

## **GOLD COAST CONGRESS 2008**

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#### **1. General**

1.1 These events are conducted by the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) as the Sponsoring organisation (Law 80) under the auspices of the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF) in accordance with QBA Tournament Regulations as modified by these Supplementary Regulations.

1.2 The venue for all events is the Gold Coast Convention Centre, Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach, Queensland.

1.3 Smoking is prohibited within the Gold Coast Convention Centre complex as well as in the external surrounds. The Convenor has designated one outside area at the southern end of the complex where smoking is permitted. This smoking area is delineated by YELLOW markings.

1.4 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. Breach of this regulation, after one warning, will incur an automatic, non-discretionary penalty (see 19.1). Audible disturbances from such devices will be similarly penalised.

1.5 At the time of commencement of an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association. Overseas players become honorary members of the "Foreign Players Club".

1.6 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Convenor (VuGraph, Bridge Base on-line webcast, written bidding, bidding boxes, pick-up slips, table record sheets, electronic scoring units etc.)

## **2. Tournament Officials**

The Convenor is the QBA Gold Coast Congress Management Committee chaired by Therese Tully.

The Chief Tournament Director (CTD) is Laurie Kelso.

The Appeals Committee Co-ordinator is Richard Grenside.

The Chief Scorer is Martin Willcox.

The Recorders are John Brockwell and Keith McDonald.

The Appeals Consultants are Neville Francis, David Lusk and Bruce Neill.

The ABF Tournament Committee representative is Martin Willcox.

## **3. Board duplication and Fouling**

3.1 Pre-duplicated boards will be used in all events. The hands are computer generated using ABF approved software. Identical boards are used for concurrent events.

3.2 A ruling that a board was fouled (Law 87) must be sought within the correction period (see 5.5). A board that does not correspond to the hand record is not necessarily defined as “fouled”.

3.3 In teams events the result of a fouled board will be cancelled and a substitute board played at both tables unless the result of the match is known or any of the players has left the table at the conclusion of that stanza. In these cases the board is cancelled and a score of 0 IMP assigned except for a match with multiple stanzas in which case a substitute board must be played in the next stanza.

3.4 In an event where a pair’s scores are compared against a datum the result of a fouled board will be cancelled and a score of the datum assigned.

3.5 Should multiple boards in a Swiss qualifying match of a teams event be fouled, then the same procedures as described above will apply, unless the number of valid comparisons falls below 50% of the total number of boards scheduled for that round, whereupon an artificial match result of 18 VP shall be assigned to each of the teams involved.

## **4. Systems**

4.1 Each pair shall have two current ABF approved, systemically identical (standard or simple) system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of each round. (For YELLOW systems – see 4.6)

4.2 The onus rests with all pairs to classify their system(s) as GREEN, BLUE, RED or YELLOW according to the ABF System Regulations as amended to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. A pair in doubt about the classification of its system should consult a Director.

4.3 BLUE, GREEN and RED systems as well as BROWN Sticker conventions may be used during the Open, Seniors and Ivy Dahler Swiss Pairs subject to adequate disclosure and protection (note: protection will not be available for the major final of the Open Pairs).

Only BLUE and GREEN systems may be used during the Restricted Pairs, Novice Pairs, Ivy Dahler Restricted Swiss Pairs and Novice Teams.

GREEN, BLUE and RED systems as well as BROWN Sticker conventions are permitted in the Mixed Teams and Restricted Teams (subject to adequate disclosure and protection).

4.4 YELLOW systems will not be permitted in the Restricted/Novice Teams or any Pairs event; or during the first two rounds of the Open and Senior Swiss Teams. Thereafter the use of YELLOW systems will only be permitted against teams with a current position in the top quarter of the field (decimals rounded up).

4.5 Notwithstanding 4.4, YELLOW systems may be played in any match by mutual agreement between the opposing Captains and with the concurrence of the CTD.

4.6 Teams proposing to use YELLOW systems must provide an adequate copy of their system to the Convenor on or before the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Such systems will be made available for inspection. The use of a WBF system card (with not more than 2 supplementary A4 sheets, typed or written in black ink on one side) is mandatory for teams wishing to use YELLOW systems.

4.7 In the event of a dispute concerning the classification of a convention or system, the decision of the ABF Tournament Committee representative is final.

## **5. Scoring**

5.1 Pair results (matchpoint and IMP) must be entered on the relevant electronic scoring unit / barometer pickup slip / table record sheet and left on the table when the move is called.

