

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

CONTENTS

	Preamble	2
	Definition of expressions	2
Section 1	Introduction	5
Section 2	Conduct of Tournaments	5
Section 3	Entry to ABF Events	7
Section 4	Reviewer, Tournament Sub-Committee and Recorder	8
Section 5	Discipline	10
Section 6	Substitution, augmentation, change of personnel, and replacement	11
Section 7	Systems, system cards, seating and declaration of lineups	14
Section 8	Generation of hands, replication and recording of boards	17
Section 9	Bidding procedures	17
Section 10	Alerting	18
Section 11	Screens	19
Section 12	Punctuality and slow play	19
Section 13	Fouled boards	21
Section 14	Scoring, carryover and concessions	23
Section 15	Forfeits	25
Section 16	Withdrawals and disqualification	26
Section 17	Tie-breaking procedures	28
Section 18	Dress and etiquette	29
Section 19	Anti-Doping	29
Section 20	Smoking and Alcohol	29
Section 21	Mobile phones and other electronic communication devices	30
Section 22	Spectators and captains	31
Section 23	Monitors and match recorders	32
Section 24	Photographs	32
Section 25	Vugraph	32
Section 26	Board rule	33
Section 27	Eligibility of players for titles	34
Section 28	Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)	34
Section 29	Masterpoints	36
Section 30	Director's and Recorder's reports	36
Section 31	Supplementary Regulations	37
Section 32	Mutual responsibility	38
Section 33	Appendix 1 – ABF events and acronyms	40
Section 34	Appendix 2 – System Regulations	
Section 35	Appendix 3 – Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes	
Section 36	Appendix 4 – Alerting Regulations	
Section 37	Appendix 5 – Regulations for Play with Screens	
Section 38	Appendix 6 – Review Regulations	
Section 39	Appendix 7 – Multiple Adjusted Scores	
Section 40	Annexure of Commentary and Examples	

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TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

It is current ABF policy to update the Regulations as required on a regular basis. Expressions used in these Regulations and not defined under the heading “Definition of Expressions” (immediately below) shall have their ordinary meaning in bridge terminology and/or as defined in “*The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017*” (the “Code”). The singular shall include the plural and *vice versa*, and reference to one gender shall include the other.

The document commences with a list of definitions of expressions used in the Regulations. The document concludes with appendices that include a list of ABF Events (Section 33, Appendix 1), Systems Regulations (Section 34, Appendix 2), Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes (Section 35, Appendix 3), Alerting Regulations (Section 36, Appendix 4), Regulations for Play with Screens (Section 37, Appendix 5), and Review Regulations (Section 38, Appendix 6).

DEFINITION OF EXPRESSIONS

<u>ABF</u>	The Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated. The term “ABF” is used in these Regulations to refer to the officer (e.g. President, General Counsel, Convener) or committee (e.g. the Council, the Management Committee, the Tournament Committee) given responsibility from time to time for making particular decisions.
<u>ABF Event</u>	ABF Events are major events played at ABF Tournaments. ABF Events may form part of “Licensed Tournaments” (Paragraph 2.2). ABF Events invariably award gold masterpoints (Section 29) and frequently award PQP (Section 28). A list of the major ABF Events is given in Appendix 1 (Section 33).
<u>ABF Tournament</u>	Unless the context requires otherwise, the term “ABF Tournament” where used in the Regulations, includes all ABF Events and any supplementary or side event played during a Championship, Festival or Congress conducted by the ABF or on its behalf.
<u>ABF Tournament Committee</u>	The ABF Tournament Committee (ABFTC) is the committee appointed by the ABF under its constitution to deal with all matters relating to Tournaments, Championships, Festivals or Congresses conducted by the ABF or on its behalf.
<u>ABF On-Site Representative</u>	The National Event Coordinator (or his nominee).
<u>Augmentation</u>	The expansion of a team (to be distinguished from making a replacement).
<u>BBO</u>	Bridge Base Online, a specific interactive network for, <i>inter alia</i> , presentation of major bridge tournaments around the world.
<u>Board Rule</u>	The requirement imposed (Section 26) in order to qualify for the award of PQP (Section 28).
<u>Carryover</u>	A “Carryover” is a score that is carried forward from one stage of a multi-stage event to a subsequent stage. Carryover may apply to the Butler Pairs Championships, the ANC (Interstate) Teams Championships, the Playoffs and certain other ABF Events.
<u>Chief Tournament Director</u>	The Chief Tournament Director is the Director-in-charge of the Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress. See also “Director” and “Director-in-Charge”.
<u>Code</u>	The Laws of Duplicate Bridge as promulgated by the World Bridge Federation and, where the Code allows discretion, ratified by the ABF.

<u>Contestant</u>	In an individual event, a player; in a pair event, two players playing as partners throughout the event; in a team event, four or more players playing as team-mates. See also “Unit”.
<u>Convention</u>	A call or play with a defined non-natural meaning.
<u>Conventional</u>	Pertaining to “convention”.
<u>Datum Sheets</u>	Datum sheets are used, at the discretion of the Director, to record scores in team matches and in Butler pairs events in order to assist the Director in the calculation of datums for display purposes and for tournament records.
<u>Director</u>	Generally, the term “Director” means the Chief Tournament Director or his/her nominee. However, there are certain clauses in these Regulations (e.g. Paragraphs 14.3, 30.1(c) where reference is made specifically to “Chief Tournament Director”; in this context, the term refers to the Chief Tournament Director, not to his/her nominee.
<u>Director-in-Charge</u>	This is usually the “Chief Tournament Director”, but the CTD may delegate responsibility for brief periods of time, the person to whom responsibility is delegated is the Director-in-Charge.
<u>Entry Booklet</u>	See “Tournament Brochure”.
<u>House Contestant</u>	A House Contestant is one or a group of players recruited by the Tournament Organiser. House Contestants may include players ineligible to enter the event. For individual, pairs or teams events, the group may number more than one, two or six, respectively. The term is generic and includes House Player, House Pair and House Team. House Contestants are deemed to be non-contending units. However, House Contestants are entitled to the award of masterpoints.
<u>House Pair</u>	A House Pair is a group of players (which may number more than two) recruited by the Tournament Organiser to make up an even number of pairs in the field for an ABF pairs event. The House Pair may otherwise be ineligible to enter the event.
<u>House Player</u>	A House Player is a player recruited by the Tournament Organiser to make up a pair or a team or to fill a place in an Individual field. The House Player may otherwise be ineligible to enter the event.
<u>House Team</u>	A House Team is a group of players (which may number more than six) recruited by the Tournament Organiser to make up an even number of teams in the field for an ABF teams event. The House Team may otherwise be ineligible to enter the event.
<u>IMP</u>	International Match Point(s).
<u>Licensed Tournament</u>	Tournaments conducted by State or other bodies in cooperation with the ABF are defined as Licensed Tournaments. License fees may be payable to the ABF by the cooperating bodies. Examples of Licensed Tournaments include the Autumn Nationals and the Hans Rosendorff Memorial Pairs.
<u>Match Recorder</u>	A Match Recorder is an official appointed by the Tournament Organiser or by the Director to record details of the auction and/or play at a particular table, usually in semi-finals and finals of ABF events.
<u>Monitor</u>	A Monitor is an official appointed by the Director to observe play at a table and report to the Director on matters relating to slow play, to etiquette and decorum, and to any other matters relating to the smooth running of the tournament.
<u>NBO</u>	A National Bridge Organisation that is a member of the WBF.
<u>NZ Bridge</u>	The governing body of bridge in New Zealand (the New Zealand equivalent of the ABF).
<u>National Event Coordinator</u>	The official appointed by the ABF to oversee the smooth conduct of ABF Tournaments.
<u>Playoffs</u>	See “Selection Events”.
<u>PQP</u>	Playoff Qualifying Points

<u>PQP Compiler Recorder</u>	The officer who is responsible to the ABFTC, for the compilation of PQPs. The Recorder is an official appointed by the Tournament Organiser to hear, and deal with as they see fit, complaints (not strictly the province of the Director) from players relating to behaviour and decorum.
<u>Regulating Authority</u>	The organisation responsible for overall conduct of tournaments. Formerly known as the Sponsoring Organisation.
<u>Regulations</u>	These Tournament Regulations.
<u>Replacement Pair</u>	A Replacement Pair (Paragraph 6.4) is a pair that takes the place of another pair that has withdrawn from a Selection Event after close of entries due to circumstances such as illness, unavoidable personal problems, or any other reason.
<u>Replacement Player</u>	A Replacement Player (Paragraph 6.4) is a player that replaces another player who has withdrawn from an Event after close of entries due to circumstances such as illness, unavoidable personal problems, or any other reason.
<u>Review Consultant</u>	The official appointed by the Tournament Organiser whose function is to advise prospective appellants regarding the wisdom of pursuing a request for a review of a ruling.
<u>Reviewer</u>	The official appointed by the Tournament Organiser (and referred to in the Supplementary Regulations) that is responsible for all matters pertaining to reviews.
<u>Review Form</u>	A form, for completion before the hearing of a review, which makes provision for statements by the appellant and by the Director who made the ruling that initiated the review.
<u>Round</u>	A round is a part of a session played without progression of players, or any other period of play as defined in the Supplementary Regulations of the event.
<u>Selection Events</u>	A selection event is one designated by the ABF to be used to select Australian team(s). The usual Selection Events are the “Australian Playoffs”, but they may be other events as recommended by the ABFTC and endorsed by the ABF.
<u>Session</u>	A session is an extended period of play during which a number of boards [typically between 20 (SWPT) and 32], specified by the Tournament Organiser, are scheduled to be played and which is then followed by a distinct break, or any other period of play as defined in the Supplementary Regulations of the event.
<u>Stage</u>	A stage is a distinct part of a multi-stage event. For example, the NOT has elimination, qualifying, semi-final and final stages; the GNOT National Final has several knockout stages.
<u>Stanza</u>	A stanza is a period of play without a distinct break. It is part of a session during which a number of boards specified by the Tournament Organiser are played. For example, a stanza may be (i) one round of a Swiss pairs event, such as the Australian Swiss Pairs or the Dick Cummings Open Pairs, where more than one stanza is played per session; or (ii) a 16-board round of a semi-final or final; or (iii) a full session of match-pointed pairs such as is played in the Gold Coast Congress Pairs Championships.
<u>State Association</u>	The body in each Australian state or territory responsible for administration of bridge. There are eight State associations. Constitutionally, they are members of the ABF.
<u>Stop Card</u>	A stop card is a card used during the auction by a player about to make a “skip bid” to warn his left-hand opponent of his impending action.
<u>Supplementary Regulations</u>	The Supplementary Regulations is the set of regulations specific to an ABF Tournament. The Supplementary Regulations are deemed to be part of these ABF Tournament Regulations. The Supplementary Regulations are drawn up and promulgated by the Tournament Organiser in cooperation with the ABF National Event Coordinator (Section 31).

<u>Target Event</u>	A Target Event is an international event nominated by the ABFTC (and endorsed by the ABF MC) as the primary goal for which an Australian team is selected.
<u>Tournament Brochure</u>	(Also known as the Entry Booklet.) An advertising document that may be circulated by the Tournament Organiser some time in advance of the tournament. As a rule, the Tournament Brochure contains Entry Forms.
<u>Tournament Organiser</u>	The official recognised by the Regulating Authority (see the Code), responsible for organising the tournament. Where a committee or body is responsible for organising the tournament, the Tournament Organiser is deemed to be the Chairman of that committee or body.
<u>Tournament Sub-Committee</u>	The committee convened by the ABF On-Site Representative (and referred to in the Supplementary Regulations) that is responsible for all matters that arise during the course of the Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress that are not specifically the function of the Tournament Organiser, the Director or another committee.
<u>Unit</u>	An individual (in an individual event), a pair (in a pairs event) or a team (in a teams event). The terms “Unit” and “Contestant” are synonymous and interchangeable.
<u>Vugraph</u>	A means, usually as an interactive network, of presentation of bridge tournaments to an audience. (BBO is a specific example of presentation of major bridge tournaments to audiences around the world.)
<u>VP</u>	Victory Point(s).
<u>WBF</u>	The World Bridge Federation.
<u>Zone 7</u>	The South Pacific Zone of the WBF.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These Regulations (the "Regulations") shall apply to all tournaments conducted by the Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated ("ABF") either alone or in co-operation with State associations or other bodies. Unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "ABF Tournament", where used in the Regulations, shall include all ABF Events and any supplementary or side event played during a Championship, Festival or Congress conducted by the ABF or on its behalf as well as each event forming part of such Championship, Festival or Congress.
- (a) Examples of an ABF Tournament include the Summer Festival of Bridge, the Australian National (Interstate) Championships (ANC), the Barrier Reef Congress, Territory Gold and the Golden West.
 - (b) Examples of an ABF Event include the South-West Pacific Teams, the National Open Teams, the Australian Mixed Teams Championship, the Open Butler Pairs Championship, and the Eric Parsons Swiss Pairs.
 - (c) Examples of a supplementary event include Welcome Pairs and ANC Congress Pairs.

