

# 2026 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Incorporating

### INTERSTATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS INTERSTATE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP AUSTRALIAN BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS ANC CONGRESS

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## 1 General

- 1.1 The Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated (ABF) is the regulating authority for the Australian National Championships (ANC), incorporating the Interstate Teams Championships (ITC), the Interstate Pairs Championship (IPC), the Australian Butler Pairs Championships (ABPC) and the ANC Congress (ANCC). These events are conducted in cooperation with the Bridge Federation of the ACT (BFACT) in accordance with ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR), Systems Regulations and Appeals Regulations as applicable, as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The venue is the Canberra Labor Club, Chandler Street, Belconnen, ACT.
- 1.3 The ANC will run from July 4 to July 16, 2026:
  - ITC: July 6-10
  - Session times -
    - Qualifying:
      - Monday (Youth only): 9.30am
      - Monday: 11.45am, 2.30pm, 4.45pm
      - Tuesday to Wednesday: 9.30am, 11.45am, 2.30pm, 4.45pm
      - Thursday: 9.30am, 11.45am, 2.30pm
      - Finals: Thursday, 7.00pm, Friday, 9.30am, 11.30am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm
    - IPC: July 10, 9.30am
    - ABPC: July 11-16, 9.30am
    - ANCC: July 4-12, various times
- 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 the playing area, the scoreboard area and in any part of the Canberra Labor Club or Mercure Hotel. The Canberra Labor Club has two designated smoking terraces. Players are not permitted to leave the table for the purposes of smoking during the session in matches and stanzas in the ITC Qualifying and Final. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (5.3)
- 1.6 In the ITC, players may not bring mobile phones, etc. into the playing area during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty after one warning (5.3).
- 1.7 Mobile telephones and any other electronic communication device must be switched off during session time unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty after one warning (5.3).
- 1.8 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 (5.3) 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.
- 1.9 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session times of the ITC and ABPC finals, and is discouraged during other events at the ANC. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (5.3).

- 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. As a condition of entering any event at the ANC, players consent to the taking of these photographic images and their unaltered use for publicity and other purposes consistent with the aims of the ABF.
- 1.11 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 Organisers are Lyn Carter and Cathy Nichols.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.3 The Reviewers are TBA.
- 2.4 The Review Consultants are TBA.
- 2.5 The ABF on-site representatives are TBA.
- 2.6 The Recorders are Wendy Boxall, Kim Frazer, Phil Gue and Richard Ward.
- 2.7 The ABF on-site Representative has absolute discretion to enforce Supplementary Regulation 4 hereof. The decision is final and not subject to appeal.

## **3 Eligibility and Substitutes**

- 3.1 Youth players, as defined in 3.5, may represent a home State or an adoptive State (in which they have resided continuously for a period of three months or for the majority of a discontinuous period of four months), provided that they are members of the ABF Youth Club or a club affiliated to that State.
- 3.2 Unless dispensation is granted by the ABF (which may be retrospective), a player is eligible to represent a State in the Open, Women's or Seniors' category in the ITC only if they have been either:
  - (a) an active playing member of a club affiliated with or within the jurisdiction of that state during the previous year; or
  - (b) a bona fide resident of that state for a period of at least six months immediately prior to the commencement of the ANC in question.
- 3.3 When 3.1 or 3.2 results in a player being eligible to represent more than one state in the ITC, that player is entitled to represent only that State in which they first entered a selection tournament for that event.
- 3.4 In order to enter the IPC, both members of the pair must be eligible to represent the same state (as per 3.2).

- 3.5 To be eligible for events restricted by age or masterpoint ranking:
- (a) Youth players must be born on or after 1-1-01, except as authorised by the ABF Youth Committee;
  - (b) Senior players must be born before 1-1-62, except as authorised by the ABF Tournament Committee;
  - (c) to be eligible to enter the Restricted Butler Pairs or for a Restricted category prize in a multi-grade event, all members of the pair or team must have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 31-3-26;
  - (d) to enter a Novice event or be eligible for a Novice category prize in a multi-grade event, all members of the pair or team must have fewer than 100 masterpoints as at 31-3-26;
  - (e) To enter a Rookie event, or be eligible for a Rookie category prize in a multi-grade event, all members of the pair or team must have fewer than 15 masterpoints as at 31-3-26.

