

QUEENSLAND BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC

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Thank you for your interest in affiliating with the Queensland Bridge Association.

PREAMBLE

There are many advantages to be gained when a bridge club affiliates with the State body. The club is recognised as an official member of a State-wide Association and the immediate result is usually an increase in membership and a much greater desire by players to improve the standard and quality of their bridge. Club members become interested in the activities of nearby clubs and widen their experience by travelling to congresses and by visiting other clubs. When the club reaches a stage of building its own premises, State funding becomes available through the State Association. By being affiliated, the club will receive all information concerning bridge within Queensland.

CLUB STRUCTURE

Clubs seeking to affiliate with a State Association should be:

- A Company limited by guarantee (if they are a not for profit club); or
- A Company with a guarantor (if they are a private club or other type of club); or
- An incorporated Association
- An individual

Clubs should not be a limited liability company, unless supported by directors' and/or shareholders' guarantees.

A copy of the documentation supporting the structure should be provided to the State Association with the application.

ADMINISTRATION

The Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) is the governing body for duplicate contract bridge in Queensland and is affiliated with the National body, the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF).

The QBA Council is comprised of delegates appointed by member clubs and each club is entitled to be represented by one delegate for every 100 members or part thereof. Clubs beyond easy travelling distance of Brisbane usually appoint delegates from Brisbane clubs to act on their behalf. All clubs assist in the formulation of bridge policies in the State and incidentally play a far greater part in this regard than their counterparts in other States.

CLUB OBLIGATIONS

- To comply with the Laws of Bridge;
- To support the objects of the ABF and QBA in fostering bridge;
- To pay the ABF's annual capitation fee and any State levy for each of the club's 'home' members by the due date;
- To pay any fees invoiced for masterpoints by the due date;
- To actively encourage people who play at the club to become members;
- To issue masterpoints in accordance with the ABF Masterpoint Scheme at all club sessions including supervised play;
- To notify the ABF Masterpoint Centre of new members, and new member details as set out by the ABF Masterpoint Centre, and to pay a capitation fee as set by the ABF for each new member or reactivated member when invoiced;
- To submit to the ABF Masterpoint Centre in a timely manner the details of masterpoints issued, in accord with the timings required by ABF Tournament Regulations, State Association requirements, and/or the ABF Masterpoint Centre;

- To promptly notify changes to the following information to the ABF Masterpoint Centre and the State Association:
 - Name of the club
 - Club address
 - email
 - Phone number
 - President – name, address, email and phone number
 - Secretary – name, address, email and phone number
 - Masterpoint Secretary – name, address, email and phone number
 - Website (if applicable)
 - Manager (in the case of a limited liability company)

FEES, QUOTAS AND LEVIES

Currently (2020) the annual QBA Membership Fee is \$16.10 (GST inclusive) per registered club member and the annual ABF Levy is \$16.10 (GST inclusive) per registered club member. This is increased by CPI each year. Remember it is illegal to have non-registered club members and all clubs must obey the 100% membership rule <http://www.abf.com.au/about-abf/abf-policies-and-handbooks/100-affiliation-rule>. Ample notice is given by both associations of the yearly increase. The Queensland Bridge Association levies its clubs on a monthly basis by invoice.

Players belonging to more than one club should nominate which club is to be considered their principal or home club for the purpose of QBA membership, ABF Levies and Masterpoint listings. Players need only pay one national levy each year and as one state levies if membership is in one state only HOWEVER for those players who join clubs in two different states, two different state levies will apply.

When a club stages a Congress, it must pay a congress levy to the QBA of \$1.50 (GST inclusive) per table per session, as soon as possible after the event is completed. The club is responsible for forwarding payment automatically as no invoice will be issued – the Director can advise you what is owing to the QBA.

INCORPORATION

Incorporation through the Office of Fair Trading or acceptance of the standard Club Constitution (available from the Office of Fair Trading's website) is a precedent to affiliation and; once adopted, the Constitution may not be altered or amended without prior approval of the QBA.

AFFILIATION

Application for affiliation with the QBA is made in writing/email to the Manager of the State Association. Upon approval by the QBA Management or Council depending on timing of meetings, the club will be advised. Once received the following needs to be advised –

QBA

- Office-bearers of the Club (mobile numbers and email addresses);
- a copy of the Club Constitution;
- the nominated QBA delegate/s for the club - 1 delegate per 100 home club members. The QBA will assist if necessary;
- Playing venue and contact details of venue;
- Session times;
- Courier address (can be Post Office Box) for bulletin delivery.

