

AUSTRALIAN TEAMS PLAYOFF – 2011, SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL

For the Open Playoffs there are two divisions, Players may enter in either or both.

Division One: The four teams with the highest total PQP.

Teams with less PQP must (re)-nominate in Division Two.

The four teams play a double round robin of 20 board matches. Teams ranked first and second enter the semi final and teams ranked third and fourth play a repechage against the teams from Division Two that are ranked first and second via the swiss.

Division Two: open to all players. The format will be determined after all entries are known, see 5.3 of these regulations for clarification.

For the Women's Playoffs, Six teams play a double round robin of 10 Board matches. The four leading teams play 64 board semi-finals and final.

- 1.1 The Regulating Authority (Law 80) for the 2011 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 Sydney University Village Conference Centre, 90 Carillon Avenue, Newtown, Sydney (adjacent to the Medical Centre, corner of Missenden Rd and Carillon Av).
- 1.3 The dates of the Playoffs are:

Open:	Saturday 26 th March – Thurs 31 st March 2011
Women:	Saturday 26 th March – Tues 29 th March 2011
- 1.4 Personnel
 - 1.4.1 The Tournament Organiser is Richard Grenside 0407416174
 - 1.4.2 The Chief Tournament Director (CTD) and scorer is Sean Mullamphy
 - 1.4.3 The Tournament Sub-Committee Convener is Richard Grenside
 - 1.4.4 The Appeals Sub-Committee Convener is David Stern
 - 1.4.5 The ABF Tournament Sub Committee will be Kim Morrison, Bruce Neill, Peter Reynolds and Marcia Scudder
 - 1.4.6 The Recorder is Roy Nixon
- 1.5 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. These regulations are now considered final. The session times as shown may be varied by the Tournament Organiser subject to reasonable notice being given to the participants. The Tournament Organiser has sole discretion of what is reasonable notice but will have regard to the needs of participants.
- 1.6 Smoking is prohibited within the venue.
- 1.7 Mobile telephones, pagers and other electronic equipment are prohibited in the playing area, however may be deposited with the CTD or Tournament Organiser before each session.
- 1.8 Alcohol is not permitted in the playing area during session time.
- 1.9 BBO webcasts may present the play from any table without prior notice.

2. EQUIPMENT, DEALING and HAND RECORDS

- 2.1 Boards are pre-dealt by an ABF-approved computer program and hand records with Deep Finesse analysis will be provided.
- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 Players must record the score for each board immediately after it is played and before commencement of the next board.

3. SYSTEMS

- 3.1 Green, Blue, Red and Yellow systems and Brown Sticker conventions are permitted, provided that the ABF CCE (Edwards) standard system card is posted on the web page before the due date (7th March for Women and Open, Division 1 and 21st March for Open, Division 2).
- 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 (Only teams of 4 or 6 in the Open Division One or teams of 6 in the Women's accepted)
- 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 2 or 3 pairs in the Open Division One or 3 pairs in the Women's , there is no requirement for PQP to have been earned in the same unit.
- 4.1.4 Each nominating team must designate a playing or non-playing captain. However the following, including but not limited to, are specifically excluded from accepting the role:
- (a) Members of the ABF Management committee
 - (b) Members of the ABF Tournament Committee
 - (c) Anybody holding an official role in the event.
- 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 for the Women's and Open Division One are entered via the ABF Webpage for the Women's by 6.00pm ESDT Fri 14th Jan 2011 and for the Open by 6.00pm ESDT Fri 25th Feb 2011.
- 4.1.7 Nominating Teams are ranked according to the total PQP of their designated pairs discounted by 50% for each partnership's PQPs 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 5 Women teams and 4 Open teams that are ranked highest are accepted into the event and their names are promulgated on the official website on Sat 15th Jan 2011 for the Women's and Sat 26th Feb 2011 for the Open Division One. An additional Women's team has been formed and entered as a result of the Last Train event held in Canberra 17-18 Jan 2011.

4.1.10 Successful Open teams, regardless of whether they actually compete, become liable for the entry fee of \$1,560.00 on Friday 21st Jan 2011 but the fee is to be paid on or before the 11th March 2011. Successful Women's Teams pay \$1,400.00 on the same basis as the Open teams.

