

AUTUMN NATIONALS 2026 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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1 General

- 1.1 The **Autumn Nationals (AN)** comprises eight events:
TBIB Open Teams (OT)
Stepbridge Under Grand Master Teams (UGMT)
Stepbridge Under Life Master Teams (ULMT)
David Lusk Rookie Swiss Pairs (RSP)
One-Day Butler Swiss Pairs (BSP) – restricted to players below Grand Master
Australian Blue Ribbon Open Pairs (OP)
Australian Blue Ribbon Under Grand Master Pairs (UGP)
Australian Blue Ribbon Under Life Master Pairs (ULP).
- 1.2 These events are conducted by the South Australian Bridge Federation under the auspices of the ABF. They are run in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.3 The venue is the Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showgrounds, Goodwood Road, Wayville.
- 1.4 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the 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.
- 1.5 Smoking will be permitted only in the designated smoking areas. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3).
- 1.6 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. After one warning, breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3).

- 1.7 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 Chief Tournament Director (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.
- 1.8 In Swiss 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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 Barbara Travis.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Sebastian Yuen.
- 2.4 The Review Consultants are David Appleton and Shane Harrison.
- 2.5 The ABF On-site Representative is Liam Milne.
- 2.6 The Recorders are Therese Demarco and Fraser Rew.

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 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.

- 3.4 To be eligible to play in the **UGT** and/or **UGP**:
- i) a player must not have attained the rank of Grand Master as at 31-12-25; and
 - ii) a player must have fewer than 1100 MPs as at 31-12-25; and
 - iii) a player must not have previously won two or more ABF events with a masterpoint restriction of less than 1000 MPs, or any event with a higher masterpoint restriction.
- Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered the **UGT** at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible for the **UGT**.
- 3.5 To be eligible to play in the **ULT** and/or **ULP**:
- i) a player must be below the rank of Life Master as at 31-12-25; and
 - ii) a player must have fewer than 400 MPs as at 31-12-25; and
 - iii) a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with a masterpoint restriction of less than 300 MPs, or any event with a higher masterpoint restriction.
- Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered the **ULT** at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible for the **ULT**.
- 3.6 To be eligible to play in the **RSP**, each player must have fewer than 35 masterpoints as at 31-12-25.
- 3.7 All players in the **BSP** must satisfy the eligibility requirements under 3.4. To be eligible for a category prize in the **BSP**, both members of the partnership must satisfy the eligibility criteria under 3.4 (Under Grand Master) or 3.5 (under Life Master) respectively. To be eligible in the Novice category, both players must have fewer than 100 MPs at 31-12-25. The same criteria will be applied to determine eligibility to compete should separate events be held in each category.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 No substitutions will be permitted in the Finals of the **OP**, **UGP** or **ULP**. Otherwise, the CTD may approve a maximum of four substitutions per team or two substitutions per pair 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.
- 3.10 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 **ULT**, **ULP**, **BSP** and **RSP**, only GREEN and BLUE systems are permitted. In addition, in the **ULT**, **ULP** and **RSP**, 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 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all other events. In addition, YELLOW systems will be allowed in the **OT** 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 April 22, 2026.

5 Seating

- 5.1 In the **OT** Final, the team finishing higher in the Swiss has the option of having choice of opponents in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.
- 5.2 In all other cases, teams registering one or more **YELLOW** systems lose all seating rights in all stanzas against teams not employing a **YELLOW** system.
- 5.3 **YELLOW** systems may be played only if the seating is posted within 10 minutes of the publication of the draw.
- 5.4 In other cases as required, 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 (1.5) and mobile phones, (1.6, 1.7) is 3 VPs, 9 IMPs or 25% of a top, as applicable.

7 Correction Period and Time for Requesting a Review

- 7.1 In Teams and Swiss Pairs events, 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 In Pairs events, the Correction Period for the first session of each day will expire at 3.00 pm on that day. The Correction Period for the second session of each day will expire 20 minutes after the scores for the session have been made available for inspection.
- 7.3 Subject to 7.4, 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.
- 7.4 In the case of the last match or the final session of the day of a pairs session, the Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling expires 10 minutes after the scores for the match or session have been made available for inspection.

8 Fouled and Unplayable Boards

- 8.1 In 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 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 Teams events, the result of a fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the time for the round has expired, 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 unless Law 86B1 is applicable.
- 8.4 In the case of multiple fouled boards within a match (Teams and Swiss Pairs) or session (Pairs), 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 At the conclusion of all events or stages of events, critical ties and ties for first place will be broken in accordance with ABF TR 17. Ties for other places will not be broken.

10 Event formats

- 10.1 **Open, Under Grand Master and Under Life Master Teams** – Each event will be played as a single field Swiss comprising 8 rounds of 14 board matches.
 - 10.1.1 In each match, IMPs are converted to VPs using the appropriate WBF continuous VP scale.
 - 10.1.2 Two matches will be played each session. Starting time each day is 10.00 am.
 - 10.1.3 At the conclusion of Match 8, the two highest placed teams in the **OT** Swiss will play in the **OT** Final. The Final will be played over 4 x 14 board stanzas. The team finishing higher in the Swiss will carry-forward 0.1 IMPs to the Final. The starting time is 9.00 am.
- 10.2 **Butler Swiss Pairs** – Should there be sufficient entries, separate events will be held for Under Grand Master, Under Life Master and Novice sections. The TO reserves the right to combine one or more divisions in order to construct valid events. Each event will be played as a single field Swiss consisting of 6 x 8 board matches, played over 2 sessions.
 - 10.2.1 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum calculated as in 10.2.2, 10.2.3 and 10.2.4. IMPs are converted to VPs in accordance with the ABF 8 board VP scale for Swiss Pairs as detailed in the Appendices. Separate datums will be calculated for each event.

