

**2005 OPEN & WOMEN’S AUSTRALIAN TEAMS PLAYOFF
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST AND SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. VENUE, DATES AND WEBSITE.....2**
- 2. COMMITTEES, OFFICIALS AND DIRECTORS2**
- 3. EQUIPMENT, DEALING AND HAND RECORDS.....2**
- 4. SYSTEMS.....3**
- 5. SELECTION OF TEAMS TO COMPETE IN THE PLAYOFFS3**
- 6. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES AND REBATES4**
- 7. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE4**
- 8. SESSION TIMES.....5**
- 9. TIES5**
- 10. CARRY FORWARDS.....6**
- 11. BOARD RULE.....6**
- 12. PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS (PQPS).....7**
- 13. APPEALS7**
- 14. SUBSTITUTIONS7**
- 15. FOULED BOARDS8**
- 16. CORRECTION PERIOD8**
- 17. FORFEITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.....8**
- 18. PENALTIES.....9**
- 19. SCREEN REGULATIONS.....10**
- 20. ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS.....10**
- 21. MISCELLANEOUS10**
- 22. SEEDING AND SEATING.....10**
- 23. DESIGNATED EVENTS.....11**
- 24. WITHDRAWALS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE PLAYOFFS11**

1. VENUE, DATES AND WEBSITE

- 1.1. The Playoff venue is the NSWBA, 1st Floor 162 Goulburn St, East Sydney. Phone (02) 9264 8111.
- 1.2. The date of the Playoffs is Thursday 17th - Monday 21st March 2005 inclusive.
- 1.3. The official website for the Playoffs is www.abf.com.au/events/playoffs. All information pertaining to the Playoffs will be found on that website and players will be deemed to be aware of all information contained thereon.

2. COMMITTEES, OFFICIALS AND DIRECTORS

- 2.1. The Sponsoring Organisation (Law 80) for the 2005 Playoffs is the Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated (ABF). The Playoffs are conducted in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations in force as at 31/03/89, since amended but not republished, and these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of conflict these Supplementary Regulations will apply.
- 2.2. Personnel
 - 2.2.1. The Chief Tournament Director (CTD) is Sean Mullamphy.
 - 2.2.2. The Tournament Sub-Committee convener is Eric Ramshaw.
 - 2.2.3. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee is David Stern.
 - 2.2.4. The ABF Tournament Committee representative is Eric Ramshaw.
 - 2.2.5. The Recorder is Neville Moses.
 - 2.2.6. The Official Scorer is Martin Willcox.
- 2.3. Sub-Committees are constituted with at least three members present in person, except in an emergency when a Sub-Committee may be constituted with only two members present in person and a third member on the telephone.

3. EQUIPMENT, DEALING AND HAND RECORDS

- 3.1. Screens and written bidding are used throughout the Playoff.
- 3.2. Boards are pre-dealt by an ABF-approved computer program and hand records with makeable contracts (Deep Finesse analysis) will be provided.
- 3.3. Players must use all equipment (which may include, but is not limited to screens, VuGraph, written bidding, bidding boxes, pick-up slips, table record sheets, electronic scoring units) in the manner specified by the CTD.

4. SYSTEMS

- 4.1. All systems (including defences to particular systems) are allowed, provided they are circulated in accordance with these regulations.
- 4.2. Players may not refer to their own system cards or notes, but may refer to notes of their defences to opponents' Yellow Systems and Brown Sticker conventions during the bidding or play of the hand. Such defences must be approved by the CTD before the commencement of the match.
- 4.3. Players may alter part or all of their system only with the consent of the CTD who may, at his discretion, disallow the change or permit it, or part only of it, or permit it only after a period of time has elapsed sufficient to allow the opponents to prepare fresh defences.
- 4.4. It is the responsibility of ALL players to arrive for play with a properly completed ABF standard system card and appropriate supplementary sheets. The CTD, in his sole discretion, may insist on pairs arriving without properly completed system cards, supplementary sheets or Yellow System Disclosure sheets playing a totally natural system until the necessary paperwork is completed.