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

4.2.1 Any players, irrespective of PQP may nominate as teams of four or six to compete in the Open Playoff Division 2. Once entered a player may not withdraw and re-enter without the express consent of the ABF.

4.2.2 Each nominating team must designate a playing or non-playing captain. (See exclusions as in 4.1.4)

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 Nomination, via the ABF Webpage must be received by 6.00 pm ESDT Friday 18th March 2011.

4.2.5 Entry fees for the first stage (Saturday and Sunday 26th & 27th March are:
 \$480.00 for teams who have more than 50% of their members holding current PQP as shown on the current PQP panel.
 \$600.00 for teams who do not have more than 50% of their members holding current PQP.

4.2.6 Payment of Entry Fees
 Entry fees MUST accompany entry to constitute a valid entry. Strong preference is for subsidies to be paid to players via direct transfer to their bank account.

4.2.7 Teams that qualify to compete in the repechage (Monday 28th March 2011) pay an additional entry fee of the difference between their original entry fee (\$480.00 or \$600.00) and the Division One entry fee (1,560.00).

4.3 Travel subsidies

4.3.7 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 to the successful two teams from Division Two that qualify for the repechage. Subsidies will be paid at the commencement of the Playoff's preferably by direct bank transfer into a nominated bank account. In exceptional circumstances, the subsidy will be paid by cheque at the conclusion of the Playoffs.

Origin	SA	QLD	ACT	TAS	NT	VIC	WA	NSW	Other Locations
Subsidy\$	520	440	220	520	800	440	840	0	Set on Request

5 TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND SEEDING

5.2 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	6 v 1	4 v 2	5 v 3
2 & 7	5 v 1	2 v 3	4 v 6
3 & 8	1 v 4	2 v 5	6 v 3
4 & 9	3 v 1	6 v 2	4 v 5
5 & 10	1 v 2	3 v 4	5 v 6

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 carry over into 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 each).

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 robin 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 For the semi-final, the team ranked 1st chooses its opponent from the teams advancing from the repechage.

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

5.2.8 There is no carryover in to the Open Final.

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 (8 teams or less), 20 board Swiss (entry 9-12 teams), 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 who will be considered non-contending.

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 The 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. Teams sit their players North/South at their home table.
- 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 1ST offence – warning, 2nd offence – 1 VP penalty, 3rd & subsequent offences – 2 VP penalty per offence.
- 6.6 Round robin matches are scored by IMP converted to VP using the WBF scale announced when the format is determined.
- 6.7 Swiss matches are scored by IMP converted to VP using the relevant 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 herein are broken according to ABF Tournament Regulation #15.

7. SESSION TIMES

Round and session times are shown in the Table below.

		WOMEN's and OPEN Division Two		OPEN Division One		Correction
Saturday 26 th March	10.00 - 11.15	2 x RR	R1	2 x RR	R1	Session 1
	11.25 - 12.40	10 Boards	R2	20 Boards		1.00
	1.30 - 2.45		R3		R2	Session 2
	2.55 - 4.10		R4			
	4.20 - 5.35		R5		R3	
	5.45 - 7.00		R6			9.30 Sunday
Sunday 27 th March	10.00 - 11.15		R7		R4	Session 3
	11.25 - 12.40		R8			1.00
	1.30 - 2.45		R9		R5	Session 4
	2.55 - 4.10		R10			30 minutes
	4.20 - 5.35				R6	after finish
	5.45 - 7.00					
Monday 28 th March	Semi Final	10.00 - 12.00	Repechage	10.00 - 12.00	12.30	
	64 Boards	1.00 - 3.00	64 Boards	1.00 - 3.00	5.15	
		3.15 - 5.15		3.15 - 5.15		
		5.30 - 7.30		5.30 - 7.30	8.00	
Tuesday 29 th March	Final	10.00 - 12.00	Semi Final	10.00 - 12.00	12.30	
	64 Boards	1.00 - 3.00	64 Boards	1.00 - 3.00	5.15	
		3.15 - 5.15		3.15 - 5.15		
		5.30 - 7.30		5.30 - 7.30	8.00	
Wednesday 30 th March			Final	10.00 - 12.00	12.30	
			96 Boards	1.00 - 3.00	5.15	
				3.15 - 5.15		
				5.30 - 7.30	9.30 Thursday	
Thursday 31 st March				10.00 - 12.00	12.30	
				1.00 - 3.00	3.30	

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 the 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
 - (a) the double round robin – Open, 5 of 12: Women, 4 of 10
 - (b) the Swiss – half the number of matches minus 1 rounded down.
 - (c) in each in the repechage, semi-final and final – 2 of 4 or 2 of 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 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 and does not change the format of the event..

