

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
BRIDGE FEDERATION INC
TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

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1 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

“SABF” shall mean the South Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated.

“SABA” shall mean the South Australian Bridge Association Incorporated.

“ABF” shall mean the Australian Bridge Federation.

“WBF” shall mean the World Bridge Federation.

“Management Committee” shall mean the Management Committee of the SABF.

“Special events” shall mean events such as, but not limited to:

- all weekend congresses,
- state championship events,
- the State Masters Pairs,
- sessions run in conjunction with the Autumn National Open Teams (ANOT) or any other ABF event.

“Ordinary club session” shall mean sessions that are conducted by affiliated clubs other than special events.

“Tournament Committee” or “TC” shall mean the tournament sub-committee appointed by the SABF Management Committee (#).

“Convenor” shall mean the convenor of the Tournament Committee.

“Chief Tournament Director” or “CTD” shall mean the Chief Tournament Director appointed by the Tournament Committee.

“Tournament Director” or “TD” means the Chief Tournament Director of an assistant tournament director.

“Appeals Committee” shall mean the appeals sub-committee appointed by the SABF Management Committee (#).

“Club rooms” shall mean SABA’s place of business.

“IMP” shall mean International Match Points.

“V.P.” shall mean Victory Point.

Note that the Tournament Committee and the Appeals Committee are usually the same body and that the two names are used in these regulations to distinguish function only. The Convenor may appoint additional members at his/her discretion, for any period up until the next Annual General Meeting. For example, a member may be appointed for the purpose of considering an appeal. The Convenor shall be the sole judge of quorum.

2 APPLICABLE LAW

All bridge events and sessions conducted under the auspices of the SABF shall be conducted in accordance with the International Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, the regulations published herein in the “South Australian Bridge Federation Tournament Regulations”, supplementary regulations for specific events promulgated by the TC and other regulations promulgated by the TC. The International Laws of Duplicate Bridge shall apply to all areas not specifically covered by these regulations.

The International Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge shall mean the latest edition of the International Laws belonging to SABA at the time of the event, and which shall be available in the clubrooms for perusal by any member.

Any event may be conducted with rules that differ from these regulations, provided that such rules are approved by the TC and are notified in advance of the start of the competition.

The SABF Management Committee shall have the power to publish amendments or additions to these rules and to vary any condition.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the SABF Management Committee may at any time make any determination concerning the conduct of any bridge events or sessions, provided always that if any event is already in progress such determination shall be limited to dealing with an issue which is either not covered, or not adequately covered, by these regulations.

3 GENERAL REGULATIONS

In accordance with these regulations, the TC shall determine the form of all competitions and publish any supplementary conditions of play before each event begins.

The TC may call for nominations in advance of any event and publish a closing date for nominations. When there is a call for nominations, late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the TC.

The TC shall:

- decide handicaps in any handicap events,
- determine seeding where necessary, including into sections,
- supervise the draw for any competition.

The TC may delegate any of its functions to the CTD, who may in turn delegate to one of more assistant tournament directors.

4 SYSTEMS

4.1 Classification of Systems

Systems shall be classified as green, blue, red or yellow in accordance with the regulations made by the ABF and applying in ABF events, subject to any system or convention specifically being classified below. The applicable ABF regulations shall be available in the clubrooms

The CTD shall classify systems. In the event of a dispute concerning the classification of a system the decision of the TC shall be final, but until such classification by the TC shall have taken place the decision of the CTD shall be enforced.

4.2 System Restrictions

4.2.1 Green, Blue and Red Systems

Green, blue and red systems are permitted without restriction in all events.

4.2.2 Yellow Systems

Yellow systems are permitted only in teams and Butler pairs matches of 14 or more boards duration.

Yellow systems are permitted only if a SABF approved system card (with no more than two A4 supplementary sheets, typed or written black ink on one side) has been lodged with the CTD at least one week before the commencement of the event in which it is to be played. The CTD shall maintain a register of yellow systems for perusal by other players.

For Swiss events, yellow systems may not be played in the first round, or in the second round where round two is played in the same session as round one. In addition, it may not be played in matches involving a team in the lower 50% of the field (decimals rounded down), except with the consent of the opposing team or pair, provided always that consent is obtained prior to the commencement of the match and is notified to the TD. Because of the above mentioned provisions, yellow systems need only be lodged at the start of any Swiss event in which they are permitted to be played.

Any team including a pair playing a yellow system in a single session match shall forfeit seating rights if such a pair plays.

4.2.3 Defences

When playing against a yellow, an opposing pair may prepare a written defence. A written defence against the defence is permitted in the case of yellow systems also.

A pair's notes of their defence or "defence against the defence" may be written on one side of an A4 sheet, typed or hand written legibly in black ink.

Notes may be used during the auction period provided that they are:

- lodged with the CTD 15 minutes before the scheduled session times and approved by the CTD,
- identical for each player, and
- available to the opponent's during the auction and play.

During the play a player's own notes may only be used to answer a question from the opponents. (No player may refer to the written bidding after the first trick.)

For defence against a yellow system, pairs using green, blue or red systems may change any facet of their system but pairs using a yellow system may not change their opening calls. For defence against the defence pairs are not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of their yellow system.

4.2.4 Brown Sticker Conventions

Certain 2 and 3 level conventional openings, plus some types of overcalls have been placed in a category called "Brown Sticker". Any partnerships using one of more "Brown Sticker" conventions must individually list them on their system cards (and/or supplementary sheets) and have a brown sticker on their cards. Written defences to "Brown Sticker" conventions will be allowed at the table, but written defences to "Brown Sticker" defences are not permitted.

"Brown Sticker" conventions are not permitted in match pointed pairs events, or teams or Butler pairs events where matches are shorter than 10 boards.

4.3 Playing the Same System

Both members of a partnership must play the same system, including bidding and card play agreements. Where as a matter of style members frequently adopt different styles from each other, the pair must prepare and make available a properly completed system card as per these regulations, and disclose those differences in style. Note section 5.1.

4.4 Breaches of System Regulations

Any pair found guilty of breaching these system regulations should be liable to disciplinary action.

