

QBA REGULATIONS

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REGULATION A – PREAMBLE / SCOPE

These regulations will apply until modified by the QBA Tournament Committee and approved by QBA Council. They apply to all congresses and events appearing on the QBA Calendar as well as events and trials run by zones.

For Selection Trials and State Championship events run by the QBA and hosted by a club there may be additional specific regulations – See Section F

There are areas where a club, as the Host Club, has the right to set its own additional regulations by prior announcement, either in the entry form or by announcement before play.

It is recommended that clubs adopt these regulations, where relevant, for their own club tournaments. Clubs should pass a formal resolution that the QBA Regulations will apply by default for their own club events except where the club specifically varies them.

QBA CALENDAR

In normal circumstances an initial draft of the following's years calendar will be circulated by the end of May with the final draft being tabled by the end of September. Clubs that wish to apply to hold one or more congress events in the following year must return the official application form to the QBA Manager by the date indicated on Application Form. .

Once approval has been granted, the approved date may not be changed, except with the consent of Council, or (if urgent) the Management Committee. Such consent will be given only in exceptional circumstances and for good cause, with due consideration being given to other events which may be adversely affected.

GENERAL REGULATIONS IN RUNNING AN EVENT ON THE CALENDAR

The event must be advertised to all affiliated clubs within the zone. State title events must be advertised to all clubs within the state.

The event must be open to all players affiliated with the QBA and the ABF, subject to the powers of the club and the QBA to control entries.

It is the clubs responsibility to ensure that the QBA table levy is forwarded to the State Masterpoint Secretary either with results or direct deposit within 7 days of the completion of the event.

The event will be conducted under the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the QBA Regulations.

The general format of the event must conform to that advertised. In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, the format may be changed with the consent of the Chairman, Tournament Committee.

Section A – Application

Clubs have the power to have Supplementary Regulations to Congress events as long as they are not in breach of the QBA Regulations.

It was agreed that in all aspects when the Tournament Chairman was to give approval on a matter – in his absence, two members of the Tournament Committee to give approval.

REGULATION B – GENERAL

CONGRESS ENTRY FORMS

A copy of the electronic entry form must be sent to the Webmaster for approval at least six weeks in advance of the event. If a QBA Championship Event or Super Congress, the entry form must also be approved by the Chairman, Tournament Committee. As a courtesy, the entry form should be forwarded to the Director of the Event.

The program must show:

1. QBA Regulations Apply.
2. QBA approved red MP congress.
3. The name of the Director(s)
4. Each days starting time once published cannot be varied.
5. The format of the event if varying from the standard. For example, a Butler scored pairs event (scored on imps not matchpoints) should be advertised as a Butler pairs, not just as pairs.
6. A statement as to the systems permitted.
7. A statement to the effect that "Masterpoints not guaranteed unless ABF number provided."
8. Each player must have an approved current ABF system card. Players are responsible for ensuring the correctness of their system classification.
9. Method used for dividing Plate and Consolation Sections.
10. Graded Events must include details on how field is to be divided. Players must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their ranking indicates.
11. Lunch Arrangements

Where cash prizes are offered, the QBA recommends that the major cash prize should be stated. Minor cash prizes could be advertised as "cash prizes for minor placing's and consolation events." Tie breaking regulations should be announced either in the program or before the event.

Where yellow systems are to be permitted in a QBA Event or Congress, the Entry Conditions should specify the date and/or time by which the Chairman QBA Tournament Committee or Director, as the case may be must receive copies of any system cards and supplementary sheets as well as the form and/or number of copies required. Failure to meet the specified deadline date may result in prohibition of some or all of the relevant methods for part of or the entire event.

Contestants entering an event are deemed to have agreed to abide by the Regulations as posted on the QBA website prior to the start of the event and any additional regulations made by the Tournament Organisers and either appearing on the entry form or announced before the start of the event.

REPORTING AFTER THE EVENT

It is the responsibility of the Director to collate and forward the results to the State Masterpoint Secretary for masterpointing. Persistent lateness in doing so may jeopardise a Director's accreditation. If a club undertakes to forward the results itself, the Director must ensure that the club understands the requirements, and should advise the State Masterpoint Secretary of this arrangement.

Results must reach the State Masterpoint Secretary within a week if electronic and 2 weeks if sent by mail. Late presentation of results may cause the club a financial penalty from the ABF and possibly its QBA approval for the next year. The ABF financial penalty is a 4% surcharge of the masterpoint charges per month.

Clubs are required to use Form J1 (on-line for clubs convenience) to report on every congress they conduct. Form J1 is to be sent to the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee within 14 days of each congress.

Particular problems that should be reported include: any technical problems encountered; any partnerships not turning up; partnerships withdrawing at late notice; any perceived deficiencies in the overall conduct of the tournament; any areas of possible player dissatisfaction (whether thought justified or not). This report will be confidential to the Masterpoint Secretary and the Tournament Committee. The sole purpose of this report is to discover problem areas and areas of player dissatisfaction. Periodically the Tournament Committee will circularise active congress directors detailing the types of problems reported and advising on ways to overcome them.

For the same reason, members of the QBA Tournament Committee (and possibly other players specifically requested by that committee) will provide a report (copy in Forms section at back of Regulations) if there are any unfavourable aspects.

Directors are required to use Form J6 (on-line only) to report on every congress that they direct. A completed Form J6 must be completed online within 7 days. Partnerships causing system disruption and late withdrawals and no shows are to be noted.

HOW MANY EVENTS MAY A CLUB HOLD

Each club will be entitled to conduct one novice pairs and one novice teams event per year, with the proviso that clubs with more than 300 home club members may be authorised to conduct an extra such event each year by application to the Tournament Committee.

Clubs may be granted additional congresses on the recommendation of the Tournament Committee. Factors to be taken into consideration may include, but are not limited to, geographical position, changing demographics and the needs of new clubs.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TABLES FOR A CONGRESS

The minimum number of tables for a congress is four.

REPORTING DURING THE EVENT

The Director shall be responsible for posting all of the scores on the QBA website prior to 11.00 pm at the end of the event, and also each night prior to 11.00 pm in the case of an event being conducted over more than one day.

Where possible, the results of the morning session shall be posted by 2.00 pm on the same day.

THE DIRECTOR FOR THE EVENT

The Director must be accredited by the QBA as a Congress Director and may not be a player in the event.

See Section H for further detail.

WHO MAY NOT PLAY

Board Dealer & Hand Record Photocopier May Not Play

The person who deals boards and/or the person who photocopies the hand records for any Red or Gold Master Point Event will not be permitted to play in that event. See Section B Page 8 for special circumstances.

LOUD DISCUSSIONS DURING OR AFTER PLAY

When discussions or comments are made at any table and are heard at a nearby table, the Director will apply a penalty to the offending pair(s) if he considers that the rights of other players may have been jeopardised. The penalty will normally be 10% of a top or 3imps. The Director will have the right to increase this incrementally for repeat offences.

If a table is obliged to take an adjusted score because of such overheard comments, the penalty will be 50% of a top or 6imps.

UNAUTHORISED WITHDRAWAL FROM A TOURNAMENT

The QBA considers walking out of a tournament a serious breach of propriety. Players dissatisfied with rulings or decisions have avenues of appeal. The QBA will take appropriate action where such incidents occur in its own events, and expects clubs to report such incidents in congresses. Players should be made aware that such incidents, wherever they may occur, may jeopardise their standing as potential State representatives.

WITHDRAWALS

Once play has started, no pair or team shall withdraw without the express permission of the Director. Such permission will usually be granted only on the grounds of genuine illness or emergency.

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP UNDERSTANDINGS

1. Both players in a partnership must play the same system of bidding and signalling.
2. A pair may not change their system during the course of a particular match in teams play or a particular round in pairs play. (Variable NT opening is not regarded as a change of system.) A partnership who play a different system in 3rd and 4th from that in 1st and 2nd seat are deemed to be playing a yellow system and yellow system rules apply.

FOULED BOARDS

A board is considered fouled if the Director considers that one or more cards were misplaced in the board such that contestants who should have had a direct score comparison did not play the board in identical form.

In assessing responsibility for the fouling, the Director may refer to Law 7B2, which requires each player to count his cards before looking at them, and Law 7C, which requires each player to return his original 13 cards to the correct pocket.

WRITTEN BIDDING

In all events written bidding shall be used, except that where they deem it the Director may require or authorize spoken bidding or the use of bidding boxes.

1. Duplicate board - Law 7 applies. The board must remain in the centre of the table in clear view of all players until play is complete.
2. Marking the bidding sheet. Bidding sheets may not be marked prior to the commencement of bidding to show the dealer and vulnerability.
3. Used bidding sheets: NS must ensure that used bidding sheets are not visible to other players.
4. Legal notation - The only acceptable notation for each bid is as follows: C for clubs, D for diamonds, H for hearts, S for spades, NT for no trumps (N is not a legal notation for no trumps), / for pass, X for double, XX for redouble, all preceded by a number representing the bidding level where appropriate. A double line (//) to signify the end of the bidding is illegal. No other notation of any kind e.g. full stops may be used. Any call made due to a misunderstanding of an illegally written bid by an opponent will be treated as a call based on misinformation and may be withdrawn and replaced by another call without penalty. For example, 1N mistaken for 1H. Following a verbal alert, the player must circle partners alerted bid.
5. Procedure: Each player writes his call on the bidding sheet in the squares proceeding from left to right. Players must be consistent in the manner in which they write their calls, and write them legibly. An appeals committee may not overturn the director's judgement as to the legibility of a call. When a call extends beyond a single square, players are responsible for ensuring that future calls are distinct. The Director may award an adjusted score where it is

considered that unauthorised information may have been conveyed by a variation in writing style.

6. Changing a call: Laws 25 and 26 apply.
7. Pausing during a call: Law 16 may apply.
8. Verbal bids: Any player who inadvertently makes a verbal call shall immediately write the same call on the bidding sheet. Repeated infringement may attract a procedural penalty.
9. Covering the bidding sheet. The bidding sheet must remain in view until the third player (on declarer's right) has played to the first trick, whereupon dummy should turn the bidding sheet over or otherwise remove it from sight.
10. The Director may authorize spoken bidding or the use of bidding boxes where they deem it necessary e.g. players with physical handicaps.

PSYCHIC CALLS

In accordance with Clause 9.3 of the QBA Systems Regulations, players may have on their system cards such comments as "frequent psyches" or "occasional psyches" as a description of partnership style, but not agreement. Such statements by no means excuse partnerships from the application of these regulations.

Players may not use any systemic agreement whether explicit or implicit to control a psyche. If a player psyches and his partner takes action that could have been allowing for a psyche then the director will treat the action as acting on unauthorised information or using an illegal system.

FRIVOLOUS PSYCHES

There is an underlying assumption that every call made by a player is intended to achieve a good score for his side. A player who psyches frequently regardless of the effect on the tournament may be subject to a penalty by the Director under his disciplinary powers.

GUIDELINES FOR DIAGNOSING PARTNER'S PSYCHE

"Authorised information" includes: the legal calls and plays to date; the player's own card holding; the disclosed partnership understanding and the mannerisms of the opponents. Note that the discomfort and mannerisms of opponents are not evidence per se that partner has psyched.

"Unauthorised information" (which may not be used in reaching a diagnosis that partner has psyched) includes: partner's reputation or presumed reputation as a psycher; previous experience with partner and the character, bridge ability or experience of the opponents. It is not sufficient justification to conclude that "someone" has psyched. The evidence must be clear, from authorised information, that partner has psyched.

PROHIBITED PSYCHES

The QBA system Regulations prohibit the psyching of conventional opening bids that are forcing and made by agreement on strong hands (eg a Game Forcing 2 clubs or a Precision 1 club).

GUIDELINES AFTER SUSPECTED “FIELDING” OF A PSYCHE

Players who feel they have been damaged by an opponent “fielding” his partner’s psyche should call the Director immediately. The Director may adjust the score unless the player concerned can explain how the psyche was diagnosed by authorised information.

PSYCHE REGISTER

At each QBA event or red masterpoint congress, a psyche register will be available.

By the end of each round, players are required to report their own psyches in the register. This will include details of the hand, the bidding sequence and subsequent play if relevant. If the Director subsequently discovers that a psyche has not been reported, he will apply a procedural penalty of 50% of a top in pairs or 2VPs in teams, at whatever stage the event has reached. If it is not discovered until after the event, he will report this failure to the QBA Tournament Committee. All recorded psyches should be forwarded to the Chairman, Tournament Committee in writing. He/She will maintain a register, and informally advise other congress directors of any pair who seem to be psyching with undue frequency. He will also have informal discussions with the players concerned.

Where a particular partnership appears to have a history of frequent psyching the Director is authorised to require the pair to call him at the end of the hand where the psyche has occurred, in addition to a written report in the psyche register.

CONDUCT AND ETHICS PANEL

The QBA Management Committee has the power to select a Conduct and Ethics Panel to sit and hear a particular report on improper behaviour by players at a QBA event. Players concerned will be invited to attend a meeting of the panel, accompanied if so desired by a friend or a lawyer, to hear the reports and respond to them. The panel will observe the principles of natural justice in all of its proceedings. It is empowered to recommend to the Management Committee, a reprimand, suspension or expulsion of any player from all or some QBA events or events conducted under its aegis. Players will have the right to appeal to a full meeting of Council against any such decision.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PLAYERS – (QBA POLICY)

1. Clubs

The QBA has neither the power nor the desire to interfere in a club’s disciplinary actions against its own members, or its right to decide who will play at its own club events. However it might feel obliged to act if a club’s actions could be seen to bring the game of bridge or its organisation into disrepute eg by the denial of natural justice to a member or player or any action which could be seen to be unlawfully discriminatory.

Clubs should ensure that their constitution contains provision for disciplinary action eg suspension or expulsion and that the constitution or their by-laws set out the proper

procedure to be followed, ensuring that natural justice is observed. This should include the right to be heard, the right to be represented and the right to appeal to a full meeting of the club. Clubs taking any sort of disciplinary action against a member or refusing to accept a visitor should, as a matter of courtesy, advise the QBA Manager by a confidential letter of this decision.

2. Congresses

Players in good standing with the Queensland Bridge Association are entitled under these Regulations to play in red masterpoint approved congresses. Legal issues raised by a club's refusal to allow entry to a player in good standing with the QBA fall outside the QBA's jurisdiction.

3. QBA Championship Events

Players in good standing with the QBA are entitled under these Regulations to play in QBA Championship Events. Legal issues raised by a club's refusal to allow entry to a player in good standing with the QBA fall outside the QBA's jurisdiction.

THE RECORDER

1. QBA will appoint a recorder. The current Recorder is the QBA Chairman. In the absence of the official Recorder, an acting Recorder will be appointed at QBA Championship Events. Congress organisers are urged to appoint a Recorder for their events. Acting Recorders should report any complaints in confidence to the QBA Recorder.
2. The Recorder will be a person to whom players may have recourse on complaints or suspicions of improper, unethical or discourteous behaviour by others - in general, matters which are not strictly the province of the Director. He will receive the complaint tactfully, confidentially record it, and may discuss the matter with the subjects of the complaint if he deems it appropriate. If he receives repeated complaints of a similar nature against a particular player or pair, he may discuss the matter personally with him/her, and should report the matter in confidence to the Management Committee.

FINAL SCORES CONTAINING DECIMAL FRACTIONS

Differences of fractions of a scoring unit, whether it be matchpoint, percentage, IMP or Victory Point, will be sufficient to determine placings. Scores should be rounded to no more than two decimal places.

Masterpoints shall be awarded as detailed in the ABF Masterpoint Scheme Manual.

BREAKING OF TIES

The QBA policy is not to break ties for cash prizes, but to divide the prize money for the two places between the tying players. For example, two pairs or teams tying for first would divide the total first and second place prize money. Clubs are advised to follow this policy, but may elect to break ties. If no prior announcement is made about ties, this QBA policy will apply.

SYSTEM CARDS

Each pair must have two systemically identical system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of play. Only current ABF System Cards are approved for use and they must be legible and clearly show the colour category of the system. The foregoing shall apply wherever system cards are mentioned in these Regulations.

