

# OPEN & WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN TEAMS PLAYOFF – 2007

## SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

### 1. VENUE, DATES AND WEBSITE

- 1.1. The Playoff venue is the Hakoah Club, 61 Hall Street, Bondi.
- 1.2. The dates of the Playoffs are Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 inclusive.
- 1.3. The official website for the Playoffs is [www.abf.com.au/events/playoffs](http://www.abf.com.au/events/playoffs) . All information pertaining to the Playoffs is found on that website and players are deemed to be aware of all information contained thereon.

### 2. COMMITTEES, OFFICIALS AND DIRECTORS

- 2.1. The Sponsoring Organisation (Law 80) for the 2007 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 apply.
- 2.2. Personnel
  - 2.2.1. The Convener is Eric Ramshaw.
  - 2.2.2. The Chief Tournament Director (CTD) is Sean Mullamphy.
  - 2.2.3. The Tournament Committee convener is Eric Ramshaw.
  - 2.2.4. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee is David Stern.
  - 2.2.5. The ABF Tournament Committee representative is Martin Willcox.
  - 2.2.6. The Recorder is Neville Moses.
  - 2.2.7. The Official Scorer is Martin Willcox.
- 2.3. The Chairman appoints the Appeal or Tournament Committee members and is the sole judge of their quorum.

### 3. EQUIPMENT, DEALING AND HAND RECORDS

- 3.1. Screens and bidding boxes are used throughout the Playoff.
- 3.2. Boards are pre-dealt by an ABF-approved computer program and hand records with Deep Finesse analysis are provided.
- 3.3. Players must use all equipment (which may include, but is not limited to, screens; written bidding; bidding boxes; pick-up slips; table record sheets; electronic scoring units; VuGraph; webcast) 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.
- 4.3. Defences must be approved by the CTD before the scheduled time for commencement of the match in which they are to be used.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. 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 that pairs who arrive without properly completed system cards, supplementary sheets or Yellow System Disclosure sheets must play 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 (PQP) as shown on the ABF Website may nominate to compete in the Playoffs. The minimum qualification is Open: 24 PQP, Women: 15 PQP or such lesser number as is necessary to qualify at least 64 players.
- 5.2. Each nominating team must include a person designated as playing or non-playing captain.
- 5.3. Each nominating team must designate 3 pairs, each of which must have earned a minimum of 1 PQP in the same unit.

- 5.4. No player may nominate for the Playoffs in more than one team.
- 5.5. Women's pairs eligible for both Playoffs may nominate for either, but not both.
- 5.6. Nominations must be received at ABF Headquarters before 4.00 pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.
- 5.7. Nominating teams are ranked according to the total PQP of their constituent pairs, discounted by 50% for PQP not earned in the same unit.
- 5.8. The 6 teams ranked highest are accepted into each event and their names are promulgated on the official website on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006
- 5.9. One team formed from pairs successful in the "Last Train" is added to each field
- 5.10. Successful teams become liable for the entry fee of \$1320 less any travel subsidies on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December but the fee is collected on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 before play commences.
- 5.11. All teams must submit system disclosure forms (available from the official website) for all proposed line-ups before 4.00pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. 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 are awarded to players (but not non-playing captains) in the 5 teams ranked highest as shown in the Table.

Origin	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Subsidy (\$)	350	290	140	290	550	0

## 7. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE, SEEDING AND SEATING

- 7.1. Each Playoff consists of a double round robin followed by a semi-final and final.
- 7.2. The round robin matches (14 boards) are scored by IMP converted to VP using the WBF scale for 14 boards.
- 7.3. The semi-final and final matches are scored by VP with 1 IMP equivalent to 1 VP. Any fraction of a VP constitutes a win.
- 7.4. For the first round robin, teams are seeded 1 through 7 based on PQP calculated in accordance with #5.7. For the second round robin, teams are numbered in the finishing order of the first round robin.
- 7.5. The draw for the Round Robin is.

RR 1 & 2	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4
1	Bye v 1	5 v 2	6 v 3	7 v 4
2	1 v 7	2 v Bye	3 v 5	4 v 6
3	6 v 1	7 v 2	Bye v 3	5 v 4
4	1 v 5	2 v 6	3 v 7	4 v Bye
5	4 v 1	3 v 2	Bye v 5	7 v 6
6	1 v 3	2 v 4	5 v 7	6 v Bye
7	2 v 1	4 v 3	6 v 5	Bye v 7

- 7.6. After the second round robin, the 1<sup>st</sup> team chooses its semi-final opponent from the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> teams.
- 7.7. The winner of the head-to-head round robin matches against its semi-final opponent carries over to the semi-final 50% (rounded to one decimal place) of the IMP difference in these matches if it finished higher after the round robins but one-third (0.67 rounded to 0.7; 0.33 rounded to 0.3) if it finished lower. The maximum carryover is 16 IMP except that the team finishing second can not have a negative carryover greater than 8 IMP.
- 7.8. There is no carryover to the final.
- 7.9. Teams containing a pair playing a yellow system do not lose seating rights.
- 7.10. The team numbered first sits first in the first round robin; in the second round robin the team listed to sit first against any team in the first round robin match sits last against that team.
- 7.11. The captains draw for seating rights in a semi-final or final and the winner may elect to sit first or last for the first session. For subsequent sessions, seating rights alternate.
- 7.12. The team captain is responsible for posting the seating positions of the players on the Line-up Form with the system being played if more than one has been submitted. Posting must be completed at least 10

minutes and 5 minutes before the scheduled time of commencement of play, for the teams sitting first and last respectively. The CTD may alter posting times at his discretion.

