AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFF
SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2026

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1 General

1.1 The 2026 Australian Open Team Playoff (OP) is conducted by the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.

1.2 The venue is the Canberra Bridge Club, 5-7 Duff Place, Deakin, ACT.

1.3 The Playoff dates are Stage 1: 14-15 February, 2025; Stage 2: 16-18 February, 2025.

1.4 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.

1.5 Smoking is not permitted in any areas defined as non-smoking by the Canberra Bridge Club. In addition during a stanza, smoking is not permitted by any players currently playing. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (6.2).

1.6 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (6.2).

1.7 During the session, any electronic communication equipment is prohibited in the playing area and other areas designated by the TO. However any such equipment may be deposited with the TO before each session. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (6.2).

1.8 All requests for information about the auction or any alerted call must be made with the screen closed. They are made to, and responded to by, the screenmate in writing. A claim of misinformation should be supported by written evidence. Failure to do so may invalidate any

claim of damage. Any spoken enquiries or responses which result in another table being unable to play a board due to the receipt of extraneous information will incur a disciplinary penalty (6.2).

1.9 Players are reminded of their obligation to not pass information to other tables via audible post-mortems or discussions. Repeated breaches of this regulation may incur a disciplinary penalty. Notwithstanding this, any audible discussion which results in another table being unable to play a board due to the receipt of extraneous information will incur a disciplinary penalty (6.2).

1.10 The TO may grant permission for still or moving photographs to be taken during the course of the event. Players may only refuse to be photographed for religious or cultural reasons deemed valid by the TO or CTD. In accordance with ABF Tournament Committee (ABF TC) policy, it is proposed to video record all tables.

1.11 Times referred to in these regulations refer to Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) or Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) as appropriate and in use in Canberra on the date specified.

1.12 Players must conform with the Dress Code of the Canberra Bridge Club.

1.13 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the ABF Tournament Regulations, thereafter to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017, and finally to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the CTD shall be final and conclusive.

2 Officials

2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Roy Nixon.

2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.

2.3 The Reviewer is Matthew McManus.

2.4 The ABF on site representative is TBA.

3 Entry

3.1 All players must be eligible to play for Australia as per the ABF's Eligibility to Represent Australia Policy detailed in the Appendices. Players entering the Playoff warrant their eligibility to play for Australia. If, at any time after the completion of the Playoffs, any member of a pair is found not to be eligible, the pair in which the player competed will be disqualified.

3.2 At the time of entry into an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association.

3.3 Only players who are on the PQP Panel are eligible to enter.

3.4 By entering, the pair if accepted becomes liable for the entry fee, regardless of whether they actually participate.

3.5 By entering, the pair undertakes to abide by the general and supplementary regulations for the tournament.

3.6 Nominations for the OP must be submitted via the ABF Webpage between Monday November 24, 2025, and 6.00 pm, AEDT, Monday December 22, 2025.

3.7 Any PQPs earnt by a player in partnership with their nominated Playoff partner will count double. Nominating pairs are ranked according to the total PQP. Ties are broken according to the number of PQP obtained from events in category A, then in order, B, C and then D. If still tied the procedure above is repeated using PQPs from the previous year, then by lot.

3.8 A maximum of 16 pairs will be accepted for the Playoffs, based on their ranking according to 3.7. If there are exactly 11 entries, the 10 highest ranked pairs will be accepted. If fewer than 10 pairs enter, the event will not be held. Successful pairs will be listed on the official Playoffs website on Tuesday December 23, 2025.

3.9 The entry fee is $400 per player. Entry fees will be charged to each player's MyABF account on February 13. Players should ensure that their account has sufficient funds to cover the entry fee.

3.10 Travel subsidies will be provided for players from South Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmania or Western Australia. The scale of subsidies is listed in the Appendices.

3.11 Any players failing to qualify to Stage 2 may apply for a reimbursement of the change fee on a flexible flight on production of the airline receipt.

