

AUSTRALIAN TEAMS PLAYOFF – 2009, SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. The Regulating Authority (Law 80) for the 2009 Open and Women's Playoffs is the Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated (ABF). The Playoffs are conducted in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations and these Supplementary Regulations. In the case of conflict the ABF Tournament Regulations prevail.
- 1.2. The Playoff venue is the Hakoah Club, 61 Hall Street, Bondi.
- 1.3. The dates of the Playoffs are
 - Open: Saturday 21st March - Thursday 26th March 2009 inclusive.
 - Women: Saturday 21st March - Tuesday 24th March 2009 inclusive
- 1.4. Personnel
 - 1.4.1. The Tournament Organiser is Eric Ramshaw.
 - 1.4.2. The Chief Tournament Director (CTD) is Sean Mullamphy.
 - 1.4.3. The Tournament Sub-Committee Convener is Eric Ramshaw.
 - 1.4.4. The Appeals Sub-Committee Convener is David Stern.
 - 1.4.5. The ABF Tournament Committee representative is Kim Morrison.
 - 1.4.6. The Official Scorer is Martin Willcox.
 - 1.4.7. The Recorder is Neville Moses.
- 1.5. Members of the Appeal and Tournament Sub-Committees are appointed by the Convener who is the sole judge of the quorum.
- 1.6. The official website for the Playoffs is www.abf.com.au/events/playoffs. Information pertaining to the Playoffs is found on that website and players are deemed to be aware of all information contained thereon.
- 1.7. Smoking is not permitted within the venue.
- 1.8. Mobile telephones, pagers or other electronic equipment must be switched off during session time and may not be consulted or used unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD.
- 1.9. Alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time.
- 1.10. BBO webcasts may present the play from any table without prior notice.

2. EQUIPMENT, DEALING AND HAND RECORDS

- 2.1. Screens, bidding boxes and stop cards are used throughout the Playoff.
- 2.2. Boards are pre-dealt by an ABF-approved computer program and hand records with Deep Finesse analysis are provided.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. Players must record the score for each board immediately after it is played and before the commencement of the next board.

3. SYSTEMS

- 3.1. Green Blue, Red and Yellow systems and Brown Sticker conventions are permitted, provided that an Edwards standard system card is posted on the web page before the due date (1st March for Women & Open, Division One; 16th March for Open, Division Two).
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. Defences to Yellow systems and Brown Sticker conventions (one A4 sheet) must be approved by the CTD before the scheduled time for commencement of the match in which they are to be used and given to the opponents prior to the start of play.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. 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 system cards or supplementary sheets completed adequately must play a totally natural system until the necessary paperwork is completed.

4. ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO THE PLAYOFF

- 4.1. Selection of teams to compete in the Women's Playoff and Division One of the Open Playoff

- 4.1.1. Only players who have sufficient Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) as shown on the ABF Website may nominate to compete in the Playoffs.
- 4.1.2. The minimum qualification is Women, 15 PQP; Open Division One, 24 PQP or such lesser numbers as are necessary to qualify at least 64 players.
- 4.1.3. Each nominating team must designate 3 pairs, each of which must have earned a minimum of 1 PQP in the same unit.
- 4.1.4. Each nominating team must designate a playing or non-playing captain.
- 4.1.5. No player may nominate in more than one team for the Women's and Open Division One Playoff.
- 4.1.6. Nominations must be received by Professor Magner before 5.00 pm on Thursday 11th December, 2008.
- 4.1.7. Nominating teams are ranked according to the total PQP of their designated pairs, discounted by 50% for PQP not earned in the same unit. Ties are broken according to the number of PQP obtained in events in category A then B then C then D.
- 4.1.8. If still tied the procedure above is repeated using PQP from the previous year then lot.
- 4.1.9. The 6 Women's teams and 4 Open teams that are ranked highest are accepted into the event and their names are promulgated on the official website on Friday 19th December 2008.
- 4.1.10. Successful teams become liable for the entry fee (Women, \$1400; Division One of the Open, \$1560) less any travel subsidies on Friday 19th December 2008 but the fee is collected on Saturday 21st March 2009 before play commences.

