

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

2008

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 All NTBA tournaments shall be played under The Laws of Duplicate Bridge - 2007, supported by these Regulations.
- 1.2 Each NTBA tournament may have Supplementary Regulations, deemed to be part of these regulations. In case of conflict, the Supplementary Regulations shall apply.
- 1.3 All NTBA tournaments shall be played under current ABF Regulations (Appendix A), ABF Alerting Regulations (Appendix B) and ABF Written Bidding and Bidding Box Regulations (Appendix C).
- 1.4 All competitors in NTBA tournaments are deemed to have full knowledge of and to have accepted these and any Supplementary Regulations as a condition of entry.
- 1.5 Every competitor in a NTBA tournament is required to play as well as possible at all times. A breach of this Regulation will result in disciplinary action by the NTBA and the offence will be treated as serious.

2. COMMITTEES

- 2.1 The Management Committee of the NTBA (NTBAMC) will appoint a Chairperson of an Appeals Committee, a Recorder or Recorders, a Chairperson of a Rules and Ethics Committee, and members of the Tournament Committee. In default of appointment, the existing committees shall continue to act.
- 2.2 The function of the Tournament Committee is to oversee the efficient conduct of NTBA tournaments, discharging such duties as are not by the Laws or these Regulations expressly the responsibility of the Director or the Appeals Committee. It may take action of its own initiative.
- 2.3 The Rules and Ethics Committee shall be entitled, in accordance with the procedures in Appendix D, to exercise the disciplinary powers of the NTBA but nothing in these Regulations shall negate the powers of a Tournament Director under the Laws.
- 2.4 Any question as to the authority of Committees shall be determined by the NTBAMC, whose decision shall be final.
- 2.5 A Tournament Director may refer an appropriate matter to a Recorder instead of dealing with it personally.

3. DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF THE NTBA

- 3.1 As a consequence of an incident in any tournament and subject to the rights of members under its Constitution and the principles of natural justice (which require that a person be told the nature of any allegations and be given fair hearing by an impartial decision maker), the NTBA may
- a) reject the entry of a player from any future NTBA tournament either for a limited or unlimited time; and/or
 - b) request a club affiliated with the NTBA to take disciplinary action against a member of that club.
- 3.2 Without limiting the matters which may give rise to the exercise of disciplinary powers, the NTBA may take any action it deems appropriate in the event of -
- a) deliberate or repeated breach of the Laws, proprieties of bridge or these Regulations;
 - b) any behaviour in the course of a tournament which the Director or the Tournament Committee rules offensive;
 - c) any unauthorised withdrawal from a tournament;
 - d) any material breach of any undertaking given by a player to the NTBA in a selection event as a condition of entry (in the event of any dispute, the opinion of the NTBA shall prevail); or
 - e) any claim that a player has not competed to the best of his/her ability.
- 3.3 The Director and/or the Tournament Committee may, during a tournament, exercise the disciplinary powers of the NTBA under clause 3.2, except for paragraph (d) and (e).

4. SUBSTITUTION AND RESTRICTED EVENTS

4.1 Definitions

Unit - means an original team, pair or individual including augmented players in teams events and permanent substitutes. A teams unit shall consist of four, five or six members while a pairs unit shall consist of two members.

Substitute - means a non-unit player who represents that unit for one session or part thereof, considered one *substitution* (unless the Director rules that a substitution has not taken place due to the small number of boards involved). (A player substituting for three sessions = three substitutions.)

Augmentation - means the permanent addition of a player to a team.

Stage of competition - means those consecutive sessions in which the field eligible to win the competition is not intended to be reduced. In partial knock-out events, all consecutive knockout sessions shall constitute the one stage.

Equivalent standard - means neither significantly higher nor lower in standard than that of the substituted player. Masterpoint rank need not be the determining factor.

Ineligible substitutes or augmentations - include persons who have entered the same stage of the competition, and those who would not have been eligible to enter the competition.

Altered score - is either the actual score obtained in a session, or the average of all the other scores which the unit obtained in that stage of the competition, whichever is less.

