

# SPRING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

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### 1 General

- 1.1 The Spring National Championships (SNBF) comprise five events:  
 Spring National Open Teams (SNOT) – October 24-26, Finals series – October 27-28;  
 Two Men & A Truck Restricted Teams (TMAATRT) – October 24-25;  
 Dick Cummings Open Pairs (DCOP) – October 27-28;  
 Linda Stern Women's Teams (LSWT) – October 29-31, Finals – November 1;  
 Bobby Evans Seniors' Teams (BEST) – October 29-31, Finals – November 1.  
 These events are conducted by the New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA) in conjunction with the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The venue is the Sky High Room, Canterbury Park Racecourse, Kings St, Canterbury. The venue for the finals of the LSWT and BEST is the NSWBA Clubrooms, Level 1, 162 Goulburn St, East Sydney.
- 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 only permitted in areas specifically designated by the TO as smoking areas. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3)
- 1.5 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 6.3)
- 1.6 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic communication equipment may not be consulted or used during the session, unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.3) 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.

- 1.7 Players in the semi-final and finals of teams events must lodge any mobile phone or other electronic communication device in their possession with the TO during session time.
- 1.8 Expressions used in these Regulations and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in contract bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2007). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the 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 Appeals Committee Convener is John Scudder.
- 2.4 The Appeals Consultant is Kim Morrison.
- 2.5 The Tournament Sub-Committee is chaired by Julian Foster.
- 2.6 The ABF on site representative is Bruce Neill.
- 2.7 The Recorder is George Finikiotis.

## **3 Eligibility, Augmentation and Substitutions**

- 3.1 At the time of commencement of 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. Overseas players become honorary members of the Foreign Players Club.
- 3.2 To be eligible for the TMAATRT, all members of the team must have fewer than 300 masterpoints at 30-6-12. Overseas players may apply to enter the TMAATRT but only if they are eligible to play in events with similar criteria within their own National Bridge Organisation. The TO's decision in respect to such eligibility is final.
- 3.3 To be eligible for the LSWT, all members of the team must be female.
- 3.4 To be eligible for the BEST, all members of the team must have been born before 1-1-54.
- 3.5 With the consent of the CTD, a team may augment until the conclusion of Match 5 up to a maximum of 6 players. Any player so added to the team must not have played previously in another team in the same event.
- 3.6 In the teams events, the CTD may approve a maximum of three substitutions per team in any one event. In the DCOP, the CTD may approve substitutes for any pair in a maximum of five rounds. In addition, the CTD may allow emergency substitutions for substantial cause and may impose any conditions in doing so and may take whatever other action is considered necessary to keep the tournament in motion.

- 3.7 The TO may nominate a “house contestant” to compete in any event in order to ensure the smooth running of the tournament. The TO will make every effort to nominate eligible players. The conditions under which the “house contestant” competes will, subject to ABF TR 1.9, be at the discretion of the CTD.

#### **4 Systems and Defences**

- 4.1 GREEN and BLUE systems are permitted without restriction.
- 4.2 RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all events except for the TMAATRT.
- 4.3 YELLOW systems will be allowed in the SNOT and LSWT from Round 2 onwards, but may not be played against a contestant with a current position in the lower two-thirds of the field (decimals rounded up). Pairs intending to play a YELLOW system must provide the TO with an adequately completed ABF system card and a bona fide defence before October 19, 2012.

#### **5 Seating**

- 5.1 Teams registering one or more YELLOW systems lose all seating rights in all stanzas against teams not employing a YELLOW system.
- 5.2 YELLOW systems may be played only if the seating is posted within 10 minutes of the publication of the draw.
- 5.3 In other cases, seating rights for each match will be determined by toss of a coin.

#### **6 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties**

- 6.1 In a Swiss movement penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.
- 6.2 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 6.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4) and mobile phones (1.5, 1.6) is 3 VPs.

