QBA REGULATIONS

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UPDATED: AUGUST 2026

CHANGES

Changes August 2026

Page 43	Section F	Change to Compilation of QQP Compilation from 1st January 2027
Page 73	Section I	Appeals Committee for Queensland Novice Pairs and Teams of 3

Changes January 2026

Page 21	Section B	Removal of Obligation to Publish Recorder on Score Books
Page 38/39	Section E	GNOT Cosmetic Changes plus Changed Location of National Final
Page 53	Section F	Notation to Novice Mixed Pairs Championship for 2027
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Changes November 2025

Page 47	Section F	Notation of Change to QQP Formula from 1st January 2026.
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Changes August 2025

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Page 51	Section F	Reserve Pair for ANC

Changes February 2025

Page 70	Section H	Congress Director Accreditation

Changes January 2025

Changes listed under November 2024 came into effect.

Pages 11/96	Sections B/L	Wellness Guidelines Removed
Page 36	Section E	Events and Grades Restricted by Masterpoints
Page 38	Section E	GNOT Zone and Club Eligibility
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Page 44	Section F	Residential Qualifications Youth Trials (Cosmetic)
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Page 74	Section I	Reviewer
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Changes December 2024

Page 85	Section K	ABF Change to Green System
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Changes November 2024

Page 46	Section F	QQP Year
Page 46	Section F	Closing Date entries to Open Selection Trials
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SECTION A – PREAMBLE / SCOPE

These regulations will apply until modified by the Tournament Committee and ratified by the Management Committee. They apply to all congresses and events appearing on the QBA Calendar as well as events and trials run by zones.

For Selection Trials and State Championship events run by the QBA and hosted by a club there may be additional specific regulations – (see Section F)

Clubs have the power to have supplementary regulations to congress events provided they are not in breach of the QBA Regulations. In the Tournament Committee chair's absence, two members of the Tournament Committee may give approval.

It is assumed that these regulations, where relevant, apply unless stated otherwise in club regulations.

The QBA Regulations default to the ABF Tournament Regulations for situations on which the QBA Regulations are silent.

QBA CALENDAR

In normal circumstances an initial draft of the following year's calendar will be circulated by the end of May with the final draft being tabled by the end of July. Clubs wishing to apply to hold one or more congress events in the following year must return the official application form to the QBA Manager by the date indicated on the application form.

Once approval has been granted, the approved date and format may not be changed. Cancellations are automatically approved. In extreme cases, the Management Committee may give approval for a late change. Such consent will be given only in exceptional circumstances and for good cause, with due consideration being given to other events which may be adversely affected.

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR RUNNING AN EVENT ON THE CALENDAR

The event must be advertised to all affiliated clubs within the zone. State title events must be advertised to all clubs within the state. Minimum requirement is to email an advertising flyer or a copy of the entry form to those clubs.

The event must be open to all players affiliated with the QBA and the ABF, subject to the powers of the club and the QBA to control entries.

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that the QBA table levy is forwarded to the QBA either with results or direct deposit within 7 days of the completion of the event.

The event will be conducted under the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the QBA Regulations.

The general format of the event must conform to that advertised. In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, the format may be changed with the consent of the QBA Tournament Committee chair.

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SECTION B – GENERAL

CONGRESS ENTRY FORMS

A copy of the electronic entry form or advertising flyer must be sent to the Webmaster for approval at least six weeks in advance of the event. In QBA Championship events or super congresses, the entry form/flyer must be approved by the QBA Tournament Committee chair. In cases where the entry form/flyer has minor changes such as date, cost etc., the Webmaster may approve the changes. The entry form/flyer must be sent to the Director of the event prior to publication. The form/flyer must include:

- 'QBA Regulations apply'
- The name of the Director(s)
- Each day's starting time which, once published, may not be varied.
- The format of the event if varying from the standard, see page 29.
- Lunch arrangements
- Scoring method for a pairs event e.g., 'Butler Pairs', 'Cross-imp Pairs', 'Matchpoint Pairs', 'Matchpoint Pairs converted to VPs'.
- Maximum number of tables the venue will hold if at all likely that number will be reached
- Systems permitted. See Pairs (Page 26), Teams (Page 32), QBA Championships (Page 49)
- Graded Events: Provide full details of grading and contingency plans. See Page 37.
- Championship Events ONLY: Contestants entering this event are deemed to have agreed to abide by the QBA Regulations and any supplementary regulations made by the tournament organisers as:
  - posted on the QBA or MYABF website prior to the start of the event; or
  - appearing on the entry form/flyer or announced before the start of the event.
- Selection Trials other than Open Trials: Each player entering this event, is required to provide a written statement (by email is sufficient) before the closing date of entries acknowledging that s/he agrees to be bound by the QBA Regulations and any supplementary regulations made by the tournament organisers as:
  - posted on the QBA or MYABF website prior to the start of the event; or
  - appearing on the entry form/flyer or
  - announced before the start of the event.
- Open Selection Trials ONLY: Each player applying for qualification to this event, is required to provide a written statement (by email is sufficient) before the closing date of applications acknowledging that s/he agrees to be bound by the QBA Regulations and any supplementary regulations made by the tournament organisers as:
  - posted on the QBA or MYABF website prior to the closure of applications; or
  - appearing on the entry form/flyer or
  - announced before the closure of applications.

  Each player must further acknowledge that s/he understands that the regulations pertaining to authorised and unauthorised withdrawal apply from when the names of the 16 qualifiers are posted on the MYABF website regardless of whether an entry fee has been paid.

RETURN OF ENTRIES IN UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

When the capacity of the venue is unexpectedly reduced, or when entries in excess of capacity are inadvertently accepted, the default method for redress is to return entries in reverse entry order, irrespective of whether entry fees have been paid or not. Clubs wishing to use a different method must include their method on the entry form/flyer.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TABLES FOR A CONGRESS

The minimum number of tables for a congress to be held is four.

NUMBER OF EVENTS A CLUB MAY HOLD

New clubs may hold one two-day or two one-day events. Current allocations cannot be changed unless fewer events are required. Each club will be entitled to conduct one novice pairs and one novice teams event per year, with the proviso that clubs with more than 300 home club members may be authorised to conduct an extra such event each year by application to the Tournament Committee.

Clubs may be granted additional congresses on the recommendation of the Management Committee. Factors to be taken into consideration may include, but are not limited to, geographical position, changing demographics and the needs of new clubs.

THE DIRECTOR FOR A CONGRESS

The director may not be a player in the event and must be accredited as a either a QBA Congress Director or QBA Congress Director (Country) as applicable. [see Section H for details]

BOARD DEALING, HAND GENERATION, PHOTOCOPYING HAND RECORDS

Hand Generation – GNOT Area Finals and QBA State and Congress Calendar Events

All hands for congresses, GNOT Area Finals and QBA events must be generated by an approved random hand generation program. The programs approved are:

- ABF (Tim Bourke);
- Dealer 4 (Windows and Big Deal);
- WinDup (as in Duplimate);
- DupSoft (as in Duplimate); and
- Big Deal (WBF)

Clubs using hand dealt boards will also be required to use hands from an approved dealing programme. If a club wishes to use an alternative programme, approval may be sought from the Tournament Committee chair.

Board Dealing and Photocopying – GNOT Area Finals and QBA State and Congress Calendar Events

Boards for GNOT area finals are to be dealt by a person not playing in the event.

Otherwise, with a dealing machine: If an independent non-player is not available to pre-deal the boards, a team of at least two persons (not members of the same partnership or team) may do so providing the hand display is turned off on the monitor. Photocopying of hand records should still be done by a non-player. The presence of more than one person is to safeguard those persons from any accusations of pre-knowledge of the hands.

Without a dealing machine: All hand dealing and photocopying must be done by an independent person or persons who is/are not playing in the event.

Board Dealing and Photocopying – Club Events

Clubs may choose whatever method of pre-dealing they wish bearing in mind that those who pre-deal and play in the same event will need some form of protection in place in the event of accusations of impropriety.

HAND RECORDS TO QBA WEBSITE

Hand records must be posted on the QBA website when final scores are posted.

ILLEGAL SYSTEMS – PAIRS AND TEAMS

When a pair is found using an illegal system the Director may at his/her discretion impose a procedural penalty proportionate to the degree of damage/benefit reasonably suspected to have been caused/received in the event to date. This might range from:

- 50% of a top for matchpoint pairs not converted to VP
- 3 VPs for teams events using the WBF VP Scale
- 2 VPs for pairs events using the ABF Swiss Pairs VP Scale
- an appropriate amount for other methods of scoring,

where no grounds for leniency exist and discovered early in the event, to larger penalties for repeat offences or for particularly damaging illegal systems used by experienced tournament players and discovered well into an event. Furthermore, if play of a board is in progress, the director may award an adjusted score in accordance with Law 12.

REPORTING DURING AND AFTER THE EVENT

The Director shall be responsible for posting all of the scores on the QBA website prior to 11.00 pm at the end of the event, and also each night prior to 11.00 pm in the case of an event being conducted over more than one day.

Where possible, the results of the morning session shall be posted by 2.00 pm on the same day.

REPORTING AFTER THE EVENT

It is the responsibility of the Director to collate and forward the results to the State Masterpoint Secretary for masterpointing. Persistent lateness in doing so may jeopardise a director's accreditation. If a club undertakes to forward the results itself, the director must ensure that the club understands the requirements, and should advise the State Masterpoint Secretary of this arrangement.

Results must reach the State Masterpoint Secretary within a week if electronic and 2 weeks if sent by mail. Late presentation of results may cause the club a financial penalty from the ABF and may jeopardise its QBA approval for the next year.

Clubs are required to use **Form J1** (available online) within 14 days of each congress only if a problem occurs with the event. Particular problems that should be reported include:

- any technical problems encountered;
- any partnerships not turning up;
- partnerships withdrawing at late notice;
- any perceived deficiencies in the overall conduct of the tournament;
- any areas of possible player dissatisfaction (whether thought justified or not).

This report will be confidential to the Masterpoint Secretary and the Tournament Committee. The sole purpose of this report is to discover problem areas and areas of player dissatisfaction. Periodically the Tournament Committee may circularise active congress directors with details of the types of problems reported and advice on ways to overcome them.

For the same reason, members of the QBA Tournament Committee (and possibly other players specifically requested by that committee) will provide a report (copy in Forms section at the end of these regulations) if there are any unfavourable aspects.

Directors are required to use **Form J6** to report on every congress that they direct if a problem occurs with the event. **Form J6** must be completed within 7 days. All out of the ordinary occurrences are to be noted. Form J6 is not required if the only matter being reported is a psyche or an appeal.

FINAL SCORES CONTAINING DECIMAL FRACTIONS

Differences of fractions of a scoring unit, whether it be matchpoints, percentages, imps or victory points, will be sufficient to determine placings. Scores should be rounded to no more than two decimal places. Masterpoints shall be awarded as detailed in the ABF Masterpoint Scheme manual.

BREAKING OF TIES

The QBA policy is not to break ties for cash prizes, but to divide the prize money for the places between or among the tying players. For example, two pairs or teams tying for first would divide the total 1st and 2nd place prize money. Clubs are advised to follow this policy, but may elect to break ties. If no prior announcement is made about ties, this policy will apply.

SYSTEM CARDS

Each pair must have two systemically identical system cards on the table before the start of play. Only current ABF system cards are approved for use and they must be legible and clearly show the colour category of the system. This shall apply wherever system cards are mentioned in these regulations.

For online ABF system cards for use by players go to ABF SYSTEM CARD

SPECTATORS

Spectators are welcome at bridge events. Spectators must observe the conditions specified in the Laws (**Law 76**) and the director is responsible for ensuring their observance. A player who objects to the actions of a spectator or who feels disturbed by the presence of a spectator should summon the director, and not seek to deal with the problem personally. Spectators must move away from a table or tables if instructed to do so by the director.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The use of mobile phones, pagers, iPads and other electronic communication devices is not permitted at the table during session time.

- Players with a *bona fide* 'on-call' need may lodge such items with the congress desk.
- Players needing a device to assist with hearing at the table may do so. The device should be set to "silent" so as not to disrupt others.

The first breach per session of this regulation shall be the warning for all contestants. After that warning, breaches will incur an automatic non-discretionary penalty as below. Audible disturbances from such devices will be similarly penalized after the general warning. Penalty:

- 50% of a top for matchpoint pairs not converted to VP
- 3 VPs for teams events using the WBF VP Scale
- 2 VPs for pairs events using the ABF Swiss Pairs VP Scale
- an appropriate amount for other methods of scoring.

SLOW PLAY

It is the director's responsibility to take whatever action necessary to limit the impact of slow play on the efficient conduct of an event. The director may make time calls or call attention to delays at individual tables but competitors should not rely upon him to do so. The director may appoint monitors to observe rates of play.

ELECTRONIC SCORING DEVICES

The facility to show scores and contracts from other tables while a session is in play must be disabled in all congress events and QBA championship events and trials. South (or North) shall be responsible for all data entry. East (or West) shall be responsible for checking the accuracy of the data entry.

Players must record the score for each board immediately after it is played and before commencement of the next board. Ideally, East or West will check the data entry immediately.

Both pairs shall be responsible for ensuring that scores are entered for every board played, and before leaving the room or moving for the next round both pairs shall confirm that data entry is complete.

The director may impose a procedural penalty on both pairs for failing to enter all data.

MONITORS

On his own initiative or if required to do so by the tournament organiser, the director may appoint monitors to observe and report about:

- contestants suspected of slow play;
- matters relating to etiquette and decorum; and/or
- any other matter relating to the smooth running of the tournament.

A monitor has no jurisdiction relating to the tournament other than to report his observations to the director. Monitors must not have any conversation with players being observed and are not to discuss their observations with anyone other than the director and the tournament organiser.

LATE ARRIVAL **[also see Sections C, D and F for further regulations]**

Any penalty for late arrival is in addition to average minus for boards that cannot be played.

It is an offence, subject to disciplinary penalty, for the late-arriving contestant to hustle the non-offending contestant in order to complete boards on time. Likewise, it is an offence, subject to disciplinary penalty, for the non-offending contestant to deliberately play slowly in order to maximise the likelihood of score adjustment due to non-completion of boards.

LOUD DISCUSSIONS DURING OR AFTER PLAY

When discussions or comments are made at any table and are heard at a nearby table, the Director may apply a penalty to the offending pair(s) if he considers that the rights of other players may have been jeopardised. The penalty will normally be 10% of a top or 1 VP if using a 20 VP Scale**.** The Director may increase this incrementally for repeat offences.

If a table is obliged to take an adjusted score because of such overheard comments, the penalty will be increased to:

- 50% of a top for matchpoint pairs not converted to VP
- 3 VPs for teams events using the WBF VP Scale
- 2 VPs for pairs events using the ABF Swiss Pairs VP Scale
- an appropriate amount for other methods of scoring.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The use of foreign languages is acceptable before the session starts, during breaks in play and when play is finished. The use of a foreign language is not allowed while the cards are out of the boards. Between hands, if players cannot use good English, they should request approval from opponents to use a foreign language. If permission is granted, it is the responsibility of those communicating in the foreign language to explain as well as they can what was said.

GAMBLING

In accordance with state laws, no form of organised gambling will be allowed at QBA events, including betting on the results of those events. Although individual persons cannot be prevented from gambling in private on the results of QBA events, the QBA disapproves of such activities because of the ethical considerations which may arise.

WRITTEN BIDDING

In all events written bidding shall be used, except that the director may require or authorize spoken bidding or the use of bidding boxes if deemed necessary.

Duplicate board - **Law 7** applies. The board must remain in the centre of the table in clear view of all players until play is complete.

Marking the bidding sheet. Bidding sheets may not be marked prior to the commencement of bidding to show the dealer and vulnerability.

Used bidding sheets: NS must ensure that used bidding sheets are not visible to other players.

Legal notation - The only acceptable notation for each bid is as follows: C for clubs, D for diamonds, H for hearts, S for spades, NT for no trumps (N is not a legal notation for no trumps), / for pass, X for double, XX for redouble, all preceded by a number representing the bidding level where appropriate. A double line (//) to signify the end of the bidding is illegal. No other notation of any kind e.g., full stops may be used. Any call made due to a misunderstanding of an illegally written bid by an opponent will be treated as a call based on misinformation and may be withdrawn and replaced by another call without penalty. For example, 1N mistaken for 1H. Following a verbal alert, the player must circle partner's alerted bid.

Procedure: Each player writes his call on the bidding sheet in the squares proceeding from left to right. Players must be consistent in the manner in which they write their calls, and write them legibly. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's judgement as to the legibility of a call. When a call extends beyond a single square, players are responsible for ensuring that future calls are distinct. The director may award an adjusted score where it is considered that unauthorised information may have been conveyed by a variation in writing style.

Changing a call: **Laws 25 and 26** apply.

Pausing during a call: **Law 16** may apply.

Verbal call: Any player who inadvertently makes a verbal call shall immediately write the same call on the bidding sheet. Repeated infringement may attract a procedural penalty.

Covering the bidding sheet. The bidding sheet must remain in view until the third player (on declarer's right) has played to the first trick, whereupon the bidding sheet should be turned over or otherwise removed from sight.

USING BIDDING BOXES **[Source: ABF Regulations]**

A call is made by the player selecting the appropriate card from the bidding box and placing it on the table. Players should not touch any bidding cards before they have determined their call. (**Law 73E2** may apply and also **Law 16B1**)

- Starting with the dealer, players place the bidding cards on the table in front of them. Subsequent calls should then overlap neatly and evenly so that every call is visible and faced towards partner
- Should a call be cancelled following an irregularity, then the bidding card that represents the withdrawn call shall be restored to the player's bidding box
- Alerts are made by saying "alert" audibly and placing the alert card across the bidding card designating the alertable call. The alerted player must acknowledge the alert before calling.

- A call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held face up, touching or nearly touching the table; or maintained in such a position as to indicate that the call has been made
- A call selected may be changed if:
    - It is determined by the director that the call was selected unintentionally; or
    - It is required by rectification following an irregularity; or
    - The director consents to the change following the correction of an opponent's irregularity
- A player who removes his bidding cards from the table with the intention of passing is deemed to have passed
- All the bidding cards should remain on the table until after the opening lead has been faced
- Until they are removed from the table. A player can review the auction by inspecting the bidding cards. After the bidding cards are restored to their boxes a player may, at his first turn to play, require all previous calls to be restated (**Law 20C2**). Only an opponent shall respond to this request.

WITHDRAWALS AND PENALTIES (See also Selection Trials Page 50)

Once play has started in QBA events and congresses, and once the names of the 16 qualifiers for the Open Trials are posted on the MYABF website, no individual, pair or team as the case may be shall withdraw without the express permission of the Director or the QBA Manager respectively.

Withdrawal occurs:

- when both members of a partnership are not at the table ready to play at the time required by the Director and may be for a single board up to being for the remainder of the event. Time spent waiting for a substitute is not a withdrawal but using a non-approved substitute is a withdrawal and
- when a pair named as a qualifier for the Open Trials advises the QBA Manager that they will not be playing in the trials.

There are two types of withdrawal:

(a) **Authorised Withdrawal**. A withdrawal that is approved by the Director will be considered an authorised withdrawal. Such a withdrawal will usually be for genuine illness or personal emergency only and approval may be given retrospectively. Among events not usually considered to be personal emergencies are weddings, examinations, graduations and birthday celebrations, no matter how unexpected. Partnership disharmony is not a reason for authorised withdrawal and when continuing play, engaging in disruptive behaviour may lead to disciplinary action in itself.

(b) **Unauthorised Withdrawal**. Any withdrawal, including those required by law or regulation, other than an authorised withdrawal, is unauthorised, and may be subject to disciplinary action determined by the QBA Management Committee. Such disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, a refusal to accept an entry to specified future events or to all events within a specified time. In particular, unauthorised withdrawal may jeopardise the right to enter future selection trials.

A pair who are declined authorised withdrawal on the grounds of partnership disharmony and who are later withdrawn by the Director through application of law or regulation should expect additional disciplinary action.

For QBA events and congresses, but not selection trials (See Page 50), a player found to be blameless in an unauthorised withdrawal may be treated less severely than partner or team mates.