ABF

- complete the ABF Masterpoint Centre Club Details Form (www.abfmasterpoints.com.au/downloads.asp click on Masterpoint Centre PDF forms – club details. Then you need to print this form, scan it and email it back to the Masterpoint Centre. In the meantime the ABF Masterpoint Centre will have been advised of approval.

All changes to the club executive must be advised to the QBA within 14 days of the club AGM. The QBA publishes on its website a club directory. The club will also be responsible for maintaining files for QBA Minutes, ABF Minutes and QBA Memos and Circulars. Contact with the QBA is through the club delegate or direct to the Manager who is available 7 days a week, 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. The answering machine is on 24 hours a day. My mobile number is 0412 064 903 and is on constantly. Contact with the Australian Bridge Federation is through the QBA Manager only.

All members of your club must be members of the ABF and QBA (no exceptions – 100% rule).

ZONES

The State is divided into Zones and clubs will be allocated to Zones of their choice where practical. Each Zone is guided by a Zonal Committee which is made up of delegates from each club in the Zone. The number of zonal delegates each club is entitled to is dependent on the number of home club members in that club, using the following formula:

No. of home-club Members	No. of zonal delegates
1-150	1
151-300	2
301-450	3
451+	4

The zonal delegate must be voted at the AGM of the club, and a zone secretary (who acts as Chair of the zonal committee) appointed at a zone meeting. Notification of the zonal delegates and zonal secretary should be sent to the QBA after every Annual General Meeting.

The zonal committees are responsible for running the zonal trials for travel subsidies to the Qld Pairs and Teams championships, and setting up the format and the running of the Knock-Out Teams within the Zone for entry into the Grand National Teams. Zones may also conduct Zone Championships.

ABF MASTERPOINT SCHEME

On affiliation, member clubs participate in the above scheme. The ABF Masterpoint Scheme is intended to stimulate interest in contract bridge, provide means of measuring player achievements and assist with the financing of the ABF's national and international commitments. The number and type of masterpoints available depends on the size of the event and on the grade of the event. Green masterpoints are won at all club sessions which must be of at least 24 boards except supervised play sessions where at least 18 boards must be played.

Red masterpoints are won at:

- (1) Club B4c events and pre-approved B5i inter-club events. These must be club events only and not advertised. Visitors may play and receive awards. Each club receives an entitlement of a minimum of 6 sessions per year. The ABF Masterpoint Centre awards extra entitlements according to a formula based on the number of green points awarded within the club in the previous year; and
- (2) Congresses and State Championships. Gold Masterpoints are won at National Titles run by the ABF and some special events approved by the ABF e.g. the QBA's Gold Coast Congress held in February each year.

The ABF records all masterpoint totals in a central database and details are accessible via their website. Each player is issued with a personal masterpoint card showing the appropriate ABF masterpoint number and their home club number. Regular printouts are issued to all participating clubs showing the masterpoint standing of their registered members. Each State has a State Masterpoint Secretary who co-ordinates all the State's masterpointing.

The ABF deals directly with clubs regarding masterpoint levies and, upon affiliation, the club will receive more detailed information from the ABF regarding the working of the masterpoint scheme. All inquires regarding Masterpoints should be directed to our QBA Masterpoint secretary, Peter Busch.

DIRECTING TOURS

The QBA sponsors tours by the State Director Jan Peach and highly encourages participation when she is in your area.

TECHNICAL

The QBA Tournament Chair will advise clubs concerning problems of a technical nature, e.g. directing, scoring, movements etc. The International Code - The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 is a mandatory resource for all member clubs.

STATIONERY

Bridge stationery is available from the QBA. An updated list is always on the Secretary's Page of the QBA website.

The QBA also provide a service of pre-dealing boards and rental of bridgemates.

QBA CALENDER OF EVENTS

Affiliated clubs may apply to conduct congresses. Applications are called in April of each year for the subsequent

year. Final copies of the approved QBA Calendar can be found on the front page of the website.

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BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION PROVIDED BY THE ABF

Primary support for the clubs is provided by the respective State Association, however at a national level, the ABF currently provides affiliated clubs with:

- Insurance policies which cover affiliated clubs for Director's and Officer's insurance;
- Voluntary Workers Insurance;
- Public Liability Insurance;
- Access to offers from National Sponsors;
- Access to Teacher Training Programs;
- Access to National Marketing support programs;
- Free ABF Newsletter.

CONCLUSION

We welcome all new clubs to our Association and will help with any preliminary work. If possible, a QBA Management person will try to attend your playing sessions to personally welcome you to the Association.

Any inquiry about joining our Association or even a general inquiry should be directed to me. Hopefully I can help, however, if not me, I will certainly refer you to someone specialised in that area.

Thank you for your inquiry.



Kim Ellaway
Manager