3.12 Any travel subsidies and/or flight reimbursement will be paid into the player's MyABF account.

3.13 The ABF policy on entry fees paid by Youth players applies to this event.

4 Substitutions

4.1 Substitution shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience.

4.2 All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD who may permit a substitute judged by the CTD to be of similar standard. All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD. The CTD has sole discretion to approve any substitute. The CTD will weigh all factors, including the standard of the substitute, previous partnership experience, and the number of sessions for which the substitute is proposed to be used. Player eliminated from previous stages of the event may substitute. To act as a substitute a player must meet the eligibility criteria.

4.3 A pair may have a substitute for cause for a maximum of one half the number of matches in each stage (0.5 rounded down).

5 Systems and Defences

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

5.2 Each pair must upload their system card to the event website prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday January 30, 2026. Uploaded system cards will be vetted by the National Tournament Co-ordinator (NTC). System cards which the NTC deems require amendment must be amended and resubmitted to the NTC prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Friday February 6, 2026.

5.3 Failure to lodge a system card in time will incur a penalty of 2 VPs per day (or part thereof). For the purpose of this regulation, a day will be measured from 6.00 pm on each successive day. Failure to upload a card prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, February 6, 2026 will result in the pair being disqualified.

6 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

6.1 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.

6.2 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations 1.5 to 1.9 is 3 VPs.

7 Correction Period, Time of Appeal and Appeals

7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires at the scheduled starting time of the first match on the following day, with the exception of the final day of a stage when it expires 30 minutes after the scores are posted for the last match of the stage.

7.2 Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer may be rectified:
i. for the last match of a stage, within the Correction Period, as defined in 7.1;
ii. for other matches, until the commencement of the last match of that stage.

7.3 The Time of Appeal (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was made.

7.4 A session is defined as any match after which there is comparison of scores by the players, except when the next match is listed to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the previous match. In such a case, the session is defined as the time from the commencement of the first match to the end of the match after which there is a scheduled break of at least 30 minutes.

8 Ties

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

9 Board Rule

9.1 A pair is eligible to progress to the next stage or to receive international event subsidies only if each player in the pair has played in at least 50% of the matches in any stage (fractions rounded down).

9.2 Notwithstanding 9.1, if a player is unavailable with due cause, the CTD may deem that player and his nominated partner have fulfilled the board rule and allow the pair to progress to the next stage. The CTD may ask for medical certificates or other documentary evidence to satisfy himself as to the nature and severity of any illness or injury.

9.3 When a player fails to satisfy the board rule, the ABF Management Committee, following a report from the CTD and ABF Tournament Committee, determines the eligibility of the pair. This decision is made subsequent to the completion of the event and does not change the format of the event.

9.4 For the purpose of the Board Rule, where a match is forfeited, players in both pairs are deemed to have played that match.

10 Target Events and Representation

10.1 There is no target event for 2026.

10.2 The three highest placed pairs will be offered an International Representation subsidy if they choose to attend the World Bridge Series (WBS) and/or the Asia Cup.

10.3 Pairs must play in the same partnership in which they competed in the OP in order to obtain the subsidy.

10.4 Pairs are only entitled to one subsidy whether they play in one or both of the events detailed in 10.2.

10.5 The amount of the subsidy per pair will be:
1st place - $3,000 + the cost of entry fee to one event in the WBS;
2nd place - $2,000 + the cost of entry fee to one event in the WBS;
3rd place - $1,000 + the cost of entry fee to one event in the WBS.

10.6 Additional notes regarding competing in the Asia Cup:

10.6.1 If Women's or Mixed Pair(s) finish in the top three places in the Open Playoff they will be entitled to a place(s) on the Women's or Mixed team for the Asia Cup and the next highest finishing Men's pair(s) will be eligible to join the Men's Team.

10.6.2 Teams entering the Asia Cup may be either four or six player teams. Subsidies will only be offered to the top three placed pairs in each category, pursuant to 10.5.