The Director should award a disciplinary penalty for unauthorised withdrawals other than when a pair or team ceases to be a contestant (see Page 18). Example: A player or contestant leaves the playing area without valid reason during a session but returns a short time later to resume play after reconsideration of the action. Disrupting play without at least one board being unplayed may also be a matter deserving of a disciplinary penalty.

A Director, or the QBA Manager before play starts in the Open Selection Trials.

- who becomes aware of an impending unauthorised withdrawal should, as far as is reasonably possible, warn the player(s) concerned of the seriousness of such an action and the likely consequences,
- may counsel a pair or team to reconsider an announced or apparent decision to make an unauthorised withdrawal from the remainder of an event or from the Open Selection Trials after qualification and prior to play starting.

See score adjustment Law 12C2, Pairs Page 29, Teams Page 34 and/or Forfeits Page 32 as well as Ceasing to be a Contestant Page 18.

Note that:

- substitution is not available for a player who has made an unauthorised withdrawal
- augmentation may be available to a team, at the discretion of the Director, after a player or pair has made an unauthorised withdrawal though a disciplinary penalty may still be applied to the team.

CEASING TO BE A CONTESTANT

Unauthorised withdrawal is serious misconduct subject to disciplinary action so this regulation will apply more often after an authorised withdrawal has occurred.

A pair or team ceases to be a contestant when they play fewer than two-thirds (rounded up) of the boards scheduled for them to play in an event. This may be through authorised or unauthorised withdrawal or through a combination of authorised and unauthorised withdrawal.

Note that:

- boards played by an approved substitute are not counted as unplayed boards.
- a contestant who has forfeited a match is deemed to have played no boards of the match (even if a few were played) and the opponents are deemed to have played all the boards of the match.

A pair or team also ceases to be a contestant when they make an unauthorised withdrawal for the remainder of the event, no matter how many boards have been played.

Exception: A contestant who leaves the venue early through an innocent misunderstanding that a session had finished, has made an unauthorised withdrawal, but has not ceased to be a contestant through that incident alone.

By whichever method appropriate to the timing of a withdrawal for the rest of the event, the withdrawing contestant receives no official score because either:

- the event has been rescored, including datums if applicable, as though they were never a contestant [as when they have played fewer than two-thirds (rounded up) of the boards scheduled for them to play] or
- their final score has been reduced to zero [as when they have played more than two-thirds (rounded up) of the boards scheduled for them to play] after score adjustment (see Law 12C2, Pairs Page 29, Teams Page 34 and/or Forfeits Page 32) has been applied. Scores obtained against the withdrawing contestant stand, as do datums if applicable.

When a withdrawal for the remainder of the event has occurred, the Director shall do whatever necessary to preserve the integrity of the event, especially when the withdrawal occurred early in the event.

This may include, but is not limited to, changing the format or using replacement personnel which could include remaining well behaved players from the withdrawn contestant. Having long or multiple sit outs is not incompatible with this requirement if formats cannot easily be changed or replacement personnel are not available.

PSYCHIC CALLS

In accordance with Clause 9.3 of the QBA Systems Regulations (Page 90), players may have on their system cards such comments as "frequent psyches" or "occasional psyches" as a description of partnership style, but not agreement. Such statements by no means excuse partnerships from the application of these regulations.

Players may not use any systemic agreement whether explicit or implicit to control a psyche. If a player psyches and his partner takes action that could have been allowing for a psyche then the director will treat the action as acting on unauthorised information or using an illegal system.

FRIVOLOUS PSYCHES

There is an underlying assumption that every call made by a player is intended to achieve a good score for his side. A player who psyches frequently regardless of the effect on the tournament may be subject to a penalty by the director under his disciplinary powers.

GUIDELINES FOR DIAGNOSING PARTNER'S PSYCHE

"Authorised information" includes: the legal calls and plays to date; the player's own card holding; the disclosed partnership understanding and the mannerisms of the opponents. Note that the discomfort and mannerisms of opponents are not evidence *per se* that partner has psyched.

"Unauthorised information" (which may not be used in reaching a diagnosis that partner has psyched) includes: partner's reputation or presumed reputation as a psycher; previous experience with partner and the character, bridge ability or experience of the opponents. It is not sufficient justification to conclude that "someone" has psyched. The evidence must be clear, from authorised information, that partner has psyched. **Law 16** may apply.

PROHIBITED PSYCHES

The QBA System Regulations prohibit the psyching of conventional opening bids that are forcing and made by agreement on strong hands (eg a game forcing 2♣ or a Precision 1♣ opening.

GUIDELINES AFTER SUSPECTED "FIELDING" OF A PSYCHE

Players who feel they have been damaged by an opponent "fielding" his partner's psyche should call the director immediately. The director may adjust the score unless the player concerned can explain how the psyche was diagnosed by authorised information.

PSYCHE REGISTER

At each QBA event or red masterpoint congress, a psyche register form will be available.

By the end of each round, players are required to report their own psyches in the register. This will include details of the hand, the bidding sequence and subsequent play if relevant. If the director subsequently discovers that a psyche has not been reported, he will apply a procedural penalty of:

- 50% of a top for matchpoint pairs not converted to VP
- 3 VPs for teams events using the WBF VP Scale
- 2 VPs for pairs events using the ABF Swiss Pairs VP Scale
- an appropriate amount for other methods of scoring

at whatever stage the event has reached.

If the failure to report is not discovered until after the event, the Director will report this failure to the QBA Tournament Committee. All recorded psyches should be forwarded to the QBA Tournament Committee chair in writing. A register will be maintained and other congress directors will be informally advised of

any pair who seem to be psyching with significant frequency. The Director will also have informal discussions with the players concerned.

Where a particular partnership appears to have a history of frequent psyching the Director is authorised to require the pair to call him at the end of the hand where the psyche has occurred, in addition to a written report in the psyche register.

OFFICIAL SCORE IN SWISS FORMAT EVENTS

For the purposes of applying **Law 92B** and **Law 79C** during Swiss format events, the Official Score shall be the one posted at a substantial break e.g., lunch or at the end of a day's play.

DEFECTIVE SWISS DRAWS

Where scoring errors are discovered, or appeal decisions are handed down after the draw for the next round has been made, and the changes would have an effect on the draw, the defective draw shall not be corrected unless it is the last round of the event.

For the last round of a Swiss movement, before play has commenced, a draw rendered defective by appeal decisions, scoring errors or similar circumstances shall be corrected.

Notwithstanding the above, the director shall always have the power to alter a grossly defective draw in a way that causes minimal disruption to the movement.

TIME TO GENERATE SWISS DRAWS - CONGRESSES AND CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

- The Director should announce the time by which all boards of a match should be played. This may be extended for any match or round at the Director's discretion. Note that the minimum time allocated for a round or match is not regulated for congresses.
- When a timer is used, the recommended procedure is to display the time remaining to start the final board that will be played.
- Any board started before the displayed time has elapsed, or with the permission of the Director, should be completed.
- All scores obtained at all tables are to be scored before the next draw is generated.
- The Director may generate the next draw before all tables have completed play if:
    - completion of boards is being unreasonably slow or
    - there is some impending problem for example, but not limited to, an approaching storm.

THE RECORDER

The recorder is a person to whom players have recourse on complaints or suspicions of improper and unethical behaviour. He will receive the complaint tactfully, confidentially record it, and may discuss the matter with the subject(s) of the complaint if he deems it appropriate. If he receives repeated complaints of a similar nature against a particular player or pair, he may discuss the matter personally with him, and should report the matter in confidence to the Management Committee.

If attention is drawn at the table to improper behaviour, including discourtesy, the director should be called. The director may apply disciplinary penalties if warranted and may also report any matter to the recorder for filing. **Laws 9B1(a)**, **73B2**, **74** and **91** apply.

Recorders do not themselves have disciplinary powers but, when the problem is serious, or there is the possibility of ongoing problems, they will raise it with the tournament organisers on the player's behalf. It is then their job to take any necessary action and advise the players of the outcome.

The QBA will appoint recorders for QBA Championship events. Members of the QBA Management Committee in attendance may be appointed or other players deemed appropriate. Congress organisers are urged to appoint a recorder for their events. Recorders should report any complaints in confidence to the QBA Manager.

The names of the recorder(s) must be announced at the start of events.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS PANEL

The QBA Management Committee has a Conduct and Ethics Panel to sit and hear a particular report on improper behaviour by players at a QBA event. Players concerned will be invited to attend a meeting of the panel, accompanied if so desired by a friend or a lawyer, to hear the reports and respond to them.

The panel will observe the principles of natural justice in all of its proceedings. It is empowered to recommend to the Management Committee, a reprimand, suspension or expulsion of any player from all or some QBA events or events conducted under its aegis. Players will have the right to appeal to a full meeting of Council against any such decision.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PLAYERS

1. Clubs

The QBA has neither the power nor the desire to interfere in a club's disciplinary actions against its own members, or its right to decide who will play at its own club events. However, it might feel obliged to act if a club's actions could be seen to bring the game of bridge or its organisation into disrepute eg by the denial of natural justice to a member or player or any action which could be seen to be unlawfully discriminatory.

Clubs should ensure that their constitution contains provision for disciplinary action e.g., suspension or expulsion and that the constitution or their by-laws sets out the proper procedure to be followed, ensuring that natural justice is observed. This should include the right to be heard, the right to be represented and the right to appeal to a full meeting of the club.

Included here as information to clubs, the QBA Management Committee requires clubs to promptly report to them all decisions relating to the discipline of any of their members including termination, suspension, refusal of membership and warnings, as well as the refusal to allow a visitor to play.

2. Congresses

Players in good standing with the Queensland Bridge Association are entitled under these Regulations to play in red masterpoint approved congresses. Legal issues raised by a club's refusal to allow entry to a player in good standing with the QBA fall outside the QBA's jurisdiction.

3. QBA Championship Events

Players in good standing with the QBA are entitled under these Regulations to play in QBA Championship Events. Legal issues raised by a club's refusal to allow entry to a player in good standing with the QBA fall outside the QBA's jurisdiction.

For more information go to QBA-Infractions-by-Members-1.pdf (qldbridge.com.au)

PRIZES AND PRIZE MONEY **(See Guidelines Page 92)**

The QBA does not regulate the size of prizes. If prize money is to be awarded, the amount of each prize should be disclosed before the half-way point of the event.

At the very least, the prizes to be awarded should be disclosed before the half-way point of the event even if the actual cash amounts have not yet been calculated and are disclosed later.

QBA DETERMINATIONS AS REGULATING AUTHORITY

Assigned adjusted scores [**Law 12C1(c)**]

Directors are permitted to award a single weighted score that endeavours to restore the balance of equity on the hand in the instant prior to the infraction. The calculation of the weightings relates to the expected outcomes from that point forward in an auction unaffected by any irregularity. Any residual doubt that exists in the assessment of the relative weightings should be resolved in favour of the non-offending side.

Example: As a result of misinformation a pair defends 4♥X. If they had been correctly informed, they will certainly bid game in spades and possibly slam, making eleven or twelve tricks depending on declarer's line of play.

The director may conclude that equity is best served by substituting a single weighted score as follows:

30% of +1430 (6♠ making 12 tricks)
Plus 40% of +680 (4♠ +2)
Plus 20% of +650 (4♠ +1)
Plus 10% of -100 (6♠ -1)

At pairs: Assuming there are 12 tables, the frequency table would look something like this:

Frequency	Score	Matchpoints
2.3	+1430	20.7
5.4	+680	13.0
2.2	+650	5.4
2.1	-100	1.1

The weighted score would be:
(0.3*20.7) + (0.4*13.0) + (0.2*5.4) + (0.1*1.1) = +12.6
rounded to 1 decimal place.

A single score of N/S +12.6 would be entered.

At teams: Assume the score in the other room was N/S +650:

Net Score	IMPs	Weight	Adjust
+1430 – 650 = +780	+13	30%	3.9
+680 – 650 = +30	+1	40%	0.4
+650 – 650 = 0	0	20%	0.0
-100 – 650 = -750	-13	10%	-1.3

Alternative manual calculation method for pairs events scored by computer
Clearly to make one of these weighted adjustments for matchpoint scoring without the aid of computer software would be tedious, if not impossible, particularly in large fields. Many software packages do not currently cater for this type of adjustment. Until a software modification is implemented the following procedure shall, by regulation, be deemed the correct one:

Enter the scores into the software as normal, substituting average to both sides at the table to which the ruling applies. Then calculate the weighted score using the match-points assigned by the software (a board print out will provide this).

In the above example the following results will be obtained:

Score	Matchpoints
+1430	20
+680	13
+650	6
-100	2

The weighted score would be:
(0.3*20) + (0.4*13) + (0.2*6) + (0.1*2) = +12.6.

Finally correct the match-points for both sides, rounded to one or two decimal places depending on the norm for the programme used, using the adjusted score (penalty) routine.

Since the average on the board is 11 and has already been assigned, the director will add 1.6 match-points to N/S and deduct 1.6 match-points from E/W.

Law 16B2

The preferred procedure is to summon the director at the end of the hand but only if it becomes apparent that an opponent may have acted upon extraneous information made available by his partner. The director need only be called if the non-offenders believe they may have been damaged.

Whenever a player believes there is a possibility that an opponent may have acted on unauthorized information from their partner's gesture, comment, hesitation, or the like, he should immediately try to establish the facts about what has occurred. This should be done as pleasantly as possible, stressing that establishing the facts now is to avoid dispute later should it be necessary to call the director at the end of play. The director should only be called earlier if there is no agreement about what has occurred. If at the end of the hand, the non-offending side believe they have been disadvantaged, the director can then be summoned.

Law 40B2(a)

This Law is the basis and authority for the classification and restriction of certain partnership methods as outlined in the QBA Systems Regulations. It is also the authority for the procedures as described in the QBA Alerting Regulations.

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 approaches from each other, that difference (or those differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

Law 40B2(b)

The QBA Systems Regulations permit written defences to yellow systems and 'brown sticker' conventions to be referred to at the table in some events.

Law 40B2(c)

A player may consult his opponent's system card:

(i) prior to the commencement of the auction;
(ii) during the clarification period;
(iii) during the auction and during the play but only at his turn call or play; and
(iv) following an opponent's request for an explanation, pursuant to **Law 20F**, for the purpose of correctly explaining the significance of his partner's call or play.

Law 40B2(a)(v)

The QBA has restricted the use of psychic openings of strong 2♣ and Precision 1♣ openings – [see Page 19]

Law 40B2(d)

A player is not entitled during the auction and play periods to any aids to his memory, calculation or technique. This includes not recording the contract and/or the opening lead before the play of the hand is complete.

Law 41A

The opening lead shall be made face down. A lead made face down is not an opening lead until faced and may thus be retracted without penalty, but only upon instruction of the director i.e., when the lead was made from the wrong side or following the correction of misinformation.

Law 70E2

In adjudicating disputed claims involving an unstated line of play the following guidelines apply:

(a) Top down
A declarer who states that he is cashing a suit is normally assumed to cash them from the top. This is especially so if there is some solidity.

Example:

Suppose declarer claims four tricks with AKQ10 opposite 432. It would be normal to give him four tricks if the jack is coming down since it would be considered irrational to play the 10 first.

(b) Different suits
If a declarer appears unaware of an outstanding winner, or losing line of play [but see (a) above], and a trick could be lost by playing or discarding one suit rather than another, then the director should award that trick to the non-claiming side. Example:

Declarer has three winners in dummy and must make three discards. He appears to have forgotten his ♦J is not a winner. It is careless rather than irrational that he should discard some other winner to retain the ♦J.

Law 73A2

Mandatory pauses are not required during the auction or on the first trick.

Law 76C2

The right to rectification for an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the non-offending side is responsible.
The right to correct an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the offending side is responsible.

Law 80A3

The ABF has assigned to the QBA the right to regulate congresses and state events within Queensland.

Law 80B

The tournament organizer of congresses and state events within Queensland is the official, recognised by the QBA, responsible for arranging and preparing for a congress or state event. Where a committee or body is responsible for organising the tournament, the tournament organizer is deemed to be the chair of that committee or body.

Law 80B1

Where responsibility for a congress or state event run under the auspices of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme is delegated to a tournament organizer (be it a club, zone or individual), these entities are not permitted to draft or implement regulations, written or otherwise, that are in conflict with the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge nor the QBA Regulations.

Law 80B2(j)

Although arranging for scores to be collected, for results to be tabulated and for an official record to be made may be performed by the tournament organizer, ultimate responsibility for the accuracy of the scoring is vested in the director who must be permitted to oversee and check the performance of said duties and, if need be, to correct the work carried out by others.

Law 81

The term “director” means the director-in-charge appointed by the tournament organizer under **Law 80B2(a)**.

Law 93C1

The correct procedure for requesting a review by the QBA Appeals Committee of the decision of an appeals committee is detailed in **Section I** of the QBA Regulations. Any such request, if deemed to lack merit, may lead to a reprimand or a sanction.

Law 93C3(a) & (b)

The QBA Tournament Committee may review the conduct and/or decision of any Appeals Committee or Reviewer at any tournament run under the auspices of the QBA. The Tournament Committee will

however limit its functions to the interpretation of the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge and will not decide facts or change or purport to change any ruling that has been made under those Laws. It follows that the committee will not overturn the result of an event but it may issue an opinion in order to establish or confirm a legal precedent or procedure.

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SECTION C – PAIRS

SYSTEMS

Green, blue and red systems and brown sticker conventions and treatments will be permitted in all State Championship pairs events including qualifying rounds except that green and blue systems only will be permitted in the Novice Pairs Championship and the lowest section of graded events. The QBA recommends that clubs adopt the above policy for their congresses.

SUBSTITUTION **[Also see specific regulations for QBA championships and selection trials.]**

Substitution is not a right but a privilege that may be granted by the Director.

A pair may have a substitute for no more than half the boards scheduled for play in an event. Qualifying rounds and final rounds will be treated as separate events for this allowance.

Substitution may be for cause, such as unavoidably lateness, illness or some other unforeseen emergency. A request for a substitute may also be made to the Director prior to the start of an event without a reason being required however, such substitution forms part of the 50% allowance mentioned above.

Prior substitution -

- will not be permitted in 1-day pairs events nor in the finals rounds of events with qualifying and final formats.
- may be permitted for up to one session or for up to 25% of the boards scheduled for play (whichever is the greater) in 2-day, 3 or 4-session pairs events

A player may not be a substitute for more than one person during an event, nor for a different player in finals than in qualifying rounds.

For events graded by rank or which are age or gender specific, a substitute must meet the entry requirements of the event for the pair to remain eligible.

A substitute may replace the player who entered the event if the substitute commences play before the half-way mark and the original player cannot play at least 50% of the boards scheduled for play. This does not apply to finals rounds.

Should the above provisions prove insufficient, the Director shall do whatever he can to facilitate the smooth running of the event. Any player remaining may continue to play at the discretion of the director but ceases to be eligible for the event. All such facilitations must be reported via Form J6.

SPLIT AND WEIGHTED SCORES

When a Director or Appeals Committee has awarded a split score on a board, the Director (Scorer) should score the NS and EW fields separately. Except for Selection Trials, a different method incorporated in the scoring program may be used.

The same principle applies to weighted scores.

LATE ARRIVAL PENALTIES – PAIRS

When a pair is not ready to start play at the advertised time for any match or round, they shall be penalised as follows, unless there is adequate cause:

- Matchpoint Pairs: 20% of a Top for every 5 minutes or part thereof beyond the first 5 minutes.
- Pairs Scored by VP: 1 VP (2 imp) for every 5 minutes or part thereof beyond the first 5 minutes.

The Director applies Law 12C2 to unplayed boards.

See Page 29, Multiple Average Plus Awards – Pairs, for when a match is forfeited.

See also Late Arrival - Section B Page 16

BREAKING OF TIES – PAIRS

Final scores shall be considered tied:

(a) in events scored by match points, when the difference between the scores is less than 0.01 unit of a match point (see also Page 13 " Final Scores Containing Decimal Fractions" and Page 13 "Breaking of Ties") or

(b) in other events when the scores are identical. When it is determined that a tie is to be broken for example for qualification purposes the following shall apply:

For matchpoint pairs and individual events:

Every board which each tied contestant played is counted in breaking the tie, irrespective of whether the tied contestants played the same or different boards, in the same or different sections, or in the same or different directions.