5.2 Pairs qualifying events are scored across the field.

5.3 Team results must be handed to a Director/Scorer after being signed by both captains on the official result slip as soon as the result is known.

5.4 Results recorded and/or posted incorrectly by the scorer may be altered until 30 minutes after the posting of results for Session 2 of the Pairs Qualifying, Session 3 of the Pairs Finals and Session 3 of the IMP Pairs.

5.5 The (Law 79C) correction period in all events expires 30 minutes after the scheduled conclusion of the subsequent session (pairs) or stanza (teams), or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the current stage of an event (i.e. after the Pairs Qualifying, the Pairs Finals, Swiss Teams Match 10, Butler Swiss Pairs Match 9, the Round-of-four, the Semi-finals and the Team Finals); whichever time period is shorter. (See also 9.1)

5.6 Penalty points will only be deducted at the conclusion of the current stage of any Swiss format event for which they were assessed.

5.7 With the exception of Round 10, no change to a Swiss draw, once published, will be made if appeals or correction of errors subsequently alter the current ranking.

5.8 Notwithstanding 5.7, the CTD may, at his absolute discretion, alter individual pairings in order to retain the integrity of an event.

## **6. Ties**

6.1 Ties will not be broken for final places or the awarding of prize money. The total prize money available to the affected places will be divided amongst the tying contestants.

6.2 Ties will be broken for the purposes of qualification into the Pairs finals. The loser of the tie-break will assume the next lower rank. For ties within the same direction, comparison of scores against average will apply. Should the tie still be unbroken, it will be decided by the drawing of lots.

6.3 If it is necessary to break a tie between two or more units for Open Teams Round-of-Four/Semi-Final or Seniors/Restricted Teams Final qualification, it will be broken first by calculation of the total VP scores of each unit's opponents, then by total net IMPs and then by lot.

## **7. Substitutes**

7.1 Substitutes will be permitted for cause (with the consent of the CTD) as follows:

Pairs Qualifying: For up to half the total boards

Pairs Finals: For up to half the total boards

Swiss Teams: For a total of 4 matches

Swiss Butler Pairs: For a total of 4 matches

Teams Round-of-Four: For a maximum of 12 boards

Teams SF/Final: For a maximum of 20 boards

7.2 A substitute may not be an entrant in the current stage of an event, but may be an entrant who was eliminated in a previous stage.

7.3 In allowing substitutes, the rights of the other contestants and the integrity of the event will be considered.

## **8. Augmentation**

8.1 Teams may augment up to a total membership of six players (with the consent of the CTD). Any additional player must not have been a previous entrant in the event.

8.2 To be eligible to play in the Round-of-Four, Semi-finals and Final or for prize entitlements, each team member must have played, including those augmented, the following minimum number of boards. (For PQP requirements – see 20.3).

Qualifying Swiss (10 Rounds): 42 boards

Round-of-Four: 12 boards

Semi-Finals: 10 boards

Open/Senior's Final: 20 boards

Restricted/Novice Final: 10 boards

## **9. Appeals and Rulings**

9.1 Requests for a Director's ruling or appeals against a Director's ruling (Law 92) must be notified within 30 minutes of the official posting of scores for any session or stanza. Appeals must be lodged on the official Appeals form.

9.2 The Appeals Committee may apply a procedural penalty if it considers the appeal to be substantially without merit. The penalty, if applied, will be 2.5 VP in a Swiss teams/pairs match, 8 IMP in a knockout match or half a top in a matchpointed pairs event.

9.3 Any player in doubt about the merit of an appeal should consult an official Appeals Consultant. The role of the advisor is to assist those contestants with limited tournament experience. Note however that any advice provided will in no way restrict or impinge upon the powers of the Committee in any subsequent Appeals hearing.

## **10. Open Pairs**

10.1 There will be two qualifying sessions and three final sessions. The size of the qualifying sections will be decided by the CTD when the full entry is known.

10.2 For the major finals the top half of the field will comprise 14 table barometer movements. Section finals in the lower half of the field will also be barometer movements of unspecified size (9-16 Tables).

10.3 Schedule:

Sunday	1.00 pm	Pairs Qualifying 1
	7.30 pm	Pairs Qualifying 2
Monday	1.00 pm	Pairs Finals 1
	7.30 pm	Pairs Finals 2
Tuesday	1.00 pm	Pairs Finals 3

10.4 Should pairs withdraw after the qualifying rounds, but before the final starts, those with the next best qualifying scores from the same direction will replace them. Such withdrawals may be made only with the consent of the CTD.

