

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN AND WOMEN'S TEAMS PLAYOFFS  
SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2014**

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

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**1 General**

- 1.1 The 2014 Australian Open Team Playoffs (OP) and the Australian Women's Team Playoffs (WP) 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 Coogee Bay Hotel, 253 Coogee Bay Road, Coogee, NSW.
- 1.3 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or 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.
- 1.4 Smoking is not permitted inside the venue, nor in any area defined by the TO as a non-smoking area. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.5 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.6 Any electronic communication equipment is prohibited during the session in the playing area and other areas designated by the TO. However they may be deposited with the TO before each session. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.7 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the ABF Tournament Regulations, thereafter to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2007, and finally to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the CTD shall be final and conclusive.

## **2 Officials**

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Sean Mullamphy.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Sean Mullamphy.
- 2.3 The Chief Scorer is Matthew McManus.
- 2.4 The Appeals Committee Convener is Bruce Neill.
- 2.5 The ABF on site representative is Matthew McManus.
- 2.6 The Recorder is Wendy Boxall.

## **3 Entry**

- 3.1 All players 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 pair is found not to be eligible, the pair in which the player competed will be disqualified.
- 3.2 At the time of entry into an event, 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.
- 3.3 Only players who are on the PQP Panel in their category are eligible to enter.
- 3.4 By entering, the pair if accepted becomes liable for the entry fee, regardless of whether they actually participate.
- 3.5 By entering, the pair undertakes to abide by the general and supplementary regulations for the tournament.
- 3.6 Nominations for the Open and Women's Playoffs must be submitted via the ABF Webpage between 9.00am on 8<sup>th</sup> December and midnight on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- 3.7 Nominating pairs are ranked according to the total PQP discounted by 50% for PQP not earned in the same unit. 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
- 3.8 The 16 pairs ranked highest in each category will be accepted for the Playoffs. Successful pairs will be listed on the official Playoffs website on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Should fewer than 16 pairs nominate for a category, the highest ranked even number of pairs entered will be accepted.
- 3.9 The entry fee is \$560 per pair.
- 3.10 Entry fees must be paid by direct deposit into the ABF Account (BSB: 082968; A/C: 641482644) by the close of business on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- 3.11 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.
- 4.2 All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD who may permit a substitute judged by the CTD to be of similar standard.
- 4.3 A pair may have a substitute for cause for a maximum of one half the number of matches in each stage (0.5 rounded down).

## **5 Systems and Defences**

- 5.1 System regulations need to meet the requirements of the Asia Cup. GREEN, BLUE and RED systems, as well as BROWN STICKER conventions, are permitted in both Stages of the OP and WP. YELLOW (HUM) systems are not permitted at any stage of either event.
- 5.2 Each pair must upload their system card to the event website prior to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 5pm. Uploaded system cards will be vetted by the National Tournament Co-ordinator (NTC). System cards which the NTC deems require amendment must be amended and resubmitted to the NTC prior to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## **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 breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4), consumption of alcohol (1.5) and mobile phones (1.6) is 3 VPs/9IMPs.

## **7 Correction Period, Time of Appeal and Appeals**

- 7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires at the scheduled starting time of the first match on the following day, with the exception of the final day of a stage when it expires 30 minutes after the scores are posted for the last match of the stage.
- 7.2 Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer may be rectified:
  - i. for the last match of a stage, within the Correction Period, as defined in 7.1;
  - ii. for other matches, until the commencement of the last match of that stage.
- 7.3 The Time of Appeal (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was made.
- 7.4 A session is defined as any match after which there is comparison of scores by the players, except when the next match is listed to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the previous match. In such a case, the session is defined as the time from the commencement of the first match to the end of the match after which there is a scheduled break of at least 30 minutes.
- 7.5 No competitor still participating in the OP may sit on an Appeals Committee in the OP and no competitor still participating in the WP may sit on an Appeals Committee in the WP.

## **8 Ties**

- 8.1 Ties at the conclusion of a Stage of either event are broken according to the ABF TR as detailed in the Appendices.

## **9 Board Rule**

- 9.1 A pair is eligible to progress to the next stage, to represent Australia and/or to receive prize money only if each player in the pair has played in at least 50% of the matches in any stage (fractions rounded down).
- 9.2 Notwithstanding 9.1, if a player is unavailable with due cause, the CTD may deem that player and his nominated partner have fulfilled the board rule and allow the pair 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 Management Committee, following a report from the CTD and ABF Tournament Committee, determines the eligibility of the pair. 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 forfeited, players in both pairs are deemed to have played that match.

## **10 Prizes**

- 10.1 The pairs finishing first, second and third in each category will be awarded prizes of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

## **11 Target Events and Representation**

- 11.1 Note: There are no target events for 2014. It is possible that Australia may be invited to compete in the 2014 Asia Cup if the event is held.
- 11.2 Subject to ratification by the ABF Management Committee, the top three placed pairs in each of the OP and WP may be offered the right to represent Australia at this event.

## **12 Event formats, scoring and carry over**

- 12.1 Separate events will be conducted in each category.
- 12.2 If a full complement of 16 pairs enter a category, there will be two stages. Stage 1 consists of a complete round-robin of 15 x 10 board matches. At the conclusion of Stage 1, the six lowest ranked pairs will be eliminated. Stage 2 consists of a round-robin of 9 x 10 board matches.
- 12.3 If fewer than 16 pairs enter a category, the following formats will be used:
- i) 14 pairs – two stages with four pairs eliminated after Stage 1. Stage 1 will consist of a complete round-robin of 13 x 10 board matches. Matches 10 and 15 will be eliminated from the playing schedule below. Stage 2 will have the same format as in 12.2
  - ii) 12 pairs – one stage with a double round-robin of 22 x 10 board matches. Matches 10 and 15 will be eliminated from the playing schedule below.

