

AUSTRALIAN OPEN AND WOMEN'S TEAMS PLAYOFFS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2015

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1 General

- 1.1 The 2015 Australian Open Team Playoffs (OP) and the Australian Women's Team Playoffs (WP) are conducted by the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The venue is the Coogee Bay Hotel, 253 Coogee Bay Road, Coogee, NSW.
- 1.3 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.
- 1.4 Smoking is not permitted inside the venue, nor in any area defined by the TO as a non-smoking area. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.5 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.6 During the session, any electronic communication equipment is prohibited in the playing area and other areas designated by the TO. However any such equipment may be deposited with the TO before each session. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.7 Expressions used in these Regulations and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in the contract bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2007). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) shall be final and conclusive. Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, all terms defined in the ABF TR shall have the same meaning for the purpose of these Supplementary Regulations.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Sean Mullamphy.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Sean Mullamphy.
- 2.3 The Appeals Committee Convener is Kim Morrison.
- 2.4 The ABF on site representative is Matthew McManus.
- 2.5 The Recorder is Peter Buchen.

3 Entry

- 3.1 Only teams containing either 4 or 6 members will be accepted.
- 3.2 Only players who have at least 1 Playoff Qualifying Point (PQP) in their category are eligible to enter.
- 3.3 All players in the team must be eligible to play for Australia as per the ABF's Eligibility to represent Australia Policy detailed in the appendices. Players entering the Playoff warrant their eligibility to play for Australia. If, at any time after the completion of the Playoffs, any member of a team is found not to be eligible, the team in which the player competed will be disqualified.
- 3.4 At the time of entry into an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association.
- 3.5 Once a player is entered in a team he/she is prohibited from withdrawing and entering in another team.
- 3.6 By entering, the team if accepted becomes liable for the entry fee, regardless of whether they actually participate.
- 3.7 By entering, the team undertakes to abide by the general and supplementary regulations for the tournament.
- 3.8 Each nominating team must designate a captain. However, the following are specifically excluded from accepting the role of non-playing captain:
 - i. members of the ABF Management committee,
 - ii. members of the ABF Tournament Committee,
 - iii. any person holding an official position at the event.
- 3.9 No player may nominate for more than one team.
- 3.10 Nominations for the Women's and Open Playoffs must be submitted via the ABF Webpage between Saturday December 6, 2014, and 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday January 9, 2015.
- 3.11 Nominating teams are ranked according to the total PQP of all members of the team. PQP not earned with any other member of the team will be discounted by 50%. Ties are broken according to the number of PQP obtained from events in category A, then in order, B, C and then D. If still tied the procedure above is repeated using PQPs from the previous year, then by lot.

- 3.12 All entered teams will be listed and ranked in their divisions on the official website on Saturday January 10, 2015.
- 3.13 Following the close of entries, a team which entered with four players may augment an additional pair by advising the TO prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, January 16, 2015. The augmented players must satisfy all eligibility requirements detailed in these regulations and the team captain must satisfy the requirements for submission of system cards as detailed in 5.2. The augmentation of a pair will not change the composition of the various Divisions of the event, nor will it result in the alteration of any published draw.
- 3.14 The entry fee is \$1620 per team.
- 3.15 Entry fees must be paid by direct deposit into the ABF Account (BSB: 082968; A/C: 641482644) by the close of business on Monday January 12, 2015.
- 3.16 Teams advancing from Division Two to the Repechage are required to pay an additional entry fee of \$980. The additional entry fee must be paid to the TO at the venue.
- 3.17 The ABF policy on entry fees paid by Youth players applies to this event.

4 Substitutions

- 4.1 Substitution shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience, when a team is reduced to less than four players.
- 4.2 All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD who may permit a substitute judged by him to be of similar standard.
- 4.3 Either of the teams in the match may appeal this judgement of equivalence to the Tournament Sub-Committee. Any such appeal must be notified before the commencement of the match or stanza in question.
- 4.4 A player may have a substitute for cause for a maximum of:
 - i. Qualifying – 50% of the matches;
 - ii. 50% of the stanzas in each of the Semi-Finals and/or Final.
- 4.5 Boards played by an approved substitute count towards fulfilment of the minimum board requirement of the original player.

5 Systems and Defences

- 5.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted.
- 5.2 Team captains are responsible for ensuring that the system cards for every pair are uploaded to the event website prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, January 16, 2015. Uploaded system cards will be vetted by the National Tournament Co-ordinator (NTC). System cards which the NTC deems require amendment must be amended and resubmitted to the NTC prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, January 23, 2015.

6 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

- 6.1 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.

- 6.2 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4), consumption of alcohol (1.5) and mobile phones (1.6) is 3 VPs or 9 IMPs.

