



2026 Regional Championships

Qualifying Stage – Online RealBridge

May 1-3

**Final - Palmy Conference and Function
Centre, Palmerstone North**

November 6

**Compendium for
Chefs de Mission**

Table of Contents

Officials, Chefs de Mission and Team Members.....	3
Significant Extracts from the Supplementary Regulations and other information.....	6
Supplementary Regulations	7
Role and Duties of the Chef de Mission	15
WBF Victory Point scale for 12 board matches	17
Masterpoint Allocation.....	17
Dougal McLean Trophy	18
Team numbers and Draw	18
Systems for Intermediate Division.....	19
Representing Your Region.....	22
Evaluation Form – 2025 Regional Championship.....	23
Personal Notes.....	24

Officials, Chefs de Mission and Team Members

Officials

Director in Charge
Recorder

Matt McManus
Glenis Palmer

Chefs de Mission

Auckland-Northland
Waikato-Bays
Central Districts
Wellington
Top of the South
Canterbury
Otago-Southland

Douglas Russell
Hugh McAlister
Pam Livingston
John Donbavand
Chris Marshall
Jane Lennon & David Taylor
Brad Johnston

Teams

Auckland-Northland

Open

Steve Boughey – William Liu
Lysandra Zheng – Tim Pan

Women

Cheryl Winsor – Jane Stearns
Carol Richardson – Kinga Hajmasi

Seniors

Patrick Carter – Julie Atkinson
Jonathan Westoby – Grant Jarvis

Intermediate

Suzy Hails – Jacinda Manconi
Heather Robertson – Dennis Watkinson

Chef de Mission

Douglas Russell

Waikato-Bays

Open

Barry Jones – Jenny Millington
Liz Fisher – Blair Fisher

Women

Jenna Gibbons – Christine Gibbons
Kate Terry – Judy Pawson

Seniors

Yuzhong Chen – Gary Foidl
Di McAlister – Hugh McAlister

Intermediate

Catherine Cameron – Helen Rinaldi
Judith Howard – Nick Saunders

Chef de Mission

Hugh McAlister

Central Districts

Open

George Masters – Wayne Burrows
Russell Wilson – Bob Hurley

Seniors

Noel Woodhall – Carolyn Yeomans
Mairi Fitzsimons – Frank Nieuwland
Barb Robertson – John Seator

Chef de Mission

Pam Livingston

Wellington

Open

Martin Reid – Peter Newell
Anthony Ker – Alan Grant

Seniors

Tani Blackburn – Vil Gravis
Derek Snelling – Nebojsa Djurovic
Graham Stronach – Bill Gardner

Chef de Mission

John Donbavand

Top of the South

Open

John Patterson – Kate Davies
Jana Bott – Kathryn Brookes

Seniors

Ray Curnow – Phil Rutheford
Jane Jordan – Trish Clearwater

Chef de Mission

Chris Marshall

Women

Sarah Green – Justine Hart
Liz Burrows – Morgan Booker

Intermediate

Murray Carter – Sheree Robbertsen
Ryan Cliff – Victoria Liddicoat

Women

Ruth Bruckner – Christine Chowchuvech
Helen Climo – Ellie Molloy
Helen Fitzgerald – Bridget Hannaway

Intermediate

Vicki Boffa – Rachel Patrick
Martyn Rew – Andrew Cushnie
Eleisha Hawkins – Jeffrey Craanan

Women

Lynda Rigler – Lorraine McArthur
Sita Monahan – Ruth Allison

Intermediate

Aedan Gunn – Stan Naylor
Michelle Gunn – Sue Glue

Canterbury

Open

Jane Lennon – David Taylor
Phil Lennon – John Kruiniger

Seniors

Max Robb – Bill Mecchia
Dorothy Bain – Mary Buckland

Chefs de Mission

Jane Lennon & David Taylor

Otago-Southland

Open

Brad Johnston – Sam Coutts
Glenn Coutts – Graeme Stout

Seniors

Anne Somerville – Murat Genc
Pamela Nisbet – Moss Wylie

Chef de Mission

Brad Johnston

Women

Shirley Newton – Margaret Burgess
Pam Tibble – Sue Southen

Intermediate

Bridget O'Brien – Tina Sims
Leo Hammond – Kat Holmes

Women

Kristen Collins – Donna Ruwhiu
Lydia Turley – Barbara Hutton
Jo Simpson – Arleen Schwartz

Intermediate

Neil Marshall – Marc Simmonds
Brian McCandless – Brian Vass

Significant Extracts from the Supplementary Regulations and other information

Eligibility to compete in the Finals

In order to play in a Final, all players must have played at least 72 boards in the Qualifying Stage.