Notwithstanding the eligibility criteria set in (c) and (d), a player who has previously won two or more ABF events in Restricted or Novice categories is not eligible for entry or category prizes as applicable.

- 3.6 For New Zealand players, entry to events restricted by masterpoints and eligibility for prizes in multi-grade events are subject to the following criteria as at 31-3-26:
- Restricted: less than a NZ Provincial Master;
  - Novice: less than a NZ Local Master;
  - Rookie: less than a NZ Club Master.
- 3.7 To be eligible to compete in the Country Pairs and/or Country Club Teams Championships, the player's nominated home club must be a 'country club' OR a 'smaller club', except as authorised by the TO. A 'country club' is one that regularly meets outside the major population centres, that is, outside the greater metropolitan regions of Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Melbourne, Geelong, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Adelaide and Perth. A 'smaller club' is one with less than 150 financial members at 30-4-26. In order to enter the Country Club Teams Championship, all members of the team must be eligible to represent the same club and be nominated by that club.
- 3.8 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 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.
- 3.9 No substitutes are permitted in the ITC and IPC, excepting that the CTD is empowered to authorise emergency substitutes under such condition as they decide. Section 21 specifies the number of substitutes permitted in other events subject to the General Conditions of ABF TR 4.
- 3.10 For the ABPC, 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.
- 3.11 Overseas players may apply to enter events restricted by masterpoint status only if they are eligible to play in events with similar criteria within their own NBO. Entry to any such event will only be granted after the applicant's eligibility has been verified. The TO's decision in respect to such eligibility is final and not subject to appeal.
- 3.12 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 are permitted in all events. YELLOW systems are permitted only in the ITC and in the Final stage of the Open ABPC.
- 4.2 For the ITC, complete system cards (except those parts noted in 4.3) must be submitted before 4.00pm AEST, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2026. These systems must be submitted as an electronic file uploaded to the ABF website ([www.abfevents.com.au/events/ANC/2026](http://www.abfevents.com.au/events/ANC/2026)). A maximum of four A4 pages of supplementary sheets may be included for any one system. Complete and detailed notes with a bona fide defence must accompany any YELLOW system. Each team is permitted a maximum of four systems. Any pair playing a YELLOW system must lodge an electronic copy of detailed system notes with the CTD before the Captains' Meeting.
- 4.3 For the ITC, a concise summary of a YELLOW system that is to be used only against an opposing pair who play a YELLOW system must be lodged with the ABF on-site Representative before the Captains' Meeting. Two copies must be distributed at the Captains' Meeting to each captain whose team includes a pair playing a YELLOW system.
- 4.4 In matches in the ITC, each player must bring to the table a ABF standard system card, identical to the one submitted in 4.2, unless any changes have been approved by the CTD and copies provided to other captains at the Captains' Meeting.
- 4.5 The Captains' Meeting will be held on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, commencing at 5.30pm.
- 4.6 For the ABPC, YELLOW systems, including those that are to be played only as a defence against pairs playing a YELLOW system, must be lodged with the TO before 4.00pm, 5<sup>th</sup> July AEST, 2025. Pairs must lodge an adequate current ABF Standard system card with a maximum of four supplementary A4 sheets, printed, typed or written in black ink on one side. Pairs must also lodge a bona fide defence. Pairs who fail to meet these deadlines may not be permitted to play a YELLOW system for some or all the event.
- 4.7 Notes incorporating a pair's defence to BROWN STICKER conventions, defence to a YELLOW system or a YELLOW system pair's "defence against the defence" must be:
  - (a) printed, typed or written in black ink on a maximum of two sides of an A4 sheet;
  - (b) lodged with and approved by the CTD 15 minutes before the scheduled session time in which they are first to be used;
  - (c) identical for each player; and
  - (d) available to the opponents during the auction and play.

