

New Plymouth Contract Bridge Club

Competition and Trophy Rules 2026

1. Playing restrictions

- (a) The Club holds competition sessions each week on each weekday. Some competitions are handicapped as indicated by the club program book.
- (b) Members' grades are determined using the NZ Bridge rating points of members to grade all as Tuesday, Thursday, or Wednesday players. NZ Bridge calculates and registers all players rating points on 1st January for that calendar year.
- (c) The Match & Grading Committee reserves the right where necessary to review members' assigned grades
- (d) All Monday Tuesday and Friday sessions are open to all players.
- (e) On Wednesdays the following restrictions apply:
 - (i) If the competition is not handicapped players with 15 or more rating points may not play, except that for IMP teams players with 15 or more rating points but less than 40 rating points may play, but as a substitute only.
 - (ii) If the competition is handicapped any player may play, but each pair must include one player who has less than 15 rating points.
- (f) On Thursdays the following restrictions apply:
 - (i) If the competition is not handicapped, players with 40 or more rating points may not play, except that for Swiss Pairs and Teams events players with 40 or more rating points and less than 80 rating points may play, but as a substitute on one night only. If the competition is handicapped any player may play, but each pair must include one player who is either a junior grade player or an intermediate grade player.

2. Eligibility to win competitions

Only pairs where both players are members of the Club are eligible to win Club competitions.

To be eligible to win competitions members must also meet the eligibility criteria for each competition as set out below.

3. Championship Events

Each weekday has one championship matchpoint pairs competition with trophies awarded as follows:

- Mondays – Marsh Cup
- Tuesdays – Auckland cup
- Wednesdays – Centennial Cup
- Thursdays – Thurston Cup
- Fridays – Brenda Cameron Plate

To be eligible to win Championship events:

- (a) the pair must pre-enter,
- (b) the pair must play together on at least all but two of the scheduled competition sessions,
- (c) sessions played with a substitute are ineligible
- (d) the pair must play together on the final session of the competition, but

- (e) in special circumstances the Club Committee may grant the pair dispensation from the requirement to fulfil criteria (b) and (d).

Dispensation as per (e) above may only be granted following a written request made to the Club Committee. Requests should, if possible, be made within 48 hours after the occurrence of the special circumstances upon which the request is based. Any request made later than that, and less than a week prior to the final session of the competition, may be dismissed by the Committee on that ground. No request for dispensation will be considered unless it is made within 24 hours after the completion of the final session. To qualify as special circumstances there must be an event preventing a player from attending. Examples of such an event are illness, accident, or bereavement. Mere inconvenience is insufficient. The Committee's decision upon any request for dispensation shall be final.

To determine the winners of the Auckland Cup, Centennial Cup and Thurston Cup gross scores shall be used. To determine the winners of the Marsh Cup and Brenda Cameron Plate handicap scores shall be used.

For all Championship Events the winning pair is the pair who has the highest average score.

4. Five Session Pairs

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays have Five Session matchpoint pairs competitions with trophies awarded as follows:

- Tuesdays – Grayling Plate
- Wednesdays – Kaitake Plate
- Thursdays – Intermediate Plate

To be eligible to win Five Session competitions:

- (a) the pair must pre-enter,
- (b) the pair must not enter any Championship Pairs in the same calendar year, and
- (c) the pair must play together on at least four of the five competition sessions.

For all Five Session competitions the winning pair is the pair who has the highest average score for all sessions played by the pair together. Gross scores shall be used. Any sessions played with a substitute do not count.

5. D & D Allen Pairs

The D & D Allen matchpoint pairs competition is played on Tuesdays.

To be eligible to win:

- a. The pair must pre-enter,
- b. The pair must not enter the Auckland Cup or the Grayling Plate in the same calendar year,
- c. The pair must play together for all sessions of the competition.

The winning pair is the pair who has the highest average score for all sessions played. Gross scores shall be used.

6. Two and Three Session Pairs Competitions

There are several two and three session matchpoint pairs competition for each weekday.

To be eligible to win pairs must play together for each competition session.

The winning pair is the pair who has the highest average score for all sessions played.

7. New Partnership Pairs (not played in 2026)

The New Partnership Pairs is a two session matchpoint pairs competition.

To be eligible to win the pair must not have played together in a New Plymouth Bridge Club event within the previous 2 years and they must play together on both nights of the competition.

The winning pair is the pair who has the highest average score for both sessions. Gross scores shall be used.

8. Invitation Pairs (not played in 2026)

The Invitation Pairs is a two session matchpoint pairs competition played on Tuesdays.

To be eligible to win each pair must include at least one player who has less than 40 rating points and the pair must play together for both nights of the competition.

Handicapped scores shall be used.

9. Swiss Pairs

Each session will consist of three matches of 9 boards. Matches are scored by IMPs obtained by comparison to datum and converted to victory points. The entry of the pair who enters last may be rejected, if necessary, to achieve an even number of competitors.

To be eligible to win:

- (a) the pair must pre-enter,
- (b) the pair must play together for each match of the competition without default or substitution, unless such default or substitution is partial only and is for less than four boards of one match,
- (c) in the case of the Monty Shearer Memorial Swiss Pairs only, the pair must not enter the Auckland Cup or the Grayling Plate in the same calendar year.

The following rules apply if both members of an entered pair are not available to play all or part of any match:

- (a) the pair shall make every effort to arrange a substitute player or substitute pair,
- (b) any match defaulted shall be deemed to have been lost 6 – 14 in victory points by the defaulting pair,
- (c) any partial default will result in 3 IMPs for each board not played being awarded against the defaulting pair.

