

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S AND SENIORS’ TEAM PLAYOFFS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2025

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1 General

- 1.1 The 2025 Australian Women’s Team Playoff (WPO) and Seniors’ Team Playoff (SPO) (collectively referred to as the Playoffs) are 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 Common, 210 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon, ACT.
- 1.3 The Playoffs dates are 10-12 January, 2025.
- 1.4 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the 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 inside the venue, nor in any area defined by the TO as a non-smoking area. In addition during a stanza, smoking is not permitted by any players currently playing. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 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 (see 6.2).
- 1.7 During the session, any electronic communication equipment is prohibited in the playing area and other areas designated by the TO. Any such equipment may be deposited with the TO before each session. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 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 (see 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 (see 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 The TO retains the absolute discretion to exclude a player who arrives at the venue and is demonstrably unwell.
- 1.13 Expressions used in these Regulations and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) shall be final and conclusive. Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, all terms defined in the ABF TR shall have the same meaning for the purpose of these Supplementary Regulations.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Laura Ginnan.
- 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 Qualification

- 3.1 Qualification to the WPO and SPO is based on the results of the National Women's Teams (NWT) and National Seniors' Teams (NST) respectively held as part of the 2025 Summer Festival of Bridge.
- 3.2 Teams that satisfy all eligibility conditions in 3.3 to 3.7 may nominate themselves for the WPO or SPO. The four highest placed contending teams at the conclusion of the NWT or NST will qualify to the WPO or SPO.
- 3.3 To be eligible to nominate for the Playoffs, all players in the team which competed in the NWT or NST must be eligible to play for Australia as per the ABF's Eligibility to represent Australia Policy detailed in the appendices. Teams competing in the NWT or NST including a player or players who have previously qualified to represent Australia in the current Open or Mixed team remain eligible to enter the Playoffs provided two other pairs satisfy 3.5.
- 3.4 Players entering the Playoffs warrant their eligibility to play for Australia. If, at any time after the completion of the Playoffs, any member of a team is found not to be eligible, the team in which the player competed will be disqualified.

- 3.5 The team entering the Playoffs must consist of either two or three Nominated Pairs. Every Nominated Pair must have satisfied the Pairs Board Rule (3.6). A team which competed in the NWT or NST with 5 or 6 players may enter the Playoffs with two Nominated Pairs provided all players in the original team satisfied 3.3. A team with two Nominated Pairs may not augment a third pair before the Playoffs.
- 3.6 To satisfy the Pairs Board Rule, all Nominated Pairs must play as a partnership in at least one half of the matches – fractions rounded down – in the NWT or NST as applicable.
- 3.7 All players in the team nominating for the Playoffs declare their intention to represent Australia in the Target Event (Section 10 hereunder).
- 3.8 By nominating for the Playoffs, the team undertakes to abide by the General and Supplementary Regulations for the tournament.
- 3.9 Each team entered must designate a captain, either playing or non-playing. The following are specifically excluded from accepting the role of non-playing captain:
 - i. members of the ABF Board,
 - ii. members of the ABF Tournament Committee,
 - iii. any person holding an official position at the 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. 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. A player eliminated from previous stages of the event may substitute. To act as a substitute a player must meet the eligibility criteria.
- 4.3 Substitutes will only be permitted if the team is unable to field two Nominated Pairs. If two Nominated Pairs are available to play, no substitutes will be allowed. The maximum number of substitutes permitted in a stanza is one. If a team has fewer than three of their original members available for any stanza, the team will forfeit the match.

5 Systems

- 5.1 GREEN, BLUE, RED and YELLOW systems, and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted.

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 breaches of regulations 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 or 1.9 is 9 IMPs.
- 6.3 Teams are expected to complete at least four stanzas of every match played. If a team concedes or does not present for play before four stanzas are completed, the team may be subject to disciplinary action.

7 Correction Period, Time to request a Review

- 7.1 A session is defined as any stanza of play after which there is comparison of scores by the players, except when the next stanza is scheduled to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the previous stanza. In such a case, the session is defined as the time from the commencement of the first stanza to the end of the second stanza.
- 7.2 The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires:
 - i. for the last stanza of a match, 30 minutes after the scores for that stanza are made available for inspection;
 - ii. for other stanzas, 15 minutes before the commencement of the next session.
- 7.3 The time to request a review of the Director's ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the ruling was delivered or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was delivered, whichever is later.

8 Event format, Seating, Carry-over, Scoring

- 8.1 Nominating teams will be ranked according to their final position in the NWT or NST.
- 8.2 The highest ranked team chooses their semi-final opponents from among the other teams, with the proviso that the second ranked team may elect not to be chosen
- 8.3 The Semi-Finals consist of 96 boards, played in six stanzas of 16. (January 10-11)
- 8.4 The Finals consist of 96 boards, played in six stanzas of 16. (January 11-12)
- 8.5 Should only three teams nominate in a division, the highest ranked team will have a bye to the Final. Should only two teams nominate in a division, the teams will proceed directly to the Final, to be held on January 10-12.
- 8.6 In all matches, the higher ranked team elects to sit first for either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.
- 8.7 The team captain is responsible for posting the seating positions of the players on the Line-up Form. Posting must be completed at least 10 minutes and 5 minutes before the scheduled time of commencement of play, for the teams sitting first and last respectively. The CTD may alter posting times at their discretion.
- 8.8 The penalties for failure to post seating as required are loss of seating rights for that stanza and:
 - 1st offence – warning,
 - 2nd offence – 3 IMPs,
 - 3rd and subsequent offences – 6 IMPs per offence.
- 8.9 In all matches, the higher ranked team will carry-forward 0.1 IMPs.
- 8.10 All matches are scored by IMPs, with any fraction of an IMP constituting a win.