## **5 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties**

- 5.1 In a Swiss movement penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.
- 5.2 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 5.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of 1.5 (smoking), 1.7 and 1.8 (mobile phones, etc), or 1.9 (consumption of alcohol) is as detailed below. The disciplinary penalty for breach of 1.6 (mobile phones, etc), is applied after one warning per pair or team.
  - a) ITC Qualifying – 9 VPs;
  - b) ITC Teams Final – 9 IMPs;
  - c) IPC and ABPC – 3 VPs.

## **6 Correction Period, Time for requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling and Timing of Draw**

- 6.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for each session expires at the later of 30 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection or at the commencement of the next session, except when the next round/stanza/session is scheduled to commence within 30 minutes. In that case the Correction Period for the later session applies. For the last session of a stage of an event, the Correction Period expires 30 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection.
- 6.2 The time to request a review of a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the session (or 30 minutes after the parties are advised of the director's ruling when the ruling is made after the session), unless the next round/stanza/session is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to the expiration of the Time of Appeal for that next round/stanza/session.
- 6.3 In Swiss events, the draw for subsequent rounds will be made as soon as all results for an event have been submitted, or at some earlier time as determined by the CTD. Following the final match on a day, the CTD may set an alternative time at which the draw will be made to allow for the results of appeals, directors' rulings, and any other factors affecting results, to be included in the current scores. The CTD will have complete discretion in determining the timing of the draw.

## **7 Fouled Boards**

- 7.1 In the ITC, 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. In the Finals Series of the ITC, the CTD may rule that a substitute board is to be played in the next stanza.
- 7.2 In the ABPC and WSP, 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 (more than 7 results) extreme scores, respectively; or
  - (b) proceeding as per 7.3 or 7.5 below.
- 7.3 In the ABPC and WSP, at a table where an artificial adjusted score is awarded on a single board, the assigned IMP score is 2 IMPs for both sides.
- 7.4 In the IPC, where a single board is fouled, the assigned matchpoint score is 60% of the available matchpoints on the board awarded to both sides.
- 7.5 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.
- 7.6 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 7.2 to 7.5 will apply.
- 7.7 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.

## 8 Dress Requirements

- 8.1 Players and kibitzers are expected to maintain a minimum standard of dress, described as “smart casual”. Smart T-shirts, collared shirts, neat pants/jeans and dresses/skirts for women are generally acceptable, but sportswear, excessively revealing clothing and thongs/flip-flops are not permitted. Men are asked to wear a collared shirt to the Presentation Dinner. As standards of dress can be a sensitive issue, please refer any concerns to the TO.

## 9 Events Timetable

<b>Event</b>	<b>Start day</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>End day</b>	<b>End time</b>
Welcome Pairs	Sat	1:30	Sun	4:45
Rookie Matchpoint Pairs	Sat	1:30	Sat	4:45
Novice Matchpoint Pairs	Sun	9:30	Sun	4:45
One-day Swiss Pairs I	Mon	9:30	Mon	6:45
Interstate Teams Qualifying (Youth only)	Mon	9:30	Thu	4:30
Interstate Teams Qualifying (others)	Mon	11:45	Thu	4:30
Country Club Teams Championship	Mon	11:45	Wed	6:45
Three Day Teams	Mon	11:45	Wed	6:45
One-day Swiss Pairs II	Tue	9:30	Tue	6:45
One-day Swiss Pairs III	Wed	9:30	Wed	6:45
Graded Pairs	Thu	9:30	Thu	5:30
Country Pairs Championship	Thu	9:30	Fri	5:30
Interstate Teams Final (Stanza 1)	Thu	7:00	Thu	8:45
Interstate Teams Final (Stanzas 2-5)	Fri	9:30	Fri	5:45
Interstate Pairs	Fri	9:30	Fri	5:30
Novice Pairs	Sat	9:30	Sat	5:15
Open Butler Stage 1	Sat	9:30	Sun	5:15
Restricted Butler	Sat	9:30	Sun	5:15
One-day Matchpoint Pairs	Sun	9:30	Sun	5:15
Open Butler Stage 2	Mon	9:30	Tue	6:00
Mixed Butler Stage 1	Mon	9:30	Tue	6:00
ANC Swiss Pairs A	Mon	9:30	Tue	6:00
Open Butler Stage 3	Wed	9:30	Thu	4:45
Mixed Butler Stage 2	Wed	9:30	Thu	4:45
ANC Swiss Pairs B	Wed	9:30	Thu	4:45

## INTERSTATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS (ITC)

### 10 Partnership Alterations

10.1 A State may alter partnerships provided that the altered partnership plays a system which has been submitted pursuant to 4.2 or a system which the CTD considers is sufficiently natural as to cause no disadvantage to the opposition through lack of previous disclosure.