2. Conduct of ABF Tournaments

- 2.1 Pursuant to Law 80A1(c) of the Code, the ABF is the Regulating Authority in relation to ABF Tournaments that it conducts itself or conducts through the agency of State associations or other bodies.
- 2.2 Tournaments conducted by State or other bodies as an agent of the ABF are defined as Licensed Tournaments and license fees may be payable to the ABF by the cooperating bodies.
- 2.3 Licensed Tournaments are bound by these Regulations.

- 2.4 ABF Events are categorised according to strategic objectives, the quality of the event, and the size and depth of the field. Specific ABF Events are assigned the category stated in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Unless prior dispensation has been obtained from the ABFTC, the length of the head-to-head final in Category A or B National Events shall not be less than 64 boards played in equal-length stanzas.
- 2.6 It is recommended that the length of a head-to-head final for National Events in Category C should be not less than 48 boards
- 2.7 The schedule of ABF events contained in Appendix 1 will be revised annually on the advice of the ABF Tournament Committee (hereinafter ABFTC). The said revision will apply for the following calendar year.
- 2.8 From time to time, the ABFTC may recommend to the ABF (i) the removal of particular events from the list of ABF Events in Appendix 1 or (ii) the addition of new events to that list. Any event proposed for such addition must meet the criteria set out in Paragraph 29.1 of these Regulations.
- 2.9 Each year, the ABFTC will recommend to the ABF the international event to be designated the (primary) Target Event for Australian Teams for the following year. The Committee may also recommend other international event(s) to be considered secondary Target Event(s) for the following year.
- 2.10 ABF Tournaments shall be played under The Laws of Duplicate Bridge as promulgated from time to time by the World Bridge Federation (WBF) and ratified by the ABF (the "Code").
- 2.11 Each ABF Tournament shall have Supplementary Regulations which shall be deemed to be part of these Regulations. In the case of conflict that is not resolved pursuant to Section 31 of these Regulations prior to commencement of play, the Supplementary Regulations for that event shall prevail. The Tournament Organiser will normally promulgate the Supplementary Regulations at least 14 days prior to the first session of the tournament.
- 2.12 Once the Supplementary Regulations for an ABF tournament have been posted on the ABF website, contestants in that tournament are responsible for acquiring knowledge of those Regulations. Entries are accepted on the basis that the Regulations will apply.
- 2.13 No claim by any participant shall lie against the ABF or any official, Director or officer of the ABF in any way arising out the conduct of any ABF Tournament pursuant to the Regulations.
- 2.14 Competitive integrity requires that every contestant in an ABF Tournament aim to do as well as possible on each board played and play accordingly. This regulation is directed to intention. Examples of a breach of this regulation would be:
- (a) To lose a match deliberately during a round robin of an ANC (Interstate) Teams Championship in order to improve a team's chance of winning the title by having an "easier" opponent to play in the final.
 - (b) To engineer deliberately a poor result during a pairs event in order to assist the opponents or to impede the chance of some other pair.

A breach of this regulation will result in disciplinary action by the ABF and the offence will be treated as a serious one. Intention will, for the purpose of assessing whether a breach has occurred, be inferred by the

ABF from the result actually obtained having due regard to all factors reasonably explicatory of such results. The criterion used will be "balance of probabilities".

- 2.15 The English language is the official language for all ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses. During a session, all explanations shall be given in English and players may only converse in English, unless both captains (teams), or all four players (pairs) agree to use some other common language at their own risk.
- 2.16 If necessary, translation into English is the responsibility of the team captain(s).
- 2.17 A request for a review of a ruling based on misunderstanding in a language other than English will not be entertained.
- 2.18 For ABF Events, the name of each team shall be the name of its captain or its non-playing captain. Exceptions will be made for sponsored teams. In such cases, the name of the sponsor may be used provided that the ABF gives written approval to the Tournament Organiser. The ABF reserves the right to charge a fee as a condition of giving such approval.

3. Entry to ABF Events

- 3.1 Entry to events in ABF Tournaments follows from an "invitation to enter".
- 3.2 A contestant's entry is not considered complete until the entry has been accepted and all entry fees for that contestant have been received by the Tournament Organiser.
- 3.3 The ABF reserves the right in its discretion to reject any entry to an ABF Tournament, Festival or Congress without assigning any reason for so doing
- 3.4 The ABF reserves the right in its discretion to reject any entry to an ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress that includes a player who does not qualify under the conditions of contest or who has been suspended by any State Association or by any other National Bridge Organisation.
- 3.5 Only eligible players may contest ABF events. Eligible players are those with an active ABF number or other players so designated in the Supplementary Regulations.
- 3.5 The Tournament Organiser shall make every endeavour to obtain an even number of entries for each event. In the absence of an even number of entries, the Tournament Organiser shall make every endeavour to enlist a "House Contestant" ("House Team", "House Pair" or "House Player"), which may at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser contain any number of players and include ineligible players, to make up an even number of participant teams in teams events, to make up an even number of participant pairs in pairs events, or to fill a field in an individual event. A "House Contestant" is ineligible to place or to win a prize, unless the Tournament Sub-Committee determines otherwise. It is ABF tournament policy not to play triangles in teams events.

4. Reviewer, Tournament Sub-Committee and Recorder

4.1 For each ABF Tournament, there shall be a Reviewer, a Tournament Sub-Committee and one or more Recorders. Subject to the Constitution of the ABF, the Supplementary Regulations shall specify the Convener of each Sub-Committee and provide for membership of those Sub-Committees.

4.2 The Reviewer, Review Consultant, Reviews, Review Forms

4.2.1 The Supplementary Regulations shall appoint one or more Reviewers.

4.2.2 The function of the Reviewer shall be to adjudicate all appeals from rulings of the tournament Directors (the "Director") directing an ABF Tournament.

4.2.3 The Reviewer shall follow the procedures set out in the ABF Ruling and Review Regulations. No person who is interested in an appeal or who has prejudged the appeal shall be a Reviewer who adjudicates it.

(a) "Interested" as used in this Paragraph shall mean a person who in the opinion of the ABF On-site Representative could reasonably be thought to be likely to obtain some benefit from the adjudication.

(b) "Prejudged" as used in this Paragraph shall mean a person who has previously expressed an opinion on the outcome of the review.

4.2.4 Unless the Supplementary Regulations specify otherwise, the time allowed for lodging a request for a review shall expire 30 minutes after the official score has been posted. Advice to the Director of intention to appeal is deemed to constitute "lodging a request for a review".

4.2.5 All questions of fact, involved in appeals from the Director's rulings or otherwise pursuant to these Regulations, shall be appealable to and adjudicable by the Reviewer. (However, under the Code, the Director may not be overruled on a point of law or regulation or on a disciplinary penalty.)

(a) There shall be no appeal from any decision of the Reviewer when duly constituted and conducted in accordance with these Regulations.

(b) A challenge as to the proper procedure of the Reviewer may be raised in writing within 24 hours after the decision is announced or one hour after the posting of final results; whichever shall be the earlier. No other form of question shall be permitted.

(c) The answer to such a question shall be determined by the Tournament Sub-Committee whose decision shall be final.

(d) If a Reviewer is found to have failed to follow in substance the procedures set out in the ABF Review Regulations, the determinations shall be null and void and the appeal or reference shall be heard *de novo* by a different duly appointed Reviewer. See also Paragraph 4.2.8 of these Regulations.

4.2.6 The Supplementary Regulations will appoint one or more Review Consultants. The function of the Review Consultant shall be to advise a prospective appellant whether there are grounds for lodging a request for a review. It is not obligatory for a prospective appellant to consult the Review Consultant before lodging an appeal. However, in determining whether a Review is "substantially without merit" and whether to apply a penalty, the Reviewer shall consider the advice given to the appellant by the Review Consultant.

4.2.7 The Tournament Organiser shall supply Review Request Forms. The Review Form shall have the format specified in the ABF Review Procedures (see Section 38 of these Regulations). The Review Form shall make provision for statements by the appellant and by the Director who made the ruling that initiated the appeal. The Review Form shall also make provision to indicate whether a Review Consultant has been

consulted before lodging the appeal. For reasons of time, the Reviewer may rule that an appeal be heard without prior completion of a review form.

- 4.2.8 The ABF National Authority may review any decision made by the Reviewer arising from any tournament conducted by or on behalf of the ABF. The National Authority will, however, limit its functions to the ABF/NZ Bridge interpretation of the Code and will not decide facts or change or purport to change any ruling that has been made. It follows that the National Authority will not overturn the result of an event but may issue an opinion in order to establish or confirm a precedent or procedure.

4.3 The Tournament Sub-Committee

- 4.3.1 The quorum of a Tournament Sub-Committee shall be two persons, except in circumstances (Paragraph 4.3.4. of these Regulations) where these Tournament Regulations require “a Tournament Sub-Committee of not fewer than five members” to adjudicate. The Tournament Sub-Committee shall be convened and chaired by the ABF On-site Representative or in his/her absence, a member of the ABFTC.
- 4.3.2 The function of the Tournament Sub-Committee shall be (consistent with the Code and the Regulations) to oversee the efficient conduct of the ABF Tournament. It shall discharge such duties as are not by the Code or the Regulations expressly the responsibility of the Tournament Director, Tournament Organiser or the Reviewer including, in emergency or unforeseen circumstances, the duty to promulgate (*ex post facto* if necessary) any further Regulation that may be required for the proper conduct of the ABF Tournament. Any question as to the jurisdiction of the Tournament Sub-Committee either generally or *vis a vis* the Reviewer shall be determined by the ABFTC whose decision shall be final. The Tournament Sub-Committee may take action of its own motion or initiative. Such action may involve the imposition of a penalty, and/or adjustment of scores for the event in question.
- 4.3.3 The provisions of Paragraph 4.2.3 of these Regulations and the ABF Review Regulations in relation to procedures shall (*mutatis mutandis*) apply to the Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 4.3.4 The Tournament Sub-Committee shall during any ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress and thereafter until the venue has been vacated (subject to the exception in Paragraph (d) of Paragraph 5.4 of these Regulations) be entitled to conduct a hearing on the issue of whether there has been a breach of discipline or ethics but may not impose any penalty applying after the Tournament has concluded. A Tournament Sub-Committee of not fewer than five members shall be convened for this purpose and a report of the proceedings must be forwarded to ABF General Counsel following the hearing with or without a recommendation that the matter be considered by the Ethics Committee. Nothing in this paragraph express or implied shall negate the powers of the Tournament Director under the Code.

4.4 Recorder

- 4.4.1 The Supplementary Regulations shall appoint one or more Recorders to whom matters can be reported by players on a confidential basis.
- 4.4.2 The function of the Recorder is to receive communications (oral or written) from individual players as to concerns that arise from incidents at an event.
- 4.4.2 To facilitate such communications, the Recorder should be available immediately before and after each session and otherwise according to advice given to the Director.

4.4.3 The Recorder shall consider each such communication and decide on the appropriate action to serve the best interests of the particular tournament and of the game of bridge in general. In doing so, the Recorder shall give each side an equitable hearing and may:

- (a) Seek input from the Director, from another Recorder and/or from other players at the table;
- (b) Form an opinion about the veracity of the information presented by the complainant and about the veracity of any rebuttal by the player(s) complained against;
- (c) Judge whether there may have been provocation;
- (d) Form an opinion about the proportion of blame attributable to either side;
- (e) Form an opinion about the seriousness of the incident and make a recommendation as to whether further action should be taken immediately or whether it is sufficient to keep a note of the incident for future reference;
- (f) Where immediate action is recommended, make a suggestion as to an appropriate course of action.

4.4.4 The Recorder may give advice to players involved in the incident and may, but is not bound to, indicate the substance of what will appear in his report. The Recorder has no power to prescribe penalties.

4.4.5 Within 14 days of the conclusion of the event each Recorder shall submit to the National Recorder and ABF General Counsel a report on the incidents that were reported to that Recorder during the event. Such report will remain confidential and no person or player is entitled to a copy thereof.

5. DISCIPLINE

5.1 As a consequence of incidents that have occurred in an ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress, the ABF reserves the right in its discretion to reject the entry of any player, pair or team for any future ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress conducted by the ABF or otherwise under its auspices whether for a limited or unlimited time and without assigning any reason for such rejection.

