

2016 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

incorporating INTERSTATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS AUSTRALIAN BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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1 General

- 1.1 The Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated (ABF) is the regulating authority for the Australian National Championships (ANC), incorporating the Interstate Teams Championships (ITC) and the Australian Butler Pairs Championships (ABPC). These events are conducted in cooperation with the Queensland Bridge Association (QBA) in accordance with ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR), Systems Regulations and Appeals Regulations as applicable, as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The venue is the Kedron-Wavell Services Club, 21 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside, Queensland.
- 1.3 The ANC will run from June 25 to July 7, 2016:
 - Flighted Swiss Pairs: June 25 (format and scoring will be determined when entries are known)
 - ITC: June 26 - July 1
 - ABPC: July 2-7
- 1.4 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) or Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is

played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.

- 1.5 Smoking is not permitted in the playing area, the scoreboard area and any other areas designated by the TO. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 5.3)
- 1.6 Mobile telephones, pager and other electronic equipment must be switched off during session time unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty, after one warning (see 5.3). In the ITC, players may not bring mobile phones, etc. into the playing area during session time.
- 1.7 Mobile telephones, iPads and other electronic communication equipment may not be consulted or used during the session, unless a specific exception is permitted by the CTD. Breach of this regulation incurs an automatic disciplinary penalty (see 5.3) in the first instance. In the case of further breaches by the same unit, the CTD will assess a more severe penalty, which may include forfeiture or disqualification.
- 1.8 Players in the Finals of the ITC must lodge any mobile phone or other electronic communication device in their possession with the TO during session time.
- 1.9 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during the session times of the ITC and the Final stages of the ABPC. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 5.3)
- 1.10 Expressions used here that have not been assigned a specific definition will be interpreted by referring first to the ABF Tournament Regulations, thereafter to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2007, and finally to their ordinary English meaning. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the CTD shall be final and conclusive.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Charles Page.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.3 The Appeals Committee Convener is Michael Wilkinson.
- 2.4 The Appeals Consultants are Neville Francis, Jonathan Free and Laura Ginnan.
- 2.5 The ABF on-site representative and Tournament Committee Convener for the ITC is Marcia Scudder.
- 2.6 The ABF on-site representative and Tournament Committee Convener for the ABPC is Bruce Neill.
- 2.7 The Recorders are Peter Grant and David Beauchamp.
- 2.8 The respective Conveners appoint their committee members. In the absence of the Convener of the Appeals Committee, the TO acts as Convener of the Appeals Committee.
- 2.9 The ABF on site Representative has absolute discretion to enforce Supplementary Regulation 4 hereof. The decision is final and not subject to appeal.

3 Eligibility

- 3.1 Youth players, as defined in 3.4, may represent a home State or an adoptive State (in which they have resided continuously for a period of three months or for the majority of a discontinuous period of four months), provided that they are members of the ABF Youth Club or a club affiliated to that State.
- 3.2 Unless dispensation is granted by the ABF (which may be retrospective), a player is eligible to represent a State in the Open, Women's or Seniors' category in the ITC only if they have been either:
(a) an active playing member of a club affiliated with or within the jurisdiction of that state during the previous year; or
(b) a bona fide resident of that state for a period of at least six months immediately prior to the commencement of the ANC in question.
- 3.3 When 3.1 or 3.2 results in a player being eligible to represent more than one state in the ITC, that player is entitled to represent only that State in which he first entered a selection tournament for that event.
- 3.4 To be eligible for events restricted by age or masterpoint ranking:
(a) Youth players must be born on or after 1-1-91, except as authorised by the ABF Youth Committee;
(b) Senior players must be born before 1-1-58, except as authorised by the ABF Tournament Committee;
(c) to enter into the ANC Restricted Butler Pairs or to be eligible for the Restricted category in the Flighted Swiss Pairs both members of the partnership must have fewer than 300 Masterpoints as at 31-12-15.
- 3.5 No substitutes are permitted in the ITC, excepting that the CTD is empowered to authorise emergency substitutes under such condition as he decides. Section 21 hereunder specifies the number of substitutes permitted in the ABPC subject to the General Conditions of ABF TR 4.
- 3.6 For the ABPC, at the time of commencement of an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association. Overseas players become honorary members of the Foreign Players Club.
- 3.7 To ensure the smooth running of the tournament, the TO may nominate a "house contestant" to compete in any event. The TO will make every effort to nominate eligible players, but is at liberty to nominate others in case of necessity. The conditions under which the "house contestant/s" compete will, subject to ABF TR 1.9, be at the discretion of the CTD.

