

# VICTORIAN FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE 2025

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### 1 General

- 1.1 The Victor Champion Cup Festival of Bridge (VCCFB) comprises the following events:

**Wally Scott Open Swiss Pairs (OSP)**  
**Jim & Norma Borin Mixed Swiss Pairs (MSP),**  
**Victor Muntz Restricted Swiss Pairs (RSP),**  
**Country Swiss Pairs (CSP),**  
**Victor Champion Cup Swiss Teams (VCC),**  
**Under 20/100 MP events (20/100P),**  
**various single session Matchpoint Pairs.**

The Swiss Pairs events will be held on June 5-6, with the VCC on June 7-9.

These events are conducted by the Victorian Bridge Association (VBA) in conjunction with the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.

- 1.2 The venue is Amora Hotel Riverwalk, 649 Bridge Road, Richmond, Victoria.
- 1.3 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.
- 1.4 Smoking is not permitted in areas defined by the Tournament Organiser as the playing area and the scoreboard area, or any other designated area, as per venue regulations. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3)
- 1.5 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. After one warning (see 6.3), breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty.

- 1.6 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic communication equipment may not be consulted or used during the session, unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 6.3) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.
- 1.7 In all events, if the number of entrants is fewer than twice the number of rounds to be played, the modified Swiss format may be implemented (see Appendices). Alternatively, or in addition to, the TO may elect to combine fields in concurrently running events to ensure the efficacy of the movement and the validity of the competitions.
- 1.8 The TO may grant permission for still or moving photographs to be taken during the course of the event. Players may only refuse to be photographed for religious or cultural reasons deemed valid by the TO or CTD.
- 1.9 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the ABF Tournament Regulations, thereafter to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017, and finally to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the CTD shall be final and conclusive.

## **2 Officials**

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Laura Ginnan.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Sebastian Yuen.
- 2.4 The Review Consultants are Stephen Fischer and Shane Harrison.
- 2.5 The ABF on site representative is Matthew McManus.
- 2.6 The Recorders are Dee Harley and Sandra Richman.

## **3 Eligibility, Augmentation and Substitutions**

- 3.1 At the time of commencement of an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association. Overseas players become honorary members of the Foreign Players Club.
- 3.2 All players must individually meet the eligibility criteria to compete in events. This includes those events where players must be under the stated masterpoint range as of the dates specified. Masterpoints earned in another NCBO, irrespective of whether they have been transferred, shall be included for the purpose of determining a player's eligibility.
- 3.3 To be eligible to play, NZ registered players must satisfy the following criteria:  
RSP: less than NZ Provincial Master as at 31-3-25  
20/100P: less than NZ Local Master as at 31-3-25
- 3.4 Other overseas players may apply to enter events restricted by masterpoint status only if they are eligible to play in events with similar criteria within their own NBO. Entry to any such event will only be granted after the applicant's eligibility has been verified. The TO's decision in respect to such eligibility is final and not subject to appeal.

- 3.5 Pairs in the **MSP** must comprise two players of different genders.
- 3.6 To be eligible for the **RSP**:
- i) both members of the partnership must have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 31-12-24;
  - ii) a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same masterpoint restriction as the **RSP** or higher. Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered the **RSP** at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible for the **RSP**.
- 3.7 To be eligible for the **20/100P**, both members of the partnership must have fewer than 100 masterpoints as at 31-12-24.
- 3.8 To be eligible for the **CSP**, neither member of the partnership may reside in the cities of Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra, Auckland or Wellington. The TO reserves the right to accept or refuse an entry at their absolute discretion without having to provide a reason.
- 3.9 With the consent of the CTD, a team may augment until the commencement of Round 5 to bring the number of team members up to a maximum of 6. A player so added to the team must not have played previously in another team in the same event.
- 3.10 The CTD may approve a maximum of four substitutions per pair or team in any one event. In addition, the CTD may allow emergency substitutions for substantial cause and may impose any conditions in doing so and may take whatever other action is considered necessary to keep the tournament in motion.
- 3.11 The TO may nominate a “house contestant” to compete in any event in order to ensure the smooth running of the tournament. The TO will make every effort to nominate eligible players, but is at liberty to nominate others in case of necessity. The conditions under which the “house contestant” competes will, subject to ABF TR 1.9, be at the discretion of the CTD.