Any team for which such pair was playing shall be liable to penalties that may include (but not be limited to) forfeiture of the match, or V.P. fines applied either immediately or at the conclusion of the event.

4.5 Change of System

No pair may play two different yellow systems during the course of an event without the express permission of the CTD.

5 ADEQUATE DISCLOSURE, SYSTEM CARDS AND SUMMARIES

5.1 Adequate Disclosure

Players must disclose fully the meaning of their conventional agreements, particularly conventions and treatments that may require extensive or unusual defensive preparation by opposing pairs.

To satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure, the onus is on each pair to prepare for the information of opponents an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. In addition to the appropriate system card, pairs may use supplementary sheets, where necessary, to achieve the objective of adequate disclosure.

5.2 System Cards

In all sessions, all pairs (except as exempted below) must prepare system cards as specified below, and have two system cards for the use of their opponents during all sessions. Every player will be granted a grace period for presentation of his/her system card. Should a pair sit down to play without a system card available at all, then the grace period for that pair will expire. If, however there is one system card available, then only one grace period shall expire. Grace periods will be reinstated at the commencement of the next event. Once the grace period for any pair expires, procedural penalties will be enforced.

The TC may designate sessions or events for which pairs playing a green or blue system with opening bids at the one level consistent with Acol, Standard American or Precision are not required to prepare a system card.

System cards shall be prepared legibly, properly identified with the names of the pair and coloured sticker showing the classification of system under these regulations. Supplementary sheets shall be typed or written legibly in black ink on one side of A4 paper.

Any system card may be used, provided it contains substantially the same information as the printed SABF or ABF system cards. The CTD shall approve any non-standard system card.

After withdrawing the cards from a board and, until they are restored to the board at conclusion of its play, a player may not consult the pair's own system card except when specifically permitted under these regulations.

5.3 More Comprehensive Description of Systems

In the interests of full disclosure, and for the pairs' own protection in the case of disputes, any pair may submit one copy of a more comprehensive description of their system to the CTD before the start of any event or before any single session event. A TD and the Appeals Committee shall consult any comprehensive system descriptions that have been submitted when making rulings or determinations.

6 ALERTING AND EXPLANATIONS OF THE AUCTION

All sessions and events shall use alerting regulations made by the ABF, subject to any changes noted below.

The following modifications to the ABF regulations shall apply:

- where there is no written bidding, alerts must be indicated by saying “alert” out loud, tapping the table not being sufficient, and
- Where there is written bidding, alerts must be indicated by a circle around the call.

Inadequate disclosure may attract procedural penalties and/or disciplinary penalties including but not limited to immediate suspension from the session and/or score adjustment. Repetition may result in a report to the Ethics Committee.

7 APPEALS

Notice of an appeal against a ruling give by a TD, as provided in the International Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, must be made in writing on the form proscribed by the TC for that purpose and presented to the TD within 30 minutes of the scheduled finish of play, signed by one member of the pair.

On receipt of an appeal on the prescribed form that lies within the jurisdiction of the Appeals Committee, the TD shall:

- complete the form giving all reasons for the ruling,
- forward a copy of the appeal with confirmation of the ruling to a member of the Appeals Committee, and
- make a copy of the appeal available to the respondents to the appeal forthwith, but in any case within 24 hours of the ruling being made.

The Appeals Committee shall hear the appeal as soon as reasonably practicable after the lodging of the appeal, at a time and place nominated by the convenor of the Appeals Committee and notified to the parties thereto. If all parties cannot agree to an earlier time, then the appeal shall be held in seven days time, half an hour before the start of play.

Appeals Committee members who are directly involved in any dispute shall not participate in the hearing of that dispute.

The respondents may add their arguments in writing to the prescribed form. Appellants may then add counter arguments in writing to the prescribed form.

The Appeals Committee shall allow parties to the appeal to present arguments in person.

In the course of the appeal hearing, the Appeals Committee may reverse a TD’s decision, where that decision was based on a point of fact or in the exercise in the TD’s discretionary power.

The TC may impose a fine of up to three Victory Points or match points if the Appeals Committee determines that the appeal was frivolous.

Players have the right of further appeal to the Management Committee against any decision of the Appeals Committee.

Appeals against the scorer's decisions (as distinct from TD's rulings) must be lodged within one week of the scores being posted on the club scoreboard.

Note: The SABF Appeals Committee will only hear appeals from State Championship and Selection events - appeals from other SABA sessions shall be the responsibility of the SABA Appeals Committee.

8 CORRECTION OF SCORES

Correction of errors on the original score cards and/or results sheets may be up to 24 hours after the posting of the results. Result sheets shall be kept in the Clubrooms and be freely available for inspection.

9 BIDDING

9.1 Spoken Bidding

Spoken bidding may be allowed by the CTD in certain circumstances.

Where written bidding is used:

- If a player is incapable of writing a bid, any other player may repeat the spoken call in writing.
- A player who cannot read the written bidding may request that bids be repeated aloud.

9.2 Written Bidding

The first bid made whether spoken or written shall be treated as a legal call, but must be repeated in writing, or if required, repeated aloud.

A written bid, if made simultaneously with a different spoken bid, shall prevail unless the written bid was inadvertent.

Should a player begin to write a bid out of turn, without completing it, it is not treated as a call out of rotation, but it may be unauthorised information.

A player may change a partly written bid without penalty, provided the full bid has not been completed, but the unauthorised information law may apply.

If there is any dispute concerning any bid, the written record shall take precedence.

9.3 Bidding Boxes

Bidding boxes are not generally used in SABF events but may be required for some events as specified in the supplementary regulations, and may be used by affiliated clubs at their discretion.

Regulations similar to those concerning written bidding above shall apply to the use of bidding boxes.

10 CONDITIONS OF PLAY

The International Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge do not allow players to leave the table needlessly (Law 74, part c, paragraph 8). Leaving the table to smoke is not considered sufficient reason and penalties consistent with slow play may be applied, even if play was not delayed.

A player may leave the table to smoke only with the permission of all other players at the table. However, this permission shall not prevent penalties being applied if play is delayed, for example, if a move is called while a player is absent.