Seating rights in Qualifying Stage matches

The first numbered-team has seating rights in matches in the Qualifying Stage. In order to facilitate this, if you are the CdM of the second-numbered team, please ensure that your players are seated in the direction they intend to play at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the round. After this time, players in the team without seating rights may not change position except with the permission of the Director.

Playing conditions in face-to-face National Final

Phones, etc

If players bring their phone or other communication device (including smart watches) into the playing area, they must be switched off. In addition, before the start of the match, players must place their device on the side table where it must remain until the conclusion of the match. Players in breach of this regulation are liable to penalty unless specific permission has been granted in advance by the Director for exceptional circumstances.

Smoking

Players may not leave the table to smoke during the match.

Alcohol

Alcohol is not permitted in the playing area until after all tables have completed the final match of the day.

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 Michael Ware.
- 2.4 The Match Committee shall consist of the TO, the DIC and a player representative Peter Newell.
- 2.5 The Recorder is Glenis Palmer.

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

8.5 10 VPs and 0 IMPs are awarded for a bye.

8.6 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.

8.7 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 Until the completion of each round, no player may have any other browser or web page open other than the RealBridge screen on which their event is being held.
- 10.8 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.
- 10.9 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 8.6.

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			14	5:00	6:24
			8	5:30	6:54			

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

Role and Duties of the Chef de Mission

Each Region shall appoint a Chef de Mission to oversee the participation of its representative teams in the 2026 Regional Championship qualifying stage to be held online Friday 1 May to Sunday 3 May. The Final stage to be held at the Palmerston North Function and Convention Centre (the venue) on Friday 6 November 2026. The following are the particular duties to be associated with that role.

1. **Travel and Accommodation Arrangements for the Teams.** The Chef de Mission should ensure that all players have booked flights or made suitable other travel arrangements to be at the venue in time for the 9.30am start on Friday 6 November 2026.

Congress Discount

Travel and accommodation are not subsidised by NZ Bridge, and the Chef de Mission should check with the Regional Committee regarding possible grant funding or subsidies. NZ Bridge will discount any players (competing in the final stage) their entry fee to National Congress (for those playing the full week) by 20%. Please apply for discount to bridget@nzbridge.co.nz

2. **Completion of System Cards.** The Chef de Mission should ensure that each pair has completed an NZ Bridge system card. If any pair having qualified to the Final wishes to change the system card submitted prior to the Qualifying Stage, the updated card must be emailed to the Major Events Manager of NZ Bridge (bridget@nzbridge.co.nz) by 4.00pm on Friday 23 October 2026. Instructions regarding systems cards are included in the 2026 Regional Championship Supplementary Regulations.

3. **Team Preparation.** The Chef de Mission should liaise with each team captain over the practice and preparation that each team will have prior to the event and should ensure the adequacy of such preparation.

4. **Supplementary Regulations** The Chef de Mission should be familiar with the Supplementary Regulations of the event.

5. **Entry Fee.** No entry fee is applicable for 2026.

6. **Meeting of Chefs de Mission.** The Chef de Mission must attend this meeting, which will be held online at 5.30pm on Friday 1 May 2026 and for the final stage 9.00am on Friday 6 November 2026 at the venue.

7. **Team Line-ups.** The Chef de Mission is responsible for ensuring that line-up regulations are followed, even though team captains may perform this function. The Chef de Mission is responsible for ensuring that all teams are present and ready to play before each session and that, when seating rights are available, they are properly exercised. When the Region has a bye, or when a team in any category has a bye, the Chef de Mission of that respective Region should ensure that these players do not interfere with the smooth running of the event.

8. **Score Confirmation.** The Chef de Mission should ensure that the match scores advised are those arrived at by the Region's teams and should ensure that differences are investigated and agreed.

9. **Appeals.** The Chef de Mission should be consulted by a team captain prior to the lodgement of any appeal that they wish to make and is expected to be present at the Appeal.
10. **Team Morale and Behaviour.** The Chef de Mission will ensure that all players follow the guidelines set out in the (International) Code of Conduct regulations numbers 3 and 4 as listed under International on the NZ Bridge website. The Chef de Mission will ensure that any breaches of these guidelines are handled in the appropriate manner.
11. **Act as a Substitute.** As teams consist of four players, the Chef de Mission will play, if eligible to play in that team, as a substitute if a player in a team cannot play for health or any other legitimate reason. If the Chef de Mission is ineligible, or more than one substitute is required, the Chef de Mission should attempt to ensure that a suitable local player is obtained.
12. **Report to Regional Committee.** Although Regions may require each team captain to furnish a report, it is expected that the Chef de Mission will provide an overall report of the performance of the Region's teams at the event.
13. **Evaluation Form.** At the end of the Championship event, the Chef de Mission should fill in the Evaluation Form and should encourage the players to do the same.

