are available on fewer than one half the number of boards scheduled to be played in a match, the match will be scored as a forfeit in accordance with 8.7.

The following table lists the net IMPs to be assigned to units in the case of multiple average plus boards.

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs assigned (Teams)
1	3
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	0
7	1

## Timetable – Qualifying Stage

Chef de Mission meeting – online – 5.30pm, Friday, May 1

Friday, May 1			Saturday, May 2			Sunday, May 3		
Round	Start	End	Round	Start	End	Round	Start	End
1	7:00	8:24	3	9:00	10:24	9	9:00	10:24
2	8:30	9:54	4	10:30	11:54	10	10:30	11:54
			Lunch			Lunch		
			5	12:30	1:54	11	12:30	1:54
			6	2:00	3:24	12	2:00	3:24
			7	3:30	4:54	13	3:30	4:54
			Break					
			8	5:30	6:54	14	5:00	6:24

## Timetable – National Final

Chef de Mission meeting – 9.00am, Friday, November 6

Friday, November 6		
Stanza	Start	End
1	9:30	11:08
2	11:30	1:08
Lunch		
3	2:00	3:38
4	4:00	5:38