## **11. Senior's, Restricted and Novice Pairs**

11.1 These events will be run concurrently with the Open Pairs using approximately the same format.

11.2 The Senior's Pairs is open only to those pairs where both players were born prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1951. The Restricted Pairs will be open to pairs where both players have not attained 300 masterpoints as of 30-9-2007. The Novice Pairs will be open to Pairs where both players had less than 100 masterpoints as of 30-9-2007.

11.3 The detailed format of these events will be decided when the size of the entry is known, but there will be five sessions as with the Open Pairs event. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amalgamate the lower consolation sections of an event if this is necessary for a satisfactory finals format. However, the restricted and novice fields will still be treated as separate flights, scored across the section, for prize purposes.

## **12. Ivy Dahler Open and Restricted Swiss Butler Pairs**

12.1 Scoring in these events is by IMP against a datum, converted to VP by the appropriate WBF scale. The datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean of specified scores remaining after eliminating the two highest and two lowest scores. The specified scores are from all the tables for matches 1-4; the top 50% of the tables for matches 5-6 ("Leaders Butler"); the top 25% of the tables for matches 7-9. Fractions are rounded up.

12.2 The Open Swiss event will comprise two fields (N/S & E/W). Pairs from one field will be drawn (as per 12.7) against pairs from the other field. Overall rankings will be determined separately for each field and prizes awarded accordingly.

12.3 The Restricted event is a single-field Swiss open to pairs where both players have not attained 300 masterpoints as of 30-9-2007.

12.4 Each Swiss-format match will consist of 8 boards. The duration of a match is based upon seven minutes per board or such other period as the Director announces.

12.5 The WBF 8-board VP scale will be used.

12.6 Schedule:

Friday	1:30 pm	Matches 1 - 4
	8:00 pm	Matches 5 - 6
Saturday	10:30 am	Matches 7 - 9

12.7 The draw for the first round is of the form  $1 \text{ v } (n/2)+1$ . The draw for the second round is of the form  $1 \text{ v } (n/4)+1$ . The draw for subsequent rounds is according to rank: the pair ranked highest plays the pair ranked next that it has not played previously.

### 13. Teams Events

13.1 The Open Swiss Teams event will be played within a single field. There will also be one field for each of the Senior and Restricted/Novice events. The Seniors' Teams is open only to those teams whose members were born prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1951. The Restricted Teams is open to teams in which each member has not yet attained 300 masterpoints as of 30-09-2007. The Novice Teams is open to teams in which each member has not yet accumulated 100 masterpoints as of 30-09-2007.

13.2 Each Swiss-format match will consist of 14 boards. The duration of a match is based upon seven minutes per board or such other period as the Director announces.

13.3 The WBF 14-board VP scale will be used.

13.4 Schedule:

Tuesday	7:30 pm	Matches 1 & 2
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Matches 3 & 4
	7:30 pm	Matches 5 & 6
Thursday	10:30 am	Matches 7 & 8
	3:30 pm	Matches 9 & 10

13.5 The draw for the first round is of the form  $1 \text{ v } (n/2)+1$ . The draw for subsequent rounds is according to rank: the team ranked highest plays the team ranked next that it has not played previously.

13.6 At the end of Match 10, the leading two teams from the Open Swiss will progress to the Semi-Finals. Those teams placed 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> will progress from the Swiss to play in the Round-of-Four.

At the end of Match 10, the leading two teams from each of the Seniors', Restricted and Novice fields will progress from their respective Swiss's to play the Finals.

13.7 Those teams qualifying for the Round-of-Four, a Semi-Final and/or a Final berth do so only on the condition that they are willing and available to progress to the conclusion of their respective events.

13.8 The losing Open Teams Semi-finalists will share third and fourth places for prize purposes. All other awards in the Open, Senior's and Restricted events will be based on the final ranking at the end of 10 matches. There will be no playoffs other than for the first two places.

13.9 The McMahon/Series Mixed Teams is a single field Swiss event comprising six 9-board matches. At least one member of each gender must play each match. The WBF 8-board VP scale will be used.

Schedule:

Friday	10:30 am	Matches 1 - 3
	3:20 pm	Matches 4 - 6

#### **14. Seating**

14.1 The respective captains will determine seating rights via the toss of a coin.

14.2 Teams comprising one or more pairs using a YELLOW system do not have seating rights during the Swiss Qualifying stage of the event. Teams using YELLOW systems shall post their seating 30 minutes before the start of the first match of a session. For the second match of a session, teams using YELLOW systems must advise the CTD or his nominee of their seating immediately the draw is known. Yellow systems may be played only if the seating has been posted correctly within the period specified or with the agreement of the opposing captain and the CTD.