- 10.2.2 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.
- 10.2.3 If there are fewer than 24 tables entered in an event, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables.
- 10.2.4 If 24 or more tables enter an event:
- for Matches 1-2, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables;
 - for Matches 3-4, 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;
 - for Matches 5-6, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top 12 tables.
- 10.2.5 Three matches will be played each session. Starting time is 10.00 am.
- 10.3 **Rookie Swiss Pairs** – The format, scoring and session times will be the same as for the **Butler Swiss Pairs**.
- 10.4 **Open Pairs** – The event will be played in three stages – Qualifying, Semi-Finals and Finals. Scoring will be by matchpoints.
- 10.4.1 **Qualifying**
The field will be seeded and will play 2 sessions of 27 boards.
A proportion of the field will qualify to Semi-Final A. Semi-Final A will comprise:
- Up to 6 pairs from teams who competed in the Final of the Open Teams *
 - The remaining qualifiers will come from the highest placed pairs in the Qualifying up to a maximum of 54 pairs.
 - The remainder of the field will qualify to Semi-Final B.
- * To be eligible to qualify as a pair from the Final of the Open Teams, both members of the partnership must have qualified for the Final of the Open Teams. There is no requirement to play with a member of the same team.
- 10.4.2 **Semi-finals**
The semi-finalists will play 2 sessions of 27 boards utilising Mitchell or Web Mitchell movements. Both semi-finals will be scored as a single field. To accomplish this, one-half of the field will change direction for session 2.
The top 16 pairs from Semi-Final A will qualify to the Final, together with the top 2 pairs from Semi-Final B.
The next 16 pairs from Semi-Final A will qualify to the Plate, as will the next 2 pairs from Semi-Final B.
Remaining pairs will qualify to Consolation sections. The sizes of these fields will be determined when the final number of entries is known.
- 10.4.3 **Final, Plate and Consolations**
These sections will be played as Howell movements with 17 three-board rounds.
- 10.4.4 **Carry-overs**
At each stage, pairs will carry-over 50% of their total score (including any prior carry-over) from the previous stage.
Exceptions:
- Pairs qualifying to Semi-Final A will have a carry-over equal to the average of the scores of the top 12 pairs in the Qualifying Stage.
 - Pairs qualifying to the Final and Plate from Semi-Final B will have a carry-over equivalent to that of the 12th and 15th ranked pairs qualifying for the respective field.

10.4.5 Starting time each day is 10.00 am.

10.5 **Under Grand Master and Under Life Master Pairs** – Each event will be played in two stages – Qualifying and Final. Scoring will be by matchpoints.

10.5.1 Qualifying

Each field will be seeded and will play 2 sessions of 27 boards in a format to be determined when entries are known.

18 pairs will qualify to the Final. The next 18 pairs will qualify to the Final. The remainder will qualify to the Consolation.

10.5.2 Final, Plate and Consolation

These sections will be played as Howell movements with 17 three-board rounds.

10.5.3 Carry-overs

Pairs will carry-over 50% of their total score from the previous stage.

10.5.4 Starting time each day is 10.00 am.

11 Playoff Qualifying Points

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

Place	1	2	3
PQP	36	18	9

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

Place	1	2	3	4	5
PQP	36	28	20	12	6

11.3 To be eligible for PQP in the OT, a player must have played in at least 4 matches in the Qualifying stage and, if applicable, at least 2 stanzas in the **OT** Final.

11.4 To be eligible for PQP in the OP, a player must have played in at least 3 sessions in the Qualifying and Semi-Final stages combined and both sessions of the Final.

11.5 Tied units 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)

In matchpoint pairs events, the equivalent of 1 VP in the list of penalties will be deemed to be 25% of a top in the relevant session.

Tie-breaking

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

Significant ties in Pairs events are broken by removal of carry-over (in applicable) and then following the procedures in 17.4.4 of the ABF TR.

ABF VP Scale for Swiss Pairs - 8 boards

IMP diff	VPs		IMP diff	VPs		IMP diff	VPs
0	10.00 - 10.00		11	14.29 - 5.71		22	17.48 - 2.52
1	10.39 - 9.61		12	14.58 - 5.42		23	17.76 - 2.24
2	10.78 - 9.22		13	14.87 - 5.13		24	18.04 - 1.96
3	11.17 - 8.83		14	15.16 - 4.84		25	18.32 - 1.68
4	11.56 - 8.44		15	15.45 - 4.55		26	18.60 - 1.40
5	11.95 - 8.05		16	15.74 - 4.26		27	18.88 - 1.12
6	12.34 - 7.66		17	16.03 - 3.97		28	19.16 - 0.84
7	12.73 - 7.27		18	16.32 - 3.68		29	19.44 - 0.56
8	13.12 - 6.88		19	16.61 - 3.39		30	19.72 - 0.28
9	13.51 - 6.49		20	16.90 - 3.10		31 +	20.00 - 0.00
10	13.90 - 6.10		21	17.19 - 2.81			

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 as per the following table.

The table lists the IMPs/percentage to be assigned for each successive board in the case of multiple average plus boards:

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs assigned (Teams)	IMPs assigned (Pairs)	Percentage assigned (matchpoints)
1	3	2	60.00
2	1	1	54.14
3	1	0	53.18
4	1	1	52.68
5	1	0	52.36
6	0	1	52.13
7	1	0	51.97

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, but a unit may play another unit which it previously played in the first "half" of the event.

Anticipated Finishing Times

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

Teams	Thursday, April 30, 5.45 pm
Open Teams Final	Friday, May 1, 5.30 pm
Rookie Swiss Pairs	Friday, May 1, 5.00 pm
Pairs	Sunday, May 3, 5.00 pm