4.2 Unless otherwise specified in Supplementary Regulations, each entrant of an NTBA tournament shall play in all sessions. If unable to play, an entrant shall -

- a) notify the Director at least 24 hours before the relevant session; and
- b) in consultation with the Director, make every effort to find a substitute of equivalent standard.

Failure to comply with this clause without adequate reason may be treated as an unauthorised withdrawal.

4.3 Unless the Tournament Committee approves additional substitutions in special circumstances (such as absence while representing the NT) and subject to clause 4.4, the number of substitutions in any tournament shall be limited as follows -

Number of Sessions in Stage	Pairs events (includes Butler)	Teams Events
1	No substitutions	No substitutions
2	1 substitution	1 substitution
3	2 substitutions	2 substitutions
4	2 substitutions	2 substitutions
5	3 substitutions: <i>the unit must play as a pair in 3 sessions</i>	3 substitutions

6	4 substitutions: <i>the unit must play as a pair in 4 sessions</i>	4 substitutions
7	4 substitutions: <i>the unit must play as a pair in 4 sessions and each player must play at least 5 times</i>	5 substitutions: <i>4 sessions must be substitute-free</i>
8	4 substitutions: <i>the unit must play as a pair in 5 sessions and each player must play at least 5 times</i>	6 substitutions: <i>5 sessions must be substitute-free</i>
9+	The unit must play as pair in at least 60% of the sessions and each player must play in at least two-thirds of the sessions	The unit must play as a team in at least 60% of the sessions

- 4.4 By a special ruling, the Director may allow emergency substitutions for substantial cause subject to such conditions as he thinks fit and, as a last resort, may take whatever action he considers necessary to keep a tournament in motion. Such emergency substitutes shall not qualify for any final of the tournament or win any prizes or reward leading from it.
- 4.5 The Tournament Committee may approve a substitute becoming a permanent member of a unit, provided application is made before the commencement of the final stage of a multi-stage event. In such circumstances, the replaced player will be deemed to have been a substitute and the reconstituted unit must still comply with 4.3.
- 4.6 If an ineligible substitute is used, or one deemed by the Director not to be of equivalent standard, the Director may -
- a) disqualify the unit, or award an altered score; and
 - b) where the Director and the Tournament Committee agree that the results could have been materially affected, alter the scores of the opponents of the unit containing the ineligible substitution.
- 4.7 A disqualified unit may be required to complete the stage of the competition, but is not entitled to any prizes, grants, titles, outright masterpoints or any right of selection in respect of the event.

- 4.8 Whenever a substitute pair plays in a pairs session, or there are three substitutions in a teams session or a substitution in an individual session, then the Director must consider awarding an adjusted score, recording his decision on the relevant score sheets and result summaries.
- 4.9 Substitutes earn sessional masterpoints, which are calculated before any alteration to scores. Outright awards are shared between unit members, after any alteration to scores.
- 4.10 Units are responsible for payment of all table monies, notwithstanding the use of a substitute.
- 4.11 A unit may appeal against a Director's decision under clause 4.6 or 4.8 within the time periods defined in clause 11.1.
- 4.12 Where sessions are restricted to a particular category of player (e.g. to Mixed Pairs) or where prizes are available to players in a restricted category, all players and substitutes must meet the criteria for that category to be eligible for prizes and awards.

5. SYSTEMS

ABF System Regulations are attached as Appendix A.

- 5.1 Yellow Systems.
 - 5.1.1 A copy of a Yellow system and detailed system notes, for prior consultation and possible use at the table by opponents, must be lodged with the Director or Chair of the Tournament Committee at least one week before the start of the first session.
 - 5.1.2 A copy of any written defences to Yellow systems intended to be used at the table must be lodged with the Director or Chair of the Tournament Committee at least one hour before the start of the applicable session.
- 5.2 Except in NTBA Championship events and ANC and GNOT Selection Trials, protected pair status is allowed.

