



# Players Survey 2017: TOPLINES

## Gradings & Tournaments Taskforce

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## Introduction

Respondents by Grade:

<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Sample</b>
Junior	33%	530
Intermediate	33%	529
Open	30%	478
Don't know	3%	55

## Reasons for playing bridge

*What are the main reasons for you playing bridge?*

	Total	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know
Total	1592	530	529	478	55
Keep my mind active	77%	77%	80%	72%	76%
Because I love the game	76%	64%	82%	84%	56%
Improving my game	61%	68%	62%	52%	55%
For fun	56%	67%	53%	47%	71%
Social time	51%	56%	52%	44%	62%
I am competitive	50%	35%	49%	72%	20%
Play bridge with my friends	42%	41%	45%	39%	44%
Playing club events	40%	31%	45%	49%	15%
Playing tournaments	37%	19%	35%	61%	5%
To achieve my bridge goals	21%	16%	18%	31%	2%
Other	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%

## Playing in Tournaments

### Number of tournaments played

*How many bridge tournaments have you played in during the last 12 months?*

	Total	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know
Total	1592	530	529	478	55
None	28%	39%	26%	13%	69%
1	12%	15%	11%	8%	16%
2	12%	13%	14%	8%	5%
3-5	23%	22%	27%	21%	4%
6-10	14%	8%	15%	22%	2%
11+	11%	2%	5%	28%	0%
Not sure how many but I have played tournament bridge	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%

### Tournaments in Next 12 Months

*In the next 12 months are you planning to play in more, the same or fewer tournaments?*

Base: Tournament Players in last 12 months	Total	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know
Total	1148	322	392	417	17
More	33%	37%	35%	28%	41%
The Same	49%	40%	48%	58%	41%
Fewer	5%	7%	4%	6%	0%
Don't know	12%	16%	13%	8%	18%

## Interest in Tournaments

*How interested are you in playing in bridge tournaments?*

Base: Not played Tournament in last 12 months	Total	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know
Total	445	209	137	61	38
Very interested	3%	3%	4%	5%	0%
Quite interested	16%	17%	12%	26%	11%
Neutral view	24%	23%	25%	23%	29%
Not that interested	34%	38%	32%	21%	42%
Not interested at all	22%	18%	26%	25%	18%

## Play in Next 12 Months

*Do you think you will play in any bridge tournaments in the next 12 months?*

Base: Not played Tournament in last 12 months	Total	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know
Total	445	209	137	61	38
Yes	13%	16%	11%	16%	5%
No	44%	38%	52%	44%	45%
Not sure	43%	46%	37%	39%	50%

## Encouraging Tournament Play

### Key Factors

*How encouraging or not do you think each of the following are in persuading people to play more bridge tournaments?*

	ENCOURAGING	NOT ENCOURAGING	NET ENCOURAGE
• Competing with players of similar ability	81%	5%	76%
• Tournaments being more friendly and welcoming to new players	76%	7%	69%
• A group going from the same club	73%	6%	67%
• Having clubs/regions send out dates and venues of each tournament	67%	7%	60%
• Rules around courtesy to new tournament players	63%	10%	53%
• Better behaviour from top players	58%	10%	49%
• Guidance from experienced players e.g. Tournament Strategy Seminars	56%	13%	43%
• Offering information on what playing in a tournament is like	56%	11%	45%

*How encouraging or not do you think each of the following are in persuading people to play more bridge tournaments?*

	ENCOURAGING	Very encouraging	Quite encouraging	Neutral view	Not very encouraging	Not encouraging at all	NOT ENCOURAGING	Don't know
• Competing with players of similar ability	81%	38%	44%	12%	4%	1%	5%	2%
• Tournaments being more friendly and welcoming to new players	76%	39%	37%	16%	4%	2%	7%	2%
• A group going from the same club	73%	31%	43%	18%	4%	2%	6%	2%
• Having clubs/regions send out dates and venues of each tournament	67%	26%	40%	25%	5%	2%	7%	2%
• Rules around courtesy to new tournament players	63%	31%	32%	25%	6%	3%	10%	2%
• Better behaviour from top players	58%	34%	24%	28%	5%	5%	10%	4%
• Guidance from experienced players e.g. Tournament Strategy Seminars	56%	23%	33%	25%	9%	4%	13%	5%
• Offering information on what playing in a tournament is like	56%	15%	41%	31%	8%	3%	11%	2%

