

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.

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 for clubs convenience**) to report on every congress that they direct. A completed Form J6 must be sent to the Chairman, QBA Tournament Committee at the same time that results are sent to the State Masterpoint Secretary. 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 3 imps. 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 6 imps.

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

PSYCHES

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.

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

1. In accordance with State Laws, no form of organised gambling will be allowed at QBA events, including betting on the results of those events.
2. 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.