4 Systems and Defences

- 4.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems and BROWN STICKER conventions are permitted in all ITC and ABPC events, with the exception of the Restricted Butler Pairs, in which only GREEN and BLUE systems are allowed. YELLOW systems are permitted only in the ITC and in the Final stage of the ABPC.
- 4.2 For the ABPC, YELLOW systems, including those that are to be played only as a defence against pairs playing a YELLOW system, must be lodged with the TO before 4.00pm, 17th June, 2016. Pairs must lodge an adequate current ABF Standard system card with a maximum of four supplementary A4 sheets, printed, typed or written in black ink on one side. Pairs who fail to meet these deadlines may not be permitted to play a YELLOW system for some or all the event.
- 4.3 For the ITC, complete systems (except those in 4.4) must be submitted before 4.00pm, Friday 27th May, 2016. These systems must be submitted as an electronic file uploaded to the ABF website (www.abfevents.com.au/events/ANC/2016). A maximum of four A4 pages of supplementary sheets may be included for any one system. Complete and detailed notes with a bona fide defence must

accompany any YELLOW system. Each team is permitted a maximum of four systems. Any pair playing a YELLOW system must lodge four copies of detailed system notes with the CTD before the Captains' Meeting.

- 4.4 For the ITC, a concise summary of a YELLOW system that is to be used only against an opposing pair who play a YELLOW system must be lodged with the ABF on site Representative before the Captains' Meeting. Two copies must be distributed at the Captains' Meeting to each captain whose team includes a pair playing a YELLOW system.
- 4.5 Notes incorporating a pair's defence to BROWN STICKER conventions, defence to a YELLOW system or a YELLOW system pair's "defence against the defence" must be:
 - (a) printed, typed or written in black ink on a maximum of two sides of an A4 sheet;
 - (b) lodged with and approved by the CTD 15 minutes before the scheduled session time in which they are first to be used;
 - (c) identical for each player; and
 - (d) available to the opponents during the auction and play.
- 4.6 In matches in the ITC, each player must bring to the table a ABF standard system card, identical to the one submitted in 4.3, unless any changes have been approved by the CTD and copies provided to other captains at the Captains' Meeting.
- 4.7 The Captains' Meeting will be held on Saturday, 25th June, commencing at 6.30pm.

5 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

- 5.1 In a Swiss movement penalties are included in the overall ranking, but the draw is determined by the scores excluding penalties.
- 5.2 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 5.3 The disciplinary penalty for breach of 1.5 (smoking), 1.7 and 1.8 (mobile phones, etc), or 1.9 (consumption of alcohol) is as detailed below. The disciplinary penalty for breach of 1.6 (mobile phones, etc), is applied after one warning per pair or team.
 - a) ITC Qualifying – 9 VPs;
 - b) ITC Teams Final – 9 IMPs;
 - c) ABPC – 3 VPs.
 - d) Flighted Swiss Pairs – 3 VPs.

6 Correction Period and Time of Appeal

- 6.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) for each session expires at the later of 30 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection or at the commencement of the next session, except when the next round/stanza/session is scheduled to commence within 30 minutes. In that case the Correction Period for the later session applies. For the last session of a stage of an event, the Correction Period expires 30 minutes after the scores are made available for inspection.
- 6.2 The time to request or appeal of a Director's Ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the scheduled finishing time of the session (or 30 minutes after the parties are advised of the director's ruling when the ruling is made after the session), unless the next round/stanza/session is scheduled to commence within that period. In that case it is extended to the expiration of the Time of Appeal for that next round/stanza/session.

7 Dress Requirements

7.1 Players and kibitzers are expected to maintain a minimum standard of dress, described as “neat casual”.

INTERSTATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS (ITC)

8 Partnership Alterations

8.1 A State may alter partnerships provided that the altered partnership plays a system which has been submitted pursuant to 4.3 or a system which the CTD considers is sufficiently natural as to cause no disadvantage to the opposition through lack of previous disclosure.

9 Fouled Boards

9.1 The result of a fouled board is cancelled and a substitute board is played at both tables unless the result of the stanza 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 3 IMPs assigned. In the case of a match with multiple stanzas, the CTD may rule that a substitute board is to be played in the next stanza.

