

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

OPEN & WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN TEAMS PLAYOFF - 2006

1. VENUE, DATES AND WEBSITE

- 1.1. The Playoff venue is Hakoah Club, 61 Hall St, Bondi, NSW.
- 1.2. The date of the Playoffs is Thursday 23rd - Monday 27th March 2006 inclusive.
- 1.3. The official website for the Playoffs will be www.abf.com.au/events/playoffs. All information pertaining to the Playoffs will be found on that website and players will be deemed to be aware of all information contained thereon.

2. COMMITTEES, OFFICIALS AND DIRECTORS

- 2.1. The Sponsoring Organisation (Law 80) for the 2006 Playoffs is the Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated (ABF). The Playoffs are conducted in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations in force as at 31/03/89, since amended but not republished, and these Conditions of Contest. In the case of conflict these Conditions of Contest will apply.
- 2.2. Personnel
 - 2.2.1. The Chief Tournament Director (CTD) is Sean Mullamphy.
 - 2.2.2. The Tournament Sub-Committee convener is Eric Ramshaw.
 - 2.2.3. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee is David Stern
 - 2.2.4. The ABF Tournament Committee representative is Eric Ramshaw
 - 2.2.5. The Recorder is Neville Moses.
 - 2.2.6. The Official Scorer is Martin Willcox.
- 2.3. The Tournament Sub-Committee is constituted with at least three members present in person, except in an emergency when it may be constituted with only two members present in person and a third member on the telephone.

3. SCREENS, DEALING AND HAND RECORDS

- 3.1. Players must use the methods and equipment (screens, VuGraph, BBO, written bidding, bidding boxes, pick-up slips, table record sheets, electronic scoring units, etc) in the manner specified by the Convener.
- 3.2. Boards are pre-dealt by an ABF-approved computer program and hand records with makeable contracts (Deep Finesse analysis) will be provided.

4. SYSTEMS

- 4.1. All systems (including defences to particular systems) are allowed, provided they are circulated in accordance with the directions of the ABF Tournament Committee.
- 4.2. Players may not refer to their own system cards or notes, but may refer to notes of their defences to opponents' Yellow systems during the bidding or play of the hand. Such defences must be approved by the CTD before the commencement of the match.
- 4.3. Players may alter part or all of their system only with the consent of the CTD who may, at his discretion, disallow the change or permit it, or part only of it, or permit it only after a period of time has elapsed sufficient to allow the opponents to prepare fresh defences.

5. SELECTION OF PAIRS TO COMPETE IN THE PLAYOFFS

- 5.1. Only players who have sufficient Playoff Qualifying Points (PQPs) as shown on the ABF Website may nominate to compete in the Playoffs.
- 5.2. Nominating pairs must have a minimum of 1 PQP earned in the same unit.
- 5.3. Women's pairs eligible for both Playoffs may nominate for either, but not both.
- 5.4. Initial nominations must be submitted via the official website and must be received before 4.00 pm on Friday 16th December 2005.
- 5.5. Nominating pairs will be ranked according to their total PQPs, discounted by 50% for PQPs not earned in the same unit.
- 5.6. The top 16 pairs will be accepted into the Women's Playoff and their names will be promulgated on the official website.
- 5.7. The top 14 pairs will be accepted into the Open Playoff and their names will be promulgated on the official website.
- 5.8. The top two contending pairs from the Last Train Event (Canberra, January 19-20, 2006) will also be accepted into the Open Playoff and their names will be promulgated on the official website.
- 5.9. The Last Train Event will have its own set of Conditions of Contest.
- 5.10. A player who has been accepted into the Open or Women's Playoff field may enter the Last Train Event with a different partner as a contending pair. If successful, that player's original PQP-based entry to the Playoff will be annulled.
- 5.11. A pair that has been accepted into the Women's Playoff field may enter the Last Train Event as a contending pair. If successful, that pair's original PQP-based entry to the Women's Playoff will be annulled.
- 5.12. If any PQP-qualified pair pulls out of the Playoff after the field has been promulgated, it will be replaced by the next highest ranked pair on the PQP list, even if this replacement pair has qualified in the meantime via the Last Train Event. If any pair that qualified via the Last Train Event pulls out of the Playoff after the field has been promulgated, it will be replaced by the next highest placed contending pair from that event. In all cases, exactly two pairs will qualify via the Last Train Event.
- 5.13. Successful pairs must submit system exception reports by 24th February 2006.
- 5.14. The entry fee of \$300 per player less any travel subsidy must be paid before the commencement of Stage I.

6. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES

- 6.1. Travel subsidies will be awarded to players in the 12 top pairs (ranked as per #5.5).
- 6.2. Players from Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne will receive a subsidy equivalent to the cheapest internet airfare available less \$120.
- 6.3. Players from Canberra will receive a subsidy of \$60.
- 6.4. Players from Sydney will receive no travel subsidy.

7. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

- 7.1. Each Playoff will be comprised of two stages:
 - Stage I: a round robin of 15 matches each of 12 boards.
 - Stage II: a round robin of 11 matches each of 12 boards.
- 7.2. Teams and replacement pairs
 - 7.2.1. The Australian Team for 2006 will consist of the pair ranked 1 from Stage I plus the two leading pairs from Stage II. It will participate in the designated event (*viz.* the PABF in Shanghai from 20-31 August 2006).

- 7.2.2. Reserve pairs will consist of all Stage II pairs in rank order.
- 7.2.3. Any pair in the Australian Team that is unable to compete in the designated event will be replaced by the highest ranked reserve pair.
- 7.2.4. Should the ABF receive any invitations to other international events held before the 2007 Playoff, such invitations will be offered to the winning pair from Stage I plus the two highest ranked reserve pairs finishing in position 8 or higher that have not represented Australia since the 2006 Playoff. If no viable team can be formed under these restrictions, the ABF may fill the vacancy at its discretion.

7.3. Stage I

- 7.3.1. The format will be a round robin of 15×12 -board matches with Butler scoring. For each board, the top-most score and bottom-most score will be discarded and the average of the remaining scores (six, assuming no unplayed boards) will be computed as the datum for the board.
- 7.3.2. Each pair's score on a board will be calculated by comparing their score with the datum by IMPs.
- 7.3.3. Separate datum scores will be calculated for the Open and Women's Events.
- 7.3.4. The nett IMP score for the match will be converted to Victory Points using the WBF scale for 10-board matches.

7.4. Stage II

- 7.4.1. At the end of Stage I, the pair ranked 1 will be in the team and the pairs ranked 14, 15 and 16 will be eliminated. The pairs ranked 2 through 13 will contest Stage II.
- 7.4.2. The format will be a round robin of 11×12 -board matches with Butler scoring. For each board, the top-most score and bottom-most score will be discarded and the average of the remaining scores (four, assuming no unplayed boards) will be computed as the datum for the board.
- 7.4.3. Each pair in Stage II will be assigned a carry forward as follows:
- All pairs will be assigned an N_x score in VPs, calculated from their final Stage I score by removing their scores against the three eliminated pairs that finished 14-16th.
 - The pair with the top N_x score (N_{30}) will be assigned a carry-forward of 30 VPs.
 - All other pairs will get a carry forward of $30 - (N_{30} - N_x)/2$, with the proviso that any negative carry forward will be rounded up to zero (0).
- 7.4.4. The Stage II field will be reseeded on the basis of each pair's N_x score before rounding.
- 7.4.5. Each pair's score on a board will be calculated by comparing their score with the datum by IMPs.
- 7.4.6. Separate datum scores will be calculated for the Open and Women's Events.
- 7.4.7. The nett IMP score for the match will be converted to Victory Points using the WBF scale for 10-board matches.
- 7.5. The final ranking of all pairs will be:
1st = first in Stage I; 2nd = first in Stage II; 3rd = second in Stage II; ... 13th = twelfth in Stage II;
14th = fourteenth in Stage I; 15th = fifteenth in Stage I; 16th = sixteenth in Stage I.

