



NZ BRIDGE NATIONAL CONGRESS

2024 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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1 General

1.1 The NZ BRIDGE NATIONAL CONGRESS comprises twenty-five events:

- New Zealand Pairs (NZP)
- New Zealand Restricted Pairs (RP)
- New Zealand Intermediate Pairs (IP)
- New Zealand Junior Pairs (JP)
- Novice Pairs (NP)
- Congress Pairs (CP)
- Congress Intermediate Swiss Pairs (CISP)
- Congress Junior Swiss Pairs (CJSP)
- Congress Matchpoint Swiss Pairs (CMSP)
- Congress Intermediate Matchpoint Swiss Pairs (CIMSP)
- Congress Junior Matchpoint Swiss Pairs (CJMSP)
- New Zealand Teams (NZT)
- New Zealand Restricted Teams (RT)
- New Zealand Intermediate Teams (IT)
- New Zealand Junior Teams (JT)

New Zealand Open Swiss Pairs (OSP)
New Zealand Senior Swiss Pairs (SSP)
New Zealand Restricted Swiss Pairs (RSP)
New Zealand Intermediate Swiss Pairs (ISP)
New Zealand Junior Swiss Pairs (JSP)
Congress Open Teams (COT)
Congress Senior Teams (CST)
Congress Restricted Teams (CRT)
Congress Intermediate Teams (CIT)
Congress Junior Teams (CJT)

- 1.2 These events are conducted by New Zealand Bridge (NZB).
- 1.3 National Congress will be held under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017. The Tournament Regulations in the NZB Manual (NZB TR) will apply as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of any inconsistencies these Supplementary Regulations will take precedence.
- 1.4 National Congress will be held at BayPark Arena, Mount Manganui.
- 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 CD shall be final and conclusive.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser (TO) is the Congress Organising Committee, chaired by Bridget Hannaway.
- 2.2 The Chief Director (CD) is Murray Wiggins.
- 2.3 The Appeals Committee Convener is Michael Ware.
- 2.4 The Appeals Advisors are Douglas Russell, Barry Jones, Russell Wilson, Brian Cleaver, Brad Johnstone Jim Wallis. Gary Chen is available for Mandarin speaking players.
- 2.5 The Recorder is Dean Sole.

3 Eligibility, Augmentation and Substitutions

- 3.1 At the time of commencement of an event, each New Zealand resident entrant must be a financial member of a Bridge club affiliated to NZB. Overseas players become honorary members of the Overseas Players Club.
- 3.2 To be eligible for the Restricted events, no member of the pair or team may be ranked higher than a National Master as at 1st January 2024.

- 3.3 Entries from members of the Overseas Players Club to the Restricted, Intermediate or Junior events may be rejected at the discretion of the TO.
- 3.4 In the NZT, with the consent of the CD, a team may augment until the commencement of Match 5 to bring the number of team members up to a maximum of 6. A player so added to the team must not have played previously in another team in the same event.
- 3.5 The CD may approve a maximum of one substitution per pair or two substitutions per team in any one event. In addition, the CD may allow emergency substitutions for substantial cause and may impose any conditions in doing so and may take whatever other action is considered necessary to keep the tournament in motion.
- 3.6 The TO may nominate a “house contestant” to compete in any event in order to ensure the smooth running of the tournament. The TO will make every effort to nominate eligible players but is at liberty to nominate others in case of necessity. The conditions under which the “house contestant” competes will be at the discretion of the CD.

4 Systems and Defences

- 4.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems are permitted without restriction.
- 4.2 BROWN STICKER conventions are only permitted in the NZP Semi-finals, Finals & Plate, NZT & RT.
- 4.3 YELLOW systems are allowed in the NZT Round of 16, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final. They are permitted from Match 3 onwards in the Qualifying matches but may not be played against a team in the lower 2/3 of the field (decimals rounded up).

