

# AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFFS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2017

1	General .....	1
2	Officials.....	2
3	Entry.....	2
4	Substitutions.....	3
5	Systems and Defences.....	3
6	Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties .....	4
7	Correction Period, Time to request a Review .....	4
8	Seating, Carry-over, Scoring.....	4
9	Board Rule .....	5
10	Target Events and Representation.....	5
11	Withdrawal, Augmentation and Replacement .....	5
12	Event format.....	6
	<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>7</b>
	Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play .....	7
	Eligibility to represent Australia .....	8
	Anticipated Finishing Time .....	8

## 1 General

- 1.1 The 2017 Australian Open Team Playoffs (OP) 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 ibis Styles Canberra Eaglehawk Hotel, 1222 Federal Highway, Sutton, NSW.
- 1.3 The Playoff dates are 12-17 November, 2016. Depending on the number of entries, all teams may not be required to attend for all days. See Event Format - Section 12 - for details.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Smoking is not permitted inside the venue, nor in any area defined by the TO as a non-smoking area. In addition during the session, smoking is not permitted by any players currently playing. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.6 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.7 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).
- 1.8 All requests for information about the auction or any alerted call must be made with the screen closed. They are made to, and responded to by, the screenmate in writing. A claim of misinformation should be supported by written evidence. Failure to do so may invalidate any claim of damage. Any spoken enquiries or responses which result in another table being

unable to play a board due to the receipt of extraneous information will incur a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).

- 1.9 Players are reminded of their obligation to not pass information to other tables via audible post-mortems or discussions. Repeated breaches of this regulation may incur a disciplinary penalty. Notwithstanding this, any audible discussion which results in another table being unable to play a board due to the receipt of extraneous information will incur a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.10 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 Jane Rasmussen.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Matthew McManus.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.4 The ABF on site representative is TBA.

## **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 the Open 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 All players in the team declare their availability to represent Australia in the Target Event (Section 10 hereunder).
- 3.5 At the time of entry, 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.
- 3.6 Once a player is entered in a team he/she is prohibited from withdrawing and entering in another team.
- 3.7 By entering, the team if accepted becomes liable for the entry fee, regardless of whether they actually participate.
- 3.8 By entering, the team undertakes to abide by the General and Supplementary Regulations for the tournament.

- 3.9 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 (ABF MC),
  - ii. members of the ABF Tournament Committee (ABF TC),
  - iii. any person holding an official position at the event.
- 3.10 No player may nominate for more than one team.
- 3.11 Nominations for the OP must be submitted via the ABF Webpage between Tuesday September 6, 2016, and 6.00 pm, AEDT, Saturday October 8, 2016.
- 3.12 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. A maximum of eight teams will be accepted into the Playoff.
- 3.13 All qualifying teams will be listed in ranked order on the Playoff website on Sunday, October 9, 2016.
- 3.14 Following the close of entries (but not before that time), a team which entered with four players may augment an additional pair by advising the TO prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Monday October 10, 2016. 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 ranking of the teams.
- 3.15 The entry fee will be \$1600 per team. Teams eliminated at the Quarter-Final Stage will be entitled to a refund of \$800. Teams eliminated at the Semi-Final Stage will be entitled to a refund of \$400. All refunds and subsidies payable for the members of a team will be paid into one bank account nominated by the team on November 18, 2016.
- 3.16 Entry fees must be paid by direct deposit into the ABF Account (BSB: 082968; A/C: 641482644) by the close of business on Friday October 28, 2016.
- 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 a Tournament Sub-Committee convened by the ABF on site representative. 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 4 stanzas of any match.
- 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 are permitted. BROWN STICKER conventions will be allowed.
- 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, Friday October 14, 2016. Note that the current electronic ABF Standard System Card must be used. Uploaded system cards will be vetted by the National Event Co-ordinator (NEC). System cards which the NEC deems require amendment must be amended and resubmitted to the NEC prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday October 21, 2016.

## **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 breaches of regulations 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 or 1.9 is 9 IMPs.