## General Factors

*Which of the following general factors, if any, would encourage you to play in more tournaments?*

	<b>Tournament Players</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Total	1203	353	404	427	19
Having a regular tournament partner	54%	56%	55%	50%	63%
Being a better player	36%	47%	36%	27%	58%
Someone asking me to play	36%	43%	36%	28%	58%
Having more free time	28%	29%	28%	25%	37%
Conveners who match up partners or another pair for a team	15%	21%	15%	10%	21%
Being retired	14%	16%	13%	14%	21%
Host club providing crèche/childcare facilities	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Other	9%	8%	9%	11%	0%
None of these	10%	4%	11%	15%	5%

	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open B (Up to National Master)</b>	<b>Open A (Life Master &amp; above)</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Total	427	254	146	27
Having a regular tournament partner	50%	57%	38%	56%
Someone asking me to play	28%	28%	26%	41%
Being a better player	27%	31%	21%	22%
Having more free time	25%	23%	29%	22%
Being retired	14%	13%	16%	11%
Conveners who match up partners or another pair for a team	10%	11%	7%	7%
Host club providing crèche/childcare facilities	0%	0%	1%	0%
Other	11%	9%	14%	7%
None of these	15%	15%	18%	0%

## Location, situation & timing factors

*Which of the following location, situation and timing factors might persuade you to play in more tournaments?*

	<b>Tournament Players</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Total	1203	353	404	427	19
Closer tournaments (geographically)	36%	35%	35%	39%	26%
Fewer tournaments in the calendar	3%	1%	2%	5%	5%
Longer tournaments	3%	2%	4%	4%	0%
More evening tournaments	13%	17%	15%	8%	21%
More midweek tournaments	15%	17%	14%	13%	16%
Half-day tournaments at weekends	30%	48%	30%	15%	32%
More Saturday tournaments	19%	25%	18%	15%	11%
More Sunday tournaments	23%	27%	23%	19%	16%
More tournaments in colder months (e.g. May-August)	37%	41%	42%	28%	37%
Tournaments combined with something else (e.g. golf, scrabble, Mahjong, bowls etc.)	3%	4%	1%	2%	16%
None of these	20%	12%	18%	28%	21%

	Open	Open B (Up to National Master)	Open A (Life Master & above)	Don't know
Total	427	254	146	27
Closer tournaments (geographically)	39%	42%	36%	30%
Fewer tournaments in the calendar	5%	3%	9%	4%
Longer tournaments	4%	3%	8%	0%
More evening tournaments	8%	7%	9%	15%
More midweek tournaments	13%	13%	12	26%
Half-day tournaments at weekends	15%	18%	10%	26%
More Saturday tournaments	15%	16%	14%	11%
More Sunday tournaments	19%	20%	18%	7%
More tournaments in colder months (e.g. May-August)	28%	32%	22%	22%
Tournaments combined with something else (e.g. golf, scrabble, Mahjong, bowls etc.)	2%	1%	5%	0%
None of these	28%	24%	33%	37%

## Other Factors

*Which of the following other factors, if any, might encourage you to play in more tournaments?*

	Tournament Players	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know
Total	1203	353	404	427	19
Free beer/wine/beverages	7%	6%	8%	7%	16%
Lower cost tournaments	24%	27%	24%	23%	16%
Better organization of tournaments	9%	7%	7%	14%	5%
More social tournaments	24%	37%	23%	12%	47%
More Swiss Pairs	25%	13%	23%	36%	11%
Playing one board a table so you play against more people	5%	4%	6%	5%	11%
Better competition	7%	4%	5%	12%	5%
Prizes for Restricted Open Pairs	16%	5%	14%	26%	5%
Paying less if I want to bring my own food (when lunch is provided)	15%	14%	14%	18%	5%
Having really good directors	21%	19%	18%	25%	16%
Low cost/free billet organized by host club	10%	7%	6%	17%	0%
Other	6%	3%	7%	9%	11%
None of the above	29%	33%	30%	23%	32%

	Open	Open B (Up to National Master)	Open A (Life Master & above)	Don't know
Total	427	254	146	27
Free beer/wine/beverages	7%	2W	7%	4%
Lower cost tournaments	23%	25%	18%	30%
Better organization of tournaments	14%	10%	23%	7%
More social tournaments	12%	14%	7%	26%
More Swiss Pairs	36%	38%	37%	15%
Playing one board a table so you play against more people	5%	5%	3%	15%
Better competition	12%	8%	21%	4%
Prizes for Restricted Open Pairs	26%	36%	12%	15%
Paying less if I want to bring my own food (when lunch is provided)	18%	17%	20%	19%
Having really good directors	25%	24%	28%	15%
Low cost/free billet organized by host club	17%	13%	25%	15%
Other	9%	6%	15%	7%
None of the above	23%	25%	19%	30%