GAMBLING

In accordance with State Laws, no form of organised gambling will be allowed at QBA events, including betting on the results of those events.

Although individual persons cannot be prevented from gambling in private on the results of QBA events, the QBA disapproves of such activities because of the ethical considerations which may arise.

MOBILE PHONES

The use of mobile phones, pagers and other electronic communication devices is not permitted in the playing areas during session time. Entrants with a bona fide 'on-call' need may lodge such items with the Congress desk. The first breach per session of this regulation shall be the warning for all contestants. After that warning, breaches will incur an automatic, non-discretionary penalty as below. Audible disturbances from such devices will be similarly penalised after the general warning.

Penalty:

Pairs:	50% of the MP top on a board
Teams/Butler Pairs:	3 VPs
Knockout Teams:	9 IMPs

SPECTATORS

Spectators are welcome at bridge events. Spectators must observe the conditions specified in the Laws and the director is responsible for ensuring their observance.

A player who objects to the actions of a spectator or who feels disturbed by the presence of a spectator should summon the Director, and not seek to deal with the problem personally.

Spectators must move away from a table or tables if instructed to do so by the director.

BOARD DEALING, HAND PRODUCTION AND PHOTOCOPYING OF HAND RECORDS

Hand Reproduction – Gold Point Events and QBA Congress Calendar Events

All hands for congresses, GNOT and QBA events must be generated by an approved random hand generation programme. The programmes approved are ABF (Tim Bourke), Dealer DOS (Willcox), WinDup (as in Duplimate) and Big Deal (WBF).

Clubs using hand dealt boards will also be required to use hands from an approved dealing programme. Hand Records can be obtained from the QBA Board Dealer free of charge. If a club wishes to use an alternative programme, approval may be sought from the Tournament Committee via the Chairman.

Board Dealing and Photocopying - Gold Point Events

All hand dealing and photocopying must be done by an independent person or persons who is/are not playing in the event.

Board Dealing and Photocopying - QBA Congress Calendar Events

With a dealing machine: If an independent non-player is not available to pre-deal the boards, a team of at least two persons (not members of the same partnership or team) may do so providing the hand display is turned off on the monitor. Photocopying of hand records should still be done by a non player. The presence of more than one person is to safeguard those persons from any accusations of pre-knowledge of the hands. Without a dealing machine: All hand dealing and photocopying must be done by an independent person or persons who is/are not playing in the event.

Board Dealing and Photocopying – Club Events

Clubs may choose whatever method of pre-dealing they wish bearing in mind that those who pre-deal and play in the same event will need some form of protection in place in the event of accusations of impropriety.

NORTH IN CHARGE OF TABLE

North will be responsible for maintaining proper conditions of play at the table unless East/West are stationary.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The use of foreign languages is acceptable at the Club before the session starts, during breaks in play and when play is finished. The use of a foreign language is not allowed while the cards are out of the boards. Between hands, if players cannot use good English, they should request approval from opponents to use a foreign language. If permission is granted, it is the responsibility of those communicating in the foreign language to explain as well as they can what was said.

B5i INTERCLUB EVENTS

B5i Inter Club events are not to be held on the same day(s) as QBA Championship Events unless the Masterpoint Secretary believes the locality to be sufficiently distant as to not affect the Championship. Clubs should avoid requesting dates that may affect Congresses in their region.

OFFICIAL SCORE IN SWISS FORMAT EVENTS

For the purposes of applying Law 92B and Law 79C during Swiss format events, the Official Score shall be the one posted at a substantial break eg lunch or at the end of a day's play.

MONITORS

On his own initiative or if required to do so by the Tournament Organiser, the Director may appoint monitors to observe and report about:

- (a) Contestants suspected of slow play
- (b) Matters relating to etiquette and decorum
- (c) Any other matter relating to the smooth running of the tournament.

A monitor has no jurisdiction relating to the tournament other than to report his observations to the Director. Monitors must not have any conversation with players being observed and are not to discuss their observations with anyone other than the Director and the Tournament Organiser.

SLOW PLAY

It is the Director's responsibility to take whatever action necessary to limit the impact of slow play on the efficient conduct of an event. The Director may make time calls or call attention to delays at individual tables but competitors should not rely upon him to do so. The Director may appoint monitors to observe rates of play.

LATE ARRIVAL

It is an offence, subject to disciplinary penalty, for the late arriving contestant to hustle the non-offending contestant in order to complete boards on time. Likewise, it is an offence, subject to disciplinary penalty, for the non-offending contestant to deliberately play slowly in order to maximise the likelihood of score adjustment due to non-completion of boards. Refer to Sections C, D and F for further regulation for late arrival.

SCORING ERRORS BY OFFICIALS

Scoring errors made by officials may be corrected at any time during an event except that at the conclusion of an event such corrections may not be made later than 30 minutes after the posting of scores.

The above allowance includes errors made in qualifying sessions discovered prior to the commencement of finals sessions but once finals sessions have begun there may be no correction. At the conclusion of an event, the results will become final 30 minutes after the posting of the scores after which time no correction may be made unless further regulation applies to particular events.

ELECTRONIC SCORING MACHINES

Electronic scoring machines (such as Bridgemates), that have the ability to view other table scores and contracts while a session is in play must be disabled.

South (or North) shall be responsible for all data entry, and East (or West) shall be responsible for checking the accuracy of the data entry.

Both pairs shall be responsible for ensuring that scores are entered for every board played, and before leaving the room or moving for the next round both pairs shall confirm that data entry is complete.

The Director may impose a procedural penalty on both pairs for failing to enter all data.

SCORING ERRORS BY PLAYERS

In multi-session events, errors in scoring made by the players may be corrected up to 30 minutes after the posting of results or in the case of the final session, up to 30 minutes after posting of the final results. However in two day events, score corrections from the second session on Day 1 can be corrected up to 30 minutes before the start of the first session on Day 2.

In multi-session teams or Butler pairs events, the above shall also apply, except where the players are required to provide the Director with the results of matches played, errors in scoring by the players may be corrected up to 30 minutes after the match scores have been agreed.

At the conclusion of the event, results will become final 30 minutes after posting of the scores for the last round, after which no correction can be made.

DEFECTIVE SWISS DRAWS

Where scoring errors are discovered, or appeal decisions are handed down after the draw for the next round has been made, and the changes would have an effect on the draw, the defective draw shall not be corrected unless it is the last round of the event.

For the last round of a Swiss movement, before play has commenced, a draw rendered defective by appeal decisions, scoring errors or similar circumstances shall be corrected.

Notwithstanding the above, the Director shall always have to power to alter a grossly defective draw in a way that causes minimal disruption to the movement.

ELECTIONS UNDER THE LAWS BY QBA AS REGULATING AUTHORITY

ASSIGNED ADJUSTED SCORES [Law 12C1(c)]

Directors are permitted to award a single weighted score that endeavours to restore the balance of equity on the hand in the instant prior to the infraction. The calculation of the weightings relates to the expected outcomes from that point forward in an auction unaffected by any irregularity. Any residual doubt that exists in the assessment of the relative weightings should be resolved in favour of the nonoffending side.

Example: As a result of misinformation a pair defends 4HX. If they had been correctly informed they will certainly bid game in spades and possibly slam, making eleven or twelve tricks depending on declarer’s line of play.

The Director may conclude that equity is best served by substituting a single weighted score as follows:

30% of +1430 (6S =)
 Plus 40% of +680 (4S +2)
 Plus 20% of +650 (4S +1)
 Plus 10% of -100 (6S -1)

At Pairs: Assuming there are 12 Tables, the frequency table would look something like this:

Frequency Score Matchpoints

2.3	+1430	20.7
5.4	+680	13.0
2.2	+650	5.4
2.1	- 100	1.1

The weighted score would be:

$(0.3*20.7) + (0.4*13.0) + (0.2*5.4) + (0.1*1.1) = +12.6$ - rounded to 1 decimal place.

A single score of N/S +12.6 would be entered.

At Teams: Assume the score in the other room was N/S +650

<u>Net Score</u>	<u>IMPs</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Adjust</u>
+1430 – 650 = +780	+13	30%	3.9
+ 680 – 650 = +30	+1	40%	0.4
+ 650 – 650 = 0		20%	0.0
- 100 – 650 = -750	-13	10%	-1.3
		Total	3.0

The IMP total is rounded to the nearest whole number and the board scored as +3 to the non-offending side.

Alternative Manual Calculation Method for Pairs Tournaments Scored by Computer

Clearly to make one of these weighted adjustments for Matchpoint scoring without the aid of computer software would be tedious, if not impossible, particularly in large fields. Many software packages do not currently cater for this type of adjustment. Until a software modification is implemented the following procedure shall, by regulation, be deemed the correct one:

Enter the scores into the software as normal, substituting average to both sides at the table to which the ruling applies. Then calculate the weighted score using the match-points assigned by the software (a board print out will provide this).

In the above example the following results will be obtained:

Score	Matchpoints
+1430	20
+680	13
+650	6
- 100	2

The weighted score would be:

$$(0.3*20) + (0.4*13) + (0.2*6) + (0.1*2) = +12.6.$$

Finally correct the match-points for both sides, rounded to one or two decimal places depending on the norm for the programme used, using the adjusted score (penalty) routine. Since the average on the board is 11 and has already been assigned, the director will add 1.6 match-points to N/S and deduct 1.6 match-points from E/W.

Law 12C1(e)

None of the provisions of this Law apply in Queensland

Law 12C2(b) and Law 86A

For IMP play for matches of fewer than 11 Boards, the score awarded (as average plus or average minus) shall be plus or minus 2 IMPs (unless further regulated for particular events).

Law 16B2

The preferred procedure is to summon the Director at the end of the hand but only if it becomes apparent that an opponent may have acted upon extraneous information made available by his partner. The Director need only be called if the nonoffenders believe they may have been damaged.

Whenever a player believes there is a possibility that an opponent may have acted on unauthorized information from their partner's gesture, comment, hesitation, or the like, he should immediately try to establish the facts about what has occurred. This should be done as pleasantly as possible, stressing that establishing the facts now is to avoid dispute later should it be necessary to call the director at the end of play. The

director should only be called earlier if there is no agreement about what has occurred. If at the end of the hand, the non-offending side believe they have been disadvantaged, the director can then be summoned.

Law 40B2(a)

This Law is the basis and authority for the classification and restriction of certain partnership methods as outlined in the QBA Systems Regulations. It is also the authority for the procedures as described in the QBA Alerting Regulations.

Both members of a partnership must play the same system, including bidding and card play agreements. Where, as a matter of style, members frequently adopt different approaches from each other, that difference (or those differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

Law 40B2(b)

The QBA Systems Regulations do permit written defences to Yellow Systems and Brown Sticker Conventions to be referred to at the table in some events.

Law 40B2(c)

This law applies as written.

Law 40B2(d) See Section B Page 5

Law 40B3

Prior agreements by a partnership to vary its understanding during the auction or play following a question asked, a response to a question or an irregularity committed by its own side is prohibited.

Law 40C3(a)

A player is not entitled during the auction and play periods to any aids to his memory, calculation or technique. This includes not recording the contract and/or the opening lead before the play of the hand is complete.

Law 41A

The opening lead should be made face down. A lead made face down is not an opening lead until faced and may thus be retracted without penalty, but only upon instruction of the director i.e. when the lead was made from the wrong side or following the correction of misinformation.

Law 61B3

Defenders may make enquiries of each other or declarer regarding a possible revoke at the risk of creating unauthorized information.

Law 70E2

In adjudicating disputed claims involving an unstated line of play the following guidelines apply:

(a) Top down

A declarer who states that he is cashing a suit is normally assumed to cash them from the top; this is especially so if there is some solidity.

Example

Suppose declarer claims three tricks with AK5 opposite 42, forgetting the jack has not gone. It would be normal to give him three tricks since it would be considered irrational to play the 5 first.

(b) Different suits

If a declarer appears unaware of an outstanding winner, or losing line of play [but see (a) above], and a trick could be lost by playing or discarding one suit rather than another, then the director should award that trick to the non-claiming side.

Example

Declarer has three winners in dummy and must make three discards. He appears to have forgotten his ♦J is not a winner. It is careless rather than irrational that he should discard some other winner to retain the ♦J.

Law 73A2

Mandatory pauses are not required during the auction or on the first trick.

Law 76C2

The right to rectification for an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the non-offending side is responsible.

The right to correct an irregularity may be forfeited if attention is first drawn to the irregularity by a spectator for whose presence at the table the offending side is responsible.

Law 79C2

No change in score may occur after expiry of the score correction period set by the Tournament Organizer.

Law 80A3

The ABF has assigned to the QBA the right to regulate congresses and state events within Queensland.

Law 80B

The Tournament Organizer (also known as the Convenor) of congresses and state events within Queensland is the official, recognised by the QBA, responsible for arranging and preparing for a congress or state event. Where a committee or body is responsible for organising the tournament, the Tournament Organizer is deemed to be the Chairman of that committee or body.

Law 80B1

Where responsibility for a congress or state event run under the auspices of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme is delegated to a Tournament Organizer (be it a Club, Zone or Individual), these entities are not permitted to draft or implement regulations, written or otherwise, that are in conflict with the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge nor the QBA Regulations.

Law 80B2(j)

Although arranging for scores to be collected, for results to be tabulated and for an official record to be made may be performed by the Tournament Organizer, ultimate responsibility for the accuracy of the scoring is vested in the Director who must be permitted to oversee and check the performance of said duties and if need be to correct the work carried out by others.

Law 81

The term “Director” means the Director in Charge appointed by the Tournament Organizer under Law 80B2(a).

Law 93C1

The correct procedure for requesting a review by the QBA Appeals Committee of the decision of an appeals committee is detailed in Section I of the QBA Regulations. Any such request, if deemed to lack merit, may lead to a reprimand or a sanction.

Law 93C3(a & b)

The QBA Tournament Committee may review any Appeals Committee decision arising from any tournament run under the auspices of the QBA. The Tournament Committee will however limit its functions to the interpretation of the 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge and will not decide facts or change or purport to change any ruling that has been made under those Laws. It follows that the committee will not overturn the result of an event but it may issue an opinion in order to establish or confirm a legal precedent or procedure.

REGULATION C – PAIRS

SYSTEMS

Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments will be permitted in all State Championship Pairs events including qualifying rounds except that in the Novice Pairs Championship and the lowest section of Graded Events, Green and Blue Systems only will be permitted. The QBA recommends that Clubs adopt the above policy for their congresses.

SUBSTITUTION

Substitutes will be permitted, at the discretion of the Director, for adequate cause, giving consideration to the rights of other contestants and the integrity of the tournament. (See specific regulations for substitutes for QBA Events and Selection Trials). Except in urgent cases, permission must be sought in advance of the event.

Subject to further regulation of specific events, a player may use a substitute for fewer than 50% of the boards scheduled to be played in an event.

Qualifying Sessions are to be treated as a separate event from Finals Sessions that follow.

A substitute who replaces an entrant before a single stage event is half way through may acquire the rights of the original player.

A substitute who replaces an entrant before a qualifying event is half way through may acquire the rights of the original player should the original player be unable to continue.

Should each player in a pair require a substitute during an event, whether it be single stage, qualifying or finals, then the total number of boards played by substitutes shall be fewer than 50% of the boards scheduled to be played in the event.

A player may not be a substitute for more than one other player during an event.

For a congress event and emergency situation only, the Director may waive the above substitution requirements to maintain the integrity of the tournament, whilst considering the rights of the other contestants. All such substitutions must be reported to the Chairman, Tournament Committee.

For events graded by rank or which are age or gender specific, a substitute must meet the entry requirements of the event for the pair to remain eligible.

LATE ARRIVAL PENALTIES - PAIRS

Except where otherwise specified an adjusted score of 60% will be awarded to the non offending pair for boards unable to be played and 0% will be awarded to a pair arriving late for an event. A pair who arrives more than 30 minutes after the specified starting time shall cease to be a contestant. The Director may use his discretion when adequate cause exists.