(a) (i) On the boards played by two or more tied contestants, 2 points are awarded to a tied contestant for each board on which his/her match-point score is higher than that of another tied contestant. (For example, if three tied contestants played the same board, they would be awarded 4, 2, and 0 points if each had a different match-point score on it; or 4, 1, and 1 point(s) if one had the most match points on it and the other two an equal but inferior number.)
(ii) On boards played by only one of the tied contestants, 2 points are awarded to the contestant for each match-point score above average, 1 point for each average, and 0 point for each score below average.

(iii) The tied contestant so awarded the greatest number of points is ranked highest.

(b) Any head-to-head match.

(c) By lot.

For events scored by Victory Points:

(a) For events with a Swiss format:
(i) The total VP score of all the opponents of each tied pair shall be determined. Pairs are ranked so that the pair whose opponents have the highest total shall place first.
(ii) Pairs are ranked according to the number of wins in VP (a VP result of 10/10 is equal to half a win).
(iii) Pairs are ranked according to net IMPs.
(iv) By lot.

(b) For events with a round-robin format:
(i) Pairs are ranked according to the number of wins in VP (a VP result of 10/10 is equal to half a win).
(ii) Pairs are ranked according to net IMPs.
(iii) By lot.

Ties in finals of QBA events shall not be broken. Prize money will be divided between or among the tying pairs.

SCORING DISCREPANCY

When there is a discrepancy on the official score sheet between the score entered and the contract, declarer or number of tricks made, the director shall make every effort to contact the players involved to ascertain the correct details. Where this is not possible, the director may only change the score recorded when:

- an impossible score is recorded; or
- there is a definite error in scoring according to the vulnerability.

On boards where a score is apparently recorded on the wrong side, the Director may not change the score, but will award an average on that board to both sides.

When electronic scoring devices are in use, players must verify all previously entered data at the end of each round/match. Any errors that are discovered must immediately be corrected. Subsequent requests (i.e., after the conclusion of the round) to alter an apparently consistent (although possibly incorrect) score must be made within the official (Law 79C) 'score correction period'.

Scores may be corrected by the Director after the conclusion of the round if both contestants agree as to the correct result and that result varies from the result recorded. If one or more of the pairs is unavailable for consultation or if there is no agreement as to the correct result, the score may be altered if the Director is satisfied on the basis of the ascertainable facts as to what the score should be. If the Director is in doubt as to what occurred, the score as originally recorded shall stand. Any correction that is to be made must be determined before the end of the correction period. (See also Law 79B2)

FOULED BOARDS – MATCHPOINT PAIRS [Law 87B]

A board is not necessarily fouled merely because it is different from that shown on the hand record. Provided there are at least four scores in each section, divide the scores into two groups; matchpoint each group separately; then add one matchpoint to all pairs for each score in the other group.

If computer scoring is available, the following should be applied: M = N/S(X+1)-1 Where:

M = final matchpoint score
N = normal number of results on the board
X = score allotted without reference to the other group
S = number of results in the group under consideration

Thus a top score in a 8 table group wins: 12/8 x (14 +1)-1 = 22.5-1 = 21.5
Under this formula, pairs in the smaller group will receive 2, 8, 14 and 20 matchpoints respectively, while pairs in the larger group get between 0.5 and 21.5.

The formula also produces the correct board check totals.

If one of the sections has fewer than 4 results, artificial adjusted scores are awarded in the smaller group as follows:

1 score:	60% NS and EW
2 scores:	65% to the higher NS score (55% to their EW opponents).
	55% to the lower NS score (65% to their EW opponents).
3 scores:	70% to the highest NS score, (50% to their EW opponents);
	60% to the next highest NS score (60% to their opponents),
	50% to the lowest NS score (70% to their EW opponents).

If computer scoring is available the Neuberg formula above is applied to the normal scores in the larger group.

MULTIPLE AVERAGE PLUS AWARDS – PAIRS

The following information is to be used whenever the Laws require the Director to award more than one favourable artificial adjusted score at pairs. The objective is to provide reasonable recompense without unduly distorting the outcome in relation to the rest of the field. **[See also Withdrawals, Ceasing to be a Contestant and Forfeits]**.

Matchpoint Pairs

The artificial adjusted score awarded per board shall be a percentage score equal to 50 + (10√N) /N where N is the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards during a match or session.

Number of Boards	Percentage per board
1	60.00%
2	57.07%
3	55.77%
4	55.00%
5	54.47%
6	54.08%
7	53.78%
8	53.54%
9	53.33%
10	53.16%

In converting to matchpoints, rounding will be to the number of decimal places being used for scores in the event with .005 and .05 rounded up, as the case may be.

When matchpoints are converted to VPs using the ABF Matchpoint to VP Decimal VP Scale, a match is forfeited if the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards exceeds 50% of those scheduled to be played in the match. An artificial match result as for Imp Pairs is awarded.

Number of Boards	IMPs per board
1	2
2	1.41
3	1.15
4	1
5	0.89
6	0.82
7	0.76
8	0.71
9	0.67
10	0.6

Imp Pairs

The artificial adjusted score awarded per board shall be an IMP score of 2√N /N where N = the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards per contestant in the match. The net IMPs in a match assigned due to this formula will be rounded to the nearest IMP (0.5 IMPs rounded up).

A match is forfeited if the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards exceeds 50% of those scheduled to be played. An artificial match result of 13 VPs shall be awarded to each contestant in lieu of an encounter that is cancelled or unplayed through no fault of the player(s) involved. 13 VPs is adjusted upwards at the end of the event when a pair's average on all other matches exceeds 13 VPs.

FORFEITS

For pairs events using the ABF Swiss Pairs VP Scale or the ABF Matchpoint to VP Decimal VP Scale, refer to Section D Teams - Forfeits Page 32 for further detail and information about making the next draw.

REPORTING RESULTS FOR MASTERPOINTING [PAIRS & TEAMS]

It is essential that the State Masterpoint Secretary be able to properly identify all players earning masterpoints. Ideally, your scoring program will access the ABF Masterpoint Centre file when you load the players' names for the event. Directors should check home club numbers to minimise errors due to identical names in the ABF database.

The masterpoint file, created in accordance with current masterpoint regulations, plus with details of the event should be sent to the State Masterpoint Secretary within 7 days of the conclusion of the event.

The following details are required:

- Name and date(s) of congress.
- Name(s) of director(s). If more than 30 tables, the name of the assistant director should be provided.
- Number of tables, number of matches and number of boards per match
- Other details that may be relevant including method of masterpointing (wins, sessions or percentage), event weighting, any median or restriction factor
- Details to explain unusual totals for example non-balancing adjustments that result in win/win, loss/loss, win/draw and loss/draw matches
- Location of the website results

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SECTION D – TEAMS EVENTS

SYSTEMS – TEAMS

Green, blue and red systems and brown sticker conventions and treatments will be permitted in all State Championship teams events including qualifying rounds except that green and blue systems only will be permitted in the lowest section of Graded events, Teams of Three and Novice Teams. The QBA recommends that clubs adopt the above policy for their congresses.

SUBSTITUTION – TEAMS [also see GNOT regulations]

Subject to further regulation of specific events, a team may use a substitute for fewer than 50% of the boards scheduled for play in an event. This shall apply even to teams of 5 or 6. In addition, teams of 4 or 5 will be entitled to add to their numbers (after the start of the event) up to a maximum of 6 at the discretion of the director. A player may not be a substitute for more than one other player during an event.

FORFEITS IN MATCHES – TEAMS (Also applicable to some pairs events.)

Where a team is required to forfeit a match, the forfeiting team will receive 0 VPs. Their opponents will receive the best of three options:

(a) 13 VPs and the whole integer IMP value closest to 13 VP, or

(b) the complement of the average of the forfeiting team's other matches (and whole integer IMP score) or

(c) their own average (and whole integer IMP score) for all other matches. The score will not be known until the end of the event when the final scores may be adjusted.

For the purpose of making a Swiss draw, the forfeiting team will receive 10 VPs and 0 IMPs and their opponents 13 VPs and the whole integer IMP value closest to 13 VP, but the forfeiting team will have the 10 VPs subtracted from their final score.

The Director shall report all forfeits on Form J6. In aggravated circumstances, the Director may refer the matter to the QBA Management Committee which may, in turn, exercise its disciplinary powers.

LATE ARRIVAL PENALTIES – TEAMS

Teams without four players ready to start play at the advertised time for any session shall be penalised 1 VP (3 imp) for every 5 minutes or part thereof beyond the first 5 minutes unless there is adequate cause.

The Director applies Law 12C2 to unplayed boards.

See Page 34, Calculation of Multiple Average-Plus Awards During a Single Session/Match, for when a match is forfeited.

See also Late Arrival - Section B Page 15

SEATING RIGHTS

In the event of a dispute as to the seating of pairs in a 1-on-1 teams match, the matter will be determined by a coin toss between the two team captains.

BREAKING OF TIES – TEAMS

See Section B Page 13 “Final Scores Containing Decimal Fractions” and Page 13 “Breaking of Ties”

When it is determined that a tie is to be broken for example for qualification purposes the following shall apply:

(a) For events with a Swiss format:
(i) The total VP score of all the opponents of each tied team shall be determined. Teams are ranked so that the team whose opponents have the highest total shall place first.
(ii) Teams are ranked according to the number of wins in VP (a VP result of 10/10 is equal to half a win).
(iii) Teams are ranked according to net IMPs.
(iv) By lot.

(b) For events with a round-robin format:
(i) Teams are ranked according to the number of wins in VP (a VP result of 10/10 is equal to half a win).
(ii) Teams are ranked according to net IMPs.
(iii) By lot.

(c) For events with a knockout format scored by imps
(i) The tie shall be broken by playing four more boards then, if still tied, by playing one board at a time until the tie is broken or until the scheduled finishing time (whichever is sooner,
(ii) By lot.

Whenever net imps are used for tie-breaking a team that has received a fine or has forfeited a match the appropriate number of imps must have been deducted. A team that won a match because of a forfeit must have had the appropriate number of imps added.

Ties in finals of QBA events shall not be broken. Prize money will be divided between the teams

REPORTING RESULTS FOR MASTERPOINTING

See this heading in Section C Page 30.

INCORRECT SEATING OF PAIRS DURING A MATCH

Both teams are deemed to be offenders when pairs have sat in the wrong direction at one table and average minus is awarded to both teams on each board for which a valid comparison cannot be made. When two pairs moving to away tables have sat at incorrect tables and have each therefore played the wrong team then, for each board for which a valid comparison cannot be made, average is awarded to the seated team (deemed partly at fault) and average-minus to the teams whose pairs moved to the wrong table.

In aggravated circumstances the director may impose a more severe penalty or a more generous indemnity.

CALCULATION OF MULTIPLE AVERAGE-PLUS AWARDS DURING A SINGLE SESSION/MATCH

The following equation is to be used whenever the Laws require the director to award more than one favourable artificial adjusted score. The objective is to provide reasonable recompense without unduly distorting the outcome in relation to the rest of the field.

The artificial adjusted score awarded per board for IMP scored Teams events shall be an IMP score of $(3\sqrt{N})/N$ where *N* = the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards per contestant in the match.

The net IMPs assigned due to this formula will be rounded to the nearest IMP (0.5 IMPs rounded up).

Number of Boards	IMPs per board
1	3
2	2.12
3	1.73
4	1.5
5	1.34
6	1.22
7	1.13
8	1.06
9	1
10	0.95

A match is forfeited if the number of unplayed or non-comparable boards exceeds 50% of those scheduled to be played. An artificial match result of 13 VPs shall be awarded to each contestant in lieu of an encounter that is cancelled or unplayed through no fault of the player(s) involved. 13 VPs is adjusted upwards at the end of the event when a team's average on all other matches exceeds 13 VPs.

[See also Withdrawals, Ceasing to be a Contestant and Forfeits]

STANDARD FORMAT FOR A TRIANGLE IN A TEAMS EVENT

The standard and recommended format for a triangle is a whist or Mitchell movement with an additional set of boards in play. Mention must be made on the entry form if a non-standard format is to be used should a triangle be necessary.

FOULED BOARDS – TEAMS

Law 86B2 applies. See also Multiple Average Plus Awards, above.

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SECTION E – SPECIAL EVENTS

B4 CONGRESSES

The responsibility for advertising an unpopular or technically unsound format remains with the host club. Formats other than standard must be fully detailed on the entry form.

STANDARD FORMAT 1-DAY SWISS PAIRS

- 8 x 7-board rounds; or
- 9 x 6-board rounds; or
- 7 x 8-board rounds; or
- 11 x 5-board rounds; or
- 10 x 5-board rounds (or 8 x 6-boards, 6 x 8-boards, 7 x 7-boards) for Novice and non-metropolitan congresses at host club's discretion.
- First draw to be either total masterpoints averaged or by director's Seeding and then Team 1 vs Team (N/2+1) and so on.

STANDARD FORMAT 1-DAY SWISS TEAMS

- 7 x 8-board matches; or
- 8 x 7-board matches; or
- 6 x 9-board matches
- Fewer matches permitted in Novice and non-metropolitan congresses at host club's discretion.
- Live draw
- At least 24 boards per session.
- First draw to be either total masterpoints averaged or by director's seeding and then Team 1 vs Team (N/2 +1)

EVENTS AND GRADES RESTRICTED BY MASTERPOINTS

The date at which eligibility by masterpoints is to be measured will be no more than 3 months and no fewer than 2 months prior to the event. The cut-off date must be published.

The cut-off date should be the last day of a month, and the masterpoints registered at that date, at the close of entries, will be applied to establish eligibility. When the ABF Masterpoint Centre publishes those figures on its website is immaterial.

The masterpoint limit shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team.

OPEN CONGRESSES

An event advertised as "Open" or simply as "a Congress" may not be run as a graded event.

An open congress may be artificially divided into categories for the purpose of awarding secondary prizes, in addition to the overall prizes.

Categories may be based on the Director's seeding, in which case a category extends from its starting point to the lower end of the whole field. In open competitions, contestants must not be prevented from being awarded the highest prize for which they become eligible. If the lowest seed comes first then the first prize in their category goes to the next in line.

Particular care is required when categories are based on masterpoint rankings. The principles above still apply lest a quasi-graded congress is created. (See Prize Money Guidelines Page 92.)

GRADED CONGRESSES

A graded congress must run with at least two grades. Each grade plays its own distinct competition. The number of matches and the number of boards per match for Swiss events may be different from those listed under Standard Formats. An event advertised as “Graded” may not be run as a single field should entries be unexpectedly low in one of two grades defined by masterpoints.

Full details as to how entries are to be graded must be on the entry form/flyer.

Example: Entries shall be seeded by the Director and divided into at least two grades. Grades need not be equal in size.

When a more defined method for grading entries is advertised, there should be a contingency plan for an awkward number of entries.

Example: Open; Below Life; Below 100 mp. At the Director's discretion any two touching grades may be combined.

Grading on Director’s Seeding

The Director’s seeding is often not the same as seeding by masterpoints. Directors should adjust the position of contestants they know to be playing above their masterpoint ranking or playing below their masterpoint ranking. There is no obligation for Directors to know the recent performance of every contestant and players should be aware that no two Directors are likely to produce identical seeding. Players may ask to play in a higher grade than their seeding may indicate but the Director is under no obligation to accommodate such a request.

Grading on Masterpoints or Masterpoint Rank

When eligibility for a grade is restricted by masterpoints, the upper limit quoted shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team. Players must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their masterpoints may indicate.

The cut-off date for masterpoints will be no more than 3 months and no fewer than 2 months from the event and must be published on the entry form/flyer.

The cut-off date should be the last day of a month. The masterpoints registered at that date, at the time entries close, will be applied to establish eligibility.

FIRST ROUND DRAW SWISS EVENTS LONGER THAN ONE DAY

See Guidelines Page 96

The draw for the first round may be random, at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser, when the number of matches to be played exceeds by at least two matches, $\log_2 N+2$, rounded up, where N is the number of contestants. This will typically apply to a 2-day event playing 12 matches though others may qualify. The method for generating the first-round draw does not need to be on the entry form/flyer.

STANDARD BUTLER SCORING METHOD

Mathematical mean (average) is preferred. Mention must be made on the entry form if the median scoring method is to be used.

For an average butler, the score on each board is compared with a datum calculated as the average of all scores after eliminating the top 10% and bottom 10% (0.5 rounded up).

STANDARD VP SCALES FOR IMP PAIRS

The ABF Scale is to be used.

QUEENSLAND GNOT HEATS

Queensland is divided into nine (9) areas called zones for the purpose of qualifying teams to the Grand National Open Teams Online Qualification (RealBridge)

1: Brisbane Zone	**4**: Capricorn Zone	**7**: Wide Bay Zone
2: Gold Coast Zone	**5**: North Queensland Zone	**8**: Whitsunday Zone
3: Sunshine Coast Zone	**6**: Darling Downs Zone	**9**: Far North Queensland Zone

ZONE AND CLUB ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS

- Zones and clubs may have their own membership and residential eligibility qualifications except that a player who is a bona fide member of a club, regardless of their zonal place of residence, may play in the club's zonal events. Other individual club qualifications must be published on each zone's website together with any supplementary regulations specific to that zone.
- Clubs which have more restrictive eligibility qualifications for their club heats must publish these on their club website and event entry form. Acceptance of a team's GNOT heat entry by a club implies that all club qualifications have been met. Thereafter, the responsibility for eligibility rests with the Zone Secretary.
- Clubs and Zones should have a regulation as to the eligibility of ABF Youth Club players to represent a club at zonal events and to represent the zone itself.

RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONTENDING TEAMS

- A *bona fide* Queensland resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the GNOT National Final, of a club affiliated with the QBA.
- A non-Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and whose bridge has been or will be played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least six months immediately prior to the National Final.
- A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies a zone's organiser(s) that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that his bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least 6 months after the National Final.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL ZONES

- The Zone Secretary is responsible for the administration of these regulations within the zone.
- Each zone is responsible for organising its qualifying event(s). Zones are required to conduct finals among participating clubs. Zones may require clubs to conduct elimination rounds.
- The format should be a reasonably lengthy one, as befits a gold masterpoint event. Formats must be published on zone websites.
- Should a zone's format be substantially different from that previously approved then the new format is to be approved by the QBA Tournament Committee Chairman prior to its publication.

The next three dot points deal with contending and non-contending teams and should be read in their entirety:

- Teams must nominate either as contending or non-contending for a place in the zone semi-final and/or final <u>prior to</u> the commencement of their club or zone qualifying event as the case may be.
- All teams qualifying from club events to zone semi-finals and/or finals <u>must</u> nominate either as contending or non-contending for a place in the Online Qualifying (RealBridge) event and further, be prepared to travel to Brisbane to play in the face-to-face GNOT National Final (both Open and Regional) should they qualify.

  <u>To be clear</u>:

  - Where teams qualify at club level to play in a zone final, e.g., as in Brisbane Zone, teams do not have to commit to playing in the Online Qualifying (RealBridge) but must announce whether they are contending or non-contending for a place in the Online Qualifying (RealBridge) before the start of play in the zone final.
  - All contending teams in zone finals must be prepared to play in the Online Qualifying (RealBridge) should they qualify and further, be prepared to travel to Brisbane to play in the face-to-face GNOT National Finals should they qualify.
- Zones holding a single event, i.e., no qualification events at club level, should cater for teams not wishing to play in the Online Qualifying (RealBridge) for as long as possible, if not for the whole process.
- Zones are required to have, as part of their approved format, an orderly process for determining qualification to zone finals.
- Each zone must use pre-dealt boards with hand records.
- Each zone must publish playing conditions prior to commencement of event.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- A team may comprise 4 to 6 players excluding substitutes.
- A player who has played zero boards for a team in which he entered may be dropped from the team at any time. It will be as though the player had never entered and the player may therefore play for another team in accordance with the conditions of augmentation and substitution.

