

# TERRITORY GOLD BRIDGE FESTIVAL 2026

## SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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### 1 General

- 1.1 The Territory Gold Bridge Festival (TGBF) comprises three events: Matchpoint Pairs (MP): 26-27 August, Swiss Teams (ST): 27-28 August, and Swiss Pairs (SP): 29-30 August. These events are conducted by the Northern Territory Bridge Association Inc. (NTBA) 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 the Double Tree by Hilton - Esplanade Hotel, Darwin, Northern Territory.
- 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 will be permitted only in the designated smoking areas, which will comply with relevant NT legislation and will be announced by the TO at the commencement of play. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 5.3)
- 1.5 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 5.3)
- 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 CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 5.3) 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 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.

- 1.8 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 Luke Black.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Mairead Kelly.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Hugh Grosvenor.
- 2.4 The Review Consultant is Shane Harrison.
- 2.5 The ABF on site representative is Hugh Grosvenor.
- 2.6 The Recorders are Phil Gue and Pam Nunn.

## **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 Prizes will be awarded in Restricted categories in the ST and SP. To be eligible, all players in the pair or team must have less than 300 masterpoints as at 31 March 2026.
- 3.3 With the consent of the CTD, a team may augment at any time prior to the last session up to a maximum of 6 players. An augmented player may not have played previously in another team.
- 3.4 The CTD may approve a the following substitutions for cause:  
i) in the MP, one substitute, with the proviso that a substitute will not be permitted in the Final;  
ii) in the ST, a substitute will be allowed in a maximum of 4 matches;  
iii) in the SP, a substitute will be allowed in a maximum of 5 matches;  
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.
- 3.5 To ensure the smooth running of the tournament, the TO may nominate a “house contestant” to compete in any event. 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/s” compete will, subject to ABF TR 1.9, be at the discretion of the CTD.

## **4 Systems and Defences**

- 4.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all events. YELLOW systems will not be allowed in any event.
- 4.2 In all events, '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 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties**

- 5.1 In a Swiss movement penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.
- 5.2 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 5.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4) and mobile phones (1.5, 1.6) is 3 VPs (ST and SP) or 50% of a top (MP).

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

- 6.1 The Correction Period for each match expires 30 minutes after the conclusion of the following match, except that for the last two matches in the ST and SP, the Correction Period expires 10 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the last match.
- 6.2 Subject to 6.3, 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.
- 6.3 In the case of the last two matches in the ST and SP, the Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling expires 10 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the last match.

## **7 Fouled and Unplayable Boards**

- 7.1 In Teams events, 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.
- 7.2 In IMP scored Swiss Pairs events, where a single board is fouled, the board is scored by:
  - (a) treating the board as two separate entities and calculating separate datums after eliminating the two (4-6 results) or four (more than 6 results) extreme scores, respectively; or
  - (b) cancelling one or more of its results and awarding a score of 2 IMP to those contestants whose score was cancelled.
- 7.3 In matchpoint events, where a single board is fouled, the assigned matchpoint score is 60% of the available matchpoints on the board awarded to both sides.

- 7.4 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.
- 7.5 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 7.1 to 7.4 will apply.
- 7.6 In Swiss Pairs and Teams events, 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.

## **8 Ties**

- 8.1 In the MP, ties for qualifying positions only will be broken in accordance with ABF TR 15.
- 8.2 At the conclusion of the ST and SP, ties will be broken for first place in accordance with ABF TR 17, as detailed in the Appendices. Ties for other places will not be broken.

## **9 Event formats**

- 9.1 **Matchpoint Pairs** – The MP will be played over 3 sessions, 2 qualifying and 1 final.
- 9.1.1 The format of the qualifying sessions will be determined by the CTD once entries are known.
- 9.1.2 From the qualifying round, 14 pairs will qualify to the Final. The remainder will qualify to the Consolation sections at the discretion of the CTD based on the number of entries.
- 9.1.3 The Final will be played as a 7 table Howell movement, playing 13 x 2 board rounds.
- 9.1.4 There will be a carry-over from the Qualifying Session to the Final only. The maximum carry-over will be the equivalent of two tops in the respective session. The carry-over formula is described in the Appendices.
- 9.2 **Swiss Teams** – The ST will be played as a single field Swiss consisting of 9 x 10 board matches, played over 3 sessions.
- 9.2.1 Each match will be scored using the WBF continuous scale for 10 board matches.
- 9.2.2 Seating rights in each round will be determined by a toss of a coin.
- 9.3 **Swiss Pairs** – The SP will be played as a single field Swiss consisting of 12 x 10 board matches, played over 4 sessions.
- 9.3.1 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum calculated as in 9.3.2 or 9.3.3. IMPs are converted to VPs in accordance with the ABF Swiss Pairs VP scale.
- 9.3.2 The datum will be the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of all the scores under consideration after eliminating the highest and lowest  $x/10$  scores (0.5 rounded up) where  $x$  is the number of scores under consideration.
- a) for Matches 1-4, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables;
  - b) for Matches 5-8, 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 9-12, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top 12 tables.
- 9.3.3 If there are fewer than 24 tables, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables in all rounds.

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

9.4 The first session of the Swiss Teams will commence at 2.15 pm on August 27. Other session starting times for all events on all days are 9.30 am and 2.15 pm. In the ST and SP, all sessions consist of three matches.

## 10 Playoff Qualifying Points

10.1 Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) are awarded to each eligible player in the SP as below:

|       |    |    |   |   |
|-------|----|----|---|---|
| Place | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 |
| PQP   | 16 | 12 | 8 | 4 |

10.2 Tied pairs share the available points.

## Appendices

### Penalties for Late Arrival, Slow Play, Failure to enter or check scores

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

|            |                                                                  |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0-5 mins   | warning for first offence, then 1 VP for each subsequent offence |
| 5-10 mins  | 1 VP                                                             |
| 10-15 mins | 2 VPs                                                            |
| 15-20 mins | 3 VPs                                                            |
| 20-30 mins | 5 VPs                                                            |

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 to both pairs:

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| One board         | 1 VP  |
| Subsequent boards | 2 VPs |

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.

## Carry-over in Matchpoint Pairs

$C = (M * ft) / (2 * qt)$  – rounded to the nearest 0.01 matchpoints (MPs) where:

C = the pair's carry-over score in MPs for the subsequent stage

M = the pair's total MPs in the previous stage

ft = the value of a top in MPs in the subsequent stage

qt = the value of a top in MPs in the previous stage

The difference in carry-over between the first and last qualifiers will be limited to the value of two tops, ie. 24 in the Final (Cmax). Should the formula result in carry-overs greater than Cmax, all carry-over scores will be reduced by a factor of Cmax/Cfirst, where Cfirst is the leader's carry-over using the above formula.

## 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 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                             |

## Anticipated Finishing Times

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

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Matchpoint Pairs | Thursday, August 27, 1.00 pm |
| Swiss Teams      | Friday, August 28, 6.15 pm   |
| Swiss Pairs      | Sunday, August 30, 6.15 pm   |