

Eligibility for Participation in Waikato-Bays Inter-Club Teams Tournaments

1. **Problem** – there is an increasing trend for members of one club to form partnerships with members of other clubs. This is natural, and facilitated by the relative ease of joining second (and third) clubs as Associate Members. However, this is starting to raise questions regarding the representation of teams at the Waikato and BOP Inter-Club competitions and the Regional Finals. The following are suggested rules to guide Clubs through these issues.
2. **Home Club** – Every player has a “home club” which pays their once-only annual capitation fee to NZ Bridge. It is an honour to represent your home club in Inter-Club competitions. Associate members pay annual membership fees, but not the NZ capitation fee. It is suggested that the home club has first call on players to represent their club at Inter-Club Teams events.
3. **Team makeup** – It is suggested that clubs make their team selections with a back-up pair in mind, in case of illness, etc. At least one player in each pair should be from the home club. Team members should be members of that club as at January of that year, and play in the grade recognised by NZ Bridge at that time.
4. **Substitutions** – The top two teams in each grade progress to the Regional finals. It is suggested that teams chosen for the Inter-Club competition are expected to be available for the finals if successful. In unusual or unexpected circumstances, a minimum of two of the original qualifying four should play – otherwise the right to contest the final passes to the next team in line.
5. **Regional Committee** – In exceptional circumstances, the Regional Committee may vary these requirements in the best interests of the competition.