AUGMENTATION - ADDING A NEW PLAYER TO A TEAM

Prior to the start of zone finals (including semi-finals), a team of 4 or 5 may add to their number to a maximum of 6 players provided that:

- augmented players are approved by the Club which the team is representing. The Club may require augmented players to meet eligibility criteria of the original heat but otherwise approval should not be refused and
- the Club immediately advises the Zone Secretary of the change(s).

The Zone Secretary may allow reasonable last-minute augmentation for unforeseen circumstances without Club approval if the Club cannot be contacted or should time be of the essence. The Zone Secretary will be the arbiter of any dispute.

Once play in a zone's final (including semi-finals) has commenced, teams will be entitled to add to their number up to a maximum of 6 at the discretion of the Director who is not required to consider eligibility criteria for the original Club heat but may do so.

QUALIFICATION - CONTENDING/NON-CONTENDING

- A player may play in more than one zone and/or in more than one team within a zone so long as they are not playing in overlapping events in two teams that are both contending for a place in the zone finals or have already qualified in a team.
- All players from a team that has accepted the right to represent one club may play in further heats, either as individuals, pairs or as a complete team, providing they announce prior to the start of subsequent heats that the team in which they are playing is not in contention to qualify for the zone finals.
- There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can qualify for zone finals in two or more teams, or in two or more zones, and then pick and choose the one in which to play.
- Should the above be breached, then the individual, pair or team is deemed to remain the, or part of the, first qualified team and all subsequent teams are to be disqualified. There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can back date, defer or change a decision to represent a club.

BELATED QUALIFICATION

- There may be situations where a team that initially failed to qualify is belatedly offered a place in zone finals because of a withdrawal, and they wish to accept. The provisions given above shall not apply providing all team members playing in other heats at the time of the offer immediately announce their changed status.
- There may be situations following an application of the above that individuals or pairs from the belatedly qualifying team are part of a different team or teams in another currently running heat. These individuals or pairs may be replaced with comparable players in the current heat without affecting augmentation allowances. This allows the remaining members, who are not in the newly qualified team, to remain in the competition and they are not disqualified.

SUBSTITUTION (NOTE: SUBSTITUTION IS NOT AUGMENTATION)

- A team may use a substitute for no more than 50% of the boards scheduled for play in an event.
- A player may substitute in more than one zone and more than one team but not in 2 contending teams at the same time in overlapping events.
- A player may not be a substitute for more than one other player during a single event
- Once a player has qualified into a GNOT team, that player cannot substitute in another contending team, however that player may substitute in a non-contending team.
- Subject to the approval of the director, teams are permitted one substitute during club elimination rounds and one substitute during a zone's finals. Similarly, where a zone conducts a single event consisting of qualifying rounds and finals, one substitute per team is permitted during the qualifying rounds and one during the finals.

BREAKING OF TIES

Ties will be broken according to QBA Regulations [**Section D - TEAMS**] to establish the correct number of teams that qualify from Club to Zone or from Zone to GNOT Online Qualifying (RealBridge).

SUBSIDIES

The QBA Manager shall provide to each zone details concerning subsidies available for travel to the GNOT face-to-face National Final or Regional Final.

DIRECTOR

In accordance with the ABF Masterpoint scheme, a playing director may be used for club and zone qualifying rounds. A congress director who may also be a playing director is preferred, but not essential, for zone finals.

TEAM CHANGES

The expectation is that the teams that qualify shall be the teams that play in Online Qualifying (RealBridge) and beyond. In addition, teams of 4 or 5 are entitled to add to their numbers up to a maximum of 6. For team augmentation, substitution or changes contact the QBA Manager via the Zone Secretary.

ZONAL EVENTS – OTHER THAN GNOT

Each zone may establish conditions not contrary to these regulations for Zonal qualifying events other than GNOT. Such conditions may for example address residency, dual membership and multiple entries. All regulations for all events conducted by each zone must appear on the zonal website.

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Residential restrictions apply.

B5i INTERCLUB EVENTS

B5i Inter-club events are not to be held on the same day(s) as QBA championship events unless the Masterpoint Secretary believes the locality to be sufficiently distant as to not affect the championship. Clubs should avoid requesting dates that may affect congresses in their region.

Clubs and Zones should have a regulation as to the eligibility of ABF Youth Club players to represent a club at zonal events or to represent the zone itself.

SECTION F – QBA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TRIALS

Formats for these events remain the prerogative of the QBA.

RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS - CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS ONLY

Entry into QBA Championship Events is unrestricted. Titles shall be awarded only to players who meet one of the following criteria:

- A *bona fide* Queensland resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the event, of a club affiliated with the QBA.
- A non-Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and whose bridge has been played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least six months immediately prior to the event.
- A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies the Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that his bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least 6 months after the event.
- A youth player (under 26 in the current year) who has been a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA or registered with the ABF Youth Club for at least six months prior to the event and for whom Queensland is his/her home State even if temporarily residing in another state for purposes or work, study etc.
- Furthermore, both players in a pair and all players in a team must meet one of the above criteria for that pair or team to receive a title.

ENTRY TO STATE EVENTS OTHER THAN SELECTION TRIALS

(See also Selection Trials Page 45.)

All participants in championship events should acquaint themselves with the regulations pertaining to the relevant event.

QBA REPRESENTATIVES AT QBA STATE EVENTS

For each state event, a QBA Management representative will be appointed by the QBA Manager close to the starting date for the event.

CONDITIONS FOR ZONE SUBSIDY FOR TRAVEL TO QLD FESTIVAL

A zone may conduct a special event with qualifying rounds and a zone final or have some other fair and equitable method of allocation.

Whatever the method, it must have the approval of the QBA Tournament Committee chair prior to its first use. The format must be published on the zone website.

Zones are to advise the QBA Manager as to the recipients of subsidies within two weeks of their allocation. This will be at least one month prior to the Qld Festival of Bridge.

Zone approval must be obtained for augmentation after the allocation of a subsidy. The QBA Manager must also be advised.

ACCEPTANCE AND DISQUALIFICATION OF ENTRIES

When accepting entries and prior to commencement of play, the Tournament Organiser must be satisfied that all QBA terms of entry have been met.
Notwithstanding the acceptance of entry by the tournament organiser, a pair which contravenes the terms of entry will be disqualified and a team will forfeit any matches for which its line-up contravenes the terms of entry.
The QBA Management Committee shall have the authority to refuse the nomination of any player who has contravened 'Conditions of Entry' during previous events.

SUBSTITUTES

Unless otherwise specified a substitute must satisfy the conditions of entry.

OTHER CONDITIONS

The Director for these events will be at all times guided by;

1. (a) 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge;
   (b) QBA Regulations;
   (c) Any special conditions printed on the entry form for the event.
2. The director appointed for the event must be a QBA State Director or an ABF National Director unless otherwise approved by the QBA Tournament Committee chair
3. Pre-dealt hands must be used.

TIME PER ROUND OR MATCH

- The minimum time allocated for a round or match shall be calculated at 7 minutes per board. Needlessly delaying play, even though there is time to spare, may be penalised.
- The director should announce the start of the following round/match when less than the allocated time has passed if all tables have finished all boards to be played in the current round/match.
- Furthermore, for events other than those using a Swiss format, the director may announce the start of the following round/match when most tables have finished all boards and at most a few tables have at least commenced the auction for the final board that can be played in the allotted time.

CHANGE TO COMPILATION OF QQP FROM 1st JANUARY 2027

From 1st January 2027, 50% of the gold masterpoints earned by a partnership will be included in the compilation of their Queensland Qualifying Points.

Gold masterpoints earned in the Interstate Teams as well as in club heats and zone semi-finals of the GNOT are not included.

SELECTION TRIALS – FOR AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

General

The Open trials will be played as a separate event on separate weekends to the Senior's and Women's trials. The Seniors' and Women's trials will be played as separate events on the same weekends.

All entrants are expected to be serious contenders and a frivolous approach may be subject to disciplinary action. All players are expected to do their best in all matches. Deliberately playing at less than one's best in order to produce a favourable result for one's opponents, will be regarded as unethical play and may be subject to disciplinary action including disqualification.

Subject to ratification by QBA Management or Council (due to timing of meeting), the top three pairs in each section will constitute the State team, with the fourth pair becoming the reserve pair.

Residential Qualifications

QBA residential requirements for selection trials for the Qld representative teams at the Australian National Championships.

Any player who satisfies at least one of the following criteria will be eligible to compete in the selection trials to represent Queensland:

1. A *bona fide* Queensland resident of at least six months standing and who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA. Short lapses in membership around the time for renewal may be disregarded.

- Ownership of Queensland property does not, by itself, qualify a player as a *bona fide* resident.
- Living outside of Queensland for an extended period e.g., for work or family responsibilities or extended holidays, does not necessarily preclude being considered a *bona fide* Queensland resident
- In arguable situations, a player must demonstrate that he or she is a genuine resident to the satisfaction of the Tournament Committee.

2. A non-Queensland resident who, for at least six months immediately prior to the start of the trials event, has been a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who

(a) has played in at least six face-to-face (online excluded) sessions in QBA affiliated clubs including QBA congresses and events, those sessions being spread over the six months immediately prior to the start of the trials event, and who

(b) has played in fewer sessions at clubs affiliated with other ABF state associations during those same six months.

3. A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies the Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that he or she will remain a resident for at least six months after the ANC.

4. A youth player (as authorised by the ABF Management Committee) who has been a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA or registered with the ABF Youth Club for at least six months prior to the event and for whom Queensland is his/her home state/territory even if temporarily residing in another state for purposes or work, study etc.

Players eligible to trial for more than one state/territory should be aware that players may only represent that state/territory in which they first entered a selection tournament for an ANC event.

Any player who would not be permitted to play in the ANC by order of the ABF for residential or other reasons may not enter the Queensland selection trials.

Any question regarding a player's residential eligibility to play in the selection trials shall be decided by the Tournament Committee. Such decision will be appealable to the Management Committee whose decision will be final.

Other Commitments

Furthermore, a player entering QBA Selection Trials must be able to fulfil the following should he or she be placed first, second or third and/or be later ratified as a member of a QBA Team:

- be available for practice sessions, or in the case of remote players, undertake practice as required by the team captain;
- play with team partner in club sessions, congresses and/or on the internet with a frequency satisfactory to the Management Committee;
- maintain a standard of conduct within club and congress events that befits a member of a QBA team;
- maintain residential qualifications until after the ANC.
- maintain during ANC sessions a level of sobriety and abstinence from non-approved drugs to the satisfaction of the team captain.
- maintain at all times during ANC sessions and official functions a standard of behaviour satisfactory to the team captain.

Adverse reports concerning any of the above may jeopardise the acceptance of an entry to future selection trials.

Entry to Selection Trials

Each player entering a selection trials event is required to provide a written statement (by email is sufficient), prior to the close of entries, acknowledging that s/he agrees to be bound by the QBA Regulations and any supplementary regulations made by the tournament organisers as:

- posted on the QBA or MYABF website prior to the start of the event; or
- appearing on the entry form; or
- announced before the start of the event.

The third dot point will usually be minor matters e.g., those that become necessary on the day for the smooth running of the event.

Players who do not comply with this requirement will have their entry declined.

Replacement of a Single Member of a Pair Entered in Women's, Seniors or Youth Trials

This clause does not apply when an entry is found to be invalid after entries have closed. The pair is disqualified, as a whole.

- Replacement may occur after entries have closed, but before play has commenced, when a single player withdraws due to circumstances such as illness, unavoidable personal matters or any other reason excluding disqualification.
- The QBA Manager must be satisfied that the replaced player agrees to being replaced or clearly cannot play.
- The Replacement Player may be any player who meets the criteria for entry.
- Should the new partnership be of a significantly different standard from the original entry, the Director may modify the seating plan whether it has been published or not.

Replacement of a Single Member of a Pair that has Qualified for the Open Trials

This clause does not apply to a pair found to be ineligible after being announced as a qualifier. The pair is disqualified, as a whole.

- Prior to 48 hours from the start of the Open trials, replacement may occur when a single player has made an authorised withdrawal.
- The QBA Manager must be satisfied that the replaced player agrees to being replaced or clearly cannot play.
- The Replacement Player must be of at least a similar skill level as the player being replaced, as determined by uninvolved members of the QBA Tournament Committee, and the new

partnership must have played in at least two congress, state or national events during the previous six months.

- Should the use of a replacement player be impossible, the pair is withdrawn. (See Page 50).

OPEN TRIALS FORMAT

A single stage selection trials will be held. The format will be a seeded barometer Howell.

Pairs must apply for qualification on the MYABF website by the closing date set on the flyer.

Sixteen or fewer entries will play using the formats listed for the Women's and Seniors' Trials.

Qualification to the Selection Trials When Applications Exceed Sixteen Pairs

For more than sixteen pairs, the basic structure is that pairs will qualify by the application of methods (1)(2)(3) in that order:

(1) Two pairs qualify via the Direct Entry Process.
(2) Twelve pairs qualify using Queensland Qualification Points (QQP).
(3) Two pairs qualify by the Selection Process.

The three methods are independent of each other.

Shortfalls using (1) and (3) will be filled using (2), Queensland Qualification Points.

The 16 qualifying pairs will play fifteen 14-board matches over four days (two weekends).

(1) Direct Entry Process

Pairs accumulating points [as shown in brackets] from the following events during the calendar year previous to the relevant ANC will be offered qualification to the trials, in turn, from the pair with the most points. Ties will be split on the total masterpoints each pair earned in open state championship events* (see below) over the calendar year previous to the relevant ANC.

*The open selection trials are excluded. The highest grade of the Graded Pairs and the highest grade of Graded Teams are included.

Points are awarded only to a Queensland pair and not to any individual.

Points for a team event (excluding playing in an Australian Open Team) will be awarded only to pairs playing as a partnership for more than 50% of the boards in the event.

- The three pairs playing in the previous ANC as the QBA Open Team and finishing 1st or 2nd at that ANC [10]
- The three pairs above not finishing 1st or 2nd at that ANC [7]
- Any pair winning the Canberra Summer Festival Teams, Gold Coast Congress Teams, GNOT, Barrier Reef Teams or playing as a pair as part of an Australian Open Team [10]
- Any pair winning an ABF gold point open event of more than two sessions albeit pairs or teams [7]
- Any pair who finished second to tenth of the Gold Coast Congress Bobby Richman Pairs [7]
- Winners of the Qld Butler Pairs [7]
- Winners of the Qld Open Pairs [5]
- Winners of the Qld Open Teams [5]
- Winners of Grade A of the Northern Suburbs 2-day Graded Cross-Imp Pairs [3]

Any place not filled will be added to the Queensland Qualification Points (QQP) process.

(2) Queensland Qualification Points (QQP) Process (Please see Page 43 for 2027 Change)

Step 1: During the qualification period, being 1st January to 31st December of the relevant year, the masterpoints awarded to pairs for some number of placings (see table below) in all QBA regulated, red point, open congresses, championship events as well as the open Grade A of graded congresses and the open Grade A of graded championship events will be tabulated.

For 5- and 6-person teams, points will only be awarded to partnerships playing at least 50% of the boards in the event with the percentage played rounded up.

The compiler of the list of partnerships earning masterpoints for placings in eligible events is to assume the partnerships appearing in the pairs datums for teams events are correct as published on the QBA results pages.

Any partnership relying on the QQP Process has sole responsibility for ensuring their seating is accurately recorded for every match of every teams event for which they earn placing points.

For the application of the board rule:

- The components of the Qld Open Teams viz. the Swiss qualifying, the semi-finals, the finals and the play-off for 3rd & 4th, are treated as four separate events.
- The above will also apply to any other events with qualifying and finals formats.
- The boards played by a legal substitute are counted as boards played by the partnership of the player replaced.

Sundry Rules

- Any masterpoints awarded to a substitute are not applied to the partnership. The masterpoints of the player playing with a substitute will be applied to the partnership.
- For events using aggregate scoring, those partnerships earning overall placing points also receive their points from each component.
- For the Qld Open Teams, the partnerships of the first four teams receive their masterpoints for each component of the event.
- A tie for the final place to be used, as per the chart below, will be split on masterpoints earned. Failing that, each tying pair receives half their allocated masterpoints.

A list of the pairs who have been awarded masterpoints in this way is to be published monthly.

Players are responsible for ensuring their masterpoints are listed correctly.

PAIRS

Event Size:	Placings Used:
Up to 12 pairs	1st 2nd
13 - 32 pairs	1st - 4th
33 - 52 pairs	1st - 6th
53 - 72 pairs	1st - 8th
73+ pairs	1st - 10th

TEAMS

Event Size:	Placings Used:	
Up to 6 teams	1st	2 pairs
7 - 16 teams	1st 2nd	4 pairs
17 - 26 teams	1st 2nd 3rd	6 pairs
27 - 36 teams	1st - 4th	8 pairs
37+ teams	1st - 5th	10 pairs

Step 2: Queensland Qualifying Points will be calculated monthly and published on the QBA website. A QQP score will be calculated for any pair entering the qualification process without one. Players have until the closing date of applications to the qualification process to appeal an incorrect calculation i.e., they may appeal the incorrect calculation of any pair's QQP.

QQP are calculated as follows:

- *Each player* in the partnership contributes the masterpoints that s/he earned with partner.
- *Each player* contributes 20% of the masterpoints earned with other partners.

Please see Guidelines Page 97 for examples of QQP calculation.

Step 3: The twelve pairs with the highest QQP will qualify. Ties for 12th place will be split on the total masterpoints each tying pair earned for any finishing position in eligible events during the relevant year.

(3) Selection Process

The full Tournament Committee will appoint a three-person selection panel consisting of at least one member of the Tournament Committee and at least one other player.

No member of the selection panel may be an entrant to the trials nor have a familial relationship with an entrant to the trials. A familial relationship means a relationship between a person and a player where the player is the spouse, de facto partner, parent or child, brother or sister of the person.

The decision of the selection panel is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

The purpose of the selection process is to qualify up to two of the remaining entries who did not qualify under processes (1) and (2).

Selected pairs should have recent history as a successful partnership and be considered strong contenders for team selection.

Any place not filled will be added to the Queensland Qualification Points (QQP) Process.

Once qualifiers from processes (1) and (2) are announced, the remaining pairs may state their case for selection to the selection panel by emailing the Tournament Organiser within 7 days

They may choose to show that they are a well-practised partnership, detail their successes as a partnership, explain why their circumstances worked against their qualifying through processes (1) (2).

QQP scores are not relevant to the selection process. QQP scores only become relevant again when no pair is selected or when only one pair is selected.

QQP Tie Breaking to Determine Qualification

0.001 shall be sufficient to break a tie in QQP.

Ties in Queensland Qualifying Points will be split to determine qualification as follows:

(1) QQP earned by playing as the tied partnership only i.e., without the 40% allowance for playing with other partners.
(2) Total masterpoints each pair earned in open state championship events* over the calendar year previous to the relevant ANC.
*The open selection trials are excluded. The highest grade of the Qld Graded Pairs and the highest grade of the Qld Graded Teams are included.

Completion of the Qualification Process:

The sixteen pairs who qualify will be listed on MYABF and entry fees are to be paid by the due date.

Reserve Pairs for Open Trials

Unsuccessful applicants will automatically become Reserve Pairs for the Open Selection Trials unless they advise the QBA Manager that they no longer wish to accept qualification, should it be offered.

Withdrawal of a Pair after the Names of the All Qualifiers have been Posted on the MYABF

The Reserve Pair next in line from (2) Queensland Qualification Points (QQP) Process will be offered qualification until the vacancy is filled or no more reserves are available. A half table resulting from there being no further applicants will not be filled.

WOMEN'S AND SENIORS' TRIALS FORMAT

- Three (3) tables 5 matches of 20 boards over 2 days
- Four (4) tables 7 matches of 20 boards over 3 days
- Five (5) tables 9 matches of 20 boards over 3 days
- Six (6) tables 11 matches of 20 boards over 4 days
- Seven (7) tables 13 matches of 16 boards over 4 days

- Eight (8) tables 15 matches of 14 boards over 4 days
- Nine (9) tables 17 matches of 12 boards over 4 days
- Ten (10) tables 19 matches of 12 boards over 4 days

YOUTH TRIALS FORMAT

The Youth Trials format will be decided by the Tournament Committee in consultation with Youth Co-ordinator. The minimum entry for a youth trials event is 2 tables (4 pairs).