8. TIES

- 8.1. Ties occur when one or more pairs are on exactly the same VP score at the finish of the stage.
- 8.2. Ties in Stage I are broken by applying the following in order until the tie is broken:
- Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director will be deleted.
 - Pairs will be ranked according to the number of matches won in VPs (a draw is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ win) - those with more wins being ranked above those with fewer.
 - The pair with the highest nett IMP score will be ranked highest.
 - The totals will be recalculated by successively deleting the worst result of each of the pairs still ranking equally.
 - The pair with the greatest number of VPs scored from matches that involve only those pairs involved in the tie will be ranked highest.
 - by lot

- 8.3. Ties in Stage II are broken by applying the following in order until the tie is broken:
- Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director will be deleted.
 - The highest ranked pair at end of stage I will be ranked highest, including the tie breaking procedures of Stage I if required.

9. PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS (PQPs)

- The winner of Stage I will receive 36 PQPs.
- All other PQPs will be awarded at the end of Stage II as follows:
first 32, second 28, third 24, fourth 20, fifth 16, sixth 12, seventh 8.
- Ties will not be broken for the purposes of awarding PQPs. The available PQPs will be shared equally among all tying pairs.

10. SESSION TIMES

- 10.1. Match times will be as shown in the table below.

Date	Match Times	Round	Score Correction Period Expires
Thursday 23rd March	10:00-11:30	Stage I - 1	09.30 on Friday 24 th .
	11:35-13:05	Stage I - 2	
	14:00-15:30	Stage I - 3	
	15:35-17:05	Stage I - 4	
	17:30-19:00	Stage I - 5	
Friday 24 th March	10:00-11:30	Stage I - 6	09.30 on Saturday 25 th .
	11:35-13:05	Stage I - 7	
	14:00-15:30	Stage I - 8	
	15:35-17:05	Stage I - 9	
	17:30-19:00	Stage I - 10	
Saturday 25th March	10:00-11:30	Stage I - 11	30 minutes after the posting of scores for Match 15.
	11:35-13:05	Stage I - 12	
	14:00-15:30	Stage I - 13	
	15:35-17:05	Stage I - 14	
	17:30-19:00	Stage I - 15	
Sunday 26th March	11:00-12:30	Stage II - 1	09.30 on Monday 27 th .
	12:35-14:05	Stage II - 2	
	15:00-16:30	Stage II - 3	
	16:35-18:05	Stage II - 4	
	19:40-21:10	Stage II - 5	
	21:15-22:45	Stage II - 6	
Monday 27th March	10:00-11:30	Stage II - 7	30 minutes after the posting of scores for Match 11.
	11:35-13:05	Stage II - 8	
	14:00-15:30	Stage II - 9	
	15:35-17:05	Stage II - 10	
	17:30-19:00	Stage II - 11	

11. CORRECTION PERIOD

- 11.1. The Correction Period for a session (Law 79C), during which scoring errors made by the players may be corrected, expires at the start of the following session.
- 11.2. Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer during Stage I may be corrected anytime up until 30 minutes after the end of Stage I.
- 11.3. Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer during Stage II may be corrected anytime up until 30 minutes after the end of Stage II.

12. APPEALS

- 12.1. The CTD must be notified of a pair or team's intention to appeal a Director's ruling within 30 minutes of the end of the session.
- 12.2. The Appeals Committee Chairman shall forthwith constitute a committee of not less than five members from among available experienced players and appoint a Chairman (usually himself). Appeals will be heard at the first convenient opportunity, not necessarily immediately following the match in which the appeal is involved, unless it has a direct bearing on the next stage of the event.
- 12.3. No competitor in the 2006 Playoffs shall sit on the Appeals Committee.
- 12.4. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be by majority and, in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote.

13. FOULED BOARDS

- 13.1. A ruling that a board is "fouled" must be sought within the correction period specified in 12.1.
- 13.2. A board that does not tally with the hand record is not ipso-facto "fouled".
- 13.3. Law 87 determines that a board is "fouled" when "the Director determines that one or more cards were misplaced in the board, in such a manner that contestants who should have a direct score comparison did not play the board in identical form".
- 13.4. A "fouled" board is scored by:
 - (a) including one or more of its results in the calculation of the datum (described in #7.4.1) when the CTD rules that the fouling was of no consequence.
 - (b) providing that the hand has been played by four or more tables, treat it as a separate deal determining a separate datum for the changed board and calculate scores for that part of the field from this datum.
or
 - (c) awarding an adjusted score of 0 IMPs to those pairs who played the fouled board.
- 13.5. The CTD may issue a procedural penalty (1 VP) to pairs responsible for fouling a board.

14. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 14.1. Substitution is not a right but a privilege allowed for cause at the discretion of the CTD and/or Tournament Sub-Committee whose decision on this issue is not appealable.
- 14.2. All substitutes must be approved in advance by the Convener, who, at his discretion, may consult the Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 14.3. The maximum substitution allowable for cause pursuant to 14.1 for any player is 3 rounds in Stage I and 2 rounds in Stage II. Breach of this regulation will result in disqualification.

15. PROCEDURAL PENALTIES

- 15.1. Procedural penalties are not subject to appeal, but the CTD may be requested to review the assessment.
- 15.2. There will be no grace period for late arrival. Procedural penalties for late arrival are:

Up to 5 minutes late	1 VP
From 5 to 10 minutes late	2 VPs
From 10 to 15 minutes late	3 VPs
- 15.3. If a pair is over 15 minutes late a more severe penalty, including disqualification, will be assessed by the CTD. The CTD at his discretion may allow the match to be played.
- 15.4. If a number of boards are unable to be played because one pair is late, the non-offending pair will be awarded a score of 1 IMP for every board not played.
- 15.5. In cases of slow play a penalty of 1 VP for the first board and 2 VPs for every subsequent board will be allocated for every board not started at the conclusion of the time allowed. No board may be started after 5 minutes prior to the scheduled end of the match. This fine will be levied against all pairs found guilty of slow play.
- 15.6. Pairs still playing after the scheduled finishing time will incur a penalty of 1VP for every 5 minutes or part thereof. This fine will be levied against all pairs found guilty of slow play.
- 15.7. Where players arrive late and can be assessed for a late arrival penalty as well as a penalty for slow play the pair will be assessed for the greater of the two penalties.
- 15.8. Players are permitted to be in possession of mobile phones during session time. However, players are not permitted to use, including the phone ringing, or consult their phone without the express consent of the Director. Such consent will be required even to hold the phone for the purpose of turning it off. Failure to comply with this regulation will attract a disciplinary penalty of 3 VPs per offence. Mitigating circumstances will not be accepted as a defence and therefore this penalty is automatic and not discretionary.

16. FORFEITS

- 16.1. In the case of a forfeit, at the end of the Stage the score of the non-offending pair is adjusted to the higher of:
 - (a) 18 VPs; or
 - (b) its mean VP score for completed rounds in that stage; or
 - (c) 30 VPs minus the mean VP score for completed rounds of the offending pair in that stage (maximum 25-5 VPs).
- 16.2. The non-offender's IMP score is the mean of the range of the VP score allocated.
- 16.3. The offender's score is 0 VP and -56 IMP.

17. DISQUALIFICATION

- 17.1. The VP and IMP results of all matches involving a disqualified pair will be discarded.
- 17.2. Datums of previously scored matches will not be recalculated.
- 17.3. Disqualification during Stage II will have no effect on Stage I results.

18. ALERTS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 18.1. All calls that the opponents may misunderstand or misinterpret are to be alerted with an ALERT card.
- 18.2. Each player is to alert their screen mate to any alertable call made either by themselves or partner.
- 18.3. All explanations are to be in writing - no verbal communication between screen mates is allowed during play.
- 18.4. No verbal communication across the screen (other than declarer's call of a card from dummy) is allowed without the permission of the Director.

19. MISCELLANEOUS

19.1. In accordance with ABF policy smoking is not permitted in the playing area, but the Convener may designate other areas where smoking is permitted.