5. SELECTION OF TEAMS TO COMPETE IN THE PLAYOFFS

- 5.1. Only players who have sufficient Playoff Qualifying Points (PQPs) as shown on the ABF Website may nominate to compete in the Playoffs. The minimum qualification is 15 PQPs or such lesser number as is necessary to qualify at least 72 players.
- 5.2. Each nominating team must include a person designated as playing or non-playing captain.
- 5.3. Nominating teams must designate 3 pairs, each of which must have earned a minimum of 1 PQP in the same unit.
- 5.4. Women's pairs eligible for both Playoffs may nominate for either, but not both.
- 5.5. Initial nominations must be submitted via the official website and must be received before 4.00 pm on Friday 28th January, 2005.
- 5.6. Nominating teams will be ranked according to the total PQPs of their constituent pairs, discounted by 50% for PQPs not earned in the same unit.
- 5.7. The top 6 teams will be accepted into each event and their names will be promulgated on the official website on 4th February 2005.
- 5.8. Successful teams must remit the entry fee of \$1560 per team by 11th February 2005.
- 5.9. On or before Friday 18th February, all teams must submit system disclosure forms (available from the official website) for all proposed line-ups. Pairs playing a Yellow System (including one played only as a defence) must submit a yellow system disclosure form (available from the official website) and supply a suggested defence. Such defence must include actions and subsequent continuations over any and all opening calls that make the system Yellow. It must be concise and legible (so that the opponents can use it with no prior discussion), and detailed enough to be an effective defence. The written defence must be approved by the CTD.

6. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES AND REBATES

- 6.1. Travel subsidies will be awarded to players (but not non-playing captains) in the 4 top-ranked teams.
- 6.2. Players from Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne will receive a subsidy equivalent to the cheapest internet airfare available less \$120.
- 6.3. Players from Canberra will receive a subsidy equivalent to the full bus fare.
- 6.4. Players from Sydney will receive no travel subsidy.
- 6.5. Teams eliminated in Stage II(b) will receive a rebate of \$480.
- 6.6. Teams eliminated in Stage III will receive a rebate of \$240.
- 6.7. Rebates may be paid at the venue or by the ABF subsequent to the event.
- 6.8. No rebate will be paid to any team that is disqualified.

7. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

- 7.1. Each Playoff will be comprised of four stages.
 - 7.1.1. Seating rights in each match will be by toss of coin. The team that wins the toss will have choice of sitting first in odd or even numbered stanzas. There will be no loss of seating rights for any team containing a pair playing a yellow system.
 - 7.1.2. The winning team in all knockout matches will be that with the greater number of IMPs at the end of the match. A lead of any fraction of an IMP will be sufficient for a win.
- 7.2. Stage I will consist of a complete round robin of five 32 board matches (2 × 16 board stanzas).
 - 7.2.1. The nett IMP score for each match will be converted to Victory Points using the WBF scale for 32-board matches.
 - 7.2.2. Teams placed 1 and 2 at the end of Stage I will progress to Stage II(a). The other four teams will progress to Stage II(b).
- 7.3. Stage II(a) will consist of a head-to-head 20 board match (2 × 10 board stanzas). By mutual agreement, the captains of the teams involved may elect not to play Stage II(a) and to decide the right of choice of Stage III opponents by toss of coin, conducted by the CTD.
- 7.4. Stage II(b) will consist of head-to-head 40 board matches (4 × 10 board stanzas).
 - 7.4.1. At the end of Stage I, the team ranked 3 will select its Stage II(b) opponent from the teams ranked 4, 5 and 6, however, the team ranked 4 may elect not to be available for choice.
 - 7.4.2. The two winning teams from Stage II(b) will progress to Stage III. The two losing teams will be eliminated.
- 7.5. Stage III (semi-finals) will consist of head-to-head 64 board matches (4 × 16 board stanzas).
 - 7.5.1. The winning team from Stage II(a) will have choice of opponents from the winners of Stage II(b).
- 7.6. Stage IV (final) will consist of a head-to-head 64 board match (4 × 16 board stanzas) between the winners of Stage III.