BREAKING OF TIES – PAIRS

1. Ties will not be broken for awarding cash prizes. The available prize money will be divided between the tying pairs.
2. Ties will be broken in the finals of QBA Championship events for the purpose of deciding a championship or plate title. A tie will be broken on the basis of the head to head match between the tying pairs; if still unbroken, the matches against the next ranking pair will be used, and so on.
3. For masterpoint purposes, tie breaks will not affect the ranking.

Tie Breaking in Pairs for Purposes of Qualification:

Within the one field except in 2 above the following will apply:

- On boards played by two or more tied contestants: each contestant is awarded two points for each board on which his matchpoint score was higher than that of another tied contestant, one point where he is equal
- Where boards were not played by all the tied contestants (e.g. a skip movement where tied contestants would have skipped different sets of boards): award points on the basis of the matchpoints in relation to average. Thus 2 points for above average, one point for average.

Comparison of Scores Across Different Fields for Qualification Purposes (For example, where you may need to find the best thirds to qualify into a championship.)

- Where Mitchell movements have been used, the NS and EW fields should be treated separately. Thus, if you need to find the best two thirds, you must find the best third NS and the best third EW.
- The best third will be the pair with the highest score (after any necessary factoring for comparison purposes). Exception: An equal second in one section will always outrank a third in another section, even if the third has a higher score. Ties: If there is a tie between two or more pairs in different fields, the winner will be that pair closest in matchpoints (after necessary factoring) to the pair above; then if necessary to the pair further above; then if necessary to the pair furthest above the next lower ranking pair.

Exemption for Swiss Pairs

If tie cannot be broken using the above formula because both tying pairs have not played the third placed pair and/or the fourth pair then, for a QBA Championship event, the tie will not be broken.

SCORING

When there is a discrepancy on the official score sheet between the score entered and the contract, declarer or number of tricks made, the director shall make every effort to contact the players involved to ascertain the correct details. Where this is not possible, the director may only change the score recorded when:

- an impossible score is recorded or

- there is a definite error in scoring according to the vulnerability.

On boards where a score is apparently recorded on the wrong side, the director may not change the score, but will award an average on that board to both sides.

FOULED BOARDS - PAIRS

Provided there are at least four scores in each section, divide the scores into two groups; matchpoint each group separately; then add one matchpoint to all pairs for each score in the other group.

If one of the sections has fewer than 4 scores averages are awarded in the smaller group as follows:

1 score: 60% NS and EW

2 scores: 65% to the higher NS score (55% to their EW opponents). 55% to the lower NS score (65% to their EW opponents).

3 scores: 70% to the highest NS score, (50% to their EW opponents); 60% to the next highest NS score (60% to their opponents), 50% to the lowest NS score (70% to their EW opponents).

If computerised scoring is available, the following should be applied:

$$M = N/S(X+1)-1$$

Where M = final matchpoint score

N = normal number of results on the board

X = score allotted without reference to the other group

S = number of results in the group under consideration

Thus a top score in a 8 table group wins: $12/8 \times (14 + 1) - 1 = 22.5 - 1 = 21.5$

Under this formula, pairs in the smaller group will receive 2, 8, 14 and 20 matchpoints respectively, while pairs in the larger group get between 0.5 and 21.5. The formula also produces the correct board check totals.

A board is not necessarily fouled merely because it is different from that shown on the hand record.

Split Scores

Where a Director or Appeals Committee has awarded a split score on a board, the Director (scorer) should score the board as an average then adjust for the individual pairs which is the same as scoring the NS and EW fields separately.

REPORTING RESULTS FOR MASTERPOINTING

It is essential that the State Masterpoint Secretary be able to properly identify all players earning masterpoints. Bear in mind that players often misquote their own ABF numbers, and even more often their partners' numbers. The minimum requirement for reporting is each player's surname, initial and ABF number. The preferred data are surname, first name, ABF number and club or club number. First names are essential

where the surname is a common one, and where husband and wife are both registered players.

REQUIREMENTS

- Name and date(s) of congress.
- Name(s) of Director(s). If more than 30 tables, the name of the assistant director should be provided.
- Full description of the movement for all sections and all sessions including section/session name, number of tables and number of boards.
- Sufficient additional information, relevant to the format used, is to be provided so that masterpoint entitlements can be assessed for example:
- Matchpoint Pairs with matches of up to 6 boards: Overall results listed in rank order and results for all sessions listed in rank order.
- Matchpoint Pairs and Butler Pairs with matches of 7 or more boards: Overall results listed in rank order. Results of each match listed in rank order or a summary of wins/draws/losses as defined in the ABF Masterpoint Scheme Manual.
- A draw for matchpoint pairs matches of 7 or more boards is 47.5% to 52.5% inclusive.
- Masterpoint Entitlement
- For matches of up to 6 boards: The top half of the field in each section or each session (depending on format) and overall. For outright points, list all places in the championship and the top half of the field in other finals.
- Matchpoint Pairs and Butler Pairs with matches of 7 or more boards: The top third of the field overall and for wins and draws for each match as defined ABF Masterpoint Scheme Manual.
- For sections with odd numbers of tables (Mitchell) or odd number of pairs (Howell), the top half is found by rounding down e.g. 4 pairs for a 9T Mitchell, 5 pairs for an 11 pair Howell.

ILLEGAL SYSTEMS – PAIRS

When a pair is found using an illegal system the director may at his/her discretion impose a procedural penalty proportionate to the degree of damage/benefit reasonably suspected to have been caused/received in the event to date. This might range from one only 10% of a top where no grounds for leniency exist and discovered early in the event to large points deductions for repeat offences or for particularly damaging illegal systems used by experienced tournament players and discovered well into an event. Furthermore if play of a board is in progress, the director may award an adjusted score in accordance with Law 12A.

REGULATION D – TEAMS

SYSTEMS - TEAMS

Green, Blue and Red systems and Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments will be permitted in all State Championship Teams events including qualifying rounds except that in the lowest section of Graded Events Green and Blue systems only will be permitted. The QBA recommends that Clubs adopt the above policy for their congresses.

SUBSTITUTION - TEAMS

Subject to further regulation of specific events, a team may use a substitute for fewer than 50% of the boards scheduled for play in an event. This shall apply even to teams of 5 or 6. In addition, teams of 4 or 5 will be entitled to add to their numbers (after the start of the event) up to a maximum of 6 at the discretion of the Director. A player may not be a substitute for more than one other player during an event.

FORFEITS IN MATCHES - TEAMS

Where a team is required to forfeit a match, the forfeiting team will receive 0 VPs. Their opponents will receive the best of three options: (a) 18 VPs, or (b) the complement of the average of the forfeiting team's other matches or (c) their own average for all other matches. The score will not be known until the end of the event, when the final scores may be adjusted. For the purposes of a Swiss draw, the forfeiting team will receive 15 VPs and their opponents 18 VPs, but the forfeiting team will have the 15 VPs subtracted from their final score.

LATE ARRIVAL PENALTIES - TEAMS

Teams without four players ready to start play at the advertised time for any session shall be penalised 1 VP for every 5 minutes or part thereof beyond the first 5 minutes unless there is adequate cause.

Match to be forfeited if 30 minutes or more late.

BREAKING OF TIES - TEAMS

1. Ties will not be broken for awarding cash prizes. The available prize money will be divided between the tying teams.
2. Ties will be broken in the finals of QBA Championship events for the purpose of deciding a championship or plate title. A tie will be broken on the following basis:

If matches are playing the same boards ties will be broken on 1. Total Imps difference 2. Head to Head.

If matches are not playing the same boards, ties will be broken on 1. Head to Head 2. Total Imps difference.

For masterpoint purposes, tie breaks will not affect the ranking.

FOULED BOARDS

1. A board is not necessarily fouled merely because it is different from that shown on the hand record.
2. Where boards are circulating around tables so that more than one match are playing the same physical set of boards: the Director will order a re-deal and the board re-played at both tables should time permit. Otherwise he will award an adjusted score. Note that, in no situation will a re-deal and re-play be ordered if the result to date in the match could be known to either side.

If a re-deal is not possible, an adjusted score will be awarded. The equivalent at teams of a 60% score at pairs is +3 imps (or +2 imps for a match of fewer than 11 boards) unless further regulated for particular events.

3. Where boards are used exclusively by the match concerned:
 - (a) Both sides have contributed to the fouling: re-deal and re-play if time, regardless of the result at the other table; otherwise no result on the board.
 - (b) One side responsible for the fouling: +3 imps (or +2 imps for a match of fewer than 11 boards) to non-offenders, -3 (or -2 imps for a match of fewer than 11 boards) imps to offenders.
 - (c) Neither side responsible: re-deal and re-play (if time) with consent of both teams; otherwise +3 imps (or +2 imps for a match of fewer than 11 boards) to both teams.

The above principles will apply to any other situation (not otherwise covered by the Regulations or 2007 Laws) in teams play where a proper comparison of scores can not be made. The Director will give consideration to any highly favourable result gained by the non-offenders at the other table.

In aggravated circumstances the Director may impose a more severe penalty or a more generous indemnity.

REPORTING RESULTS FOR MASTERPOINTING

It is essential that the State Masterpoint Secretary be able to properly identify all players earning masterpoints. The minimum requirement for reporting is each player's surname, initial and ABF number. The preferred data are surname, first name, ABF number and club or club number. First names are essential where the surname is a common one and where husband and wife are both registered players.

REQUIREMENTS

Name and date(s) of congress.

- Name(s) of Director(s): If more than 30 tables, the name of the assistant director should be provided.

- Full description of the movement. For teams, the movement and number of boards per match, the VP scale used. Where the WBF VP scale is used, and there is not a specific scale for that number of boards, the actual scale used must be specified. For example, if playing 9 board matches, the director must specify whether the 8 board scale or the 10 board scale has been used..
- Results must be listed in final rank order.
- Masterpoint Entitlement - if matches are of less than 7 boards, as for pairs, but with awards going only to the top third of the field, (rounding up). If matches are of 7 boards or more: points allotted on wins or draws. Report number of wins/draws for each team, balancing the total to ensure the report is correct. Also some 16-14 results using the WBF VP scale may be draws for masterpoint purposes. All 16-14 wins and all 14-16 losses should include the imp's margin.

ILLEGAL SYSTEMS

When a pair is found using an illegal system the director may at his/her discretion impose a procedural penalty proportionate to the degree of damage/benefit reasonably suspected to have been caused/received in the event to date. This might range from 2 VP's (crossimping) and 3VP's (non crossimping) where no grounds for leniency exist and discovered early in the event to large points deductions for repeat offences or for particularly damaging illegal systems used by experienced tournament players and discovered well into an event. Furthermore if play of a board is in progress, the director may award an adjusted score in accordance with Law 12.

INCORRECT SEATING OF PAIRS DURING A MATCH

Both teams are deemed to be offenders when pairs have sat in the wrong direction at one table and Average Minus is awarded to both teams on each board for which a valid comparison cannot be made. When two pairs moving to away tables have sat at incorrect tables and have each therefore played the wrong team then, for each board for which a valid comparison cannot be made, Average is awarded to the seated team (deemed partly at fault) and Average Minus to the teams whose pairs moved to the wrong table.

In aggravated circumstances the Director may impose a more severe penalty or a more generous indemnity.

WRONG BOARDS PLAYED BY TEAMS

When wrong boards have been played by some portion of the field due to an official's error and this is not discovered until teams commence scoring up then:

- (a) If a valid comparison is obtained on more than half the boards regardless of whether some scores may be for correct boards and others may be for incorrect boards then Average Plus is awarded to both teams for each board for which a valid comparison could not be obtained.
- (b) The director may require a replacement match to be played when (a) cannot be applied.

- (c) If a valid comparison is not available on more than half the boards played and a replacement match is not to be played then the director proceeds as follows:
- Any valid scores are retained.
 - 50% of Average Plus is awarded to both teams for each board with an invalid score. Totals to be rounded up.
 - If a team's result reached by applying (i) and (ii) above is less than that team's average result for all other matches then the result for the flawed match is adjusted to that higher average after all matches in the event have been completed.

When wrong boards have been played by some portion of the field due to an official's error and this is discovered before teams commence scoring up then if time permits, the director should allow extra boards to be played so that valid comparisons are obtained for the correct number of boards or so that sufficient valid comparisons are obtained to allow (a) above to be applied otherwise (b) and (c) above should be applied.

If a new draw is required before calculations can be made then for the purpose of computing that draw, the director should award to each affected team either (a) the team's average score per match so far or (b) 18 VP. The director chooses the option and applies it to all affected teams

The director may cancel all results and replay the round when more than half the teams in the field are affected by a considerable number of incorrect boards being in play. This may mean fewer rounds than advertised will be played in the event.

STANDARD FORMAT FOR A TRIANGLE IN A TEAMS EVENT

The standard and recommended format for a triangle is a Whist or Mitchell movement with an additional set of boards in play.

Mention must be made on the entry form if a non-standard format is to be used should a triangle be necessary

REGULATION E – EVENTS

B4 CONGRESSES

The responsibility for the choice of an unpopular or technically unsound format remains with the host club and director.

Formats other than standard must be fully detailed on the entry form.

STANDARD FORMAT ONE DAY SWISS PAIRS

- 8 Seven Board Rounds
- 9 Six Board Rounds
- 11 Five Board Rounds
- 10 Five Board Rounds for Novice and non-metropolitan congresses at host club's discretion.
- First Draw to be either total masterpoints averaged and then n over 2 plus 1 or by Directors Seeding

STANDARD FORMAT ONE DAY SWISS TEAMS

- 7 eight board matches or
- 8 seven board matches or
- Fewer matches may be played in Novice and non-metropolitan congresses at host club's discretion.
- Live draw
- At least 24 boards per session.
- First Draw to be either total masterpoints averaged and then n over 2 plus 1 or by Directors Seeding

GRADED CONGRESSES

1. Entry form per event.
2. Full details as to how field is to be graded must be on the entry form.
Example 1: Open; Below Life; Less than 100 MP. At the director's discretion a small field may be divided into two sections, Open and Below National.
Example 2: The field shall be seeded by the director and graded into two approximately equal sections. At the director's discretion a large field may be divided into three approximately equal sections.
3. When eligibility for a grade is restricted by masterpoints, the upper limit quoted shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team. Players must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their ranking may indicate.

4. The entry form should specify the date on which entrants must qualify on master status. If the most recent quarterly results have been published by the time the entry forms are circulated, then the last day of that quarter will be the cut off date. Otherwise the last date of the previous quarter will apply.

NOVICE EVENTS

1. The novice event will be open to players who, at the end of the previous quarter were below the rank for the event stipulated on the current QBA Calendar. “Previous Quarter” means the latest one for which standings have been published prior to the circulation of entry forms.
2. The event must be directed by a qualified Congress Director and the QBA regulations for red masterpoint congresses will apply.
3. The masterpoint limit shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team.

RESTRICTED EVENTS RUN CONCURRENTLY WITH OPEN CONGRESSES

One Entry Form per event. Full details must be on the entry form. Example: Open Swiss Pairs plus Restricted Swiss Pairs <100 MP.

When entry to an event is restricted by masterpoints the upper limit quoted shall be per player and not an average nor total figure per pair or team.

STANDARD BUTLER SCORING METHOD

1. Mathematical mean (average).
2. Mention must be made on the entry form if the median scoring method is to be used.

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JAMES O’SULLIVAN – QUEENSLAND MASTERPOINT TROPHY

Residential Restrictions apply.

QUEENSLAND GNOT TRIALS

Queensland will qualify sixteen teams to the GNOT. For this purpose, the state will be divided into nine areas.

Area 1: Brisbane zone

Area 2: Gold Coast zone

Area 3: Sunshine Coast zone

Area 4: Capricorn Zone

Area 5: North Queensland

Area 6: Darling Downs zone

Area 7: Wide Bay zone

Area 8: Whitsunday zone

Area 9: Far North Queensland

Residential Qualifications Applicable to All Areas

A bona fide Queensland resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the GNOT National Final, of a club affiliated with the QBA.

A non Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and whose bridge has been or will be played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least six months immediately prior to the National Final.