## Junior Players

This section was answered by players who identified as being of Junior Grade and had either played in 1+ tournaments in the last 12 months or are interested in playing in tournaments. These are defined as the Junior Tournament Players

### Preferred Tournament Types

*What types of tournaments would you like to see more of?*

	Junior Tournament Players
Total	353
More All Grade (i.e. open to everyone) Tournaments	19%
More Junior Grade Tournaments	48%
More Multi Grade (i.e. open to all, prizes for different grade combinations) Tournaments	50%
More Restricted Tournaments (i.e. open to all, open players cannot play together)	15%
More tournaments for the new to bridge level	20%
Other	5%
Don't understand the different types of tournaments on offer	3%
Don't know	8%
None of these	4%

### Understanding Grade

*Do you understand your grade?*

	Junior Tournament Players
Total	353
Yes	77%
No	12%
Not sure	11%



## Understanding Rank

*Do you understand your rank?*

	Junior Tournament Players
Total	353
Yes	49%
No	28%
Not sure	22%

## Intermediate Players

This section was answered by players who identified as being of Intermediate Grade and had either played in 1+ tournaments in the last 12 months or are interested in playing in tournaments. These are defined as the Intermediate Tournament Players

### Intermediate Too Soon?

*Do you think you became an Intermediate player too soon?*

	Intermediate Tournament Players
Total	404
Yes	49%
No	28%
Not sure	22%

### Preferred Tournament Frequency

*How often would you ideally like to play in bridge tournaments each year?*

	Intermediate Tournament Players
Total	404
Not bothered if I don't play in any	10%
1-2	8%
3-4	20%
5-7	27%
8-10	14%
11+	5%
As many as possible	12%
Don't know	3%

## Tournaments as Intermediate

*Since turning Intermediate have you entered more, the same or fewer tournaments?*

	Intermediate Tournament Players
Total	404
More	27%
The same	53%
Fewer	20%

## Preferred Tournament Types

*Since turning Intermediate have you entered more, the same or fewer tournaments?*

	Intermediate Tournament Players
Total	404
More All Grade (i.e. open to everyone) Tournaments	22%
More Intermediate Grade Tournaments	40%
More Multi Grade (i.e. open to all, prizes for different grade combinations) Tournaments	54%
More Restricted (i.e. open to all, open players cannot play together) Tournaments	26%
More tournaments for the emerging player level	15%
Other	7%
Don't understand the different types of tournaments on offer	1%
Don't know	10%
None of these	3%

## Open Players

This section was answered by players who identified as being of Open Grade and had either played in 1+ tournaments in the last 12 months or are interested in playing in tournaments. These are defined as the Open Tournament Players

### Rank

	Open Tournament Players	Open B (Up to National Master)	Open A (Life Master & above)
Total	427	254	146
Certificate of Proficiency	0%	0%	0%
Club Master	0%	1%	0%
Local Master	26%	43%	0%
Provincial Master	15%	24%	0%
Master	12%	20%	0%
National Master	7%	11%	0%
Life Master	11%	0%	32%
Grand Master	17%	0%	49%
Silver Grand Master	5%	0%	15%
Gold Grand Master	2%	0%	5%
Don't know	6%	0%	0%

## Open B Grade Tournament Players

### Preferred Tournament Frequency

*How often would you ideally like to play in bridge tournaments each year?*

	Open B (Up to National Master)
Total	254
Not bothered if I don't play in any	5%
1-2	2%
3-4	15%
5-7	27%
8-10	16%
11+	13%
As many as possible	20%
Don't know	2%

### Attitude Statements

	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	NET AGREE
Open players need to be better role models	72%	6%	67%
Open players should be divided into two categories as at National Congress.	67%	11%	56%
Bridge rankings need to be reviewed and changed	53%	11%	41%
The structure and model for bridge tournaments needs to be rethought and modernized	49%	10%	39%
I worry about the future of bridge tournaments	41%	24%	17%
Upon reaching the rank of Local Master 5* players should become permanent Open players	35%	34%	0%
I take part in lots of Open B tournaments.	33%	37%	-4%
I believe I became an Open player too soon.	29%	49%	-20%
I get nervous when I play against the top players	20%	59%	-39%