7 Correction Period, Time of Appeal and Appeals

- 7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires:
- i. for the last session of a stage, 30 minutes after the scores for the last stanza of that stage are made available for inspection;
 - ii. for other sessions, 30 minutes after the commencement of the next session.
- 7.2 Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer may be rectified:
- i. for the last stanza of a stage, within the Correction Period, as defined in 8.1;
 - ii. for other stanzas, until the commencement of the last stanza of that stage.
- 7.3 The Time of Appeal (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was made.
- 7.4 A session is defined as any stanza of play after which there is comparison of scores by the players, except when the next stanza is scheduled to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the previous stanza. In such a case, the session is defined as the time from the commencement of the first stanza to the end of the second stanza. Boards played as a tie-break match in accordance with 8.9 will constitute a separate session. The Correction Period and Time of Appeal for a session immediately preceding the play of tie-break boards will expire at the time set by the CTD for the commencement of the tie-break match.
- 7.5 No competitor still participating in the OP may sit on an Appeals Committee in the OP and no competitor still participating in the WP may sit on an Appeals Committee in the WP.

8 Seating, Scoring, Ties, Carry-over

- 8.1 In double round robin matches, the team numbered first in the draw has choice in the first round robin. Seating rights will be reversed in the corresponding match in the second round robin.
- 8.2 In triple round robin matches, the line ups for the first round robin will be blind, ie. each captain will post their line-up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. For the second round robin, the team numbered first in the draw has choice. Seating rights will be reversed in the corresponding match in the third round robin.
- 8.3 In a head-to-head Knockout match, the winner of a draw for seating rights may elect to sit first or last for the first stanza. For subsequent stanzas, seating rights alternate.
- 8.4 The team captain is responsible for posting the seating positions of the players on the Line-up Form together 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. In the case of blind line ups, posting must be completed at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time of commencement of play. The CTD may alter posting times at his discretion.
- 8.5 The penalties for failure to post seating as required are loss of seating rights AND:
1st offence – warning,

2nd offence – 1 VP,
3rd and subsequent offences – 2 VPs per offence.

- 8.6 Round robin matches are scored by IMP converted to VP using the appropriate WBF scale.
- 8.7 Teams with a bye will be awarded 10 VPs.
- 8.8 In all Semi-Finals and Finals matches, there will be a carry-over based on the net IMP score from matches between the opposing teams in the Qualifying Stage. It will be half the net IMPs if the higher ranked team in the Qualification Stage had a positive net IMP score and one-third of the net IMP score otherwise. The carry-over for any match will be limited to 16 IMPs.
- 8.9 Semi-Final and Final matches are scored by IMPs, with any fraction of an IMP constituting a win.
- 8.10 Ties in the round robin occur when two or more teams are on exactly the same VP score.
- 8.11 Ties are broken according to the ABF TR as detailed in the Appendices.

9 Board Rule

- 9.1 There are no minimum board requirements for tie-break matches.
- 9.2 A team is eligible to progress to the next stage and to represent Australia only if each player in the team plays at least:
- i) seven matches in the Open Qualifying or six matches in the Women's Qualifying;
 - ii) two stanzas in the Semi-Final;
 - iii) three stanzas in the Final.
- 9.3 Notwithstanding 9.2, if a player is unavailable with due cause, the CTD in his sole discretion may deem that player and his nominated partner have fulfilled the board rule and allow the team to progress to the next stage. The CTD may ask for medical certificates or other documentary evidence to satisfy himself as to the nature and severity of any illness or injury.
- 9.4 When a player fails to satisfy the board rule, the ABF Management Committee, in its absolute discretion, following a report from the CTD and ABF Tournament Committee, determines the eligibility of the player, the pair, and the team. Consideration is given first to disqualification of the entire team. This decision is made subsequent to the completion of the event and does not change the format of the event.
- 9.5 For the purpose of the Board Rule, where a match is conceded, players who have not yet satisfied the Board Rule are in fact deemed to have played every remaining stanza of the match.

10 Target Events and Representation

- 10.1 The target event is the 2015 WBF Zone 7 Championships, played in conjunction with the APBF Championships, Bangkok, Thailand, May 21-31, 2015. Success at the Zone 7 Championships affords Australian Representative Teams the right to attend the 2015 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, Chennai, India, September 26-October 10, 2015.

- 10.2 The team placed first in each of the OP and WP will be offered the right to represent Australia at the target events. If only two pairs from the first placed team wish to attend a target event, a third pair will be added to the team in accordance with the provisions of 11 hereunder.
- 10.3 If there are not two pairs from the first placed team willing to attend a target event, the right to represent Australia will pass to the team defeated in the Final. If this team has only two pairs willing to attend the Target event, they must augment a third pair. In the first instance they may elect to accept augmentation by a pair from the original first placed team.
- 10.4 The right to represent Australia will pass down the teams with the two losing semi-finalists being ranked on their PQP on entry to the Playoffs.
- 10.5 Teams winning and/or accepting a place to play in WBF events confirm through such acceptance their knowledge and understanding of the WBF Dress and Drug Codes and regulations and the severe penalties for breaches of such regulations and codes. In summary this code requires players to be dressed in team uniforms for all formal occasions and all play sessions.

