

# **TASMANIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION Inc.**

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## **TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

*Amended Nov 2011*

*Definitions:*     **TBA**       =     Tasmanian Bridge Association Inc.  
                  **Director** =     Director responsible for the event  
                  **Laws**     =     2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge  
                  **Committee** = TBA Tournament Committee

**1. General** All events organised by or under the auspices of the TBA shall be conducted according to the Laws. The provisions of these Regulations shall also apply to all events (including TBA Club duplicate sessions) conducted by the TBA. In accordance with the provisions of Law 80: Sponsoring Organisation, these Regulations shall be "supplementary to, but not in conflict with" the Laws. These Regulations should be reviewed annually subsequent to the State Bridge meeting.

### **2. Obligations Of Competitors:**

All players who enter any TBA-sponsored event are deemed to have full knowledge of these Regulations and to have agreed to be bound by them as a condition of the TBA's acceptance of their entry.

### **3. Specification Of Tournament Conditions:**

No later than the starting time for an event (but, whenever possible, prior to the closing date for entries), the Committee shall be responsible for advising entrants of any special conditions under which a particular event shall be run, such conditions to be supplementary to these Regulations and/or specific modifications of them to apply for the duration of the event in question.

### **4. Entry Conditions:**

**a.** Entrants to State Championship events organised by the TBA shall be financial members of the TBA or of any Club affiliated with either the TBA or any other Australian Association. For State Championship events the title of State Champions will be conferred on the highest-ranked team, pair or player (only for Individual events) currently resident in Tasmania. For TBA Club Championship events, the title of Club Champions will be conferred on the highest-ranked team, pair or player (Individual events) who are financial members of the TBA.

**b.** The closing time for entries shall be included in the entry form. Electronic entries are to be acknowledged by electronic reply. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Director or the Committee.

**c.** The TBA reserves the right in its discretion to reject the entry of any player, pair or team for any TBA-sponsored event without necessarily assigning any reason for such rejection.

**d.** Once entries have closed for an event, it is assumed to have given an undertaking that they will be available to play in all sessions of that event. The onus is therefore on the players to make all necessary arrangements for substitutes or for formal withdrawal between qualifying and final rounds.

**e.** The Committee reserves the right in its discretion to modify the published playing conditions for any event.

f. The Committee shall have the power to reduce the duration of, or cancel, any TBA-sponsored event if this is deemed to be warranted by the number of entries received for that event or for other sufficient reason.

g. Entrants who fail to attend any session of a TBA-sponsored event requiring prior entry without making the necessary arrangements for substitutes shall normally be prevented from entering that event in the following year. Other sanctions may be applied by the Committee if considered appropriate.

#### **5. Entries in Teams Events:**

a. In teams events, each team is entitled to have up to a maximum of six (6) players, plus a non-playing captain.

b. If fewer than six members are nominated at the time of entry, extra members to bring the total up to a maximum of six may be added with the approval of the Director or Committee, provided (except in exceptional circumstances) that the additional players have not played as members of another team in that event

c. With the approval of the Director or the Committee, nominated members of a team may, for adequate reason, be replaced by other players who shall become members of the team.

#### **6. State Representation**

Priority of State representation shall be given to residents of Tasmania. The method of determining the composition of the State Teams shall be decided at the annual State bidding meeting. The State meeting of 2010 decided the following:

- a. Trials shall be conducted over two weekends.
- b. The trials shall be open to all players
- c. The leading three contending pairs in each category shall gain representation
- d. The categories are Open, Women and Seniors.
- e. Prior to the start of the event players must indicate their priority of category.

#### **7. Substitutes**

If a player duly entered in an event cannot play because of illness, urgent business or other sufficient reasons, he or his partner may request to use a substitute. The Director or Committee may approve the substitute if it is considered that the reason is valid and that the rights of other contestants will not be jeopardised.

#### **8. Playing Conditions**

**a. Bidding** The TBA adopts the ABF regulations in regard to bidding procedures. viz. ABF Regulations for Written Bidding and Bidding Boxes.

**b. Alerting** The Alerting Regulations of the TBA shall be those of the ABF.

**c. Lateness and Slow Play** The TBA adopts the ABF regulations in regard to lateness and slow play bidding procedures. viz. ABF Regulation 10. Punctuality And Slow Play.

**d. Forfeiture of Matches** In teams or teams-scored pairs matches, any team/pair which forfeits a match shall be awarded a maximum loss and their opponents shall receive 18 VPs (when a maximum win is 25 VPs; or 60% of a maximum win in other circumstances), or their average score, or the complement of their opponents' average, whichever is the greatest.

**e. Seating** In head-to-head teams matches, the home team shall take its position first at both tables before the start of play. For the second half of the match, the away team shall take its position first at both tables. In each case, the team sitting second may seat any pairing at either table, including other members of 5- or 6-player teams, but changes in pairings may be made only at the completion of the first half of a match or the end of a session.

Before start of play in knockout matches, the team captains shall toss for seating rights. The winner of the toss may choose whether to sit first or second for the first stanza. Thereafter, seating rights alternate with each stanza. This alternation applies also in matches with an odd number of stanzas, unless otherwise specified.

**f. Seeding**

In the interests of equity, seeding of entrants for TBA-sponsored events shall be carried out when necessary by the Director and/or the Committee.