NZ Bridge especially wants to know about any suggestions that would improve the Championship profile and the actual Championship event.

WBF Victory Point scale for 12 board matches

Margin	Win	Loss
0	10	10
1	10.36	9.64
2	10.71	9.29
3	11.05	8.95
4	11.38	8.62
5	11.7	8.3
6	12.01	7.99
7	12.31	7.69
8	12.61	7.39
9	12.9	7.1
10	13.18	6.82
11	13.45	6.55
12	13.71	6.29
13	13.97	6.03
14	14.22	5.78
15	14.46	5.54
16	14.7	5.3
17	14.93	5.07

Margin	Win	Loss
18	15.15	4.85
19	15.37	4.63
20	15.58	4.42
21	15.79	4.21
22	15.99	4.01
23	16.18	3.82
24	16.37	3.63
25	16.55	3.45
26	16.73	3.27
27	16.91	3.09
28	17.08	2.92
29	17.24	2.76
30	17.40	2.60
31	17.56	2.44
32	17.71	2.29
33	17.86	2.14
34	18.00	2.00
35	18.14	1.86

Margin	Win	Loss
36	18.28	1.72
37	18.41	1.59
38	18.54	1.46
39	18.66	1.34
40	18.78	1.22
41	18.90	1.10
42	19.02	0.98
43	19.13	0.87
44	19.24	0.76
45	19.34	0.66
46	19.44	0.56
47	19.54	0.46
48	19.64	0.36
49	19.74	0.26
50	19.83	0.17
51	19.92	0.08
52 +	20.00	0.00

Masterpoint Allocation

Place	Open	Women/Seniors	Intermediate
1 st	15A	10A	5A
2 nd	8A	5A	3A
3 rd	4A	3A	1A

Dougal McLean Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the Region with the highest aggregate points for Open, Women, Seniors and Intermediate teams based on the following table

Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	13	5 th	4
2 nd	10	6 th	2
3 rd	8	7 th	0
4 th	6		

For tied places, the average of the points for the placings will be awarded.

Team numbers and Draw

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		

First named team has seating rights

Round	Bye			
1	5 v 2	6 v 3	7 v 4	1
2	1 v 7	3 v 5	4 v 6	2
3	6 v 1	7 v 2	5 v 4	3
4	1 v 5	2 v 6	3 v 7	4
5	4 v 1	3 v 2	7 v 6	5
6	1 v 3	2 v 4	5 v 7	6
7	2 v 1	4 v 3	6 v 5	7
<i>The draw for Round-Robin 2 is based on the placings after Round 7</i>				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

Systems for Intermediate Division

The following short summary has been prepared to assist Junior and Intermediate grade players with regard to the basic requirements and treatments approved to be incorporated within systems proposed to be played at tournaments approved by NZ Bridge to be restricted to such players. For more extended detail, refer to the NZ Bridge Systems Policy (pages D41– D48 of the 2020 NZ Bridge Manual).

Opening Bids

Call	Treatment allowed at Intermediate and Junior levels	Allowed at Intermediate but not Junior
1♣	Minimum suit length ¹ , 2 cards; opening strength ²	
	Simple Precision, with no relay or artificial responses other than the negative 1♦ response	Precision style (strong ³ ; forcing; any distribution); may include relay or artificial responses
1♦	Minimum suit length, 3 cards; opening strength Precision style (opening strength; any distribution)	
1♥ 1♠	Minimum suit length, 4 cards; opening strength	
1NT	Balanced; lower limit, at least 11 HCP	
2♣	Very strong ⁴ ; forcing; any distribution	Multi-style; weak ⁵ with 6-card major; with or without strong option(s)
	Opening strength; minimum suit length, 5 cards (Precision style)	
2♦	Very strong; forcing; any distribution	Multi-style; weak with 6-card major; with or without strong option(s)
	Opening strength; minimum suit length, 5 cards	Precision style (opening strength; 3-suited with shortage in diamonds)
	Weak; minimum suit length, 6 cards	
2♥ 2♠	Strong; minimum suit length, 4 cards	Weak with 5+ cards in suit and 4+ cards in another suit (which may be unspecified)
	Weak; minimum suit length, 6 cards	
2NT	Balanced; lower limit, at least 18 HCP	Weak with length in minor suit(s)
3NT	Very strong or "gambling" (with long minor suit)	
Suit bid, 3+ level	May be weak; minimum suit length, 6 cards	May specify a suit that is different from the suit named in the bid (i.e. a transfer bid)

Notes

"Precision" may also include any convention / treatment that is allowed to be played at this level with a natural system.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the suit to which the "minimum length" applies must be the suit named in the bid.

