

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFFS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2019

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1 General

- 1.1 The 2019 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 Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Ave, Braddon, ACT.
- 1.3 The Playoff dates are 10-15 November, 2018. 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 The TO may grant permission for still or moving photographs to be taken during the course of the event. Players may only refuse to be photographed for religious or cultural reasons deemed valid by the TO or CTD.
- 1.11 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, 2017). 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 David Hoffman.

3 Entry

- 3.1 Teams must nominate as either 2 or 3 pairs, and play in those partnerships throughout the event unless authorised by the CTD for due cause.
- 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 they are 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 Monday September 10, 2018, and 6.00 pm, AEST, Friday October 5, 2018.
- 3.12 Any PQPs earned by a player in partnership with their nominated Playoff partner will count double. Nominating teams are ranked according to the net PQPs of all members of the team. Ties are broken according to the number of PQPs 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 Playoffs website on Saturday, October 6, 2018.
- 3.14 Following the close of entries (but not before that time), a team which entered with two pairs may augment an additional pair by advising the TO prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Monday October 8, 2018. The augmented pair 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 \$1620 per team. However, subsidies will be offset against the entry fee. This will result in a limited number of players being required to make an entry fee payment. (Sydney based players in a team of four will be required to pay \$135 per player. Canberra based players will be required to pay \$405 per player for teams of four or \$270 per player for teams of six.) Teams eliminated after the Quarter-Final Stage will be entitled to a refund of \$800. Teams eliminated after the Semi-Final Stage will be entitled to a refund of \$400. (The refund amounts will be adjusted accordingly for teams containing youth players eligible for ABF discount.) All refunds and subsidies payable for the members of a team will be paid into one bank account nominated by the team as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the Playoffs.
- 3.16 Teams with entry fees payable must pay by direct deposit into the ABF Account (BSB: 082968; A/C: 641482644) by the close of business on Thursday, October 25, 2018.
- 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 to field four players for a stanza.
- 4.2 All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD who may permit a substitute they judge 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 All systems are permitted. BROWN STICKER conventions will be allowed.
- 5.2 Team captains are responsible for ensuring that the system cards are lodged for each pair. The current electronic ABF Standard System Card must be used.
 - 5.2.1 System cards must be uploaded to the event website prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday October 12, 2018. Failure to lodge system cards in time will incur a penalty of 5 IMPs per day (or part thereof) per pair, up to a maximum of 35 IMPs per pair in the first match in which the team plays. For the purpose of this regulation, a day will be measured from 6.00 pm AEDT on each successive day. Failure to upload a card for every pair prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday October 19, 2018 will result in the team being disqualified.
 - 5.2.2 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 19, 2018. Penalties for breach of this clause may be imposed at the discretion of the NEC.
- 5.3 If a change of partnership is permitted by the CTD under 3.1 or if a player competes with a approved substitute, the new partnership must either play a system which has been submitted as per 5.2 or a system which the CTD considers is sufficiently natural as to cause no disadvantage to the opposition through lack of previous disclosure.

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 their discretion.
- 8.3 The penalties for failure to post seating as required are loss of seating rights AND:
1st offence – warning,
2nd offence – 3 IMPs,
3rd 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 pair 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 their sole discretion may deem that player and their 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 themselves as to the nature and severity of any illness or injury.
- 9.3 When a pair 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 2019 WBF Zone 7 Championships, played in conjunction with the APBF Championships, Singapore, June 11-20, 2019. Success at the Zone 7 Championships affords the Australian Representative Team the right to attend the 2019 Bermuda Bowl, proposed to be held in China, October 18 - November 2, 2019.
- 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 accept 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 PQPs 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, Disqualification, Augmentation and Replacement

11.1 Where, after entries are closed but before the start of the event, a team is disqualified or withdraws prior to November 3, the highest ranked team which entered but failed to qualify to play in the event (if any) will be invited to play. The team must indicate their intention within 2 days of the invitation being given. Whether or not such an invitation is accepted, any elections made under 12.3 will be voided, and new choices will be made in a time frame as determined by the CTD.

11.2 Where a team withdraws after November 2, all elections made under 12.3 will stand. Any team which was drawn to play against the team which withdrew will be deemed to have won their match. If the withdrawing team had qualified directly to the Semi-Finals, the team which lost its quarter-final match by the smallest margin will qualify to the Semi-Final. In order, losing teams will be ranked according to i) IMP difference; ii) IMP quotient; iii) lot.

11.3 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.

11.4 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 third pair.

11.5 The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of eligible pairs for submission to the ABF TC.

11.6 To be included on the list the pair must have participated in the Open Playoff event.

11.7 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.

11.8 The ordered short-list (consisting of at least three, but no more than six pairs) must be submitted to the Chairman of the ABF TC within 10 days of the conclusion of the Playoffs. The ABF TC will then make a recommendation to the ABF MC for endorsement.

11.9 If the ordered short list is not received within 10 days the ABF TC 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 qualifies 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 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) loss of right to declare itself unavailable for selection by a higher ranked team; or (ii) where the team would normally have 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 - Monday, October 15, 6.00pm AEDT;
- ii) Choice of opponents: Team 1 (4 or 8 entries), Team 2 (7 entries) or Team 3 (6 entries) - Wednesday, October 17, 6.00pm AEDT;
- iii) Option for Team 3 (8 entries) to elect not to be chosen - Friday, October 19, 6.00pm AEDT;
- iv) Choice of opponents: Team 2 (8 entries) or Team 3 (7 entries) - Monday, October 22, 6.00pm AEDT;
- v) Choice of opponents: Team 3 (8 entries) - Wednesday, 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 their 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 team, 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 their home, even though they might spend much of their 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 they might spend much of their 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 they 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 their 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 their eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF TC on or before 19 September, 2018. 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 11
Semi-Finals	7.50 pm, Tuesday, November 13
Finals	7.50 pm, Thursday, November 15