6. PUNCTUALITY AND SLOW PLAY

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the players to know sessions times and players should be seated 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. In a teams or Butler pairs match involving a total of 20 VPs or more, a pair not seated and ready to play within 5 minutes of the start of a session will be penalised as follows -

from 5 to 10 minutes late: 1VP
from 11 to 15 minutes late: 2VPs

from 16 to 20 minutes late: 3VPs

from 21 to 30 minutes late: 5VPs

and in other cases on an equivalent basis as determined by the Director.

For delays of over 30 minutes in teams matches, the Director may assess a more severe penalty, including forfeiture of the match and disqualification from the tournament. Failure to be seated on time in a pairs or individual event will be penalised on an equivalent basis as determined by the Director.

- 6.2 Where a pair is penalised for a late start, the time for that session shall commence when play actually begins: otherwise time shall run from the commencement of the session. Play has not ended until the play of all boards is complete and the results agreed. The Director may make time calls or call attention to delays in completing individual matches, but competitors should not rely upon him to do so.
- 6.3 The duration of a session will be on the basis of 8 boards per hour.
- 6.4 Where a round, session or match involving a total of 20 VPs or more is not completed in the time allotted, offending pairs or teams will be penalised as follows -

First offence:	warning
Second offence:	1VP
Third offence:	a minimum of 2VPs
Fourth and subsequent offences:	a minimum of 3VPs for each offence

and in other teams/Butler matches on an equivalent basis as determined by the Director. In pairs or individual events and after one warning, slow play will be penalised on a similar sliding scale (with 1 VP equivalent to one-tenth of the maximum possible score on a board).

- 6.5 Failure to complete a session on time is not the only index of slow play and the Director may penalise a pair at any time if he considers their slow play disruptive of the movement. Warnings carry over from session to session but neither penalties nor warnings carry over from a qualifying to a final session.
- 6.6 Both pairs at a slow table shall be penalised unless the Director has sufficiently observed the table to rule one pair innocent. The Director may appoint a monitor to observe and report on players' speed of play or conduct at a table, and the Director may act on the report as if he himself had observed the play.
- 6.7 In knockout teams or pairs events, a fine of 1 VP is deemed to be the equivalent of 3 IMPs. Where both sides are judged to be at fault, the winning team or pair will carry over the penalty into the next match.

7 SCORING, CORRECTIONS AND POSTING OF RESULTS

- 7.1 North/South are responsible for recording the contract, the number of tricks won and the computed score. East/West shall confirm the record is correct. If there is any disagreement that cannot be resolved, the Director must be called.
- 7.2 Errors in scoring may only be corrected by the *players* in the presence of the Director -
- a) in matchpointed pairs events, within 15 minutes of the end of the session; or
 - b) in teams or Butler pairs events, up to 30 minutes after the scores have been agreed.
- 7.3 Where there is a conflict between the contract, the number of tricks won or the computed score the Director should first attempt to determine from the pairs concerned which data are correct. If this is not possible and the score is not the result of an obvious computation error, he should accept the number of tricks won as correct and alter the computed score to suit. Any changes should be annotated on the score sheet.
- 7.4 In multi-session matchpointed tournaments, overall results will be determined by total matchpoints with any results on boards with lower tops being factored up so that tops per board in every session have equal weight.
- 7.5 Checking of Scores and Posting of Results

In teams events, the Director should collate teams' agreed scores and determine overall scores and results. In individuals, pairs and Butler-scored events, the Director should score the event from the travellers, determining provisional scores and results. The Director should display provisional results if possible on the NTBA notice board.

These shall be checked and be deemed formally posted on the following Wednesday at 1900 hours (or if unavailable, on a subsequent Wednesday);

Results become official at 1200 hours on the following day (and after resolution of any appeals).

8. FOULED BOARDS

If the Director deems there has been a fouled board, he shall publish along with the results of the session a clear statement explaining his actions.