10 Qualifying Stage

10.1 The Qualifying Stage consists of three or four round robins of 14 boards matches.

10.2 Team numbers for the first round robin will be allotted by a sub-committee of the Management Committee.

Open						
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
7	5	3	2	1	6	4
Women's						
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
5	6	4	1	2	3	7
Seniors'						
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
1	2	7	5	4	6	3
Youth						
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA	
3	6	4	2	5	1	

10.3 Teams will retain their team number throughout the Qualifying Stage. The draw for the final round robin will be based on the draw for round robin 1 adjusted to reflect the team's placing after the penultimate round robin. That is, the leading team will have the draw for number 1, second for number 2 etc. Once team numbers are set, they will not be altered by subsequent results of outstanding appeals, score corrections or adjustments.

10.4 For 7 or 8 teams, there are three qualifying round robins of 14 board matches.

10.4.1 The Draw for 7 or 8 teams is:

Round	Round	For 7 teams, Team 8 will be the bye
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1	15	8 v 1	5 v 2	6 v 3	7 v 4
2	16	1 v 7	2 v 8	3 v 5	4 v 6
3	17	6 v 1	7 v 2	8 v 3	5 v 4
4	18	1 v 5	2 v 6	3 v 7	4 v 8
5	19	4 v 1	3 v 2	8 v 5	7 v 6
6	20	1 v 3	2 v 4	5 v 7	6 v 8
7	21	2 v 1	4 v 3	6 v 5	8 v 7

10.4.2 The CTD will advise team captains of the draw for the second round robin at the conclusion of Round 1.

10.4.3 In the first round robin, the line ups will be blind, ie. each captain will post their line-up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. In the second round robin the second numbered team in the draw sits first. In the third round robin the team that sat first against its opponent in the first round robin match sits last against that team.

10.5 For 5 or 6 teams, there are four qualifying round robins of 14 board matches.

10.5.1 The Draw for 5 or 6 teams is:

Round	Round	Round	For 5 teams, Team 6 will be the bye		
1	6	16	6 v 2	4 v 1	5 v 3
2	7	17	5 v 2	1 v 3	4 v 6
3	8	18	2 v 4	1 v 5	6 v 3
4	9	19	3 v 2	6 v 1	4 v 5
5	10	20	1 v 2	3 v 4	5 v 6

10.5.2 The CTD will advise team captains of the draw for the third round robin at the conclusion of Round 6.

10.5.3 The second numbered team in the draw sits first in the first and third round robin. The first numbered team sits first in the second round robin. In the fourth round robin the team which sat first against its opponent in the third round robin match sits last against that team.

10.6 The team captain is responsible for posting the seating positions of the players on the line-up form with the system being played if more than one has been submitted. The first numbered team in the draw will sit NS in the Open Room and EW in the Closed Room. Posting must be completed at least 30 minutes and 20 minutes before the scheduled time of commencement of play, for the teams sitting first and last respectively. For matches which are scheduled to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the previous match, these times are altered to 15 minutes and 10 minutes respectively. The CTD may alter posting times at his discretion. Blind line-ups must be provided to the CTD at least 30 minutes before the scheduled commencement of play in each respective match. For non-compliance with this regulation, the penalties are loss of seating rights and a procedural penalty of:

- i) first offence, 3 VPs;
- ii) second offence, 6 VPs;
- iii) third and subsequent offences, 9 VPs

10.7 A YELLOW system may be played only if the pairs are posted correctly within the posting period or, in any other circumstances, with the agreement of the opposing captain and the CTD.

10.8 Scoring for each 14 board match in the round robins is net IMPs converted to VPs as follows:
margin of 30 IMPs or less VPs = 35 + net IMPs

margin of 31 IMPs or more VPs = $65 + 1/10 * (\text{net IMPs minus } 30)$
with a maximum win of 67.5 VPs and a maximum loss of 0 VPs.

10.9 35 VPs and 0 IMPs are awarded for a bye.

10.10 After a forfeit, the non-offenders receive 56.5 VPs, adjusted at the conclusion of each round robin to the highest of 56.5 VPs, the team's average VP score for completed other rounds, and the complement of the offender's average VP score for completed other rounds. The offenders score 0 VPs; IMPs scores are determined from the formula in 10.8.