A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies an area's organiser(s) that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that his bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least 6 months after the National Final.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL AREAS

1. Each area is responsible for organising its qualifying event(s). Areas are required to conduct finals among participating clubs. Areas may require clubs to conduct elimination rounds.
2. The format should be a reasonably lengthy one, as befits a gold masterpoint event. Each area's format must be approved by the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee prior to its first use. Any changes made in later years must also be approved before use.
3. Continuation from club elimination rounds to area finals is not compulsory.
4. All entrants in area finals MUST be prepared to travel to and play in the National Final.
5. Areas holding a single event should cater for teams not wishing to travel to the National Final while making sure that only teams prepared to continue in the event are involved in area finals.

6. Areas are required to have, as part of their approved format, an orderly process for determining qualification to area finals should teams withdraw after elimination or qualifying rounds.
7. Each area must use pre-dealt boards with hand records.
8. Each area must publish playing conditions prior to commencement of event.
9. A team may comprise 4 to 6 players.
10. A player who has played zero boards for a team in which he entered may be dropped from the team at any time. It will be as though the player had never entered and the player may therefore play for another team in accordance with the conditions of augmentation and substitution.
11. A team may augment without restriction up to the commencement of play in an area's final. Once play in an area's final has commenced, augmentation shall only be permitted with the director's approval for cause, and only by player(s) of equal or lesser ranking than the player(s) being replaced.
12. Further to the application of clauses 10 and 11 above, a team that does not retain at least half of the players entered on day one of club elimination heats or area qualifying rounds as the case may be, shall be disqualified. Players so disqualified remain eligible to augment other teams and to play as substitutes.
13. A player may play in more than one area and/or in more than one team within an area but not at the same time.
 - a. A team that wins the right to represent a club at area finals must announce whether it is accepting or declining that right prior to any player from that team taking part in further heats.
 - b. All players from a team that has accepted the right to represent one club may play in further heats, either as individuals, pairs or as a complete team, providing they announce prior to the start of subsequent heats that they are not in contention to qualify for area finals.
 - c. There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can qualify for area finals in two or more teams, or in two or more areas, and then pick and choose the one in which he, she or they will play.
 - d. Should (c) be breached, then the individual, pair or team is deemed to remain the, or part of the, first qualified team and all subsequent teams are to be disqualified. There is to be no situation in which an individual, pair or team can back date, defer or change a decision not to represent a club.
 - e. There may be situations where a team that initially failed to qualify is belatedly offered a place in area finals because of a withdrawal, and they wish to accept. The provisions of (d) shall not apply providing all team members playing in other heats at the time of the offer immediately announce their changed status.
 - f. There may be situations following an application of (e) that individuals or pairs from the belatedly qualifying team are part of a different team or teams in another currently running heat. These individuals or pairs

may be replaced with comparable players in the current heat without affecting augmentation allowances under Clause 11. This allows the remaining members, who are not in the newly qualified team, to remain in the competition and they are not disqualified.

14. Subject to the approval of the director, teams are permitted one substitute during club elimination rounds and one substitute during an area's finals. Similarly, where an area conducts a single event consisting of qualifying rounds and finals, one substitute per team is permitted during the qualifying rounds and one during the finals.
15. A player may substitute in more than one area and/or in more than one team within an area. A substitute may not be a member of a team still in contention in any area.
16. Breaking of Ties:
 - a. Ties will not be broken for awarding cash prizes.
 - b. Ties will be broken in area finals of the GNOT either to establish the correct number of teams to proceed to the National Final or to facilitate seeding by the ABF for the National Final. A tie will be broken on the following basis:
 - i. If matches are playing the same boards ties will be broken on: Total Imps difference, then. Head to Head.
 - ii. If matches are not playing the same boards, ties will be broken on Head to Head then Total Imps difference.
17. The QBA Manager shall provide to each area details concerning subsidies available for travel to the National Final.
18. In accordance with the ABF Masterpoint Scheme, a playing director may be used for area qualifying rounds and area finals. A congress director is desired but not essential for area finals.
19. Only in exceptional circumstances will a team qualifying for the National Final be permitted to change its membership. The prior consent of the Manager (in consultation with the Chairman, Tournament Committee) is required. In principle the teams that qualify shall be the teams that travel to the National Final.

FURTHER REGULATION BY AREAS

Areas may further regulate concerning matters such as residency, dual membership, home club membership. Further regulation must not be contrary to the QBA Regulations and is subject to the approval of the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee.

ZONAL EVENTS – OTHER THAN GNOT

Each zone may establish conditions not contrary to these regulations for Zonal Qualifying events other than GNOT. Such conditions may for example address residency, dual membership and multiple entries.

GRAND NATIONAL PAIRS

REGIONAL FINALS

The GNP Regional Co-ordinator for all Queensland clubs is the QBA.

The Regional Organiser for each club is its QBA Zone. Clubs with queries or problems should first contact their Zone who will contact the QBA if need be.

Each Regional Organiser should regulate the following:

- (a) Residential qualifications for the Regional Final and therefore for Club Selection Events.
- (b) The method for determining eligibility of players newly arrived in the Zone should they not meet any residential qualifications set as per (a) above.
- (c) Any matters listed in the QBA Regulations Section E Page5 under Grand National Pairs Regional Finals that warrant regulation.

Each Regional Organiser is required to:

- (a) Determine commitments eg entitlements arising from a Club's staging of a Club Selection Event.
- (b) Take steps to ensure that no player participates in more than 15 sessions of Club Selection Events.
- (c) Set entry fees to the Regional Final.

CLUB SELECTION EVENTS

Clubs should have Supplementary Regulations for its GNP Club Selection Event(s). The Supplementary Regulations should deal with matters such as the format of the event, scoring procedures, tie breaking, substitution and slow play. It is particularly important, especially for a Club that stages multiple Club Selection Events, to specify (i) the precise process of selecting pairs to represent the Club in the Regional Final and (ii) what happens in the event of withdrawals.

Should a Club's regulations be silent on substitution the following shall apply.

- One substitute at any one time per pair for not more than one session out of a three-session Club
- Selection event and/or for a maximum of one third of the total number of boards scheduled for the event.

Pairs that withdraw before the completion of a Club Selection Event are not eligible to receive gold points for the sessions they played.

Clubs should endeavour to make sure that no player participates in more than 15 sessions of Club Selection Events.

These regulations are additional to the Conditions of Contest set by the Australian Bridge Federation. It is possible that these QBA regulations may require modification while an event is in progress but any such modification will be for serious shortcomings and not mere whim.

Should any Club believe that its players are disadvantaged by any such modification, the Club should contact its Zone who may in turn contact the QBA to seek recourse.

1. Each QBA Zone is responsible for organising its Regional Finals in accordance with the ABF Conditions of Contest and the QBA Regulations as applicable.
2. The format for each zone's Regional Finals must be approved by the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee prior to its first use and whenever changes are made.
3. All pairs progressing to Regional Finals must be prepared to travel to Canberra during January of the following year to play in the GNP National Final.
4. Each zone is required to have, as part of its approved format, an orderly process for determining qualification to the National Final and how pairs withdrawing prior to the National Final are to be replaced.
5. A substitute may be used for cause for no more than 20% of the boards to be played in a Regional Finals and the same player may not be used to substitute for more than one contender.
6. Pre-dealt boards with hand records must be used for regional finals.
7. Tie breaking methods detailed on Page 2 Section C of the QBA Regulations shall apply.
8. Conditions of Contest must be published prior to the commencement Regional Finals.
9. The Director is to be QBA Congress Accredited or higher and may be a playing director.
10. Each zone must provide the QBA Webmaster with its approved format and Conditions of Contest for publishing on the QBA website prior to each year's event.
11. Zones may choose to instruct their players that all entrants in Regional finals MUST be prepared to travel to and play in the National Final however this will be a zonal decision only.

REGULATIONS TO ALL QBA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS AND SELECTION EVENTS

Formats for Championship Events remain the prerogative of the QBA.

Residential Qualifications – Championship Events only

Entry into QBA Championship Events is unrestricted. Titles shall be awarded only to players who meet one of the following criteria:

1. A bona fide Queensland resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the event, of a club affiliated with the QBA.
2. A non Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and whose bridge has been played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least six months immediately prior to the event.
3. A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies the Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that his bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least 6 months after the event.
4. A youth player who has been registered with a club affiliated with the QBA or with the ABF Youth Club for at least six months prior to the event and for whom Queensland is his/her Home State but who for purposes or work, study etc, is temporarily residing in another state.

Furthermore both players in a pair and all players in a team must meet one of the above criteria for that pair or team to receive a title.

Acceptance and Disqualification of Entries

1. When accepting entries and prior to commencement of play, the Tournament/Zonal Committee must be satisfied that all QBA terms of entry have been met.
2. Notwithstanding the acceptance of entry by the Tournament/Zonal Committee, a pair which contravenes the terms of entry will be disqualified and a team comprising an illegal member will forfeit the matches in which the illegal member played.
3. The QBA Management Committee shall have the authority to refuse the nomination of any player who has contravened Conditions of Entry during previous events.

Withdrawals and Penalties

1. Once play has started, no pair or team shall withdraw without the express permission of the Director. Such permission is to be granted only on the grounds of genuine illness or emergency.

2. The QBA Management Committee shall determine whether disciplinary action be taken against any player withdrawing without permission. Such action may include, but is not limited to a refusal to accept nomination to future events.

Substitutes

Unless otherwise specified a substitute must satisfy the conditions of entry.

Other Conditions

The Director for these events will be at all times guided by;

1.
 - (a) The 2007 Laws of Duplicate Bridge
 - (b) Tournament Regulations of QBA events
 - (c) Any special conditions printed on the entry form for the event.
2. The Director appointed for the event must be an accredited State Director
3. Pre Dealt hands must be used.

Time per Round or Match

The allotted time for a round or match shall be calculated at 7 minutes per board. Needlessly delaying play, even though there is time to spare, may still be penalised.

The director should announce the start of the following round/match when less than the allotted time has passed if all tables have finished all boards to be played in the current round/match.

Furthermore, the director may announce the start of the following round/match when most tables have finished all boards and at most a few tables have at least commenced the auction for the final board that can be played in the allotted time.

SELECTION TRIALS – ANC

General

The Open will be played as a separate event on separate weekends to the Seniors and Women's. The Seniors and Women's Trials will be played as separate events on the same weekends. The Open, Women's and Senior Trials will be played in two stages only if enough entries are received (13 pairs or more). The first stage will be open to all eligible players.

Youth Trials format will be decided by the Tournament Committee. The minimum entry for a youth trials is 2 tables (4 pairs).

All entrants are expected to be serious contenders and a frivolous approach may be subject to disciplinary action. All players are expected to do their best in all matches. Deliberately playing at less than one's best in order to produce a favourable result for one's opponents, will be regarded as unethical play and may be subject to disciplinary action including disqualification.

Subject to ratification by QBA Council, the top three pairs in each section will constitute the State team, with the fourth pair becoming the reserve pair.

No split matches to be held i.e. extending overnight or to the following weekend.

Residential Qualifications

1. A bona fide Queensland resident who has been a financial member, for at least 6 months prior to the Selection Trials, of a club affiliated with the QBA.
2. A non Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA and whose bridge has been played predominantly at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least six months immediately prior to the Selection Trials.
3. A new Queensland resident who is a financial member of a club affiliated with the QBA, and who satisfies the Tournament Committee that changed employment, family or other commitments are such that it is likely that his bridge will be predominantly played at clubs affiliated with the QBA for at least 6 months after the Selection Trials.
4. A youth player who has been registered with a club affiliated with the QBA or with the ABF Youth Club for at least six months prior to the event and for whom Queensland is his/her Home State but who for purposes of work, study etc, is temporarily residing in another state.

Furthermore, a player entering QBA Selection Trials must be able to fulfil the following should he or she be placed first, second or third and/or be later ratified as a member of a QBA Team:

1. Be available for practice sessions, or in the case of remote players, undertake practice as required by the Team Captain.
2. Play with team partner in club sessions, congresses and/or on the internet with a frequency satisfactory to the Management Committee.
3. Maintain a standard of conduct within club and congress events that befits a member of a QBA team.
4. Maintain residential qualifications until after the ANC.
5. Maintain during ANC sessions a level of sobriety and abstinence from non-approved drugs to the satisfaction of the Team Captain.
6. Maintain at all times during ANC sessions and official functions a standard of behaviour satisfactory to the Team Captain.

Adverse reports concerning any of the above may jeopardise the acceptance of an entry to future selection trials.

Entry Forms

A separate entry form with the words "I/we agree to abide by the QBA regulations pertaining to this event plus any additional regulations set down by the organising body" is to be submitted by each pair and signed.

Senior Teams Age Restriction - ANC

As per ABF Regulations

Youth Teams Age Restriction - ANC

Youth shall not have attained the age of 26 by midnight the day before competition begins at the ANC Teams except as authorised by the Youth Committee of the ABF.

Seeding

If a Stage One and Stage Two Field - Stage One will be a seeded Mitchell Format. Members of the Tournament Committee will seed the field with members involving themselves only in event(s) in which they are not competing. Each member will seed the list in order and the Director will produce a final ranking based on this.

Systems

All systems will be permitted. Players proposing to play complex systems will be required to show to the Tournament Committee's satisfaction that they are well practised and competent with their system. If, during the course of the event such a pair demonstrates persistent incompetence with their system, they will be required to withdraw and results in all matches to date will be cancelled. Those using yellow systems must have an up to date copy of their system in the hands of the Chairman, Tournament Committee ten days before the start of the event.

System Cards

Each player must have two systemically identical 4 page ABF system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of play. System cards must be legible and clearly show the colour category of the system.

Late Arrival

1. If any player is not present at the start of play of any match, the pair will be fined 1 VP per ten minutes or part thereof up to 30 minutes, irrespective of whether the match finishes on time, - Director to ensure time is witnessed and in addition:
2. If any player is more than 30 minutes late, the match will be abandoned and the non offending pair will score the average of all their other matches or the complement of the average of the forfeiting pair's score, whichever is the greater. The forfeiting pair scores the lowest score possible – Director to ensure time is witnessed
3. If any player misses 2 consecutive matches, the pair will be withdrawn and all of their played matches will be treated accordingly.

Slow Play

A time limit will be decided for each session and it will be approximately seven and one half minutes per board; a pair guilty of slow play will be fined 1 VP per ten minutes or part thereof that they finish late in that match and subsequent matches. If a match starts late due to the lateness of one or more players or for any other reason, the time will be taken from the start of play in that particular match.

Loud Discussion during or after Play

When discussions or comments are made at any table and are heard at a nearby table, the Director will apply a penalty to the offending pairs if he considers that the rights of other players may have been jeopardised. The penalty at cross imping shall be 2imps. The Director will have the right to increase this incrementally for repeat offences.

Withdrawal

1. If a pair withdraws during a stage or is withdrawn from a stage by the Director of Management Committee, unless AT LEAST 66% of the matches have been played, the results of all matches played by the withdrawn pair shall be cancelled and the stage rescored. If more than 66% of the matches have been played before the withdrawal, all matches played thus far will stand, and pairs drawn to play the withdrawn pair in the remaining matches will score the average of all of their matches, or the complement of the average of the forfeiting pair's score up to the forfeit, whichever is the greater. ed.
2. Should a pair that has qualified for the next stage withdraw or be withdrawn by the Director or the Management Committee prior to commencement of the next stage, the reserve pair (s) will be invited to play. The reserve pair will generally be next in order of finishing places.

Substitutes

Substitutes may be permitted via application to the Director who will refer the application to the Tournament Committee. For the substitution to be approved, a majority of the available members of the Tournament Committee must agree that the new pairing is of an acceptable standard to the original pairing.

The director may approve a substitute in an emergency situation so that a match may start or continue expeditiously, subject to the later agreement of the Tournament Committee as above. The director shall immediately contact the Chairman, Tournament Committee or his/her nominee who shall contact available members of the Tournament Committee.