8. SESSION TIMES

8.1. Round and session times will be as shown in the table below.

| Date | Session Times | Round | Round Times | Score Correction Period Expires |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Thursday 17th March | 12:30-16:45 | Stage I - 1 | 12:30-14:30 | 18:15 |
| | | Stage I - 1 | 14:45-16:45 | 18:15 |
| | 18:15-22:30 | Stage I - 2 | 18:15-20:15 | 10:00 |
| | | Stage I - 2 | 20:30-22:30 | 10:00 |
| Friday 18th March | 10:00-14:15 | Stage I - 3 | 10:00-12:00 | 15:00 |
| | | Stage I - 3 | 12:15-14:15 | 15:00 |
| | 15:00-19:15 | Stage I - 4 | 15:00-17:00 | 10:00 |
| | | Stage I - 4 | 17:15-19:15 | 10:00 |
| Saturday 19th March | 10:00-14:15 | Stage I - 5 | 10:00-12:00 | 14:45 |
| | | Stage I - 5 | 12:15-14:15 | 14:45 |
| | 15:30-18:15 | Stage II - 1 | 15:30-16:45 | 19:30 |
| | | Stage II - 2 | 17:00-18:15 | 19:30 |
| | 19:30-22:15 | Stage II - 3 | 19:30-20:45 | 22:45 |
| | | Stage II - 4 | 21:00-22:15 | 22:45 |
| Sunday 20th March | 10:00-14:15 | Stage III - 1 | 10:00-12:00 | 15:00 |
| | | Stage III - 2 | 12:15-14:15 | 15:00 |
| | 15:00-19:15 | Stage III - 3 | 15:00-17:00 | 19:45 |
| | | Stage III - 4 | 17:15-19:15 | 19:45 |
| Monday 21st March | 10:00-14:15 | Stage IV - 1 | 10:00-12:00 | 15:00 |
| | | Stage IV - 2 | 12:15-14:15 | 15:00 |
| | 15:00-19:15 | Stage IV - 3 | 15:00-17:00 | 19:45 |
| | | Stage IV - 4 | 17:15-19:15 | 19:45 |

9. TIES

9.1. Ties in Stage I occur when one or more teams are on exactly the same VP score at the finish of the stage.

9.1.1. A tie involving 2nd and 3rd places in Stage I will be broken by applying the following in order until the tie is broken:

- (a) Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director will be deleted.
- (b) Successive 4-board playoffs until a result is determined. If more than two teams are involved in the tie, the CTD may authorise a different playoff format, giving due regard to the number of teams involved and the amount of time available.

9.1.2. Other ties in Stage I are broken by applying the following in order until the tie is broken:

- (a) Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director will be deleted.
- (b) Teams will be ranked according to the number of matches won in VPs (a draw is equal to ½ win) - those with more wins being ranked above those with fewer.
- (c) The team with the highest nett IMP score will be ranked highest.
- (d) The team with the greatest number of VPs scored from matches that involve only those teams involved in the tie will be ranked highest.
- (e) by lot

- 9.2. Ties in Stages II, III and IV will be broken by applying the following in order until the tie is broken:
- (a) Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director will be deleted.
 - (b) Successive 4-board playoffs until a result is determined.