## 4 Systems and Defences

- 4.1 In the **RSP**, only GREEN and BLUE systems are permitted. In addition, the CTD may also further restrict a pair from playing any method which the director judges may not be readily understood by a significant proportion of players in the field.
- 4.2 In the **20/100P**, only GREEN systems are permitted. In addition, the CTD may also further restrict a pair from playing any method which the director judges may not be readily understood by a significant proportion of players in the field.
- 4.3 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all other events. In addition, YELLOW systems will be allowed in the **VCC** from Match 3 onwards, but only in the top third of the Swiss draw. Pairs intending to play a YELLOW system must provide the TO with an adequately completed ABF standard system card and a bona fide defence prior to 2 June, 2025.
- 4.4 In the **VCC**, ‘Protected Pair’ status may be claimed by eligible pairs in accordance with ABF System Regulation 2.9. Opponents of a ‘Protected Pair’ may not employ BROWN STICKER conventions during that round. Pairs seeking ‘Protected Pair’ status must advise the CTD at least 30 minutes before the start of the relevant event

## **5 Seating**

- 5.1 Teams registering one or more YELLOW systems lose all seating rights in all stanzas against teams not employing a YELLOW system.
- 5.2 YELLOW systems may be played only if the seating is posted within 10 minutes of the publication of the draw.
- 5.3 In other cases, seating rights for each match will be determined by toss of a coin.

## **6 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties**

- 6.1 In a Swiss movement penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.
- 6.2 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 6.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4) and mobile phones (1.5, 1.6) is 3 VPs.

## **7 Correction Period and Time for Requesting a Review**

- 7.1 The Correction Period for each match expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of the following match, except that for the last two matches, the Correction Period expires 10 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the last match.
- 7.2 Subject to 7.3, the Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the session or 30 minutes after the parties are advised of the director's ruling whichever is later. If the next match is scheduled to commence within that period, the time is extended to the expiration of the Time for Requesting a Review for that next match.
- 7.3 In the case of the last match, the Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling expires 10 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the last match.

## **8 Fouled Boards**

- 8.1 In the Swiss Pairs events, a fouled board is scored by:
  - (a) treating the board as two separate entities and calculating separate datums after eliminating the two (3-7 results) or four (results >7) extreme scores, respectively; or
  - (b) proceeding as per 8.2 or 8.4 below.
- 8.2 In the Swiss Pairs events, at a table where an artificial adjusted score is awarded on a single board, the assigned IMP score is 2 IMPs for both sides.
- 8.3 In the VCC, the result of a fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the result of the match is known or any of the players has left the table at the conclusion of that round. In these cases where a single board is cancelled, a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.

- 8.4 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.
- 8.5 For boards on which a result is unable to be obtained and the Director awards an artificial adjusted score of average plus, the provisions of 8.1 to 8.4 will apply.
- 8.6 Where due to the fouling of multiple boards, direct comparisons are available on less than one-half the boards in the match, the match will be scored in accordance with ABF TR 15.1 (Forfeits), treating both units as non-offenders.

## 9 Ties

- 9.1 Ties will be broken for first place only, in accordance with ABF TR 15.

## 10 Event formats

- 10.1 **Swiss Pairs** – The **OSP, MSP, RSP and CP** will be played as distinct single field Swiss events consisting of 8 x 14 board matches, played over 4 sessions.
- 10.1.1 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum calculated as in 10.1.2, 10.1.3 and 10.1.4. IMPs are converted to VPs in accordance with the ABF 14 board Swiss Pairs VP scale. Separate datums will be calculated for each event.
- 10.1.2 The datum will be the arithmetic mean of all the scores under consideration after eliminating the highest x/10 scores and lowest x/10 scores (0.5 rounded up) where x is the number of scores under consideration.
- 10.1.3 If there are fewer than 24 tables entered in an event, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables.
- 10.1.4 If 24 or more tables enter an event:
- a) for Matches 1-2, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables;
  - b) for Matches 3-5, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top n/2 tables (0.5 rounded up), where n is the number of tables in play;
  - c) for Matches 6-8, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top 12 tables.
- 10.1.5 The session starting times are 10.30 am and 2.30 pm each day. All sessions consist of two matches.
- 10.2 **Teams** – The **VCC** will be played as a single field Swiss consisting of 10 x 14 board matches, played over 5 sessions.
- 10.2.1 Each match will be scored using the WBF VP scale for 14 board matches.
- 10.2.2 Eligibility for special category prizes:
- Sara Tishler Trophy for the best Women's Team: all team members must be female;
  - Ian McCance Trophy for the best Senior Team: all team members must be born before 1-1-62;
  - Best Mixed Team: each team must play in mixed partnerships in all rounds;
  - Best Country Team: all team members must have home club outside Metropolitan areas as defined in 3.8;
  - Lydia Beech Trophy for the best Victorian Team: all team members must be Victorian home club members;
  - Charlie Snashall Trophy for the best Restricted Team: all team members must have fewer than 300 MPs as at 31-12-24.

