



**30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Barrier Reef Congress  
Townsville  
11 – 15 May 2026**

Updated 8 July 2025

Townsville Stadium 40-48 Murray Lyons Cres, Annandale



## 2026 DATES

Monday 11 May – Friday 15 May 2026

## CLOSING DATE For Entries

Entries close on **Sunday 11 April 2026**. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Chief Director.

## VENUE

Townsville Stadium 40-48 Murray Lyons Cres, Annandale - [Map](#).

Take a Virtual Tour [Townsville Stadium - Townsville City Council](#)

The design incorporates full disability access throughout the building and has a built-in hearing augmentation system to allow full enjoyment of the audio system.

**NO** hot or sugary drinks allowed in the playing area. This is a venue rule and a condition of our use.

## HOSPITALITY

Welcome drinks and nibbles will be served after the final Pairs Session at approx. 5:30pm on Tuesday.

Farewell luncheon will be provided at 1:00 pm on Friday

Please advise Di Garside on 0439 598 019 of any special dietary requirements.

## CATERING

**Pre-ordered** sandwiches and salads will be available at the venue. Orders will be taken between 8:30am and 9:25 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and delivered prior to sessions end at 1:00pm.

You are welcome to bring your own lunch as the closest shops are 10 minutes away by car. Michel's Catering provide

Please advise Di Garside on 0439 598 019 of any special dietary requirements.

Farewell luncheon will be provided at 1:00 pm *details to be advised*.

**Stations with free coffee & tea** will be set up in the foyer outside the playing area and available at any time.

**Hot or Sugary drinks are NOT allowed in the playing area as spilled drinks may damage the surface of the basketball court.**

**Light refreshments** will be served at morning & afternoon tea breaks. There will be a coffee van at lunchtime.

**Water Dispensers** will be freely available/

## ACCOMMODATION

There is a range of accommodation available throughout Townsville. Please see the [Townsville Accommodation Map](#) for ideas, or book through [Booking.com](#), [Trivago](#), [Expedia](#).

will also help with booking enquiries and accommodation deals. Packages and deals available through [Latest Packages & Deals](#) which is updated regularly.

## TRANSPORT

**PARKING** - The stadium has free onsite parking for 310 spaces with 6 dedicated handicapped spaces.

**Courtesy Bus** - [Map of Route](#), is available for visitors without their own transport, there are five pickup stops:

[Watermark](#),

[Aquarius on the Beach](#),

[Grand Chancellor](#),

[The Ville Resort](#),

[IMC Palmer Street](#)

[Bowen Road](#) The bus may be flagged down along Bowen Road.

The bus will collect and return players on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. NOTE on Tuesday the bus will leave the Watermark at 1:00.

If you need help getting to the venue for 9:30 am on Wednesday for the celebrity speakers, contact Audrey on 0427 454 933 in advance to see if a cab-share can be organised.

**Airport – Hotel Shuttle** – Door to door service to inner city motels [Airport - Hotel Shuttle](#)

## DIRECTOR

Chief Tournament Director – Chris Snook  
Senior Director - Peter Busch

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Regulations: The [ABF Tournament Regulations](#) as modified by the ABF Supplementary Regulations will apply.

Each pair is required to have two current ABF approved, systemically identical system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of each round. Overseas players will be permitted to use New Zealand and WBF system cards in addition to ABF cards. ABF system cards and guide to completing them are available at this site: <http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/>

Systems: Green and Blue Systems permitted in all events. Red Systems and Brown Sticker Conventions permitted in Open Pairs, Open Teams and Walk-in Pairs.

Yellow Systems Protocol as per ABF Tournament & Supplementary Regulations.

Please see [ELIGIBILITY FOR RESTRICTED EVENTS](#) for additional information.

No entry will be regarded as complete unless an entry form has been submitted and entry fees paid for each member of the team / pair

The Regulating Authority reserves the right to refuse admission to any entry which includes a player who does not qualify under these conditions of entry or who is not in good standing with any registered bridge club, bridge association or the Regulating Authority.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR RESTRICTED EVENTS

Masterpoint requirements as at 31 December 2025

Restricted Pairs: Both players must have fewer than 300mps.

Barrier Reef 300 Teams: The average master points per player must not exceed 300mps, nor may any individual player possess more than 500mps. Additionally, team members who are life masters may not play together in a partnership.

Additional Limitations: A player having won a Restricted event is not eligible to enter that event in subsequent years.

A player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same master point restriction or higher as the one entered.

Notwithstanding, players who have already entered a restricted category at the time of winning their second such ABF event, will be deemed eligible.