4.2. Entry of teams into Division Two of the Open Playoff

- 4.2.1. Any players, irrespective of Playoff Qualifying Points may nominate as teams of four, five or six to compete in the Open Playoff Division Two.
- 4.2.2. Each nominating team must designate a playing or non-playing captain.
- 4.2.3. No player may nominate for the Open Playoff Division Two in more than one team. Unsuccessful Division One nominees are encouraged to enter Division Two.
- 4.2.4. Nominations must be received by Professor Magner before 5pm on Monday 16th March 2009.
- 4.2.5. Entry fees for the first stage (Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd March) are

Team of four (at least 2 players with a minimum of 24 PQP each)	\$480
Team of five or six (at least 3 players with a minimum of 24 PQP each)	\$480
Other teams	\$720

- 4.2.6. Teams that qualify to compete in the repechage (Monday 23rd March) pay an additional entry fee of the difference between their original entry fee (\$480 or \$720) and the Division One entry fee (\$1560).

4.3. Travel subsidies

Travel subsidies are available for players (but not non-playing captains) in the teams accepted into the Women's and Open Division One Playoffs and the two teams from Division Two that compete in the repechage.

Origin	Adelaide	Brisbane	Canberra	Hobart	NT	Melbourne	Perth	Sydney
Subsidy (\$)	500	400	200	500	700	400	700	0

5. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND SEEDING

5.1. Women's Playoff

- 5.1.1. The **Women's Playoff** consists of a double round robin of 10-board matches followed by a semi-final and final of 64 boards each.
- 5.1.2. For the first round robin, teams are seeded 1 through 6 according to their entry ranking by PQP. For the second round robin, teams are numbered in the finishing order of the first round robin.
- 5.1.3. The draw for the Round Robin is

Rounds	Table	Table	Table
1 & 6	6v1	4v2	5v3
2, &7	5v1	2v3	4v6
3 & 8	1v4	2v5	6v3
4 & 9	3v1	6v2	4v5
5 & 10	1v2	3v4	5v6

- 5.1.4. After the second round robin, the 1st team chooses its semi-final opponent from the 3rd & 4th teams.
- 5.1.5. The winner of the head-to-head round robin matches against its semi-final opponent carries over to the 64-board semi-final 50% (rounded up 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 opponents of the team finishing second can not carry over more than 8 IMP.

5.1.6. There is no carryover to the final.

5.2. Open Playoff Division One

5.2.1. The 4 teams in the **Open Playoff Division One** play a double round robin of 20-board matches (2 stanzas of 10 boards).

5.2.2. For the first round robin, teams are seeded 1 through 4 according to their entry ranking by PQP. For the second round robin, teams are numbered in the finishing order of the first round robin.

5.2.3. The draw for the Round Robin is

Rounds	Table	Table
1 & 4	1 v 4	2 v 3
2 & 5	3 v 1	4 v 2
3 & 6	1 v 2	3 v 4

5.2.4. Teams ranked 3rd & 4th by the round robins play a 64-board repechage against the two teams ranked highest by the first stage of Division Two. The team ranked 3rd chooses its opponent from the Division Two teams.

5.2.5. The two winners in the repechage and the teams ranked 1st & 2nd by the round robins enter the 64-board semi-final.

5.2.6. enter the semi-final. The team ranked 1st chooses its opponent from the winners of the repechage.

5.2.7. The two winners from the semi-finals play a 96-board final.

5.2.8. There is no carryover to in the Open Playoff.

5.3. Open Playoff Division Two

5.3.1. The format of the **Open Playoff Division Two** depends on entry.

5.3.2. Potential formats include (double) round robin (entry ≤ 8), 6-round, 20-board Swiss (entry 9-12) and 8-round, 16-board Swiss (entry > 12).