10.11 Team captains must collect their copy of the result sheet from the official scorer as soon as possible after the conclusion of play at both tables. Requests to correct discrepancies must be agreed with the opposing captain and advised to the scorer within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match.

10.12 The time allotted for each set of 14 boards is 98 minutes, or any other such time as determined by the CTD.

10.13 Matches may be displayed using Bridge Base On-Line without prior notice.

11 Finals

11.1 The two leading teams in each division play a 56 board Final.

11.2 To be eligible to play in the Final, a player must have played in at least seven matches in the Qualifying Stage.

11.3 The Finals are played in 14-board stanzas with screens. The captains draw for seating rights and the winner may elect to sit first or last for the first stanza. Seating rights for subsequent stanzas alternate.

11.4 At least 28 boards, drawn from one or more of the Finals, will be displayed on Bridge Base and/or Vu-Graph.

11.5 The carry-over into the Final is 10% of the VP margin between the teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage. The carry-over is not rounded off.

11.6 Scoring in the Finals is by VPs with 1 IMP equivalent to 1 VP.

11.7 The time allotted for each set of 14 boards is 112 minutes, or any other such time as determined by the CTD.

11.8 Opposing captains must agree the result after each 14 board stanza and confirm that it agrees with the result sheet provided by the official scorer.

12 Ties

12.1 A tie occurs when two or more teams have the exact same number of VPs.

12.2 Ties are broken after each round robin by the number of wins in VPs, then net IMPs, then lot.

12.3 Ties in the Final are broken by removal of the carry-over. If still tied, the title will be shared.

13 Spectators

- 13.1 Subject to availability of space, spectators are permitted in the Open Room. Only Team Captains (watching their own team), and other personnel as authorised by the CTD are permitted to watch matches in the Closed Room. No spectator may watch play at more than one table during any stanza of any event.
- 13.2 Team members (except non-playing captains) are not permitted to watch their own team. Playing captains who are not playing in the match in question are exempt from this rule for that match.

14 Playoff Qualifying Points

- 14.1 Provided the provisions of 14.3 are satisfied, eligible members in the Open, Women's and Seniors' Teams receive 6 Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP).
- 14.2 In addition, provided the provisions of 14.3 are satisfied, eligible members of the winning team in the Open, Women's and Seniors' Teams receive 30 PQP, and runners-up in each division receive 12 PQP.
- 14.3 To qualify to receive PQP, a player must play at least 10 matches in the Qualifying Stage, and, where applicable, play at least one-half of the boards in the Final.

AUSTRALIAN BUTLER PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS (ABPC)

15 Tournament Structure

- 15.1 Dependent on entries, the ABF reserves the absolute right to alter the formats described in 15.2-15.11, without prior notice.
- 15.2 The Open, Women's and Seniors' ABPC will be conducted in two stages – a Preliminary Stage and a Final Stage.
- 15.3 The Open Preliminary Stage will consist of 10 x 12 board matches to qualify 20 pairs. The Open Final Stage will be played as a round robin of 19 x 12 board rounds.
- 15.4 The Women's and Seniors' Preliminary Stage will consist of 10 x 12 board matches to qualify 10 pairs. The Women's and Seniors' Final Stage will be played as a round robin of 9 x 12 board rounds.
- 15.5 The ABF will determine the seeding, scoring and movement for the Preliminary Stage
- 15.6 Scoring will be by IMPs against a datum calculated as in 15.7, 15.8 or 15.9. IMPs are converted to VPs in accordance with the WBF continuous 9 board VP scale. Separate datums will be calculated for each event.
- 15.7 When fewer than 15 tables are in play in any stage, the datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-2) middle scores.
- 15.8 When there are 15 to 24 tables in play in any stage, the datum is calculated as the arithmetic mean (rounded to the closest 10) of the (n-4) middle scores.
- 15.9 When there are more than 24 tables in the Preliminary Stage of an event, the datum will be the arithmetic mean of all the scores under consideration after eliminating the highest and lowest x/10 scores (0.5 rounded up) where x is the number of scores under consideration.

- a) for Matches 1-4, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at all tables;
- b) for Matches 5-7, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top $n/2$ tables (0.5 rounded up), where n is the number of tables in play;
- c) for Matches 8-10, the datum will be calculated considering the scores obtained at the top 12 tables.

15.10 The ANC Swiss Pairs events 1 and 2 are of 9 rounds scored in a manner similar to that described above. The exact details of the format, movement and scoring are determined after entries close.