11 MATCHPOINT PAIRS EVENTS

11.1 Nominations

Conditions of play shall specify whether entry to an event is restricted to pairs nominating by a specified closing date, or whether the event is open to players on a walk-in basis. Conditions of play may also specify that some or all sessions of an event are available for play on a walk-in basis, notwithstanding whether entry in advance is required for the event.

After nominations have closed, a member of a nominating pair may be replaced only with the permission of the TC. This power is delegated to the TD in all events except State Championship events, unless the TC informs the TD otherwise.

11.2 Late Arrival

Any pair arriving for an event less than five minutes before the scheduled starting time may be refused admission to the tournament at the discretion of the TD. Nevertheless, the TD will make every effort to accommodate pairs.

Where one player of a pair arrives on time and the pair is included in the movement, but the second player is late, or if both players of a pair arrive late for an event (such as a final) where they are required to be present or represented at each session, the pair may be liable for the following procedural penalties:

Player(s) late by	Procedural Penalty
Less than 5 minutes	Warning for first occurrence. For second or subsequent offence in the same multi-session event - 10% of a top.
5 to 10 minutes	15% of a top
11 to 15 minutes	25% of a top
16 to 20 minutes	40% of a top
21 to 30 minutes	100% of a top

Beyond 30 minutes, or after the completion of the first round, the TD may assess a more severe penalty, including disqualification from the session or the event.

11.3 Scoring

Percentages for each session shall be calculated to the nearest two decimal places.

The winning pair of any standard pairs competition shall be that pair which gains the highest aggregate of sessional percentage scores at the completion of the stipulated number of rounds, subject to the further rules herein.

11.4 Scores Gained with Substitutes

For the purpose of determining a score within these rules, a single substitute for one member of a pair in one session shall be regarded and referred to as a substitute. Stand-ins playing in place of both members of a pair in the same session are not regarded as a substitution in a duplicate event, and the absent pair will score "0" for that session (except as laid down in section 11.5).

If a substitute is used by a pair in any session, the score for that session used in the calculation of the competition aggregate shall be the score gained by the substitute, except that it may not exceed the average score gained in sessions played by the nominated pair. Further, it may not be less than the minimum of (90% of the nominated pair's average, and 50%), with the following exceptions.

If a substitute is used because either member of the nominated pair is absent representing South Australia at an ANC event or the GNOT finals (or any other representative event approved by the SABF), participating in a national team selection event, or representing Australian, then the score for that session used in the calculation of the competition aggregate shall be 100% of the nominated pair's average. This rule shall apply to all events.

The scores obtained by substitutes shall stand for the calculation of sessional results and master points awarded for the session.

11.5 Scores Gained by Absent Pairs

Pairs absent because both players are representing South Australia at an ANC event or the GNOT finals (or any other representative event approved by the SABF), participating in a national team selection event, or representing Australia shall be treated as having had valid substitutes and the 100% provisions of Section 11.4 shall be applied.

Scores gained by absent pairs for the purpose of determining a valid score only apply when the entrant pair is eligible for a final placing.

11.6 Eligibility for a Final Placing

To be eligible for a final placing the nominated pair (including one player substitutes) must have played in at least 75% (decimals rounded up) of the required number of rounds, whilst the nominated pair must themselves have played in more than half the number of rounds.

11.7 Ties

A tie shall exist for a final placing when two or more pairs have aggregates within 0.03% of each other. Ties shall be broken when necessary on the following basis in turn:

In favour of the pair playing the most sessions.

In favour of the pair gaining most scores above 60%.

In favour of the pair gaining most scores above 55%.

In favour of the pair gaining most scores above 50%.

Master points awarded are not affected by the breaking of ties; the tied pairs shall share the available master points for the positions.

11.8 Players' Responsibilities

During any competition in which a movement card is available both pairs are responsible for checking that the correct boards are about to be played. In the absence of such cards, the sitting pair shall be responsible. (A movement card is always available for a Howell movement. In a Mitchell movement NS usually remain seated and the boards move to the next lower numbered table in sequence.)

It is the responsibility of the player sitting South to fill in the score card correctly at the end of each hand, and it is the responsibility of all players at the table to check the details.

11.9 Fouled Boards

Where a board has been fouled such that it is unplayable at the next table, the offending pair(s) may be fined up to half-a-top. Any innocent pairs shall receive a 60% score on the hand in question, or their average score for the session, whichever is the greater.

11.10 Fines

In addition to penalties for late arrival, fines may be applied for various offences at the discretion of the TD. The following maximum fines may apply:

- Mis-scoring: 1% deducted from the final score for each pair.
- Failure to record a hand: 1% deducted from the final score for each pair.
- No score entered: 40% of a top on the board for both pairs.
- Slow play: Half a top for the third and subsequent offence.

Players should be warned about their slowness after each of the first two offences.

11.11 Seating

Seating in SABF shall be determined by the Tournament Sub-committee. The Tournament Sub-committee may delegate that responsibility to the TD for some events.

12 BUTLER PAIRS EVENTS

Pairs events that use Butler scoring are considered teams events and the regulations in sections 13, 14 and 15 shall apply, with the following exceptions:

- teams shall consist of a single pair,
- the VP scale for Butler pairs is different to that of normal teams events
- to be eligible for a final placing the entrant pair must have played together for at least two thirds of the sessions (rounded up), and to have been represented for all the other scheduled sessions.

13 TEAMS EVENTS - GENERAL

13.1 Nominations

Nominations for teams events shall close at the time specified in the supplementary regulations for the event. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the TC.

If the number of nominated teams for any event produces an impractical or unworkable event and the necessary number of additional teams cannot be found, the TC shall have the right to reject any nominated team(s), the first team to be rejected being the last team to nominate, and so on in sequence.

13.2 Format of Events

Teams events may be conducted as Swiss, Round-Robin, Lightning or any other suitable format.

The length of matches shall be specified in supplementary regulations for the event.

Unless specified in supplementary regulations, finals matches (if part of an event) shall be conducted according to the "Final Five" system described in section 16.3.

Unless specified in supplementary regulations, the grand final of an event shall be double the duration of the other rounds and/or finals.