#### **15. Written Defences**

15.1 During the auction, pairs may use written notes of a defence or counter-defence to a YELLOW system (or BROWN STICKER convention) providing they comply with the regulations below.

15.2 Defending against a YELLOW system, a pair may change any facet of its system, including opening calls, but may not use a YELLOW system themselves unless it has been submitted in accordance with 4.6 above.

15.3 A written defence must be typed or written in black ink on one side of an A4 sheet and be identical for each player. It must be approved by and lodged with the CTD at least 15 minutes before the scheduled session time, or immediately before the start of the second match of the session.

15.4 A written counter-defence must be approved by and lodged with the CTD and two copies submitted to the opponents at the start of the match.

15.5 A pair using a YELLOW system is not permitted to change its opening calls for a defence or counter-defence.

15.6 During the play period, a player's own notes may be used only to answer a question from the opponents.

15.7 Teams drawn against a team playing YELLOW systems for the second match of the session will be entitled to a grace period of 10 minutes to discuss their defence. They will also be entitled to seating rights unless they too are playing such a system.

## **16. Forfeits**

16.1 In the case of a team forfeit, the score for the purpose of the draw will be non-offenders 18 VP and 13 IMP, forfeiting team 15 VP and 0 IMP.

16.2 After round 10 the offenders score will be re-adjusted to 0 VP and 0 IMP for the forfeited match. The non-offenders score will be adjusted to which ever of the following is the highest:

\* 18 VP (13 IMP) **or**

\* the mean score of the non-offenders in all their completed matches **or**

\* 30 VP minus the mean VP score for the completed rounds of the offending team (to a maximum of 25 VP). The non-offender's IMP score is the mean of the range of the VPs allocated.

## **17. Category and Sectional Prizes**

17.1 Special prizes will be available in the following categories:

Open Pairs Event:

Best Women's Pair: Both players must be female.

Open Teams Event:

Best Men's Team: all members of the team must be male.

Best Women's Team: all members of the team must be female.

Best Mixed Team: at least one member of the team must be of a different gender to the other members. If a team has 5 or 6 players, then it must contain at least two members of each gender and at least one member of each gender must play at all times.

Best Country Team from within Australia: all members of the team must reside outside of a capital city.

Senior's Teams Event:

Best Veterans' Team: all members of the team must be at least 75 years of age as of 01-01-2008.

Restricted Teams Event:

Best Mixed Team: at least one member of the team must be of a different gender to the other members. If a team has 5 or 6 players, then it must contain at least two members of each gender and at least one member of each gender must play at all times.

Best Unmixed Team: all members of the team must be of the same gender.

17.2 All of the above team prizes will be awarded on the final rankings at the end of 10 matches after eliminating those teams that have qualified for the final series. No team may win more than one category/sectional or overall prize. For a prize to be awarded there must be at least four eligible teams nominated.

17.3 If teams tie for a prize, the prize money will be divided, unless any of the tied teams places first in another section or category. For allocation purposes sectional prizes rank below category prizes.

#### 17.4 Teams/Swiss Pairs Sectional prizes

17.4.1 At the end of four matches, the Open field will be divided into at least four sections as equal in size as possible, based on current ranking. At the end of four matches, each of the Senior's, Restricted and Novice fields will similarly be divided into sections, based on current ranking. At the end of three matches the Mixed field will also be divided into sections, based on current ranking.

17.4.2 The Swiss movement will continue across each entire field, but the sections so defined will constitute the basis for the sectional prizes.

17.4.3 Units finishing highest in rank in their section (except for the first section) will be awarded sectional prizes.

### **Appendices (18-20)**

#### **18. Teams Finals**

18.1 Screens and bidding boxes will be used in the Open Round-of-Four, Open semi-finals and the Open/Senior's final. Screens will not be used during the Restricted Final, or for the Novice Final.

18.2 There shall be no carry forward of scores into the Round-of Four, semi-finals or finals.

18.3 The Round-of-Four will consist of 24 boards divided into two stanzas.

18.4 The team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the conclusion of Round 10 of the Open Swiss will choose their Round-of-Four opponent from the teams placed 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

18.5 The team placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the conclusion of Round 10 of the Open Swiss will choose their Semi-Final opponent from the teams who progress via the Round-of Four.