10.6.3 If at least two of the top three pairs do not form a team for the Asia Cup, the ABF's team selection policy for non-target events will apply (https://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-policies-and-handbooks/team-selection-policy-for-non-target-events/).

10.6.4 The ABF will pay entry fees and provide uniforms for all teams sent to the Asia Cup.

10.6.5 No ABF subsidy will be provided for non-playing captains or coaches.

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

11 Event formats, scoring and carry over

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

11.2 If the number of entries is from 12 to 16 pairs enter, there will be two stages.

11.3 The Stage 1 format will be:

Entries	Fields	# matches	# boards per match
16	2	8	14
15	2	8	14
14	2	7	14
13	1	13	8
12	1	11	10

11.4 For 14 to 16 entries, the field will be seeded into two pools. Each pair will play all the pairs in the other pool. For 12 or 13 entries, there will be a complete round-robin.

11.5 At the conclusion of Stage 1, qualifiers to Stage 2 will be: the 5 highest ranked pairs in each pool (2 fields) or the 10 highest ranked pairs (1 field).

11.6 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum, calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-2) middle scores, where n is the number of tables playing in the stage.

11.7 The net IMP result for each match will be converted to Victory Points (VP) according to the scales in the Appendix.

11.8 If there are two fields in Stage 1, the first placed pair in each field will have a carry-over of 10 VPs, second 8 VPs, etc, to fifth with a 2 VPs carry-over.

11.9 If there is one field in Stage 1, carry-overs will be based on the final VP score of each pair according to the following formula:

$c(n) = 1 + 6 * (z-y)/(x-y)$ - rounded to two decimal places;

where $c(n)$ is the carry-over of the n'th placed pair
z is the VP score of the n'th placed pair
x is the VP score of the first placed pair and
y is the VP score of the tenth placed pair.

11.10 Carry-overs will not be varied due to withdrawals. Pairs who qualify from outside the top 10 or top 5 placings, as applicable, will have a carry-over of zero.

Appendices

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

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

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

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the CTD may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

One board	1 VP
Subsequent boards	2 VPs

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

First offence	warning
Subsequent offences	1 VP per occasion

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

Tie-breaking

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

Player Subsidies

State/Territory	Subsidy (per player)
South Australia	$140
Tasmania	$190
Northern Territory	$500
Western Australia	$550

Eligibility to represent Australia

Only financial members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme are eligible.

An eligible person must also be able to establish one or more of the following:

a. is eligible to hold an Australian passport and demonstrably regards Australia as their home, even though they might spend much of their time working overseas;
b. is an Australian citizen enrolled on the Australian federal and/or Australian State/Territory electoral roll(s);
c. is of dual citizenship (holds an Australian passport and the passport of another country) and demonstrably regards Australia as home, even though they might spend much of their time working overseas;
d. is of any nationality and holds a current Australian visa issued for a period of not less than three years;
e. is a current temporary resident, and can satisfy the ABF Board that they will be eligible to, and is in the process of becoming, a permanent Australian resident;
f. is of a nationality that does not require an Australian visa to reside in Australia and demonstrably regards Australia as home;
g. is of a nationality that does not require an Australian visa to work in Australia and demonstrably earns a significant proportion of his/her livelihood in Australia.

In WBF events WBF regulations relating to a player's eligibility to represent Australia will prevail.

Any players (including youth players) who seek to represent another NBO in an international (target) event in a calendar year are ineligible to seek (via an Australian Playoff) to represent Australia in the same target event in the same calendar year

In the case of dispute, interpretation of these regulations is at the absolute discretion of the ABF Board. Any player in doubt about his eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF TC on or before 17 November, 2025. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF Board.