## ENTRY FORM

MyABF registration is required to enable submission of an entry to this event. Registration information can be found at [MyABF resources and how to sign up](#).

For MyABF queries Pele 0439 949 060 or Kim 0412 064 903 (manager@qldbridge.com.au)

To lodge an entry for the Barrier Reef Congress, go to [My ABF - Congresses](#) and scroll down to May 2022. Click on Barrier Reef Congress and scroll down to Events. Select your event and click on **Enter**. Your name will be pre-filled and you have the option of including your partner/team. Click **Bank Transfer** in the Payment Method for each player. When complete, click the **Save and Pay Later** box.

For payment options see [PAYING FOR ENTRIES](#) below

## ENTRY FEES

Walk-in Pairs	\$ 30 per pair
Swiss Pairs	\$160 per pair
Teams	\$580 per team

## PAYING FOR ENTRIES

Entries are to be paid in bridge credits on MyABF

## GOLD POINTS

Gold Points are awarded in all events except Walk-in Pairs when Red Points are awarded.

## PROGRAM

Butler Swiss Pairs (Open & Restricted) and Swiss Teams (Open & Restricted)

Date	Time	Activity	Additional Information
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Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	13:00 pm 5:00 pm	Walk-in Pairs Play Finishes	2:45 Afternoon Break (15 mins)
Tuesday	8:30 - 9:25 09:25 am 09:40 am 2:00 pm 5:15 pm	Lunch Orders take Congress officially Opened Pairs session 1 begins Pairs session 2 begins Session Ends	11:15 Morning break (15 Mins) 1:00 Lunch Break 3:25 Afternoon Break (15 mins) 5:30 Welcome Drinks and nibbles Pairs Prize presentation
Wednesday	8:30 - 9:25 09:30 am 2:00pm 3:45 pm 5:15 pm	Lunch Orders taken Speaker Program begins Teams match 1 begins Teams match 2 begins Session Ends	10:45 Morning break (15 Mins) 12:30 Lunch Break 3:30 Afternoon Break (15 mins) 5:30 QBA Clubs Meeting
	8:30 – 9:25 9:30 am 11:15 2:00pm 3:45 pm 5:15 pm	Lunch Orders taken Teams match 3 begins Teams match 4 begins Teams match 5 begins Teams match 6 begins Session Ends	11:00 Morning break (15 Mins) 12:30 Lunch Break 13:00 Meet ??? Q&A session 3:30 Afternoon Break (15 mins) 5:30 QBA Clubs Meeting
	9:30 am 11:15 am 12:45	Teams match 3 begins Teams match 4 begins Session Ends	11:00 Morning break (15 Mins) 13:00 Prize Presentation and -----Farewell Refreshments

## Playing

### MOBILE PHONES

Players are not allowed to use their mobile phones during session times. Please ensure they are either TURNED OFF or on SILENT. Please see Toni Burrell, Tournament Organiser, to look after your phone if you are expecting an urgent call.

**UNIFORMS** - Directors and caddies will be wearing blue tropical shirts

### SYSTEMS AND SYSTEM CARDS

Each pair is required to have two current ABF approved, systemically identical system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of each round. Overseas players will be permitted to use New Zealand and WBF system cards in addition to ABF cards. ABF system cards and guide to completing them are available at this site: <http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/>

**Systems:** Green and Blue Systems permitted in all events. Red Systems and Brown Sticker Conventions permitted in Open Pairs, Open Teams and Walk-in Pairs.

**Yellow Systems** Protocol as per ABF Tournament & Supplementary Regulations.

**ALERTS SUMMARY** For more detailed information see [ABF Alerting Regulations](#)

### PRE-ALERTS

List your unusual or complex treatments in the pre-alerts section of the system card. For instance – RCO 2s, Bergen raises, DONT Dbl vs 1NT, unusual carding (leading low from doubletons should be noted in the “leads” section of system card).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announce the number of clubs contained in a 1 ♣ opening and the HCP range of a 1NT opening. Those playing a strong club system just need to announce 1 ♣ as “Strong 16+”.

### ALERTS DURING THE AUCTION

Alert by circling partner’s call and saying “Alert” but don’t offer an explanation unless asked (then aim to be concise, yet complete).