5.2 In addition to or in substitution for the exercise of any power under the Code as modified by these Regulations, and any other power referred to in this Section 5, the ABF reserves the right to request a State Association to take disciplinary action against any member of that State Association or of a club affiliated with that State Association as a consequence of events which have occurred in or at an ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress.

5.3 Without in any way limiting the matters which may give rise to the exercise of disciplinary action, any one or more of the following matters shall constitute an offence by a player or contestant in respect of which the ABF will be entitled to exercise such disciplinary powers as it sees fit, namely:

- (a) Any breach of the laws or proprieties of bridge as set out in the Code as modified by these Regulations.
- (b) Any behaviour during the course of an ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress which the Director or the Tournament Organiser shall decide is offensive or a departure from the standards required under Section 18 of these Regulations.
- (c) Any behaviour within or near the venue of an ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress, immediately before its commencement, during its conduct or soon after its completion, which the Director or the Tournament Organiser shall decide is offensive.
- (d) Any behaviour by any player receiving an ABF subsidy, in whole or in part for his/her participation in the ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress at premises for accommodation, which the Director or the Tournament Sub-Committee shall decide is offensive.

- (e) Any unauthorised withdrawal [as defined in Paragraph 16(b) of these Regulations] from an ABF Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress for a period of any one deal or longer, not approved in advance by the Director or the Tournament Sub-Committee, or ratified thereafter by either of them in the case of accident or emergency not allowing advance approval.
- (f) Any breach at any material subsequent time of the terms of any agreement or undertaking given by any player in an ABF Selection Tournament to the ABF as a condition of entry thereto it being acknowledged that in the event of there being any dispute of fact as to whether there has been such a breach the opinion of the ABF shall prevail.
- (g) The entry or attempted entry by a player into an event for which he or she is not eligible by reason of age sex or masterpoints; in any such event all members of the Unit being entered who had knowledge of the facts giving rise to the ineligibility shall also be guilty of an offence.
- (h) The abuse, vilification and /or unreasonable criticism of any Director, tournament organizer or any other official of an ABF event in relation to the carrying out of such duties whether before during or at any time subsequent to such event
- (i) Any other behaviour that shall be deemed by the ABF to bring the game of bridge and/or the ABF into disrepute.

5.4 During any Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress (and thereafter until the venue is vacated), the Director and/or the Tournament Sub-Committee may conduct a hearing into whether an offence has occurred under Paragraph 4.3.4 of these Regulations. Should the Director and/or the Tournament Sub-Committee not wish to exercise this power, the matter of concern shall be referred to the ABF as part of the Director’s Report as required by Section 30 of these Regulations.

5.5 The ABF will not tolerate abusive behaviour, whether verbal, written or physical, by any person towards any of its staff, tournament Directors or voluntary workers. If any person behaves in such a way, the ABF may cease to deal with the individual concerned (including any club, business or other organization that this person represents) and may take any disciplinary action that may be available to it.

6. SUBSTITUTION, AUGMENTATION, CHANGE OF PERSONNEL, AND REPLACEMENT

6.1 Substitution

Substitution is not a right but a privilege that may be granted by the Director.

6.1.1 The number of substitutions for a player allowed in any ABF Event, unless otherwise specifically provided for in the Supplementary Regulations, shall be according to the scale below: A stanza is defined as any number of boards after which there is a break in play as provided for in the Supplementary Regulations.

Number of stanzas (n)	Number of stanzas for which substitute(s) allowed
1	0
2	1
3	1
4	2
5	2
6	3
7	3
>7	0.5n (rounded down to the nearest whole number)

The Director may authorise substitution for part of a stanza. In such a circumstance, the substitution shall be regarded for the purposes of determining “the number of substitutions allowed” as equivalent to substitution for one stanza, unless the Director rules that the number of boards played by the substitute is insignificant, in which case no substitution shall be recorded.

- 6.1.2 Any substitution must be authorised by the Director. Emergency substitutions not covered by the Regulations may be allowed for substantial cause by a special ruling of the Tournament Sub-Committee (which may be retrospective) subject in such cases to such terms as the Sub-Committee shall impose. In the last resort, the Director may take whatever action is necessary in order to preserve the integrity of the tournament.
- 6.1.3 The Director is authorised to permit any substitute provided that he/she judges that the substitute is of approximately equivalent standard (according to the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, the ABF Ranking Scheme, partnership experience or other relevant criteria) to the player for whom the substitute is sought. Under these circumstances, scores obtained during the substitution shall not be subject to adjustment. Any contestant present at the relevant table may appeal against the Director’s judgement of equivalence. Such appeal will be heard by the Tournament Sub-Committee, which may, if the appeal is successful, award an adjusted score.
- 6.1.4 If the exigencies of the event require a substitution, and there is no available substitute of a standard equivalent to the player for whom the substitute is sought, the Director may allow any substitution to preserve the movement. Under these circumstances, scores obtained during the substitution shall, if the substitute is of superior standard to the player for whom he/she substitutes, be subject to (downwards) adjustment at the Director’s discretion. In such circumstances, the opponents of the pair or team with the non-equivalent substitute shall receive a pro-rated (upward) adjustment based upon the number of boards played by the substitute during the head-to-head encounter. Any contestant whose score has been the subject of adjustment may appeal against the magnitude of such adjustment. Such appeal will be heard by the Tournament Sub-Committee, which may, if the appeal is successful, alter the adjustment.
- 6.1.5 Should an appeal in respect to substitution be deemed “substantially without merit”, the appellant may be subject to a score penalty as determined by the Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 6.1.6 If the substitute fails to satisfy a stratification category (e.g. a male substituting for a female in mixed pairs, a substitute who does not meet the terms of eligibility for a restricted team) then the pair/team will henceforth be deemed ineligible.
- 6.1.7 Substitution shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience. The Director shall report to the Tournament Sub-Committee any instance where he/she is of the opinion that the substitution was for insubstantial cause. The Tournament Sub-Committee may treat a substitution without proper cause as an unauthorised withdrawal.

6.2 Augmentation

For ABF Events, augmentation of a team of four or five players to a team of five or six players may be made after entries have closed or during the course of the event provided that Paragraphs 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 are satisfied.

- 6.2.1 After entries have closed but before play has commenced
A team of four or five players may augment to a team of five or six players (provided that the conditions of contest make provision for teams of five or six) by application to the Tournament Organiser and subject to his/her approval.

6.2.2 During the course of an ABF Event

- (a) Except as defined by Paragraph 6.2.2(b) below, a team of four or five players may be augmented to a team of up to six players by application to the Tournament Sub-Committee. The Tournament Sub-Committee, in its sole discretion, may approve the augmentation provided that the players to be added to the team are not members of another team that is already playing in the event. The formula determining up to what point in an event the said augmentation may occur is $0.5n + 1$ (rounded down to the nearest whole number, where n is the scheduled number of rounds for the event).
- (b) No augmentation shall be permitted:

After nominations close and during the Australian Playoffs
After the SWPT and during the NOT
After the qualifying and during the semi-finals and final of any other ABF Event
After knockout round 3 of the GNOT National Final
After Swiss repechage round 4 of the GNOT National Final

6.3 Change of personnel

- 6.3.1 After entries have closed, but before play has commenced, a team may change its personnel by application to and subject to the approval of the Tournament Organiser. Before approving the said change(s), the Tournament Organiser must be satisfied that each player to be replaced agrees to the replacement. Should the Tournament Organiser have reason to believe that the proposed replacement involves problematic circumstances, he/she shall immediately refer the matter to ABF General Counsel.
- 6.3.2 After entries for the Australian Playoffs have closed, but before play has commenced, a team may change its personnel by application to and subject to the approval of the ABFTC.

6.4 Replacement, Replacement Players and Replacement Pairs

Replacement applies when a player or pair withdraws from a Selection Event after close of entries due to circumstances such as illness, unavoidable personal problems, or any other reason.

6.4.1 Replacement of a single member of a pair or a team entered in a Selection Event

The Replacement Player may be any player who meets the criteria (e.g. PQP requirement) for entry to the Selection Event. After the addition of the Replacement Player, the unit must meet the criteria (e.g. total PQP requirement) for admission to the Selection Event.

6.4.2 Replacement of a pair in a team entered in a Selection Event

The Replacement Pair may be any pair that meets the criteria (e.g. PQP requirement) for entry to the Selection Event. After the addition of the Replacement Pair, the team must meet the criteria (e.g. total PQP requirement) for admission to the Selection Event.

- 6.4.3 In the last resort, the ABF may select a Replacement Pair.

7. SYSTEMS, SYSTEM CARDS, SEATING AND DECLARATION OF LINEUPS

The most recent published version of “ABF System Regulations” applies to all ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses. Paragraphs 7.1 through 7.3.7 below are included in these ABF Tournament Regulations to apply

- (i) in situations where the ABF System Regulations provide discretion and
- (ii) as an aid to players, Directors and tournament organisers. (In the case of conflict between these regulations and the ABF System Regulations, the ABF System Regulations apply.) The full ABF System Regulations are to be found in Appendix 2.

7.1 There are four (colour-coded) categories of system plus BROWN STICKER:

- (a) GREEN (natural)
- (b) BLUE (strong club/strong diamond)
- (c) RED (artificial)
- (d) YELLOW (highly unusual methods – HUM)
- (e) BROWN STICKER (systems containing conventions/treatments that place demands on defensive preparedness).

7.2 Players shall classify their own systems according to the criteria given in the ABF Systems Regulations (and in Paragraph 7.1 hereof). Players shall meet any direction relating to prior submission of systems that is set out in the Supplementary Regulations for the particular event. (Desirably, information regarding prior submission of systems should be set out in the Tournament Brochure; note well, however, that the tournament brochure is not an official document.) In the absence of such direction, YELLOW systems to be played in a specified event, or stage of an event, shall be submitted two weeks prior to the commencement of the tournament that includes the specified event.

7.2.1 Players playing against a YELLOW system may bring to the table a written defence to the YELLOW system provided (a) that the defence is typed or written legibly on no more than two sheets of A4 paper, (b) that the defence is approved by the Tournament Director, and (c) that each of the opponents at the table are given their own identical copy of the defence prior to the start of play.

7.2.2 Those parts of the ABF Systems Regulations that relate to BROWN STICKER conventions and “protected pairs” apply to ABF Teams and Pairs Events (except as specified in paragraph 7.3.3 below). Players playing against a pair whose system card bears a BROWN STICKER may bring to the table copies of a written defence(s) to the BROWN STICKER convention(s) provided (a) that the copies are typed or written legibly on a single sheet of A4 paper, (b) that the defences are approved by the Tournament Director, and (c) that each of the opponents at the table are given their own identical copy of the defence prior to the start of play.

7.3 Permissible systems in ABF Events

[ABF events are defined in Appendix 1 (Section 33) of these Regulations (below).] The following regulations apply to the named events to determine the permissible systems for that event:

7.3.1 Interstate Teams Championships, Butler Pairs Championships

Provided that the provisions of Paragraph 7.2 of these Regulations are met, any system may be played in the Interstate Teams Championships (Open, Women’s, Seniors, Youth) and in the last stage of the Open, Women’s and Seniors Butler Pairs Championships as provided in the Supplementary Regulations.

7.3.2 **Australian Playoffs**

Provided that the provisions of Paragraph 7.2 of these Regulations are met, any system may be played in an Australian Playoff (Open or Women's) provided that the system is permitted at **some** stage of the international event which is the primary Target Event (Paragraph 2.9 of these Regulations).

7.3.3 **Grand National Open Teams National Final**

Provided that the provisions of Paragraph 7.2 of these Regulations are met, YELLOW systems may be played in knockout rounds 3, 4 and 5, in the repechage final, and in the semi-finals and final. YELLOW systems shall not be played in knockout rounds 1 and 2 or in the Swiss repechage. Regulations relating to "protected pairs" do not apply to any stage of the Grand National Open Teams National Final, i.e. protection against BROWN STICKER is not available.

7.3.4 **Other teams events**

Provided that the provisions of Paragraph 7.2 of these Regulations are met, any system may be played in all other teams events (Section 2 of these Regulations) with the following restrictions:

- (a) YELLOW systems shall not be played in the first session of an event unless the draw and systems have been circulated or published on the web, by the Tournament Organiser, at least 48 hours before the commencement of the event.
- (b) YELLOW systems shall not be played at any time against teams with a current position in the lower two thirds of the field (decimals rounded up).
- (c) YELLOW systems shall not be played in Seniors teams events.
- (d) YELLOW systems are not permitted at any time in teams events where the rounds are of less than eight boards duration.

7.3.5 **Pairs events**

- (a) YELLOW systems are not permitted in any pairs event except in the last stage of the Open, Women's and Seniors Butler Pairs Championships as provided in their Supplementary Regulations (see also Paragraph 7.3.1 of these Regulations).
- (b) The provisions relating to BROWN STICKER and "protected pairs" (ABF System Regulations) are applicable in pairs events.