7.13. For non-compliance with #7.12 the penalties are loss of seating rights AND

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	warning	2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	1 VP penalty	3 <sup>rd</sup> & subsequent offences	2 VP penalty per offence
-------------------------	---------	-------------------------	--------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------

## 8. SESSION TIMES

8.1. Round and session times are shown in the table below.

Day	Thu 22				Fri 23					Sat 24				
Session	1		2		3	4		5		6	7		8	
Stage	RR 1	(14)						RR2						
Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Start	1300	1515	1900	2100	1000	1300	1515	1900	2100	1000	1300	1515	1900	2100
Finish	1445	1700	2045	2245	1145	1445	1700	2045	2245	1145	1445	1700	2045	2245
Correct	1900	1900	1000	1000	1300	1900	1900	1000	1000	1300	1900	1900	2345	2345

  

Day	Sun 25				Mon 26			
Session	9	10			11			
Stage	Semi	(16)			Final	(16)		
Round	SF1	SF2	SF3	SF4	F1	F2	F3	F4
Start	1000	1300	1515	1730	0930	1145	*1400	1615
Finish	1200	1500	1715	1930	1130	1345	1600	1815
Correct	1300	2000	2000	2000	1845	1845	1845	1845

\* - a sandwich lunch is provided

## 9. TIES

- 9.1. Ties occur when two or more teams are on exactly the same VP score.
- 9.2. Ties at the end of a round robin are broken by IMP quotient, then IMP difference, then lot.
- 9.3. Ties at the end of the (semi-)final are broken by placing after the round robins.

## 10. BOARD RULE

- 10.1. In order for a team to be eligible to represent Australia, each player in the team must play 6 matches in the double round robin and 2 stanzas in each of the semi-final and final.
- 10.2. Fouled boards are deemed to have been played in the scheduled segment, whether cancelled altogether or replayed in next stanza.
- 10.3. 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.
- 10.4. When a player fails to satisfy the board rule, the ABF Management Committee in its absolute discretion and following a report from the CTD and the ABF Tournament Committee determines the eligibility of the player, the pair and the team. *Prima facie*, consideration is given to disqualification of the entire team. This decision is made subsequent to the completion of the event.
- 10.5. There are no minimum board requirements for tie-break matches played in accordance with #9.

## 11. PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS (PQP)

- 11.1. The placings are: 1<sup>st</sup>, winner of the final; 2<sup>nd</sup>, loser of the final; 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> determined by finishing position after the second round robin.
- 11.2. PQP are awarded as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
36	30	24	18	12

- 11.3. Tied units share the available PQP.

## 12. APPEALS

- 12.1. The CTD must be notified of a team's intention to request or appeal a Director's ruling within the correction period as specified in #15.

- 12.2. Notwithstanding #2.3, in normal circumstances, the Appeals Committee Chairman constitutes a committee of not less than three members from among available experienced players and appoints a Chairman (usually himself). Appeals are heard at the first convenient opportunity, not necessarily immediately following the match in which the appeal is involved, unless the appeal has a direct bearing on the next stage of the event.
- 12.3. No competitor in the 2007 Playoffs shall sit on the Appeals Committee.
- 12.4. 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.
- 12.5. Teams should be aware that score penalties are imposed when the Appeals Committee considers an appeal "without merit". The maximum penalty that an Appeals Committee can award is 2.5 VP in the round robin and 10 IMP in a knockout match.

### 13. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD.
- 13.3. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to #13.1 for any player in the double round robin is two matches.
- 13.4. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to #13.1 for any player in the semi-final or final is one stanza.
- 13.5. Boards played by an approved substitute count towards fulfilment of the minimum board requirement of the original player.
- 13.6. Any unauthorised substitution or substitution in excess of those allowed results in disqualification.

### 14. FOULED BOARDS

- 14.1. A ruling that a board is "fouled" must be sought within the correction period specified in #15.
- 14.2. A board that does not tally with the hand record is not *ipso-facto* "fouled".
- 14.3. 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".
- 14.4. 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 is played if the match has been completed, otherwise the substitute board is played in the next stanza.
- 14.5. The CTD may issue a procedural penalty (1 VP or 3 IMP) to pairs who are reasonably determined to be responsible for fouling a board.