13.3 Additions and Replacements

Teams shall consist of no more than six players. After nominations have closed, a fifth and/or sixth member may only be added with the approval of the TC.

Nominated members of a team may be replaced by other players, who shall become full members of that team, but only with the approval of the TC.

13.4 Substitutes

Substitutes shall be allowed with the prior approval of the TD. The TD may award an adjustment to the score of any team fielding a substitute player if, in the opinion of the TD, the substitution materially improves the team. Either team may appeal against the size of the adjustment. However, the team fielding the substitute player loses the right of appeal if they do not notify the TD about the substitute at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of the session (and the TD will give the benefit of any doubt to the “non-offending” side).

The TD shall adhere to the following guidelines when considering score adjustments.

The maximum adjustment shall be 1 IMP per board played in the match.

The TD should consider the playing history/experience together of the pair which includes the substitute.

The TD may seek the opinions of other TDs (including off-duty TDs) when considering the size of adjustments.

The following table shall act as a guide for the size of adjustments awarded:

Level of Improvement of Pair by the Substitute	Adjustment for 10 Board Match (IMPs)	Adjustment for 14 Board Match (IMPs)
Little or no Improvement	0	0
Some Improvement	4	5
Significant Improvement	7	8
Substantial Improvement	10	14

The TD shall communicate decisions to all affected teams as soon as possible, but this may be after matches have commenced.

13.5 Eligibility for Finals Matches

Team members who have played less than forty per cent of the boards in the qualifying rounds require the approval of the TC to participate in any major (finals) round match.

IN events where teams qualify for finals through more than one qualifying event, such as the State Teams Championship when a double qualifying event is used, this rule shall be interpreted as meaning forty per cent of the boards in the event where qualification was achieved.

The TC shall grant such permission only if, in its opinion, there are other appropriate circumstances that justify the inclusion.

13.6 Seating

In qualifying or minor rounds, the home team shall be the one first designated in the draw, whilst in the major (finals) round or tiebreaker the team captains shall determine seating rights by lot.

The home team shall take up its position at the tables first at the beginning of the first session of play. The visiting team shall take up its position at the tables first at the beginning of the second session of play, and seating shall rotate in turn for all sessions of the match. The team sitting second may seat its pairs at either table.

13.7 Pair Changes

Pair changes may be made only at the end of any period of play.

13.8 Dealing

Hands shall be pre-dealt for all sessions unless otherwise specified in supplementary regulations.

Where hands are pre-dealt, they shall be generated by an SABF approved computer program and hand records shall be available at the end of each session.

13.9 Scoring

Scoring shall be by Imps.

Except in finals matches and as provided in supplementary regulations, scores shall be converted to VP's using the WBF scale appropriate for the number of boards. The scales applicable to matches of various lengths are contained in Appendix 1.

When a team receives a forfeit, the score in that match shall be determined after the last minor round match (but see section 14.2 that provides for an interim score in Swiss events for the purpose of making a draw). The offending team shall receive 0 VP's. The score of the non-offending team shall be the greatest of:

- eighteen (18) VP's, or
- its mean VP score after all rounds (not including forfeited matches), or
- the mean score gained by the opponents of the offending team in matches played against the offending team (that is, 25 minus the offending team's average), not counting forfeited matches.

The winning captain must provide the scorer with the result signed by both captains on an official score slip. A result recorded and/or posted incorrectly by the scorer can be altered up to 30 minutes after the posting of the results for the last round.

13.10 Break of Ties - Other than in Finals Matches

Ties shall be broken to determine the final places in a teams event without final rounds (including each of two qualifying stages of the State Teams

Championship), or rankings for determining qualification for finals in events with finals, on the following basis in turn:

- by Total VPs,
- by Total VPs after the removal of fines,
- by net IMP totals, and
- by lot.

Ties to determine rankings for the Finals Round of the State Teams Championships shall be broken as specified in Section 16.2.

13.11 Breaking of Ties in Finals Matches

Ties in finals shall be broken by successive 4 board matches, except in the Grand Final, where 6 boards shall be played.

13.12 Responsibilities of Captains

Every team shall nominate a captain, who shall be responsible for determining line-ups in each match, agreeing the score with the opposing captain, and handing in an agreed result slip.

13.13 Late Arrival and Slow Play

If one or more members of a team arrive late for a session without having informed the TD or taken reasonable steps to inform the TD at the earliest opportunity, the team will be liable for procedural penalties as follows:

Player(s) late by	Procedural Penalty
Less than 5 minutes	Warning for first occurrence. For second or subsequent offence in the same multi-session event - 1/2 VP.
5 to 10 minutes	1 VPs
11 to 15 minutes	2 VPs
16 to 20 minutes	3 VPs
21 to 30 minutes	5 VPs

Whether or not caused by one or both teams arriving late for a session, any boards not commenced more than 5 minutes after the scheduled end of play shall be cancelled from the match. If non-completion of boards is caused by slow play that can, to the satisfaction of the TD, be attributable to one team, then that team will be liable for slow play penalties at the same rate as the late arrival penalties above. Should one or more members of a team, arrive more than 30 minutes late then the match shall be forfeited unless a sufficient reason is given to the TD's satisfaction.

14 TEAMS EVENTS - SWISS TEAMS

14.1 The Draw

Teams seeded in the top and bottom “quarters” shall be drawn randomly to play against teams seeded in the two middle “quarters” for round one. The draw for subsequent rounds (made as soon as practicable) shall pair the team having the highest rank with the next highest team that has not played previously and so on down the field. If a clash ensues, adjustments are made to ensure that no team is drawn to play a team that it has already played, beginning with match of the lowest ranked team and then progressively up the field until a valid draw is determined. If there is an odd number of teams participating, then three teams with similar scores (not including the top half of the field) should be selected to play in a share match, the seating being:

Table 1: A v B; Table 2: C v A; Table 3: B v C.

No alteration shall be made to the draw if an appeal or correction due to scorer error changes the rankings after the draw has been made.

For the purpose of making a draw in Swiss events, ties shall be broken by net Imps, then by lot.