7.3.6 **Supplementary and side events**

- (a) YELLOW systems are not permitted under any circumstances in any supplementary or side event (Paragraph 1.1 of these Regulations).
- (b) The Director shall enforce the provisions relating to BROWN STICKER systems and "protected pairs" (ABF System Regulations) in all supplementary and/or side events.

7.4 **System cards**

7.4.1 Three types of system card are approved by the ABF for use in Tournaments, Championships, Festivals or Congresses conducted by ABF, namely the ABF standard system card, the WBF system card, and the ABF simple system card. Unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations:

- (a) The ABF standard system card shall be used in the Australian Playoffs (Open, Women's, Seniors). The WBF system card may only be used in respect to YELLOW systems, or if permitted by the Supplementary Regulations.

- (b) The ABF standard system card should be used in all other ABF events (as defined in Paragraph 1.1).
- (c) Either an ABF standard system card or an ABF simple system card may be used in supplementary and side events.

7.4.2 Each pair shall have on the table during the periods of play two legible system cards properly identified with their first and family names. The type of system card shall be specified in the supplementary regulations. The onus is on the pair to prepare an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. Both members of a partnership must play the same system. System cards must be accessible to the opponents at all times during play. No player may look at the system card of his/her partnership during the bidding or play of any hand. Where screens are used each partner shall have one copy of his/her partnership's system card on his/her side of the screen.

7.5 A partnership's knowledge of its system

7.5.1 A partnership is expected to know its own system and to be able to give an accurate explanation of it. The Director may impose a procedural penalty upon any pair that consistently displays ignorance of its system and in an extreme case may require the pair to cease playing its system and revert to a more natural system for the remainder of the session. The Director shall report such a ruling to the Tournament Sub-Committee. The Tournament Sub-Committee may prohibit the partnership from playing its system in subsequent sessions and events unless and until the partnership is able to demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of the system.

7.5.2 When the Director considers that a pair may have been damaged due to the opponents' inability to explain their system, he/she will apply the provisions of the Code that relate to misinformation in order to provide redress and/or restore equity.

7.6 Seating

7.6.1 Unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations, the assignment of seating rights in single stanza teams matches shall be:

- (a) Pre-determined by the Director and/or scoring program
- (b) Determined by the two respective team captains via a coin toss
- (c) Effected via the independent (blind) submission of line-ups by the respective team captains at a time and place specified in the Supplementary Regulations

This regulation applies to:

- (i) Events with a Swiss format,
- (ii) Events with a single round-robin format,
- (iii) The first round of events with a double-round-robin format; for the second round of a double round robin, seating rights reverse,
- (iv) Other events with similar formats.

7.6.2 Seating rights in knockout matches shall be determined by the team captains via a coin toss. The winner of the toss may choose whether to sit first or second for the first stanza. Thereafter, seating rights alternate with each stanza. This alternation applies also in matches with an odd number of stanzas, unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations.

7.6.3 A contestant's compass orientation shall be determined by the Director and/or scoring program.

- 7.7 Teams with a pair or pairs registering YELLOW systems (YELLOW-system teams) lose seating rights except in the NOT, the Australian Playoffs, the ANC and the finals of other ABF events. YELLOW-system teams lose seating rights in semi-finals and in earlier rounds of a final series. When two YELLOW-system teams are drawn to play against one another, normal seating rights apply.
- 7.8 Team captains shall declare their seating arrangements in timely fashion as directed in the Supplementary Regulations. Captains of YELLOW-system teams must always declare their line-ups within 10 minutes of the posting of the draw. When two YELLOW-system teams are drawn to play one another, the captain of the team sitting first must declare his line-up within 10 minutes of posting of the draw and the captain of the team with choice must declare his line-up within 15 minutes of posting of the draw.

8. GENERATION OF HANDS AND REPLICATION AND RECORDING OF BOARDS

- 8.1 It is ABF tournament policy that boards should be pre-dealt and replicated and that hand records should be provided for all ABF Events and all supplementary and side events played during Tournaments, Championships, Festivals or Congresses conducted by the ABF.
- 8.2 Hands shall be generated using a dealing program approved by the ABF.
- 8.3 It is ABF tournament policy that players should not be required to replicate boards. However, in circumstances where it is necessary for boards to be replicated at the table, all players shall assist in, and be equally responsible for, the replication procedure.
- 8.4 It is ABF tournament policy that players should not be required to record the auction and/or the play in ABF events. While it is in the interests of the game that such records should be kept, the Tournament Organiser should endeavour to secure Match Recorders for the task. The Tournament Organiser may encourage players to perform the recordings but the players are under no obligation to comply.
- 8.5 A Match Recorder is entitled to reserve for his or her own use any position at the table. A Match Recorder is not permitted to draw attention to any irregularity or to summon the Director to report any irregularity.

9. BIDDING PROCEDURES

The most recent published version of “ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes” applies to all ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses. The clauses in this Section 9 are included in these ABF Tournament Regulations as an aid to players, Directors and tournament organisers. (In the case of conflict between these regulations and the ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes, the ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes apply.) The full ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes are appended to these ABF Tournament Regulations (Appendix 3).

- 9.1 Written bidding, or bidding boxes, shall be used in all Tournaments, Championships, Festivals or Congresses conducted by the ABF. However, when the Director believes that the circumstances warrant it, alternative bidding procedures for one or more tables may be instituted.

9.2 While normal bidding boxes are constructed for right-handed players, the Tournament Organiser should provide sufficient left-handed bidding boxes to meet the needs of left-handed players.

9.3 The symbols for written bidding are:

C for clubs	The numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
D for diamonds	/ (or \) for pass
H for hearts	// (or \\) for the concluding pass of the auction; / (or \) for the concluding pass is also acceptable
S for spades	X for double
NT for no trumps	XX for redouble

No other symbol is permitted and punctuation marks are not legal.

9.4 **Written bidding – legibility**

9.4.1 All calls must be made in neat, legible handwriting. Where there is any doubt about what is written, players should seek verbal clarification.

9.4.2 The Director is the sole judge and final arbiter in respect to the legibility of any written call. If, in the opinion of the Director, a player has made a call as a result of an opponent's call that is poorly legible, Law 21B of the Code may be applied.

9.4.3 If a player makes a mistaken call as a result of the poor legibility of partner's call, that player has no recourse.

9.4.4 There shall be no appeal against the Director's judgement about the legibility of a written call.

10. **ALERTING**

The most recent published version of "ABF Alerting Regulations" applies to all ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses. The clauses in this Section 10 are included in these ABF Tournament Regulations as an aid to players, Directors and tournament organisers. (In the case of conflict between these regulations and the ABF Alerting Regulations, the ABF Alerting Regulations apply.) The full ABF Alerting Regulations are appended to these ABF Tournament Regulations (Appendix 4).

10.1 Alerting is compulsory. No player is permitted to request the opponents not to alert. The requirement to alert applies even though the convention/agreement is listed on the system card.

10.2 When a player alerts partner's call, it is that player's responsibility to ensure that the opponent(s) is/are properly alerted. If the Director is satisfied that the opponent(s) has not been properly alerted, he may treat the situation as a "failure to alert". There shall be no appeal against the Director's judgement about whether a call has been properly alerted.

10.3 There are five different types of call that are regarded as self-alerting, namely:

- Doubles;
- Redoubles;
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit;

All calls at the four-level or higher, except conventional opening bids;
Any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction.

10.4 Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl) is not an acceptable explanation. A more descriptive explanation should be given.

10.5 **Failure to alert, mistaken alert, mis-explanation**

10.5.1 If a member of the offending side becomes declarer, before the opening lead is faced, declarer and dummy each have a responsibility to call the Director and in his presence correct a failure to alert, a mistaken alert or a mis-explanation from their partner. (See also the Code.)

10.5.2 If the offending player becomes a defender a correction must not be given until the end of play of the hand, at which time the Director must be called and a correct explanation provided. (See also the Code.)

10.6 Alert procedures do not apply to defensive leads or signals. These should be listed on the system cards and attention should be drawn to unusual treatments (e.g. lower from two small) in the pre-alert section of the system card. The onus is on declarer to seek clarification of defensive signalling before and/or during the play of the hand. Defenders should never alert defensive signals, however unusual, during play.

11. **SCREENS**

11.1 The Supplementary Regulations may provide for play with screens at some or all tables at some or all stages of an ABF Event. The most recent published version of “ABF Regulations for Play with Screens” applies to all ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses. The full ABF Regulations for Play with Screens are appended to these ABF Tournament Regulations (Appendix 5).

11.2 Where the Director determines that boards are to be arrow-switched, this is achieved by players on the same side of the screen exchanging seats. The relative orientation of boards in relation to the screen must not be varied.

12. **PUNCTUALITY AND SLOW PLAY**

12.1 The duration of a session in ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses is determined on the basis of 7.5 minutes per board without screens, 8.0 minutes per board with screens and 8.75 minutes per board for the final of the Australian Playoffs. Where the facilities exist to monitor and thus minimize slow play, an application asking the ABFTC to determine a faster rate of play may be filed. The ABFTC will consider the application but is free to accept or reject it.

12.2 It is the responsibility of the players to know when sessions are due to commence. It is desirable that players should be seated 5 minutes before start of play.

12.3 **Late arrival**

A player, pair or team not seated within 5 minutes after the start of a session may, at the discretion of the Director, be penalised according to the following scales:

12.3.1 Late arrival for a teams match or a Butler pairs match:

0-5 min.	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 min.	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 min.	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 min.	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 min.	5 VPs (15 IMPs)
30+ min.	See section 10.3.3(b)

Boards withdrawn due to time constraints resulting from late arrival are cancelled. The non-offending side shall be awarded 3 IMPs for the first such board in teams matches, or 2 IMPs for the first such board in X-IMP or Butler-scored matches. For multiple unplayed boards – See Appendix 7.

12.3.2 **Late arrival for a match-pointed pairs event**

For first board that cannot be completed due to late arrival, the offending pair shall receive 40% of the available match points, or the average of the score that they obtained for the session (stanza), whichever is lower, and the opponents shall receive 60% of the available match points, or the average of the score that they obtained for the session (stanza), whichever is higher (for subsequent boards - see Appendix 7). It is an offence, subject to disciplinary penalty, for the offending pair to hustle the non-offending pair in order to complete the boards on time; it is also an offence, subject to disciplinary penalty, for the non-offending pair deliberately to play slowly in order to maximise the likelihood of score adjustment due to non-completion of boards.

12.3.3 **Director's discretion**

- (a) In other cases of late arrival, the Director has the power to impose penalties that he/she deems to be equivalent to the above scales (Paragraphs 12.3.1 and 12.3.2 of these Regulations).
- (b) For delays of over 30 minutes, the Director may assess a more severe penalty, including default of the match and/or disqualification from the event. A substitute pair may be used by the Director to complete the movement.

12.4 **Slow play**

It is the Director's responsibility to take whatever action is needed to limit the impact of slow play on the efficient conduct of an ABF Event. The Director may make time calls or call attention to delays in completing individual matches, but contestants should not rely upon this. The Director may appoint monitors to observe rates of play.

12.4.1 **Slow play during the course of a session**

Failure to complete a session or stanza on time is not the only index of slow play. The Director has the power to penalise a contestant at any time if he/she deems their slow play is disruptive of the movement and/or the proper conduct of a Tournament, Championship, Festival or Congress.

12.4.2 **Failure to complete a stanza on time in an IMP scored event**

- (a) In an IMP scored event, it is desirable wherever possible that all boards be completed. However, this might not be possible when one stanza closely follows the previous one. In this circumstance, the Tournament Director may cancel one or more boards. Otherwise, all boards shall be played and the penalty provisions of Paragraph 12.4.2(d) shall apply.
- (b) Where a stanza, session or match is not completed in the time allotted, both pairs or teams at the offending table(s) may be penalised unless
 - (i) the Director has been called to the table during the session and has ruled that one pair is not responsible for the delay or has reduced liability for the slow play; or

(ii) unless the Director, or a monitor appointed by the Director, has sufficiently observed the table to rule that one pair shall be exempt from, or have a reduced, penalty.

- (c) The Director has the power to issue warnings for slow play.
- (d) After a “slow play” warning has been issued, a penalty may be imposed at the expiry of the time for a stanza or session for boards not completed by a pair. Where the Director cancels boards under Paragraph 12.4.2(a), the Director may determine whether or not a penalty applies. Penalties shall be as follows:

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

- (e) Where a stanza or session is not completed on time, and boards are not removed, the Director may apply a penalty (to one or both pairs) according to the following scale:

0-5 min.	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 min.	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 min.	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 min.	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 min.	5 VPs (15 IMPs)

- (f) A warning given at any stage of an event applies throughout that event irrespective of the number of stanzas and stages.