10. CARRY FORWARDS

- 10.1. There will be carry forwards (CF) for all Stage II, III and IV matches, based on finishing position and the IMP margin (IM) in the head-to-head match (excluding tie-breaks) in Stage I.
- 10.2. The carry forward to Stage II(b), III and IV is calculated as follows:
 Team has higher Stage I rank: $CF = IM$ if $IM \leq 20$ and $CF = 20 + 0.1(IM - 20)$ if $IM > 20$.
 Team has lower Stage I rank: $CF = IM$ if $IM \leq 12$ and $CF = 12 + 0.1(IM - 12)$ if $IM > 12$.
- 10.3. The carry forward to Stage II(a) is calculated as follows:
 Team has higher Stage I rank: $CF = IM$ if $IM \leq 10$ and $CF = 10 + 0.1(IM - 10)$ if $IM > 10$.
 Team has lower Stage I rank: $CF = IM$ if $IM \leq 6$ and $CF = 6 + 0.1(IM - 6)$ if $IM > 6$.

11. BOARD RULE

- 11.1. In order for a team to be eligible to represent Australia, each player in the team must play:
- (a) in Stage I: at least half the boards as well as play in at least 4 of the 5 matches;
 - (b) in Stage II(b): at least half the boards;
 - (c) in Stage III: at least half the boards;
 - (d) in Stage IV: at least half the boards.
- 11.2. There is no minimum board requirement for Stage II(a).
- 11.3. Nothing prevents a change in partnerships provided that the provisions of #5.9 and #11.1 above are fulfilled.
- 11.4. Fouled boards are deemed to have been played in the scheduled segment, whether cancelled altogether or replayed in next stanza.
- 11.5. If a player is unavailable due to illness or injury, the CTD in his sole discretion may deem that player and his nominated partner have fulfilled the board rule. The CTD may ask for medical certificates or other documentary evidence to satisfy himself as to the nature and severity of the illness or injury.
- 11.6. When a player has missed more than two matches, the ABF Management Committee in its absolute discretion and following a report from the CTD and the ABF Tournament Committee will determine the eligibility of the player, his partner and the team. Prima facie, consideration will be given to disqualification of the entire team. This decision will be made subsequent to the completion of the event.
- 11.7. There are no minimum board requirements for tie-break matches played in accordance with #9.

12. PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS (PQPS)

12.1. PQPs will be awarded as follows:

Winner of Stage IV: 36,

Loser of Stage IV: 30,

Losers of Stage III: 21,

Higher Stage I ranking of remaining 2 teams: 12 (6 each if equal VPs).

13. APPEALS

13.1. The CTD must be notified of a pair or team's intention to appeal a Director's ruling within 30 minutes of the end of the session.

13.2. The Appeals Committee Chairman shall forthwith constitute a committee of not less than five members from among available experienced players and appoint a Chairman (usually himself). Appeals will be heard at the first convenient opportunity, not necessarily immediately following the match in which the appeal is involved, unless it has a direct bearing on the next stage of the event.

13.3. No competitor in the 2005 Playoffs shall sit on the Appeals Committee.

13.4. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be by majority and, in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote.

13.5. Teams should be aware that score penalties will be imposed when the Appeals Committee considers an appeal "frivolous" or "without merit". The maximum penalty that an Appeals Committee can award is 2.5 VPs in Stage I or 10 IMPs in a knockout match (Stage II onwards).

14. SUBSTITUTIONS

14.1. Substitution is not a right but a privilege allowed for cause at the discretion of the CTD whose decision on this issue is not appealable.

14.2. All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD.

14.3. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to #14.1 for any player in Stage I is 2 stanzas.

14.4. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to #14.1 for any player in Stages II, III and IV is 25% (1 stanza).

14.5. Boards played by an approved substitute will count towards fulfilment of the minimum board requirement of the original player.

14.6. Any unauthorised substitution or substitution in excess of those allowed will result in disqualification.

15. FOULED BOARDS

- 15.1. A ruling that a board is “fouled” must be sought within the correction period specified in #16.1 and #16.2.
- 15.2. A board that does not tally with the hand record is not ipso-facto “fouled”.
- 15.3. Law 87 determines that a board is "fouled" when "the Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board, in such a manner that contestants who should have a direct score comparison did not play the board in identical form".
- 15.4. The result of the fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played immediately unless any of the players have left either table at the conclusion of that stanza. No substitute board will be played if the match has been completed, otherwise the substitute board will be played in the next stanza.
- 15.5. The CTD may issue a procedural penalty (1 VP) to pairs who are reasonably determined to be responsible for fouling a board.