15 TEAMS EVENTS - ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

15.1 The Draw

The draw for teams events shall be based on the appropriate Howell movement with numbers allocated at random. Each team shall have a balance of home and away matches.

15.2 Qualifying Round

If a qualifying round is necessary, it shall be in a form determined by the TC, which shall ensure that any separate sections are evenly seeded.

15.3 Minor Round

The minor round shall be in a round-robin form with the length of matches specified in Supplementary Regulations for the event.

16 STATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

16.1 Format

The State Teams Championship shall be conducted as a multiple Swiss event. The qualifying rounds shall be composed of two separate stages, each run as a Swiss Teams event according to the regulations published herein. Each qualifying stage shall be held over not less than 5 nights with two matches per night. Teams may enter for either or both stages as teams of 4, 5 or 6.

16.2 Qualification for Finals

The results of each of the two stages shall determine which teams may contest the Championship finals round. Finals qualifying points shall be awarded in each stage as follows:

1 st team	6 points
2 nd team	4 points
3 rd team	3 points
4 th team	2 points
5 th team	1 point

The aggregate finals qualifying points for both stages determine the teams ranking. Any ties shall be broken on the following basis in turn:

- by the VP totals (from both phases),
- by the VP totals (from both phases) after the removal of fines,
- by net IMP totals (from both phases), and
- by lot.

A team in stage two that has four or more players in common with a stage one team may accrue points over both stages. The team members that have played in both stages may select their finals team-mates from members of their team that played in one stage only, provided the team scored at least one point in that stage and the team-mates played in at least forty per cent of the matches in that stage.

Teams which do not score finals qualifying points are not eligible to play in the finals rounds.

The top five ranked eligible teams shall contest the final rounds according to the “Final Five” system described in section 16.3.

16.3 The “Final Five” System

Finals rounds for teams events shall be conducted according to the “Final Five” system described herein, unless otherwise specified in Supplementary regulations or elsewhere in these regulations.

16.3.1 Week One

The first Qualifying Final shall be contested between the teams ranked fourth and fifth. The loser is eliminated and the winner proceeds to the first semi-final.

The second Qualifying Final shall be contested between the teams ranked second and third. The winner proceeds to the second semi-final and the loser proceeds to the first semi-final.

16.3.2 Week Two

The first semi-final shall be contested between the winner of the first Qualifying Final and the loser of the second Qualifying Final. The loser of the first semi-final is eliminated, and the winner proceeds to the Preliminary Final.

The second semi-final shall be contested between the team ranked first after the qualifying rounds, and the winner of the second Qualifying Final. The loser of the second semi-final proceeds to the Preliminary Final, and the winner proceeds to the Grand Final.

16.3.3 Week Three

The Preliminary Final shall be contested between the loser of the second semi-final and the winner of the first semi-final. The loser of the Preliminary Final is eliminated and the winner proceeds to the Grand Final.

16.3.4 Weeks Four & Five

The Grand Final shall be contested between the winner of the Preliminary Final and the winner of the Second semi-final. The winner of the Grand Final is the winner of the event.

16.4 Schedule for Finals Matches, Changes of Schedule and Abandoned Matches

Dates for finals matches will be published in SABA's calendar, the SABF on line calendar and in the supplementary regulations for the event. All qualifying final, semi-final, preliminary final and grand final matches shall be played on the scheduled date and at the scheduled time, unless both captains agree to play the match at an earlier date and/or time, which is acceptable to the TD. The grand final match shall be played on the scheduled date, and at the scheduled time, unless both captains agree to re-schedule the session to another date and/or time which is prior to the SABA Annual General Meeting, and is acceptable to the TD. Both captains shall notify the TD and the agreed new date and time becomes the scheduled data and time for that match. In exceptional circumstances (such as one or more players representing Australia or South Australia in an official bridge competition), the Management Committee may reschedule any match and make any necessary consequential changes to the schedule for other matches.

Any team that does not preset itself for a match at the scheduled date and time shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

If neither of the two teams to contest a match present themselves at the scheduled date and time, the match shall be abandoned and there shall be no winner of that match. If such an abandoned match is a qualifying final, semi-final or preliminary final, the team that would have played the winner or loser of the abandoned match shall receive a forfeit. If the abandoned match is the Grand Final, there shall be no winner of the event.

16.5 Late Arrival and Slow Play - State Teams Finals

If one or more members of a team arrive late for a final without having informed the TD or taken reasonable steps to inform the TD at the earliest opportunity, the team will be liable for procedural penalties as follows:

Player(s) late by	Procedural Penalty
Less than 5 minutes	Warning for first occurrence. For second or subsequent offence in the same finals series - 2 IMPs.
5 to 10 minutes	3 IMPs
11 to 15 minutes	5 IMPs
16 to 20 minutes	7 IMPs
21 to 30 minutes	10 IMPs

Should one or more members of a team arrive more than 30 minutes late, the non-offending team shall be declared the winner of that final by forfeit. If both teams are more than 30 minutes late without notifying the TD, the Tournament Committee may disqualify both from the rest of the finals series.

The time allowed for finals matches shall be 8 minutes x the number of boards to be played in the session. The scheduled completion time for a match shall be determined on the basis of total playing time allowed plus a 15 minute break. Any boards not commenced more than 5 minutes after the scheduled completion time of the session shall not be played, and hence not scored. If the non-completion of boards is caused by the late arrival of any member(s) of one of the teams, the late arrival penalties above are applied. If it can be established, to the satisfaction of the TD (eg called to the table and appoints a monitor), that the non-completion of boards is caused by the slow play of one of the teams, then slow play penalties shall be applied at the same rate as late arrival penalties above.

17 STATE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

17.1 State Open Pairs

17.1.1 Qualifying

The event will generally be run over 6 rounds, the first 3 of which are qualifying rounds. The number of rounds may be varied via Supplementary Regulations. To qualify for the final, a pair must play in all 3 qualifying rounds, except that they may have a **one player** substitution in **one round**.

The carry-over into the final will be the average of a pair's 3 scores in the qualifying event, provided that they played every round together. If there was a one player substitution in a round, the score from that round used to calculate the carry-over will be the score gained with the substitute, except that it may

not exceed the average of the nominated pair's other 2 scores. Further, it may not be less than the lower of (90% of the average of the nominated pair's other 2 scores, and 50%).