Age Restrictions

Seniors: Entry is restricted to players of the age set for the Senior Teams at the ANC in the relevant calendar year.

Youth: Youth shall not have attained the age of 26 by midnight the day before competition begins at the ANC Teams except as authorised by the Youth Committee of the ABF.

Split Matches

No split matches will be held i.e., extending overnight or to the following weekend.

Seeding

Members of the Tournament Committee will seed as necessary with members involving themselves only in event(s) in which they are not competing. Each member will seed the list in order and the Director will produce a final ranking based on this.

Systems

All systems will be permitted. Those using yellow systems must have an up-to-date copy of their system in the hands of the Tournament Committee chair ten days before the start of the event. Players proposing to play complex systems will be required to show to the Tournament Committee's satisfaction that they are well practised and competent with their system. If, during the course of the event, a pair demonstrates persistent incompetence with their system, the Director may require them to play a simpler system or convention.

System Cards

Each player must have two systemically identical 4-page ABF system cards on the table before the start of play. System cards must be legible and clearly show the colour category of the system.

Late Arrival (See also Page 15.)

If any player is not present at the start of play of any match, the pair will be fined 5% of a maximum win and rounded to two decimal places per ten minutes or part thereof up to 30 minutes, irrespective of whether the match finishes on time. The Director to ensure time is witnessed. In addition:

- If any player is more than 30 minutes late, the match will be abandoned and the non-offending pair will score the average of all their other matches or the complement of the average of the forfeiting pair's score, whichever is the greatest. The forfeiting pair scores the lowest score possible, the director to ensure time is witnessed.
- If any player misses 2 consecutive matches, the pair will be withdrawn and all of their played matches will be treated according to the procedures listed below under 'Withdrawal'

Loud Discussion during or after Play

When discussions or comments are made at any table and are heard at a nearby table, the director will apply a penalty to the offending pairs if he considers that the rights of other players may have been jeopardised. The penalty at cross-imping shall be 5% of a maximum win and rounded to two decimal places. The director will have the right to increase this incrementally for repeat offences.

Withdrawal from Selection Trials (See Late Arrivals Page 15 Withdrawals and Penalties Page 17.)

Unauthorised withdrawal from selection trials, either after qualification is complete or after play has started, and from a state team after selection**,** is considered highly unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action. Withdrawal from a state team after selection may be authorised by the QBA Management Committee. Both members of the partnership will be deemed to have made the unauthorised withdrawal and will receive the same disciplinary action irrespective of whether one player may be seen to be more greatly affected by the other by said disciplinary action.

- Suspensions for a set time will be the same for both players even if one player could be seen to miss more events.
- "Same" includes the same number of events even if not the same events or over the same time.

If a pair withdraws or is withdrawn by the director, unless at least two-thirds of the matches have been played, the results of all matches played by the withdrawn pair shall be cancelled and the stage rescored. If more than two-thirds of the matches (rounded up) have been played before the withdrawal, all matches played thus far will stand, and pairs drawn to play the withdrawn pair in the remaining matches will score the average VP of all of their other matches, or the complement of the average of the forfeiting pair's score up to the forfeit, whichever is the greater.

Substitutes

Substitutes for cause may be permitted via application to the director who will refer the application to the Tournament Committee. For the substitution to be approved, a majority of those members of the Tournament Committee not playing in the event and available to vote must agree that the new pairing is of an acceptable standard to the original pairing.

The director may approve a substitute in an emergency situation so that a match may start or continue expeditiously, subject to the later agreement of the Tournament Committee as above. The director shall immediately contact the QBA Tournament Committee chair or his/her nominee who shall contact available Tournament Committee members not playing in the event.

- Women's and Seniors' Trials:
  - A substitute may be permitted for no more than one-third rounded down of the boards scheduled for play in the event.
  - When a substitute is approved within the first two matches of an event, and the original player is unable to resume, the substitute may join the remaining player as the contestant if able to fulfil the conditions of entry.

- Open Trials:
  - A substitute may be permitted for no more than one-third rounded down of the boards scheduled for play in the event.
  - The pair is withdrawn should the absent player not be able to return when the substitute has played the maximum number of boards allowable and/or board limits for authorised withdrawal have been reached.

Slow Play

A time limit will be decided for each session and it will be approximately seven minutes per board; a pair guilty of slow play will be fined 5% of a maximum win and rounded to two decimal places per ten minutes or part thereof that they finish late in that match and subsequent matches. If a match starts late due to the lateness of one or more players or for any other reason, the time will be taken from the start of play in that particular match.

Scoring

Cross-imps converted to victory points using the ANC VP scale principle.

Ties

Ties will be broken where necessary by totalling each pair's VPs in their individual matches against the other tying pairs and those pairs finishing higher in the final ranking. If this fails to break the tie, then it will be broken on total net imps. Pairs that have received an adjustment in VPs either through a fine or a forfeit must have had an appropriate number of imps added or subtracted.

For example: A and B finish first and second, with C, D and E in a three-way tie for third place. Total C's VPs in their matches against A, B, D and E. Likewise, D's total against A, B, C and E and so on, then compare these totals. If this tie is still not broken, then resort to total net imps over the whole stage.

Protest Time

Players have 24 hours from when scores for the last match of the relevant stage are posted to protest against mistakes made in the computation or tabulation of an agreed upon score or in the computation of results for that stage.

Appointment of Queensland Captains

The Manager shall organise the selection of the Open, Women's and Seniors' team captains for the ANC in consultation with each player. Under no circumstance shall a player approach any person re captaincy of an ANC team.

All six players must be in favour of the nominee or, at worst, not strenuously opposed to the majority vote. Selected captains will be subject to ratification by the Management Committee as soon as possible after selection. The Management Committee may approve the same person being captain of two teams and will have the power to nominate a playing captain or non-playing captain if players fail to reach agreement within two weeks of the end of the Trials.

On the basis that a familial relationship between a non-playing captain and a playing member may influence, or be seen to influence, the captain's decisions in management of the team, any person with a familial relationship with a playing member of the team is ineligible for nomination as NPC. A familial relationship means a relationship between a person and a player where the player is the spouse, de facto partner, parent or child, brother or sister of the person.

The QBA Management Committee will nominate a QBA Representative for the ANC Event.

Ratification of Queensland Teams

The pairs placing first, second and third in the selection trials will be the Queensland team subject to ratification by the QBA Council or Management Committee subject to timing of meetings.

If a player withdraws from the team for any reason, the pair involved will relinquish its place in the team to the pair which was placed next in the selection trials.

Reserve Pair for ANC

The pair finishing fourth in a trials event and who are therefore the presumed Reserve Pair, are permitted to trial in other selection events if eligible. Should one or both players finish in the first three positions of another trials event, the pair shall cease to be the reserve pair for the first trials event. The pair finishing fifth in the first trials event shall assume reserve pair status. Should the 5th placed pair be unavailable, then the Management committee shall appoint a reserve pair.

The above method also applies for the withdrawal of a reserve pair for any other reason prior to 4 weeks of the start of the ANC.

Obligation of Reserve Pair

The obligation of the reserve pair to be available for the ANC ceases 4 weeks prior to the start of the ANC Teams.

Team Captains - Duties and Powers

- Submit entry details and systems to Manager as requested. Report to Council as requested by the Manager.
- If necessary, a confidential report is to be submitted to Manager upon returning from the ANC. This needs to be submitted within two weeks of the event.
- Ensure players' familiarity with ABF system cards and with screen regulations. Follow up when other states' system cards are received.
- Arrange partnership and team practice, ensure special defences are available to players if necessary, and ensure that system, tournament and alerting regulations are understood by players.
- Protect the rights of the team during the ANC by lodging appeals where justified.
- Players should be aware that the captain has the sole right to decide lineups. He may consult with team members, but members should refrain from exerting pressure on the captain in his choice of line-ups.
- It is the duty of both the captain and players to understand that achieving the best result is the prime purpose of attending the ANC, and social factors should have no influence on the choice of line-up for a particular match.
- The captain must report on any unsatisfactory conduct by team members during the event. He is entitled to apply disciplinary measures during the event such as dropping a player or pair. Where possible, disciplinary measures should be taken only after consultation with any members of the QBA Management who may be present.

Withdrawal of a Pair or Captain within 4 weeks prior to the ANC Teams

If a pair or captain withdraws within 4 weeks of the commencement of the ANC Teams, power will be given to the President, Vice President and QBA Tournament Committee chair to select a suitable pair/captain, and approve any necessary expenditure to facilitate the substitution.

OPEN BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

The event shall be held over two days and scored as an average Butler.

SENIOR TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

The event to be held over one day.

- Format - Swiss or round robin depending on the size of the field.
- Eligibility - Entry is restricted to players of the age set for the Senior Teams at the ANC in the relevant calendar year.
- Entitlements - Only those players who have played at least 25% of the total number of boards will be able to receive team entitlements i.e., trophy inscription, title and, if applicable, playoff qualification points.

SENIOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Event to be conducted over one day as matchpoint Swiss pairs.

Entry is restricted to players of the age set for the Senior Teams at the ANC in the relevant calendar year.

MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

The highest finishing residentially qualified pair in the ABF River City Gold Mixed Pairs event shall be awarded the Queensland Mixed Pairs title.

NOVICE MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

The highest finishing residentially qualified novice pair playing in the ABF River City Gold Mixed Pairs event shall be awarded the Queensland Novice Mixed Pairs title. There is no separate field for Novice.

Both players to be under 100 masterpoints as at 31st January of the relevant year.

From 2027 this title will only be awarded if at least six entries.

OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Refer to the QBA Festival of Bridge supplementary regulations.

OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Refer to the QBA Festival of Bridge supplementary regulations.

GRADED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Titles shall be awarded for grades of Open, '150 – 750 masterpoints' and 'under 150 masterpoints'.

Format – Separate fields to be maintained if at all practical for the three grades above. The director may combine any two touching grades as a single field at his discretion. Fields to be run as Swiss or Howell movement with barometer pairs scoring over one day. When two grades play as one field, pairs are eligible for the title for the grade in which they entered. Pairs must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their masterpoint rank. Should that higher grade play as one field with the lower field of their rank, the director is to ascertain before play starts whether such pairs now wish to play for the higher or lower title.

Substitution - a substitute must be of the same or lower grade as the player being replaced for a pair to remain eligible for the event.

GRADED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Titles shall be awarded for grades of Open, '150 – 750 masterpoints' and 'below 150 masterpoints'.

Separate fields are to be maintained if at all practical for the three grades above. The director may combine any two touching grades as a single field at his discretion.
When two grades play as one field, teams are eligible for the title for the grade in which they entered.
Teams must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their masterpoint rank. Should that higher grade play as one field with the lower field of their rank, the director is to ascertain before play starts whether such teams now wish to play for the higher or lower title.
The event will be a Swiss or round robin depending on the size of the respective fields.

Entitlements – only those players who have played at least 25% of the total number of boards will be able to receive team entitlements i.e., Trophy inscription, Title and, if applicable, playoff qualification points

Substitution – a substitute must be of the same or lower grade as the player being replaced for a team to remain eligible for the event.

TEAMS-OF-THREE (See also Guidelines Page 94.)

One-day teams event playing 6 x 8-board matches. May be graded if sufficient entries.

Players to have at least 10 masterpoints by the date specified on the flyer.

Captains will be assigned to teams by lot. The QBA Liaison Officer will first assign captains to grades.

The captain must sit south and must play two matches with each member of the team. The captain should not have a regular bridge partnership with any other team member. Prize money goes to all four players.

QLD MIXED TEAMS

Format – round robin or Swiss movement over 4 sessions

Line-Ups – both genders must be represented in a team's line up at all times.

Substitution – a substitute must be of a gender that maintains observance of the line-up restrictions for the team to remain eligible for the event.

Entitlements - To enable all team members to receive team entitlements i.e., Trophy inscription, Title and, if applicable, qualification points, each player must play at least 25% of the total number of boards

NOVICE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Format – 2 sessions. Format to be approved by QBA Tournament Committee chair.

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SECTION G - ALERTING REGULATIONS

The QBA adopts the ABF Alerting Regulations in full. (See next page.)

QBA CLARIFICATIONS OF ALERTING REGULATIONS

- Opener's rebid in a (natural) 3 card minor is not alertable.
- A natural 2♣ opening that will have a four-card major if holding only 5 clubs is alertable.
- Canapé style bidding should be pre-alerted. During the auction, the natural opening should not be alerted, but rebids in which the second suit is longer than the first must be alerted.
- A balanced 1NT in the pass out seat is not alerted regardless of whether it shows, or does not show, a stopper in opener's suit.
- A 1NT opening which may contain a 5-card major is not alerted during the auction. Strength and style of 1NT openings are covered in 3.1.1.
- Opener's rebid of 1NT (having opened 1♣ or 1♦) is not alerted just because it may contain a 4-card major. Players are required to know that different styles exist within natural systems and should ask before choosing an action if more information is needed.
- Damage from a failure to alert must be directly linked to the table result before the director will consider awarding an adjusted score.
- A small plus sign "+" placed in one corner of the square of a call requiring a delayed alert is evidence that a delayed alert has been made.

General Comments

Delayed alerts do not alter the fact that questions remain unauthorised information to partner. Should the player to make the opening lead require information for the purpose of choosing his opening lead, he should ask for an explanation of the entire auction to avoid creating problems for partner.

Players should make delayed alerts in a manner that does not encourage opponents to ask suit specific questions nor encourage the player not on lead to ask questions before the opening lead has been chosen. Any approach to delayed alerts is acceptable if it adequately alerts the defenders to unusual aspects of the auction. An example: "Would you like an explanation of our auction before you choose your opening lead? It contains self-alerting calls."

Alerts must still be made even though a player may have forgotten the meaning of the bid. The director may send the alerter away from the table so that partner can give the partnership agreement. This option does not apply for the purpose of confirming that a given explanation is correct.

Further Clarifications:

- Do not alert bids that accept transfers unless they convey additional information such as length in the transfer suit or hand strength. Alert super accepts and alert bids that deny a hand worth a super accept.
- A 1♦ response to a 1♣ Standard American opening must be alerted if it denies a 4-card major.
- Pairs who usually have a normal enough range for non-jump natural one- and two- overcalls yet one player is, or both players are, known to bid with fewer than 4 high card points from time to time, are to pre-alert this practice so opponents may plan a defence.
- In 2/1 systems, a 1NT first response should be alerted if invitational as well as when forcing. The preferred explanation upon request is, “Invitational” with the point range. Ideally players will include this fact in the basic description of their system at the start of a round.
- In 2/1 systems, as well as traditional Standard American, a 2C first response showing a 2+ club suit should be alerted. Showing a 3+ club suit does not require an alert.

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ABF Alerting Regulations

1. Introduction

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that players may not have secret agreements with their partners, either in bidding or in card play. All agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to the opponents. These regulations set principles and guidelines for the approved alerting procedures.

The ABF System Regulations require each player to have a legibly completed approved system card on the table, with the partnership cards being systemically identical. The purpose of an alert is to draw the opponents' attention to any call that has a special meaning, or a meaning the opponents may not expect. The fact that the system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by these regulations. (However, see 2.4 below for self-alerting calls)

Players should adhere to the principle of full disclosure (as required by the Laws) in following these Regulations and in explanations of calls. The principle is to disclose, not as little as you must, but as much as you can, and as comprehensibly as you can. A careless failure to follow this policy may result in an adjusted score, and possibly procedural penalties, where opponents have been damaged. If a player makes a positive effort to meet their obligations under full disclosure, they will rarely if ever fall foul of these regulations.

The methods of a partnership include not only the specific agreements appearing on the system card but also partnership understandings which have arisen through partnership discussion or experience. The opponents are entitled to know about these understandings. General bridge inferences, like those a new partner could make when there has been no prior discussion, are not alertable, but any inferences that can be drawn from partnership experience must be disclosed.

2. Definitions and General Principles

2.1 Convention

A call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or high-card strength or length (three cards or more) there. However, an agreement as to overall strength does not make a call a convention.

2.1.1 Note that 'other than' is construed to include 'additional to'. So, by definition, any bid that shows the denomination named and another denomination also, is conventional. All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional.

2.1.2 It is construed that an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ which may contain fewer than three cards in the opened suit does not indicate 'willingness to play' and hence such bids are conventional.

2.1.3 Certain calls may not convey any meaning e.g. the enforced 3♣ after a Lebensohl 2NT. Such calls are construed as conventional.

2.2 Natural calls

2.2.1 A **natural suit bid** is one that is not conventional. It follows from the definition of *convention* that a bid is natural if it meets the following criteria:

- Conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named (but does not come under 2.1.1 or 2.1.3)
- Shows high card strength or length (3+ cards) in the suit named.

2.2.2 A **natural NT bid** is a bid that shows a preparedness to play in NT, and conveys no specific information about the suit holdings.

2.2.3 A **natural pass** is a pass that does not convey any conventional message about strength or suit holdings.

Natural calls as defined in these regulations are in general not alertable, but there are important exceptions. (See 3.3.2.)

2.3 Cue bids

For the purposes of these regulations, a **cue bid** of opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or suits shown by the opponent's bid. Example: If an opponent opens 1♥ showing spades, then 1♠ and 2♥ are both cue bids. Similarly, a 2NT overcall of 1NT is also a cue bid.

2.4 Self-alerting calls

There are five different types of self-alerting calls, *viz.*

- Doubles
- Redoubles
- Cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit
- All calls at the four-level or higher, except conventional opening bids
- Any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction.

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted. It may be risky to make assumptions as to the meaning of such a call. A player is entitled (at their turn to call) to ask for their own protection, but bear in mind that unnecessary questions may be more helpful to the opponents than to the enquirer's own side, and may convey unauthorised information thereby limiting partner's options.

2.5 Other definitions

2.5.1 A **transfer bid** is an artificial bid, which promises length in a specified suit.

2.5.2 A **puppet bid** is an artificial bid, which requires a particular response by partner, but does not promise a holding in the suit of the forced response.

2.5.3 A **pass-or-correct bid** or a **correctable bid** is a bid, which, after partner has shown possession of an unspecified suit, conveys the meaning 'Pass if this is the unspecified suit, otherwise correct to the unspecified suit'.

3. Alert Stages

There are three stages of the alerting process. All are important.

- The pre-alert before bidding starts
- Alerts and announcements during the auction
- Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead.

3.1 Pre-alerts

3.1.1 At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, length of their one-level openings and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. Subsequent questions about these, whilst legal, may be regarded as unauthorised information.

3.1.2 This is the stage where the opponents' attention should be drawn to any unusual agreement which might surprise them, or to which they may need to arrange a defence. Examples: transfer pre-empts, transfer responses to 1♣, unusual two level openings, canapé style bidding, very unusual doubles, unusual methods over the opponents' 1NT or strong club openings, unusual cue bids of the opponents' suit, *etc*. Pay particular attention to unusual self-alerting calls. These should appear on the system card, but should also be verbally pre-alerted.

3.1.3 Highly unusual carding (e.g. leading low from doubletons) should also be pre-alerted at this stage.

3.2 Announcements

It is the responsibility of the responder to make a prescribed statement (otherwise termed an 'Announcement') whenever their partner opens either 1♣ or a natural 1NT. The form of the announcement required varies depending upon the nature of the opening bid:

(a) Announcements required after a 1♣ opening:
- For Natural-type systems (e.g. Acol or Standard), the appropriate minimum length of the club suit (i.e. "1+", "2+", "3+", "4+") should be announced.
- For Strong Club systems (e.g. Precision or Mosquito); the word "Strong" together with the minimum HCP holding (i.e. "16+") should be announced.
- For system options other than those above (e.g. a Polish 1♣, which has multiple meanings), the word "Unusual" should be used.

(b) Announcements required after a natural 1NT opening:
- The appropriate HCP range (e.g. "12-14" or "15-17" etc.) should be announced.