**9. System Cards**

Each pair shall have two system cards (ABF Standard or Simple) available at the table for consultation by opposing pairs at all times during TBA-sponsored events. All system cards shall display a coloured sticker showing the classification of their system according to the current ABF Systems Regulations. Such system cards may be consulted during the course of a round of play only by the opponents. If, for some reason, a system card is not available a dispute arising out of that pair's bidding, explanations of bidding, lead/play signals, etc., shall usually be resolved in favour of the non-offending pair.

**10. Systems**

**a. Regulations** The Systems Regulations of the TBA shall be those of the ABF, as currently adopted by the ABF, with the various modifications specified below. In these Regulations, 'ABF' shall be read as 'TBA', 'national' as 'State', and any other logical modifications *mutatis mutandi*.

**b. Yellow Systems** - The use of YELLOW (Highly Unusual Methods) Systems will not normally be permitted in any competition conducted under the auspices of the TBA other than Tasmanian State Championship events or Grand National Open Teams matches in which at least eight (8) boards are played against each pair, except that, in non-State Championship teams events, such systems may also be used but only with the prior concurrence of the opposing team's Captain.

Any pair wishing to use a YELLOW System shall submit eleven (11) copies of a comprehensive system summary together with a comprehensive, standard defensive bidding structure, to the Committee for approval, at least eight (8) weeks prior to the event in which the pair proposes to use the system. Once the standard defence has been approved by the Committee, two (2) copies of both the system summary and the standard defence will be filed in the TBA Register of Systems and one (1) copy of each sent to all affiliated Clubs (to be available at least four weeks before the first event in which the system will be used). It will then be the responsibility of other competitors to acquaint themselves with the system summaries and standard defence prior to any event if they wish.

When a pair's system summary and standard defensive bidding structure have been approved for a YELLOW System, that pair shall be responsible for ensuring that a copy of the summary as submitted and the approved standard defence is always available at the table for reference and, if they choose, use by opponents. Unless both are available on the table at the time, a YELLOW System used by a pair shall be deemed an illegal system by the Tournament Director, normally for the remainder of the event, and an average minus score or some other appropriate adjusted score awarded to the pair concerned (and average plus to the non offending pair).

**c. Brown Sticker (Bs) Conventions.** The use of Brown Sticker (Bs) conventions is permitted in all events conducted under the auspices of the TBA unless there is a specific prohibition for an event or session. The use of BS Conventions is subject to the application of the "Protected Pair" principle. However, Protected Pair status shall not apply to

- i. Gold MP events
- ii. State Championship events
- iii. Any IMP scored Red MP event with matches of at least 7 boards
- iv. The Final of any other Red MP event

**d.** For any relevant session or event, pairs wishing to play a BS Convention must have submitted a detailed summary of the convention, including basic responses/rebids, and a *bona fide* standard defence for prior approval by the Director or the Committee. Pairs must note that "prior approval" can take some time and, until such approval is given, the BS Convention(s) cannot be played.

## 11. Psychic Bidding

The TBA adopts the ABF regulations in regard to psychic bidding which states in part:

- a.** 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.
- b.** 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.

It is considered unsportsmanlike for stronger players to psych against inexperienced or very weak players. Such actions may result in the Director awarding an adjusted score and/or a procedural penalty.

## 12. Behaviour.

- a.** Smoking is prohibited at all times in the playing areas. Consumption of alcohol is normally prohibited in the playing area until play has ceased.
- b.** Good manners and courteous behaviour are expected from all players. The Director is specifically empowered to insist that players adhere to a high standard of manners and decorum. The Director shall report in writing to the Committee any serious departure from these standards by any player.

## 13. Scoring.

- a.** Directors shall be responsible for checking the entry of scores on travelling score sheets before final results are confirmed for any session or event. Directors shall

make all reasonable efforts to check incorrect scores with both pairs involved or, at least, with the pair which stands to lose by any scoring amendment, and for the correction of all patently incorrect scores, in the interest of equity for all players.

**b.** The score sheets for all TBA events shall normally be kept available for inspection at the TBA's tournament premises for at least two weeks after the official scores are posted.

#### **14. Ties**

The TBA adopts the ABF regulations in regard tie-breaking procedures (ABF Tournament Regulation 15)

#### **15. Appeals/Protests**

Appeals shall be made in accordance with Law 92. Appeals deemed by the Appeals Committee to be 'without merit' may incur a penalty. For this reason, the Director shall suggest that a senior player be consulted as to the merit of an appeal. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Director shall form an Appeals Committee of at least three persons. The Appeals Committee shall appoint its own Chairperson. The Committee shall then meet in camera to consider the detailed facts of the appeal which are to be provided by the Director. The Chairperson shall report decisions and/or recommendations regarding the appeal to all parties concerned. *In extremis*, further appeal may be made to the Committee whose decision is final. For the resolution of protests, the Committee shall normally adopt parallel procedures to those laid down for Appeals Committees

#### **16. Powers Of The TBA Tournament Committee**

Should any situation not covered by these Regulations occur in a TBA sponsored event, the Committee shall have full powers to make any decision to resolve the situation. If an issue is contentious then the Committee should consult widely (and nationally if applicable) before arriving at a decision. Matters that the Committee may consider to be outside its scope or area of responsibility may be referred to the full committee of the TBA.