17.1.2 Final

The final will be played as a 3 round 7 table Howell event, provided that the average number of pairs playing in the qualifying event is at least 30 – otherwise the final will be played as a 3 round 5 table Howell event.

Pairs taking their place in the final must undertake to be represented at each session, and to be eligible for a final placing, may have a substitute in at most one round. If a substitute is used, the score obtained for that round will be the score gained with the substitute, except that it may not exceed the average of the qualified pair's other 2 scores. Further, it may not be less than the lower of (90% of the average of the qualified pair's other 2 scores, and 50%).

17.1.3 Plate

All pairs who do not qualify for the final may play in the State Open Pairs Plate. The Plate will be played as a stand alone event, with no qualifying requirements, and no carry-over score from the qualifying rounds

To be eligible for a final placing, a pair must play in all 3 rounds of the Plate, except that they may have a substitute for one round. If a substitute is used, the score obtained for that round will be the score gained with the substitute, except that it may not exceed the average of the nominated pair's other 2 scores. Further, it may not be less than the lower of (90% of the average of the nominated pair's other 2 scores, and 50%).

17.2 State Mixed Pairs

17.2.1 Qualifying

The event will generally be run over 5 rounds, the first 3 of which are qualifying rounds. The number of rounds may be varied via Supplementary Regulations. To qualify for the final, a pair must play in all 3 qualifying rounds, except that they may have a **one player** substitution in **one round**.

The carry-over into the final will be the average of a pair's 3 scores in the qualifying event, provided that they played every round together. If there was a one player substitution in a round, the score from that round used to calculate the carry-over will be the score gained with the substitute, except that it may not exceed the average of the nominated pair's other 2 scores. Further, it may not be less than the lower of (90% of the average of the nominated pair's other 2 scores, and 50%).

17.2.2 Final

The final will be played as a 2 round 7 table Howell event, provided that the average number of pairs playing in the qualifying event is at least 30 – otherwise the final will be played as a 3 round 5 table Howell event.

Pairs taking their place in the final must undertake to be represented in both rounds of the final, and to be eligible for a final placing, must play in both rounds in the qualified pairing.

17.2.3 Plate

All pairs who do not qualify for the final may play in the State Mixed Pairs Plate. The Plate will be played as a stand alone event, with no qualifying requirements, and no carry-over score from the qualifying rounds.

To be eligible for a final placing, a pair must play in both rounds of the Plate, in the nominated pairing.

18 STATE SELECTION EVENTS

18.1 General Rules

The selection of all state teams shall be subject to the ratification of the SABF Management Committee.

Each state team shall consist of six players, selected as three pairs, using the selection procedures outlined in this section.

Nominations shall be called for Open, Women's, and Senior Butler Trials, with a closing date for each.

Entry to state selection events shall be open to all players who are members of a bridge club affiliated with the SABF and the ABF.

18.2 Eligibility for State Teams

18.2.1 Qualifying Events

Open Team Qualifying Events

To be eligible for qualifying points, players must satisfy the following conditions:

1. Butler Pairs Events

A pair must be playing in their nominated pairing at least two thirds of matches.

2. Teams Events

A. In a four (4) person team, a player must play at least two thirds of boards in the event.

B. In a five (5) person team, a player must play at least two thirds of 80% of boards in the event.

C. In a six (6) person team, a player must play at least two thirds of 66.7% of boards in the event.

Women's and Seniors Quality Events

To be eligible for qualification to the Butler final, a pair must play at least two thirds of matches in the qualifying event in the nominated pairing.

18.2.2 Butler Finals

To be eligible for an overall placing and hence selection in a state team, a pair must play at least two thirds of the matches in the final in the nominated pairing.

18.3 Responsibility of Players likely to be Ineligible for State Teams

A pair should not enter trials events for the selection of State Teams, nor accept their place in the final of the Open Trials if they are unlikely to meet the requirements of section 18.2. Players are asked to cooperate in conforming to the spirit of this rule. Excessive substitutions are undesirable because contending pairs can play different opponents. Rules intending to redress any disadvantage that substitutions may cause to other entrants may not achieve their aim in all cases. It is unfair to other players to accept a place in the final suspecting that one shall require a large number of substitutes. Pairs that become ineligible for state team selection through 18.2 may be refused entry in the following year, unless the Management Committee is satisfied that sufficient excuse has been given.

18.4 Availability for State Teams

Players are not required to declare their availability to represent the state before playing in trials events or accepting their place in the final of the Open Trials.

18.5 Conditions of Play in Trial Events

The duration and time limit attached to matches will be at the discretion of the Tournament Sub-committee and will be advertised on the entry form which will be circulated well in advance of the event. Any boards not commenced at the end of the session shall be excluded from the match result. Fines for boards excluded in this manner shall be applied at the rate of 3 VPs per 10 minutes or part thereof.

However, in neither case shall a fine be applied for the first offence.

Boards shall be pre-dealt.

There shall be no arrow switching.

Fines may be awarded for late arrival, misconduct, and failure to have two system cards at the table.

Frequent mis-scoring may incur a fine of up to 3 VPs per match.

Should a match start more than 10 minutes late then the offending pair shall be fined unless a sufficient excuse is given. The required finishing time shall be amended accordingly.

Should a pair, or a member of a pair, arrive more than 30 minutes late then the match shall be forfeited unless a sufficient excuse is given.

18.6 VP Scales

All results shall be converted to victory points. Supplementary regulations may set the point scale to be used. Where this is not the case, the scales contained in Appendix 2 shall be used.

18.7 Substitutes

The provisions of Section 13.4 shall apply, except that “teams” shall be replaced by “pair”. To maintain the integrity of selection trials, a substitute player of similar quality is considered more important than the eligibility of a substitute.

18.8 Captaincy

Each team shall elect a captain as soon as practicable after the composition of each team is known. The captain shall be the principal interface between the team and the Teams’ Manager and Assistant Manager who will be appointed by the SABF committee.