Except as following a substitute may be permitted for no more than two matches of a stage and furthermore no pair may use a substitute(s) for more than 30% of the total number of boards during a trials event consisting of a Stage 1 and a Stage 2. When a substitute is approved within the first two matches of an event, and the original contestant is unable to resume, the substitute if able to fulfil the conditions of entry may become the contestant.

When a player requires a substitute during a stage due to illness and is later forced to withdraw due to this illness, the Tournament Committee Chairman, in consultation with available members of the Tournament Committee may give approval for the substitute, if able to fulfil the conditions of entry, to continue as the contestant.

Scoring

Wallace Scale to be used. The maximum win is $(7 \times \text{square root of number of boards in a match (rounded down)} = A) + 10\%$ of imps above that to a maximum of A.

The maximum loss is $(\text{negative } A) \text{ minus } 10\%$ of additional imps below that to a maximum of $-2A$.

Average Plus/Average Minus at Cross Imps: An artificial score of average plus or average minus at cross imps shall be plus or minus 2 imps per comparison.

Ties

Ties will be broken where necessary by totalling each pair's VPs in their individual matches against the other tying pairs and those pairs finishing higher in the final ranking. If this fails to break the tie, then it will be broken on total net imps. For example: A and B finish first and second, with C, D and E in a three way tie for third place. Totals C's VPs in their matches against A,B,D and E. Likewise D's total against A,B C and E and so on, then compare these totals. If this tie is still not broken, then resort to total net imps over the whole event.

Protest Time

Players have 24 hours from when scores for the last match of the relevant stage are posted to protest against mistakes made in the computation or tabulation of an agreed upon score or in the computation of results for that stage.

Appointment and Ratification of Queensland Captains

Appointment of Captains: The Manager shall organise the selection of the Open, Women's and Seniors' teams for the ANC in consultation with each player. All six players to be in favour of the nominee or at worst not strenuously opposed to the majority vote. Selected Captains will be subject to ratification by the council as soon as possible after selection. The Management Committee will have the power to appoint a playing captain or non playing captain if players fail to reach agreement within two weeks of the end of the Trials.

Ratification of Queensland Teams

1. The pair placing first, second and third in the Selection Trials will be the Queensland Team subject to ratification by the QBA Council.
2. If a player withdraws from the team for any reason, the pair involved will relinquish its place in the team to the pair which was placed next in the Selection Trials.

Teams Captains - Duties and Powers

1. Submit entry details and systems to Manager as requested. Report to Council as requested by the Manager.
2. Submit a report to the Manager within two weeks of returning from the ANC. If necessary a separate confidential report may be submitted.
3. Ensure players' familiarity with ABF system cards and with screen regulations. Follow up when other states' system cards are received.
4. Arrange partnership and team practice, ensure special defences are available to players if necessary, and ensure that system, tournament and alerting regulations are understood by players.
5. Protect the rights of the team during the ANC by lodging appeals where justified.
6. Players should be aware that the Captain has the sole right to decide lineups. He may consult with team members, but members should refrain from exerting pressure on the captain in his choice of lineups.
7. It is the duty of both the Captain and players to understand that achieving the best result is the prime purpose of attending the ANC, and social factors should have no influence on the choice of lineup for a particular match.
8. The Captain must report on any unsatisfactory conduct by team members during the event. He is entitled to apply disciplinary measures during the event such as dropping a player or pair. Where possible, disciplinary measures should be taken only after consultation with any members of the QBA Management who may be present.

Reserve Pair

Players finishing fourth in a Trials Event and who are therefore the presumed Reserve Pair, are permitted to trial in other Selection Events if eligible. Should one or both players finish in the first three positions of another Trials event, both shall cease to be reserves for the first team. The pair finishing fifth in the first Trials Event shall assume Reserve Pair status. Should the 5th placed pair be unavailable, then the Management committee shall appoint a Reserve Pair.

Obligation of Reserve Pair

The obligation of the Reserve Pair to be available for the ANC ceases 4 weeks prior to the start of the ANC Teams.

Withdrawal of a Pair or Captain within 4 weeks prior to the ANC Teams

If a pair or Captain withdraws within 4 weeks of the commencement of the ANC Teams, power will be given to the President, Vice President and Chairman, Tournament Committee to select a suitable pair/Captain, and approve any necessary expenditure to facilitate the substitution.

SENIOR TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

As from 2005, the event to be held over two days. Format - it will be a Swiss or round robin depending on the size of the field.

Entry to the above event is restricted to players as per ABF Senior Regulations.

Entitlements - To enable all team members to receive team entitlements i.e. Trophy inscription, Title and, if applicable, Qualification points, each player must play at least 25% of the total number of boards

OPEN BUTLER CHAMPIONSHIP (INCORPORATING WOMENS AND MENS PAIRS)

The event shall be held over two days and scored as an Average Butler. The highest finishing eligible pairs shall be awarded the Women's Pairs and Mens Pairs titles. The Open Butler and either the Womens or Mens titles may be awarded to the same pair.

The highest finishing pair with each player below 300 masterpoints shall also be presented with a QBA gift. There is no state title for this pair.

Substitution

A substitute must be of the same gender as the player being replaced for a pair to remain eligible for Women's Pairs or Mens Pairs titles.

MIXED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Format – Four session aggregate for fields of up to 22 tables. Two sessions qualifying with across the field scoring treating NS and EW fields separately and two sessions Barometer Finals for fields of more than 22 tables

Substitution

A substitute must be of the same gender as the player being replaced for a pair to remain eligible for the event.

GRADED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Titles shall be awarded for grades of Open, Below Bronze Life, Under 150 masterpoints.

Format – Separate fields to be maintained if at all practical for the three grades above. The director may combine two or more grades as a single field at his discretion. Fields to be run as Swiss or barometer pairs over one day.

When two or more grades play as one field, pairs are eligible for the title for the grade in which they entered. Pairs must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their masterpoint rank. Should that higher grade play as one field with the lower field of their rank, the director is to ascertain before play starts whether such pairs now wish to play for the higher or lower title.

Substitution

A substitute must be of the same or lower grade as the player being replaced for a pair to remain eligible for the event.

OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Format – Swiss Movement or Round Robin over 4 sessions.
2. If a Swiss movement, all systems will be permitted with the following provisos:
 - a. Yellow systems will not be permitted in the first two rounds of the Swiss, and thereafter will be permitted only in the top third of the draw (rounding fractions up).
 - b. Teams using yellow systems will lose their seating rights unless their opponents are also playing a yellow system.
 - c. Teams using yellow systems must announce their line up immediately the draw is known.
 - d. If one match follows immediately after another, opponents of a yellow system will be given 15 minutes grace to consider their defence.
 - e. Yellow systems must be in the hands of the Director ten days before the start of the event.
3. If a round robin, yellow systems will be permitted only against those teams seeded in the top third of the field (rounding fractions up), with the same provisos as above.
4. Entitlements: To enable all team members to receive team entitlements i.e. Trophy inscription, Title and, if applicable, Qualification points, each player must play at least 25% of the total number of boards.

OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Format – Four sessions aggregate for fields of up to 22 tables. Two sessions qualifying with across the field scoring treating NS and EW fields separately and two sessions Barometer Finals for fields of more than 22 tables. Prizes to be awarded to Best Far North, North Whitsunday, Capricorn, Wide Bay, Darling Downs Pair.

QUEENSLAND NOVICE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Format – 4 sessions run simultaneously with Open Pairs. A format suitable for the number of entries at the director's discretion with approval of Chairman, Tournament Committee

CONDITIONS FOR ZONE SUBSIDY FOR TRAVEL TO QBA EVENTS

1. Each zone may choose how its subsidy is to be allocated for travel to one or more QBA Events.
2. A zone may conduct a special event with qualifying rounds and a zone final or have some other fair and equitable method of allocation.
3. Whatever the method, it must have the approval of the Chairman, QBA Tournament Chairman prior to its first use.
4. Zones are to advise the QBA Manager as to the recipients of subsidies within two weeks of their allocation. This will be at least one month prior to the QBA Event concerned.
5. Zone approval must be obtained for substitution after allocation. The QBA Manager must also be advised.

GRADED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Titles shall be awarded for grades of Open, Below Bronze Life and Under 150 MPs.

Separate fields are to be maintained if at all practical for the three grades above. The director may combine two or more grades as a single field at his discretion.

When two or more grades play as one field, teams are eligible for the title for the grade in which they entered.

Teams must be given the option of playing in a higher grade than their masterpoint rank. Should that higher grade play as one field with the lower field of their rank, the director is to ascertain before play starts whether such teams now wish to play for the higher or lower title.

The event will be a Swiss or round robin depending on the size of the respective fields.

Entitlements - To enable all team members to receive team entitlements i.e. Trophy inscription, Title and, if applicable, Qualification points, each player must play at least 25% of the total number of boards

Substitution – a substitute must be of the same or lower grade as the player being replaced for a team to remain eligible for the event.

SENIOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Event to be conducted over one day. If enough entries the event to be Matchpoint Scoring converted to VP's otherwise matchpoint swiss.

Entry to the above event is as per ABF Regulations.

YOUTH PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

From 2005 the event shall be conducted over two days.

Entry in the above event is restricted to players who have not attained the age of 26 years by midnight on or before the day of competition.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This event will be conducted over one day, the format dependent on the size of the field and at the discretion of the Director. . Minimum entry – 28 players. Board results to be available on website.

QLD MIXED TEAMS

Format – Round Robin or Swiss Movement over 3 sessions – 15 board matches.

Line-Ups – Both genders must be represented in a team’s line up at all times.

Substitution – A substitute must be of a gender that maintains observance of the line up restrictions for the team to remain eligible for the event.

A non mixed team may turn up to play – the team can continue to play however the team to be given 0 Victory Points for each match that the team is illegal however for the draw purpose they would be issued with an 18. If the non offending team does not wish to play the illegal team, it is their right not to play and would still be issued with a 18 VP win score or the average of their result if higher at the conclusion of the event.

Entitlements - To enable all team members to receive team entitlements i.e. Trophy inscription, Title and, if applicable, Qualification points, each player must play at least 25% of the total number of boards

TEAMS OF THREE

One Day teams event with 6 x 8 board matches. Grandmasters to be captains. The only stipulation is that the Captain sits south and must play 2 matches with each member of the team. – 2011 – Two Friday nights to be used 0 – 200 masterpoints and 201 – 500 masterpoints

QBA REPRESENTATIVES AT QBA STATE EVENTS

There must be a QBA Management Representative at each state event – Management Committee to appoint prior to event.

• QBA ALERTING REGULATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

It is an essential principle of the game of bridge that you may not have secret agreements with partner, either in bidding or in card play. Your agreements must be fully available and fully disclosed to your opponents. These Regulations set principles and guidelines for the approved alerting procedures.

The QBA System Regulations require each pair to have two legibly prepared systemically identical ABF system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of play. The purpose of an alert is to draw the opponents' attention to any call that has a special meaning, or a meaning the opponents may not expect. The fact that your system card explains the meaning of a call does not remove the obligation to alert it when required by these regulations. (However see 2.4 below for self-alerting calls.)

You should follow the principle of full disclosure (as required by the Laws) in following these Regulations and in explanations of calls. Your principle should be to disclose, not as little as you must, but as much as you can, and as comprehensibly as you can. A careless failure to follow this policy may result in an adjusted score, and possibly procedural penalties, where opponents have been damaged. If you make a positive effort to meet your obligations under full disclosure, you will rarely if ever fall foul of these regulations.

Your agreements include not only specific agreements appearing on your system card but also partnership understandings which have arisen through partnership discussion or experience. The opponents are entitled to know about these understandings. General bridge inferences, like those a new partner could make when there has been no prior discussion, are not alertable, but any inferences that can be drawn from partnership experience must be disclosed.

2. DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 Convention

A call that, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning other than willingness to play in the denomination named (or in the last denomination named), or high card strength or length (three cards or more) there. However, an agreement as to overall strength does not make a call a convention.

2.1.1 Note that 'other than' is construed to include 'additional to'. So, by definition, any bid that shows the denomination named and another denomination also, is conventional. All opening bids and overcalls that show two or more suits, even if one of the suits is named, are by definition conventional.

2.1.2 It is construed that an opening bid of 1 \heartsuit or 1 \spadesuit which may contain fewer than 3 cards in the opened suit does not indicate 'willingness to play' and hence such bids are conventional.

2.1.3 Certain calls may not convey any meaning e.g. the enforced 3§ after a Lebensohl 2NT. Such calls are construed as conventional.

2.2 Natural calls

2.2.1 A natural suit bid is one that is not conventional. It follows from the definition of convention that a bid is natural if it meets the following criteria:

- Conveys a willingness to play in the denomination named (but does not come under 2.1.1 or 2.1.3)
- Shows high card strength or length (3+ cards) in the suit named.

2.2.2 A natural NT bid is a bid that shows a preparedness to play in NT, and conveys no specific information about your suit holdings.

2.2.3 A natural pass is a pass that does not convey any conventional message about strength or suit holdings.

Natural calls as defined in these regulations are in general not alertable, but there are important exceptions. (See 3.2.2.)

2.3 Cue bids

For the purposes of these Regulations, a cue bid of opponent's suit is defined as a bid of any denomination bid by the opponent or of a suit shown by the opponent's bid. Example: If an opponent opens 1♣ showing spades, then 1^a and 2[♣] are both cue bids. Similarly a 2NT overcall of 1NT is also a cue bid.

2.4 Self-alerting calls

There are five different types of self-alerting calls, viz.

- doubles
- redoubles
- cue bids of an opponent's denomination/suit
- all calls at the four level or higher except conventional opening bids, and
- any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction.

These calls carry their own alert and should not be alerted. It may be risky to make assumptions as to the meaning of such a call. You are entitled (at your turn to call) to ask for your own protection, but bear in mind that unnecessary questions may be more helpful to the opponents than to your own side, and may convey unauthorised information thereby limiting partner's options.

2.5 Other definitions

2.5.1 A transfer bid is an artificial bid, which promises length in a specified suit.

2.5.2 A puppet bid is an artificial bid, which requires a particular response by partner, but does not promise a holding in the suit of the forced response.

2.5.3 A pass or correct bid or a correctable bid is a bid, which, after partner has shown possession of an unspecified suit, conveys the meaning ‘Pass if this is your unspecified suit, otherwise correct to your suit’.

3. ALERT STAGES

There are three stages of the alerting process. All are important.

- The pre-alert before bidding starts
- Alerts during the auction
- Delayed alerts by the declaring side before the opening lead.

3.1 Pre-alerts

3.1.1 At the start of a round or match, pairs should acquaint each other with their basic system, length of their one level openings and the strength and style of their opening 1NT. Subsequent questions about these, whilst legal, may be regarded as unauthorised information.

3.1.2 This is the stage where you should draw the opponents’ attention to any unusual agreements you have which might surprise them, or to which they may need to arrange a defence. Examples: transfer preempts, unusual two level openings, canapé style bidding, very unusual doubles, unusual methods over the opponents’ 1NT or strong club openings, unusual cue bids of the opponents’ suit, etc. Pay particular attention to unusual self-alerting calls. These should appear on your system card, but should also be verbally pre-alerted.

3.1.3 Highly unusual carding (e.g. leading low from doubletons) should also be pre-alerted at this stage.

3.2 Alerts during the Auction

3.2.1 You must alert a call if it is conventional (unless it is self-alerting).

3.2.2 Two classes of natural calls must be alerted (unless they are self-alerting), viz.

(a) The call is natural, but you have an agreement by which your call is forcing or non-forcing in a way that your opponents are unlikely to expect. Examples:

- Responder’s first round jump shift on weak hands.
- A non-forcing suit response by an unpassed hand to an opening suit bid (whether or not after intervention).
- A pass which forces partner to take action (e.g. SWINE).

(b) The call is natural, but its meaning is affected by other agreements, which your opponents are unlikely to expect.

3.3 Delayed alerts

3.3.1 At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual non-alerted calls. Upon inquiry, you must disclose fully, not only the specific meanings of all calls, but also any inferences you have drawn from the auction based on partnership experience (as distinct from general bridge knowledge). These explanations may occasionally need to include negative

inferences, such as hand types partner probably does not have for his bidding. Defenders must not, at this time, draw attention to their own calls, nor voluntarily offer explanations (they must of course fully disclose upon inquiry).

