

## **OPEN & WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN TEAMS PLAYOFF - 2004**

### **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 4th - Monday 8th March 2004 inclusive.
- 1.3. The official website for the Playoffs will be [www.abf.com.au/events/playoffs](http://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 2004 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. SCREENS, 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.

### **4. SYSTEMS**

- 4.1. All systems (including defences to particular systems) are allowed, provided they are circulated in accordance with the directions of the ABF Tournament Committee.
- 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 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. Bidding systems in which the partnership routinely opens at the 2-level or 3-level with less than 15 or 12 Opening Points respectively will not be defined as yellow *per se*. Bidding systems in which the partnership opens at the 1-level with less than 15 Opening Points will be defined as yellow.

## 5. SELECTION OF PAIRS 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.
- 5.2. Nominating pairs must have a minimum of 1 PQP earned in the same unit.
- 5.3. Women's pairs eligible for both Playoffs may nominate for either, but not both.
- 5.4. Initial nominations must be submitted via the official website and must be received before 4.00 pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2003.
- 5.5. Nominating pairs will be ranked according to their total PQPs, discounted by 50% for PQPs not earned in the same unit.
- 5.6. The top 18 pairs will be accepted into each event and their names will be promulgated on the official website.
- 5.7. Successful pairs must submit systems by 19th December, along with the entry fee of \$340 per pair.
- 5.8. Pairs that submit inadequate systems will be notified on or before 2nd January 2004. Such pairs will have until 9th January to submit an acceptable system card. Failure to do so will result in rejection of that pair's nomination and forfeiture of the entry fee.
- 5.9. Pairs submitting entries under the re-opening of entries as specified by the Management Committee of the ABF have until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2004 to email their entry.

## 6. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES

- 6.1. Travel subsidies will be awarded to players in the 12 top-ranked pairs.
- 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.

## 7. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

- 7.1. Each Playoff will be comprised of two stages:
  - Stage I: a round robin of 17 matches each of 14 boards.
  - Stage II: a team match comprising 64 boards played in 4 × 16 board segments.
- 7.2. Teams and replacement pairs
  - 7.2.1. The Australian Team for 2004 will consist of the pair ranked 1 from Stage I plus the winning team from Stage II. It will participate in the designated event (*viz.* The Olympiad in Istanbul from 25 October to 6 November 2004).
  - 7.2.2. Reserve pairs will consist of all Stage I pairs in rank order.
  - 7.2.3. Any pair in the Australian Team that is unable to compete in the designated event will be replaced by the highest ranked reserve pair.
  - 7.2.4. Should the ABF receive any invitations to other international events held before the 2005 Playoff, such invitations will be offered to the winning pair from Stage I plus the two highest ranked reserve pairs that have not represented Australia since the 2004 Playoff.
- 7.3. Stage I
  - 7.3.1. The format will be a round robin of 17 × 14-board matches with Butler scoring. For each board, the average of the middle seven of the nine scores will be computed as the datum for the board.
  - 7.3.2. Each pair's score on a board will be calculated by comparing their score with the datum by IMPs.
  - 7.3.3. Separate datum scores will be calculated for the Open and Women's Events.
  - 7.3.4. The nett IMP score for the match will be converted to Victory Points using the WBF scale for 12-board matches.

#### 7.4. Stage II

- 7.4.1. At the end of Stage I, the pair ranked 2 will select one pair as team-mates from the pairs ranked 3, 4 and 5. The remaining two pairs will form the other team. These two teams will contest Stage II.
- 7.4.2. Should any of the pairs ranked 2 to 5 decline to play in Stage II, they will be replaced by the highest ranked reserve pair(s). The highest ranked pair in Stage II selects its team mates.
- 7.4.3. A pair that withdraws from Stage II with permission will maintain its ranking on the reserve pair list. A pair that withdraws from Stage II without permission will be removed from the reserve pair list.
- 7.4.4. Seating rights will be by toss of coin. The team that wins the toss will have choice of opponents in either segments 1 & 3 or segments 2 & 4. There will be no loss of seating rights for any team containing a pair playing a yellow system.
- 7.4.5. The winning team will be the team that has the greater number of IMPs at the end of the match.
- 7.4.6. The winning pair from Stage I may not kibitz the Stage II match.

#### 8. TIES

- 8.1. Ties in Stage I occur when one or more pairs are on exactly the same VP score at the finish of the stage. 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) The pair with the highest nett IMP score will be ranked highest.
  - (c) Pairs 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.
  - (d) The totals will be recalculated by successively deleting the worst result of each of the pairs still ranking equally.
  - (e) The pair with the greatest number of VPs scored from matches that involve only those pairs involved in the tie will be ranked highest.
  - (f) by lot
- 8.2. Ties in Stage II will be broken by successive 4-board playoffs until a result is determined.

#### 9. PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS (PQPs)

- 9.1. PQPs will be awarded at the end of Stage I as follows:  
first 36, second 32, third 28, fourth 24, fifth 20, sixth 16, seventh 12, eighth 8.
- 9.2. Ties will not be broken for the purposes of awarding PQPs. The available PQPs will be shared equally among all tying pairs.

