

2026 GRAND NATIONAL OPEN TEAMS NATIONAL FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

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1 General

- 1.1 The Grand National Open Teams National Final (GNNF) is conducted by the Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated (ABF) in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations. GNNF comprises two separate events: the GNOT National Final (GNOTF) – 8 teams – and the GNOT Non-Metropolitan Teams Final (GNOTNMF) – 12 teams.
- 1.2 The venue is the Queensland Contract Bridge Club, 67 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba, Queensland.
- 1.3 The events will be played from Friday, November 27 to Sunday, November 29, 2026.
- 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 is only permitted in areas specifically designated by the TO as smoking areas. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 5.2).
- 1.6 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 5.2).
- 1.7 Mobile telephones, iPads, iPods and other electronic communication equipment must be switched off during session time. In addition, any player leaving the table during the session must leave any such device at the table. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 5.2).
- 1.8 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 5.2) 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.
- 1.9 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 in these Regulations and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2017). Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, all terms defined in the ABF TR shall have the same meaning for the purpose of these Supplementary Regulations. In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning or the interpretation of the application of any regulation, the decision of the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) shall be final and conclusive.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The National Coordinator (NC) is Fraser Rew.
- 2.2 The Tournament Organisers (TO) are Ray Ellaway and Kim Ellaway.
- 2.3 The Chief Tournament Director is Matthew McManus.
- 2.4 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.5 The Review Consultant is TBA.
- 2.6 The ABF on site representative is TBA.
- 2.7 The Recorder is TBA.

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.
- 3.2 Teams in GNNF will have qualified via GNOT National Qualifying (GNNQ).
- 3.3 After qualification from GNNQ, no substitutions or augmentation will be permitted, except in exceptional circumstances at the complete discretion of the TO.
- 3.4 To be eligible to play in either of the GNNF events should their team qualify, a player must have played at least 50% of the boards played by the team in GNNQ. At the TO's complete discretion, an exception may be made for a player who failed to satisfy this criterion if the team is able to supply evidence that the player played at least 50% of the boards in qualification events leading up to GNNQ.
- 3.5 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.

4 Systems and Defences

- 4.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted throughout.
- 4.2 YELLOW systems are only permitted in GNOTF, provided a system summary and a bona fide defence is lodged with the TO before 6.00 pm (AEDT) on Thursday, November 12, 2026.

5 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

- 5.1 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 5.2 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.5), alcohol (1.6) and mobile phones (1.7, 1.8) is 3 VPs or 9 IMPs.

6 Correction Period and Time for Requesting a Review

- 6.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for Matches 1-8 in the GNOTNMF expires at the commencement of play on the following day. For Matches 9-12 in the GNOTNMF, it expires 20 minutes after the scheduled finishing time for Match 12. For matches in the GNOTF, it expires 20 minutes after the conclusion of play in the last stanza of the match.
- 6.2 The Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the match or stanza 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 or stanza.
- 6.3 In the case of the last match or stanza, the Time for Requesting a Review of a Director's Ruling expires 10 minutes after the completion of play in that match or 10 minutes after the parties are advised of the director's ruling, whichever is later
- 6.4 Scoring errors made by event officials may be corrected up until a time deemed appropriate by the TO.

7 Fouled and Unplayable Boards

- 7.1 In the case of a fouled board in the GNOTF, the CTD may rule that a substitute board is to be played in the next stanza.
- 7.2 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 or stanza. In these cases where a single board is cancelled, a score of 3 IMPs is assigned for both sides.
- 7.3 In the case of multiple fouled boards, artificial adjusted scores are awarded as detailed in the Appendices.
- 7.4 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.
- 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 7.2 to 7.4 will apply.

