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The Under-100 Masterpoints Championship (UHMP)

August 2026

Dear Club Secretary,

70% of the registered active players in the state have fewer than 100 MPs; this represents the majority of members for most clubs.

The NSWBA introduced the UHMP in 2015 to provide clubs, especially the far-flung country clubs, with an event tailored to this <100 MP membership profile. Since then, the pandemic and associated lockdowns have had a severe impact on clubs, but many are now rebuilding with a new beginner base. Typically, a third of all club's members have fewer than 10 MPs. The UHMP caters for these beginners, as well as more experienced players below the 100 MP cap. A quick overview of the UHMP follows.

The Under-100 Masterpoint Pairs Championship is played in two completely independent stages. Your club can participate in either stage, or both; the level of participation is up to you.

The first stage consists of normal club sessions played September through November. These club sessions are stratified, i.e. all players, including non-participants, play against each other. Even though they play against players with lots of masterpoints, pairs only compete for masterpoints against those in the same MP bracket: 0-10, 10-25, 25-50 or 50-100. There is a \$5 per pair per session entry fee in this stage.

The second stage consists of a single session played in the week 23-29 November in which only players with fewer than 100 MPs can play. All clubs play the same hands, and the event is scored across the state and then handicapped. There is a \$8 per pair entry fee for this session.

The following pages describe how the UHMP will work in 2026. Please participate, encourage all your eligible players to enter and revitalise the event. The future success or failure of the UHMP is in your hands.

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NSW <100 Masterpoint Pairs Championships

<https://www.australianbridge.com/UHMP>

The Under 100 Masterpoint Pairs Championship is played in two independent stages and in four masterpoint divisions:

Masterpoint range	Percentage of registered active NSW players
0-9.99 MP	32%
10-24.99 MP	14%
25-49.99 MP	12%
50-99.99 MP	12%

The first stage consists of club sessions played in your home club. This requires little extra effort by a club – just select appropriate matchpoint pairs session(s) from September to November. These club sessions are stratified, i.e. all players, including non-participants, play against each other. The top 50% of the players in each masterpoint group will receive some red masterpoints. Where possible, awards are maximised by combining two or more MP groups. If you run supervised play sessions, consider converting one of them into a UHMP session. It's a good opportunity to get the supervised players to go solo, and they will get red masterpoints instead of green. Club sessions can be held any time during September up until the last week in November.

The second stage consists of a Local Final. Unlike the club sessions, all Local Finals will play the same boards and the results will be matchpointed across the state. A dedicated website allows club organisers to log in and download the hand records and dealing files. All clubs then email their results to be scored across the state.

After handicapping, the final results and prize list is posted on the web. Prizes and certificates are awarded based on the handicapped results.

Ideally, Local Finals will be scattered around the state, with each attracting players who live less than 90 minutes away. BridgeNSW will be charging \$4.00 per player (i.e. each club holding a Local Final will be invoiced \$8 per pair). Bridge NSW will pay for all the B4s masterpoints issued in Local Finals. Clubs holding Local Finals set their own entry fees; clearly this will differ widely depending whether the Final is part of an all-day event or just a regular club session.

If you wish to conduct a Local Final, apply by completing the online registration form (see link in the next paragraph). It would be sensible to discuss your intention to hold a Local Final with other clubs in the region first. Clubs holding Local Finals will be listed on the UHMP website.

Registration:

All clubs planning to hold one or more club sessions need to register by completing the online form:

https://www.australianbridge.com/UHMP/2026UHMP_entryform_heat.php

There's also a link from the UHMP website, along with participating clubs and the latest information:

<https://www.australianbridge.com/UHMP>



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Masterpoints:

This event is a chance for your players to earn red masterpoints in their local club at State Championship level B4s. Half of the pairs in each of the four divisions will receive masterpoints, so players in the 0-10 group need not worry that they are competing against players in the 50-100 division. Awards increase as the number of pairs increases, so it's to everyone's advantage to encourage all eligible players to pair up and enter the UHMP. Remember, Bridge NSW will pay for all the red masterpoints issued.

Costs:

Club Qualifying Events: \$2.50 per player per session (i.e. \$5.00 per pair), payable to Bridge NSW. Players with >100 masterpoints and those eligible but not wishing to enter the UHMP do not pay anything (other than normal table money to your club).

Local Finals: \$4.00 per player (i.e. \$8.00 per pair). Clubs hosting the Local Finals should factor in this Bridge NSW charge when setting the entry fee.

Bridge NSW will invoice all participating clubs in December. Do not pay anything until you receive an invoice.

Dates:

Club sessions can be held anytime from 1 September until 24 November. Local Finals can be held anytime in the week of 23-29 November.

Scoring and handicapping:

Bridge NSW recognises that the relative number of pairs in each MP division may differ greatly from one Local Final to another. Clearly all pairs' prospects are directly affected (either negatively or positively) by the overall strength of the Local Final they contest. Consequently, all pairs will be given a handicap based on the average strength of their Local Final and their own MP holding.

Raw and handicapped results of all Local Finals will be posted on the web. All masterpoint awards are based on non-handicapped results. You can see how this works in practice by checking out the results for the 2025 UHMP (see the UHMP web page for links).

Prizes:

Most prizes will be awarded based on the handicapped results and will be awarded in each of the four divisions. Prizes will include cash, certificates and subscriptions to the online edition of Australian Bridge Magazine.

In summary, this event is designed to offer red masterpoints (at no cost to your club) to your members who have fewer than 100 masterpoints. Eligible players are then encouraged to leave the relative safety of their home club and participate against players from nearby clubs in a Local Final. It is proposed to return most of the money received in entry fees in the form of masterpoints and prizes. Do your members a service and be a club that participates.

Brad Coles
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