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

- 7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for the matches in the qualifying rounds of the teams events and for the DCOP expires at the start of the first match on the following day, or, in cases of matches on the last day, 30 minutes after the scores for the last match have been made available for inspection. In teams semi-finals and finals, the Correction Period expires at the start of the following stanza, or, in the case of the final stanza, 30 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection.
- 7.2 The Time for lodging an Appeal against a Director’s Ruling (Law 92B) for each match or stanza expires 30 minutes after the score is made available for inspection, unless the next match or stanza is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to the

expiration of the Time of Appeal for the next match or stanza.

## 8 Fouled Boards

- 8.1 In Teams events, 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 the board is cancelled and a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.

## 9 Ties and Carry-overs

- 9.1 Ties for qualification to (semi-)finals of teams events will be broken in accordance with ABF TR 15.
- 9.2 Ties in the semi-finals of the SNOT will be broken by play of matches of 4 boards, then successive play of 1 board matches, until a result is obtained.
- 9.3 Ties for first place only in the TMAATRT will be broken in accordance with ABF TR 15.
- 9.4 Ties for first place only in the DCOP will be broken in accordance with ABF TR 15, unless drop-in pairs have been accepted as described in 10.5.2 in which case the tie will not be broken.
- 9.5 For all semi-final and final matches in the SNOT, LSWT and BEST, there will be a carry-over based upon the total Victory Point score of the teams at the conclusion of the Swiss qualifying. The carry-over will be one IMP for every difference of one VP, to a maximum of 14. Fractional VPs will be rounded to the nearest whole number, with 0.5 rounded up.

## 10 Event formats

- 10.1 Note: Session times may be varied by the Tournament Organiser subject to reasonable notice being given to the participants.
- 10.2 The time allowed per match or stanza will be announced by the CTD.
- 10.3 **Open Teams** – The SNOT will be played as a single field Swiss qualifying consisting of 9 x 20 board matches, followed by semi-finals and final, each of 56 boards.
  - 10.3.1 Each qualifying match will be scored using the WBF 20 board scale.
  - 10.3.2 At the conclusion of the Swiss, the four highest placed teams will qualify to the semi-finals. The first placed team has the choice of opponents from amongst the other three teams, with the proviso that the second placed team may elect not to be chosen.
  - 10.3.3 The semi-finals and finals will be played over 4 stanzas of 14 boards. Team captains will toss for seating rights prior to the first stanza. The winner of the toss may elect to sit first in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.
  - 10.3.4 Session times:  
Qualifying rounds: 10.30am (1 match), 1.30pm (2 matches)  
Semi-finals and Final: 9.30am, 11.30am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm

10.4 **Restricted Teams** – The TMAATRT will be played as a single field Swiss event consisting of 6 x 20 board matches.

10.4.1 Each match will be scored using the WBF 20 board scale.

10.4.2 Session times: 10.30am (1 match), 1.30pm (2 matches)

10.5 The **Dick Cummings Open Pairs** will be played as a single field Swiss Pairs event, consisting of 12 x 10 board matches.

10.5.1 Each match will be scored using standard duplicate matchpoint scoring. Each pair's average percentage score for the match will be converted to Victory Points, using the VP scale in the Appendix.

10.5.2 After Match 6 and prior to Match 7, players from the losing semi-final teams of the SNOT may join the DCOP. The partnership can only consist of players who were in the losing teams. They shall be added to the draw with a VP score equal to the average score of the top 6 pairs after Match 6, but no more than 10 VPs less than the leader's score. Fractional VPs will be rounded to the nearest whole number, with 0.5 rounded up.

10.5.3 Should an even number of pairs join the event, for Match 7 they will be randomly matched against other pairs who have joined the event from the SNOT semi-finals.

10.5.4 If an odd number of pairs join the event, one of these pairs will be chosen at random. This pair will be added to the main draw in a position consistent with the score on which they enter. The other pairs entering will then be randomly matched against each other for Match 7. If a house pair is already included in the field, this pair will not be required to continue. Otherwise, a house pair shall be added to the field in a position equal to  $0.75 \times n$  (rounded down) where n is the number of pairs originally entered.