## **7 Correction Period, Time to request a Review**

- 7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires:
  - i.. for the last stanza of a match, 30 minutes after the scores for that stanza are made available for inspection;
  - ii. for other stanzas, 15 minutes before the commencement of the next session.
- 7.2 The Time to request a review of the Director's ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the ruling was delivered or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was delivered, whichever is later. (For the purposes of this regulation, a ruling delivered less than 30 minutes prior to the start of the following session will be deemed to have been delivered in the following session.)
- 7.3 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.

## **8 Seating, Carry-over, Scoring**

- 8.1 In each match, the winner of a draw for seating rights elects to sit first or last for the first stanza. For subsequent stanzas, the order of seating alternates.
- 8.2 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. The CTD may alter posting times at his discretion.
- 8.3 The penalties for failure to post seating as required are loss of seating rights AND:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offence – warning,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offence – 3 IMPs,
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offences – 6 IMPs per offence.
- 8.4 In all matches, the higher ranked team will carry-forward 0.1 IMPs.

8.5 All matches are scored by IMPs, with any fraction of an IMP constituting a win.

## **9 Board Rule**

9.1 A team is eligible to progress to the next stage and to represent Australia only if each player in the team plays at least four stanzas in each match played.

9.2 Notwithstanding 9.1, 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.

9.3 When a player fails to satisfy the board rule, the ABF MC, in its absolute discretion, following a report from the CTD and ABF TC, 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.

9.4 For the purpose of the Board Rule, where a match is conceded, players who have not yet satisfied the Board Rule are deemed to have played every remaining stanza of the match.

## **10 Target Events and Representation**

10.1 The target event is the 2017 WBF Zone 7 Championships, played in conjunction with the APBF Championships, Seoul, South Korea, May 28 - June 7, 2017. Success at the Zone 7 Championships affords the Australian Representative Team the right to attend the 2017 Bermuda Bowl, Lyon, France, August 12-26, 2017.

10.2 The right to represent Australia at the target event will be offered to the team in the order described in 10.3. Except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the ABF MC, if all members of the team do not except the offer, it will pass to the next ranked team. If a team contains only four members, a third pair will be added to the team in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 hereunder.

10.3 Ranking order for the right to represent Australia in the target event will be:

- i) the team winning the Final;
- ii) the team defeated in the Final;
- iii) the losing semi-finalist ranked higher on PQP on entry to the Playoff;
- iv) the other semi-finalist.

10.4 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 having qualified to the next stage of the event, voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified through failure to meet the board rule or for any other reason under the laws, the team will be replaced by the team it defeated in the previous match.

- 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 permitted by the MC under 10.2 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 ABFTC.
- 11.4 To be included on the list each member of the pair must have participated in the Open 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 MC for endorsement.
- 11.7 If the ordered short list is not received within 10 days the ABFTC will make a recommendation to the ABF MC on the basis of its own judgement.