8 Event formats

8.1 GNOTF

- 8.1.1 **Quarter-Finals:** Head-to-head matches will be played in 4 stanzas of 14 boards. Winning teams proceed to the Semi-Finals. Losing Teams proceed to the GNOT Plate.
- 8.1.2 **Semi-Finals:** Head-to-head matches will be played in 4 stanzas of 14 boards. Winning teams proceed to the Final. Losing Teams proceed to the Third/Fourth Playoff.
- 8.1.3 The draw for the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals will be determined on the following basis:
- a) teams who were undefeated in GNNQ may not be drawn against one another in the Quarter-Finals – this provision takes precedence over all others;
 - b) if at all possible, no team will be draw against a team which it played in GNNQ;
 - c) if possible, two undefeated teams will not be drawn against one another in the Semi-Finals;
 - c) in other cases, the draw will be determined by lot.
- 8.1.4 **Final:** The two winning Semi-Final teams will play a head-to-head match of 4 stanzas of 14 boards.
- 8.1.5 **Third/Fourth Playoff:** The two losing Semi-Final teams will play a head-to-head match of 4 stanzas of 14 boards.
- 8.1.6 All matches from the Semi-Finals on will be played behind screens.
- 8.1.7 Ties:
- i) In the event of exact tie in the Quarter-Finals:
 - the team which was undefeated in GNNQ will be declared the winner;
 - if neither team was undefeated in GNNQ, the higher ranked team from the GNNQ Swiss Repechage will be declared the winner.
 - ii) In the event of exact tie in the Semi-Finals:
 - if exactly one of the teams was undefeated in GNNQ, it will be declared the winner;
 - if neither team was undefeated in GNNQ, the higher ranked team from the GNNQ Swiss Repechage will be declared the winner;
 - if both teams were undefeated in GNNQ, the Semi-Final match will be calculated by point-a-board scoring and, if still tied, by subsequent two-board playoffs until a result is reached.
 - iii) Ties in the Final and Third/Fourth Playoff will not be broken.
- 8.1.8 **Seating:** Prior to the commencement of each match, a toss will be conducted for seating rights. The winner of the toss may elect to have choice of opponents in either the odd- or even-numbered stanzas.

8.2 GNOTNMF

- 8.2.1 The 12 teams will play a round-robin of eleven 14 board matches, followed by an additional 14 board match for placings.
- 8.2.2 The net IMP result in each match will be converted to Victory Points in accordance with the WBF 14 board Victory Point Scale.
- 8.2.3 The draw will be as follows. The CTD will randomly assign a number to each team, with the proviso that teams from the same region will be drawn to play against each other as early as possible. The first numbered team in each match will have seating rights.

Round						
1	5 v 3	9 v 6	2 v 7	10 v 8	11 v 4	1 v 12

2	6 v 4	10 v 7	3 v 8	11 v 9	1 v 5	12 v 2
3	7 v 5	11 v 8	4 v 9	1 v 10	2 v 6	3 v 12
4	8 v 6	1 v 9	5 v 10	2 v 11	3 v 7	12 v 4
5	9 v 7	2 v 10	6 v 11	3 v 1	4 v 8	5 v 12
6	10 v 8	3 v 11	7 v 1	4 v 2	5 v 9	12 v 6
7	11 v 9	4 v 1	8 v 2	5 v 3	6 v 10	7 v 12
8	1 v 10	5 v 2	9 v 3	6 v 4	7 v 11	12 v 8
9	2 v 11	6 v 3	10 v 4	7 v 5	8 v 1	9 v 12
10	3 v 1	7 v 4	11 v 5	8 v 6	9 v 2	12 v 10
11	4 v 2	8 v 5	1 v 6	9 v 7	10 v 3	11 v 12

8.2.4 At the conclusion of the round-robin, the teams placed first and second will play off for first place, third and fourth will play off for third place, etc. The result of this match will be converted to Victory Points and added to the team's total following the round-robin.

8.2.5 Ties: Critical ties at the end of the round-robin will be broken in the following order:
i) teams ranked by number of wins in VP (a 10-10 result is equal to 0.5 wins);
ii) teams ranked by net IMPs;
iii) the winner of the head-to-head match will be ranked higher;
iv) lot.

Otherwise, ties will not be broken.

8.3 GNOT PLATE

8.3.1 The event will be open to a maximum of 34 teams, comprising the four teams defeated in GNOTF Quarter-Finals and 30 teams entered on a first come, first served basis.

8.3.2 The event will be played as Swiss consisting of 8 x 14 board matches, played over 4 sessions.

8.3.3 Ties at the conclusion of the event will not be broken.

8.4 The time allowed per match or stanza will be announced by the CTD.

9 Session times

Friday: 10.00 am, 11.45 am, 2.15 pm, 4.00 pm

Saturday and Sunday:

GNOT Semi-Finals, Finals & 3rd/4th Playoff: 8.45 am, 10.50 am, 1.20 pm, 3.25 pm

GNOTNMP & GNOT Plate: 9.45 am, 11.30 am, 2.00 pm, 3.45 pm

Anticipated finishing time: 5.30 pm, Sunday

Appendices

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

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

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 to be awarded for each successive board shall be:

Number of fouled/unplayable bds	IMPs awarded
1	3
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	0
7	1

In matches with multiple fouled boards resulting in the number of direct comparisons available being fewer than one half the number of boards, the match will be scored as a forfeit treating both units as non-offending. Forfeited matches are scored as 13 VPs for each side. Further adjustments at the end of the event may be appropriate in accordance with ABF Tournament Regulation 15.

(www.abfevents.com.au/events/tournregs/ABFTournamentRegs2026.pdf)