5.3.3. The tournament organiser may nominate a “house unit” that includes players from a small group.

5.3.4. The draw for team numbers in a round robin or for the first round of a Swiss is random.

5.3.5. The two teams ranked highest compete in the repechage against teams ranked 3rd & 4th in Division One.

5.3.6. The two winners from the repechage enter the semi-final.

5.3.7. The two winners from the semi-finals play a 96-board final.

6. SEATING, SCORING, TIES

6.1. Teams containing a pair playing a yellow system do not lose seating rights.

6.2. In the first round robin the team numbered first sits first in the first stanza and second in the second stanza. Seating rights for any match in the second round robin are the reverse of those in the match between the same teams in the first round robin.

6.3. In a head- to-head 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.

6.4. 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.

6.5. The penalties for failure to post seating as required are loss of seating rights AND

1 st offence	warning	2 nd offence	1 VP penalty	3 rd & subsequent offences	2 VP penalty per offence
-------------------------	---------	-------------------------	--------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------

6.6. Round robin matches are scored by IMP converted to VP using the WBF scale for the number of boards in the matches.

6.7. Swiss matches are scored by IMP converted to VP using the WBF scale announced when the format is determined.

6.8. Head-to-head matches (repechage, semi-final, final) are scored by VP with 1 IMP equivalent to 1 VP. Any fraction of a VP constitutes a win.

6.9. Ties occur when two or more teams are on exactly the same VP score and are broken according to ABF Tournament Regulation #15.

7. SESSION TIMES

Round and session times are shown in the Table below. Division Two times are provisional assuming 8 rounds of 16 boards. They may change when the format is determined.

	WOMEN		OPEN	Division One	Correction	OPEN	Division Two
--	-------	--	------	--------------	------------	------	--------------

Saturday	2xRR R1	10.00-11.15	2xRR, R1	10.00-11.15	Session 1	Swiss, R1	10.00-12.00
21 st March	10 bd R2	11.25-12.40	20 bd	11.25-12.40	1.00	16 bd	
	R3	1.30-2.45	R2	1.30-2.45	Session 2	R2	1.30-3.30
	R4	2.55-4.10		2.55-4.10		R3	3.45-5.45
	R5	4.20-5.35	R3	4.20-5.35			
	R6	5.45-7.00		5.45-7.00	9.30am Sunday	R4	6.00-8.00
Sunday	R7	10.00-11.15	R4	10.00-11.15	Session 3	R5	10.00-12.00
22 nd March	R8	11.25-12.40		11.25-12.40	1.00		
	R9	1.30-2.45	R5	1.30-2.45	Session 4	R6	1.30-3.30
	R10	2.55-4.10		2.55-4.10	30 minutes	R7	3.45-5.45
			R6	4.20-5.35	after finish	R8	6.00-8.00
				5.45-7.00			
Monday	Semi-final	10.00-12.00	Repechage	10.00-12.00	Session 5, 12.30		
23 rd March	64 bd	1.00-3.00	64 bd	1.00-3.00	Session 6		
		3.15-5.15		3.15-5.15			
		5.30-7.30		5.30-7.30	8.00		8.45 Scheduled Finish
Tuesday	Final	10.00-12.00	Semi-final	10.00-12.00	Session 7, 12.30		
24 th March	64 bd	1.00-3.00	64 bd	1.00-3.00	Session 8		
		3.15-5.15		3.15-5.15			
		5.30-7.30		5.30-7.30	8.00		8.45 Scheduled Finish
Wednesday			Final	10.00-12.00	Session 9, 12.30		
25 th March			96 bd	1.00-3.00	Session 10		
				3.15-5.15			
				5.30-7.30	9.30am Thursday		
Thursday				10.00-12.00	Session 11, 12.30		
26 th March				1.00-3.00	Session 12, 3.30		4.15 Scheduled Finish

8. BOARD RULE

- 8.1.** There are no minimum board requirements for tie-break matches.
- 8.2.** Fouled boards are deemed to have been played in the scheduled segment, whether cancelled altogether or replayed in next stanza.
- 8.3.** A team is eligible to progress to the next stage and to represent Australia only if each player in the team plays the minimum number of stanzas in
- the double round robin - Open, 5/12; Women, 4/10
 - the Swiss – one less than half the total
 - in each in the repechage, semi-final and final – 2/4 or 2/6.
- 8.4.** 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.
- 8.5.** 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.