- 12.5 Where a pair is penalised for a late start, the starting time shall run from the official commencement time for the session. Upon the advice of the Director, the Tournament Sub-Committee may alter the length of a session (including changing the number of boards to be played) at one or more tables in order to facilitate or maintain the orderly progress of the event.
- 12.6 Slow play in match pointed pairs or individual events may be penalised at the Director's discretion after one warning at the rate of one-quarter of the maximum possible score on a board for each subsequent offence. Warnings carry forward from session to session, but not from stage to stage.
- 12.7 Penalties for slow play are not removed in calculating carryover from one stage of an event to another pursuant to Paragraph 14.13.
- 12.8 Warnings and penalties are not subject to appeal, but an application may be made to the CTD requesting that he/she review the assessment. In considering each application, the CTD is free to reduce, remove, or increase the size of any penalty.

13. FOULED BOARDS

In all situations involving fouled boards, the Director’s objective is to preserve the integrity of the board.

- 13.1 The Director has the power to declare a board fouled at any time in accordance with the provisions of the correction period (see Paragraph 14.7 of these Regulations). Such a declaration may be informed by consultation with the player(s) at the table(s) but such consultation is not required.
- 13.2 A board is not necessarily fouled merely because it does not accord with the hand record.

- 13.3 A board is fouled as defined in the Code; however, the Director may rule that the fouling was inconsequential, e.g. in a teams match where a board is played in fouled condition at both tables, so that a result can be obtained (see also Paragraph 13.5 below). In such case the result of the board shall stand.
- 13.4 In scoring a fouled board the Director determines, as closely as possible, which scores were made on the board in each of its forms and divides the scores into groups on that basis. Subsequent procedure depends on whether computer scoring or manual scoring is in use.
- 13.4.1 **Computer scoring of fouled boards**
Reputable scoring programs use equitable but complex applications for scoring fouled boards that are impractical for manual scoring. Wherever feasible, computer scoring shall be utilised. Appropriate similar procedures shall (*mutatis mutandis*) apply to calculation of average and/or artificially adjusted scores.
- 13.4.2 **Manual scoring of fouled boards**
Having determined which scores were made on the fouled board in each of its forms and having divided the scores into groups on that basis, each group is rated as follows:
- (a) In events scored by match points, the Director awards each pair or player the match points allotted under the Code, plus 1 match point for each score in the other group.
 - (b) In events scored by point-a-board, the Director determines the cases in which the scores of the given teams were made with identical hands. Such scores stand as played. In all other cases reference is made to the pair match points calculated as provided for in the Code and:
 - (i) If both pairs of a team are above average in pair match points, or if one pair of a team is above and the other pair exactly average, that team is awarded 2 points
 - (ii) If one pair of a team is above and one pair below average, or if both pairs of a team are exactly average, that team is awarded 1 point
 - (iii) If both pairs of a team are below average, or if one pair of a team is exactly average and the other below, that team is awarded 0 points.
 - (c) In IMP or total-point match play, the results of a fouled board are void and a substitute board is played by both pairs of each team, unless any of the pairs has left the table or playing room at the conclusion of that stanza of the match, if time permits. In such circumstances, the substitute board is played in the next stanza of the match unless the fouling occurred in the last stanza of the match in which case the board is cancelled. If the board is cancelled, the Director should assign an adjusted score taking into consideration in the adjustment any clearly favourable result obtained at the other table.
 - (d) In teams match play scored by IMP where the Director awards an artificial adjusted score of Average Plus, that score is plus 3 IMPs (for multiple Average Plus scores – see Appendix 7).
 - (e) In Butler pairs movements scored by IMP, the Director's aim will be to preserve the integrity of the scores on a board if a meaningful result can be obtained. The Director may allow some results to stand while cancelling others or may treat the board as two separate entities. If the board is cancelled, the Director must award an artificial adjusted score of plus 2 IMPs (for multiple adjusted scores – see Appendix 7).
- 13.5 In teams and pairs play, a board turned through 90° is not a fouled board unless no rectification will permit normal play of the board. In teams play, the following options are open to the Director:

- (a) If only one table has played the board in its turned orientation, reorientation of the board at the other table;
- (b) Provided that time permits, substitution of a new board to be played at both tables when neither team is at fault;
- (c) Cancellation of the board when time does not permit substitution of a new board. The Director should assign an adjusted score for a cancelled board taking into consideration in the adjustment any clearly favourable result obtained at the other table.

14. SCORING, CARRYOVER AND CONCESSIONS

Wherever possible, reputable computer scoring programs should be used for all forms of scoring.

- 14.1 Differences of fractions of a match point, amounting to 0.01 (based upon double matchpointing) shall be sufficient to determine placings in a match-pointed pairs event.
- 14.2 The number of tricks won by declarer must be recorded clearly in the appropriate column of the travelling score sheet or the pick-up slip.
- 14.3 Where electronic scoring is in use, N/S shall be responsible for data entry and E/W shall be responsible for checking the accuracy of that data. Players must record the score for each board immediately after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. Both pairs are equally responsible for ensuring that scores are entered correctly. Before leaving the playing room, players must confirm that data entry is complete. The Chief Tournament Director may impose procedural penalties for failure to correctly enter all the data required.
- 14.4 Wireless scoring devices should be configured in such a way as to limit the ability to access, verify and correct scores on boards played at the table to players at that table, and to require this ability to be exercised during the currency of the round or match. Players should not have the ability to view scores from previous rounds or from other tables/matches during tournament play. A contestant's 'real-time' percentage score, and/or their progressive ranking, must not be accessible to any participant until the end of the session (except where the conditions of the contest dictate otherwise, e.g., in a barometer scored event).
- 14.5 It is the responsibility of the Tournament Organiser to ensure that the appropriate protocols are in place in respect to the collection, security and processing of all electronic data.
- 14.6 In multi-session events, unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations, errors in entering the score agreed upon at the table may be corrected within 30 minutes of the posting of scores for the session or up to 30 minutes before the start of the next session whichever is later.
- 14.7 In head-to-head matches, notwithstanding other provisions of this section, errors made by the players may be corrected outside the deadlines specified above by agreement between the team captains and with the consent of the Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 14.8 Scoring errors made by officials and detected shall be corrected as follows:
 - (a) For all stanzas of a stage except the last stanza — at any time up to the beginning of the last stanza,
 - (b) For the last stanza of the stage — 30 minutes after the scores have been displayed.

- 14.9 At the conclusion of an event, the results will become final 30 minutes after the posting of scores, after which time no correction may be made.
- 14.10 For the last round of Swiss movements and until the commencement of play, a draw that is defective, due to the result of appeals, correction of scoring errors and similar circumstances, may be corrected. For other rounds of Swiss movements, a defective draw will not normally be corrected, however, the Director has the power to alter a grossly defective draw. In exercising this power the Director will attempt to cause minimal disruption to the movement.

14.11 **Discrepancies**

14.11.1 Primary information relating to verification of scores comprises:

- (a) The contract and declarer
- (b) The number of tricks made.

14.11.2 Where there is an obvious discrepancy on the official score sheet between the score entered and the contract, declarer or number of tricks made, the Director shall make every effort to contact the players involved to ascertain the correct details. Where this is not possible, the Director may only change the score:

- (a) Where an impossible score is recorded
- (b) Where there is an error according to vulnerability.

14.11.3 In other instances of obvious discrepancy the Director may rule that both pairs are at fault and award a score of average to both sides.

14.12 **Correction of scores when electronic scoring devices are in use**

14.12.1 At the end of each round/match the players must verify all previously entered data. Any errors that are discovered must immediately be corrected. Subsequent requests (i.e., after the conclusion of the round) to alter an apparently consistent (although possibly incorrect) score must be made within the official (Law 79C) 'score correction period'.

14.12.2 Scores may be corrected by the Director after the conclusion of the round if both contestants agree as to the correct result and that result varies from the result recorded. If one or more of the pairs is unavailable for consultation or if there is no agreement as to the correct result, the score may be altered if the Director is satisfied on the basis of the ascertainable facts as to what the score should be. If the Director is in doubt as to what occurred, the score as originally recorded shall stand. Any correction that is to be made must be determined before the end of the correction period. (See also Law 79B2)

14.13 **Carryover**

14.13.1 In multi-stage ABF events, e.g. the Butler Pairs Championships, the ANC (Interstate) Teams Championships, the Australian Playoffs, some carryover of scores or proportions of scores from one stage to the subsequent stage may be appropriate. Carryover fractions are not rounded off or up (unless otherwise specified in the Supplementary Regulations).

14.13.2 The ABFTC shall determine what carryover, if any, is applicable from one stage to the subsequent stage of multi-stage events. In making its determination, the Committee shall ensure that:

- (a) In determining whether a carryover is appropriate and/or how the carryover is applied, consideration is given to the form of movement in the earlier stage of the event. Where such movements are imperfect, carryover should not apply or should be modified according to the degree of the imperfection. (An imperfect movement is defined as one in which the contestants in a group do not meet all the opponents that are met by the other contestants in that group).
- (b) The carryover must not be so great as to compromise the integrity of that subsequent stage and, therefore, the event as a whole.
- (c) Tied contestants must share the available carryover.

14.13.3 Wherever appropriate, the Supplementary Regulations shall contain a clause giving details of carryover. Should the Supplementary Regulations make no reference to carryover, it is deemed that no carryover shall apply.

14.14 Concession of knock-out team matches

14.14.1 It is ABF tournament policy to discourage concessions. Notwithstanding this policy, in teams matches with multiple stanzas, a team may concede to its opponents at or after the halfway point of a match if it considers its chances of winning the match to be negligible. A team shall not concede deliberately to benefit another team or for reasons that are whimsical. Any concession that is deemed unacceptable by the Tournament Sub-Committee shall be regarded as an unauthorised withdrawal and may be subject to the disciplinary provisions of Section 5 of these Regulations.

14.14.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 14.14.1 above, a team shall not concede a match that is scheduled for BBO broadcast without consultation with the Tournament Organiser (see also Paragraph 25.3.2 of these Regulations). Should a concession appear inevitable, the Tournament Organiser must make every attempt to give advance notice to the organiser(s) of the Vugraph presentation (usually the BBO National Coordinator), and should make every attempt to arrange for a substitute match to be broadcast.

15. FORFEITS

15.1 In the case of matches forfeited in teams events with Swiss and round-robin formats; and in Butler pair events, where matches are scored according to a WBF IMP/VP scale, the scores for the forfeited round are adjusted as follows:

- (a) For the purpose of making the draw —
 - (i) Non-offending unit 13 VP, and the whole integer IMP value closest to 13 VP
 - (ii) Offending unit 10 VP, and 0 IMPs

- (b) For the purpose of calculating final placings —
 - (i) Non-offending unit Whichever is the highest of:
 - a) 13 VP, and the whole integer IMP value closest to 13 VP;
 - b) The unit's mean VP (and whole integer IMP score) for all other rounds of the event;
 - c) The complement of the opponents' mean VP (and whole integer IMP score) for all other rounds of the event.

(ii) Offending unit 0 VP, and the minimum IMPs for a 20-0 VP loss

- 15.2 In the case of a match forfeited in knockout events, including semi-finals and finals, the non-offending unit is deemed to have won the forfeited match.
- 15.3 A unit that forfeits two matches is disqualified from the event. Such a unit is considered to have withdrawn and the provisions of Section 16 of these Regulations shall apply to the adjustment of scores.
- 15.4 The Director shall report all forfeits in the Director's Report. In aggravated circumstances, the Director may refer the matter to the ABF which may, in turn, exercise its disciplinary powers under Section 5 of these Regulations.

16. WITHDRAWALS AND DISQUALIFICATION

After the commencement of play in an ABF event, there are two categories of withdrawal, namely authorised and unauthorised.

- (a) **Authorised withdrawal.** A withdrawal that is endorsed by the Tournament Sub-Committee will be considered an authorised withdrawal. Such a withdrawal must be justified on the grounds of illness or pressing personal reasons. The Tournament Sub-Committee will consider the justification before authorising the withdrawal. It will be preferable if application for authorisation is made in advance but in appropriate circumstances an application may be made *ex post facto*. An authorised withdrawal may be for a limited period of up to two rounds or for the remainder of the event. An authorised withdrawal for more than two rounds shall be regarded as authorised withdrawal from the remainder of the event.
- (b) **Unauthorised withdrawal.** Any other withdrawal, including suspension under provisions of the Code or disqualification, is regarded as unauthorised and may be subject to the disciplinary provisions of Section 5 of these Regulations. See also Paragraphs 5.3(e), 6.1.7 and 14.14.1 of these Regulations (relating to withdrawals) and Paragraph 12.3.3(b) (relating to disqualification).