11 Withdrawal, Augmentation and Replacement

- 11.1 Where a team – or teams – having qualified to the next stage of either event, voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified through failure to meet the board rule or for any other reason under the laws, the following procedures shall be implemented:
 - 11.1.1 From the Qualifying stage, the team will be replaced by the next highest placed team.
 - 11.1.2 From the Semi-Finals, the team will be replaced by the team it defeated in the Semi-Final.
- 11.2 Where a team of four has won the right to represent Australia in a designated event, whether having entered the Playoffs as a team of four or having become a team of four following a withdrawal as permitted under 10 preceding, they must augment to a team of six.
- 11.3 The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of eligible pairs for submission to the ABF Tournament Committee (ABFTC).
- 11.4 To be included on the list each member of the pair must have participated in the respective Open or Women's Playoff event, although not necessarily as a partnership.
- 11.5 The list should include a brief summary of each pair's experience (as a partnership) and a list of their most recent achievements. A statement from each nominee confirming their availability for the respective target event must also be included.
- 11.6 The ordered short-list (consisting of at least three, but no more than six pairs) must be submitted to the Chairman of the ABFTC within 10 days of the conclusion of the Playoffs. The ABFTC will then make a recommendation to the ABF Management Committee for endorsement.
- 11.7 If the ordered short list is not received within 10 days the ABFTC will make a recommendation to the ABF Management Committee on the basis of its own judgement.

12 Event formats

- 12.1 Open Qualifying Stage
The Open Qualifying Stage will be played as a triple round robin of 12 board matches. Teams

will retain their team number throughout. The draw for the second and third round robins will be based on the first round robin draw adjusted to reflect the team's placing after the preceding round robin. The leading team will have the draw for team #1, second for team # 2, etc. At the conclusion of the qualifying, the four highest placed teams will qualify to the Semi-Finals.

12.2 Women's Qualifying Stage

The Women's Qualifying Stage will be played as a double round robin of 12 board matches. Teams will retain their team number throughout. The draw for the second round robin will be based on the first round robin draw adjusted to reflect the team's placing after the first round robin. The leading team will have the draw for team #1, second for team # 2, etc. At the conclusion of the qualifying, the four highest placed teams will qualify to the Semi-Finals.

12.3 Semi-Finals

The Semi-Finals will be played over 64 boards in four stanzas of 16. Scoring will be by net IMPs. The team finishing first in the Qualifying Stage will chooses their opponent from the other qualifying teams, with the proviso that that the team finishing second may opt not to be chosen. The two winning teams will qualify to the Final.

12.4 Final

The Open Final will be played over 96 boards in six stanzas of 16.

12.5 The time allowed per stanza will be announced by the CTD.

Appendices

Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 mins	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 mins	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 mins	5 VPs (15 IMPs)

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the CTD may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time and a slow play warning has previously been issued to a pair, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	1 VP (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	2 VPs (6 IMPs)

Tie-breaking

In head-to-head Knockout matches, ties are broken by playing four more boards then, if still tied, by playing one board at a time until the tie is broken or until the scheduled finishing time as announced by the CTD (whichever is sooner), then by lot.

At the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage, critical ties for qualification to the next stage are broken by playing four more boards then, if still tied, by playing one board at a time until the tie is broken

or until the scheduled finishing time as announced by the CTD (whichever is sooner), then by the method for breaking ties for ranking. A tie involving more than two teams is broken by playoff boards in a format as determined by the CTD.

Other ties (for ranking purposes) are broken by (in order): number of wins in VPs (10 VPs = ½ win), net IMPs, lot

Eligibility to represent Australia

Only financial members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme are eligible.

An eligible person must also be able to establish one or more of the following:

- a. is eligible to hold an Australian passport and demonstrably regards Australia as his/her home, even though he/she might spend much of his/her time working overseas;
- b. is an Australian citizen enrolled on the Australian federal and/or Australian State/Territory electoral roll(s);
- c. is of dual citizenship (holds an Australian passport and the passport of another country) and demonstrably regards Australia as home, even though he/she might spend much of his/her time working overseas;
- d. is of any nationality and holds a current Australian visa issued for a period of not less than three years;
- e. is a current temporary resident, and can satisfy the ABF Management Committee that he/she will be eligible to, and is in the process of becoming, a permanent Australian resident;
- f. is of a nationality that does not require an Australian visa to reside in Australia and demonstrably regards Australia as home;
- g. is of a nationality that does not require an Australian visa to work in Australia and demonstrably earns a significant proportion of his/her livelihood in Australia.

In WBF events WBF regulations relating to a player's eligibility to represent Australia will prevail.

Any players (including youth players) who seek to represent another NBO in an international (target) event in a calendar year are ineligible to seek (via an Australian Playoff) to represent Australia in the same target event in the same calendar year

In the case of dispute, interpretation of these regulations is at the absolute discretion of the ABF Management Committee. Any player in doubt about his eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF Tournament Committee on or before 31 December, 2014. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF Management Committee

Anticipated Finishing Time

The following times are provided solely as a guide to players and may change due to circumstances beyond the control of the TO:

Open Qualifying	7.15 pm, Monday, February 2
Women's Qualifying	5.20 pm, Monday, February 2
Semi-Finals	8.20 pm, Tuesday, February 3
Open Final	6.30 pm, Thursday, February 5