All captains will be members of their respective teams. All decisions on team seating shall be the responsibility of the Manager and Assistant Manager, usually with some consultation with the Team Captain. The Manager and Assistant Manager shall also be responsible for all administrative matters.

18.9 Women’s Team Trials

18.9.1 Selection of the Women’s Team

The selected Women’s State Team shall consist of the three highest placed pairs from the Women’s Butler trials that are available for the team.

18.9.2 Women’s Trials – Less than ten entrant pairs

With less than 10 entrant pairs, the Management Committee shall determine the format of the selection event.

18.9.3 Women’s Trials – Ten or more entrant pairs

If there are more than nine but no more than 14 qualifying pairs those pairs shall play a round robin of 14 board matches on Monday nights. Should more than 14 pairs nominate then a prior qualifying event shall be held, to reduce the field to 14 pairs.

Ties for both the qualifying and final rounds of the Women’s Team Trials shall be broken to determine the final place(s) on the following basis in turn:

- by Total VPs,
- by Total VPs after the removal of fines,
- by net IMP totals, and
- by lot.

18.10 Senior Team Trials

18.10.1 Selection of the Seniors Team

All entrants to the qualifying shall be of an age in accordance with the ABF age requirements prevailing at the time of entrance. Entrants must be the correct age on the first day of the qualifying event. The selected Seniors State Team shall consist of the three highest placed pairs from the selection event that are available for the team.

18.10.2 Senior's Trials less than 10 entrant pairs

With less than 10 entrant pairs, the Management Committee shall determine the format of the selection event.

18.10.3 Senior's Trials – Ten or more entrant pairs

If there are more than nine but no more than 14 qualifying pairs those pairs shall play a round robin of 14 board matches over two weekends.

Should more than 14 pairs nominate then a prior weekend qualifying event shall be held, to reduce the field to 14 pairs.

Ties for both the qualifying and final rounds of the Senior's Trials shall be broken to determine the final place(s) on the following basis in turn:

- by Total VPs,
- by Total VPs after the removal of fines,
- by net IMP totals, and
- by lot.

18.11 Youth Team Trials

The Youth state team will be selected by and SABF panel. A number of criteria, including participation and performance over the previous twelve months, will be taken into account with the results of the Youth Trials being the principle determinant in team selection.

- Depending on the number of entries, the Youth Trials will be a Butler Pairs event, played as a single or double round robin and held in conjunction with the Seniors' Trials Qualifying, using the same boards. In the event that there are fewer than four tables, the Senior averages will be used as datums for the Youth Butler.
- Normal substitution rules will apply with no absolute requirement that substitutes be of eligible age. However, strict penalties will apply whenever the director deems that a substitute is of substantially better quality than the missing entrant player.

18.12 Open Team Trials

The selected Open State Team will be the three highest placed pairs from that year's Open Butler Final who are available for the team and meet selection criteria.

After the conclusion of the selected qualifying events, players will be invited to nominate as pairs for the Open Trials Final. The top fourteen nominating pairs, on the basis of the highest number of qualifying points, will be accepted for the event.

Qualifying points shall be weighted as follows:

Where a nominating pair has earned qualifying points as a pair, or as team-mates, each player will be credited with the qualifying points so earned.

Where a player has earned qualifying points in another partnership, in an event where the nominating pair were not team-mates, that player shall be credited with weighted qualifying points equal to one half of the qualifying points so earned.

Each player filling a top placing in the following selected events will be awarded (subject to having played prerequisite minimum number of boards) the corresponding number of qualifying points shown in the list below:

Swiss Pairs Championship – first 60, second 45, third 40, fourth 35, fifth 30, sixth 25, seventh 20, eighth 15, ninth 10, tenth 5.

Open Teams Championship phase one – first 60, second 40, third 30, fourth 20, fifth 15, sixth 10, seventh 5.

Open Teams Championship phase two – first 60, second 40, third 30, fourth 20, fifth 15, sixth 10, seventh 5.

State Teams Final – first 60, second 40, third 20, fourth 15.

State Pairs Championship – first 30, second 20, third 10.

Open Trials Qualifying – first 60, second 45, third 40, fourth 35, fifth 30, sixth 25, seventh 20, eighth 15, ninth 10, tenth 5.

Note: A pair finishing first, second, or third in the Open Trials Qualifying will be given automatic entry into the Open Butler Trials, provided that it nominates in the same partnership.

An additional 60 points for first, or 40 points for second, will be awarded to SA players who are members of teams that earn positions at the **Autumn National Open Teams**.

Awards for all teams events will be reduced by 20% for five person teams, and by one third for six person teams.

Qualifying points will only be awarded to players who meet the criteria detailed in clause 18.2.1.

To be eligible for the Open Butler Trials a player must earn sufficient qualifying points in that year's selected events to be ranked at least 42nd on the basis of these points. Should there be less than 14 pairs nominating in any year the SABF Management Committee may extend the minimum ranking required for player eligibility.

If there is a tie for the last berth to gain entry into the Open Butler Trials, the tie shall be broken by applying the following criteria, in order, and based on results in the selected events for that year, until the tie is broken.

- Total qualifying points of the nominating pairs
- Number of first placing of the nominated pairs, as a pair or as team-mates.
- Number of second placing of the nominated pairs, as a pair or as team-mates.
- Number of third placing of the nominated pairs, as a pair or as team-mates.
- Number of fourth placing of the nominated pairs, as a pair or as team-mates.
- Number of fifth placing of the nominated pairs, as a pair or as team-mates.
- Doubling the qualifying points earned in the Butler Trials Qualifying.
- By lot.

19 SABF SPECIAL EVENTS

19.1 GNOT SABA and Regional State Finals

19.1.1 Event Format - SABA

SABA will determine the way in which qualifying for this event is run. At present this is a Swiss Teams event over 5 Thursday nights to qualify teams for the GNOT finals in Sydney. The number of places available to SABA teams depends on total entries, and currently stands at 3. The qualifying places are awarded to the highest placed teams at the conclusion of the event. If a qualifying team is not available to take up its place in the finals, the place is offered to the next team in the final ranking, and so on, until 3 available teams are selected.

