GOLD IN THE GOLDFIELDS 2026
SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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1 General

1.1 The Gold in the Goldfields (GG) comprises three events:
Swiss Teams (ST);
Swiss Pairs (SP);
Restricted Swiss Pairs (RSP).
The Swiss Teams will be held on November 19-20, and the two Swiss Pairs events on November 21-22. These events are conducted by Bridge Victoria (BV). They are held under the auspices of the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.

1.2 The venue is All Seasons Resort Hotel, Strathdale, Bendigo, Victoria.

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

1.4 Smoking is not permitted in areas defined by the Tournament Organiser as the playing area and the scoreboard area, or any other designated area. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3)

1.5 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 6.3)

1.6 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic communication equipment may not be consulted or used during the session, unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.3) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.

1.7 The TO may grant permission for still or moving photographs to be taken during the course of the event. Players may only refuse to be photographed for religious or cultural reasons deemed valid by the TO or CTD.

1.8 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 Phil Young.

2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.

2.3 The Reviewer is Matthew McManus.

2.4 The Review Consultant is Hugh Grosvenor.

2.5 The ABF on site representative is Barbara Travis.

2.6 The Recorders are Maryanne Bird and Dee Harley.

3 Eligibility, Augmentation and Substitutions

3.1 At the time of commencement of an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association. Overseas players become honorary members of the Foreign Players Club.

3.2 Overseas players (other than from New Zealand) are eligible only for Open events, unless they are able to provide evidence from their National Bridge Organisation that their experience and skill level is such that an entry to a masterpoint-limited division is appropriate.

3.3 All players must individually meet the eligibility criteria to compete in events. This includes those events where players must be under the stated masterpoint range or age as of the dates specified. Masterpoints earned in another NCBO, irrespective of whether they have been transferred, shall be included for the purpose of determining a player's eligibility.

3.4 In addition to the eligibility restrictions in 3.5, to be eligible for entry into the RSP or to be eligible for any Restricted category prize, each member of the pair or team must have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 30-6-26.

3.5 To be eligible to enter a masterpoint-restricted event or to win a category prize in a multi-level event, a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same masterpoint restriction as the event. Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered either event at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible.

3.6 New Zealand players eligibility – To be eligible to enter the RSP, NZ players must be below the rank of NZ Provincial Master as at 30-6-26.

3.7 With the consent of the CTD, a team may augment until the commencement of Round 5 up to a maximum of 6 players. Any player so added to the team must not have played previously in another team in the same event.

3.8 The CTD may approve substitutes for up to 4 matches. In addition, the CTD may allow emergency substitutions for substantial cause and may impose any conditions in doing so and may take whatever other action is considered necessary to keep the tournament in motion.

3.9 To ensure the smooth running of the tournament, the TO may nominate a "house contestant" to compete in any event. The TO will make every effort to nominate eligible players, but is at liberty to nominate others in case of necessity. The conditions under which the "house contestant/s" compete will, subject to ABF TR 1.9, be at the discretion of the CTD.

4 Systems and Defences

4.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions will be permitted without restriction in Open events.

4.2 In the RSP, only GREEN and BLUE systems will be permitted. In addition in these events, the CTD may also further restrict a pair from playing any method which the director judges may not be readily understood by a significant proportion of players in the field.

5 Seating

5.1 Seating rights for each match will be determined by toss of a coin.

6 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

6.1 In a Swiss movement penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.

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

6.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4) and mobile phones (1.5, 1.6) is 3 VPs.

7 Correction Period and Time for Requesting a Review

7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for all but the final match in an event expires 15 minutes after the scheduled conclusion of the following match. The Correction Period for the final match in an event expires 15 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection.

7.2 The Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) for all but the final match in an event expires 30 minutes after the score is made available for inspection, unless the next match is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to the expiration of the Time for Requesting a Review Appeal for the next match. The Time for Requesting a Review for the final match in an event expires 15 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection.

8 Fouled Boards

8.1 In the Swiss Pairs events, a fouled board is scored by:
(a) treating the board as two separate entities and calculating separate datums after eliminating the two (3-7 results) or four (results >7) extreme scores, respectively; or
(b) proceeding as per 8.3 - 8.6 below.

8.2 In the Teams event, the result of a fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the result of the match is known or any of the players has left the table at the conclusion of that round. In these cases where a single board is cancelled, a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.

8.3 In the Swiss Pairs events, at a table where an artificial adjusted score is awarded on a single board, the assigned IMP score is 2 IMPs for both sides.

8.4 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.

8.5 For boards on which a result is unable to be obtained and the Director awards an artificial adjusted score of average plus, the provisions of 8.1 to 8.4 will apply.

8.6 Where due to the fouling of multiple boards, direct comparisons are available on less than one-half the boards in the match, the match will be scored in accordance with ABF TR 15.1 (Forfeits), treating both units as non-offenders.

9 Ties and prizes

9.1 No team or pair may win more than one prize per event. If a pair/team qualifies for more than one prize, it will be awarded the prize of greater monetary value. If there is a tie between two or more pairs or teams, then the total prize money will be divided equally.

10 Event formats

10.1 **Swiss Teams** will be played as a single field Swiss event comprising 8 x 14 board matches, played over 4 sessions.

10.1.1 Each match will be scored using the continuous WBF 14 board scale or 12 board scale in the Novice event.

10.2 **Swiss Pairs** – Both the SP and RSP will be played as distinct single field Swiss events comprising 8 x 14 board matches, played over 4 sessions.

10.2.1 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum calculated as in 10.2.4 or 10.2.5.

10.2.2 Separate datums will be calculated for each event.

10.2.3 Net IMPs in each match are converted to VPs in accordance with the continuous ABF Swiss Pairs VP scale for 14 board matches.

10.2.4 Where there are fewer than 24 tables in play, the datum will be the arithmetic mean of all scores after eliminating the highest x/10 scores and lowest x/10 scores (0.5 rounded up) where x is the number of tables.

10.2.5 When there are 24 or more tables in play, the datum will be the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of all the scores under consideration after eliminating the highest and lowest x/10 scores (0.5 rounded up) where x is the number of scores under consideration.

a) for Matches 1-3, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables;

b) for Matches 4-6, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top n/2 tables (0.5 rounded up), where n is the number of tables in play;

c) for Matches 7-8, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top 12 tables.

10.3 The time allowed per round will be announced by the CTD.

10.4 The session starting time each day for all events is 9.30 am.

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

Calculation of Multiple average plus awards during a session or match

Where the Laws require the Director to award an artificial adjusted score of average plus on more than one board in a session or match (as in the case of fouled or otherwise unplayable boards), the score awarded for each such successive board shall be as listed in the table below.

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs awarded (Teams)	IMPs awarded (Pairs)
1	3	2
2	1	1
3	1	0
4	1	1
5	1	0
6	0	1
7	1	0

Anticipated Finishing Times

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

Swiss Teams	Friday, November 20, 5.30 pm
Swiss Pairs	Sunday, November 22, 5.30 pm