- 16.1 A pair will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Tournament unless both members of the partnership are in attendance and ready to play every deal which they are scheduled to play at the time or times respectively set down for this purpose except in the case of an approved or ratified withdrawal as aforesaid. See also Section 12.3 (relating to procedural penalties).
- 16.2 A withdrawal for one or two matches, either authorised or unauthorised, is treated as a forfeit and the provisions of Paragraphs 15.1 and 15.2 of these Regulations relating to adjustment of scores following a forfeit shall apply.
- 16.3 A withdrawal, either authorised or unauthorised, from the remainder of the event shall be dealt with by adjustment of scores.
- 16.3.1 In events with round-robin and Swiss formats where the withdrawal occurs during the first two-thirds (rounded up) of the event, all scores obtained by the offending team or pair up to the point of withdrawal shall be expunged and the remaining scores including datums shall be recalculated from and including round 1.
- 16.3.2 In events with round-robin and Swiss formats where the withdrawal occurs during the last one-third (rounded down) of the event,

- 16.3.2.1 the scores obtained by the withdrawing unit shall be expunged,
- 16.3.2.2 the scores of the opponents of the withdrawing unit (up to the point of withdrawal) shall stand, and
- 16.3.2.3 all remaining scores including datums shall stand.
- 16.3.3 For round-robin formats, each remaining match scheduled for play by the withdrawn unit shall be treated as a forfeit and the provisions of Paragraph 15.1 of these Regulations relating to adjustment of scores shall apply.
- 16.3.4 In events with Swiss formats, the Director may deal with a withdrawal by using a substitute unit (such unit to enter the field at its central point). If the withdrawal has the effect of reducing the field to an even number of contestants no substitute unit will be employed. If the withdrawal reduces the field to an odd number and no substitute unit is available, a notional unit is placed at the central point of the field; and the score of the unit drawn to play the notional unit is determined by application of Paragraph 15.1 of these Regulations.
- 16.3.5 In the case of a withdrawal from a knockout match, the non-withdrawing team is deemed to have won the match.
- 16.3.6 In the case of a withdrawal from a match-pointed pairs event, the Director shall endeavour to find a substitute pair that he/she considers appropriate under the provisions of Paragraph 6.1.3 of these Regulations.
- 16.3.7 Should it not be possible to obtain an appropriate substitute pair:
- (a) Where an authorised withdrawal occurs, all scores up to the point of withdrawal stand. Each other pair in the field drawn to play against the withdrawn pair after the withdrawal will “sit out” and, for each board not played, will receive an adjusted score of 60% or its mean score for completed boards whichever is higher.
 - (b) Where an unauthorised withdrawal occurs, all scores obtained by the withdrawn pair are expunged and the session is re-scored as if the (unauthorised) withdrawn pair had never participated.
- 16.4 Contestants unavailable for the next stage of an event**
- 16.4.1 A contestant who qualifies for a berth in the next stage of an event does so only on the condition that they are willing and available to progress to the conclusion of that event.
- 16.4.2 Should a contestant be unavailable for the next stage of an event, the contestant will be replaced by the next-ranked unit in the qualifying stage. Where the field was divided into two or more sections, the replacement unit will come from the section from which the withdrawal took place.
- 16.4.3 The number of replacements from any one section shall not exceed the number of replacements from the other section(s) by more than two. To satisfy this clause third and subsequent replacements will come from a different section than the withdrawing contestants, notwithstanding clause 16.4.1

17. TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

- 17.1 Final scores shall be considered tied
- (a) in events scored by match points, when the difference between the scores is less than 0.01 unit of a match point (see also Paragraph 14.1 of these Regulations) or
 - (b) in other events when the scores are identical.
- 17.2 Ties shall be dealt with as follows:
- (a) Ties in finals of ABF events shall not be broken. Where this rule applies titles shall be shared.
 - (b) Ties in the following events are to be broken, notwithstanding the provision in 17.2(a):
 - (i) the Playoffs (Open, Women's and Seniors') and
 - (ii) the ANC (Interstate) Teams (Open, Women's, Seniors' and Youth).
- 17.3 The Supplementary Regulations shall specify a firm finishing time for the finals of all ABF events. For those events listed in 17.2(b), the specified finishing time must be calculated so as to make adequate provision for any extra boards that might need to be played to break a tie. When time prevents the play of extra boards, the ranking from the earlier (qualification) stage, breaks the tie. Note procedural and/or disciplinary penalties continue to apply.
- 17.4 Ties may be broken by application of the following scoring techniques applied in the order specified here or by playing additional boards as determined by the CTD. When tie breaking is to decide progression to a later stage of an event, it should, wherever feasible, be by play of additional boards:
- 17.4.1 For events with a Swiss format:**
- (a) The total VP score of all the opponents of each tied unit shall be determined. Units are ranked so that the unit whose opponents have the highest total shall place first.
 - (b) Units are ranked according to the number of wins in VP (a VP result of 10/10 is equal to half a win).
 - (c) Units are ranked according to nett IMPs.
 - (d) By lot.
- 17.4.2 For events with a knockout format scored by IMP:**
- (a) The tie shall be broken by playing four more boards then, if still tied, by playing one board at a time until the tie is broken or until the scheduled finishing time (whichever is sooner), then by lot.
 - (b) Exceptions to the above are the knockout phase and the repechage final phase of the GNOT National Final where the tie shall be broken by playing two more boards then, if still tied, one board at a time until the tie is broken or until the scheduled finishing time (whichever is sooner), then by lot.
- 17.4.3 For events with a round-robin format:**
- (a) Units are ranked according to the number of wins in VP (a VP result of 10/10 is equal to half a win).
 - (b) Units are ranked according to nett IMPs.
 - (c) By lot.
- 17.4.4 For match-pointed pairs and individual events**

- (a) When it is determined that a tie is to be broken, every board which each tied contestant played is counted in breaking the tie, irrespective of whether the tied contestants played the same or different boards, in the same or different sections, or in the same or different directions.
- (i) On the boards played by two or more tied contestants, 2 points are awarded to a tied contestant for each board on which his/her match-point score is higher than that of another tied contestant. (For example, if three tied contestants played the same board, they would be awarded 4, 2, and 0 points if each had a different match-point score on it; or 4, 1, and 1 points if one had the most match points on it and the other two an equal but inferior number.)
 - (ii) On boards played by only one of the tied contesting units, 2 points are awarded to the contestant for each match-point score above average, 1 point for each average, and 0 point for each score below average.
 - (iii) The tied contestant so awarded the greatest number of points is ranked highest.
- (b) By lot.

18. DRESS AND ETIQUETTE

- 18.1 Contestants in ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses shall adhere to the standard of dress required by the controlling body of the venue. Additional regulations in regard to attire may be included in the Supplementary Regulations.
- 18.2 Good manners are considered an essential part of bridge and the Director is specifically empowered to require players to adhere to a high standard of manners, decorum and general hygiene. The Director shall, by report (Section 30 of these Regulations), made after the Tournament, inform the Tournament Sub-Committee of any departure from these standards by any player.

19. ANTI-DOPING

The ABF has adopted the WBF Anti-Doping Code. These rules are available on the WBF website at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/anti-doping-regulations/>

In line with the ABF's obligations, all players in ABF Events are required to comply with the rules.

20. SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

20.1 Smoking

Smoking is prohibited at all times in the playing areas of Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses and of supplementary and side events conducted by the ABF, and in all other parts of the venue specified by the Tournament Organiser. In addition, contestants shall observe regulations regarding smoking, that have been promulgated by the controlling body of the venue and by State and Federal law.

20.2 Alcohol

Players and spectators shall not consume alcohol in the playing rooms during:

- (a) The Playoffs
- (b) The ANC (Interstate) Teams
- (c) The repechage final, the semi-finals and final of the GNOT National Finals
- (d) The finals of all other ABF Team events.

The Director may exercise his power under the Code to suspend an offending player for the remainder of the session during which the offence occurs.

- 20.3 Failure to observe the provisions of Section 20 shall be regarded as an offence subject to the Disciplinary Powers of the ABF (Section 5 of these Regulations).
- 20.4 The Director should, in the report made after the Tournament (Section 30 of these Regulations), document any breach of this regulation by any player.

21. MOBILE PHONES, OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND COMPUTERS

- 21.1 Mobile phones (and similar electronic communication devices) must be switched off during session time, i.e. until the scheduled finishing time of the session. If, anywhere within the playing area, a player's mobile phone sounds during session time, or if a player consults a mobile phone during session time, that player's unit shall receive a warning for the first offence and shall be penalised 3 VP (9 IMPs) for each subsequent offence in teams events (including Butler pairs) and 50% of a top in pairs events. (Note that players and playing units are entitled to only one warning per unit.)
- 21.2 Any player, for pressing professional or personal reasons, may request the Director to grant an exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 21.1 of these Regulations. If the request is granted, the Director may make whatever arrangement he/she deems appropriate to allow the player to use the phone. In making such an arrangement, the Director must be cognizant of the amenity of other players.
- 21.3 Before the commencement of each match or stanza, the Director should instruct players to switch off their mobile phones. However, players cannot rely upon such an instruction and failure of the Director to issue it in no way diminishes:
 - (a) A player's obligation to observe all regulations that apply to mobile phones
 - (b) The penalties that apply.
- 21.4 During any session that is broadcast on BBO, no kibitzer or player may consult any type of electronic communication device.
- 21.5 Players reaching the (semi-) finals of all teams events will be required to lodge their mobile phones and other electronic means of communication with the Tournament Staff for safekeeping during each play period.
- 21.6 The Supplementary Regulations may impose additional restrictions and/or penalties on inappropriate use of mobile telephones and other electronic devices.

22. SPECTATORS AND CAPTAINS

- 22.1 Spectators and captains are allowed to watch play subject to the following conditions:
- (i) Spectators and captains are allowed to watch play at a table in the open room(s) but not to move from table to table;
 - (ii) There shall be no spectators in the closed room(s) unless specifically permitted by the Tournament Organiser, e.g. to allow for press coverage;
 - (iii) Spectators and captains must be seated and should refrain from looking into more than one hand or moving round the table during the bidding or play;
 - (iv) Spectators and captains must observe the regulations relating to dress, etiquette, smoking, alcohol and mobile phones (Sections 18 through 21 of these Regulations);
 - (v) Spectators must remain silent unless spoken to by an official. Players should not converse with spectators;
 - (vi) Spectators who leave the table, must not return;
 - (vii) When screens are in use, spectators may not sit so that they can see both sides of the screen.
- 22.2 Provided that a spectator observes the provisions of Paragraph 22.1 (immediately above) and matters of general etiquette, a player has no right to object to the spectator's presence at the table.
- 22.3 A captain may watch play in the closed room but only at the table at which his/her team is playing. He/she is not entitled to leave the closed room while the match is still in play except as approved by the Director.
- 22.4 No persons other than players, captains, working officials or Directors are entitled to access to the closed room except at the express request of the Director.
- 22.5 Except as noted in (a) through (f) of this Paragraph, a non-playing captain, or a playing captain who is not playing, may not converse with members of his/her team (or the opponents) once any player has withdrawn a hand from the board on the table until all the hands have again been replaced. However, he/she may intervene for the following purposes:
- (a) To protect the rights of his/her team if he/she believes them to be jeopardised in any way;
 - (b) To require that a Director be called to the table;
 - (c) To intimate the intention to make an appeal on behalf of the team in reference to any matter;
 - (d) To curtail unnecessary discussions;
 - (e) To restrain misbehaviour on the part of any member of his/her team;
 - (f) To decline to allow a pair or his/her team to lodge an appeal.
- 22.6 A playing member, except a playing captain who is not playing, may not watch at any table where his/her own team is playing, even when the member is not playing the stanza. A player, having completed play in a session, may not watch at any table where the boards in play include those that the player has previously played.
- 22.7 Officials such as those performing the duties of a Director, a scorer, a board-dealer or a caddy are prohibited from also acting in the role of a non-playing captain at the event for which they are, or have been, engaged.

23. MONITORS AND MATCH RECORDERS

- 23.1 The Director or the Tournament Sub-Committee may appoint monitors to observe and report about:

- (a) Contestants suspected of slow play
- (b) Matters relating to etiquette and decorum
- (c) Any other matter relating to the smooth running of the tournament.

- 23.2 A monitor has no jurisdiction relating to the tournament other than to report his/her observations to the Director or to the Tournament Sub-Committee. Monitors are to refrain from any conversation with the players and are not to discuss their observations with anyone except the Director or members of the Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 23.3 The Director or the Tournament Sub-Committee may appoint match recorders for particular matches to record the bidding and play. A match recorder should refrain from conversation with the players except to inquire about details of bidding and play and to confirm the number of tricks made. Such inquiries should be kept to a minimum.