All announcements should be made in a consistent manner using the prescribed terminology. Alternative designations are not permitted.

3.3 Alerts during the Auction

3.3.1 If a call is conventional, it must be alerted (unless it requires an announcement or is self-alerting).

3.3.2 Two classes of natural calls must be alerted (unless they are self-alerting), *viz.*

(a) The call is natural, but there is an agreement by which the call is forcing or non-forcing in a way that the opponents are unlikely to expect. Examples:
- Responder's first round jump shift on weak hands.
- A non-forcing suit response by an unpassed hand to an opening suit bid (whether or not after intervention).
- A pass which forces partner to take action (e.g. SWINE).

(b) The call is natural, but its meaning is affected by other agreements, which the opponents are unlikely to expect. Examples:
- A natural NT overcall (or response) in the direct position, which does not promise a stopper in the overcalled suit.
- A jump raise of opener's one-level bid in an uncontested auction, which may be weak or pre-emptive.
- A single raise of partner's suit which may be strong or forcing e.g. 1♦ - 2♦ forcing.
- The rebid in a canapé sequence where the second suit may be longer than the first.
- A 1♥ opening, which denies holding 4+ spades.

3.4 Delayed alerts

3.4.1 At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual non-alerted calls. Upon inquiry, a player must disclose fully, not only the specific meanings of all calls, but also any inferences they have drawn from the auction based on partnership experience (as distinct from general bridge knowledge). These explanations may occasionally need to include negative inferences, such as hand types partner probably does not have for his bidding. Defenders must not, at this time, draw attention to their own calls, nor voluntarily offer explanations (they must of course fully disclose upon inquiry).

3.4.2 Takeout/negative-type doubles and penalty doubles do not require a delayed alert. If interested, the opening leader should enquire before leading, or his partner may enquire after the opening lead has been made face down.

3.4.3 If a possible mis-explanation emerges during the delayed alert stage the Director should be called before the opening lead is faced. Defenders however must wait until the play of the hand is completed before calling the Director to report any mis-explanation by their partner.

4. Some Common Conventions

4.1 Stayman 2♣ in response to partner's 1NT

This bid is self-alerting because it is almost universally used. The conventional responses to Stayman are alertable, as are natural responses which convey a message about strength or special distribution.

4.2 Transfers in response to partner's NT

The transfer bid is alertable. Acceptance of the transfer, whether or not after interference, is alertable if it conveys any meaning relating to hand strength or length in partner's shown suit.

4.3 Multi 2 bids (e.g., 2♦ showing an unspecified 6-card major with or without other options).

Any 2-level bid with a multiple meaning is alertable. The conventional responses, including correctable bids are also alertable.

5. Specific Examples

This section provides a number of examples by way of illustration and amplification. The list is not exhaustive. It is not necessary to commit them to memory as they follow the principles specified above. There is an overriding requirement that self-alerting calls should not be alerted.

5.1 Opening bids

The following should be alerted:

(a) 1♦ if it may contain fewer than three cards in the suit named.

(b) 1♥ or 1♠ if it may contain fewer than four cards in the suit named. Also if a 1♥ bid systemically denies four spades, this is alertable (conveys a surprising message about another suit).

(c) A non-natural 1NT (e.g. Moscito; showing hearts and spades).

(d) Opening two bids which do not promise a holding of 4+ cards in the suit named, or which promise a holding in the suit named and another suit. Examples:

Alertable: 2♥ showing hearts and another suit (whether specified or not).

Alertable: 2♣ where, if there are only 5 clubs, also shows a four-card major.

Strong artificial 2♣, 2♦ openings are alertable.

Note that a 2♥ bid, which promises only hearts, is not alertable, whether strong or weak.

(e) Any opening bid, (other than 1♣) which is not natural e.g., transfer pre-empts.

5.2 Development of the uncontested auction

The following should be alerted:

(a) Weak jump responses
(b) Inverted minors (1♦- 2♦forcing, 1♦- 3♦weak)
(c) Forcing 1NT response
(d) New suit rebids by opener which may be made on a suit of fewer than three cards in a minor or four cards in a major
(e) Jacoby style 2NT over a major
(f) Bergen raises
(g) Fit showing jumps
(h) Fourth suit forcing
(i) Splinter bids (below 4♣)
(j) Transfer bids (below 4♣)
(k) Forced bids in a 'pass-or-correct' sequence
(l) Conventional responses including 'pass-or-correct' bids after a multi-two opening
(m) Trial bids
(n) A pass which conveys a special meaning as to strength or distribution

5.3 Competitive auctions

5.3.1 Overcalls

The following should be alerted:

(a) All overcalls which show two suits, even if one of them is the suit named
(b) Unusual NT bids that show 2-suited hands
(c) Natural NT overcalls of RHO's natural suit bid, which may not have a stopper in that suit
(d) Transfer overcalls and multi-meaning overcalls

The following should not be alerted:

(a) Single suited overcalls showing only the suit named, whether weak, strong or intermediate
(b) 1NT in the pass-out seat which may not contain a stopper in the opener's suit

5.3.2 Alertable calls over an opponent's takeout double:

(a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
(b) Conventional fit-showing jumps

5.3.3 Alertable calls over an opponent's suit overcall:

(a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
(b) Any natural NT bid which does not promise a stopper in the opponent's suit
(c) Lebensohl type responses after interference over your 1NT

5.3.4 Alertable calls after partner's takeout double:

(a) Any bid that conventionally shows weakness (Lebensohl, Herbert, *etc.*)
(b) Any minimal natural response that shows some strength

6. Bidding Styles

Players should be aware that there are some different approaches in bidding style in natural systems after a minor suit opening, especially a 1♣ opening. Some players bid 'up the line', some prefer to show a major ahead of a 4 or even a 5-card minor. Further, some players may skip a 4-card major in making a NT rebid. These approaches are commonly used, and these regulations do not require them to be alerted during the auction. Players are advised to be aware of these different approaches, and to protect themselves by asking where necessary.

7. Alerting Procedure

7.1 Alerts are compulsory - the opponents cannot be asked not to alert. The requirement to alert applies even though the convention or other agreement may be listed on the system card.

7.2 Self-alerting calls, and bids that require an announcement should not be alerted.

7.3 Players alert their partner's calls, not their own (except when screens are in use). Alerts should be made immediately after the alertable call has been completed.

7.4 Alerts are made by audibly saying, "Alert"' and, if written bidding is in use, circling the call on the bidding pad. Circling a call provides prima-facie evidence that it has been alerted. (If bidding boxes are in use, an alert card should be placed across the relevant call.)

7.5 Delayed alerts should be indicated by a small plus sign (+) in one corner of the appropriate square of the bidding pad as evidence of the delayed alert. (If bidding boxes are in use, the declaring side should verbally indicate which unusual calls require a delayed alert.)

7.6 Explanations of alerted calls or delayed alerted calls are given only after a request has been made.

7.7 If a player knows that his partner's call is alertable but has forgotten its meaning, he should nevertheless alert. If asked, he should explain that he has forgotten the meaning, whereupon the Director should then be called. The Director's normal action would be to send the player away from the table and have the partner explain the meaning of the call.

7.8 When a player makes any call in tempo, and an opponent then alerts (late alert), the Director may allow the player to retract the call and substitute a legal call without penalty, provided that his partner has not subsequently called, and it is probable that his action might be different after the alertable bid's meaning has been explained [Law 21B1(a)]. Any call retracted in accordance with the provisions of this Law is authorised information to the partner of the player retracting the call (Law 16D), but not to the opponents.

8. Enquiring about an Alerted Call

8.1 When opponents make an alerted or self-alerted call, a player is entitled to ask specifically about that call at his first turn to call after the alert. Otherwise, any questions should be directed at the whole auction, not a specific call; an appropriate method of asking would be "Please explain the auction".

8.2 Any questions about a call or calls must take into account the Laws covering unauthorised information: *After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as for example by a question..., the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information* [Law 16B1(a)].

Hence whilst the Laws grant the right to ask questions, unnecessary inquiries, or questions directed at particular calls, may limit partner's options in the subsequent bidding or play. It is therefore advisable not to ask questions if the intention is to pass regardless of the answer.

8.3 Questions may be asked only for one's own benefit. It is improper to ask questions for the benefit of partner.

9. Explanations

9.1 If an enquiry is made, a full explanation of the call must be given. This includes any conventional or partnership agreement, whether the agreement is explicit or based on partnership experience. Explanations may well include distributions and point ranges specifically excluded by a call, as well as those shown directly. When giving explanations, it is not necessary to repeat information given earlier in the hand, unless such information is requested. When explaining an alerted or self-alerting call, players should indicate if this same call might have a slightly different meaning (e.g. different point range) due to a variation of vulnerabilities and/or position around the table.

9.2 If there is no partnership agreement as to the meaning of a call, the player must say so (by saying, "Undiscussed", for example), and not attempt to offer a possible explanation. When, however, as a result of partnership experience and style, one is able to form a coherent view of the likely meaning of an undiscussed call, that information shall be given to the opponents. Where a call is undiscussed, the player should not offer statements such as "I take it to mean…." or "I'm treating it as….". Such a response is improper as it provides unauthorised information to partner.

9.3 Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation. There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "Standard" or "Natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient - nor are the terms "Weak", "Strong" or "Intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.

9.4 An explanation given in response to an enquiry about the meaning of any call should avoid reference to the meaning of any response yet to be made to that call (unless requested by an opponent).

9.5 A player need not divulge knowledge or conclusions derived from their own card holdings, or as a consequence of their experience of matters generally known to bridge players.

10. Irregularities in Procedure

10.1 Misinformation

Pairs who frequently forget their system or conventions have a damaging effect on the tournament. The Director is empowered by these Regulations to require such a pair to play a simpler system or convention. In extreme cases he may apply a procedural penalty under **Law 90A**.

10.2 Late Alert

In the case of a late alert (i.e., a member of the non-offending side has taken action before the alert is made), the Director should be called immediately before any further action is taken. (See **7.8**) He may be able to take steps to prevent damage at this time. If the non-offending side fails to call the Director at this time, they may jeopardise their rights to obtain redress for damage later.

10.3 Failure to Alert / Mistaken Explanation

When there has been a failure to alert, or a mistaken alert, or mis-explanation given, the following principles apply.

10.3.1 If a member of the offending side becomes declarer/dummy:
Before the opening lead is faced, declarer and/or dummy are required by Law to call the Director and, in his presence, correct the failure to alert, the mistaken alert, and/or the mis-explanation.

10.3.2 If the offending side become defenders:
No correction may be given until the end of play, at which time the Director must be called.

10.3.3 When there is reason to believe that a failure to alert has caused damage, the Director will consider awarding an adjusted score, providing there is a direct link between the irregularity and the result achieved at the table.

11. Tournament Director's Responsibility

11.1 Tournament Directors will not allow players to manipulate these Regulations to their advantage. For example, opponents must be allowed enough time to alert; a speedy action out of tempo followed by a claim for a late alert will receive little sympathy. Likewise, experienced players claiming damage through a technical failure to alert will need to present a strong case.

11.2 Directors are required, when giving a ruling at the table, to consider whether the players have adhered to the principles of full disclosure.

12. Alerting when Screens are in Use

When screens are in use, the alerting procedures outlined above do not apply. Refer instead to the ABF Screen Regulations.

13. Summary and Guidelines for Players

This summary constitutes part of the regulations, but is intended only as a brief guide to players. Players should be familiar with the full regulations.

13.1 The Laws and these regulations require full disclosure of your agreements. You should make active efforts to ensure the opponents are aware of your agreements. You do so by pre-alerts (before the auction), alerts and announcements during the auction and delayed alerts at the end of the auction.

13.1.1 The pre-alert is the stage where you warn opponents of any very unusual agreements. Pay special attention to self-alerting calls that may surprise the opponents, (e.g. unusual doubles, unusual cue bids of opponents' suit) and to any unusual agreements to which the opponents may need to devise a defence.

13.1.2 Calls are alerted during the auction by audibly saying, "Alert" and by circling the alertable call on the bidding pad.

13.1.3 An opening bid of 1♣ does not require an alert, irrespective of whether it is natural or conventional. Responder, after either a 1♣ or a natural 1NT opening bid, instead makes the prescribed announcement.

13.1.4 At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual undisclosed features by placing a plus sign (+) in one corner of the relevant square(s) of the bidding pad.

13.2 Self-alerting calls include all doubles and redoubles, calls at the 4-level or higher (except conventional opening bids), cue bids of an opponent's suit and any uncontested 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid. These should not be alerted during the auction, but may need to be alerted in the pre-alert or the delayed alert stage. Players should be aware that such calls by opponents may not mean what they assume, and ask if necessary.

13.3 All conventional calls (other than self-alerting calls or those that require an announcement) must be alerted. Note that an opening 1♦ bid that may contain fewer than three cards in the suit is conventional. Note also that any call showing two suits is conventional, even where one of the suits is named, e.g. 2♥ showing hearts and a minor.

13.4 A natural call must be alerted if it is forcing or non-forcing in a way the opponents might not expect (e.g., inverted minor raises, pre-emptive raises in uncontested auctions, negative free bids) or if its meaning is affected by other agreements (e.g. a 1♥ opening that denies 4+ spades).

13.5 The policy is to alert any call by partner (other than a self-alerting call) that the opponents could reasonably misunderstand.

13.6 In explanations, do not use the names of conventions; give specific explanations. For example, do not just say "Michaels", but explain the meaning of the bid by saying "At least 5-5 in hearts and a minor suit, any strength". Similarly, refrain from using the terms 'weak', 'strong', 'intermediate', 'natural' or 'standard' if there exist, from partnership experience, certain expectations of suit quality and/or point count. The opponents' views of these descriptive terms may differ from yours.

13.7 You may ask questions only at your turn to call or play. It is improper to ask questions for the benefit of partner.

Irregularities

13.8.1 Any mis-explanation, alert or failure to alert by partner is unauthorised information to you, and you must avoid taking any subsequent action suggested by that unauthorised information.

~~**13.8.2** If you realise that you have given a wrong explanation during the auction or failed to alert, call the Director immediately.~~

13.8.3 If you believe your partner has given a wrong explanation or there has been a material failure to alert, call the Director before the opening lead if you are the declaring side. If you are defending, you may not call until the end of the hand, whereupon you are required to do so.

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SECTION H – DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS FOR CONGRESS EVENTS

The director must be accredited by the QBA as a congress director. The director and assistant directors must not play in the event.

For events up to 30 tables, one Director is considered adequate.

For events of more than 30 tables, two directors are required. The second director need not be congress qualified but should be at least an experienced QBA-accredited club director or hold comparable qualifications from another jurisdiction and be prepared and capable of handling simple calls and/or computer scoring. The QBA Tournament Committee chair upon application from the convenor, is given the power to approve that only one Director may be used when 31 or 32 tables are involved.

For more than 60 tables, three directors are required. The second director must be a QBA-accredited congress director and the third director should be at least an experienced QBA-accredited club director or hold comparable qualifications from another jurisdiction and be prepared and capable of handling simple calls and/or computer scoring.

Accredited directors from other states are not automatically entitled to Queensland accreditation and not automatically entitled to direct congresses in Queensland.

CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT

Pre-congress Announcements

Congress directors are required to include the following in their preliminary announcements. This requirement is not just bureaucratic red tape, but is aimed to ensure that all approved events are conducted in accordance with QBA requirements, and that players become aware of them:

- QBA Regulations apply.
- All psychic calls must be reported (by the psyche or the partner of the psyche) to the director, regardless of the outcome of the psyche. This is a QBA Regulation and failure to report a psyche is an infraction of regulation and subject to penalty.
- Name(s) of recorder(s) for the event
- Format of the event, requirements for qualifications in to the finals
- Time for appeals and score corrections if not 30 minutes.

Checking of Scores

Scores and recap sheets must be made available for the inspection of players at all times, consistent with the smooth running and integrity of the event. Results published before players have had the opportunity to check the scores must be announced as provisional. In particular, presentation of prizes must not be done without the players having the opportunity to check scores. The official score should be annotated with the time of posting.

The official score is a complete list of all contestants in rank order with their scores. The “personals” or individual recap sheets for each contestant should also be available for inspection at this time.

Time for Appeals and Score Corrections

The Score Correction Period Law 79C1 and the Time of Appeal period Law 92B may be set to less than 30 minutes (e.g., 15 minutes) if this is required by the Tournament Organiser, provided players have some time to check scores. See above, Pre-congress Announcements.

Presentation of Prizes

Presentations may be made within the time allowed for appeals and score corrections, providing players have had at least some time to check the official score. In such cases, it is to be announced that presentations are being made subject to the result of any appeal or score correction.

QBA TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The QBA will conduct teaching courses and annual examinations for director accreditation. Standards of knowledge required are listed below, together with other requirements.

CLUB DIRECTOR

- must have passed the online QBA Director Proficiency Test
- good understanding of the commonly used laws and ability to interpret the less common laws;
- knowledge of standard Mitchell movements, odd and even, twinned, appendix and rover;
- knowledge of Howells and three-quarter Howells; able to cope with adding late pairs / tables to a movement;
- knowledge of American whist movements and a movement for an even number of teams; round robin teams movements;
- understanding of match-pointing including adjusted scores; and
- understanding of the principles of factoring.

CONGRESS DIRECTOR (Country)

- must have extensive experience directing at club level, including events with more than one session;
- must have qualified as a club director through the QBA accreditation process or hold comparable qualifications from another jurisdiction;
- must be capable of computer scoring Swiss events as well as movements for small numbers

Application is made by a club's management committee to the QBA Chairman Accreditation. While essentially a needs-based qualification, the candidate need not be from the club intending to hold a congress, providing there is a willingness to be engaged to run a small country congress.

A Congress Director (Country) may be authorised to direct a small country congress when a QBA Congress Director is not available. Permission will be given on a case-by-case basis by application to the QBA Tournament Committee Chairman.

CONGRESS DIRECTOR

- thorough understanding of all the laws, with particular reference to the more difficult areas such as misinformation and misunderstanding, alerting regulations;
- the standard required will be higher than that for club directors;
- must show the ability to organise a large pairs or teams movement;
- be able to run a Howell movement with barometer pairs scoring and a round robin or Swiss teams movement;
- understanding of across-the-field scoring;
- must be able to advise congress convenors on all tournament matters, such as tie breaking, promulgating of regulations, establishment of appeals committees, permitted systems, announcements before the event etc.;
- must have a clear understanding of the roles of the director and the appeals committee;
- must be familiar with the QBA general, systems and alerting regulations;
- must show expertise in breaking of ties, scoring of fouled boards, arrow-switched boards, unplayed boards, adjusted and split scores;

- must have an understanding of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and know the requirements for reporting results for masterpoint purposes. Must be aware that it is the Director's responsibility to ensure that the results are reported to the State Masterpoint Secretary;
- must undertake to observe any QBA requirements in relation to ongoing registration as a congress director. The QBA may require some evidence of ongoing self-education;

Accreditation as a QBA Congress Director is achieved by:

(a) passing the QBA Congress Director accreditation exam. A candidate for this exam must have had at least 12 months directing experience as an accredited QBA Club Director or hold verifiable comparable accreditation and experience as a Club Director in another jurisdiction or
(b) holding verifiable comparable accreditation from another jurisdiction and being recommended for QBA Congress Director accreditation by the Chairman Accreditation to the Management Committee. The Chairman Accreditation will usually consult with, or seek reports from, suitably qualified people.

PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION AS A QBA STATE DIRECTOR

A Director seeking accreditation as a QBA State Director should make application to the QBA Chairman Accreditation.

The QBA Chairman Accreditation may:
- request further information as to the applicant's suitability and/or require an interview
- advise the applicant that further experience is recommended before proceeding with the application and assist the applicant to gain that further experience
- form a panel of appropriate people to assess the application
- obtain reports from the Director in Charge of any ABF gold point event at which the applicant has worked or ask that the applicant be formally assessed at an ABF gold point event.

Any decision to grant QBA State Director accreditation requires endorsement by the QBA Management Committee to be valid.

Any decision made as part of the above process may be appealed to the QBA Management Committee.