Victory Point Scales

IMP Diff	20 boards		14 boards		10 boards		8 boards	
	Win	Loss	Win	Loss	Win	Loss	Win	Loss
0	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1	10.33	9.67	10.30	9.70	10.35	9.65	10.39	9.61
2	10.66	9.34	10.60	9.40	10.70	9.30	10.78	9.22
3	10.97	9.03	10.90	9.10	11.05	8.95	11.17	8.83
4	11.28	8.72	11.20	8.80	11.40	8.60	11.56	8.44
5	11.58	8.42	11.50	8.50	11.75	8.25	11.95	8.05
6	11.87	8.13	11.80	8.20	12.10	7.90	12.34	7.66
7	12.16	7.84	12.10	7.90	12.45	7.55	12.73	7.27
8	12.44	7.56	12.40	7.60	12.80	7.20	13.12	6.88
9	12.71	7.29	12.70	7.30	13.15	6.85	13.51	6.49
10	12.97	7.03	13.00	7.00	13.50	6.50	13.90	6.10
11	13.23	6.77	13.30	6.70	13.85	6.15	14.29	5.71
12	13.48	6.52	13.60	6.40	14.20	5.80	14.58	5.42
13	13.72	6.28	13.90	6.10	14.45	5.55	14.87	5.13
14	13.96	6.04	14.20	5.80	14.70	5.30	15.16	4.84
15	14.19	5.81	14.42	5.58	14.95	5.05	15.45	4.55
16	14.42	5.58	14.64	5.36	15.20	4.80	15.74	4.26
17	14.64	5.36	14.86	5.14	15.44	4.56	16.03	3.97
18	14.85	5.15	15.08	4.92	15.68	4.32	16.32	3.68
19	15.06	4.94	15.30	4.70	15.92	4.08	16.61	3.39
20	15.26	4.74	15.52	4.48	16.16	3.84	16.90	3.10
21	15.46	4.54	15.74	4.26	16.40	3.60	17.19	2.81
22	15.66	4.34	15.96	4.04	16.64	3.36	17.48	2.52
23	15.85	4.15	16.18	3.82	16.88	3.12	17.76	2.24
24	16.03	3.97	16.40	3.60	17.12	2.88	18.04	1.96
25	16.21	3.79	16.62	3.38	17.36	2.64	18.32	1.68
26	16.38	3.62	16.84	3.16	17.60	2.40	18.60	1.40
27	16.55	3.45	17.06	2.94	17.84	2.16	18.88	1.12
28	16.72	3.28	17.27	2.73	18.08	1.92	19.16	0.84
29	16.88	3.12	17.48	2.52	18.32	1.68	19.44	0.56
30	17.04	2.96	17.69	2.31	18.56	1.44	19.72	0.28
31	17.19	2.81	17.90	2.10	18.80	1.20	20.00	0.00
32	17.34	2.66	18.11	1.89	19.04	0.96		
33	17.49	2.51	18.32	1.68	19.28	0.72		
34	17.63	2.37	18.53	1.47	19.52	0.48		
35	17.77	2.23	18.74	1.26	19.76	0.24		
36	17.91	2.09	18.95	1.05	20.00	0.00		
37	18.04	1.96	19.16	0.84				
38	18.17	1.83	19.37	0.63				
39	18.29	1.71	19.58	0.42				
40	18.41	1.59	19.79	0.21				
41	18.53	1.47	20.00	0.00				
42	18.65	1.35						
43	18.76	1.24						
44	18.87	1.13						
45	18.98	1.02						
46	19.08	0.92						
47	19.18	0.82						
48	19.28	0.72						
49	19.38	0.62						
50	19.47	0.53						
51	19.56	0.44						
52	19.65	0.35						
53	19.74	0.26						
54	19.83	0.17						
55	19.91	0.09						
56	19.99	0.01						
57	20.00	0.00						

Timetable

Stage 1

9.00 – 11.00
11.15 – 1.15

Lunch – 45 minutes

2.00 – 4.00
4.15 – 6.15

Stage 2

9.00 – 11.50

Lunch – 40 minutes

12.30 – 3.20
3.35 – 6.25