## **12 Event format**

- 12.1 All matches in the Playoff will be over 128 boards, played in 8 stanzas of 16. Four stanzas will be played on each day. The teams will be ranked as per 3.12, and will be then designated as Team 1, Team 2, etc. After each match, the remaining teams will again be ranked as per 3.12 and re-designated as Team 1, Team 2, etc.
- 12.2 The format will be determined by the number of entries:
  - 12.2.1 3 entries – Team 1 will qualify direct to the Final. Teams 2 and 3 will play off in a Semi-Final match. Team 1 need not attend the venue on days 1 and 2. Length of event – 4 days.
  - 12.2.2 4 entries – Team 1 chooses its Semi-Final opponent from amongst the other entries, with the proviso that the Team 2 may elect not to be chosen. Length of event – 4 days.
  - 12.2.3 5 entries – Teams 1, 2 and 3 qualify directly to the Semi-Finals. Teams 4 and 5 will play off in a Quarter-Final match. At the conclusion of the Quarter-Final, Team 1 chooses its Semi-Final opponent from amongst the remaining teams, with the proviso that Team 2 may elect not to be chosen. Teams 1, 2 and 3 need not attend the venue on days 1 and 2. Length of event – 6 days.
  - 12.2.4 6 entries – Teams 1 and 2 qualify directly to the Semi-Finals. Teams 3 to 6 will play off in two Quarter-Final matches. Team 3 chooses its Quarter-Final match opponent from amongst Teams 4 to 6 with the proviso that Team 4 may elect not to be chosen. At the conclusion of the Quarter-Finals, Team 1 then chooses its Semi-Final opponent from amongst the remaining teams, with the proviso that Team 2 may elect not to be chosen. Teams 1 and 2 need not attend the venue on days 1 and 2. Length of event – 6 days.
  - 12.2.5 7 entries – Team 1 qualify directly to the Semi-Finals. Teams 2 to 7 will play off in three Quarter-Final matches. Team 2 chooses its Quarter-Final opponent from amongst Teams 3 to 7 with the proviso that Team 3 may elect not to be chosen. Team 3 then selects its opponent from the remaining teams. At the conclusion of the Quarter-Finals, Team 1 chooses its Semi-Final opponent from amongst the winning teams, with the proviso that Team 2 may elect not to be chosen. Team 1 need not attend the venue on days 1 and 2. Length of event – 6 days.

12.2.6 8 entries – Team 1 chooses its Quarter-Final opponent from amongst Teams 2 to 8 with the proviso that Teams 2 and 3 may elect not to be chosen. Then Team 2 selects its opponent from the remaining teams with the proviso that Team 3 may elect not to be chosen. Then Team 3 selects its opponent from the remaining teams. At the conclusion of the Quarter-Finals, Team 1 chooses its Semi-Final opponent from amongst the winning teams, with the proviso that Team 2 may elect not to be chosen. Length of event – 6 days.

12.3 Choice of opponent.

12.3.1 Where a team is chosen by a higher ranked team and would otherwise have had a choice of opponent for the same stage, the right to choice of opponent for that match will devolve to the next highest ranked team. The right to elect not to be chosen will not pass to lower ranked teams.

12.3.2 Where, under the event format, a team has either a choice of opponent or the option of not being chosen, the team captain must advise the CTD of the team's intentions prior to the times set out below. Failure to do so will result in either: (i) the team remaining in the pool of teams which may be chosen, where the option to remove itself had been available; or (ii) where the team had a choice of opponent, the team being drawn against the lowest ranked available team for the following match.

12.3.3 Initial choice deadlines:

i) Option for Team 2 (4 entries), Team 3 (7 entries), Team 4 (6 entries), Teams 2 and 3 (8 entries) to elect not to be chosen - Thursday, October 13, 6.00pm AEDT;

ii) Choice of opponents: Team 1 (4 or 8 entries), Team 2 (7 entries) or Team 3 (6 entries) - Monday, October 17, 6.00pm AEDT;

iii) Option for Team 3 (8 entries) to elect not to be chosen - Wednesday, October 19, 6.00pm AEDT;

iv) Choice of opponents: Team 2 (8 entries) or Team 3 (7 entries) - Friday, October 21, 6.00pm AEDT;

v) Choice of opponents: Team 3 (8 entries) - Monday, October 24, 6.00pm AEDT.

12.3.4 Choices following Quarter-Finals:

i) Option to elect not to be chosen - 60 minutes after the conclusion of the last completed Quarter-Final match;

ii) Choice of opponents - 120 minutes after the conclusion of the last completed Quarter-Final match.

The CTD may alter these times at his discretion.

## Appendices

### Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 3 IMPs for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	3 IMPs
10-15 mins	6 IMPs
15-20 mins	9 IMPs
20-30 mins	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	3 IMPs
Subsequent boards	6 IMPs

### **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 MC 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 MC. Any player in doubt about his eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF TC on or before 21 September, 2016. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF MC.

### **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:

Quarter-Finals	7.50 pm, Sunday, November 13
Semi-Finals	7.50 pm, Tuesday, November 15
Finals	7.50 pm, Thursday, November 17