3.3.2 Takeout/negative-type doubles and penalty doubles do not require a delayed alert. If interested, the opening leader should enquire before leading, or his partner may enquire after the opening lead has been made face down.

3.3.3 If a possible mis-explanation emerges during the delayed alert stage the Director should be called before the opening lead is faced. Defenders however must wait until the play of the hand is completed before calling the Director to report any mis-explanation by their partner.

4. SOME COMMON CONVENTIONS

4.1 Stayman 2♣ in response to partner's 1NT

This bid is self-alerting because it is almost universally used. The conventional responses to Stayman are alertable, as are natural responses which convey a message about strength or special distribution.

4.2 Transfers in response to partner's NT

Multi 2 bids e.g. 2[♣] showing an unspecified 6 card major with or without other options
Alert opener's bid. Alert all conventional responses including correctable bids.

5. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

This section provides a number of examples by way of illustration and amplification. The list is not exhaustive. It is not necessary to commit them to memory as they follow the principles specified above. There is an overriding requirement that self-alerting calls should not be alerted.

5.1 Opening bids

Alert:

- (a) 1♣ or 1♦ if it may contain fewer than 3 cards in the suit named.
- (b) 1♥ or 1♠ if it may contain fewer than 4 cards in the suit named. Also if a 1♥ bid systemically denies four spades, this is alertable (conveys a surprising message about another suit).
- (c) Opening two bids which do not promise a holding of 4+ cards in the suit named, or which promise a holding in the suit named and another suit. Examples:
 - Alertable: 2♥ showing hearts and another suit (whether specified or not).
 - Alertable: 2♣ where, if there are only 5 clubs, also shows a four-card major.
 - Strong artificial 2♣, 2♦ openings are alertable.Note that a 2♥ bid, which promises only hearts, is not alertable, whether strong or weak.
- (d) Any opening bid which is not natural e.g. transfer pre-empts.

5.2 Development of the auction

Alert:

- (a) Weak jump responses
- (b) Inverted minors (1♦ - 2♦ forcing, 1♦ - 3♦ weak)
- (c) Forcing 1NT response
- (d) New suit rebids by opener which may be made on a suit of fewer than 3 cards in a minor or 4 cards in a major
- (e) Jacoby style 2NT over a major
- (f) Bergen raises
- (g) Fourth suit forcing
- (h) Splinter bids (below 4♣)
- (i) Transfer bids (below 4♣)
- (j) Forced bids in a 'pass or correct' sequence
- (k) Conventional responses including pass or correct bids after a multi-2 opening
- (l) Trial bids
- (m) Non-jump natural suit responses to 1NT (opening or overcall) which are invitational or forcing
- (n) A 1♠ response to 1♥ if it shows at least 5 spades
- (o) A pass which conveys a special meaning as to strength or distribution

5.3 Competitive auctions

5.3.1 Overcalls

Alert:

- (a) All overcalls which show two suits, even if one of them is the suit named
- (b) Unusual NT bids that show 2-suited hands
- (c) Natural NT overcalls of RHO's opening suit bid which may not have a stopper in that suit
- (d) Transfer overcalls and multi-meaning overcalls

Do not alert:

- (a) Single suited overcalls showing only the suit named, whether weak, strong or intermediate
- (b) 1NT in the pass out seat which may not contain a stopper in the opener's suit

5.3.2 Over opponent's takeout double, alert:

- (a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
- (b) Pre-emptive jumps
- (c) Fit showing jumps

5.3.3 Over an opponent's suit overcall, alert:

- (a) Any bid in a new suit which is non-forcing (except by a passed hand)
- (b) Any natural NT bid which does not promise a stopper in the opponent's suit
- (c) Lebensohl type responses after interference over your 1NT

5.3.4 After partner's takeout double, alert:

- (a) Any bid that conventionally shows weakness (Lebensohl, Herbert, etc.)
- (b) Any minimal natural response that shows some strength

6. BIDDING STYLES

Be aware that there are some different approaches in bidding style in natural systems after a minor suit opening, especially a 1♠ opening. Some players bid 'up the line', some prefer to show a major ahead of a 4 or even a 5-card minor. Further, some players may skip a 4-card major in making a NT rebid. These approaches are commonly used, and these regulations do not require them to be alerted during the auction. You are advised to be aware of these different approaches, and protect yourself by asking where necessary.

7. ALERTING PROCEDURE

7.1 Alerts are compulsory - you may not ask the opponents not to alert. The requirement to alert applies even though the convention or other agreement may be listed on the system card.

7.2 Self-alerting calls should not be alerted.

7.3 You alert partner's calls, not your own (except when screens are in use). Alerts should be made immediately after the alertable call has been completed.

7.4 Alerts are made by audibly saying, "Alert" and, if written bidding is in use, circling the call on the bidding pad. Circling a call provides prima-facie evidence that it has been alerted. (If bidding boxes are in use, an alert card should be placed across the relevant call.)

7.5 Delayed alerts should be indicated by a small plus sign (+) in one corner of the appropriate square of the bidding pad as evidence of the delayed alert. (If bidding boxes are in use, the declaring side should verbally indicate which unusual calls require a delayed alert.)

7.6 Do not explain your alerted calls or delayed alerted calls unless a request has been made.

7.7 If you know that partner's call is alertable but you have forgotten its meaning, you should nevertheless alert. If asked, explain that you have forgotten the meaning. The Director should be called immediately. His normal action would be to send you away from the table and have your partner explain the meaning of the call.

7.8 When a player makes any call in tempo, and an opponent then alerts (late alert), the director may allow the player to retract the call and substitute a legal call without penalty, provided that his partner has not subsequently called, and it is probable that his action might be different after the alertable bid's meaning has been explained (Law 21B1(a)). Any call retracted in accordance with the provisions of this Law is authorised information to the partner of the player retracting the call (Law 16D), but not to the opponents.

8. ENQUIRING ABOUT AN ALERTED CALL

8.1 When opponents make an alerted or self-alerted call, you are entitled to ask specifically about that call, but only at your first turn to call after the alert. Otherwise any questions should be directed at the whole auction, not a specific call; an appropriate method of asking would be "Please explain the auction".

8.2 Any questions about a call or calls must take into account the Laws covering unauthorised information: After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as by means of ... a question..., the partner may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information (Law 16B1(a)).

Hence whilst the Laws grant you the right to ask questions, unnecessary inquiries, or questions directed at particular calls, may limit partner's options in the subsequent bidding or play. It is therefore advisable not to ask questions if your intention is to pass regardless of the answer.

8.3 Questions may be asked only for your own benefit. It is improper to ask questions for the benefit of partner.

9. EXPLANATIONS

9.1 If an enquiry is made, a full explanation of the call must be given. This includes any conventional or partnership agreement, whether the agreement is explicit or based on partnership experience. Explanations may well include distributions and point ranges specifically excluded by a call, as well as those shown directly. When giving explanations, it is not necessary to repeat information given earlier in the hand, unless such information is requested. When explaining an alerted or self-alerting call, you should indicate if this same call may have a slightly different meaning (e.g. different point range) due to a variation of vulnerabilities and/or position around the table.

9.2 If there is no partnership agreement as to the meaning of a call, you must say so (by saying, "Undiscussed", for example), and not attempt to offer a possible explanation. When, however, as a result of partnership experience and style, you are able to form a cogent view of the likely meaning of an undiscussed call, that information shall be given to opponents. Where a call is undiscussed, you should not

offer statements such as “I take it to mean....” or “I’m treating it as....”. Such a response is improper as it gives unauthorised information to partner.

9.3 Merely to name a convention (e.g. Michaels, Lebensohl, etc.) is not an acceptable explanation. There are many variations of most conventions, and a more specific explanation is normally required. Similarly, the use of "Standard" or "Natural" to describe calls, signals or leads is rarely sufficient - nor are the terms "Weak", "Strong" or "Intermediate" - without appropriate qualification.

9.4 An explanation given in response to an enquiry about the meaning of any call should avoid reference to the meaning of any response yet to be made to that call (unless requested by an opponent).

9.5 You need not divulge knowledge or conclusions you have reached based on your own card holdings, or as a consequence of your general bridge knowledge.

10. IRREGULARITIES IN PROCEDURE

10.1 Misinformation

Pairs who frequently forget their system or conventions have a damaging effect on the tournament. The Director is empowered by these Regulations to require such a pair to play a simpler system or convention. In extreme cases he may apply a procedural penalty under Law 90A.

10.2 Late Alert

In the case of a late alert (i.e. a member of the non-offending side has taken action before the alert is made), the Director should be called immediately before any further action is taken. (See 7.8) He may be able to take steps to prevent damage at this time. If the non-offending side fails to call the Director at this time, they may jeopardise their rights to later obtain redress for damage.

10.3 Failure to Alert / Mistaken Explanation

When there has been a failure to alert, or a mistaken alert, or misexplanation given, the following principles apply.

10.3.1 If a member of the offending side becomes declarer/dummy: Before the opening lead is faced, declarer and/or dummy are required by Law to call the Director and, in his presence, correct the failure to alert, the mistaken alert, and/or the misexplanation.

10.3.2 If the offending side become defenders: No correction may be given until the end of play, at which time the Director must be called.

10.3.3 When there is reason to believe that a failure to alert has caused damage, the Director will consider awarding an adjusted score, providing there is a direct link between the irregularity and the result achieved at the table.

11. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR’S RESPONSIBILITY

11.1 Tournament Directors will not allow players to manipulate these Regulations to their advantage. For example, opponents must be allowed enough time to alert; a

speedy action out of tempo followed by a claim for a late alert will receive little sympathy. Likewise, experienced players claiming damage through a technical failure to alert will need to present a strong case.

11.2 Directors are urged, when giving a ruling at the table, to consider whether the players have adhered to the principle of full disclosure.

12. ALERTING WHEN SCREENS ARE IN USE

When screens are in use, the alerting procedures outlined above do not apply. Refer instead to the ABF Screen Regulations and the Supplementary Regulations of the event for details of alerting procedures.

13. SUMMARY AND GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS

This summary constitutes part of the regulations, but is intended only as a brief guide to players. Players should be familiar with the full regulations.

13.1 The Laws and these regulations require full disclosure of your agreements. You should make active efforts to ensure the opponents are aware of your agreements. You do so by pre-alerts (before the auction), alerts during the auction and delayed alerts at the end of the auction.

13.1.1 The pre-alert is the stage where you warn opponents of any very unusual agreements. Pay special attention to self-alerting calls that may surprise the opponents, (e.g. unusual doubles, unusual cue bids of opponents' suit) and to any unusual agreements to which the opponents may need to devise a defence.

13.1.2 Calls are alerted during the auction by audibly saying, "Alert" and by circling the alertable call on the bidding pad.

13.1.3 At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual undisclosed features by placing a plus sign (+) in one corner of the relevant square(s) of the bidding pad.

13.2 Self-alerting calls include all doubles and redoubles, calls at the 4-level or higher, cue bids of an opponent's suit and any 2♣ response to a 1NT opening bid in an uncontested auction. These should not be alerted during the auction, but may need to be alerted in the pre-alert or the delayed alert stage. Be aware that such calls by opponents may not mean what you assume, and ask if necessary.

13.3 All conventional calls (other than self-alerting calls) must be alerted. Note that an opening 1♣ or 1♦ bid that may hold fewer than 3 cards in the suit is conventional. Note also that any call showing two suits is conventional, even where one of the suits is named, e.g. 2♥ showing hearts and a minor.

13.4 A natural call must be alerted if it is forcing or non-forcing in a way the opponents might not expect (e.g. inverted minor raises, pre-emptive raises, negative free bids) or if its meaning is affected by other agreements (e.g. a 1♥ opening that denies 4+ spades).

13.5 Your policy should be to alert any call by partner (other than a self-alerting call) that the opponents could reasonably misunderstand.

13.6 In explanations, do not use the names of conventions; give specific explanations. For example, do not just say "Michaels", but explain the meaning of the

bid by saying “At least 5-5 in hearts and a minor suit, any strength”. Similarly, refrain from using the terms ‘weak’, ‘strong’, ‘intermediate’, ‘natural’ or ‘standard’ if there exist, from partnership experience, certain expectations of suit quality and/or point count. The opponents’ views of these descriptive terms may differ from yours.

13.7 You may ask questions only at your turn to call or play. It is improper to ask questions for the benefit of partner.

13.8 Irregularities

13.8.1 Any mis-explanation, alert or failure to alert by partner is unauthorised information to you, and you must avoid taking any subsequent action suggested by that unauthorised information.

13.8.2 If you realise that you have given a wrong explanation during the auction or failed to alert, call the Director immediately.

13.8.3 If you believe your partner has given a wrong explanation or there has been a material failure to alert, call the Director before the opening lead if you are the declaring side. If you are defending, you may not call until the end of the hand, whereupon you are required to do so.

QBA ALERTING REGULATIONS - 2004 CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

Important Changes in 2004:

1. Opener's rebid in a (natural) 3 card minor is not alertable.
2. A natural 2♣ opening that will have a four card major if only 5 clubs is alertable.
3. Canapé style bidding should be pre-alerted. During the auction, the natural opening should not be alerted, but rebids in which the second suit is longer than the first must be alerted.
4. A balanced 1NT in the pass out seat is not alerted regardless of whether it shows, or does not show, a stopper in opener's suit.
5. A 1NT opening which may contain a 5 card major is not alerted during the auction. Strength and style of 1NT openings are covered in 3.1.1.
6. Opener's rebid of 1NT (having opened 1♣ or 1♦) is not alerted just because it may contain a 4 card major. Players are required to know that different styles exist within natural systems and should ask before choosing an action if more information is needed.
7. Damage from a failure to alert must be directly linked to the table result before the director considers awarding an adjusted score.
8. A small plus sign "+" placed in one corner of the square of a call requiring a delayed alert is evidence that a delayed alert has been made.

General Comments

1. Delayed Alerts do not alter the fact that questions remain unauthorised information to partner. Should the player to make the opening lead require information for the purpose of choosing his opening lead, he should ask for an explanation of the entire auction to avoid creating problems for partner.
2. Players should make delayed alerts in a manner that does not encourage opponents to ask suit specific questions nor encourage the player not on lead to ask questions before the opening lead has been chosen. Any approach to delayed alerts is acceptable if it adequately alerts the defenders to unusual aspects of the auction. An example: "Would you like an explanation of our auction before you choose your opening lead? It contains self-alerting calls." Alerts must still be made even though a player may have forgotten the meaning of the bid. The Director may send the alerter away from the table so that partner can give the partnership agreement. This option does not apply for the purpose of confirming that a given explanation is correct.

Further Clarifications:

1. Do not alert bids that accept transfers unless they convey additional information such as length in the transfer suit or hand strength. Alert super accepts and alert bids that deny a hand worth a super accept.
2. A 1♦ response to a 1♣ Standard American opening must be alerted if it denies a 4 card major.

REGULATION H – DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS FOR CONGRESS EVENTS

The Director must be accredited by the QBA as a congress director. The Director and Assistant Directors may not play in the event.

For events up to 30 tables, one director is considered adequate.

For events of more than 30 tables, two directors are required. The second director need not be congress qualified but should be at least an experienced QBA Accredited Club Director prepared and capable of handling simple calls and/or computer scoring.

For more than 60 tables, three directors are required. The second director must be a QBA Accredited congress Director and the third director should be at least an experienced QBA Accredited club Director prepared and capable of handling simple calls and/or computer scoring.

Accredited directors from other states are not automatically entitled to Queensland accreditation and not automatically entitled to direct congresses in Queensland.

CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT

1. Pre-congress announcements – Congress directors are required to include the following in their preliminary announcements. This requirement is not just bureaucratic red tape, but is aimed to ensure that all approved events are conducted in accordance with QBA requirements, and that players become aware of them.