9. **TIE BREAKS**

Matchpoints, percentages, IMPs or Victory Points will be calculated to 1 decimal place and any difference will be sufficient to determine victory. Ties for first place shall be broken by successively applying the following procedures until a winner is determined -

Swiss Teams or Swiss Pairs

- a) Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director shall be deleted.
- b) The total score of all opponents shall be determined. The team or pair with the highest opponents' total shall be deemed to have had the more difficult draw and shall be ranked highest.
- c) The pair or team with the greatest number of wins in VP's (a draw is equal to 1/2 win) shall be ranked highest.
- d) The result of the head to head match, if played, shall determine rank.
- e) The pair or team with the greater total IMP's difference shall be ranked highest.

Knockout Teams

Four-board playoffs shall be played immediately the tie is agreed. Any scoring errors made in the original match may be corrected up to the time limits set out in Section 11.1 and if the original match is no longer tied, the result of the tie break will be immaterial.

Round Robins

The procedures for Swiss Teams or Swiss Pairs shall apply, excepting (b).

Matchpoints

- a) Any procedural penalties imposed by the Director shall be deleted.
- b) Where an incomplete movement was used, the total matchpoints of all the tying pairs' opponents shall be determined. The pair with the highest total shall be ranked highest.
- c) In the case of two-way ties, the pair scoring the higher in the round between the two pairs (should it have occurred) shall be ranked higher.
- d) The pair with the better score against the highest placed pair in the field shall be ranked higher - and then successively to the second-highest placed pair, etc.

10 PROCEDURES PENDING APPEALS

- 10.1 Draws for Swiss Pairs or Swiss Teams events will be made immediately following the scoring of all matches in any session. No alterations will be made to the draw following any appeal which results in a change of score. Provisional datums and results will be determined when appeals are pending. Subsequent draws will be made on the basis of these results up until the result of the appeal is known. Should any appeal result in a change of score, the datums and results for that session will be altered accordingly.

11 APPEAL PROCEDURES

11.1 Timing of Appeals

- 11.1.1 Appeals in relation to or for a Director's ruling whether made at the table or not shall be notified within 30 minutes of the end of the session and lodged as required by the Director in the approved form.

- 11.1.2 Appeals in relation to a Director's scoring shall be lodged by 1200 hours on the day after posting.

- 11.1.3 Notification of fouled boards and appeals in relation to a withdrawn acquiescence (Law 69B) shall be lodged either before a subsequent session or, in a single-session event or in the last session of a multi-session event, by 1200 hours on the following day.

- 11.2 Appeals shall be made through the Director (but in his absence may be lodged with any member of the Tournament Committee). The grounds for appeal must be clearly stated. The Director shall forward appeals to the Appeals Committee Chairperson (or his representative) as soon as practicable, noting -

- a) the facts including all relevant hand records;
- b) the players identified by name and pair or team number;
- c) the grounds of the appeal and any other submissions of the players concerned;
- d) the Laws which the Director considers applicable; and
- e) the Director's decision and reasoning.

- 11.3 The Appeals Committee Chairperson shall forthwith constitute a Committee of not less than three members from among available experienced players, appoint a Chairperson (usually himself) and designate a time for hearing the appeal. No person having an interest in the outcome of the appeal shall sit on the Committee. As far as possible the appeal shall be heard prior to the next session of the tournament in question, but in any event after the time specified for further submissions.

- 11.4 The Chairperson shall ensure that each member of the Committee sights a copy of the appeal, notice of the time and place of the meeting and other necessary facts.

The Committee may obtain oral or further written information from any of the players involved, or any other party as it sees fit.

- 11.5 The Committee shall retire to consider its decision, which shall be by majority with the Chairperson having an additional casting vote. It shall be communicated to the parties through the Director and subsequently retained in an Appeals file.
- 11.6 The Committee may depart from these Regulations if necessary and in particular where justice requires a more speedy resolution of the appeal. In such cases the conduct of the appeal shall be in the hands of the Chairperson, but as far as possible-
 - a) an oral hearing should be held with the Director appearing before the Committee in the presence of a representative of each party to explain the facts and his decision; and
 - b) each party shall have the right through one of its members to address the Committee after the Director, to dispute any facts or to make submissions.
- 11.7 A decision of a duly constituted Appeals Committee shall be final. Any question raised in writing as to due composition of the Appeals Committee shall be determined by the NTBAMC, whose decision shall be final. If an Appeals Committee is found not to have been duly constituted, its adjudications shall be reheard.

