

BARRIER REEF CONGRESS 2026 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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1 General

- 1.1 The Barrier Reef Congress (BRC) comprises five events: Open Pairs (OP), Restricted Pairs (RP), Novice Pairs (NP) – May 12; Open Teams (OT) and BRC 300 Teams (BR300) - May 13-15. These events are conducted by the Townsville Bridge Club, as an agent for the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA). They are held under the auspices of the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The venue is Townsville Stadium, 40-48 Murray Lyons Crescent, Annandale, Queensland.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Smoking will be permitted only in the designated smoking areas. 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, breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.3).
- 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 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.
- 1.7 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 Toni Barrell.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Chris Snook.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.4 The Review Consultants are David Appleton and Laura Ginnan.
- 2.5 The ABF On-site Representative is Peter Reynolds.
- 2.6 The Recorders are Pele Rankin and Richard Ward.

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 in the RP:
 - i) both members of the partnership must have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at 31-12-25;
 - ii) a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same masterpoint restriction as the RP or higher. Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered the RP at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible for the RP.
- 3.4 To be eligible to play in the NP:
 - i) both members of the partnership must have fewer than 100 masterpoints as at 31-12-25;
 - ii) a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with the same masterpoint restriction as the NP or higher. Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered the NP at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible for the NP.
- 3.5 To be eligible to play in the BR300:
 - i) the average masterpoints per player as at 31-12-25 must not exceed 300, nor may any individual player hold more than 500 masterpoints as at 31-12-25. In addition, team members who are Life Masters may not play together as a partnership;
 - ii) a player may not have previously won two or more ABF events with a player Masterpoint restriction of fewer than 300 MPs or higher. Notwithstanding, a player who has already entered the BR300 at the time of winning their second such ABF event will be deemed eligible for the BR300.

- 3.6 Entries from members of the Foreign Players Club to the RP, NP or BR300 may be rejected at the discretion of the TO.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 In all events, substitutes will be allowed with the consent of the CTD for up to 3 matches.
- 3.9 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 GREEN and BLUE are permitted in all events. RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in the OP and OT. In the RP, NP and BR300, 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 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 27 April, 2026.
- 4.3 Each pair must bring to the table two identical fully completed ABF System Cards. (The use of ABF Simple System Cards is acceptable and preferred except when an ABF Standard System Card is appropriate in the case of more complicated systems.)

5 Seating and Draw

- 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 as required, seating rights for each match will be determined by toss of a coin.
- 5.4 The draw for the first round of all Swiss events will be random.

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 15 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 for the last match.
- 7.2 The Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) expires 10 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the session (or 10 minutes after the parties are advised of the director's ruling when the ruling is made after the session), unless the next match is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to the expiration of the Time for Requesting a Review for that next match.

8 Fouled and Unplayable Boards

- 8.1 In the 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 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, 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, ties will be broken for first place in accordance with ABF TR 15, detailed in the Appendices. Ties for other places will not be broken.

10 Event formats

- 10.1 **Open Pairs, Restricted Pairs, Novice Pairs** – Each event will be played as a single field Swiss consisting of 8 x 7 board matches, played over 2 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 7 board VP scale for Swiss Pairs as detailed in the Appendices. 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 times are May 12: 9.30 am and 2.00 pm.
- 10.2 **Open Teams and Barrier Reef 300 Teams** – Each of the OT and BR300 will be played as a single field Swiss consisting of 8 x 14 board matches, played over 4 sessions.
- 10.2.1 Each match will be scored using the WBF 14 board scale.
- 10.3 The session times are:
Wednesday, May 13: 2.00 pm
Thursday, May 14: 9.30 am and 2.00 pm
Friday, May 15: 9.30 am.
- Each session consists of two matches.
- 10.4 The time allowed for each match will be announced by the CTD.

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)

Tie-breaking

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

ABF VP Scale for Swiss Pairs - 7 boards

IMP diff	VPs	IMP diff	VPs	IMP diff	VPs
0	10.00 - 10.00	10	14.10 - 5.90	20	17.30 - 2.70
1	10.41 - 9.59	11	14.51 - 5.49	21	17.60 - 2.40
2	10.82 - 9.18	12	14.82 - 5.18	22	17.90 - 2.10
3	11.23 - 8.77	13	15.13 - 4.87	23	18.20 - 1.80
4	11.64 - 8.36	14	15.44 - 4.56	24	18.50 - 1.50
5	12.05 - 7.95	15	15.75 - 4.25	25	18.80 - 1.20
6	12.46 - 7.54	16	16.06 - 3.94	26	19.10 - 0.90
7	12.87 - 7.13	17	16.37 - 3.63	27	19.40 - 0.60
8	13.28 - 6.72	18	16.68 - 3.32	28	19.70 - 0.30
9	13.69 - 6.31	19	16.99 - 3.01	29 +	20.00 - 0.00

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 $2\sqrt{N}/N$

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	5
6	7	5
7	8	6

Modified Swiss format

In Swiss Pairs or Swiss Teams events where the number of 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:

Pairs Tuesday, May 12, 5.30 pm
Teams Friday, May 15, 1.00 pm