- (a) Each player must have an approved system card (identical to partners) on the table. The only approved system card is the ABF card. Players should have their cards labelled with the appropriate coloured sticker. It is the players responsibility to ensure that their system classification is correct for the event they are playing in or penalties may be applied.
- (b) All psychic calls must be reported (by the psycher or the partner of the psycher) to the Director, regardless of the outcome of the psyche. This is a QBA regulation, and failure to report a psyche is an infraction of regulation, and subject to penalty.
- (c) In accordance with the principle of active ethics, players must pre-alert their opponents, before the start of play, to any unusual agreements on self-alerting calls, particularly those calls which opponents may assume have a more standard meaning. The declaring side should offer a full explanation of their auction before the opening lead is made.
- (d) Membership of the Appeals Committee should be announced. (Remember that members of the QBA Appeals Committee, as far as possible, should be used.)
- (e) Expiry time for appeals, unless the standard 30 minutes after the posting of scores is to apply.
- (f) Permitted systems.
- (g) Format of the event, requirements for qualification into the finals, tie-breaking procedures (the QBA regulations to apply unless otherwise specified).

- (h) QBA Regulations apply.
 - (i) If a draw is occurring, whichever draw is used (live or delayed).
2. Scores and recap sheets must be made available for the inspection of players at all times, consistent with the smooth running and integrity of the event. Results published before players have had the opportunity to check the scores must be announced as provisional. In particular, final presentation of prizes must not be made without the players having the opportunity to check scores. Final scores when posted should be annotated with the time of posting to establish the time limit for the appeal period. Appeal period may be set to less than 30 minutes (e.g. 15 minutes) if this is required by the schedule, provided players have some time to check scores.
 3. Written bidding will be used.
 4. The general format of the event must conform to that advertised. In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, the format may be changed with the consent of the Chairman, Tournament Committee.

QBA TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The QBA will conduct teaching courses and annual examinations for director accreditation. Standards of knowledge required are listed below, together with other requirements.

CLUB DIRECTOR

1. Good understanding of the commonly used laws and ability to interpret the less common laws.
2. Knowledge of standard Mitchell movements, odd and even, twinned, appendix and rover. Knowledge of Howells and three quarter Howells; able to cope with adding late pairs / tables to a movement.
3. Knowledge of American whist movements and a movement for an even number of teams; round robin teams movements.
4. Understanding of matchpointing including adjusted scores; understanding of the principles of factoring.

CLUB DIRECTOR LEVEL 1

1. Must have had extensive experience in directing at the club level, including events with more than one section, and events of more than one session.
2. Must have qualified as a club director through the QBA Accreditation procedure.
3. Appointment will initially be by application by the club committee to the QBA Tournament Committee.
4. Level 1 directors may be permitted to direct small country congresses with small numbers of tables in isolated areas, where accredited congress directors are not available. Permission will be given on a case by case basis by particular application to the Tournament Committee.

CONGRESS DIRECTOR

1. Thorough understanding of all the laws, with particular reference to the more 'difficult' areas such as misinformation and misunderstanding, alerting regulations. The standard required will be higher than that for club directors.
2. Must show the ability to organise a large pairs or teams movement; be able to run a barometer pairs movement and a round robin or swiss teams movement; understanding of across the field scoring.
3. Must be able to advise congress convenors on all tournament matters, such as tie breaking, promulgating of regulations, establishment of appeals committees, permitted systems, announcements before the event etc.
4. Must have a clear understanding of the roles of the Director and the Appeals Committee.
5. Must be familiar with the QBA general, systems and alerting regulations.
6. Must show expertise in breaking of ties, scoring of fouled boards, arrowswitched boards, unplayed boards, adjusted and split scores.
7. Must have an understanding of the Masterpoint Scheme and know the requirements for reporting results for masterpoint purposes. Must be aware that it is the Director's responsibility to ensure that the results are reported to the State Masterpoint Secretary.
8. Must have passed the QBA Congress director Accreditation Exam. Candidates for this exam must have had at least 12 months directing experience as accredited QBA Club Directors or demonstrate comparable accreditation and experience from other states.
9. Must undertake to observe any QBA requirements in relation to ongoing registration as a congress director. The QBA may require some evidence of ongoing self-education. Membership of the Australian Bridge Directors' Association is recommended though not compulsory.

PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION AS STATE DIRECTOR

Nominations will be made in the first instance to the Tournament Committee through the Chairman, Tournament Committee.

The Tournament Committee will consider the application in the light of the requirements stated below. If necessary it may require the applicant to attend for interview. If the committee refuses to approve the application, it would normally advise the applicant of its reasons, but is not required to do so. Any applicant whose application is not approved shall have the right to appeal to the full Council.

A decision by the Committee to approve the application will be passed on to Council for approval.

Requirements:

1. The applicant shall have been a registered and active congress director for a minimum of 2 years, and should have had extensive experience in directing congress events - a minimum of 25 red masterpoint congress events of at least two sessions, or equivalent large multi-section club events.
2. The applicant should have had experience in directing at the Gold Coast Congress, Canberra Festival or the northern Gold Point Congress (Mackay, Townsville or Cairns) and have received a favourable report from the Chief Director of that event.

A Trainee State Director wanting to gain experience at one of the above events must apply to the appropriate Congress Committee for employment at that event with a mutually agreed salary and accommodation contract to be determined between the two parties. Application for additional subsidy may be made to the Chairman of the QBA Tournament Committee who will liaise with the QBA Management Committee.

In addition, the applicant should have demonstrated the following:

1. An extensive knowledge of the 2007 Laws of Bridge and the regulations of the QBA .
2. Experience in conducting events with large numbers of tables; familiarity with a range of movements and the ability to cope with last minute changes. Experience in organising and scoring Swiss Teams and Butler Pairs.
3. A dedication to accuracy in scoring.
4. Sufficient knowledge of the Masterpoint Scheme to know the requirements for reporting tournament results.
5. Familiarity with at least one method of computer scoring.
6. To retain status as a state director, he/she must direct at least two congress or higher events per year. The Management may relax this requirement for cause e.g. illness, absence from the state etc.
7. The Tournament Committee may recommend State Accreditation for suitable experienced directors from other states.

REGULATION I – APPEALS

For all QBA events any available members of the QBA Appeals Committee should be appointed. Appeals Committees should always comprise uneven numbers. Not more than one person from each team or pair if practicable. Failure to observe this procedure must not be because of perceived time constraints.

There shall be no requirement for appellants to lodge a monetary deposit. However, the Appeals Committee will have the power to apply a procedural penalty for blatantly frivolous appeals. Not more than one person from each team or pair if practicable. Failure to observe this procedure must not be because of perceived time constraints.

During an appeal hearing, both parties should be represented (at least one player from each pair) while the committee is establishing the facts.

APPEALS ADVISOR ROLE AND LIMITATIONS

Some Red/Gold Congresses and/or State Championship events may choose to appoint an Appeals Advisor. This person's role will be to advise potential appellants on the appropriate laws and the possible favourable and non-favourable outcomes of the appeal. An appellants use of an Appeals Advisor will not in any way curtail the powers of the Appeals Committee.

THE APPEALS PROCESS

1. All players have an inalienable right to appeal, provided the appeal is in time and partner (or in teams the captain) agrees.
2. The Appeals Committee may overrule the Director on a point of fact or judgment, but not on a point of law or regulation. If the Committee strongly feels that the Director's decision in law was wrong, they may attempt to persuade him to change his mind. If he refuses, the Committee may refer the facts to the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee.
3. Players are expected to graciously accept the judgment of the Committee. Players who harangue or abuse committee members after a decision will be subject to disciplinary penalty by the Director or Committee, and/or referral to a QBA Conduct and Ethics Panel.
4. Players involved in an appeal at any level of competition in Queensland other than competitions conducted under ABF Regulations may request the decision be reviewed. A review may only be requested by the director or players involved in the original appeal. It should be clear that a review does not re-examine players or directors and is based solely on the written reports which must therefore be accurate. A review cannot alter the result, change the title holder or amend prize money. A Review may comment on aspects of the conduct of the appeal, provide confirmation or otherwise of the laws and regulations applied and give an opinion of judgement decisions drawn from the evidence recorded in the reports of the original appeal. A player or director proposing to request a review should first contact the Tournament

Organiser who may attempt to ameliorate the problem. If he is not successful, the Tournament Organiser is asked to obtain copies of the information listed below and forward to the Chairman of the QBA Appeals Committee within 14 days of the event. Should the Tournament Organiser fail to act the player or director should gather all material he can obtain and submit to the Chairman of the QBA Appeals Committee within a further 14 days.

- a. All relevant hand records relating to the original ruling.
- b. Written statements from the contestants or director stating the reasons for referring the matter to the QBA. Statement must be signed by both members of the partnership for a Pairs event or, in a Teams event, the Captain.
- c. The written report from the Appeals Committee explaining the reasons for the Committee decision.
- d. The Directors report stating the reasons for his/her ruling at the table quoting relevant Laws.

Normally the review of appeals held during QBA events will be referred to a panel drawn from the Appeal Committee of the QBA however the Appeals Chairman has the power to co-opt other personnel.

Referrals from Club or Zone events will be initially considered by the QBA Appeal Chairman. A range of options are available for further action:

- Players seeking the review may be consulted and given advice
- Players or clubs may be advised of generally accepted arrangements for conduct of appeals.
- If appropriate the Appeal Chairman may select a panel from the Appeal Committee to undertake a review.

APPEALS COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The WBF Code of Practice for Appeals is the primary reference for matters not incorporated in these Regulations.

1. The members of the Committee will be announced before the start of the event.
2. The Committee will meet as frequently as necessary to ensure the integrity of the tournament. However, in events with a Swiss draw, it may not be possible for the Committee to meet immediately. In those cases, any decision by the Committee will not invalidate a previous Swiss draw.
3. As private an area as possible should be provided for the Committee's hearings.
4. (a) The appeal should be submitted on the approved QBA Appeals Form. When there are time constraints the chairman of the appeals committee may rule that an appeal be heard without prior completion of the appeals form. The Director will present his report to the Committee. Due weight should be given to the Director's assessment of facts as he was present at the time and aware of the table 'feel'. Both parties should be heard together where possible.

Then the appellants will present their case, and the respondents their response, and opportunity given for rebuttal. The Chairman should not allow any interruption by the other side during this presentation. Committee members may ask questions of the parties to clarify the situation, but should not enter into debate with them.

(b) The Director need not remain during this part of the hearing, but should remain available to the Committee for any further clarification of fact or advice on law.

(c) When the Committee reaches its decision, it should be put in writing and reasons given. (Care should be exercised in phrasing where matters of propriety may be involved). The Chairman will convey the decision to the Director prior to the parties being informed. The Director or chairman can then inform the parties concerned. Care should be taken that the scorers are also informed. The written decision should be returned to the Director. If the decision was not a unanimous one, it should be so recorded on the record, and the Director and players concerned so advised.

(d) Subsequent discussion by committee members - The QBA has no wish to stifle discussion on appeals decisions. Indeed it welcomes constructive discussion as a means of attaining consistency in appeals rulings. However, committee members must be aware that discussions in committee attract legal privilege, whereas subsequent public statements do not. In many appeals situations, matters of propriety may affect the decision.

An appeals committee is a committee of equals. Whilst subsequent debate on a decision is one thing, criticism of a fellow appeals committee member is quite a different matter. Committee members who criticise fellow members will not be invited on to subsequent committees.

(e) Directors, even if they disagree with a committee's decision, should refrain from any public criticism of the committee. Appeals Committees who have doubts about the correctness of a Director's actions in a particular case should discuss this with the Director.

(f) Verbal attacks by players on committee members - Members must avoid becoming involved in 'slanging matches' with players over an appeals decision. The committee has the same procedural and disciplinary powers as the Director, and has the power to apply a disciplinary penalty to players who verbally attack committee members. A warning would be appropriate for the first offence, followed by a matchpoint penalty and even suspension as an extreme resort. Attacks after the event is over should be referred to a QBA Conduct and Ethics Panel.

5. Frivolous appeals: The Appeals Committee may apply penalties for appeals which are deemed to be substantially without merit. The penalty, if applied will be a maximum of 2 VP's in a teams match and half a top in a pairs match.
6. Fines for players not knowing their system: The Committee does not have the power to fine players for not knowing their system in a 'one off' situation.

Players who repeatedly display deficient knowledge of their system will be subject to penalty. It is the Director's responsibility in appeals involving this type of problem to advise the Committee whether he has had any previous similar problems with the pair concerned. Pairs who play a complex system are particularly expected to know their system. Persistent misunderstandings may result in procedural penalties, and both the Director and Appeals Committee are entitled to direct them to play a simple system.

7. Chairman to use a scribe where possible.

GUIDELINES FOR APPEALS COMMITTEES

1. The Committee has all the powers of the Director, but may not overrule him on a point of law or regulation.
2. The Committee may disagree with the Director on matters of fact or judgment. However, due regard must be given to the Director's assessment of the 'facts' at the table, as he was present at the time.
3. The most difficult areas the Committee will have to deal with are on matters of misinformation (including failure to alert) and unauthorised information. These will be discussed in some detail. In considering these situations, there are three questions to be answered:
 - (a) Did the alleged infraction occur e.g an unjustified action after a hesitation?
 - (b) Did the opponents suffer damage?
 - (c) Did the damage result from the infraction rather than merely follow it? Was the opponent's subsequent poor result caused by the infraction and not by their own actions wholly or partly.

There is increasing evidence that we need to add one further question to this list: Were the 'non-offenders' taking advantage of the infraction and the Laws to have an each way bet?

Some situations are simple. In a competitive auction, West hesitates significantly and East makes an unjustified bid of 4S, thereby pushing NS to the 5H level, off 1. In most cases, adjustment to NS +620 would be appropriate. But what if 5H was cold, but South revoked? Now his damage, whilst subsequent to the infraction, was caused entirely by his own careless play, and was not a result of the infraction. What if South's 5H bid was a totally unjustified bridge action, and if he had passed (forcing in this situation) North would have doubled 4S for an even better score? The committee has to decide whether the NS damage here was caused by the infraction or by South's unreasonable action in bidding 5H unilaterally.

Another situation: Another competitive auction in which West has hesitated. North feels that he can now push the bidding one level higher because, after West's hesitation, East is 'barred'. If East does bid on and NS get a good result, no problem. If they get a poor result, the Director will rescue them with an adjusted score. Committees need to be aware that

players knowledgeable in the Laws will increasingly be having an each way bet in these situations.

There is a basic principle that the requirement of opponents to alert does not absolve us from the responsibility to protect ourselves by asking about a bid which experience tells us could well be conventional, even though it wasn't alerted. Players cannot be allowed to have a 'double shot' in this situation i.e. treat the bid as natural because it wasn't alerted; if that pays off, well and good; otherwise call the Director for an adjusted score because of a failure to alert.

One other fortunately rare situation where a player may improperly use the Laws is to deliberately hesitate before passing, not because there was something to think about, but in order to bar partner from bidding!

FORM J1
REPORT ON CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENT

NAME AND DATE OF CONGRESS:

NAME OF DIRECTOR(S):

PLEASE COMMENT ON ANY TOURNAMENT DIFFICULTIES OR PROBLEMS:

(Use a separate sheet if necessary. Include any areas where the club felt some dissatisfaction; include also any critical comments from players even if you feel them unjustified.)

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE (OPTIONAL - YOU MAY OMIT THIS):

Very good / good / satisfactory / unsatisfactory.

COMMENTS:

ANY WITHDRAWALS OR NON APPEARANCES:

Any comments made here will not be divulged to your director. However, the QBA Tournament Committee will periodically issue bulletins to active congress directors covering, in a general way, problem areas revealed by these reports. We hope in this way to maximise the quality of congress directing and the level of player satisfaction in Queensland.

Name and Signature of club official:

Forward report to Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee within 14 days after congress.

QBA APPEALS FORM

EVENT:

DATE:

APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Chairman:

Other members:

APPELLANTS:

RESPONDENTS:

DIRECTOR:

BIDDING:

West North East South

PLAY (if relevant)

Bd. No.	Dealer:	Vul:
	North	
	S:	
	H:	
	D:	
	C:	
	West	East
	S:	S:
	H:	H:
	D:	D:
	C:	C:
	South	
	S:	
	H:	
	D:	
	~	

Director's Report and Decision

(continued overleaf)

Appellants' claim:

Responders' reply:

Appeals Committee's Decision:

A copy of this form should be forwarded to QBA Appeals Chairman.