10.5.5 Session times: 10.00am and 2.30pm (3 matches each session)

10.6 **Women's and Seniors' Teams** – Subject to 10.6.4, the LSWT and BEST will be played as distinct single field Swiss qualifying consisting of 9 x 20 board matches, followed by finals of 56 boards.

10.6.1 Each match qualifying will be scored using the WBF 20 board scale.

10.6.2 At the conclusion of the Swiss, the top two highest placed teams in each event will qualify to their respective final.

10.6.3 The finals will be played over 4 stanzas of 14 boards. Team captains will toss for seating rights prior to the first stanza. The winner of the toss may elect to sit first in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.

10.6.4 If one or both of the fields for the concurrent LSWT and BEST is too small to support 9 rounds of Swiss, the fields are combined. The draw for Matches 1 to 7 will be made according to the normal Swiss procedure. The draw for Matches 8 and 9 pairs the leading eight Women's (or Seniors') teams that have not played one another in a separate "mini-Swiss" while the remainder of the stratified field continues in the main Swiss movement. Should this procedure prove impossible to implement, the CTD will take whatever action he deems necessary to keep the movement viable, observing as far as possible the "mini-Swiss" principle.

10.6.5 Session times: Qualifying rounds: 10.30am (1 match), 1.30pm (2 matches)  
Final: 9.30am, 11.30am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm

## 11 Playoff Qualifying Points

11.1 Eligible teams (or pairs in the DCOP) are ranked for the award of PQP. Each eligible player in those teams (or pairs) receives an award as follows:

### 11.1.1 SNOT

Place	1	2	=3	=3
PQP	48	24	9	9

### 11.1.2 BEST

Place	1	2	3	4
PQP	48	24	12	6

### 11.1.3 LSWT

Place	1	2	3
PQP	36	18	9

### 11.1.4 DCOP

Place	1	2	3	4
PQP	32	24	16	8

11.2 To be eligible for PQP in the teams events, a player must have played in at least four matches in the qualifying and at least two sessions in the (semi)-final.

11.3 Tied pairs or teams share the available points.

## Appendices

### Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 mins	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 mins	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 mins	5 VPs (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 pair, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	1 VP (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	2 VPs (6 IMPs)

### Tie-breaking

Significant ties are broken by (in order): sum of opponents' VPs, number of wins, net IMPs, lot.

## Victory Point Scale for DCOP

Percentage	VPs	Percentage	VPs	Percentage	VPs	Percentage	VPs
0.00 – 26.50	0	37.46 – 39.77	7	48.28 – 49.43	14	56.83 – 58.39	21
26.51 – 28.00	1	39.78 – 41.60	8	49.44 – 50.56	15	58.40 – 60.22	22
28.01 – 29.50	2	41.61 – 43.17	9	50.57 – 51.72	16	60.23 – 62.54	23
29.51 – 31.00	3	43.18 – 44.57	10	51.73 – 52.89	17	62.55 – 65.99	24
31.01 – 32.50	4	44.58 – 45.87	11	52.90 – 54.12	18	66.00 – 100.00	25
32.51 – 34.00	5	45.88 – 47.10	12	54.13 – 55.42	19		
34.01 – 37.45	6	47.11 – 48.27	13	55.43 – 56.82	20		

All percentages will be rounded to 2 decimal places (0.005 rounded up).

## Anticipated Finishing Times

The following times are provided solely as a guide to players and may change depending on event formats and other circumstances:

TMAATRT	Thursday, October 25, 6.30 pm
SNOT qualifying	Friday, October 26, 6.30 pm
SNOT Final	Sunday, October 28, 6.00pm
DCOP	Sunday, October 28, 6.30pm
LSWT and BEST qualifying	Wednesday, October 31, 6.30pm
LSWT and BEST Finals	Thursday, November 1, 6.00pm