

AUSTRALIAN MIXED TEAM PLAYOFFS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2020

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1 General

- 1.1 The 2020 Australian Mixed Team Playoffs (MP) 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 New South Wales Bridge Association, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, East Sydney, NSW
- 1.3 The Playoff dates are 24-27 January, 2020.
- 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 by players in the MP is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.7 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods, Smart Watches and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time and must be left at the table if a player leaves the table during a match. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 6.2).
- 1.8 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods, Smart Watches and other electronic communication equipment may not be used during the session, unless a specific exception is permitted by the

CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.2) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.

- 1.9 Players in the semi-final and finals must lodge any mobile phone or other electronic communication device in their possession with the TO during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.2) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.
- 1.10 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).
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 Marcia Scudder.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Matthew McManus.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.4 The Review Consultants are Hugh Grosvenor and Sebastian Yuen.
- 2.5 The ABF on site representative is Peter Reynolds.

3 Eligibility and Entry

- 3.1 Teams must nominate as either 4 or 6 players, with equal numbers of males and females, with each partnership consisting of one male and one female.
- 3.2 All players must be eligible and intend to be available to play for Australia as per the ABF's Eligibility to represent Australia Policy detailed in the appendices. (Also, <https://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-policies-and-handbooks/eligibility-to-represent-australia/>) 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.
- 3.3 All players in the team declare their intention to represent Australia in the Target Event (Section 11 hereunder).

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 By entering, the team undertakes to abide by the General and Supplementary Regulations for the tournament.
- 3.6 A team may nominate a non-playing captain. A non-playing captain may not participate in the event as a substitute for any team. 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.
- 3.7 No player may nominate for more than one team.
- 3.8 Nominations for the MP must be submitted via the ABF Webpage before 6.00 pm, AEDT, Tuesday January 14, 2020. At the TO's discretion, late entries may be accepted after this date.
- 3.9 The entry fee is \$720 per team. Members of teams failing to qualify to the Semi-Finals have free entry to the NSWBA Matchpoint Swiss Pairs Congress on Sunday, January 26.
- 3.10 The ABF policy on entry fees paid by Youth players applies to this event.
- 3.11 To ensure the smooth running of the tournament, the TO may nominate a "house team" to compete. The TO will make every effort to nominate eligible players, but is at liberty to nominate others in case of necessity. The conditions under which the "house team" competes will be at the discretion of the CTD. The "house team" is not eligible to contest the finals series.

4 Substitutions

- 4.1 Substitution shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience, when a team is unable to field two mixed pairs for a match or 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 Substitutes must be of the same gender as the player they are replacing.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 The maximum number of substitutes permitted in the Qualifying Stage is five. A player may have a substitute for cause for a maximum of 2 stanzas of any semi-final or final match.
- 4.6 Boards played by an approved substitute count towards fulfilment of the minimum board requirement of the original player.

5 Systems and Defences

- 5.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems are permitted. BROWN STICKER conventions will not be allowed.

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 to 1.10 is 3 VPs (qualifying) or 9 IMPs (semi-finals and final).

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 in the Qualifying Stage, seating rights are determined by the toss of a coin.
- 8.2 In all semi-final or final matches, the higher ranked team from the Qualifying Stage will carry-forward 0.1 IMPs and may elect to have choice of opponents in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.
- 8.3 Matches in the Qualifying Stage are scored by IMPs converted to VPs using the appropriate WBF scale.
- 8.4 All semi-final and finals matches are scored by IMPs, with any fraction of an IMP constituting a win.

9 Fouled and Unplayable Boards

- 9.1 The result of a fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the result of the match is known or any of the players has left the table at the conclusion of that round. In these cases where a single board is cancelled, a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.
- 9.2 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.

- 9.3 For boards on which a result is unable to be obtained and the Director awards an artificial adjusted score of average plus, the provisions of 9.1 or 9.2 will apply.
- 9.4 In any finals series match, a fouled board discovered after either table has finished play in a stanza will (with the exception of the final stanza of a match) be replaced by the play of an additional board in the following stanza.

10 Board Rule

- 10.1 A team is eligible to progress to the next stage and to represent Australia only if all members of the team satisfy the partnership board rule. A pair satisfies the partnership board rule if it plays 50% of the boards in a stage (0.5 rounded down) as a partnership.
- 10.2 Notwithstanding 10.1, if a player is unavailable with due cause, the CTD has the sole discretion to deem that a pair has 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 as to the nature and severity of any illness or injury in the exercise of such discretion.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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.

11 Target Events and Representation

- 11.1 The target event is the Mixed Team event at the 2020 World Bridge Games to be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy, from August 21 - September 4, 2020.
- 11.2 The right to represent Australia at the target event will be offered to the teams in the order described in 11.3. 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 12 hereunder.
- 11.3 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 higher ranked losing semi-finalist after the Qualifying Stage;
 - iv) the other semi-finalist.
- 11.4 Any pair or player qualifying to represent Australia in the Mixed Team event at the 2020 World Bridge Games is not eligible to represent Australia in any other event concurrent with the target event.
- 11.5 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.

12 Withdrawal, Disqualification, Augmentation and Replacement

- 12.1 If a team, having qualified to the Semi-Finals, voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified through failure to meet the board rule or for any other reason under the laws, it will be replaced by the next highest placed team in the Qualifying.
- 12.2 If a team, having qualified to the Final, voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified through failure to meet the board rule or for any other reason under the laws, it will be replaced by the team it defeated in the Semi-Final.
- 12.3 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 11.2 preceding, they must augment to a third pair.
- 12.4 The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of eligible pairs for submission to the ABF TC.
- 12.5 To be included on the list the pair must have played as a pair in the MP and have satisfied the partnership board rule (10.1).
- 12.6 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.
- 12.7 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.
- 12.8 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.

13 Event format

- 13.1 The Qualifying Stage will be an 8 round Swiss of 14 board matches.
- 13.2 At the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage, the four highest placed teams will qualify to the Semi-Finals, played in 4 x 16 board stanzas. The highest ranked team will have the option of choosing its opponent from the other qualifiers with the proviso that the second highest ranked team may elect not to be chosen.
- 13.3 The two semi-final winners qualify to the Final, played in 4 x 16 board stanzas.
- 13.4 The time allowed per match or stanza will be announced by the CTD.

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

In the Qualifying Stage, 3 IMPs is deemed to be the equivalent of 1 VP.

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

Calculation of multiple Average Plus awards during a match

Where the Laws require the Director to award an artificial adjusted score of average plus on more than one board in a session or match (as in the case of fouled or otherwise unplayable boards), the score awarded per board shall be an IMP score of $3\sqrt{N}/N$, where N is the number of unplayable boards.

The net IMPs in a match assigned due to these formulas will be rounded to the nearest IMP (0.5 IMPs rounded up).

In matches with multiple fouled boards resulting in the number of direct comparisons available being fewer than one half the number of boards, the match will be scored as a forfeit treating both units as non-offending. Forfeited matches are scored as 13 VPs for each side (assuming a 20 point VP scale is being used). Further adjustments at the end of the event may be appropriate in

accordance with ABF Tournament Regulation 15.
(<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFTournamentRegs2017.pdf>)

The following table lists the IMPs/percentage to be assigned for each successive board in the case of multiple average plus boards:

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs assigned
1	3
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	0
7	1
8	0
9	1
10	0

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:

Qualifying Stage	7.00 pm, Saturday, January 25
Semi-Finals	7.50 pm, Sunday, January 26
Finals	7.50 pm, Monday, January 27