### 15. CORRECTION PERIOD

- 15.1. During 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.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. 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.

### 16. FORFEITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 16.1. In the case of a forfeit in a round robin, the score of the non-offending team at the end of that round robin is adjusted to the highest of:
- 18 VP; or
  - its mean VP score for completed rounds; or
  - 30 VP minus the mean VP score for completed rounds of the forfeiting team (maximum 25-5 VP).
- 16.2. The non-offender's IMP score is the mean (rounded, 0.5 down) of the range of the VP allocated.
- 16.3. The offender's score is 0 VP and -67 IMP.
- 16.4. A team that forfeits two matches in the double round robin is disqualified and the scores in all its matches shall be null and void.

### 17. PENALTIES

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

17.2. There is no grace period for late arrival. Procedural penalties for late arrival are:

	Round Robin	Semi-final or Final
0 - 5 minutes late	1 VP	3 IMP
5+ - 10 minutes late	2 VP	6 IMP
10+ - 15 minutes late	3 VP	9 IMP

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

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

17.5. In cases of slow play in the round robin, the assessed procedural penalty is 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 assesses how this is allocated between the teams involved, based on any monitor's reports and his own observations and any admissions from the players involved.

17.6. In cases of slow play in the semi-final and final the assessed procedural penalty is 1 IMP for each minute that elapses after the scheduled end of session and before the end of play. The CTD assesses how this is allocated between the teams involved, based on any monitor's reports and his own observations and any admissions from the players involved.

17.7. 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.

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

17.9. 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, incurs a disciplinary penalty of 3 VP or 9 IMP per offence. Use includes the phone ringing and holding the phone for the purpose of turning it off. Mitigating circumstances are not accepted as a defence and therefore this penalty is automatic and not discretionary.

17.10. Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Violation of this prohibition incurs a disciplinary penalty of 3 VP or 9 IMP.

## 18. SCREEN REGULATIONS

18.1. Each player must provide his/her screen-mate with a convention card and any system notes.

18.2. North or South is in charge of the boards.

18.3. West operates the screen aperture.

18.4. A call is not complete or valid until the player has released the bidding card onto the chariot.

18.5. After the final pass, players remove their bidding cards.

18.6. North and South transfer the chariot under the screen after their screen-mate has called, ensuring that all calls are visible on the other side.

18.7. The opening lead is left face down until the screen is opened.

18.8. The board must remain in the centre of the table, visible on both sides of the screen, throughout play.

18.9. No communication across the screen (other than declarer's call of a card from dummy) is allowed without the permission of the Director.

## 19. ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS

19.1. All calls that the opponents may misunderstand or misinterpret are to be alerted with an ALERT card.

19.2. Each player is to alert his/her screen mate to any alertable call made by the partnership.

19.3. All explanations are to be in writing - no verbal communication between screen mates is allowed during play.

## 20. MISCELLANEOUS

20.1. In accordance with ABF policy, smoking is not permitted in the playing area, but the Convener may designate other areas where smoking is permitted.

20.2. The combined VP score for any match in the round robins need not equal 30 VP, if, for example, the CTD or Appeals Committee awards a split score on a board.

## 21. DESIGNATED EVENTS

- 21.1. The Designated Events are the Zone 7 Championships (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> May 2007, Christchurch, New Zealand) combined with the WBF Championships (28<sup>th</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Shanghai) and the PABF Championships (3<sup>rd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Indonesia)
- 21.2. The winning team represents Australia at the Zone Seven Championship and WBF Championship.
- 21.3. The second team represents Australia at the PABF Championship.

## 22. WITHDRAWALS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE PLAYOFFS

- 22.1. A permitted withdrawal occurs when the Management Committee accepts notification of a withdrawal caused by emergency after the ratification of the Australian team.
- 22.2. 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.
- 22.3. The effect of a permitted withdrawal or of a subsequent disqualification on the remaining members of the team is identical and is to be handled as follows:
- The ABF Management Committee or its delegate informs the team through the team contact that a permitted withdrawal or subsequent disqualification has occurred.
  - The team contact confers with the team and then names 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 determines who that second player is to be by any means it so decides.
- 22.4. 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, is augmented by the ABF to increase the number of team members to six. In effecting an augmentation, the ABF Management Committee selects 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.

**WBF Scale for 14 boards**

IMP	VP	IMP	VP
0 - 2	<b>15-15</b>	31 - 34	<b>23- 7</b>
3 - 7	<b>16-14</b>	35 - 38	<b>24- 6</b>
8 - 10	<b>17-13</b>	39 - 43	<b>25- 5</b>
11 - 14	<b>18-12</b>	44 - 48	<b>25- 4</b>
15 - 18	<b>19-11</b>	49 - 54	<b>25- 3</b>
19 - 22	<b>20-10</b>	55 - 60	<b>25- 2</b>
23 - 26	<b>21- 9</b>	61-66	<b>25- 1</b>
27 - 30	<b>22- 8</b>	67 +	<b>25- 0</b>