24. PHOTOGRAPHS

From time to time, the Tournament Organiser, the Tournament Sub-Committee or the Director may grant permission for still or moving photographs to be taken during the course of an ABF Tournament for publicity, for news presentation or for other reasons.

- 24.1 Insofar as possible, the Director must ensure that the photography does not intrude on players' amenity.
- 24.2 Provided the photography has been approved by the Tournament Organiser, the ABF On-site Representative or the Director, players may only refuse to be photographed for religious or cultural reasons deemed valid by the ABF On-site Representative.
- 24.3 Photographs taken during the course of an ABF Tournament may be used for any legal purpose.

25. VUGRAPH

The ABF regards Vugraph, Bridge Base Online (BBO) and similar broadcasts as desirable adjuncts to the efficient conduct of ABF Tournaments and promotion of bridge.

- 25.1 Tournament Organisers are urged to use Vugraph for the finals of all ABF Tournaments and also, where feasible, in earlier rounds. Vugraph operators can be obtained by application to the National BBO Coordinator.
- 25.2 The Tournament Organiser shall be responsible for deciding which matches should be broadcast on Vugraph. Such decision(s) shall be made as early as practicably possible and shall be communicated promptly to the National BBO Coordinator (or his nominee).
- 25.3 The Tournament Organiser is responsible for promulgation and adherence to Vugraph schedules. Schedules should be promulgated in the Supplementary Regulations. Deviation from Vugraph schedules that have been advertised on BBO is not permitted without the approval of both the Tournament Organiser and the NTC.

- 25.3.1 Before deviating from an advertised BBO schedule, the Tournament Organiser must advise the broadcaster of the deviation.
- 25.3.2 A unit is not permitted to concede a match that is scheduled for BBO broadcast without consultation with the Tournament Organiser (see also Paragraph 14.14.2 of these Regulations).
- 25.4 The players themselves shall not be permitted to decide whether or not they should appear on BBO. Notwithstanding, in a teams event where BBO is to be presented from one table only, if a particular team's total masterpoints (top four players) number less than 1000, the captain of that team has the right to decide which of the two tables should appear on BBO.
- 25.5 There shall be no alteration to the deadlines for the posting of seating arrangements, as directed in the Supplementary Regulations, as the result of the scheduling of a match for BBO presentation. All players in such a presentation must take their seats in timely fashion so that the presentation can commence at the advertised time.
- 25.6 The Director shall ensure that BBO does not intrude on players' amenity or impede the speed of play. It is the responsibility of the BBO operators to keep pace with the play, not the reverse. Notwithstanding, should the BBO presentation "crash", the Tournament Organiser shall decide whether play should be suspended until service is restored or whether play should continue.
- 25.7 BBO operators should refrain from conversation with the players except to confirm the number of tricks made. Such inquiries should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- 25.8 If, in the opinion of the Director and/or the Tournament Sub-Committee, it is in the better interests of the integrity of the tournament to do so, both rooms may be declared "closed", and the provisions of Section 22 of these Regulations relating to "the closed room" shall apply.
- 25.9 The Tournament Organiser is responsible for all matters pertaining to security. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 25.9.1 Ensuring, during session time, that there is no contact between players and non-players (who may have access to information *via* online broadcasting)
- 25.9.2 During Vugraph presentation, players must not at any time walk in front of the computer screen. They should leave the table by walking away from the computer area.
- 25.10 It is a requirement for team events that the boards be broadcast in numerical sequence, commencing with the first board of the stanza at both tables of the same match.

26. BOARD RULE

To be eligible for Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP – Section 28 of these Regulations) from those ABF events that award PQP, and to be eligible for selection in Australian Teams selected on the basis of performance in the Playoffs, each player must play a minimum number of stanzas in every stage of the event. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Supplementary Regulations for ABF Events with a complex finals structure (e.g. the NOT) may specify modifications to the board rule as approved by the ABFTC.

- 26.1 The expression used to calculate the number of stanzas that it is mandatory to play to meet the Board Rule is:

0.5n (with fractions rounded down to the nearest whole number),
where n = the number of stanzas to be played in each stage of the event.

- 26.2 Boards played to break ties do not form part of the requirements for meeting the Board Rule.
- 26.3 For the purpose of the Board Rule, where a match is conceded, players who have not yet satisfied the Board Rule are in fact deemed to have played every remaining stanza of the match.
- 26.4 The first round of the knockout and the repechage final of the GNOT National Final do not form part of the requirements for meeting the Board Rule.
- 26.5 Insofar as is feasible, the Director shall keep records of the number of stanzas played by each player. It is, however, the responsibility of the team captain to provide the Tournament Organiser, if so requested, with a roster of which players played in each match.

27. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR TITLES

- 27.1 Merely being a member of a team that wins an ABF event does not automatically entitle every member of that team to be classified as a “title-holder”. The principle that applies is distinct from and has no relationship to the principle (the Board Rule – Section 26 of these Regulations) that applies *inter alia* to the award of PQP.
- 27.2 To be eligible for the classification of title-holder, a member of a winning team must have played at least one quarter of the total number of stanzas (rounded up) in the qualifying stage of the event and must have played at least one quarter of the total number of stanzas (rounded up) in the final stages (if any) of the event, including at least one stanza in each stage of the final series.
- 27.3 Insofar as is feasible, the Director shall keep records of the number of stanzas played by each player. It is, however, the responsibility of the team captain to provide the Tournament Organiser, if so requested, with a roster of which players played in each match.

28. PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS (PQP)

PQP are used as part of the qualification process for the Australian Playoffs. PQP are awarded for some, but not all ABF Events. Those ABF Events that carry PQP are called ‘PQP Events’.

- 28.1 Each year the ABFTC shall determine the scale of PQP awards that will apply to the following year’s PQP Events.
- 28.2 From time to time, the ABFTC may recommend to the ABF Management Committee that certain ABF Events become (new) PQP Events and/or that PQP awards be withdrawn from certain (existing) PQP Events.
- 28.3 The PQP Compiler shall keep a register (the PQP Register) of the total number of PQP accumulated by each player for each particular year.

28.4 At the conclusion of each PQP Event, the CTD shall prepare a results report that specifies the names of the players and their ABF numbers; their eligibility and partnership arrangements; and whether they satisfied the Board Rule. The PQP Compiler shall then calculate the PQP awards earned by each eligible player.

28.5 Eligibility (See also Section 28.8)

28.5.1 An eligible player at a stage of an event is:

- a) a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme who reasonably expects to be eligible to enter the next Playoffs and if successful, represent Australia;
- b) a person who has
 - i) satisfied the board rule at all stages up to that point, and
 - ii) is not disqualified from the event whether at the time or subsequently

28.5.2 An eligible unit at a stage of an event:

- a) has at least one eligible player at that stage, and
- b) has not, either then or later, been disqualified from the event

28.6.1 As long as a unit has at least one eligible player, each eligible player in that unit shall receive a PQP award, as calculated by the PQP Compiler according to these regulations.

28.6.2 Units with no eligible player are classed as ineligible and deleted from the ranking for the purpose of PQP allocation. The allocation of PQP to eligible units will be calculated as though the ineligible unit(s) had not played.

28.7 Failure to meet the board rule

28.7.1 A player who does not satisfy the Board Rule (Section 26 of these Regulations) in a stage of an ABF event receives half the PQP award they would have received if they had satisfied the Board Rule in that stage, but had lost. The awards to other eligible team members who have satisfied the Board Rule in that stage are not affected. Players who fail the Board Rule at any stage may continue to play in the event.

28.7.2 Once a player fails to meet the board rule in a particular stage of an event, that player forfeits entitlement to any further PQP awards even if the board rule is satisfied in subsequent stages.

28.7.3 If a unit is reduced to zero eligible players because all eligible players failed the Board Rule at some stage, that unit is removed from the final ranking list for the purpose of awarding PQP. The rankings for the other units are adjusted accordingly.

Example:

A team with two PQP-eligible pairs wins the NOT, but one eligible pair failed the Board Rule in the quarter finals and the other eligible pair failed it in the final.

The winning team is removed from the ranking list, with the two PQP-eligible pairs receiving different awards, as per 28.7.1 above.

The team that lost the final receives the PQP for 1st.

Losing semifinalists share the PQP for 2nd and 3rd.

Losing quarter finalists share the PQP for places 4-7.

No PQP are awarded for 8th.

- 28.7.4 PQP entitlements are calculated at the conclusion of an event. Any player who withdraws from an ABF event (authorised or unauthorised withdrawal – see Section 16 of these Regulations) is deemed to be non-contending from the commencement of the event and, therefore, ineligible for PQPs. The awards to PQP-eligible unit members who have not withdrawn are not affected. If the unit is reduced to having no PQP-eligible players, it is deleted from the rankings for the purpose of PQP allocation. The allocation of PQP will be calculated as though the ineligible unit had not played.
- 28.8 A player ineligible for the award of PQP may subsequently become eligible in the same PQP year. In such circumstance, the ABF may, in its absolute discretion, rule that such a player be permitted to claim retrospectively PQP that he might have won at the time of his ineligibility. The PQP allocations of other units in the tournament are unaffected by any such successful retrospective claim.
- 28.9 Substitutes are ineligible for PQP. Replacement players (see Paragraph 6.4 of these regulations) are eligible for PQP.

29. MASTERPOINTS

Each ABF Event awards gold masterpoints. Gold masterpoints are not awarded to non-ABF events. Supplementary and side events that form part of certain ABF Tournaments carry red and green masterpoint awards.

- 29.1 To qualify as an ABF Event (Paragraph 1.1 of these Regulations) and, therefore, for gold masterpoint status, an event should demonstrate over a period of not less than three years that:
- (a) It has a large attendance, preferably at least 80 tables per session
 - (b) It attracts interstate participation
 - (c) The Chief Tournament Director is qualified at National Level
 - (d) The Director to table ratio is not greater than 1 to 30
 - (e) ABF stationery is used at all times
 - (f) Pre-dealt hands (using an ABF-approved program) are used and hand records are supplied.
- 29.2 At the conclusion of each ABF Event, the Director (or his nominee) in consultation with the ABF Gold Masterpoint Coordinator shall calculate the gold masterpoint awards. Details of these gold masterpoint awards shall then be forwarded to the ABF Masterpoint Centre with all due haste.
- 29.3 At the conclusion of each ABF Tournament where green and/or red masterpoints are awarded, the Director of his/her own volition shall calculate the green/red masterpoint awards. The Director shall forward details of these masterpoint awards to the appropriate authority with all due haste.

30. DIRECTOR'S AND RECORDER'S REPORTS

30.1 Director's report

- 30.1.1 At the conclusion of every ABF Tournament, the Director shall prepare a Director's Report outlining the salient details of the tournament and providing complete details of incidents that occurred during the course of the tournament. The Director's Report shall be forwarded to the ABF Management Committee, to the ABFTC and to the Tournament Organiser with all due haste.

30.1.2 If so requested by the Tournament Sub-Committee at the end of any session, the Director shall prepare and provide to the Tournament Sub-Committee a report of all incidents that occurred during that session. Such (sessional) reports shall be appended to the Director's Report.

30.2 **Recorder's report**

30.2.1 At the conclusion of every ABF Tournament, the Recorder shall prepare a Recorder's Report that records each incident that he/she was called upon to deal with. The extent of detail required depends on the gravity of each particular incident and is a matter for the Recorder's own judgement.

30.2.2 The Recorder's Report shall be forwarded on a confidential basis firstly to the National Recorder and then, by the National Recorder, to the ABF General Counsel. The National Recorder may add whatever recommendations are considered appropriate in the circumstances.

30.2.3 Should he/she consider it in the interests of the tournament to do so, the Recorder may on his/her own initiative forward his/her report, or a version of it from which sensitive material has been removed, to the Tournament Organiser.

31. **SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS**

31.1.1 The Tournament Organiser is responsible for drafting the Supplementary Regulations of the tournament.

31.1.2 The Tournament Organiser shall obtain endorsement of the Supplementary Regulations from the ABF National Event Coordinator prior to their promulgation. Before giving his endorsement, the ABF National Event Coordinator may seek guidance from ABF General Counsel.

31.1.3 Should the Supplementary Regulations contain provisions that are contrary to ABF tournament policy (and that are not within the discretionary powers of the Tournament Organiser), the ABF National Event Coordinator has the power to make appropriate amendments.

31.1.4 The Tournament Organiser shall submit the Supplementary Regulations through the ABF Secretary to the Webmaster for posting on the ABF website not less than 14 days before the commencement of the tournament.

31.2.1 The Supplementary Regulations should be consistent with these Tournament Regulations. They should address only those points not explicit in the Tournament Regulations and should include any decision relevant to the tournament made by the ABFTC (and endorsed by the ABF).