## 10. SESSION TIMES

10.1. Round times will be as shown in the table below.

Date	Session Times	Round	Round Times	Score Correction Period Expires
Thursday 4th March	10:00-14:00	Stage I - 1	10:00-11:45	15:00
		Stage I - 2	12:15-14:00	15:00
	15:00-19:00	Stage I - 3	15:00-16:45	10:00
		Stage I - 4	17:15-19:00	10:00
Friday 5th March	10:00-14:00	Stage I - 5	10:00-11:45	15:00
		Stage I - 6	12:15-14:00	15:00
	15:00-19:00	Stage I - 7	15:00-16:45	20:30
		Stage I - 8	17:15-19:00	20:30
	20:30-22:15	Stage I - 9	20:30-22:15	10:00
Saturday 6th March	10:00-14:00	Stage I - 10	10:00-11:45	15:00
		Stage I - 11	12:15-14:00	15:00
	15:00-19:00	Stage I - 12	15:00-16:45	10:00
		Stage I - 13	17:15-19:00	10:00
Sunday 7th March	10:00-14:00	Stage I - 14	10:00-11:45	15:00
		Stage I - 15	12:15-14:00	15:00
	15:00-19:00	Stage I - 16	15:00-16:45	19:30
		Stage I - 17	17:15-19:00	19:30
Monday 8th March	09:30-11:30	Stage II - 1	09:30-11:30	12:00
	12:00-14:00	Stage II - 2	12:00-14:00	14:30
	14:30-16:30	Stage II - 3	14:30-16:30	17:00
	17:00-19:00	Stage II - 4	17:00-19:00	19:30

## 11. APPEALS

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. 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.
- 11.3. No competitor in the 2004 Playoffs shall sit on the Appeals Committee.
- 11.4. 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. CORRECTION PERIOD

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer during Stage I may be corrected anytime up until 30 minutes after the end of Stage I.
- 12.3. Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer during Stage II may be corrected anytime up until 30 minutes after the end of Stage II.

### 13. FOULED BOARDS

- 13.1. A ruling that a board is “fouled” must be sought within the correction period specified in #12.1.
- 13.2. A board that does not tally with the hand record is not ipso-facto “fouled”.
- 13.3. 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".
- 13.4. A “fouled” board is scored by:
  - (a) including one or more of its results in the calculation of the datum (described in #7.3.1) when the CTD rules that the fouling was of no consequence.
  - (b) providing that the hand has been played by four or more tables, treat it as a separate deal determining a separate datum for the changed board and calculate scores for that part of the field from this datum.  
or
  - (c) awarding an adjusted score of 1 IMP to those pairs who played the fouled board.
- 13.5. The CTD may issue a procedural penalty (1 VP) to pairs responsible for fouling a board.

### 14. PROCEDURAL PENALTIES

- 14.1. Procedural penalties are not subject to appeal, but the CTD may be requested to review the assessment.
- 14.2. There will be no grace period for late arrival. Procedural penalties for late arrival are:

	Stage I	Stage II
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
- 14.3. 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.
- 14.4. If a number of boards are unable to be played because one pair is late, the non-offending pair will be awarded a score of 1 IMP for every board not played.
- 14.5. In cases of slow play in Stage I, a penalty of 2 VPs will be allocated for every board not started at the conclusion of the time allowed. The CTD will assess how this will be allocated between the pairs involved, based on any monitor's reports and his own observations and any admissions from the players involved.
- 14.6. In cases of slow play in Stage II, the assessed 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 pairs involved, based on any monitor's reports and his own observations and any admissions from the players involved.
- 14.7. 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.
- 14.8. Where players arrive late and can be assessed for a late arrival penalty as well as a penalty for slow play the pair will be assessed for the greater of the two penalties.
- 14.9. 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 VPs in Stage I and 3 IMPs in Stage II 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.

## 15. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 15.1. Substitution is not a right but a privilege allowed for cause at the discretion of the CTD and/or Tournament Sub-Committee whose decision on this issue is not appealable.
- 15.2. All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD and the Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 15.3. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to #15.1 for any player in Stage I is 3 rounds. Breach of this regulation renders the pair ineligible but they are expected to continue, their scores being included in the determination of results.
- 15.4. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to #15.1 for any player in Stage II is 25% (1 segment).

## 16. FORFEITS

- 16.1. In the case of a forfeit the score of the non-offending pair after round 15 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 offending pair (maximum 25-5 VPs).
- 16.2. The non-offender's IMP score is the mean of the range of the VP score allocated.
- 16.3. The offender's score is 0 VP and -62 IMPs.

## 17. ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 17.1. All calls that the opponents may misunderstand or misinterpret are to be alerted with an ALERT card.
- 17.2. Each player is to alert his/her screen mate to any alertable call made by the partnership.
- 17.3. All explanations are to be in writing - no verbal communication between screen mates is allowed during play.
- 17.4. No communication across the screen (other than declarer's call of a card from dummy) is allowed without the permission of the Director.

## 18. MISCELLANEOUS

- 18.1. In accordance with ABF policy, smoking is not permitted in the playing area, but the Convener may designate other areas where smoking is permitted.
- 18.2. Average plus (Law 78D) in Stage I will be defined as 1 IMP.
- 18.3. 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.

## 19. SEEDING AND SEATING

- 19.1. Pairs will be seeded by Martin Willcox, in consultation with John Brockwell, Phil Gue, Warren Lazer, Eric Ramshaw and David Stern.
- 19.2. The draw and seeding will be posted on the website by March 1, 2004.