### 11 Qualifying Stage

11.1 The Qualifying Stage consists of two or three round robins of 16 board matches.

11.2 Team numbers:

Open							
ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
8	4	7	3	1	2	5	6
Women's							
ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
6	4	-	7	5	1	3	2
Seniors'							
ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
5	7	-	2	3	4	1	6
Youth							
ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
3	4	-	5	1	-	6	2

11.3 Teams will retain their team number throughout the Qualifying Stage. Subject to 11.4, the draw for the final round robin will be based on the draw for round robin 1 adjusted to reflect the team's placing after the penultimate round robin. That is, the leading team will have the draw for number 1, second for number 2 etc. Once team numbers are set, they will not be altered by subsequent results of outstanding appeals, score corrections or adjustments.

11.4 In events where there are 7 teams with a bye and a team numbered 5, 6 or 7 finishes in first position after the first round robin, the draw for round robin 2 will be altered as follows:

- i) the round in which the highest-placed team from teams numbered 1 to 4 has a bye will be played as Round 8;
- ii) the order of all other rounds will remain unchanged.

11.5 In events where there are 5 teams with a bye and the round robin 3 draw would result in a team having two byes in the one day, the draw for round robin 3 will be adjusted in a similar manner as in 11.4 as determined by the CTD.

11.6 For 7 or 8 teams, there are two qualifying round robins of 16 board matches.

11.6.1 The Draw for 8 teams is as follows. If there are 7 teams, teams playing against Team 8 will have a bye.

Round	Round				
1	8	5 v 2	6 v 3	7 v 4	8 v 1
2	9	1 v 7	3 v 5	4 v 6	2 v 8
3	10	6 v 1	7 v 2	5 v 4	8 v 3
4	11	1 v 5	2 v 6	3 v 7	4 v 8
5	12	4 v 1	3 v 2	7 v 6	8 v 5
6	13	1 v 3	2 v 4	5 v 7	6 v 8
7	14	2 v 1	4 v 3	6 v 5	8 v 7

11.6.2 In the first round robin the second numbered team in the draw sits first. In the second round robin the team that sat first against its opponent in the first round robin match sits last against that team.

11.7 For 5 or 6 teams, there are three qualifying round robins of 16 board matches.

11.7.1 The Draw for 6 teams in Round Robin 1 and Round Robin 3 is as follows. If there are 5 teams, teams playing against Team 6 will have a bye.

Round	Round			
1	11	4 v 1	3 v 5	2 v 6
2	12	1 v 5	2 v 4	6 v 3
3	13	1 v 3	5 v 2	4 v 6
4	14	3 v 2	5 v 4	6 v 1
5	15	2 v 1	4 v 3	6 v 5

11.7.2 The Draw for Round Robin 2 is as follows. If there are 5 teams, teams playing against Team 6 will have a bye.

Round			
6	2 v 3	5 v 4	1 v 6
7	3 v 5	4 v 1	6 v 2
8	1 v 5	2 v 4	3 v 6
9	1 v 2	4 v 3	5 v 6
10	3 v 1	5 v 2	6 v 4

11.7.3 In the first Round Robin, the line ups will be blind, ie. each captain will post their line-up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. The second numbered team sits first in the second Round Robin. In the third Round Robin the team which sat first against its opponent in the second Round Robin match sits last against that team.

11.8 The team captain is responsible for posting the seating positions of the players on the line-up form with the system being played if more than one has been submitted. The first numbered team in the draw will sit NS in the Open Room and EW in the Closed Room. 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 his discretion. Blind line-ups must be provided to the CTD at least 10 minutes before the scheduled commencement of play in each respective match.