9. SUBSTITUTION

- 9.1 Substitution is 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 by the CTD 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, such appeal must be notified before the commencement of the match in question.
- 9.4 A player may have a substitute for cause for a maximum number of stanzas in the
 - (a) double round robin – Open, 6 of 12; Women, 5 of 10
 - (b) Swiss – half the total number of rounds.
 - (c) each of the repechage, semi-final and final – 2 of 4 or 3 of 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 ineligibility of the team to represent Australia but will not affect the format or running of the event.

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 and hand records 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 72B) 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 Directors' 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 or such persons conversant with the Laws of Bridge 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. In general every effort will be made to hear appeals up to and including the penultimate round of a stage before the commencement of the final round.

- 10.6 No competitor in the 2011 Open Playoffs shall sit on the Appeals Sub-Committee for the Open event and no competitor in the 2011 Women's Playoffs shall sit on an appeal for the Women's event. For clarity an Open player may sit on a Women's appeal and visa versa.
- 10.7 Teams should be aware that score penalties are imposed when an Appeals Sub-Committee considers an appeal "substantially 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 the 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 for the non-offending team at the end of that round robin is adjusted to the highest of:
 - * 18VP
 - * its mean VP score for completed rounds
 - * 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 per unplayed board 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 monitors 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 Mobile Phones are not permitted in the playing area, players may deposit their phones with either the Tournament Organiser or the CTD. Contravention of this regulation will incur a procedural penalty of 3 VP's per offence or 9 IMPS during the Final stages.
- 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 In 2011 the Target events will be the Bermuda Bowl (to be held in Veldhoven, Eindhoven, the Netherlands), Oct 15-29, 2011, and the APBF (to be held in Malaysia 15-24 June 2011, at Indoor Sports Centre, Olympic Council of Malaysia, Jalan Hang Jebat Kuala Lumpur. The Zone 7 Championship will accompany the APBF and (Z 7 + BB) is considered to be a single Target event.
- 14.2 The team placed first in the 2011 Playoffs will be offered the right to represent Australia at both Target events. If only two pairs from Team 1 wish to attend a Target event those players may make an ordered short list of additional pairs to be drawn from those pairs that played in the Semi-finals or Finals of the Playoffs. The MC will have the right to choose the third pair from the submitted list. If there are not 2 pairs from Team 1 willing to attend a Target event, the right to represent Australia will pass to Team 2. If Team 2 only has 2 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 Team 1, the other finalists. 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.

15. ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 15.1 All calls that the opponents may misunderstand or misinterpret are to be alerted with an ALERT card.

15.2 Each player is to alert his/her screen mate to any alterable call made by the partnership. It is the responsibility of the player alerting to ensure that the alert has been received and acknowledged.

15.3 All explanations are to be in writing – no verbal communication between screen mates is allowed during the bidding or play.

15.4 No communication across the screen (other than declarer's call of a card from dummy) is allowed without the permission of the Director.

16. **SUMMARY OF SCREEN REGULATIONS**

16.1 Each player must provide his/her screen-mate with a convention card and any system notes.

16.2 North is in charge of the boards.

16.3 West operates the screen aperture.

16.4 North and South push the bidding tray to the other side of the screen.

16.5 The opening lead will be left face down until the screen is raised.

16.6 The board **MUST** remain in the centre of the table, visible on both sides of the screen throughout play.

16.7 It is a breach of regulation to transfer the bidding tray knowing that an irregularity has occurred.

17. **ALERTING REGULATION WHEN SCREEN NOT IN USE**

17.1 As per ABF General Regulations, Alerting Policy