Pairs intending to play a YELLOW system must provide the CD with an adequately completed NZB standard system card and a bona fide defence before midday on Sunday 29th September 2024.

5 Seating

- 5.1 Seating will be shown on the draw. The underlined team is the HOME team and has the right to choose. The other team is the AWAY team and has seating rights.
- 5.2 Teams registering one or more YELLOW systems lose all seating rights in all stanzas against teams not employing a YELLOW system.

6 Correction Period and Time of Appeal

- 6.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for each match during a session expires 15 minutes after the scheduled conclusion of the following match. The Correction Period for the final match of each event expires 30 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection.
- 6.2 Apart from as determined by 6.1, the Correction Period (Law 79C) for each session in Matchpoint Pairs

expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of play on the day they were played.

- 6.3 The Time for lodging an Appeal against a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) for each match expires 30 minutes after the score is made available for inspection or after the Director has made the ruling, whichever is later, unless the next match is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to 30 minutes after the conclusion of play on the day on which the ruling was given.

7 Unplayed Boards

- 7.1 In the case of multiple unplayed boards where the Director awards an artificial adjusted score of average plus, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.
- 7.2 Where unplayed boards result in direct comparisons being available on fewer than one-half of the boards in the match, the match will be scored in accordance with NZ Bridge Manual (D29).

8 Ties

- 8.1 Ties will be broken for qualification to and ranking of the final section of the teams in accordance with procedures outlined in the Bridge Manual (D69)

9 Event formats

NZ Open Pairs

Qualifying

The field will be seeded into fields of equal strength and will play 2 sessions of 26 boards.
The top 26 pairs in each field will progress to the Semi-finals.
The remainder will play in the Congress Pairs

Semi-finals

The semi-finalists will play 2 sessions of 26 boards.
The top 28 pairs will play in the Final.
The remainder will play in the Plate, together with the four highest placed pairs in the Congress Pairs.

Final and Plate

These will be played in 27 x 2 board barometered rounds over 2 sessions.

Carry-over

At each stage, pairs will carry-over 50% of their total score (including any prior carry-over) from the previous stage. In the Plate, the top four pairs qualifying from the Congress Pairs shall have a carry-over equal to the carry-over score of the 6th, 12th, 18th and 24th pair respectively.

Eligibility for Special Prizes in NZ Open and Restricted Pairs

Veterans (70+ as 1st January 2024) - for the highest placed Veteran Pair in NZ Open Pairs

Lionel Wright Trophy - for the highest placed Youth pair (Pairs competing in the NZ Open Pairs take precedence over those in the NZ Restricted Pairs)

NZ Restricted Pairs

This event is open to players who are National Master or lower rank as at 1st January 2024.

Qualifying

The field will be seeded into a NS and EW field and play 3 sessions.

The top 12 pairs in each direction will qualify for the Final.

The remainder in each direction will qualify for the Plate.

All finals sections

Each section will play a Barometered movement of 69 boards over 3 sessions.

Carry-over

In all sections, each pair will have a carry-over of 50% of their score from the Qualifying.

NZ Intermediate Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs with an Intermediate or Junior grading.

The event is run over 2 x 26 boards sessions. Scoring is by matchpoints. The format will depend on the number of entries.

NZ Junior Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs with a Junior grading.

The event is run over 2 x 26 board sessions. Scoring is by matchpoints. The format will depend on the number of entries.

Novice Pairs

This event is open to players who are graded Novice at as the 1st January 2024.

This event is one session of Matchpoint Pairs. The format will depend on the number of entries.

Congress Pairs

This event is run as 2 sessions of 26 boards.

The top 4 pairs will qualify for the NZ Pairs Plate.

Congress Intermediate Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs where both players have an Intermediate or Junior grading.

This event is 6 matches of 8 boards scored as cross-IMPs using the ABF 8 board VP scale for Swiss Pairs. The first round is random and thereafter is a Swiss draw.

Congress Junior Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs where both players have Junior grading but will only be held if there are sufficient entries. Otherwise, it will be combined with the CIP.