For non-compliance with this regulation, the CTD may impose the following penalties:

- i) first offence, loss of seating rights;
- ii) second offence, 3 VPs;
- iii) third and subsequent offences, 6 VPs

- 11.9 A YELLOW system may be played only if the pairs are posted correctly within the posting period or, in any other circumstances, with the agreement of the opposing captain and the CTD.
- 11.10 Scoring for each match in the round robins is net IMPs converted to VPs as follows:  
margin of 30 IMPs or less VPs = 35 + net IMPs  
margin of 31 IMPs or more VPs = 65 + 1/10\*(net IMPs minus 30)  
with a maximum win of 67.5 VPs and a maximum loss of 0 VPs.
- 11.11 35 VPs and 0 IMPs are awarded for a bye.
- 11.12 After a forfeit, the non-offenders receive 56.5 VPs, adjusted at the conclusion of each round robin to the highest of 56.5 VPs, the team's average VP score for completed other rounds, and the complement of the offender's average VP score for completed other rounds. The offenders score 0 VPs; IMPs scores are determined from the formula in 11.10.
- 11.13 Team captains must collect their copy of the result sheet from the official scorer as soon as possible after the conclusion of play at both tables. Requests to correct discrepancies must be agreed with the opposing captain and advised to the scorer within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match.
- 11.14 The time allotted for each set of 16 boards is 120 minutes, or any other such time as determined by the CTD.
- 11.15 Matches may be displayed using online without prior notice.

## 12 Finals

- 12.1 To be eligible to play in the Final, a player must have played in at least four matches in the Qualifying Stage. To be eligible for classification of title-holder, a member of the winning team must have played at least one stanza in the Final
- 12.2 The higher placed team from the Qualifying Stage will have an IMP carry-over into the Final equal to 10% of the VP margin between the teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage. The carry-over is not rounded.
- 12.3 The two leading teams play a 60 board final, played in five 12 board stanzas.
- 12.4 Seating rights: The higher placed team chooses the stanza in which they wish to have choice of opponents. The other team then chooses which two of the remaining stanzas in which they wish to have choice of opponents. This higher placed team has choice of opponents for the remaining stanzas.
- 12.5 The time allotted for each stanza is 96 minutes, or any other such time as determined by the CTD.
- 12.6 Opposing captains must agree the result after each stanza and confirm that it agrees with the result sheet provided by the official scorer.

## 13 Ties

- 13.1 A tie occurs when two or more teams have the exact same number of VPs.
- 13.2 Ties are broken after each round robin by the number of wins in VPs, then net IMPs, then lot.
- 13.3 Ties in the Finals are broken by removal of carry-over. If still tied, the title will be shared.

## **14 Spectators**

- 14.1 Subject to availability of space, spectators are permitted in the Open Room. Only Team Captains (watching their own team), and other personnel as authorised by the CTD are permitted to watch matches in the Closed Room. No spectator may watch play at more than one table during any stanza of any event.
- 14.2 Team members (except non-playing captains) are not permitted to watch their own team. Playing captains who are not playing in the match in question are exempt from this rule for that match.

## **15 Playoff Qualifying Points**

- 15.1 Provided the provisions of 15.3 are satisfied, eligible members in the Open Teams receive 6 Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP).
- 15.2 In addition, provided the provisions of 15.3 are satisfied, eligible members of the winning team in the Open Teams receive 20 PQP, and runners-up receive 12 PQP.
- 15.3 To qualify to receive PQP, a player must play at least seven matches in the Qualifying Stage and, if applicable, at least two stanzas in the Final.

## **INTERSTATE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (IPC)**

## **16 Format**

- 16.1 The IPC will be played as a single field Matchpoint Swiss Pairs event, played over 7 eight board matches. Final placegetters will be determined on the basis of the leading pairs in each of the Open, Women's, Seniors' and Youth categories. Pairs eligible for more than one category must nominate the category they wish to enter prior to the start of the event.
- 16.2 Each board will be scored using standard duplicate matchpoint scoring. Each pair's average percentage score for the match will be converted to Victory Points, using the VP scale detailed in the Appendices.