The winning pair is the pair who have the most victory points after the final round of matches. If there is a tie for first place the tie shall be broken in accordance with the tie break rules for Swiss Pairs and Teams set out below.

10. IMP Teams

IMP Teams competitions are played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On Tuesdays two 14 board matches are played per session. On Wednesdays and Thursdays two 12 board matches are played per session. Matches are scored by IMPs and converted to victory points. The entry of the team who enters last may be rejected, if necessary, to achieve an even number of teams.

To be eligible to win:

- (a) the team must pre-enter as a team of four with a nominated captain,
- (b) apart from the use of one substitute only for not more than one session the nominated team must play all matches,

- (c) In respect of Thursday teams any substitute must be a player who has less than 80 rating points, and
- (d) In respect of Wednesday teams any substitute must be a player who has less than 40 rating points.

The following rules apply if any members of an entered team are not available to play all or part of any match:

- (a) the team shall make every effort to arrange a substitute player or players,
- (b) any match defaulted shall be deemed to have been lost 6 – 14 in victory points by the defaulting team,
- (c) any partial default will result in 3 IMPs for each board not played being awarded against the defaulting team.

The winning team is the team who have the most victory points after the final round of matches. If there is a tie for first place the tie shall be broken in accordance with the tie break rules for Swiss Pairs and Teams set out below.

11. Multiple Teams

The event is held over three sessions. In each session a Mitchell type movement is used where the North/South pair remains stationary, and the East/West pairs moves around the room. During the session the team plays a set number of boards against all other teams. Matches are scored by IMPs. The number of boards played per set will be determined by the number of teams entered.

To be eligible to win:

- a) the team must pre-enter as a team of four with a nominated captain,
- b) apart from the use of one substitute only for not more than one session the nominated team must play all matches,

The following rules apply if any members of an entered team are not available to play all or part of any match:

- a) the team shall make every effort to arrange a substitute player or players,
- b) any match defaulted shall be deemed to have been lost 6 – 14 in victory points by the defaulting team,
- c) any partial default will result in 3 IMPs for each board not played being awarded against the defaulting team.

The winning team is the team who has the most net IMPs after the final round of matches. If there is a tie for first place then the title shall be shared.

12. Rubber Bridge Competition

Open to all members and non-members with matches being played at a mutually agreed time and location. Matches begin in March. Entry on the notice board. Any pair that includes a non-member is not eligible to contest the final.

There is a final between the two highest qualifying pairs which is normally played in November.

Otherwise, the format is dependent on the number of entries.

13. Online Play

The default platform for club play in New Plymouth is face to face at the clubrooms. Unless the clubrooms are closed, the playing sessions will run face to face. The session will count towards the

competition results as long as there are a minimum of 6 tables. If the clubrooms are closed, the session will be played online using RealBridge and the session will count as normal.

[14. Tie Break Rules for Swiss and IMP Teams.](#)

Any tie for first place after the final round of a Swiss Pairs or Teams event shall be broken as follows:

- (a) a two way tie shall be broken in favour of the winner of the match between the tied competitors and if that match was drawn then the tie shall be broken in favour of the competitor who scored the most IMPs throughout the event and if that was equal then the tie is broken in favour of the competitor with the most swiss points,
- (b) if three or more competitors are tied then, if each tied competitor played the same number of matches against other tied competitors the tie shall be broken in favour of the competitor who scored the most victory points in matches involving the tied competitors, any remaining tie shall be broken in favour of the competitor who scored the most IMPs throughout the event and any remaining tie shall be broken in favour of the competitor with the most swiss points, and
- (c) any tie which is not broken by the above provisions shall result in the trophy being shared by the remaining tied competitors.

[15. Pre-entry](#)

Where these rules provide for pre-entry the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) The Committee shall ensure that within a reasonable time prior to the event a notice is placed on the club notice board calling for entries,
- (b) The notice shall include provision for pre-entry by the writing of names on the notice,
- (c) The Committee shall ensure that any restrictions imposed by these rules as to who may play the event and as to eligibility to win the event are specified on the notice, and
- (d) The committee may impose any time limits for entry, or impose any other restrictions as to entry as the committee deems fit.

[16. Amendment to Rules of Competition](#)

The Committee reserves the right to amend the rules of competition as they see fit.

[17. Definitions](#)

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

average score means the score calculated by adding a pairs percentage score for each eligible session played in an event and dividing that total by the number of eligible sessions played.

C points means C Points awarded under the NZ Bridge masterpoint scheme.

datum means the average result of all tables in play (either with or without removing extreme scores) as calculated by the Club's computer scoring system.

gross scores mean the scores obtained without taking any account of handicaps.

handicap scores mean scores that are adjusted based on handicaps assigned in accordance with the Club's Handicap policy.

junior grade player means a player who is graded Junior by the NZ Bridge grading system.

IMPs means the International Match Point score where total point differences are converted to International Match Points in accordance with law 78B of the Laws of Bridge.

intermediate grade player means a player who is graded Intermediate by the NZ Bridge grading system.

rating points means the rating points assigned to the player by NZ Bridge as published on the NZ Bridge website.

Real Bridge means the online platform for playing bridge hosted at <https://realbridge.online>.

swiss points means the sum of the scores of all the opponents of a pair or team.

victory points mean the score for a swiss pairs or teams match obtained by converting the net IMP score in accordance with the victory point scale used by the Club's computer scoring program.

Responsibility Match & Grading Committee

Date: December 2025