16. CORRECTION PERIOD

- 16.1. In each stage, the Correction Period for a session (Law 79C), during which scoring errors made by the players may be corrected, expires at the start of the following session in the same stage.
- 16.2. The Correction Period for the last session (Law 79C) in a stage, during which scoring errors made by the players may be corrected, expires 30 minutes after the end of that stage.
- 16.3. Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer may be corrected anytime up until 30 minutes after the end of the stage in which the error occurred.

17. FORFEITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 17.1. In the case of a forfeit in Stage I, the score of the non-offending team at the end of Stage I is adjusted to the highest of:
 - (a) 18 VPs; or
 - (b) its mean VP score for completed rounds; or
 - (c) 30 VPs minus the mean VP score for completed rounds of the forfeiting team (maximum 25-5 VPs).
- 17.2. The non-offender's IMP score is the mean of the range of the VP score allocated.
- 17.3. The offender's score is 0 VP and -95 IMPs.
- 17.4. If any team in Stage I forfeits two or more matches, it shall be disqualified and the scores in all its matches shall be null and void. Thereafter, Stage II(a) will be unaffected and the team ranked 3 at the conclusion of Stage I will progress to Stage III. The teams ranked 4 and 5 at the conclusion of Stage I will contest Stage II(b), the winner progressing and the loser being eliminated.
- 17.5. If a team is disqualified or forfeits a match during Stage II or Stage III, its opponent will be declared the winner of the match and proceed to the next stage.
- 17.6. Teams that are disqualified are not entitled to any PQPs.

18. PENALTIES

18.1. Procedural penalties are not subject to appeal, but the CTD may be requested to review the assessment.

18.2. There will be no grace period for late arrival. Procedural penalties for late arrival are:

| | Stage I | Stages II, III & IV |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Up to 5 minutes late | 1 VP | 3 IMPs |
| From 6 to 10 minutes late | 2 VPs | 6 IMPs |
| From 11 to 15 minutes late | 3 VPs | 9 IMPs |

18.3. If a pair is over 15 minutes late a more severe penalty, including disqualification, will be assessed by the CTD. The CTD at his discretion may allow the match to be played.

18.4. If a number of boards are unable to be played because one pair is late, the non-offending team will be awarded a score of 3 IMPs for every board not played.

18.5. In cases of slow play in Stage I, the assessed procedural penalty will be 1 VP for each 5 minute period (or part thereof) that elapses after the scheduled end of session and before the end of play. The CTD will assess how this will be allocated between the teams involved, based on any monitor's reports and his own observations and any admissions from the players involved.

18.6. In cases of slow play in Stages II, III and IV the assessed procedural penalty will be 1 IMP for each minute that elapses after the scheduled end of session and before the end of play. The CTD will assess how this will be allocated between the teams involved, based on any monitor's reports and his own observations and any admissions from the players involved.

18.7. It is possible for a pair considered responsible for excessive slow play to be penalised in a session that finished within the allotted period. Any such penalty is at the CTD's discretion.

18.8. Where a pair is penalised for late arrival as well as slow play the team will be assessed for the greater of the two penalties.

18.9. Players are permitted to be in possession of mobile phones during session time. However, any use of a mobile phone without the express consent of the Director, will incur a disciplinary penalty of 3 IMPs per offence. Use includes the phone ringing and holding the phone for the purpose of turning it off. Mitigating circumstances will not be accepted as a defence and therefore this penalty is automatic and not discretionary.