	<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral view</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
• Open players need to be better role models	72%	26%	46%	22%	5%	0%	6%	0%
• Open players should be divided into two categories as at National Congress.	67%	33%	33%	16%	9%	2%	11%	6%
• Bridge rankings need to be reviewed and changed	53%	22%	31%	33%	9%	2%	11%	3%
• The structure and model for bridge tournaments needs to be rethought and modernized	49%	17%	32%	36%	7%	3%	10%	5%
• I worry about the future of bridge tournaments	41%	9%	31%	32%	21%	3%	24%	3%
• Upon reaching the rank of Local Master 5* players should become permanent Open players	35%	6%	28%	27%	21%	13%	34%	4%
• I take part in lots of Open B tournaments.	33%	11%	22%	29%	26%	11%	37%	2%
• I believe I became an Open player too soon.	29%	9%	19%	21%	38%	11%	49%	1%
• I get nervous when I play against the top players	20%	5%	15%	21%	34%	24%	59%	0%

## Open 8B Tournaments: Eligibility

*Thinking specifically about Open 8B Tournaments, which of the following is closest to your own view?*

	Open B (Up to National Master)
Total	254
Life Masters and higher ranked should not be permitted to enter Open 8B tournaments at all	14%
Life Masters and higher ranked should not be permitted to enter Open 8B tournaments playing with another Life Master or above.	18%
Life Masters and higher ranked should not be permitted to enter Open 8B tournaments playing with another Open player.	15%
Rules for Open 8B events should remain as they are currently (i.e. everyone can play with whoever they like)	43%
I am unsure	10%

## Open Grades

*Which of the following is closest to your own view?*

	Open B (Up to National Master)
Total	254
Grades for Open players should remain the same – one grade Open.	16%
Grades for Open players should change – two grades Open A and Open B	70%
I am unsure	13%

## Congresses & Major Tournaments

*Which of the following major New Zealand bridge tournaments and events do you play in?*

	Always play	May travel to play in this	Only play if held in my region	Only play if held at my club	Occasionally play in this	Never play
• National Congress	17%	11%	2%	0%	38%	32%
• Interprovincial Trials in my Region	5%	9%	2%	1%	28%	56%
• North Island Teams (20A)	0%	7%	6%	2%	11%	74%
• South Island Teams (20A)	1%	7%	2%	1%	5%	84%
• National 15A Teams	1%	8%	10%	4%	10%	67%
• Regional/Main Centre Teams (10A)	6%	10%	10%	4%	19%	52%
• North Island Pairs (20A)	0%	5%	8%	2%	8%	76%
• South Island Pairs (20A)	1%	6%	2%	2%	5%	84%
• National 15A Pairs	0%	7%	12%	3%	8%	70%
• National Swiss Pairs (15A)	1%	12%	9%	3%	9%	67%
• Regional/Main Centre Pairs (10A)	8%	11%	10%	4%	22%	46%
• Mini/Local Congresses	13%	19%	11%	2%	26%	28%

## Tournaments as Open B Grade

*Since becoming an Open player have you entered more, the same or fewer tournaments?*

	Open B (Up to National Master)
Total	254
More	17%
The same	41%
Fewer	42%

## Preferred Tournament Frequency

*How often would you ideally like to play in bridge tournaments each year?*

	Open B (Up to National Master)
Total	254
Not bothered if I don't play in any	4%
1-2	1%
3-4	2%
5-7	8%
8-10	15%
11+	40%
As many as possible	28%
Don't know	1%

## Open A Grade Tournament Players

### Attitude Statements

	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE	NET AGREE
• Senior Open players need to be better role models	49%	26%	23%
• I worry about the future of bridge tournaments	45%	27%	18%
• The structure and model for bridge tournaments needs to be rethought and modernized	44%	22%	22%
• Bridge rankings need to be reviewed and changed	38%	21%	18%
• I take part in lots of Open B tournaments.	17%	61%	-44%
• I believe I became an Open player too soon	7%	84%	-77%