20. SEEDING AND SEATING

20.1. Pairs in Stage I will be seeded by the Tournament Committee or its elected delegate(s).

20.2. Pairs in Stage I will be assigned pair numbers as follows.

SEED	PAIR NO.	OPEN	WOMEN'S
1	1	Ron Klinger - Bruce Neill	Sue Lusk - Therese Tully
2	2	Sartaj Hans - Tony Nunn	Elizabeth Havas - Candice Feitelson
3	3	Robert Fruewirth - Ishmael Del'Monte	Margaret Bourke - Dagmar Neumann
4	4	Paul Marston - Hugh Grosvenor	Greer Tucker - Margaret Millar
5	5	Martin Bloom - Peter Gill	Cathy Mill - Catherine Lachman
6	6	George Bilski - Barry Noble	Deidre Greenfeld - Wendy Driscoll
7	7	Kieran Dyke - David Wiltshire	Berenice Folkard - Marlene Watts
8	16	Nigel Rosendorff - Avinash Kanetkar	Paula Schroor - Rena Kaplan
9	8	Phil Gue - Khokan Bagchi	Leone Fuller - Sharon Evans
10	9	Pauline Gumby - Warren Lazer	Sally Murray-White - Helen Snashall
11	10	Bob Richman - Zolly Nagy	Helen Borman - Judy Snow
12	11	Michael Prescott - Terry Brown	Annabelle Booth - Lauren Shiels
13	12	George Gaspar - Seamus Browne	Inez Glanger - Marcia Scudder
14	13	Richard Jedrychowski - Paul Wyer	Nevena Djurovic - Rasma Liepins
15	14	Neville Francis - Magnus Moren	Kate Smith - Jill Del Piccolo
16	15	Jamie Ebery - David Weston	Wendy Halvorsen - Kinga Moses

20.3. Seating in Stage I will be as follows, but the Convener may alter the order of the later rounds to avoid undesirable match ups in the last round(s).

	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6	Table 7	Table 8
Rd	NS EW							
1	16 4	1 9	6 10	15 8	3 13	2 11	12 5	7 14
2	16 9	4 10	5 8	7 12	2 6	1 15	13 11	14 3
3	16 5	6 11	2 15	9 7	12 3	13 4	14 1	10 8
4	16 11	5 15	1 7	10 14	13 2	6 9	3 4	8 12
5	16 7	15 14	9 3	12 2	5 4	11 8	1 10	13 6
6	16 1	2 4	13 9	11 10	14 12	3 5	8 6	15 7
7	16 14	7 3	10 2	13 1	11 9	15 12	4 8	6 5
8	16 10	9 8	11 12	14 13	1 5	4 7	6 15	3 2
9	16 8	10 12	15 13	3 6	4 11	9 14	5 7	2 1
10	16 13	12 6	14 5	1 11	10 7	8 2	15 3	4 9
11	16 15	11 7	4 14	8 3	6 1	5 10	2 9	12 13
12	16 12	8 13	7 6	2 5	9 15	10 3	11 14	1 4
13	16 3	14 2	8 1	6 4	15 10	7 13	9 12	5 11
14	16 2	3 1	12 4	5 9	7 8	14 6	10 13	11 15
15	16 6	13 5	3 11	4 15	8 14	12 1	7 2	9 10

Pairs in Stage II will be seeded according to the carry-forward formula defined in #7.4.4. Pair numbers will be assigned as follows.

SEED	PAIR NO.
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	12

SEED	PAIR NO.
7	6
8	7
9	8
10	9
11	10
12	11

20.4. Seating in Stage II will be as follows, but the Convener may alter the order of the later rounds to avoid undesirable match ups in the last round(s).

	Table 1		Table 2		Table 3		Table 4		Table 5		Table 6	
Rd	NS	EW										
1	12	1	4	2	9	6	11	5	10	3	7	8
2	12	6	9	7	3	11	5	10	4	8	1	2
3	12	4	7	5	1	9	3	8	2	6	10	11
4	12	11	3	1	8	5	10	4	9	2	6	7
5	12	2	5	3	10	7	1	6	11	4	8	9
6	12	7	10	8	4	1	6	11	5	9	2	3
7	12	9	1	10	6	3	8	2	7	11	4	5
8	12	5	8	6	2	10	4	9	3	7	11	1
9	12	8	11	9	5	2	7	1	6	10	3	4
10	12	3	6	4	11	8	2	7	1	5	9	10
11	12	10	2	11	7	4	9	3	8	1	5	6