23rd June 2022

To All Clubs and Regions

New Zealand Bridge Online Bridge Strategy Consultation

Before we start

The New Zealand Bridge Online Strategy Working group acknowledges that in-person and online bridge are both important. It would not be appropriate to develop a strategy for online bridge without considering in-person bridge.

- In-person club bridge remains the preferred way of playing for the majority of club members. The social connection and community of club bridge is incredibly valuable and has significant health and wellbeing benefits.
- Online bridge is enjoyed by many players and likely to gain further popularity as technology continues to advance.
- It is important to separate discussions about online club sessions and online tournament bridge
- Our premise is that both in-person tournaments and online bridge tournaments both have a place in our future.

A new Online Bridge Strategy will be in place from 01 January 2023. It will be reviewed on a regular basis as requirements and regulations change.

Information we require

As part of your submission please tell us the stakeholder group that is represented and, where applicable, how you consulted with others who have contributed to the submission (e.g. Submission from ABC Club, discussed questions at committee meeting). We welcome submissions from all stakeholders and interested parties.

If you are responding as an individual please provide your grade, rank and whether you play tournaments in-person, online, both or not at all.

The Consultation Questions

Please answer the consultation as fully as possible. If you do not have an opinion or prefer not to answer a question or section make this clear in your response. Please be assured your answers will be treated in confidence and will only be used for the purpose of developing the New Zealand Bridge Online Bridge Strategy.

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Implications of Online Bridge

1. What are the major implications of online bridge from your perspective and how should they be addressed by New Zealand Bridge?

Online Bridge Sessions

2. In the future would you like there to be a regular schedule of online bridge sessions (e.g. daytime and evening sessions similar to club play)?

    a. What are your reasons for saying this?
    b. If this is something you would like to see, should they be run by New Zealand Bridge, by individual clubs or both? What are your reasons for this view?

Tournaments

3. What would be your ideal future – e.g. in-person, online, mix of in-person and online - for the following types of tournaments:

    a. B-Point Club tournaments?
    b. A-Point Club tournaments?
    c. Regional events and Mini Congresses?
    d. National events?

4. If online tournaments are part of your ideal future who should organise them (e.g. NZ Bridge, regions, clubs)? What are your reasons for this view?

5. How important is it for in-person and online tournaments be scheduled at separate times?

    a. What makes you say this?
    b. If they are held at the same time, should there be geographical restrictions on who is allowed to enter the online tournament?

6. What would be your ideal future for the Interprovincial Championships? At what time of year and how (e.g. in-person or online) should it be held?

Learning

7. What, if anything, should be done to support people learning bridge online?
    a. If you think online lessons should be offered, who should organise them – NZ Bridge, clubs or both? What makes you say this?
    b. If you believe NZ Bridge should offer some centrally organised online lessons then:
        i. How should clubs be involved to ensure learners can transition to club play?
        ii. How often should online lessons be run?

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Resourcing

8. We invite ideas and thoughts about how the following aspects of online bridge should be resourced (e.g. by NZ Bridge, by clubs or both) in the future:

    a. Online directing
    b. Technical support for playing online
    c. Organisation of any Online National Events

Revenue

9. What, if anything, should happen in terms of sharing some or all of the revenue from the following types of online bridge:

    a. Club sessions run by clubs but open to all bridge players
    b. Centrally organised online sessions run by NZ Bridge
    c. Club tournaments
    d. Regional events and mini congresses
    e. National Events
    f. Online lessons organised by NZ Bridge

Other Comments

10. Are there any other comments or thoughts about in-person or online bridge that you would like to share as part of this consultation?

Thank you for your time

Deadline for submissions is Friday 12th August.

Please email your response to kate.terry@nzbridge.co.nz

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