	<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral view</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
• I take part in lots of Open B tournaments.	17%	3%	14%	22%	20%	41%	61%	0%
• Bridge rankings need to be reviewed and changed	38%	16%	23%	36%	15%	5%	21%	5%
• The structure and model for bridge tournaments needs to be rethought and modernized	44%	18%	26%	32%	18%	4%	22%	2%
• I worry about the future of bridge tournaments	45%	13%	32%	25%	23%	4%	27%	3%
• Senior Open players need to be better role models	49%	18%	31%	25%	17%	9%	26%	1%
• I believe I became an Open player too soon	7%	2%	5%	8%	41%	42%	84%	1%

### Open 8B Tournaments: Eligibility

*Thinking specifically about Open 8B Tournaments, which of the following is closest to your own view?*

	Open A (Life Master & above)
Total	146
Life Masters and higher ranked should not be permitted to enter Open 8B tournaments at all	3%
Life Masters and higher ranked should not be permitted to enter Open 8B tournaments playing with another Life Master or above.	13%
Life Masters and higher ranked should not be permitted to enter Open 8B tournaments playing with another Open player.	12%
Rules for Open 8B events should remain as they are currently (i.e. everyone can play with whoever they like)	55%
I am unsure	16%

### Review of Open Grades

*Which of the following is closest to your own view?*

	Open A (Life Master & above)
Total	146
Grades for Open players should remain the same – one grade Open.	38%
Grades for Open players should change – two grades Open A and Open B	46%
I am unsure	16%

### Tournament number & size

*Which of the following would you prefer?*

	Open A (Life Master & above)
Total	146
Fewer tournaments with bigger table/pair/team numbers	19%
The same number of tournaments irrespective of table/pair/team numbers	47%
The same number of tournaments with minimum table/pair/team numbers	22%
Other	5%
Don't know	7%



## Congresses & Major Tournaments

*Which of the following major New Zealand bridge tournaments and events do you play in?*

	Always play	May travel to play in this	Only play if held in my region	Only play if held at my club	Occasionally play in this	Never play
• National Congress	65%	17%	0%	0%	12%	5%
• Interprovincial Trials in my Region	37%	12%	4%	1%	32%	14%
• North Island Teams (20A)	8%	34%	16%	3%	16%	23%
• South Island Teams (20A)	10%	24%	7%	1%	14%	45%
• National 15A Teams	3%	42%	22%	4%	15%	14%
• Regional/Main Centre Teams (10A)	27%	30%	17%	4%	14%	8%
• North Island Pairs (20A)	6%	31%	18%	3%	16%	25%
• South Island Pairs (20A)	6%	21%	8%	1%	11%	53%
• National 15A Pairs	2%	38%	27%	3%	15%	14%
• National Swiss Pairs (15A)	5%	36%	26%	4%	16%	14%
• Regional/Main Centre Pairs (10A)	27%	29%	17%	3%	18%	6%
• Mini/Local Congresses	30%	36%	14%	3%	11%	6%

## Viable numbers 20A and 15A

*Do you think there should be a set minimum number of tables/pairs/teams required for National 20A and 15A events to go ahead (i.e. they would be cancelled if they did not meet this threshold)?*

	Open A (Life Master & above)
Total	146
Yes	37%
No	46%
Not sure	17%

## Viable numbers 10A

*Do you think there should be a set minimum number of tables/pairs/teams required for Regional/Main Centre 10A events to go ahead (i.e. they would be cancelled if they did not meet this threshold)?*

	Open A (Life Master & above)
Total	146
Yes	32%
No	57%
Not sure	11%

## Respondent Profile

### Gender

	Tournament Players	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know	Non-Tournament Players
Total	1203	353	404	427	19	389
Male	36%	30%	34%	44%	11%	37%
Female	64%	70%	66%	56%	89%	63%

### Age

	Tournament Players	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Non-Tournament Players
Total	1203	353	404	427	389
Under 20	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
20-34	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%
35-49	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%
50-64	32%	36%	26%	33%	19%
65-74	45%	45%	48%	41%	42%
75+	17%	11%	22%	20%	34%

### Employment

	Tournament Players	Junior	Intermediate	Open	Don't know	Non-Tournament Players
Total	1203	353	404	427	19	389
Working Full Time	19%	20%	17%	20%	16%	12%
Working Part Time	12%	14%	14%	8%	16%	9%
Self-employed/Own business	10%	10%	9%	11%	11%	6%
Full Time Home-maker/Parenting	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
I am currently not employed	2%	3%	1%	2%	11%	1%
Retired	54%	48%	57%	57%	47%	69%
Student	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%