Requirements:

- the applicant shall have been a registered and active congress director for a minimum of 2 years, and should have had extensive experience in directing congress events - a minimum of 25 red masterpoint congress events of at least two sessions, or equivalent large multi-section club events;
- the applicant should have had experience in directing at the Gold Coast Congress, Canberra Summer Festival or the northern Gold Point Congress (Mackay, Townsville, Cairns or Yeppoon) and have received a favourable report from the chief director of that event;
- a trainee state director wanting to gain experience at one of the above events must apply to the appropriate congress committee for employment at that event with a mutually agreed salary and accommodation contract to be determined between the two parties;
- application for additional subsidy may be made to the QBA Chairman Accreditation who will liaise with the QBA Management Committee.

In addition, the applicant should have demonstrated the following:

- an extensive knowledge of the 2017 Laws of Bridge and the regulations of the QBA;
- experience in conducting events with large numbers of tables;
- familiarity with a range of movements and the ability to cope with last minute changes;
- experience in organising and scoring Swiss teams and Butler pairs;
- a dedication to accuracy in scoring;
- sufficient knowledge of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme to know the requirements for reporting tournament results;

- familiarity with at least one method of computer scoring;
- to retain status as a state director, he/she must direct at least two congress or higher events per year. The Management Committee may relax this requirement for cause e.g., illness, absence from the state etc.

The QBA Chairman Accreditation may recommend state accreditation for suitably experienced directors from other states.

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SECTION I – APPEALS AND REVIEWS

Law 93 is applied differently depending on the option chosen under **Law 80B2(k)**. Appeals Committees are to be used for congresses. A Reviewer is to be used for QBA championship events and selection trials. Under **Law 92C**, players appeal through the Director who initiates the relevant process.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Tournament Organiser of each congress, or by default the Director, will appoint an Appeals Committee, either before the start of the congress or as the need arises.

An Appeals Committee should comprise an uneven number with not more than one person from the same team or same pair if practicable. Failure to observe this procedure must not be because of perceived time constraints.

There is no requirement for appellants to lodge a monetary deposit however, the Appeals Committee will have the power to apply a procedural penalty for blatantly frivolous appeals. See Appeals Committee Procedures (h). During an appeal hearing, both parties should be represented (at least one player from each pair) while the committee is establishing the facts.

APPEALS CONSULTANT - ROLE AND LIMITATIONS

The Tournament Organiser of each congress, or by default the Director, will appoint at least one Appeals Consultant, either before the start of the congress or as the need arises.

This person's role is to advise a prospective appellant regarding the wisdom of pursuing an appeal, the appropriate laws and the likely outcome of an appeal. An appellant's use of an Appeals Consultant will not in any way limit the powers of the Appeals Committee. In determining whether an appeal is substantially without merit and whether to apply a penalty, the Appeals Committee shall consider any advice given to the appellant by an Appeals Consultant.

THE APPEALS PROCESS

See **Law 92D** for concurrence of appellants. The Appeals Committee may overrule the Director on a point of fact or judgement, but not on a point of law or regulation. If the committee strongly feels that the Director's decision in law was wrong, they may attempt to persuade him to change his mind. If he refuses, the committee may refer the facts to the QBA Tournament Committee chairman.

Players are expected to graciously accept the decision of the committee. Players who harangue or abuse committee members after a decision may be subject to a disciplinary penalty by the Director or committee, and/or referral to the QBA Conduct and Ethics Panel.

FURTHER AVENUES OF APPEAL ABOUT A COMMITTEE'S CONDUCT OR DECISION

This happens after the event and does not change the results of an event.

Players involved in an appeal at any level of competition in Queensland other than competitions conducted under ABF regulations may request the decision be reviewed:

- a review may only be requested by the players, or the Director, involved in the original appeal;
- it should be clear that a review does not re-examine players or Directors and is based solely on the written reports which must therefore be accurate;
- a review cannot alter the result, change the title holder or amend prize money;

- a review may comment on aspects of the conduct of the appeal, provide confirmation or otherwise of the laws and regulations applied and give an opinion of judgement decisions drawn from the evidence recorded in the reports of the original appeal;
- a player or Director proposing to request a review should first contact the Tournament Organiser who may attempt to ameliorate the problem. If he is not successful, the Tournament Organiser shall obtain copies of the information listed below and forward to the QBA Tournament Committee chairman within 14 days of the event:
  - All relevant hand records relating to the original ruling.
  - Written statements from the contestants or Director stating the reasons for referring the matter to the QBA. Statements must be signed by both members of the partnership for a pairs event or, in a teams event, the captain.
  - The written report from the Appeals Committee explaining the reasons for the committee decision.
  - The Director's report stating the reasons for his/her ruling at the table quoting relevant Laws.
- should the Tournament Organiser fail to act, the player or Director should gather all material he can obtain and submit to the QBA Tournament Committee chairman within a further 14 days.

Referrals will be initially considered by the QBA Tournament Committee chairman. Several options are available for further action:

- players seeking the review may be consulted and given advice;
- players or clubs may be advised of generally accepted arrangements for the conduct of appeals;
- if appropriate, the Tournament Committee chairman may select a panel of suitable personnel to formally review the matter.

APPEALS COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

See also Section L Guidelines for Appeals Committees (link) The WBF Code of Practice for Appeals (2010) is the primary reference for matters not incorporated in these regulations or guidelines.

The Committee will meet as frequently as necessary to ensure the integrity of the tournament. However, in events with a Swiss draw, it may not be possible for the committee to meet immediately. In those cases, any decision by the committee will not invalidate a previous Swiss draw.

As private an area as possible should be provided for the committee's hearings.

(a) The appeal should be submitted on the approved QBA Appeals form. When there are time constraints, the chairman of the Appeals Committee may rule that an appeal be heard without prior completion of the appeals form. The Director will present his report to the committee. Due weight should be given to the Director's assessment of facts as he was present at the time and aware of the table `feel'. Both parties should be heard together where possible with the appellants presenting their case and the respondents presenting their response. The chair should not allow any interruption by the other side during this presentation. Opportunities for rebuttal must be provided. Committee members may ask questions of the parties to clarify the situation but should not enter into debate with them.

(b) The committee must use the Director's interpretation of the Laws and regulations though may encourage him to reconsider that interpretation.

(c) The Director need not remain during this part of the hearing but should remain available to the committee for any further clarification of fact or advice on law.

(d) When the committee reaches its decision, it should be put in writing and reasons given. Care should be exercised in phrasing where matters of propriety may be involved. The chair will convey the decision to the Director prior to the parties being informed. The Director or chair can then inform the parties concerned. Care should be taken that the scorers are also informed. The written decision should be returned to the Director. If the decision was not a unanimous one, it should be so recorded on the record, and the Director and players concerned so advised.

(e) Subsequent discussion by committee members: The QBA has no wish to stifle discussion on appeals decisions. Indeed, it welcomes constructive discussion as a means of attaining consistency in appeals rulings. However, committee members must be aware that discussions in committee attract legal privilege, whereas subsequent public statements do not. In many appeals situations, matters of propriety may affect the decision. An Appeals Committee is a committee of equals. Whilst subsequent debate on a decision is one thing, criticism of a fellow Appeals Committee member is quite a different matter. Committee members who criticise fellow members will not be invited on to subsequent committees.

(f) Directors, even if they disagree with a committee's decision, should refrain from any public criticism of the committee. Appeals Committees who have doubts about the correctness of a Director's actions in a particular case should discuss this with the Director.

(g) Verbal attacks by players on committee members: Members must avoid becoming involved in `slanging matches' with players over an appeals decision. The committee has the same procedural and disciplinary powers as the Director and has the power to apply a disciplinary penalty to players who verbally attack committee members. A warning would be appropriate for the first offence, followed by a penalty in the final scoring unit and even suspension as an extreme resort. Attacks after the event is over should be referred to the QBA Conduct and Ethics Panel.

(h) Frivolous appeals: The Appeals Committee may apply penalties for appeals which are deemed to be substantially without merit, for example, 2VP for teams and 50% of a top in matchpoint pairs.

(i) Fines for players not knowing their system: The committee does not have the power to fine players for not knowing their system in a `one off' situation. Players who repeatedly display deficient knowledge of their system will be subject to penalty. It is the Director's responsibility in appeals involving this type of problem to advise the committee whether he has had any previous similar problems with the pair concerned. Pairs who play a complex system are particularly expected to know their system. Persistent misunderstandings may result in procedural penalties, and both the Director and Appeals Committee are entitled to direct them to play a simple system.

(j) The chair may use a scribe where possible.

REVIEWER

A Reviewer will be appointed by the Tournament Committee chairman for each QBA championship and selection trials event excluding the Queensland Novice Pairs, 0-50 Teams of 3 and the 10-300 Teams. The latter events shall use an Appeals Committee.

The Reviewer need not be on site. The appointed Reviewer shall not act if:

- in the opinion of the QBA representative the appointed reviewer could reasonably be thought likely to obtain some benefit from the adjudication
- the appointed Reviewer has previously expressed an opinion as to the outcome of the review.

In either case a replacement Reviewer shall be appointed. The QBA representative will so act in the absence or involvement of the Tournament Committee chairman.

The Reviewer shall follow the procedures set out in the ABF Ruling and Review Regulations. Australian Bridge Federation » Ruling and Review Procedures (abf.com.au) The Reviewer does not himself change a ruling but may require deficiencies in the process to be corrected by the Director and a new ruling issued. The new ruling, after the correct procedures have been followed, need not necessarily be different from the original.

The Reviewer has the power to impose a penalty in cases where a request for a review is deemed to be without merit. Such penalty will be quantified in either MPs, IMPs or VPs as appropriate. See Appeals Committee Procedures (g). Contestants are therefore encouraged to approach a Review Consultant prior to lodging an appeal.

A written report of each review is to be provided to the Tournament Committee chairman. A scribe may be used.

REVIEW CONSULTANT

One or more Review Consultants will be appointed by the Tournament Committee chairman for each QBA championship or selection trials event. The Tournament Organiser, or by default the Director, may appoint further Review Consultants as the need arises.

The Review Consultant's function is to advise a prospective appellant as to the wisdom of requesting the review of a ruling. It is not obligatory for a prospective appellant to consult a Review Consultant before lodging a request for a review. However, in determining whether a review is "substantially without merit" and in considering whether to apply a penalty, the Reviewer shall consider the advice given to the appellant by a Review Consultant.

FURTHER AVENUES OF APPEAL ABOUT A REVIEWER'S CONDUCT OR DECISION

This happens after the event and does not change the results of an event.

The Tournament Committee chairman may select a panel of suitable personnel to formally consider any review conducted at a QBA championship or selection trials event. This may be at the request of a player or the Director involved. A process similar to that for Further Avenues of Appeal about a Committee's Conduct or Decision should be used.

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FORM J1

Congress Forms - Queensland Bridge Association (qldbridge.com.au)

REPORT ON CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT

To be completed if a problem occurs.

NAME AND DATE OF CONGRESS:

NAME OF DIRECTOR(S):

PLEASE COMMENT ON ANY TOURNAMENT DIFFICULTIES OR PROBLEMS:

(Use a separate sheet if necessary. Include any areas where the club felt some dissatisfaction; include also any critical comments from players even if you feel them unjustified.)

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE (OPTIONAL - YOU MAY OMIT THIS):

Very good / good / satisfactory / unsatisfactory.

COMMENTS:

ANY WITHDRAWALS OR NON-APPEARANCES:

Any comments made here will not be divulged to your director. However, the QBA Tournament Committee will periodically issue bulletins to active congress directors covering, in a general way, problem areas revealed by these reports. We hope in this way to maximise the quality of congress directing and the level of player satisfaction in Queensland.

Name and signature of club official:

Forward report to QBA Tournament Committee chair within 14 days after congress only if there was a problem – 'nil' reports need not be submitted.

QBA APPEALS FORM

Congress Forms - Queensland Bridge Association (qldbridge.com.au)

EVENT: DATE:

APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Chairman:

Other members:

APPELLANTS: RESPONDENTS:

DIRECTOR:

BIDDING:

West North East South

PLAY (if relevant)

Bd. No.	Dealer:	Vul:
North		
S:		
H:		
D:		
C:		
West		East
S:		S:
H:		H:
D:		D:
C:		C:
South		
S:		
H:		
D:		
C:		

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DECISION

(continued overleaf)

APPLICABLE LAWS

APPELLANTS' CLAIM:

RESPONDERS' REPLY:

APPEALS COMMITTEE'S DECISION:

A copy of this form to be forwarded to QBA Tournament Committee chair.

QBA – Request for Review (Page 1 to be completed by Director)

Event: **Session/Match/Stanza:**

Brd:	**N:** _		
Dlr:	♠		
Vul:	♥		
	♦		
	♣		
W: _		**E:** _	
♠		♠	
♥		♥	
♦		♦	
♣		♣	
Contract:	**S:** _		
	♠		
Lead:	♥		
	♦		
Table Score:	♣		
Datum:			
Adjustment:			

Auction - Please number relevant calls			
West	**North**	**East**	**South**

Explanation of calls	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Play (if relevant)	
1.	**6.**
2.	**7.**
3.	**8.**
4.	**9.**
5.	**10.**

Law Ref:	**Details and Basis of Ruling**
Are the facts disputed? **Yes / No**	
Was there an infraction? **Yes / No**	
Did the infraction cause damage? **Yes / No**	**Signature Director:** **Date:**

Are the facts disputed? **Yes / No**	**Reasons for Seeking a Review**
Do you believe the Director followed correct procedure? **Yes / No**	

Signature Appellant: **Signature Captain if Teams:**

Decision of Reviewer

Signature Reviewer:

A copy of this form to be forwarded to QBA Tournament Committee chair.

QBA PSYCHIC CALLS REGISTER

Notes for the director: This register is not intended to infer any impropriety in psychic calls, or to deter psyching. It is intended to establish a central repository of the incidence of psyches, so that the frequency of psyches by particular partnerships can be ascertained. Partnerships with a record of frequent psyching are in danger of developing an implicit agreement, and need to be warned about this.

There is an obligation on the psycher to report his/her psyche. Failure to do so will be penalised as a breach of regulation. The director is entitled to award an adjusted score of his own volition (he does not require a complaint from the opponents) if he considers that the psyche has been `fielded'. It is particularly important that any psyches where the director has any doubt should be reported.

EVENT: DATE:

DIRECTOR:

PLAYERS:

North: South:

East: West:

(**Please write in players' names clearly)**

BIDDING:

West North East South

PLAY (if relevant)

.

RESULT:

BOARD NO:	DEALER:	VUL:

NORTH ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ | N W E S | EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

SOUTH ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Director's comments on reverse, including any adjusted score, warnings given, any history of psyching, general opinion:

Please forward to: QBA Tournament Committee chair.

DIRECTORS REPORT FORM Form J6

Congress Forms - Queensland Bridge Association (qldbridge.com.au)

To be completed whenever there is something to report. Form J6 is not required if the only matter being reported is a psyche or an appeal. Those forms must still be forwarded as below.

This is a report to the Chair, QBA Tournament Committee and will be tabled at the next meeting of the Tournament Committee.

NAME OF CONGRESS:

DATE: CONVENOR:

DIRECTOR:

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

NUMBER OF TABLES:

PARTNERSHIPS CAUSING SYSTEM DISRUPTION:

LATE WITHDRAWALS, LATE ARRIVALS, NO SHOWS:

BOARD DEALING IRREGULARITIES:

PROCEDURAL AND DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES: (Name, Infraction, Penalty)

Were there any appeals?

If "Yes" then details are to be sent to QBA Tournament Committee chair.

Were any psyches reported?

If "Yes" then details are to be sent to QBA Tournament Committee chair

GENERAL COMMENTS:

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SECTION K – QBA SYSTEM REGULATIONS

QBA adopts the ABF System Regulations as modified to reflect QBA committees and personnel.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Systems are classified according to the characteristics of their opening and overcalling structures, and will be identified by colour coding. In determining the classification of a system, the green, blue, red and yellow criteria are to be applied in that sequence until the appropriate classification is determined. All entrants in QBA events shall display on their partnership's system cards a coloured dot indicating the classification of the system being played. In addition to these primary colour classifications, certain individual conventional calls and treatments are defined as, and require an additional, Brown Sticker.

1.2 Definitions

Average Hand	A hand containing 10 HCP with no distributional values
Weak	High card strength below that of an average hand
Strong	High card strength a king or greater than that of an average hand (i.e. 13+ HCP)
Natural	A call or play that is not artificial or conventional (i.e. not a “special partnership understanding” as defined in **Law 40B1**)
Length	Three cards or more
Shortage	Two cards or fewer
Artificial	An artificial bid is one, which carries information concerning a denomination other than the one named or a bid concerned with values or controls without necessarily a preparedness to play in the named denomination
Distributional Values	A hand with distributional values contains one or more shortages
Balanced	For the purpose of classifying NT openings, balanced shall mean a hand with no more than one (1) shortage and that shortage shall be not fewer than two (2) cards in length
Semi-Balanced	A hand with no more than two (2) shortages where each shortage shall be not fewer than two (2) cards in length
Published	A System will be considered as published if it has been recorded in an accessible form and made available in that form to officials of the QBA and all registered players in a QBA event

2. CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS

2.1 Green (Natural) Systems

a) All one-level opening bids are natural and non-forcing

b) An opening bid of one of a major guarantees length (4+ cards) in the denomination named.

c) 1NT should be balanced or semi-balanced
(**Note:** this does not preclude individual assessment of some hands, e.g. a hand with a singleton honour or a weak longer suit. The subsequent bidding methods however, should not be able to identify such hand types)

d) All one-level opening bids must, by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

2.2 Blue (Strong Club/Strong Diamond) Systems

This category includes systems that satisfy all of the following criteria:

a) One club/one diamond is artificial, forcing and always strong

b) One of a major is natural and non-forcing

c) 1NT is non-conventional

d) The one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids

e) All one-level opening bids, must by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

2.3 Red Systems

This category includes:

a) All systems employing artificial one-level openings that do not fall under the definition of Yellow (HUM) systems [see below], other than Strong Club/Strong Diamond (Blue) systems.

b) Any system in which the basic 1-level opening structure (other than the length of natural suit bids or the point range of openings) varies according to position and/or vulnerability.

2.4 Yellow (HUM) Systems

For the purpose of these Regulations, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that has, as a matter of partnership agreement, one or more of the following features:

a) A Pass in the opening position that shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities.

b) An opening bid at the one level that may be weaker than Pass.

c) An opening bid at the one level in either 1st or 2nd seat that may be made on high card strength a king or more below that of an average hand (i.e., ~ 0-7 HCP).

d) An opening bid at the one level that shows either specified length or specified shortage in a known suit, whilst excluding other intermediate lengths in that same suit (i.e., the use of 'wonder' style bids).

e) An opening bid at the one level that shows either length in a specified major or length in another specified suit.

2.5 Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments

Certain types of conventional calls or treatments are considered to place demands upon the opponents' defensive preparations. The conventions/treatments in question are categorized as 'Brown Sticker' (BS).

Any one of the following characteristics qualifies a convention/treatment as BS if it is a matter of partnership agreement:

a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that: could be weak and does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

Exceptions:

(i) Where all the weak meanings guarantee at least four cards in one known suit and only the strong options do not.

(ii) A two-level opening bid in a minor may show a weak hand with 5+ cards in either major only, or as an option among any number of strong hand types.

b) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

Exceptions:

(i) A natural overcall in no trumps.

(ii) Any cue bid that shows a strong hand.

(iii) A cue bid in an opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

c) Any weak two-suited bid (whether it be an overcall, an opening bid or a response) at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.

Notes:

I. Restriction (b) also applies to overcalls after an opening bid of one of a minor which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing, even if it might be made on a doubleton or a singleton.

II. None of the foregoing restrictions (a-c) pertain to conventional defences against strong, forcing artificial opening bids, or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions. Conventional defences to 1NT are also unrestricted.

III. Additional to the classification of system, any partnership using one or more 'Brown Sticker' conventions must individually list them on their system cards and/or supplementary sheets.