9. SUBSTITUTION

- 9.1.** Substitution is a not a right but a privilege allowed for cause when a team is reduced to less than four players.
- 9.2.** All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD who may permit a substitute judged to be of equivalent standard.
- 9.3.** Either of the teams in the match may appeal this judgement of equivalence to the Tournament -Sub-Committee.
- 9.4.** A player may have a substitute for cause for a maximum number of stanzas in the
- the double round robin – Open, 6/12; Women, 5/10
 - the Swiss – half the total
 - each of the repechage, semi-final and final – 2/4 but 3/6.

- 9.5. Boards played by an approved substitute count towards fulfilment of the minimum board requirement of the original player.
- 9.6. Any unauthorised substitution or substitution in excess of those allowed results in disqualification.

10. CORRECTION PERIOD AND APPEALS

- 10.1. The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires
- (a) for the last session of a stage 30 minutes after the score for the last round available for inspection.
 - (b) for other sessions 30 minutes before the commencement of the next session.
- 10.2. Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer may be rectified
- (a) for the last stanza of a stage within the Correction Period.
 - (b) for other stanzas until the commencement of the last stanza of that stage.
- 10.3. The Time of Appeal (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session.
- 10.4. The CTD must be notified of a team's intention to request or appeal a Director's ruling within the Time of Appeal.
- 10.5. In normal circumstances, the Appeals Sub-Committee Convener appoints a committee of not less than three members from among available experienced players and appoints a Chairman. 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.
- 10.6. No competitor in the 2009 Playoffs shall sit on the Appeals Sub-Committee.
- 10.7. Teams should be aware that score penalties are imposed when an Appeals Sub-Committee considers an appeal "without merit". The maximum penalty that an Appeals Sub-Committee can award is 2.5 VP in a Swiss or round robin match and 10 IMP in a knockout match.

11. FOULED BOARDS

- 11.1. A ruling that a board is "fouled" must be sought within the correction period.
- 11.2. A board that does not tally with the hand record is not *ipso-facto* "fouled".
- 11.3. 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".
- 11.4. 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. In that case no substitute board is played if the match has been completed; otherwise the substitute board is played in the next stanza.
- 11.5. 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.

12. FORFEITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 12.1. 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).
- 12.2. The non-offender's IMP score is the mean (rounded, 0.5 down) of the range of the VP allocated.
- 12.3. The offender's score is 0 VP and -67 IMP.
- 12.4. A team that forfeits two matches in the double round robin or Swiss is treated as a withdrawal and scores adjusted according to ABF Tournament Regulation #14.

13. PENALTIES

- 13.1. Procedural and disciplinary penalties are not subject to appeal, but the CTD may be requested to review the assessment.
- 13.2. There is no grace period for late arrival. Procedural penalties for late arrival are:

Lateness (minutes)	Round Robin or Swiss	Knock-Out
1 st offence, 0+ - 5	warning	warning
Subsequent, 0+ - 5	1 VP	3 IMP
5+ - 10	1 VP	3 IMP
10+ - 15	2 VP	6 IMP
15+ - 20	3 VP	9 IMP
20+ - 30	5 VP	15 IMP

- 13.3. If a contestant is over 30 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.
- 13.4. If a number of boards are unable to be played because one contestant is late, the non-offending team is awarded a score of 2 IMP per unplayed board in a match of ≤ 11 boards and 3 IMP in other matches.
- 13.5. In cases of slow play in the round robin or Swiss, the 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.
- 13.6. In cases of slow play in the repechage, semi-final or final the procedural penalty is 1 IMP for each minute (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.
- 13.7. 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 discretion of the CTD.
- 13.8. Where a pair is penalised for late arrival as well as slow play the team is assessed for the greater of the two penalties.
- 13.9. 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 after one warning per contestant. 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.
- 13.10. 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.

14. DESIGNATED EVENTS

- 14.1. The primary target events are the Zone 7 Championships (18th June – 28th June, Macau) combined with the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup (28th August – 12th October 2009, Sao Paola). The players that represent Australia at the Zone 7 Championships are the players entitled to represent Australia at the WBF events.
- 14.2. The secondary target is the PABF Championships (18th – 28th June 2009, Macau).
- 14.3. The winning team may elect to represent Australia at either the primary or secondary target.
- 14.4. The runner-up is entitled to represent Australia at the remaining target event.