15.11 The ANC Restricted Butler Pairs Championship is a 9 round event scored in a manner similar to that described above. The exact details of the format, movement and scoring are determined after entries close.

15.12 The time allowed per match will be announced by the CTD.

16 Ties

16.1 A tie occurs when two or more pairs have the exact same number of VPs.

16.2 To determine a Swiss draw, ties are broken by net IMPs, then lot.

16.3 At the conclusion of an event or stage, ties are broken by the sum of VPs of opponents, then number of wins in VPs, then net IMPs, then lot.

17 Carry-over

17.1 Each qualifying pair will carry-over 25% of their VP score to the Final Stage.

17.2 Warnings carry over from stage to stage.

18 Withdrawal and Replacements

18.1 Pairs who withdraw at the end of the Preliminary Stage or are non-contending are replaced in a manner such that the number of pairs qualifying from each of the original fields do not differ by more than two.

18.2 Withdrawals within a stage are treated according to ABF TR 14.

19 Fouled Boards

19.1 A fouled board is scored by:

- (a) treating the board as two separate entities and calculating separate datums after eliminating the two (3-7 results) or four (results >7) extreme scores, respectively; or
- (b) cancelling one or more of its results and awarding a score of 2 IMPs to those contestants whose score was cancelled.

20 Substitutes

20.1 A substitute may be permitted for cause, but not for convenience.

20.2 For each event, the number of rounds one player must play and for which the partnership must be intact is as follows:

	Preliminary Stage	Final Stage
Open: Each player	7/10	16/19
Open: Partnership	6/10	15/19
Women's/Seniors': Each player	7/10	7/9
Women's/Seniors': Partnership	6/10	6/9

20.3 In the ANC Swiss Pairs events, each player must play at least 6 matches and the partnership must be intact for at least 5 matches.

20.4 When an event format results in the number of rounds being other than those described in 20.2 or 20.3, each player must play at least 75% of the rounds and the partnership must be intact for at least 65% of the rounds (fractions rounded down).

21 Playoff Qualifying Points

21.1 The first nine eligible pairs in the Open and Women's ABPC receive Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP).

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PQP	65	60	55	35	30	25	15	10	5

21.2 The first six eligible pairs in the Seniors' ABPC receive PQP.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6
PQP	50	45	40	20	15	10

21.3 Tied pairs share the available points.

Appendices

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

ITC

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

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	3 VPs (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	6 VPs (6 IMPs)

ABPC and ANCC

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 mins	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 mins	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 mins	5 VPs (15 IMPs)

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	1 VP (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	2 VPs (6 IMPs)

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the CTD may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

In Matchpoint Pairs events, late arrival or slow play may be penalised at the discretion of the CTD.

Should the players leave the table, when they have failed to enter one or more scores into the scoring unit or when an incorrect score has been entered and agreed, the following penalties may be applied to both pairs:

First offence	warning
Subsequent offences	3 VPs (ITC), 1 VP (ABPC, ANCC) per occasion

Calculation of Modified Datums in the Interstate Teams

For each pair x,

$$D_m = tRD + 0.5 * (\text{sum}(\text{opDa}))$$

where

- D_m is the modified datum of Pair x
- tRD is the total raw datum score for all matches played by Pair x
- sum(opDa) is the sum of the average datum per match for all the opponents of Pair x

For each match, if a pair's raw datum score is greater than 64, it will be limited to 64 plus one-tenth of any score greater than 64.

Anticipated Finishing Times – ITC and ABPC

The following times are provided solely as a guide to players and may change without notice depending on event formats and other circumstances:

Interstate Teams Qualifying Stage	Thursday, June 30, 6.45 pm
Interstate Teams Finals	Friday, July 1, 6.00 pm
Butler Pairs Preliminary Stage (Open)	Sunday, July 3, 6.45 pm
ANC Restricted Butler Pairs	Sunday, July 3, 5.00 pm
Butler Pairs Preliminary Stage (Women's, Seniors')	Tuesday, July 5, 6.45 pm
Butler Pairs Final Stage (Open, Women's, Seniors')	Thursday, July 7, 5.00 pm
	Presentation at 5.30 pm
ANC Swiss Pairs 1	Tuesday, July 5, 5.00 pm
ANC Swiss Pairs 2	Thursday, July 7, 5.00 pm