

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFF SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2018

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1 General

- 1.1 The 2018 Australian Open Team Playoff (OP) is 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 Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon, ACT.
- 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. 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).
- 1.5 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 During the session, any electronic communication equipment is prohibited in the playing area and other areas designated by the TO. However any such equipment may be deposited with the TO before each session. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.7 All requests for information about the auction or any alerted call must be made with the screen closed. They are made to, and responded to by, the screenmate in writing. A claim of misinformation should be supported by written evidence. Failure to do so may invalidate any claim of damage. Any spoken enquiries or responses which result in another table being unable to play a board due to the receipt of extraneous information will incur a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).

- 1.8 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).
- 1.9 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, 2017, 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 Jane Rasmussen.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Matthew McManus.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.4 The ABF on site representative is TBA.

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 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 OP must be submitted via the ABF Webpage between Tuesday September 12, 2017, and 6.00 pm, AEDT, Saturday October 7, 2017.
- 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 A maximum of 16 pairs will be accepted for the Playoffs, based on their ranking according to 3.7. Successful pairs will be listed on the official Playoffs website on Monday October 9, 2017.

- 3.9 The entry fee is \$560 per pair. However, player subsidies will be given which will result in a payment to players with the exception of those from Canberra and Sydney. The scale of subsidies is listed in the Appendices.
- 3.10 Entry fees from players from Canberra must be paid by direct deposit into the ABF Account (BSB: 082968; A/C: 641482644) by the close of business on Wednesday November 8, 2017.
- 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 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems are permitted. BROWN STICKER conventions will be allowed.
- 5.2 Each pair must upload their system card to the event website prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday October 13, 2017. 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 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday October 20, 2017.

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 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 or 1.8 is 3 VPs.

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.

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 or to receive international event subsidies 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 Target Events and Representation

- 10.1 By entering the Playoff, all players declare that they are available and intend to represent Australia in any Target Event/s if they qualify. ***There is no target event for 2018***, since there is no World Championship or Asia Pacific event where we can send an Australian Representative Team. Successful participants in the Playoff may be offered the opportunity to participate in any other supported events listed in 10.2.
- 10.2 Other Supported Events
The ABF will offer successful pairs support to attend one or both of the events below. The ABF may decide to support other events if they become available and are thought to be worth supporting.

World Bridge Series in Orlando Florida, 22 September – 6 October 2018

The ABF will offer support for the pairs placing 1st and 2nd in the Open playoff to attend this World Bridge Federation event. If a pair declines the offer, the offer will pass to the next highest placed pair(s).

Support will be \$3,000 for the higher paced pair and \$2,000 for the other pair, with a further maximum entry fee contribution capped at \$1,000 per pair subject to evidence of entry expenses. The support will be conditional on the pair playing as a unit, but they will be free to play with teammates of their choice and in events of their choice.

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships at the Gold Coast, 14-18 February 2018

Three successful pairs in the Open Playoff will be invited to form a team to represent Australia in the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships. This team will compete in the Commonwealth Nations Championship category.

Selection will be based on the *ABF Team Selection Policy for Non-Target Events*.

(<http://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-policies-and-handbooks/abf-team-selection-policy-for-non-target-events>) Support will be \$1800 per team plus entry fee.

10.3 Any player who accepts a position in an international team is deemed to be aware of the International Representative Players' Charter and have accepted and agreed to abide by its contents. (http://www.abf.com.au/about/docs/Representative_Bridge_Players_Charter.pdf)

11 Event formats, scoring and carry over

11.1 Screen tables will be used for all matches in all stages.

11.2 If a full complement of 16 pairs enter, 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 10 highest ranked pairs will qualify for Stage 2. Stage 2 consists of a round-robin of 9 x 10 board matches.

11.3 If fewer than 15 pairs enter, the following formats will be used:

i) 13 or 14 pairs – 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 in the Appendices. Stage 2 will have the same format as in 11.2

ii) 11 or 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 in the Appendices.

iii) 9 or 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 in the Appendices.

iv) 7 or 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 in the Appendices.

11.4 The datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-2) middle scores, where n is the number of tables playing in the stage.

11.5 The net IMP result for each match in each match is converted to Victory Points (VP) using the WBF scale for 7 board matches.

11.6 If an odd number of pairs enter Stage 1, each pair will have a bye, or byes in the case of multiple-round robins. A pair with a bye will score 10 VPs for that match.

11.7 When there are two stages, each qualifying pair will carry over (rounded to 2 decimal places, 0.005 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

Player Subsidies

You come from	Per Player Entry fee	Per player subsidy	You receive*	You pay
Perth	280	820	540	0
Adelaide	280	570	290	0
Melbourne	280	440	160	0
Brisbane/Gold Coast	280	505	225	0
Sydney	280	280	0	0
Canberra	280	0	0	280

* In the case of youth players an additional payment of \$140 will added to the figures in this column

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 his/her home, even though he/she might spend much of his/her 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 he/she might spend much of his/her 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 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 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/her 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

In the case of dispute, interpretation of these regulations is at the absolute discretion of the ABF MC. Any player in doubt about his eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF TC on or before 23 September, 2017. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF MC.

2018 Open Playoff Playing Schedule

Sunday 12th November 2017					
Start		Finish	Stage/Round	Time Allotted	Match #
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
Monday 13th November 2017					
Start		Finish	Stage/Round	Time Allotted	Match #
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
Tuesday 14th November 2017					
Start		Finish	Stage/Round	Time Allotted	Match #
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
Wednesday 15th November 2017					
Start		Finish	Stage/Round	Time Allotted	Match #
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
Thursday 16th November 2017					
Start		Finish	Stage/Round	Time Allotted	Match #
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