



Sitting the NZ Bridge Tournament Director Assessment.

The Tournament Director Assessment is a multi-stage process that takes place over five weeks culminating in a three day weekend which is part learning and part assessment.

Stage One: Pre-Entry online test – This test has 15 true/false questions, with a Law reference as part of the answer. The questions are set at a similar level to the club director exams. Candidates will need to achieve 80% in this test to be guaranteed a place at the assessment weekend. Achieving between 70% – 79% will give entry depending on available places, with the highest mark having first option and so on down. Achieving less than 70% it is recommended that candidates undertake more study and apply again next time.

Stage Two: Homework – Following the pre-entry test successful candidates will be sent homework, each Friday, for four weeks, to be completed and returned by the following Monday (four days later). This homework is part of the assessment and should be completed without assistance. The homework is worth 15% of the final grade.

Stage Three: Scenarios – During the assessment weekend there will be a series of scenarios that will be assessed. Each candidate will go into a room where people will be playing bridge, one of them will call the director and ask for a ruling on a given situation. Candidates will be assessed on their manner at the table, confidence in giving basic rulings, questions asked, accuracy and completeness of the ruling. Some rulings may have more than one stage. Scenarios are worth 50% of the final grade.

Stage Four: Exam – At the conclusion of the Tournament Director Assessment Weekend there will be a two hour written exam. This exam has 15 long form questions. The exam is worth 35% of the final grade

Preparation

It is important to understand that you will need to put time and effort into learning the laws and regulations, as well as movements and scoring. Directing seminars are great for improving your knowledge but please don't expect to go to a seminar and be able to pass the assessment with no other work.

If you don't have one already, you should have your own copy of the laws. You should mark the laws that have clarifications in the regulations (NZ Bridge Manual 2020 D15-29), so you know to look there if you are making a ruling

If you don't have your own Law book, you can purchase one from:

<https://bridgenz.co.nz/shop/books/product/121-laws-of-duplicate-bridge-2017>

You can download a word or PDF version here:

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/laws/law-book-2017-ebu.pdf>

Your club should have a copy of the NZ Bridge Manual (2020), but you can download a PDF copy from:

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/user/inline/3459/2020%20Manual-%20Final%20Version.pdf>

The most relevant sections for directing are sections B, D and E (masterpoints). You need to be familiar with the alerting regulations (appendix 7) D56-62 and bidding regulations (appendix 5) D53-56.

NZ Bridge has produced a series of Director Quick Reference Guides, flow charts that cover many of the mechanical rulings, that are able to be used during the assessments. They can be found at:

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/directors-quick-reference-guides.html>

Most of the rulings covered by these reference guides should be second nature to you and you should have a well-established pattern when giving these rulings.

In preparation for sitting the tournament director assessment take time to get to know your law book, read the definitions at the front, if a law doesn't make sense look at each of the words and make sure you understand what they mean e.g. A bid is a call, but a call is not necessarily a bid. If a Law has an introductory sentence, remember to read it in conjunction with the appropriate sub-clause. Familiarise yourself with the index so you can quickly find the Law you want.

Make sure you have a good understanding of Law 23! This law is referenced by many laws covering the bidding infractions you will face.

Take some time to understand Law 16. You will need to reference this law a lot.

Prior to sitting the pre-entry test, you may wish to complete the Directing Basics Online Quiz (available at <https://s.surveyanplace.com/db1>). There are 50 true/false or multichoice questions and you can do the quiz as many times as you like, you are not required to give law references and there is no time restriction when taking it. As a Club Director looking to become a Tournament Director, you should expect to achieve 100% in the quiz within three tries.

To better your understanding of the laws, read the NZB Laws Clarification Reference.