With the exception of the Restricted Teams trophy, teams finishing in the top three placings are not eligible for category prizes.

Teams are only eligible for one category prize.

Should a team be placed first in more than one category, they will be awarded the prize for the category in which they finished further ahead of the second placed team in the respective category. This will be measured by placings and if tied, victory points.

10.2.3 The session starting times are 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, with the exception of Monday, June 12, when there is no 2.00 pm session. All sessions consist of two matches.

10.3 20/100 and single session MP events – These events will be played using matchpoint scoring, with the formats determined when the number of entries are known.

10.4 The time allowed per round will be announced by the CTD.

## 11 Playoff Qualifying Points

11.1 Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) are awarded to each eligible player in the **OSP** as below:

Place	1	2	3	4
PQP	24	16	12	8

11.2 Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) are awarded to each eligible player in the **MSP** as below:

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6
PQP	20	14	10	6	4	2

11.3 Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) are awarded to each eligible player in the **VCC** as below:

Place	1	2	3
PQP	36	18	9

11.4 To be eligible for PQP, a player must have played in at least one-half of the matches in the relevant event.

11.5 Tied pairs or teams share the available points.

## Appendices

### Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

The penalties for Late Arrival and Slow Play under ABF TR 10 are:

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 mins	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 mins	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 mins	5 VPs (15 IMPs)

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the CTD may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	1 VP (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	2 VPs (6 IMPs)

Should the players leave the table, when they have failed to enter one or more scores into the scoring unit or when an incorrect score has been entered and agreed, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

First offence	warning
Subsequent offences	1 VP per occasion

### Tie-breaking

Significant ties are broken by (in order): sum of opponents' VPs, number of wins, net IMPs, lot.

### Modified Swiss format

In Swiss Pairs or Swiss Teams events where the number of entrants is fewer than twice the number of rounds to be played, a round-robin or modified Swiss format will be implemented.

If the numbers are appropriate, a full round robin movement will be implemented, with the possibility of a round or rounds to determine final placings.

Otherwise, a normal Swiss movement will be used up to and including Round  $n/2 + 1$  (even number of rounds) or Round  $(n+1)/2$  (odd number of rounds). In subsequent rounds, the Swiss movement continues with all scores retained. A unit may play another unit which it previously played in Rounds 1 to  $n/2$  (even number of rounds) or Rounds 1 to  $(n-1)/2$  (odd number of rounds). "n" represents the number of rounds in the event.

Examples:

\* 8 rounds – standard Swiss up to and including the draw for Round 5. In rounds 6, 7 and 8, the Swiss draw continues, but units may play a unit previously played in Rounds 1-4.

\* 9 rounds – standard Swiss up to and including the draw for Round 5. In rounds 6, 7, 8 and 9, the Swiss draw continues, but units may play a unit previously played in Rounds 1-4.

## Calculation of Multiple average plus awards during a session or match

Where the Laws require the Director to award an artificial adjusted score of average plus on more than one board in a session or match (as in the case of fouled or otherwise unplayable boards), the score awarded per board shall be:

IMP scored Teams events: an IMP score of  $3\sqrt{N}/N$

IMP scored Pairs events: an IMP score of  $2\sqrt{N}/N$

Matchpoint scored events: a percentage score equal to  $50 + 10\sqrt{N}/N$

where N is the number of unplayable boards.

In IMP scored events, the net IMPs in a match assigned due to these formulas will be rounded to the nearest IMP (0.5 IMPs rounded up).

The following table lists the net IMPs to be assigned to units in the case of multiple average plus boards.

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	Net IMPs assigned (Teams)	Net IMPs assigned (Pairs)
1	3	2
2	4	3
3	5	3
4	6	4
5	7	4
6	7	5
7	8	5

## Anticipated Finishing Times

The following times are provided solely as a guide to players and may change depending on event formats and other circumstances:

Swiss Pairs	Friday, June 6, 6.00 pm
Teams	Monday, June 9, 1.30 pm