9 Board Rule

- 9.1 A pair is eligible to compete in the Final and to represent Australia only if it plays at least three stanzas in any Semi-Final match. In addition, each Nominated Pair defined in 3.5 must play in partnership in at least three stanzas in each match.
- 9.2 Notwithstanding 9.1, if a player is unavailable with due cause, the CTD may deem that Nominated Pair to have fulfilled the Board Rule and allow the team to compete in the Final. The CTD may ask for medical certificates or other documentary evidence to satisfy themselves as to the nature and severity of any illness or injury.
- 9.3 In addition to 9.1, when a Nominated Pair fails to satisfy the Board Rule, the ABF Board, in its absolute discretion, following reports from the CTD and ABF TC, determines the eligibility of the player, the pair, and the team. Consideration is given first to disqualification of the entire team. This decision is made subsequent to the completion of the event and does not change the format of the event.
- 9.4 Boards played by an approved substitute (Section 4) count towards fulfilment of the Board Rule for the original player.
- 9.5 For the purpose of the Board Rule, where a match is conceded, players and pairs in the winning team who have not yet satisfied the Board Rule are deemed to have played every remaining stanza of the match. This regulation shall also apply to the conceding team provided at least four stanzas were completed.

10 Target Events and Representation

- 10.1 The Target Events are the APBF Championships to be held in Quanzhou, China, at the end of April and the WBF World Championships at a venue and date yet to be determined.
- 10.2 The team is subject to ratification by the ABF Board.
- 10.3 Ranking order for the right to represent Australia in the target event will be:
 - i) the team winning the Final;
 - ii) the team defeated in the Final;
 - iii) the losing semi-finalist ranked higher in the NWT or NST as applicable;
 - iv) the other semi-finalist.
- 10.4 Except in circumstances as determined by the ABF Board, at its sole discretion, if sufficient members of the team do not accept the offer such that only one Nominated Partnership remains, the offer will pass to the next ranked team. If a team contains only two Nominated Partnerships, a third pair will be added to the team in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 hereunder.
- 10.5 Teams winning and/or accepting a place to play in WBF events confirm through such acceptance their knowledge and understanding of the WBF Dress and Drug Codes and regulations and the severe penalties for breaches of such regulations and codes. In summary The WBF Dress Code requires players to be dressed in team uniforms for all formal occasions and all play sessions.
- 10.6 The ABF Board has determined that the Australian representative teams will receive a subsidy of \$1,200 per player to contest the APBF Championships. An announcement will be made as to the WBF World Championship subsidy when the venue details have been finalised.

11 Augmentation and Replacement

- 11.1 Where a team, having qualified to the Final, voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified through failure to meet the Board Rule or for any other reason under the Laws, the team will be replaced by the team it defeated in the previous match.
- 11.2 Where a team of four has won the right to represent Australia in a designated event, whether having entered the Playoffs as a team of two Nominated Pairs or having become a team of two Nominated Pairs following the withdrawal of a Nominated Pair permitted by the ABF Board under 10.4, they must augment a third pair.
- 11.2.1 The team shall suggest a pair to be added to the for consideration by the ABF TC.
- 11.2.2 The suggestion under clause 11.2.1 shall include a brief summary of the pair's experience (as a partnership) and of their most recent achievements. A statement from each nominee confirming their availability for the respective target event must also be included.
- 11.2.3 The suggestion under clause 11.2.1 must be submitted to the Chairman of the ABF TC within 10 days of the conclusion of the Playoffs. The ABF TC, at its sole discretion, may reject the team's suggestion under clause 11.2.1 and ask the team for a new suggestion. The team will have 2 days to submit a new suggestion. If the ABF TC, at its sole discretion, rejects the team's second suggestion clause 11.2.4 will apply. The ABF TC will then make a recommendation to the ABF Board for endorsement.
- 11.2.4 If the suggestion under clause 11.2.1 is not received within 10 days, or 2 days following rejection of the first suggested pair, or the ABF TC rejects both suggested pairs the ABF TC may make a recommendation to the ABF Board on the basis of its own judgement.

12 Session times

12.1 Semi-Finals:

January 10	9.00 am - 11.16 am 11.30 am - 1.46 pm 2.30 pm - 4.46 pm 5.00 pm - 7.16 pm
January 11	9.00 am - 11.16 am 11.30 am - 1.46 pm

12.2 Finals:

January 11	2.30 pm - 4.46 pm 5.00 pm - 7.16 pm
January 12	9.00 am - 11.16 am 11.30 am - 1.46 pm 2.30 pm - 4.46 pm 5.00 pm - 7.16 pm

Appendices

Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 3 IMPs for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	3 IMPs
10-15 mins	6 IMPs
15-20 mins	9 IMPs
20-30 mins	15 IMPs

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

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time and a slow play warning has previously been issued to a team, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	3 IMPs
Subsequent boards	6 IMPs

Eligibility to represent Australia

Only financial members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, both at the time of the PO and of the Target Event, 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 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 overseas;
- d. is of any nationality and holds a current Australian visa issued for a period of not less than three years and demonstrably regards Australia as their principal place of residence, even though they might spend much of their time overseas;
- 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 their 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 contend to represent another NBO in an international (target) event in a calendar year are ineligible to contend (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 their eligibility to represent Australia must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF TC on or before 10 January, 2025. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF Board.

Anticipated Finishing Time

The following times are provided solely as a guide to players and may change due to circumstances beyond the control of the TO:

Semi-Finals

1.50 pm, Saturday, January 11

Finals

7.20 pm, Sunday, January 12