For the purposes of these tables, the following definitions of strength apply:

- ² "Opening strength": At least 11 high-card points (HCP) or equivalent with allowance for distribution (for which the guideline is: *add one point for every card after the eighth in the two longest suits*).
- ³ "Strong": at least 15 HCP or equivalent
- ⁴ "Very strong": at least 19 HCP or equivalent
- ⁵ "Weak": less than opening strength

Responses to Opening Bids

Treatment allowed at Intermediate and Junior levels	Allowed at Intermediate but not Junior
Any artificial negative response to forcing opening, including "impossible" 1♦ response to Precision 1♣	
Artificial forcing responses promising trump support (e.g. 2NT, splinter bids)	
Stayman or Baron responses to NT bids, including modified forms	
Transfer or range-finder responses to NT bids	
2NT enquiry response to weak 2-suit opening	Enquiry response to Multi 2-suit opening
2♦ enquiry response to Precision 2♣ opening	Enquiry response to Precision 2♦ (with diamond shortage) opening

Calls over Opponents' Natural 1-Suit Opening

Treatment allowed at Intermediate and Junior levels	Allowed at Intermediate but not Junior
Any suit bid that promises 4+ cards in the suit	
Cue bid showing a very strong hand	
Bid (including a cue bid) showing 2 suits (5+/5+), at least one specified; must be either "weak only" or "strong only"	Artificial bid showing 2 suits, at least one specified; strength may be variable
Jump cue bid asking partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit	

Others

Treatment allowed at Intermediate and Junior levels	Allowed at Intermediate but not Junior
	Any defence to opponents' 1NT opening
	Any defence to opponents' artificial forcing opening
	Any meaning of double in any sequence
	Any ace-asking bids (including RKCB) and responses
	Any treatment for a cue bid made after the first bid by one's own side

Representing Your Region

Successful trialists at the Regional Championship Teams event are selected to represent their Region in the finals.

The cost of running the Regional Championship Teams varies depending on where it is held and either online or face-to-face – but it runs into thousands of dollars and is usually the single biggest spend item in any one year for a Region. Most Regions subsidise their trials to encourage as many trialists as possible to step forward. Successful trialists may have transport and accommodation subsidies provided to take part in the finals.

We need those who represent their Region to appreciate the wider picture in terms of this event and the costs involved and be willing to “give back” to the bridge playing community they represent. They carry the flag for all of the clubs in their Region, and it is the players at those clubs that ultimately foot the bill for the Regional Championships.

How can you “give back” if you are selected to represent your Region?

- Be proud to wear your team colours. Show all the players at the clubs in your Region that have paid for you to take part, that representing them means something to you and is of value to you. Literally, “fly the flag” on their behalf. Players in team uniform are taken seriously as a sporting entity by the media.
- Take part in pre-event warm up interviews. Co-operate in sending photos and allowing stories about what it means to you to represent your Region appear in local press, on the NZB website and the NZB Facebook page as needed. Share with the everyday player what it means to you to represent them.
- Co-operate with photo calls at the event itself – showing players nationwide what it is like to take part in the Regional Championships is an important part of growing the event and encouraging others to take part in the future.
- If Vugraph is being operated – it is a great way to share nationwide your involvement in the event.
- Co-operate with interviews post event if you are in a winning team. Photos and articles to local press are needed to highlight our sport and raise its profile with the general public. Success at the Regional Championships is an ideal opportunity to gain some press coverage.

Being part of your Region’s Championship team means being part of a much larger team.

We need to all work together to raise awareness of our sport and give value to our clubs and players who support us. Thank you for trialling and Good Luck from New Zealand Bridge.

Evaluation Form – 2026 Regional Championship

	Topic	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
Qualifying Stage	Format					
	Timetable					
	Start/Finish Time					
	Directing					
	Scoring					
	System Cards					
	Communication					
	Websites					
Final Stage						
	Venue					
	Timetable					
	Start/Finish Time					
	Directing					
	Scoring					
	Caddies					
	Websites					
	Prizegiving					
	Other comments					
	Name (optional)					