QBA PSYCHIC CALLS REGISTER

Notes for the Director: This register is not intended to infer any impropriety in psychic calls, or to deter psyching. It is intended to establish a central repository of the incidence of psyches, so that the frequency of psyches by particular partnerships can be ascertained. Partnerships with a record of frequent psyching are in danger of developing an implicit agreement, and need to be warned about this.

There is an obligation on the psycher to report his/her psyche. Failure to do so will be penalised as a breach of regulation. The Director is entitled to award an adjusted score of his own volition (he does not require a complaint from the opponents) if he considers that the psyche has been 'fielded'. It is particularly important that any psyches where the Director has any doubt should be reported.

EVENT:

DATE:

DIRECTOR:

PLAYERS:

North:

South:

East:

West:

(Please write in players' names clearly)

BIDDING:

West North East South

PLAY (if relevant)

.

RESULT:

Bd. No.	Dealer:	Vul:
	North	
	S:	
	H:	
	D:	
	C:	
West		East
S:		S:
H:		H:
D:		D:
C:		C:
	South	
	S:	
	H:	
	D:	
	~	

Director's comments, including any adjusted score, warnings given, any history of psyching, general opinion:

Please forward to: QBA Tournament Committee Chairman

DIRECTORS REPORT FORM (Form J6)

[Note – regulations require that from June 2011, Director’s Report Form J6 must be submitted electronically via the QBA web site www.qldbriodge.com/directors/j6.php]

This is a report to the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee and will be tabled at the next meeting of the Tournament Committee.

A completed Form J6 must be sent to the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee.

NAME OF CONGRESS:

DATE:

CONVENOR:

DIRECTOR:

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

NUMBER OF TABLES:

PARTNERSHIPS CAUSING SYSTEM DISRUPTION:

LATE WITHDRAWALS, LATE ARRIVALS, NO SHOWS:

BOARD DEALING IRREGULARITIES:

Were there any appeals?

If "Yes" then details are to be sent to Chairman, QBA Appeals Committee.

Were any psyches reported?

If "Yes" then details are to be sent to Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

QBA SYSTEM REGULATIONS

(Effective 1st January 2007)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Systems are classified according to the characteristics of their opening and overcalling structures, and will be identified by colour coding. In determining the classification of a system, the green, blue, red and yellow criteria are to be applied in that sequence until the appropriate classification is determined. All entrants in QBA Events and Congresses must display at all times on their partnership's system cards a coloured dot indicating the classification of the system being played. In addition to these primary colour classifications, certain individual conventional calls and treatments are defined as, and require an additional, Brown Sticker.

1.2 Definitions

Average Hand	A hand containing 10 HCP with no distributional values
Weak	High card strength below that of an average hand
Strong	High card strength a king or greater than that of an average hand (i.e. 13+ HCP)
Natural	A call or play that is not artificial or conventional
Length	Three cards or more
Shortage	Two cards or fewer
Artificial	An artificial bid is one which carries information concerning a denomination other than the one named or a bid concerned with values or controls without necessarily a preparedness to play in the named denomination
Distributional Values	A hand with distributional values contains one or more shortages
Balanced	For the purpose of classifying NT openings, balanced shall mean a hand with no more than one (1) shortage and that shortage shall be not less than two (2) cards in length.
Published	A system will be considered as published if it has been recorded in an accessible form and made available in that form to officials of the QBA and all registered players in a QBA event or congress.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS

2.1 Green (Natural) Systems

- (a) All one-level opening bids are natural (non-artificial) bids
- (b) An opening bid of one of a suit guarantees length (3+cards) in the denomination named (Exception: a 4-4-3-2 shaped hand may be opened 1 \square)
- (c) 1NT should be balanced (Note: this does not preclude individual assessment of some hands, e.g. a hand with a singleton honour or a weak longer suit. The subsequent bidding methods however, should not be able to identify such hand types)
- (d) All one-level opening bids, must by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

2.2 Blue (Strong Club/Strong Diamond) Systems

- (a) This category includes systems that satisfy all of the following criteria:
- (b) One club/one diamond is artificial, forcing and always strong
- (c) One of a major is natural
- (d) 1NT is non-conventional
- (e) The one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids
- (f) All one-level opening bids, must by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

2.3 Red (Artificial) Systems

This category includes:

- (a) All systems employing artificial one-level openings that do not fall under the definition of Yellow (HUM) systems [see below], other than Strong Club/Strong Diamond (Blue) systems.
- (b) Any system in which the basic structure (other than the length of natural suit bids or the point range of openings) varies according to position and/or vulnerability.

2.4 Yellow (HUM) Systems (See also Section B Page 3)

For the purpose of these Regulations, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that has, as a matter of partnership agreement, one or more of the following features:

- (a) A Pass in the opening position that shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities.
- (b) An opening bid at the one level that may be made on high card strength a king or more below that of an average hand (i.e., 0-7 HCP and insufficient compensating distributional values).

- (c) An opening bid of one of a major with alternative possible meanings that the hand may be long or short in a specified suit.
- (d) An opening bid of one of a major with alternative possibilities that show length in one specified suit or length in another specified suit.

2.5 Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments

Certain types of conventional calls or treatments are considered to place demands upon the opponents' defensive preparations. The conventions/ treatments in question are categorized as 'Brown Sticker' (BS).

Any one of the following characteristics qualifies a convention/ treatment as BS if it is a matter of partnership agreement:

- a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that: could be weak and does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

Exceptions:

- (i) Where all the weak meanings guarantee at least four cards in one known suit and only the strong options do not.
- (ii) A two level opening bid in a minor may show a weak hand with 5+ cards in either major only, or as an option among any number of strong hand types.
- b) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

Exceptions:

- (i) A natural overcall in no trumps.
- (ii) Any cue bid that shows a strong hand.
- (iii) A cue bid in an opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.
- c) Any weak two-suited bid (whether it be an overcall, an opening bid or a response) at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
- d) After a side has opened the auction at the 2 level or higher with a natural or conventional bid that may, by agreement, have a weak or partially weak component of fewer than 5 HCP then, should the agreed range be across more than 5 HCP, any subsequent conventional calls used by that side shall be classified as Brown Sticker. Examples of "across 5 HCP" are 0-4, 4-8.

NB 2.5 d) does not apply in the ABF events.

Notes:

I: None of the foregoing restrictions (a-c) pertain to conventional defences against strong, forcing artificial opening bids or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions. Conventional defences to 1NT are also unrestricted.

II. Additional to the classification of system, any partnership using one or more 'Brown Sticker' conventions must individually list them on their system cards and/or supplementary sheets.

2.6 Random Actions

It is forbidden to open or to overcall hands, which by agreement, may contain fewer than 8 high card points and for which no further definition is provided (i.e., bids that promise nothing more than 13 cards in a player's hand). Pairs employing HUM methods may however open hands at the one-level that conform to Section 2.4(b) criteria.

2.7 Encrypted Signals

Additional to the restrictions on bidding methods and conventions above, players may not use signalling methods by which the message or messages conveyed by the signals are hidden from the declarer because of some key available only to the defenders (i.e. encrypted signals are not allowed)

2.8 Players' Obligations

The onus lies with all players to classify their own systems appropriately according to these Regulations. If players are in any doubt about the appropriate classification of their system, they may submit their system card and any supplementary sheets to the Director of the event for formal classification. Any such submission should occur at least two weeks prior to the event or by the due date specified in the Entry Conditions.

2.9 "Protected Pairs"

A "Protected Pair" is a pair where both players are below the status of Life Master, or one player is below the status of State Master, and which chooses to play a Green System without the use of any Brown Sticker conventions throughout an event or stage of an event. To claim "Protected Pair" status, the pair must display on the front of their Systems Card a green sticker (which designates they are playing a Green System), together with an orange sticker (which designates their claim for protection against Yellow Systems and Brown Sticker conventions/treatments). Such pairs must confirm with the Tournament Director prior to the start of the event or session that their system is Green and Non-BS, after which the Director will supply the relevant stickers.

In events or sessions where the Regulations allow pairs to claim "Protected Pair" status, such a pair will be required to inform their opponents before the start of each round of their "Protected" status. The opposing pair must then not employ their Yellow methods nor any Brown Sticker convention or treatment during the round in question.

3. ADEQUATE DISCLOSURE, SYSTEM CARDS AND SUMMARIES

3.1 Adequate Disclosure

Players must disclose fully the meaning of their conventional agreements, particularly conventions and treatments that may require extensive or unusual defensive preparation by opposing pairs. In addition to the appropriate system card, pairs shall use supplementary sheets, where necessary, to achieve this objective.

To satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure, the onus is on each pair to prepare for the information of opponents an accurate and reasonably comprehensive system card. Supplementary sheets as specified below, if appropriate, shall be available on request.

3.2 Prior Submission of System Cards and Supplementary Sheets

For each QBA Event or Congress, the Entry Conditions may specify the date and/or time by which the Chairman QBA Tournament Committee or Director, as the case may be, must receive copies of any system cards and supplementary sheets, as well as the form and/or number of copies required. Failure to meet the specified deadline date may result in prohibition of some or all of the relevant methods for part of or the entire event.

In general, advance notice of systems will be required from entrants wishing to use a Yellow system (when permitted).

The Chairman QBA Tournament Committee or Director shall be responsible for ensuring that all players (if they choose) are given prior access to systems information submitted in advance, in order to satisfy the principle of adequate disclosure.

3.3 System Cards

System cards shall be prepared legibly in a form approved by the QBA, properly identified with the names of the pair and a coloured sticker showing the category of the system as defined by these Regulations. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for providing pairs with an appropriately coloured sticker to attach to their system card prior to the commencement of the first session of any event.

For all QBA Events and Congresses, each pair must have two systemically identical ABF system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of play.

After withdrawing the cards from a board and until they are restored to the board at the conclusion of its play, a player's own system may not be consulted (except when specifically permitted under these Regulations, as in the use of "defence" notes).

3.4 Supplementary Sheets

The use of supplementary sheets is appropriate whenever methods that may require defensive preparation (i.e., HUM or Brown Sticker) are employed. Any opening or overcalling structure that causes a system to be so classified should be itemised;

together with a summary of the possible options available to the responder and/or advancer.

Supplementary sheets shall be typed or written legibly in black ink on one side of an A4 sheet. For the current structure of QBA Events and Congresses, the maximum number of supplementary sheets allowed shall be determined by the QBA Tournament Committee and published in the Entry Conditions and/or Supplementary Regulations.

3.5 Prior Submission of Detailed Yellow System Notes

Pairs intending to play Yellow Systems may be required to lodge in advance an electronic copy of their detailed system notes with the Chairman QBA Tournament Committee or Director, together with copies of their ABF Standard System Card and supplementary sheets.

These notes will be available for prior consultation by opposing pairs and for possible use at the table by opponents if they so choose. Yellow System pairs are also required to prepare and submit a suggested defence to the HUM aspects of their system.

3.6 More Comprehensive Descriptions of Systems

In the interests of full disclosure and for a pair's own benefit in case of disputes, any pair may submit one copy of a more comprehensive description of their system to the Tournament Director before the first session of any event. In decisions taken by Tournament Directors and by the Appeals Committee, pairs who have submitted their full system will be given the benefit of any support this provides for an explanation given at the table.

3.7 Playing the Same System

Both members of a partnership must play the same system, including bidding and card play agreements. Where, as a matter of style, members frequently adopt different approaches from each other, that difference (or those differences) must be disclosed on the system card.

4. SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS FOR QBA EVENTS AND CONGRESSES

4.1 In accordance with the above classifications, the QBA Tournament Committee shall determine the systems that may be played in any QBA Event in sufficient time for the relevant decisions to be published in the Entry Booklet or on Entry Forms for the event/s, and/or in Supplementary Regulations.

4.2 System restrictions may vary from one stage of a QBA event to another. They may also be different within a single stage as when determined by either round number or current field position (eg no Yellow systems in the early rounds of a Swiss, nor in the bottom part of a ranked field).

4.3 In its discretion, the QBA Tournament Committee may also allow or prohibit certain Brown Sticker conventions to be used in particular QBA Events, notwithstanding any of the above. These allowances do not affect the classifications of the systems themselves.

4.4 All such allowances will be construed strictly and shall be deemed not to extend to any further variations of the said convention, unless otherwise determined by the QBA Tournament Committee.

5 & 6. Intentionally Left Blank.

7. DEFENCES AGAINST BROWN STICKER CONVENTIONS

7.1 Pairs may prepare written defences against those system elements that are categorised as Brown Sticker (not exceeding one A4 sheet), but no written defence against the defence will be permitted.

7.2 Such defences must be approved in writing by the Tournament Director and are to be given to the opponents (2 copies) at the table prior to the start of play.

7.3 Both pairs at the table may use them during the auction period and - for the purpose only of responding to a question - during the play period.

8. DEFENCES AGAINST YELLOW SYSTEMS

8.1 Notes detailing a defence against a Yellow system (not exceeding one A4 sheet), and any defence against the defence (also not exceeding one A4 sheet), may be used at the table during the auction period; and - for the purpose only of responding to a question - during the play period.

8.2 When opposing a team/pair that is playing a Yellow system, opponents wishing to use notes on their defence at the table must submit two (2) copies of that defence to the opponents at an appropriate time and place prior to the scheduled start of play, to be specified in the Supplementary Regulations. Such defences are deemed to be part of the opponents' convention card. In preparing a defence against a Yellow system, a pair using a Green, Blue or Red system may change their system, including opening calls.

8.3 Yellow systems that are to be played only as a defence against other Yellow systems may only be used if submitted in accordance with section 3.5 above.

8.4 Any defence against a defence (two copies, hand written) must be submitted to opponents at the start of play. In preparing their counter-defence, the pair using a Yellow system is not permitted to change any of the highly artificial aspects of its system.

9. VIOLATION OF SYSTEM AND PSYCHIC MANOEUVRES

(See also Section B Page 5)

9.1 A player may violate his side's announced understanding always provided that his partner has no more reason to anticipate the violation than have the opponents.

9.2 A partnership understanding exists when the frequency of occurrence is sufficient for the partner of the player who makes the call to take his awareness of psychic possibilities into account, whether he actually elects to do so or not.

9.3 Understandings whereby from time to time there may be gross violations of the normal meanings of calls, and where the nature or type of violation might be anticipated, must be disclosed. These understandings may be explicitly agreed or they may have developed from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge not available to opponents.

9.4 Agreements that so-called psychic calls are to be expected, or the provision of systemic protection for them, are classified as HUM (Yellow). A call, which is based on a partnership understanding, cannot properly be called 'psychic' and such methods are only permissible when the advance notice provisions of sections 3.2 and 3.5 have been fulfilled.

9.5 If the Director judges there is undisclosed knowledge affecting the result of a board he shall adjust the score and may award a procedural penalty.

9.6 The psyching of a conventional bid, which is unequivocally forcing and systematically indicative of the strongest possible opening hand (e.g., a Game Forcing 2♣ or a Precision 1♣) is strictly forbidden.

10. CHANGE OF SYSTEMS

No pair may play two different Yellow Systems during the course of an event without the express permission of the Chief Tournament Director, unless specifically provided for in the Supplementary Regulations. Similarly, a maximum of only three Yellow systems per team will be permitted during the course of any one event.

11. ONUS ON ENTRANTS

Entrants in a QBA Event or Congress shall make themselves aware of the QBA System Regulations and their application, as specified in the Entry Conditions and Supplementary Regulations pertaining to that event.

12. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SYSTEM REGULATIONS

12.1 When it is brought to the Director's attention that a pair has transgressed the system regulations, whether in the system played or convention(s) used, the Director should consider whether the opponents have been damaged; and, if so, award an adjusted score(s).

12.2 In addition the Director should consider the assessment of a disciplinary penalty, taking into account:

- a) The standard of the offending pair.
- b) The standard of the field, especially those pairs that may have been affected.