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the conclusion of each NTBA tournament, the Director shall provide to the Tournament Committee a report of any incidents which occurred during the event, noting any departures from accepted standards of conduct, procedural penalties imposed, and any decisions taken in relation to emergency substitution (4.4), use of ineligible substitutes (4.6) and inadequate system understanding..

13. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

- 13.1 Mobile phones, pagers and other electronic communication devices are not to be used in the playing area during session times. A phone ringing is deemed to be phone use.
- 13.2 Violations may be penalised by the Director under Laws 90 and 91.
- 13.3 Entrants with a bona fide 'on-call' need may seek prior exemption from clause 13.1 and 13.2 from the Director.

14. PLAYERS REPRESENTING THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

14.1 Any player selected to represent the NT in an event must, at the time of nomination for the selection trials and at the time of representation at the event, be a bona fide financial member of a bridge club affiliated with the NTBA; and either

- a) be ordinarily resident in the NT; or
- b) during the 12 months prior to the event must have resided for at least 60 days in the NT and played in at least two NTBA events including the selection event.

except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Management Committee.

14.2 Where a player, who has accepted a representative position, withdraws their acceptance without (in the opinion of the Management Committee) sufficient cause, that player is not eligible to represent the NT in a concurrent event or the next subsequent event for which they would otherwise qualify.

APPENDIX D to NTBA Tournament Regulations

CONDUCT OF RULES AND ETHICS HEARINGS

1. The NTBA lays its jurisdictional foundation for Rules and Ethics hearings both in its Constitution and Tournament Regulations. The Rules and Ethics Committee may act upon a written complaint by a member, a Director's report or a report of a series of incidents referred by the Recorder.
2. On receipt of one of the above and dependent on the nature of the business, the Chairperson will form a Committee including -
 - a) a person with some legal training or as a minimum a high degree of fairness and/or common sense;
 - b) a player with the experience and ability to provide a high level technical analysis based on forensic evidence available from the hands and/or the play so that a realistic appraisal may be made of any accusations; and
 - c) a member of a Club or Association who has a good knowledge of the Laws of Bridge, and preferably a Director's qualification.
3. No person having a personal interest in the outcome (refer Regulation 2.3) may serve on the Committee, this potentially including players or Directors involved in any allegations or in a position to benefit from any decision.
4. The Committee will analyse the material before it to evaluate whether a prima facie case exists. If no case is found, the matter will be dismissed and not reopened unless significant new evidence is brought forward.
5. If the Committee concludes that there is a case to be answered, the Chairperson will write to those concerned, setting out the complaint and offering them the opportunity to come before the Committee to explain. The Chairperson will advise that they may be represented by Counsel and may elect to have the matter heard instead by the NTBA Council. (In serious cases, the Chairperson may immediately refer the matter to Council). The defendants must be given a full hearing.
6. After the hearing, the Committee will either dismiss the matter, caution, reprimand, or recommend more serious action to Council through the NTBAMC. Any such recommendation should be in writing, accompanied by all written material tendered to the Committee and notes of remarks made during the Committee's hearing.
7. In all cases, the rules of natural justice must be observed, to wit persons involved -
 - a) are to be advised again of the complaint against them;
 - b) are to be advised that they have the right to representation; and
 - c) must be given a fair and unbiased hearing;

and any penalty should be in proportion to the offence.

8. A hearing before Council is a full new hearing which, while it may refer to the notes taken by the Committee or the earlier defence, is itself a substantive hearing based on any new material or indeed any old material which may be introduced. Council will give all parties a full and uninterrupted opportunity to present their case.