15. WITHDRAWALS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE PLAYOFFS

- 15.1. All teams competing in the Playoffs must declare the designated event(s) in which they desire to represent Australia before the Playoff commences. This declaration replaces the clause in the individual declarations as to designated events and may nominate different events.
- 15.2. Teams that win the right to represent Australia at the **PABF** may replace one or two players who are not available for their designated event(s).
 - 15.2.1. The players who may need to be replaced must be named in the team declaration.
 - 15.2.2. The fact that the replacement will occur and the names of the replacement(s) must be provided with the Formal Acceptance of the right to represent.
 - 15.2.3. The substituting players must have qualified for the respective Playoff panel, but there is no requirement for the players to have won PQP with any other member of the team.
- 15.3. Teams that win the right to represent Australia at the **Zone 7 Championships** may replace one or two players who are not available for their designated event(s)
 - 15.3.1. The players who may need to be replaced must be named in the team declaration.
 - 15.3.2. The fact that the replacement will occur and the names of the replacement(s) must be provided with the Formal Acceptance of the right to represent.
 - 15.3.3. The substituting players are not subject to the conditions in #15.2.2.
 - 15.3.4. Such substitutes do not acquire rights in relation to the WBF events.
- 15.4. Alternatively, for the **Zone 7 Championship but not the WBF events**, a team may elect to play as a team-of-four or team-of-five or be represented by the PABF team.
- 15.5. A permitted withdrawal occurs when the Management Committee accepts notification of a withdrawal caused by emergency after the ratification of the Australian team and not advised as above.
- 15.6. 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.

- 15.7.** The effect of a permitted withdrawal or of a subsequent disqualification on the remaining members of the team is identical and is handled as follows.
- 15.7.1. The ABF Management Committee or its delegate informs the team through the team contact that a permitted withdrawal or subsequent disqualification has occurred.
- 15.7.2. 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.
- 15.8.** 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 to increase the number of team members to six. A Selection Committee of three eminent players will select a third pair from a list of nominees.
- 15.8.1. The ABF Tournament Committee will appoint the Selection Committee.
- 15.8.2. Pairs from the semi-finals will be invited to nominate themselves.
- 15.8.3. The ABF Tournament Committee in its absolute discretion may invite other pairs from the 2009 Playoff or from the 2008 PQP list to nominate themselves.
- 15.8.4. The selection Committee will consider:
- ◆ Form of the nominated pairs in the Playoffs and other major events
 - ◆ Compatibility with other members of the winning team
 - ◆ PQP earned during 2008
 - ◆ Potential to optimise the winning chances of the Australian team in the 2009 Target Event.

16. WBF IMP/VP Conversion Scales

WBF IMP/VP Conversion Scales											
10 boards				16 boards				20 boards			
IMP	VP	IMP	VP	IMP	VP	IMP	VP	IMP	VP	IMP	VP
0-1	15-15	24--26	23- 7	0- 2	15-15	32-36	23- 7	0- 2	15-15	37-41	23- 7
2- 5	16-14	27-29	24- 6	3- 7	16-14	37-41	24- 6	3- 8	16-14	42-47	24- 6
6- 8	17-13	30-33	25- 5	8-11	17-13	42-46	25- 5	9-12	17-13	48-53	25- 5
9-11	18-12	34-37	25- 4	12-15	18-12	47-52	25- 4	13-16	18-12	54-59	25- 4
12-14	19-11	38-41	25- 3	16-19	19-11	53-58	25- 3	17-21	19-11	60-65	25- 3
15-17	20-10	42-45	25- 2	20-23	20-10	59-64	25- 2	22-26	20-10	66-72	25- 2
18-20	21- 9	46-50	25- 1	24-27	21- 9	65-71	25- 1	27-31	21- 9	73-79	25- 1
21-23	22- 8	51 +	25- 0	28-31	22- 8	72+	25- 0	32-36	22- 8	80 +	25- 0