The regulations applying to the GNOT qualifying event are as per Regulations 13, 14 and 16 above (with the exception of clauses specifically applying to State Teams finals).

19.1.2 Event Format - Regional

Club qualifying event for the GNOT Regional Final - All ABF affiliated clubs in South Australia, other than the S.A.B.A., are invited to run a qualifying event within their club, to qualify teams for the Regional Final. The type of qualifying event is the responsibility of the club, but must meet the masterpoint requirements of the GNOT. There will be an entry fee payable to the SABF for each team playing in the qualifying event. All registered members of the ABF are eligible to play in any number of qualifying teams, however all members of a

qualifying team for the Regional Final must be bona-fide members of the club that they represent. It is the responsibility of the club to impose any regulations with regards to membership of it's qualifying teams.

19.1.3 Conditions of Play - Regional Final

The SABF will choose a Convenor for the Regional Final. The Convenor will be responsible to the SABF Tournament Sub-committee. The affiliated clubs in South Australia, other than the S.A.B.A., are invited to send team(s) to the Regional Final. The number of qualifying teams each club is allowed in the Regional Final will be set each year by the SABF, and the clubs notified by the Convenor. There will be an entry fee for each team in the Regional Final, payable to and set by the SABF. The Regional Final will be on a weekend (normally one day) in late September or early October, hosted by one of the regional affiliated clubs. The affiliated clubs are invited to host the Regional Final. The Convenor will notify the clubs of the venue and date.

If any club does not take up their quota or teams, then the Convenor can invite the other clubs to fill those places.

The format for the Regional Final will be the responsibility of the Convenor, but will select the team(s) to represent South Australia Provincial at the GNOT National Final. The first placed team will take the first qualifying place, the second placed team a second place if available, and so on through the field. If any team fails to take it's qualifying place in the National Final, then that place will be offered to the next placed team in the Regional Final, and so on through the field.

APPENDIX 1

IMP – VP CONVERSION SCALES FOR TEAMS MATCHES OF 8 - 32 BOARDS

VPs	Number of Boards							
	8	10	12	14	16	20	28	32
15 – 15	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 2	0 - 2	0 - 2	0 - 3	0 - 3
16 – 14	2 - 5	2 - 6	2 - 6	3 - 7	3 - 7	3 - 8	4 - 10	4 - 10
17 – 13	6 - 8	7 - 9	7 - 9	8 - 10	8 - 11	9 - 12	11 - 15	11 - 16
18 – 12	9 - 11	10 - 12	10 - 12	11 - 14	12 - 15	13 - 16	16 - 20	17 - 22
19 – 11	12 - 14	13 - 15	13 - 16	15 - 18	16 - 19	17 - 21	21 - 25	23 - 28
20 – 10	15 - 17	16 - 18	17 - 20	19 - 22	20 - 23	22 - 26	26 - 31	29 - 34
21 – 9	18 - 20	19 - 21	21 - 24	23 - 26	24 - 27	27 - 31	32 - 37	35 - 40
22 – 8	21 - 23	22 - 25	25 - 28	27 - 30	28 - 31	32 - 36	38 - 43	41 - 46
23 – 7	24 - 26	26 - 29	29 - 32	31 - 34	32 - 36	37 - 41	44 - 49	47 - 52
24 – 6	27 - 29	30 - 33	33 - 36	35 - 38	37 - 41	42 - 47	50 - 55	53 - 58
25 – 5	30 - 33	34 - 37	37 - 40	39 - 43	42 - 46	48 - 53	56 - 61	59 - 65
25 – 4	34 - 37	38 - 41	41 - 45	44 - 48	47 - 52	54 - 59	62 - 68	66 - 73
25 – 3	38 - 41	42 - 45	46 - 50	49 - 54	53 - 58	60 - 65	69 - 76	74 - 82
25 – 2	42 - 45	46 - 50	51 - 55	55 - 60	59 - 64	66 - 72	77 - 85	83 - 91
25 – 1	46 - 50	51 - 55	56 - 61	61 - 66	65 - 71	73 - 79	86 - 94	92 - 100
25 – 0	51+	56+	62+	67+	72+	80+	95+	101+

APPENDIX 2 IMP – VP CONVERSION SCALES FOR BUTLER MATCHES OF 8 - 28 BOARDS

VPs	Number of Boards						
	8	10	12	14	16	20	28
15 – 15	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 1	0 - 2	0 - 2	0 - 3
16 – 14	2 - 4	2 - 5	2 - 5	2 - 6	3 - 7	3 - 7	4 - 9
17 – 13	5 - 7	6 - 8	6 - 8	7 - 9	8 - 10	8 - 11	10 - 14
18 – 12	8 - 10	9 - 11	9 - 11	10 - 12	11 - 14	12 - 15	15 - 19
19 – 11	11 - 13	12 - 14	12 - 15	13 - 16	15 - 18	16 - 19	20 - 24
20 – 10	14 - 16	15 - 17	16 - 18	17 - 20	19 - 22	20 - 23	25 - 29
21 – 9	17 - 19	18 - 20	19 - 22	21 - 24	23 - 26	24 - 27	30 - 34
22 – 8	20 - 22	21 - 23	23 - 25	25 - 28	27 - 30	28 - 31	35 - 39
23 – 7	23 - 25	24 - 26	26 - 29	29 - 32	31 - 34	32 - 36	40 - 45
24 – 6	26 - 28	27 - 29	30 - 32	33 - 36	35 - 38	37 - 41	46 - 51
25 – 5	29 - 31	30 - 33	33 - 36	37 - 40	39 - 43	42 - 46	52 - 57
25 – 4	32 - 34	34 - 37	37 - 41	41 - 45	44 - 48	47 - 52	58 - 64
25 – 3	35 - 37	38 - 41	42 - 45	46 - 50	49 - 54	53 - 58	65 - 71
25 – 2	38 - 40	42 - 45	46 - 50	51 - 55	55 - 60	59 - 64	72 - 79
25 – 1	41 - 44	46 - 50	51 - 55	56 - 61	61 - 66	65 - 71	80 - 87
25 – 0	45+	51+	56+	62+	67+	72+	88+