18.6 The semi-final matches will consist of 40 boards divided into four stanzas.

18.7 The Open final will consist of 50 boards divided into four stanzas. The Senior's final will consist of 50 boards divided into five stanzas. The Restricted and Novice finals will consist of 30 boards divided into three stanzas.

#### 18.8 Schedule (Open Teams)

Friday	10:00 am	Rd-of-Four	Boards 1-12
	11:40 am		Boards 13-24
Friday	2:15 pm	Semi-finals	Boards 1-10
	3:40 pm		Boards 11-20
	5:05 pm		Boards 21-30
	6:30 pm		Boards 31-40
Saturday	9.30 am	Final	Boards 1-15
	11:35 am		Boards 16-30
	2:05 pm		Boards 31-40
	3:30 pm		Boards 41-50

Schedule (Senior's Teams)

Friday	10:00 am	Final	Boards 1-10
	<i>11:30 am</i>		Boards 11-20
	<i>1:30 pm</i>		Boards 21-30
	<i>3:00 pm</i>		Boards 31-40
	<i>4:30 pm</i>		Boards 41-50

Schedule (Restricted/Novice Teams)

Friday	2:00 pm	Final	Boards 1-10
	<i>3:25 pm</i>		Boards 11-20
	<i>4:50 pm</i>		Boards 21-30

*\* Italicised times may be varied by an agreement between the teams involved and the CTD*

18.9 The winning captain of a coin toss will have the choice of exercising seating rights for either the odd or the even numbered segments. Note however that the allocation of seating for the last stanza of the Senior's and Restricted/Novice Finals shall be decided by a further coin toss at the conclusion of the respective penultimate stanza.

18.10 Any tie will be broken by further 4-board playoffs until resolved.

18.11 The use of the ABF standard system card (with not more than 2 supplementary A4 sheets) is mandatory except if Yellow Systems are employed, when a WBF System card is required

**19. Procedural penalties**

19.1 Use of an electronic communication device during session time:

Pairs: 50% of the MP top on a board

Swiss Events: 3 VPs

Knockout Teams: 9 IMPs

19.2 Late arrival/Slow play during the Swiss Teams or Pairs events:

Average plus / average minus will be awarded in lieu of each board lost due to either offence if the Director assesses only one contestant to be at fault. Where no such assessment can be made, a score of 0 IMPs (or 50% of the available matchpoints) is awarded.

19.3 Slow play in Teams Round-of-Four / Semi-finals / Finals:

First offence (<10 minutes) warning

First offence (>10 minutes) 0.5 IMPs per minute or part thereof beyond 10 minutes.

Subsequent offences 1 IMP per minute or part thereof.

The penalty is apportioned according to the Director's assessment of each team's responsibility for slow play.

#### 19.4 Late arrival for a match or stanza in Teams Round-of-Four / Semi-finals / Finals:

First offence (<10 minutes)	warning
First offence (>10 minutes)	0.5 IMPs per minute or part thereof beyond 10 minutes
Subsequent offences:	
5 to <10 minutes late	3 IMPs
10 to <15 minutes late	6 IMPs
15 to <20 minutes late	9 IMPs
20 to <30 minutes late	15 IMPs
Over 30 minutes late	a more severe penalty, including possible disqualification

#### 20. Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP)

20.1 All ABF playing members are eligible provided that they were born in Australia or have Australian citizenship or have made Australia their legal and physical residence for at least the period determined by the ABF and have not represented or attempted to represent another NCBO in a WBF event. The ABF reserves the right, when there are equitable circumstances, to declare as "eligible" a player in breach of these requirements.

20.2 To receive PQP at least one member of a pair or two members of a team must be eligible and the player must comply with all regulations concerning eligibility and board requirements.

20.3 Each player must play at least 4 rounds of the Swiss and, as applicable, 1 stanza of the round-of-four, 2 stanzas of the semi-final and 2 stanzas of the final.

20.4 PQP awards for the various events are shown in the Table for placings determined after ineligible units are removed. When removal of ineligible units requires placings to be determined by the Swiss, they are determined on the placings after round 10.

Event/Place	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Open Pairs	32	24	16	8
Senior Pairs	24	18	12	6
Open Teams	36	18	9	
Senior Teams	36	18	9	

20.5 Detailed information about PQP and the mode of entry to the Playoff for Australian team selection is published on the ABF website at [www.abf.com.au](http://www.abf.com.au).