2.6 Random Actions

It is forbidden to open or to overcall hands, which by agreement, may contain fewer than 8 high card points and for which no further definition is provided (i.e., bids that promise nothing more than 13 cards in a player's hand). Pairs employing HUM methods may however open hands at the one-level that conform to Section 2.4(b) criteria.

2.7 Encrypted Signals

Additional to the restrictions on bidding methods and conventions above, players may not use signalling methods by which the message or messages conveyed by the signals are hidden from the declarer because of some key available only to the defenders (i.e. encrypted signals are not allowed)

2.8 Players' Obligations

The onus lies with all players to classify their own systems appropriately according to these Regulations. If players are in any doubt about the appropriate classification of their system, they may submit their system card and any supplementary sheets to the Director of the event for formal classification. Any such submission should occur at least two weeks prior to the event or by the due date specified in the entry conditions.

2.9 'Protected Pairs'

A 'Protected Pair' is a pair where both players are below the status of Life Master, or where one player is below the status of State Master, and which chooses to play a green system without the use of any Brown Sticker conventions throughout an event or stage of an event. To claim 'Protected Pair' status, the pair must display on the front of their system card a green sticker (which designates they are playing a Green System), together with an orange sticker (which designates their claim for protection against Yellow Systems and Brown Sticker conventions/treatments). Such pairs must confirm with the tournament director prior to the start of the event or session that their system is green and non-BS, after which the director will supply the relevant stickers.

In events or sessions where the Regulations allow pairs to claim 'Protected Pair' status, such a pair will be required to inform their opponents before the start of each round of their 'Protected' status. The opposing pair must then not employ their yellow methods nor any Brown Sticker convention or treatment during the round in question.

3. ADEQUATE DISCLOSURE, SYSTEM CARDS AND SUMMARIES

3.1 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. In addition to the appropriate system card, pairs shall use supplementary sheets, where necessary, to achieve this objective.

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. Supplementary sheets as specified below, if appropriate, shall be available on request.

3.2 Prior Submission of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets

For each QBA event or congress, the entry conditions may specify the date and/or time by which the QBA Tournament Committee chair or director, as the case may be, must receive copies of any system cards and supplementary sheets, as well as the form and/or number of copies required. Failure to meet the specified deadline date may result in prohibition of some or all of the relevant methods for part of or the entire event.

In general, advance notice of systems will be required from entrants wishing to use a Yellow system (when permitted).

The QBA Tournament Committee chair or director shall be responsible for ensuring that all players (if they choose) are given prior access to systems information submitted in advance, in order to satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure.

3.3 System Cards

System cards shall be prepared legibly in a form approved by the QBA, properly identified with the names of the pair and a coloured sticker showing the category of the system as defined by these regulations. The tournament director shall be responsible for providing pairs with an appropriately coloured sticker to attach to their system card prior to the commencement of the first session of any event.

For all QBA events and congresses, each pair must have two systemically identical ABF system cards on the table before the start of play.

Before the commencement of play, each pair shall hand one copy of the system card to each opponent. The system cards are to be returned to the pair at the end of that segment of play.

After withdrawing the cards from a board and until they are restored to the board at the conclusion of its play, a player's own system may not be consulted (except when specifically permitted under these regulations, as in the use of "defence" notes).

3.4 Supplementary Sheets

The use of supplementary sheets is appropriate whenever methods that may require defensive preparation (i.e., HUM or Brown Sticker) are employed. Any opening or overcalling structure that causes a system to be so classified should be itemised; together with a summary of the possible options available to the responder and/or advancer.

Supplementary sheets shall be typed or written legibly in black ink on one side of an A4 sheet. For the current structure of QBA events and congresses, the maximum number of supplementary sheets

allowed shall be determined by the QBA Tournament Committee and published in the entry conditions and/or supplementary regulations.

3.5 Prior Submission of Detailed Yellow System Notes

Pairs intending to play Yellow Systems may be required to lodge in advance an electronic copy of their detailed system notes with the QBA Tournament Committee chair or director, together with copies of their ABF Standard System Card and supplementary sheets.

These notes will be available for prior consultation by opposing pairs and for possible use at the table by opponents if they so choose. Yellow System pairs are also required to prepare and submit a *bona fide* suggested defence to the HUM aspects of their system.

3.6 More Comprehensive Descriptions of Systems

In the interests of full disclosure and for a pair's own benefit in case of disputes, any pair may submit one copy of a more comprehensive description of their system to the tournament Director before the first session of any event. In decisions taken by Tournament Directors and by the Appeals Committee/Reviewer, pairs who have submitted their full system will be given the benefit of any support this provides for an explanation given at the table.

3.7 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 approaches from each other, that difference (or those differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

4. SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS FOR QBA EVENTS AND CONGRESSES

4.1 In accordance with the above classifications, the QBA Tournament Committee shall determine the systems that may be played in any QBA Event in sufficient time for the relevant decisions to be published in the Entry Booklet or on Entry Forms for the event/s, and/or in Supplementary Regulations.

4.2 System restrictions may vary from one stage of a QBA event to another. They may also be different within a single stage as when determined by either round number or current field position (e.g., no yellow systems in the early rounds of a Swiss, nor in the bottom part of a ranked field).

4.3 At its discretion, the QBA Tournament Committee may also allow or prohibit certain ‘brown sticker’ conventions to be used in particular QBA Events, notwithstanding any of the above. These allowances do not affect the classifications of the systems themselves.

4.4 All such allowances will be construed strictly and shall be deemed not to extend to any further variations of the said convention, unless otherwise determined by the QBA Tournament Committee.

7. DEFENCES AGAINST BROWN STICKER CONVENTIONS

7.1 Pairs may prepare written defences against those system elements that are categorised as Brown Sticker (not exceeding one A4 sheet), but no written defence against the defence will be permitted.

7.2 Such defences must be approved in writing by the tournament director and are to be given to the opponents (2 copies) at the table prior to the start of play.

7.3 Both pairs at the table may use them during the auction period and - for the purpose only of responding to a question - during the play period.

8. DEFENCES AGAINST YELLOW SYSTEMS

8.1 Notes detailing a defence against a Yellow system (not exceeding one A4 sheet), and any defence against the defence (also not exceeding one A4 sheet), may be used at the table during the auction period; and - for the purpose only of responding to a question - during the play period.

8.2 When opposing a team/pair that is playing a Yellow system, opponents wishing to use notes on their defence at the table must submit two (2) copies of that defence to the opponents at an appropriate time and place prior to the scheduled start of play, to be specified in the Supplementary Regulations. Such defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card. In preparing a defence against a yellow system, a pair using a green, blue or red system may change their system, including opening calls.

8.3 Yellow systems that are to be played only as a defence against other yellow systems may only be used if submitted in accordance with section 3.5 above.

8.4 Any defence against a defence (two copies, hand-written) must be submitted to opponents at the start of play. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using a Yellow system is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

9. VIOLATION OF SYSTEM AND PSYCHIC MANOEUVRES

(**See also Section B Page 5**)

9.1 A player may violate his side's announced understanding always provided that his partner has no more reason to anticipate the violation than have the opponents.

9.2 A partnership understanding exists when the frequency of occurrence is sufficient for the partner of the player who makes the call to take his awareness of psychic possibilities into account, whether he actually elects to do so or not.

9.3 Understandings whereby from time to time there may be gross violations of the normal meanings of calls, and where the nature or type of violation might be anticipated, must be disclosed. These understandings may be explicitly agreed or they may have developed from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge not available to opponents.

9.4 Agreements that so-called psychic calls are to be expected, or the provision of systemic protection for them, are classified as HUM (Yellow). A call, which is based on a partnership understanding, cannot properly be called 'psychic' and such methods are only permissible when the advance notice provisions of sections 3.2 and 3.5 have been fulfilled.

9.5 If the director judges there is undisclosed knowledge affecting the result of a board he shall adjust the score and may award a procedural penalty.

9.6 The psyching of a conventional bid, which is unequivocally forcing and systematically indicative of the strongest possible opening hand (e.g., a game forcing 2♣ or a Precision 1♣) is strictly forbidden.

10. CHANGE OF SYSTEMS

No pair may play two different Yellow systems during the course of an event without the express permission of the Chief Tournament director, unless specifically provided for in the Supplementary Regulations. Similarly, a maximum of only three Yellow systems per team will be permitted during the course of any one event.

11. ONUS ON ENTRANTS

Entrants in a QBA event or congress shall make themselves aware of the QBA System regulations and their application, as specified in the entry conditions and supplementary regulations pertaining to that event.

12. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SYSTEM REGULATIONS

12.1 When it is brought to the director's attention that a pair has transgressed the system regulations, whether in the system played or convention(s) used, the director should consider whether the opponents have been damaged; and, if so, award an adjusted score(s).

12.2 In addition the director should consider the assessment of a disciplinary penalty, taking into account:

a) The standard of the offending pair.

b) The standard of the field, especially those pairs that may have been affected

GUIDELINES ARE NOT REGULATIONS AND ARE NOT BINDING

PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY

Payment of prize money by a method other than cash on the day, for example by Direct Deposit or with MYABF credits, should be done within three working days of the event or immediately account details are received in the case of Direct Deposit, should that be later.

PRIZE MONEY GUIDELINES

These are not strictly prescriptive.

CONGRESS PRIZE MONEY

GUIDANCE FOR TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

The QBA does not regulate the amount of prize money to be awarded at congresses. Attendance and expenses vary greatly around the state. If prize money is to be awarded, the amount of each prize should be disclosed before the half-way point of the event. At the very least, the prizes to be awarded should be disclosed even if the actual cash amounts have not been calculated and are disclosed later. (See Prizes and Prize Money Page 21.)

Tournament Organisers should be aware that discontent may arise in certain situations, particularly when an open congress has been divided into categories so secondary prize money may be awarded, in addition to the overall prizes.

Open Congresses:

- Every contestant is eligible for the overall prize money.
- When a field has been divided into categories, an open event must not become a quasi-graded event by the way secondary prize money is distributed.
- When a category is related to seeding or masterpoints, it extends from its starting point to every contestant below that point i.e., to the lower end of the field.

Further suggestions:

- Contestants be eligible for only one cash prize unless special conditions apply.
- Contestants receive the higher cash prize if they appear eligible for two.
- When contestants appear eligible for two prizes of the same value, they are awarded the one for the higher position in the overall field.

Suppose a congress has 32 contestants, and these are divided into categories:

Overall (A): Contestants 1-32

Category B: Contestants 12-32 *not having already been awarded overall prize money*

Category C Contestants 23-32 *not having already been awarded higher prize money*.

Note Category B is 12-32 not 12-22.

If CS3 is being used, and categories have been based on the Director's seeding:

- "A" denotes the contestants who cannot win category prize money.
- "B" denotes the contestants who cannot win Category C prize money.
- "C" denotes the contestants who may win any prize.

Most importantly, A, B and C are *not* grades.

Assigning prizes is not difficult. Just work from the top of the results sheet – and have someone check.

Example: In addition to 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall for the 32 contestants above, there are to be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd for Category B and 1st for Category C.

A	10	1st Overall
B	7	2nd Overall
A	5	3rd Overall
A		
C	5	1st Category B
B	3	2nd Category B
A		
A		
A		
B		
A		
C	3	1st Category C

To avoid complications, it is recommended that first prize in Category B is equal to (or less than) third prize overall and that first prize in the Category C is equal to (or less than) second prize in Category B.

The prize formula could be: abc - cd - d

Let's award: $10, $7, $5 - $5, $3 - $3

For events with many prizes, an "abcde - efg - gh" style formula may break down because the lower prizes become very small. So, if the new formula becomes, perhaps abcde - cde - de, or any other method, the basic rules of thumb should still apply when contestants appear eligible for two prizes. They should get:

- the higher cash prize or
- the prize for the higher position when prizes are equal.

Restricted Congresses:

As for Open Congresses however the need for category prizes occurs less often as restricted congresses tend to be smaller than open congresses.

Graded Events:

For player satisfaction, grades are best treated as stand-alone events (which they essentially are) when allocating prize money. There's no reason for a large Grade B to receive less than a smaller Grade A.

If Grades A, B and C are all the same size, player expectation is likely to be that the same amount of prize money be allocated to each grade.

When grades are of unequal size, then pro rata amounts are likely to be expected.

Should two grades be combined, perhaps because a suitable format was not available for a small number in one or both, there would be overall prizes for the new grade as well as, possibly, a category prize for the smaller component or the original lower grade.

Relative Size of Prizes for Places:

This depends on club policy and the Tournament Organiser. There are no rules. Some clubs like to give many prizes while others may prefer fewer but larger prizes.

Using the masterpoint formula is worth considering. For the example above, having decided upon the size of first prize, second gets 70% and third gets 50%. Category B gets 50%, 35% and Category C gets 35%.

Definitions:

Category: In the context of an open congress, a category is a group of contestants who compete for a secondary prize: Best Home Club Pair, Best Country Team, Best Men's Pair, Best Women's Team. For open congresses, categories are typically based on the Director's seeding, masterpoints or masterpoint rank.

Grade: Grades, as the name suggests, are based on ability. For graded congresses without further restriction, grades are typically based on the Director's seeding. Grading by masterpoints or masterpoint rank is more likely done when the event itself is restricted by masterpoints for example, an Under 500 Graded Congress.

Contestants within a grade play only against each other. A large grade could have categories.

While a category and a grade may both be based on ability, it is best not to interchange the terms. Using "grade" instead of "category" may lead 4th place in the example above to expect $5 and the third last contestant to expect $3.

Conclusion:

This document gives guidance on methods that have been shown to work. Tournament Organisers are not obliged to apply them but the basic principles are best observed.

Regulations Relating to Prize Money:

- Breaking of Ties Page 13
- Final Scores Containing Decimal Fractions Page 13
- Checking of Scores Page 68
- Presentation of Prizes Page 69
- Payment of Prize Money Page 92

QBA TEAMS OF THREE - CAPTAIN'S DUTIES - GUIDELINES

- Captains sit South;
- Have a general discussion with the team before play commences to discuss format, their expectations, and how to get the most out of the day;
- Arrange the order in which you will play the matches with each team member;
- If there are 6 matches, it may make more sense to play consecutive matches with the same partner to avoid chopping and changing with each match;
- When playing with a team member, play a system that is most familiar to them and do not introduce any new methods, unless specifically requested by the partner for that match;
- Try and keep hand discussion during the play in the match to a minimum to maintain the focus;
- If you have time at the end of the match before scoring up, discuss the boards just played with your partner, and your opponents if they are interested;
- After scoring up each match, if there is time before the next match, try and spend some time with the team discussing any boards of interest, from any of the team;
- Allow enough time before the start of the next match for a system discussion if you are changing partners for this match; and
- If offered, encourage at least some of your team to stay for the general discussion after the presentation of prizes, if available.

TIMERS AT STATE (Qld) EVENTS

Directors are encouraged, but not required, to use timers at these events.

OPENING LEAD VALIDATION ON BRIDGEMATES

Strongly recommended for congresses though not compulsory at this stage.

GUIDELINES FOR APPEALS COMMITTEES

The committee has all the powers of the director, but may not overrule him on a point of law or regulation. The committee may disagree with the director on matters of fact or judgment. However, due regard must be given to the director's assessment of the ‘facts’ at the table, as he was present at the time.

The most difficult areas the committee will have to deal with are on matters of misinformation (including failure to alert) and unauthorised information. These will be discussed in some detail. In considering these situations, there are three questions to be answered:

(a) Did the alleged infraction occur e.g., an unjustified action after a hesitation?
(b) Did the opponents suffer damage?
(c) Did the damage result from the infraction rather than merely follow it? Was the opponent's subsequent poor result caused by the infraction and not by their own actions wholly or partly?

There is increasing evidence that we need to add one further question to this list:
Were the `non-offenders' taking advantage of the infraction and the Laws to have an each-way bet?

Some situations are simple. In a competitive auction, West hesitates significantly and East makes an unjustified bid of 4♠, thereby pushing NS to the 5♥ level, off 1. In most cases, adjustment to NS +620 would be appropriate. But what if 5♥ was cold, but South revoked? Now his damage, whilst subsequent to the infraction, was caused entirely by his own careless play, and was not a result of the infraction. What if South's 5♥ bid was a totally unjustified bridge action, and if he had passed (forcing in this situation) North would have doubled 4♠ for an even better score? The committee has to decide whether the NS damage here was caused by the infraction or by South's unreasonable action in bidding 5♥ unilaterally.

Another situation: Another competitive auction in which West has hesitated. North feels that he can now push the bidding one level higher because, after West's hesitation, East is `barred'. If East does bid on and NS get a good result, no problem. If they get a poor result, the director will rescue them with an adjusted score. Committees need to be aware that players knowledgeable in the Laws will increasingly be having an each-way bet in these situations.

There is a basic principle that the requirement of opponents to alert does not absolve us from the responsibility to protect ourselves by asking about a bid which experience tells us could well be conventional, even though it wasn't alerted. Players cannot be allowed to have a `double shot' in this situation i.e., treat the bid as natural because it wasn't alerted; if that pays off, well and good; otherwise call the director for an adjusted score because of a failure to alert.

One other, fortunately rare, situation where a player may improperly use the Laws is to deliberately hesitate before passing, not because there was something to think about, but in order to bar partner from bidding!

GUIDANCE FOR QBA REVIEW CONSULTANTS

Review Consultants are similar to, but not the same as, Appeal Consultants.

QBA essentially follows the ABF Review Procedures which may be found here Australian Bridge Federation » Ruling and Review Procedures (abf.com.au) They will give the Review Consultant a good idea of what the Reviewer considers.

The only valid reason to request a review is that there was some flaw in how the Director reached his ruling. The appellants need to identify this flaw on the Request for Review Form. It isn't just a case of not liking the ruling or finding others who would not have ruled that way.

That the Review Consultant personally disagrees with the ruling is not enough, by itself, for him to decide that a review has merit.

Having heard the prospective appellant's concerns, the Review Consultant talks with the Director to make sure the facts of the matter are not in dispute.

To be able to advise the prospective appellant whether the correct process was followed, or not, the Review Consultant needs to know what process was followed.

While the Review Consultant does not instruct the Director, it may well be that something arises during this discussion that leads the Director to change his ruling.

- Perhaps new facts came to light that had not been mentioned to the Director.
- Perhaps the Director opts to do more polling or different polling, apply different laws, whatever.

The Director may change his ruling right up to the time the Reviewer takes charge.

FIRST ROUND DRAW SWISS EVENTS LONGER THAN ONE DAY

See Section E Page 37

The formula $\log_2 N + 2$ rounded up, where N is the number of contestants, suggests the following minimum number of matches in Swiss events. The minimum number of matches is not regulated and some jurisdictions safely use one fewer. Directors choosing to use fewer matches should be aware that their events could finish under-Swissed.

Contestants	Matches	Contestants	Matches
9-16	6	33-64	8
17-32	7	65-128	9

EXAMPLES OF QQP CALCULATION

Example 1: Mary and John apply for qualification to the open trials. Playing as a partnership, they earned 16.41 masterpoints for placing in five events. *Both* contribute 16.41 towards their QQP.

Mary	16.41
John	16.41
Mary also plays with Peter, David and Alan to earn 25.8.	
20% of those go towards Mary's and John's total.	5.16
John also plays with Joan, Ann and David to earn 12.4.	
20% of those go towards Mary's and John's total.	2.48
Mary and John's QQP are:	40.46

Example 2: Pam and Paul do not play in any eligible events together or they play together but do not earn placing points as a partnership.

Pam	0
Paul	0
Pam earns 30 with other partners.	
20% of these go to the partnership.	6
Peter earns 20 with other partners.	
20% of these go to the partnership.	4
Pam's and Paul's QQP are:	10

PRIZE MONEY GUIDELINE FOR EVENTS HOSTED BY THE QBA ONLY

NB: This guideline is not relevant to any club congress nor to any Queensland event hosted by a club. Prize money, if any, for those events remains the prerogative of the host club.

The guideline for the Qld Open Teams, the Qld Open Pairs, the Christmas Pairs and the side event to the Open Trials is that one-third of entry fees be returned as prize money.

The Open Teams and the Open Pairs to be treated as two distinct events.