## AUSTRALIAN BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS (ABPC)

### 17 Tournament Structure

- 17.1 Dependent on entries, the TO reserves the absolute right to alter the formats described in 17.2 to 17.11 without prior notice.
- 17.2 The Open ABPC will be conducted in three stages.
- 17.3 The Mixed ABPC will be conducted in two stages.
- 17.4 Open Stage 1 will be played over 4 sessions. The field will be seeded into NS and EW fields. A movement will be played such that each pair plays as many pairs as possible from the other field. Scoring will be by net IMPs against a datum calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-6) middle scores. The top 10 contending pairs in each field will qualify to Stage 2.
- 17.5 Open Stage 2 will consist of a 10 table Mitchell playing 12 board matches. The top 5 placegetters in each field will qualify to Stage 3.
- 17.6 Open Stage 3 will be played as a round robin of 9 x 12 board rounds.
- 17.7 Mixed Stage 1 will consist of 10 x 12 board matches in a Swiss movement to qualify 10 pairs.
- 17.8 Mixed Stage 2 will be played as a round robin of 9 x 12 board rounds.
- 17.9 The Restricted Butler will be played over 4 sessions. The format will be a single field Swiss movement consisting of 8 x 12 board matches.
- 17.10 The ANC Swiss Pairs A will consist of 10 x 12 board matches.
- 17.11 The ANC Swiss Pairs B will consist of 9 x 12 board matches.
- 17.12 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum calculated as in 17.13 to 17.16. With the exception of Open Stage 1, IMPs are converted to VPs in accordance with the appropriate ABF Swiss Pairs VP scale. Separate datums will be calculated for each event.
- 17.13 When there are fewer than 15 tables, the datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-2) middle scores, n being the number of tables.
- 17.14 When there are 15 to 23 tables, the datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-4) middle scores.
- 17.15 In Open Stage 1 with more than 23 tables, the datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of all scores after deleting the highest 10% and lowest 10%.
- 17.16 In other stages, 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.
- for Matches 1-3, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables;
  - 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;
  - for the remaining matches, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top 12 tables.

17.17 The time allowed per match will be announced by the CTD.

## 18 Ties

18.1 A tie occurs when two or more pairs have the exact same number of VPs.

18.2 To determine a Swiss draw, ties are broken by net IMPs, then lot.

18.3 At the conclusion of a stage, significant ties are broken by the sum of VPs of opponents, then number of wins in IMPs, then net IMPs, then lot. Ties for final placings will not be broken.

## 19 Carry-over

19.1 For Open Stage 3, the first placed contending pair in each field from Stage 2 will have a carry-over of 10 VPs, second 8 VPs, etc, to fifth with a 2 VPs carry-over.

19.2 In the Mixed, carry-overs will be based on the final VP score of each pair after Stage 1 according to the following formula:

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

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.

19.3 Carry-overs will not be varied due to withdrawals. Pairs who qualify from outside the top 10 (Mixed Stage 1) or top 5 (Open Stage 2) placings due to withdrawals will have a carry-over of zero.

19.4 Warnings carry over from stage to stage.

## 20 Withdrawal and Replacements

20.1 Pairs who withdraw at the end of any preliminary stage or are non-contending are replaced by the next highest placed pair in the same field.

20.2 Withdrawals within a stage are treated according to ABF TR 14.

## 21 Substitutes

21.1 A substitute may be permitted for cause, but not for convenience.

21.2 In other ABPC events, the number of rounds one player must play and for which the partnership must be intact is as follows:

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Open: Each player	2 sessions	7/10	7/9
Open: Partnership	2 sessions	6/10	6/9
Mixed: Each player	7/10	7/9	
Mixed: Partnership	6/10	6/9	

21.3 For other events, each player must play at least 75% of the rounds and the partnership must be intact for at least 65% of the rounds (fractions rounded down).