- iii) 10 pairs – one stage with a double round-robin of 18 x 10 board matches. Matches 10, 15 and 21 to 24 will be eliminated from the playing schedule below.
- iv) 8 pairs – one stage with a triple double round-robin of 21 x 10 board matches. Matches 5, 10 and 15 will be eliminated from the playing schedule below.

12.4 Separate datums will be calculated for the OP and WP.

12.5 The scores obtained at each table are converted to IMPs after comparison with a datum calculated as the arithmetic mean of the middle four scores when there are eight tables in play in the category, or the middle (n-2) scores when the number of tables in play in the category, n, is less than eight. When scores are missing (cancelled or board not played), the datum is calculated from the available scores

12.6 The net IMP result for each match in each match is converted to Victory Points (VP) using the 2013 WBF scale for 8 board matches.

12.7 When there are two stages, each qualifying pair will carry over (rounded to 2 decimal places, 0.05 rounded up):  
 75% of its Stage 1 VP score against pairs who qualified to Stage 2; plus  
 25% of its Stage 1 VP score against pairs who failed to qualify to Stage 2.

## **Appendices**

### **Penalties for Late Arrival, Slow Play, Failure to enter or check scores**

The penalties for Late Arrival and Slow Play under ABF TR 10 are:

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP
10-15 mins	2 VPs
15-20 mins	3 VPs
20-30 mins	5 VPs

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, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

One board	1 VP
Subsequent boards	2 VPs

Should the players leave the table, when they have failed to enter one or more scores into the scoring unit or when an incorrect score has been entered and agreed, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

First offence	warning
Subsequent offences	1 VP per occasion

For the purposes of tie-breaking, a penalty of 1 VP will be the equivalent of 3 IMPs

## **Tie-breaking**

Ties are broken by (in order): number of wins in VPs (10 VPs = ½ win), net IMPs, lot

## **Eligibility to represent Australia**

An eligible person is one who satisfies the World Bridge Federation (WBF) Eligibility Code and who meets one or more of a. through g. below:

- a. holds an Australian passport and who demonstrably regards Australia as his home, even though he might spend much of his time working overseas;
- b. is an Australian citizen enrolled on Australian 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 not less than three years;
- e. Is a current temporary resident, and can satisfy the ABF Management Committee 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 his 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 livelihood in Australia.

In addition, the player may not in any other way infringe WBF regulations relating to eligibility to represent Australia in WBF events.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, any player who seeks to represent another NBO in an international (target) event in a calendar year is ineligible to seek (via the Australian Playoff) to represent Australian 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 Management Committee. Any player in doubt about his eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF Tournament Committee on or before 31 December, 2013. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF Management Committee.

## 2014 Open/Women's Playoff Playing Schedule

<b>Wednesday 5th February 2014</b>				
<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Stage/Round</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>	<b>Match #</b>
10:00	- 11:20	Stage 1 Round 1	01:20	Match 1
11:30	- 12:50	Stage 1 Round 2	01:20	Match 2
12:50	- 13:50	Lunch	01:00	
13:50	- 15:10	Stage 1 Round 3	01:20	Match 3
15:20	- 16:40	Stage 1 Round 4	01:20	Match 4
16:50	- 18:10	Stage 1 Round 5	01:20	Match 5
<b>Thursday 6th February 2014</b>				
<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Stage/Round</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>	<b>Match #</b>
10:00	- 11:20	Stage 1 Round 6	01:20	Match 6
11:30	- 12:50	Stage 1 Round 7	01:20	Match 7
12:50	- 13:50	Lunch	01:00	
13:50	- 15:10	Stage 1 Round 8	01:20	Match 8
15:20	- 16:40	Stage 1 Round 9	01:20	Match 9
16:50	- 18:10	Stage 1 Round 10	01:20	Match 10
<b>Friday 7th February 2014</b>				
<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Stage/Round</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>	<b>Match #</b>
10:00	- 11:20	Stage 1 Round 11	01:20	Match 11
11:30	- 12:50	Stage 1 Round 12	01:20	Match 12
12:50	- 13:50	Lunch	01:00	
13:50	- 15:10	Stage 1 Round 13	01:20	Match 13
15:20	- 16:40	Stage 1 Round 14	01:20	Match 14
16:50	- 18:10	Stage 1 Round 15	01:20	Match 15
<b>Saturday 8th February 2014</b>				
<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Stage/Round</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>	<b>Match #</b>
10:00	- 11:20	Stage 2 Round 1	01:20	Match 16
11:30	- 12:50	Stage 2 Round 2	01:20	Match 17
12:50	- 13:50	Lunch	01:00	
13:50	- 15:10	Stage 2 Round 3	01:20	Match 18
15:20	- 16:40	Stage 2 Round 4	01:20	Match 19
16:50	- 18:10	Stage 2 Round 5	01:20	Match 20
<b>Sunday 9th February 2014</b>				
<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Stage/Round</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>	<b>Match #</b>
10:00	- 11:20	Stage 2 Round 6	01:20	Match 21
11:30	- 12:50	Stage 2 Round 7	01:20	Match 22
12:50	- 13:50	Lunch	01:00	
13:50	- 15:10	Stage 2 Round 8	01:20	Match 23
15:20	- 16:40	Stage 2 Round 9	01:20	Match 24