The format will be the same as the Congress Intermediate Swiss Pairs.

Congress Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

This is matchpoint scored pairs events played as 6 x 8 board matches using a swiss format. Each pair's average percentage score for the match will be converted to Victory Points, using the VP scale in the Appendices.

Congress Intermediate Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs where both players have an Intermediate or Junior grading.

The format will be the same as the Congress Matchpoint Swiss Pairs.

Congress Junior Matchpoint Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs where both players have Junior grading but will only be held if there are sufficient entries. Otherwise, it will be combined with the CIP.

The format will be the same as the Congress Matchpoint Swiss Pairs.

New Zealand Teams

Qualifying

8 x 14 board matches with a random draw for the first match and Swiss draw for the remaining 7 matches. Each match will be scored using the WBF 14 board scale. The AWAY team sits and the Home team has the choice. The top 16 teams will qualify for the knock-out stages.

Choice of opponents Phase 1: The 16 teams will be ranked according to their finishing position after the Qualifying. Teams 1 to 6 will, in order, choose their opponents for the Round of 16 from the teams ranked 7 to 16 (Matches R1-R6). Of the four remaining teams, the highest ranked will play the lowest ranked (Match R7), with the two middle ranked teams playing each other (Match R8).

Choice of opponents Phase 2: The team ranked 1 chooses their potential Quarter-Finals opponents from among Matches R5 to R8 to form Bracket A. The teams ranked 2 and 3 then successively choose from among the remaining matches to form Brackets B & C. The team ranked 4 will form Bracket D, along with the remaining match.

Round of 16 (R16)

The R16 will consist of 2 x 14 board stanzas. Scoring will be by net IMPs. There will be a carry-over in IMPs based on one-half of the difference in VPs at the end of the qualifying, to a maximum of 7 IMPs. In the event of an exact tie, the higher-ranked team will be declared the winner.

Quarter-finals (QF)

The QF will consist of 3 x 12 board stanza. Scoring will be by net IMPs. There will be a carry-over in IMPs based on one-half of the difference in VPs at the end of the qualifying, to a maximum of 9 IMPs. In the event of an exact tie, the higher-ranked team will be declared the winner.

At the conclusion of the Quarter-Finals, the winner of Bracket A chooses their Semi-Final opponents from among the winners of the other Brackets.

Semi-Finals (SF)

The SF will consist of 3 x 14 board stanza. Scoring will be by net IMPs. There will be a carry-over in IMPs based on one-half of the difference in VPs at the end of the qualifying, to a maximum of 10.25 IMPs. In the event of an exact tie, the higher-ranked team will be declared the winner.

Final

The Final will consist of 5 x 12 board stanzas. Scoring will be by net IMPs. There will be a carry-over in IMPs based on one-half of the difference in VPs at the end of the qualifying, to a maximum of 15 IMPs. In the event of an exact tie, the higher-ranked team will be declared the winner.

Seating rights – unless 5.2 applies:

- * For the Round of 16, the higher-ranked team may elect to have seating rights in either stanza 1 or 2.
- * For other rounds, seating for Stanza 1 will be blind. Both teams must submit their seating to the Chief Director no less than 15 minutes prior to the start of the stanza. Should a team fail to submit in time, the other team will have seating rights. For the other stanzas, the higher-ranked team may choose to have seating rights in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas. The choice is to be made prior to the start of the match.

Eligibility for special category prizes

- Cormack Cup: all team members must be female
- Evennett Trophy: all players must be New Zealanders eligible to represent NZ throughout 2024.
- Cornell Trophy: the team must have fielded mixed pairs in each match throughout the event.
- Best team that has no more than an average of 250 A points.
- Best team that has no more than an average of 175 A points.

Restricted Teams

This event is open to players who are National Master or lower rank as at 1st January 2024.

The event will consist of 8 x 14 board matches with a random draw for the first match and swiss draw for the remaining 7 matches.