## 22 Playoff Qualifying Points

22.1 The first nine eligible pairs in the Open ABPC receive Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP):

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PQP	45	40	35	25	20	15	10	8	6

22.2 The first nine eligible pairs in the Mixed ABPC receive Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP):

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PQP	30	24	18	14	10	8	6	4	2

22.3 Tied pairs share the available points.

## ANC CONGRESS (ANCC)

### 23 Events

Depending on entries, event formats may be varied by the Tournament Organiser. This may include combining events, changing the number or length of matches, or any other actions to ensure the viability of the event.

Swiss Pairs events with IMP scoring will be scored as per 17.12 for IMP scoring and 16.2 for Matchpoint scoring.

- 23.1 **Welcome Pairs** – July 4-5 – 3 sessions: Single field Swiss Pairs with IMP scoring. There will be 9 eight board matches – 3 matches per session.
- 23.2 **Rookie Pairs** – July 4 – 1 session: Matchpoint scoring. The format and movement will be determined when entries are known.
- 23.3 **Novice Pairs** – July 5 – 2 sessions: Matchpoint scoring. The format and movement will be determined when entries are known.
- 23.4 **Country Club Teams Championship** – July 6-8 – 6 sessions: Teams event played over 11 sixteen board matches. The format will be determined when entries are known. There will be two matches each session, with the exception of Session 1 when there will be one match.
- 23.5 **Three-Day Teams** – July 6-8 – 6 sessions: Teams event played over 11 sixteen board matches. The format will be determined when entries are known. There will be two matches each session, with the exception of Session 1 when there will be one match.
- 23.6 **One-day Swiss Pairs I** – July 6 – 2 sessions: Single field Swiss Pairs with IMP scoring. There will be 8 seven board matches – 4 matches per session.
- 23.7 **One-day Swiss Pairs II** – July 7 – 2 sessions: Single field Swiss Pairs with IMP scoring. There will be 8 seven board matches – 4 matches per session.
- 23.8 **One-day Swiss Pairs III** – July 8 – 2 sessions: Single field Swiss Pairs with IMP scoring. There will be 8 seven board matches – 4 matches per session.
- 23.9 **Country Pairs Championship** – July 9-10 – 4 sessions: Matchpoint Swiss Pairs played over 14 eight board rounds.
- 23.10 **Graded Pairs** – July 9 – 2 sessions: played with Matchpoint scoring. Players will be classified by masterpoint status as open, restricted, novice and rookies. The format and movement will be determined when entries are known.
- 23.11 **Novice Swiss Pairs** – July 10 – 2 sessions: Single field Swiss Pairs with IMP scoring. There will be 6 six board matches – 2 matches in Session 1 following the lesson on IMPs tactics and 4 matches in Session 2.
- 23.12 **One-day Matchpoint Pairs** – July 11 – 2 sessions: Matchpoint scoring. The format and movement will be determined when entries are known.

## APPENDICES

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

#### ITC

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

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	3 VPs (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	6 VPs (6 IMPs)

#### ABPC and Swiss Pairs

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

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

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

In Matchpoint Pairs events, late arrival or slow play may be penalised at the discretion of the CTD.

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	3 VPs (ITC), 1 VP (IPC, ABPC) per occasion

### Victory Point Scale for IPC

Where x is the pair's average percentage for the round (rounded to 2 decimal places - 0.005 rounded up):

Where x is greater than 70.0: VP = 20

Where x is between 57.5 and 70.0: VP =  $(x-20)*2/5$

Where x is between 42.5 and 57.5: VP =  $(x-35)*2/3$

Where x is between 30.0 and 42.5: VP =  $(x-30)*2/5$

Where x is less than 30.0: VP = 0

## Modified Swiss Format

In Swiss Pairs events where the number of entrants is fewer than twice the number of rounds to be played, a round-robin or modified Swiss format will be implemented.

If the numbers are appropriate, a full round robin movement will be implemented, with the possibility of a round or rounds to determine final placings.

Otherwise, a normal Swiss movement will be used up to and including Round  $n/2 + 1$  (even number of rounds) or Round  $(n+1)/2$  (odd number of rounds). In subsequent rounds, the Swiss movement continues with all scores retained, but a unit may play another unit which it previously played in the first  $n/2$  rounds (fractions rounded down).