### DON’T ALERT

- Any double or redouble
- Any call beyond 3NT, except a conventional opening bid
- A bid of a suit *bid* or *shown* by an opponent
- Any 2 ♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction (*e.g. Stayman*)
- Any Jump Raise in a contested auction

For our New Zealand players, we do **NOT** use STOP Cards

### DO ALERT:

All other conventional calls (such as Transfers, 2 ♥ = hearts and a minor)

‘Unusual’ natural bids. These include: weak jump shift responses, pre-emptive jump raises (but only in uncontested auctions), inverted minors, canapé tendency, negative free bids, transfer accepts that deny four trumps, etc.

At the end of the auction, the declaring side should mark any unusual calls that weren’t alerted at the time. Do this with a plus sign (+).

### IF PARTNER STUFFS UP (*it won’t be you!*)

**Declarer/Dummy:** If partner fails to alert or provides a wrong or misleading explanation, you should wait until the **end of the auction** before calling the Director and correcting.

**Defenders:** wait until the **end of the hand** before piping up.

### **BRIDGE MATES**

If you are unfamiliar with the Bridgemate Scoring Unit please arrive a few minutes before your first session and ask a Director or other official for a quick tutorial.

## BRIDGE MATES II – PLAYER NUMBERS FOR THE PAIRS & TEAMS EVENTS

- PAIRS: The player numbers you first enter on the Bridge Mates are your ABF numbers.
- TEAMS: NS at the home table should **enter the ABF Numbers for the players in your OWN team**. To simplify the process for entering player numbers for these teams, from Round 2 onwards if your team is sitting in the same seats as in Round 1, you may just enter '1' for all four players. The unit will display 'same as Round 1' as the player names and the system will correctly record the pairs. *If there is a change of player or their position in subsequent rounds, please re-enter the ABF number as applicable.*

## CORRECTION OF SCORES

After each session, a printout of the results for each pair or team will be made available.

If you believe that there is a mistake, you need to follow this procedure:

1. on the board where you believe that there was an error, agree with your opponents that the score was entered incorrectly;
2. make the correction on your printout and have them sign it;
3. the score change request should be referred to the director.

## RESULTS & DRAW FOR NEXT ROUND

Mobile Phone: If you wish to receive your results & draw via your mobile and you can't already do so refer to [Tournament Results](#) prior to the event. If you have registered at other ABF events you will automatically be on the list.

Projectors: Results & next draw will be displayed on the LED screens in the main hall.

Foyer: Results & next draw will be displayed on boards in the foyer.

## SCORE BOOKLETS

Score booklets will be provided at the beginning of the event. Caddies will have a limited supply of spare booklets available.

## PENS

Pens will be supplied at the beginning of the event and belong to the players who are responsible for carrying their own pens from table to table.

**SESSION TIMES** – see program for further details

Event	Day	Start	Finish
Walk-in Pairs	Monday	1:00pm	5:00pm
Pairs – Session 1	Tuesday	9:40am	1:00pm
Pairs – Session 2	Tuesday	2:00pm	5:15pm
Teams – Session 1	Wednesday	2:00pm	5:15pm

Teams – Session 2	Thursday	9:30am	5:15pm
Teams – Session 3	Friday	9:30am	12:45pm

## STAY & PLAY

Come for the BRIDGE. Stay and play in [Townsville](#). Basking in more than 300 days of sunshine each year, Townsville is an exciting place to visit and stay a while. Come explore tropical islands, wetlands, the [Great Barrier Reef](#), wet tropics rainforests and a glorious beachfront in warm tropical weather. No matter what your holiday style, Townsville offers you a diverse range of historical, military, outback, island, active and tranquil experiences.

Visit [Magnetic Island](#). Sealink NQ is happy to offer a 20% discount on Adult return ferry tickets for our bridge visitors. Please quote the promo code '**BRIDGE**' when purchasing the tickets at the terminal or online. Sealink NQ also have various packages with [ferry](#), [accommodation](#) / car hire.

## CELEBRITY SPEAKERS

The Speaker Program will commence at 9:30am on Wednesday 11 May. A minimum \$5 contribution to the ABF Youth Bridge. *(Please note: the courtesy bus will arrive at 1:45pm in time for the first Teams Match on Wednesday).* Please Advise Audrey on 0427454933 in advance if you need a lift to the venue, the courtesy bus will leave the Watermark at 1:00 pm on Wednesday.

## COMPSCORE2 TUTORIAL

Peter Busch will conduct a Compscore2 training at a cost of \$5 per person on Tuesday at 11:30.

## WEATHER

The average temperature in May in Townsville has a high of 27° and a minimum of 18° with low humidity and little rain. Bring a light jacket for air conditioning.

## ZONE MEETING

Club Representatives Meet & Greet with the ABF President as per program.