Each match will be scored using the WBF 14 board scale.

The AWAY team sits and the Home team has the choice.

NZ Intermediate Teams

This event is restricted to those players with an Intermediate or Junior grading.

The format will be the same as the Restricted Teams.

NZ Junior Teams

This event is restricted to those players with a Junior grading but will only be held if there are sufficient entries. Otherwise, it will be combined with the IT.

The format will be the same as the Restricted Teams.

NZ Open Swiss Pairs

The field will be seeded into 2 equal strength fields and will play 9 matches of 8 boards scored by cross-IMPs using the ABF 8 board VP scale. There will be a NS field and an EW field.

The first round is random and thereafter is a Swiss draw.

NZ Senior Swiss Pairs

This event is 9 matches of 8 boards scored as cross-IMPs using the ABF 8 board VP scale for Swiss Pairs. The first round is random and thereafter is a Swiss draw.

NZ Restricted Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to those players with a rank of National Master or less as at 1st January 2024.

The format will be the same as the NZ Senior Swiss Pairs.

NZ Intermediate Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to those players with an Intermediate or Junior grading.

The format will be the same as the NZ Senior Swiss Pairs.

NZ Junior Swiss Pairs

This event is restricted to pairs with a Junior grading but will only be held if there are sufficient entries. Otherwise, it will be combined with the ISP.

The format will be the same as the NZ Senior Swiss Pairs.

Congress Open Teams

The event will consist of 5 x 12 board matches with a random draw for the first match and swiss draw for the remaining 4 matches.

Each match will be scored using the WBF 12 board scale.

The AWAY team sits and the Home team has the choice.

Congress Senior Teams

The format will be the same as the Congress Open Teams.

Congress Restricted Teams

This event is restricted to those players with a rank of National Master or less as at 1st January 2024.

The format will be the same as the Congress Open Teams.

Congress Intermediate Teams

This event is restricted to those players with an Intermediate or Junior grading.

The format will be the same as the Congress Open Teams.

Congress Junior Teams

This event is restricted to pairs with a Junior grading but will only be held if there are sufficient entries. Otherwise, it will be combined with the ISP.

The format will be the same as the Congress Open Teams.

Appendices

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:

In matches where the number of direct comparisons available being fewer than one half the number of boards, the match will be scored as a forfeit. Forfeited matches are scored as 13 VPs for each side. Further adjustments at the end of the event may be appropriate in accordance with NZS Regulation 9.

The following table lists the IMPs to be assigned for each successive board in the case of multiple average plus boards:

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs assigned (Teams)	IMPs assigned (Pairs)	Percentage assigned (matchpoints)
1	3	2	60.00
2	1	1	54.14
3	1	0	53.18
4	1	1	52.68
5	1	0	52.36
6	0	1	52.13
7	1	0	51.97

Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

Late Arrival

The penalties for Late Arrival are:

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, 1VP (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)

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

Slow Play

When a board is cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, then, for the 1st offence a 'slow play' warning will be issued. This applies for the remainder of the event and applies to all members of the team.

If 2 or more boards are cancelled, then a 1VP penalty may be awarded, at the Director's discretion.

For subsequent offences, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board 1 VP (3 IMPs)

Subsequent boards 2 VPs (6 IMPs)

Leaving the table without entering all results

Both teams will receive a 1VP penalty for failing to enter all the results at the end of a match or stanza before leaving the table.

Alcohol

The consumption of alcohol is not permitted during session times at the venue.

Victory Point Scale for Matchpoint Swiss Pairs events

Where x is the pair's average percentage for the round (rounded to 2 decimal places - 0.005 rounded up):

Where x is greater than 70.0: VP = 20

Where x is between 57.5 and 70.0: VP = $(x-20)*2/5$

Where x is between 42.5 and 57.5: VP = $(x-35)*2/3$

Where x is between 30.0 and 42.5: VP = $(x-30)*2/5$

Where x is less than 30.0: VP = 0