31.2.2 Should, at any time during the event, the Tournament Sub-Committee become aware that the Supplementary Regulations contain provisions that are contrary to ABF tournament policy, the Tournament Sub-Committee shall forthwith make appropriate amendments pursuant to Paragraph 31.5 of these Regulations (see below).

31.2.3 Any supplementary regulation that conflicts with a decision of the ABF Regulations Committee (and endorsed by the ABF Management Committee) relevant to the tournament shall be ineffective.

31.3 **The Tournament Organiser's discretionary powers in framing Supplementary Regulations**

In framing Supplementary Regulations, the Tournament Organiser has discretion in all areas where these Tournament Regulations are not specific and where decisions of the ABFTC (endorsed by the ABF) are not relevant.

- 31.4 In the event of dispute between the Tournament Organiser and the National Event Coordinator, the matter shall be referred with all due haste to the ABF Regulations Committee for decision. The Tournament Organiser may appeal any decision of the Regulations Committee to the ABF Management Committee for final resolution.
- 31.5 During the course of a Tournament, and within the limits contained in these Regulations, the Tournament Sub-Committee may make additions and/or alterations to the Supplementary Regulations if it considers it in the best interests of the Tournament to do so.

32. MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The concept of mutual responsibility applies to all Tournaments, Championships, Festivals or Congresses conducted by the ABF or on its behalf.

- 32.1 It is the responsibility of the ABF to observe world's best practice in the conduct of its tournaments by, *inter alia*:
- (a) Providing appropriate venues where bridge can be played under good environmental conditions and in a congenial, amenable atmosphere;
 - (b) Employing competent, personable staff;
 - (c) Providing readily visible, attractive displays;
 - (d) Providing accurate scoring and prompt, comprehensive display of scores and, in match-pointed pairs events, frequencies;
 - (e) Observing punctuality in adhering to advertised starting and finishing times;
 - (f) Providing pre-dealt, accurately duplicated boards and easily legible hand records;
 - (g) Showing consideration of players' wishes with respect to free time and breaks in play;
 - (h) Providing information not only about the tournament itself but also about the locality (e.g. places to dine, tourist information, etc.);
 - (i) Generally making it easy for players to enjoy the tournament.
- 32.2 It is the responsibility of the players to assist the ABF in running good tournaments by, *inter alia*:
- (a) Following correct procedures for entering an event (method, time, payment of fees, system details where required);
 - (b) Being familiar with the Supplementary Regulations of the tournament, especially those relating to starting times, seating arrangements, mobile phones, system regulations and consumption of alcohol;
 - (c) Being punctual;
 - (d) Observing time limits. Each partnership should use no more than 50% of the time allocated for a stanza or session. Should a partnership use more than its share of allocated time, then that partnership must accept responsibility for doing so when and if questioned by the Director;
 - (e) Switching off mobile phones before start of play and leaving them off until the end of session time;
 - (f) Entering and checking scores correctly prior to their submission. Where electronic data entry devices are in use, it is necessary to confirm that all scores have been entered before leaving the table;

- (g) Assisting the scorers by checking that scores have been posted correctly (particularly on return to the venue after a break). It is highly desirable that any errors from a previous session be corrected during the course of the following session;
- (h) Listening to the Director's instructions and allowing others to do the same. Players should be particularly attentive to instructions about board movement;
- (i) Being courteous at all times to one's partner and teammates, one's opponents and the tournament staff and other staff at the venue.

32.3 A Tournament Director should aim to achieve equity for all players at all times and in all situations. Justice should not only be done but should also be seen to be done.

- (a) A Director must at all times (i) be courteous in all dealings with players and (ii) be impartial and certainly not exhibit favouritism towards any player(s).
- (b) A Director should have a copy of the Law Book available for reference when called to the table to give a ruling.
- (c) When giving a ruling based on direct application of Law, a Director should be prepared, if requested, to read the relevant clause(s) from the Law Book.
- (d) A Director should endeavour to ensure that his/her rulings are fully explained to and understood by all players at the table.
- (e) When in doubt about a ruling, a Director should consult other Directors.
- (f) If a Director realises that he/she has given an incorrect ruling, he/she shall do all in his/her power to correct the ruling promptly.
- (g) Before making a "logical alternatives" ruling in relation to the receipt of unauthorised information, a Director should, insofar as is feasible, poll players of a standard similar to the recipient of the unauthorised information.
- (h) Before making a ruling based on "bridge judgement", a Director should, insofar as is feasible, consult with other Directors and uninvolved players of appropriate standard.
- (i) A Director should endeavour to make rulings as promptly as practicable. While players will appreciate that delay is inevitable in making a "logical alternatives" or a "bridge judgement" ruling, nonetheless the players are entitled to receive the ruling in timely fashion and a Director should respect this.

APPENDICES

33. APPENDIX 1 – ABF (PQP) EVENTS AND ACRONYMS

TEAMS	Category A	National Open Teams (NOT)
	Category B	National Women's Teams (NWT)
		National Seniors Teams (NST)
	Category C	Spring National Open Teams (SNOT)
		Gold Coast Open Teams (GCOT)
		Australian Open Playoff (teams format)
		Australian Women's Playoff (teams format)
		Australian Seniors Playoff (teams format)
		ANC (Interstate) Open Teams
		ANC (Interstate) Women's Teams
		ANC (Interstate) Seniors Teams
		Autumn National Open Teams (ANOT)
		Victor Champion Cup (VCC)
	Spring National Women's Teams (SNWT)	
	Bobby Evans Seniors Teams (BEST)	
	Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)	
Gold Coast Seniors Teams (GCST)		
South-West Pacific Teams (SWPT)		
Category D	Hans Rosendorff Memorial Women's Pairs (HRMWP)	
	National Women's Teams (Swiss)	
	National Seniors Teams (Swiss)	
PAIRS	Category A	Open Butler Pairs
		Women's Butler Pairs
	Category B	Australian Open Playoff (pairs format)
		Australian Women's Playoff (pairs format)
		Australian Seniors Playoff (pairs format)
	Category C	Seniors Butler Pairs
		Gold Coast Open Pairs (GCOP)
		Australian Swiss Pairs (ASP)
		Swan River Open Swiss Pairs (SWOSP)
	Category D	Dick Cummings Open Pairs (DCOP)
		Gold Coast Seniors Pairs (GCSP)
		Western Seniors Pairs (WSP)
		Autumn National Open Swiss Pairs (ANOP)
		Autumn National Women's Pairs (ANWP)
		Autumn National Seniors Swiss Pairs (ANSSP)
		Roger Penny Seniors Swiss Pairs (RPSSP)
Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs (WSOSP)		
VCC Women's Swiss Pairs (VCCWSP)		
McCance Trophy Seniors Swiss Pairs (MTSSP)		
Territory Gold Swiss Pairs (TGSP)		

34. APPENDIX 2 – ABF SYSTEM REGULATIONS

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFSystemRegs2017.pdf>

35. APPENDIX 3 – REGULATIONS FOR WRITTEN BIDDING AND BIDDING BOXES

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFWBBBRegs2018.pdf>

36. APPENDIX 4 – ALERTING REGULATIONS

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFAlertRegs2017.pdf>

37. APPENDIX 5 – REGULATIONS FOR PLAY WITH SCREENS

<http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFScreenRegs2018.pdf>

38. APPENDIX 6 – RULING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

<https://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/ruling-and-review-procedures/>

39. APPENDIX 7

Calculation of Multiple Average Plus Awards During a Single Session/Match

The following equations are to be used whenever the Laws require the Director to award more than one favourable artificial adjusted score. The objective is to provide reasonable recompense without unduly distorting the outcome in relation to the rest of the field.

The artificial adjusted score awarded per board shall be:

$$MP \% \text{ per board (Pairs)} = 50 + \frac{10\sqrt{N}}{N}$$

$$IMPs \text{ per board (Pairs)} = \frac{2\sqrt{N}}{N}$$

$$IMPs \text{ per board (Teams)} = \frac{3\sqrt{N}}{N}$$

Where N = the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards per contestant in the match/session.

Number of Boards	Percentage per board (Pairs)	IMPs per board (Pairs)	IMPs per board (Teams)
1	60.00%	2.00	3.00
2	57.07%	1.41	2.12
3	55.77%	1.15	1.73
4	55.00%	1.00	1.50
5	54.47%	0.89	1.34
6	54.08%	0.82	1.22
7	53.78%	0.76	1.13
8	53.54%	0.71	1.06
9	53.33%	0.67	1.00
10	53.16%	0.63	0.95

A match is void if the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards exceeds 50% of those scheduled to be played. An artificial match result of 13 VPs shall be awarded to each contestant in lieu of an encounter that is cancelled or unplayed through no fault of the player(s) involved.

40. ANNEXURE OF COMMENTARY AND EXAMPLES

This annex has been prepared solely as an aid to understanding. It is not considered to be part of the regulations.

Section 6.2.2(a) Augmentation may occur until and including:

Round 8 in 14-round events
Round 7 in 12-round events
Round 6 in 10-round events
Round 5 in 8- and 9-round events
Round 4 in 6- and 7-round events
Round 3 in 4- and 5-round events
Round 2 in 3-round events
(Exception – no augmentation is permitted in 2-round events)

Section 14.13.2(a) There are degrees of imperfection.

- (i) a skip Mitchell movement is very mildly imperfect,
- (ii) a Swiss movement such as is used in the South-West Pacific Teams is mildly imperfect,
- (iii) a Swiss movement using distinct North/South and East/West fields such as is used in Stage I of Butler Championships is moderately imperfect,
- (iv) a multi-section Mitchell movement such as is used in the qualifying rounds of large pairs events is grossly imperfect.

Section 16.3.4

In a 14-match Swiss, if the withdrawal occurs prior to or during round 10, then all previous scores that involved the withdrawn unit are expunged and datums are recalculated (all opposing units receiving 13 VP); if the withdrawal occurs after round 10, then all previous scores stand and subsequent opponents of the withdrawn unit each receive 13 VP or the mean VP score of their completed rounds, whichever is higher.

Section 16.4.2

In a 2-section event, if there are three pairs to be replaced from section A and one pair to be replaced from section B, the replacements shall be drawn from the respective section. Should a fourth pair need to be replaced from section A, that fifth replacement shall be taken from section B.

Section 26.1 Application of the Board Rule formula:

(a)	Total stanzas	14	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	7
(b)	Total stanzas	10	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	5
(c)	Total stanzas	9	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	4
(d)	Total stanzas	8	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	4
(e)	Total stanzas	6	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	3

(f)	Total stanzas	5	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	2
(g)	Total stanzas	4	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	2
(h)	Total stanzas	3	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	1
(i)	Total stanzas	2	Stanzas required to meet the Board Rule	1

Section 27.2 Specific examples:

- (a) ANC Teams (21 stanzas of qualifying; 4 stanzas of final). To be eligible for the classification of ANC Teams title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played 6 stanzas of qualifying and 1 stanza of final.
- (b) SWPT (12 stanzas). To be eligible for the classification of SWPT title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played 3 stanzas.
- (c) SWPT/NOT (12 stanzas of qualifying; 12 stanzas of NOT). To be eligible for the classification of NOT title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played 3 stanzas of SWPT qualifying and 3 stanzas of the NOT, including at least one stanza in each NOT match.
- (d) VCC (10 stanzas). To be eligible for the classification of VCC title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played 3 stanzas.
- (e) Spring National Open Teams (9 stanzas of qualifying; 4 stanzas of semi-finals; 4 stanzas of final). To be eligible for the classification of SNOT title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played 3 stanzas of the qualifying stage, 1 stanza of semi-finals and 1 stanza of the final.
- (f) Autumn National Open Teams (9 stanzas of qualifying; 4 stanzas of final). To be eligible for the classification of ANOT title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played 3 stanzas of qualifying and 1 stanza of final.

Section 28.6.1

Suppose that a team wins a qualifying (quarter-final) match and thereby becomes eligible for the semi-finals. At that point, each team member has become entitled to 18 PQP (assuming the event to be the NOT – the PQP award for losing semi-finalists). Suppose also that one player (or pair) does not satisfy the Board Rule for the semi-final. Such a player (or pair) will receive only 9 PQP, that is half the PQP to which each other member of the team was entitled at the point at which the failure to meet the Board Rule occurred.

Section 31.3

- (a) Areas where the Tournament Organiser has discretion include the form of draw for the first round of a Swiss movement, the use of a “delayed” Swiss in Swiss movements, and the choice of ABF-approved system cards.
- (b) Areas where the Tournament Organiser does not have discretion include tie-breaking procedures, and the number of early rounds in Swiss movements in which YELLOW systems must not be played.