Examples:

\* 9 rounds – standard Swiss up to and including the draw for Round 5. In rounds 6, 7, 8 and 9, the Swiss draw continues, but units may play a unit previously played in Rounds 1-4.

\* 10 rounds – standard Swiss up to and including the draw for Round 6. In rounds 7 to 10, the Swiss draw continues, but units may play a unit previously played in Rounds 1-5.

## 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 per board shall be:

IMP scored Teams events: an IMP score of  $3\sqrt{N}/N$

IMP scored Pairs events: an IMP score of  $2\sqrt{N}/N$

Matchpoint scored events: a percentage score equal to  $50 + 10\sqrt{N}/N$

where N is the number of unplayable boards.

In IMP scored events, the net IMPs in a match assigned due to these formulas will be rounded to the nearest IMP (0.5 IMPs rounded up).

The following table lists the net IMPs/percentages to be assigned to units in the case of multiple average plus boards.

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs assigned (Teams)	IMPs assigned (Pairs)	Percentage assigned (matchpoints)
1	3	2	60.00
2	1	1	54.14
3	1	0	53.18
4	1	1	52.68
5	1	0	52.36
6	0	1	52.13
7	1	0	51.97

## ABF VP Scales for Swiss Pairs

IMP diff	VPs – 12 boards	VPs – 8 boards	VPs – 6/7 boards
0	10.00 - 10.00	10.00 - 10.00	10.00 - 10.00
1	10.33 - 9.67	10.39 - 9.61	10.41 - 9.59
2	10.66 - 9.34	10.78 - 9.22	10.82 - 9.18
3	10.99 - 9.01	11.17 - 8.83	11.23 - 8.77
4	11.32 - 8.68	11.56 - 8.44	11.64 - 8.36
5	11.65 - 8.35	11.95 - 8.05	12.05 - 7.95
6	11.98 - 8.02	12.34 - 7.66	12.46 - 7.54
7	12.31 - 7.69	12.73 - 7.27	12.87 - 7.13
8	12.64 - 7.36	13.12 - 6.88	13.28 - 6.72
9	12.97 - 7.03	13.51 - 6.49	13.69 - 6.31
10	13.30 - 6.70	13.90 - 6.10	14.10 - 5.90
11	13.63 - 6.37	14.29 - 5.71	14.51 - 5.49
12	13.96 - 6.04	14.68 - 5.42	14.82 - 5.18
13	14.29 - 5.71	14.87 - 5.13	15.13 - 4.87
14	14.62 - 5.38	15.16 - 4.84	15.44 - 4.56
15	14.84 - 5.16	15.45 - 4.55	15.75 - 4.25
16	15.06 - 4.94	15.74 - 4.26	16.06 - 3.94
17	15.28 - 4.72	16.03 - 3.97	16.37 - 3.63
18	15.50 - 4.50	16.32 - 3.68	16.68 - 3.32
19	15.72 - 4.28	16.61 - 3.39	16.99 - 3.01
20	15.94 - 4.06	16.90 - 3.10	17.30 - 2.70
21	16.16 - 3.84	17.19 - 2.81	17.60 - 2.40
22	16.38 - 3.62	17.48 - 2.52	17.90 - 2.10
23	16.60 - 3.40	17.76 - 2.24	18.20 - 1.80
24	16.82 - 3.18	18.04 - 1.96	18.50 - 1.50
25	17.04 - 2.96	18.32 - 1.68	18.80 - 1.20
26	17.26 - 2.74	18.60 - 1.40	19.10 - 0.90
27	17.48 - 2.52	18.88 - 1.12	19.40 - 0.60
28	17.69 - 2.31	19.16 - 0.84	19.70 - 0.30
29	17.90 - 2.10	19.44 - 0.56	20.00 - 0.00
30	18.11 - 1.89	19.72 - 0.28	
31	18.32 - 1.68	20.00 - 0.00	
32	18.53 - 1.47		
33	18.74 - 1.26		
34	18.95 - 1.05		
35	19.16 - 0.84		
36	19.37 - 0.63		
37	19.58 - 0.42		
38	19.79 - 0.21		
39 +	20.00 - 0.00		