19. SCREEN REGULATIONS

- 19.1. Each player must provide his/her screen-mate with a convention card and any system notes.
- 19.2. North is in charge of the boards.
- 19.3. West operates the screen aperture.
- 19.4. The players are responsible for marking the Dealer and Vulnerability on the bidding pad.
- 19.5. A call is not complete or valid until the player has written the appropriate symbol with an appropriate numeral, if necessary.
- 19.6. Each call should be written in the vacant box nearest to the left of that player's segment of the bidding pad.
- 19.7. North and South push the bidding pad to the other side of the screen.
- 19.8. The opening lead will be left face down until the screen is raised.
- 19.9. The board must remain in the centre of the table, visible on both sides of the screen, throughout play.
- 19.10. No communication across the screen (other than declarer's call of a card from dummy) is allowed without the permission of the Director.

20. ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 20.1. All calls that the opponents may misunderstand or misinterpret are to be alerted with an ALERT card.
- 20.2. Each player is to alert his/her screen mate to any alertable call made by the partnership.
- 20.3. All explanations are to be in writing - no verbal communication between screen mates is allowed during play.

21. MISCELLANEOUS

- 21.1. In accordance with ABF policy, smoking is not permitted in the playing area, but the Convener may designate other areas where smoking is permitted.
- 21.2. The combined VP score for any match in Stage I need not equal 30 VPs, if, for example, the CTD or Appeals Committee awards a split score on a board.

22. SEEDING AND SEATING

- 22.1. Teams will be seeded 1 through 6 based on PQPs calculated in accordance with #5.6.
- 22.2. The draw for Stage I will be as follows.

| Round | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | 6 v 1 | 5 v 2 | 4 v 3 |
| 2 | 2 v 6 | 1 v 3 | 5 v 4 |
| 3 | 6 v 3 | 2 v 4 | 1 v 5 |
| 4 | 4 v 6 | 3 v 5 | 2 v 1 |
| 5 | 6 v 5 | 4 v 1 | 3 v 2 |

23. DESIGNATED EVENTS

- 23.1. The Designated Events are the Zone 7 Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand (11-15 May 2006) and the PABF Championships in Seoul, South Korea (23 June - 3 July 2006).
- 23.2. The winning team from Stage IV will elect to participate in one of these Designated Events.
- 23.3. Participation in the other Designated Event will be offered in turn to the losing team from Stage IV and then to the teams finishing in positions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 1 in that order.
- 23.4. The team that represents Australia in the Zone 7 Championships will represent Australia in the Bermuda Bowl / Venice Cup should it so qualify.

24. WITHDRAWALS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE PLAYOFFS

- 24.1. A permitted withdrawal occurs when the Management Committee accepts notification of a withdrawal caused by emergency after the ratification of the Australian team.
- 24.2. A subsequent disqualification occurs where a member of a team ranked first or second is found to be ineligible due to failure to comply with the minimum board rule during the Playoff or where for good reason the ABF Management Committee decides that a player was ineligible after the commencement of the Playoff.
- 24.3. The effect of a permitted withdrawal and of a subsequent disqualification on the remaining members of the team is identical and is to be handled as follows:
 - (a) The ABF Management Committee or its delegate will inform the team through the team contact that a permitted withdrawal or subsequent disqualification has occurred.
 - (b) The team contact will confer with the team and will then name the second player who will withdraw. Notionally the team is to advise the ABF within three business days of the name of the "partner" of the player who has been permitted to withdraw or has been disqualified. The partnership may be actual or notional. In the event that the team declines to name a second player, the Management Committee will determine who that second player is to be by any means it so decides.
- 24.4. Augmentation: A team in the Playoff, which accepts an invitation to represent Australia at a Designated Event and which is reduced to a team of four by permitted withdrawal or subsequent disqualification, will be augmented by the ABF to increase the number of team members to six. In effecting an augmentation, the ABF Management Committee will select a pair that played a reasonable number of boards as a partnership during the Playoff, but did not qualify to represent Australia at one of the Designated Events.